

In this issue:

[Curator's Corner](#) [Upcoming Events](#) [Social Media Campaign](#)

[What's In Store](#) [Summer Bowley Scholar](#)



On the Road Again with President Monroe

After more than a year of planning, research, and production, the traveling exhibit *In the Spirit of the People: James Monroe's 1817 Presidential Tour of the Northern States* has hit the road! There are three circulating copies of the presentation, which consists of ten vinyl panels that describe the popular regional tour that inspired the Monroe administration's nickname, the "Era of Good Feelings."

James Monroe became the fifth president of the United States in March, 1817. Three months later he embarked on a fifteen-week tour of the northern states, traveling up the east coast from Washington, DC to Portland, Maine; west to Detroit; and back to Washington via Ohio, western Pennsylvania, and Maryland, totaling some 2,000 miles. Citizens came out by the thousands, thrilled by the opportunity to see the president, and newspapers across the country gave day-by-day accounts of his progress. Political differences were forgotten as Americans of both parties joined together in a grand celebration of the presidency, marked by parades, speeches, dinners, balls, receptions, and concerts.

A joint project of The James Monroe Museum and The Papers of James Monroe, *In the Spirit of the People* was prepared by University of Mary Washington museum studies students in the spring of 2016. This year's Bowley Scholars, Kelly Haynes and Erin White, helped create an additional panel for Connecticut. Former Bowley Scholar Katie Finch, who remains one of our museum guides, rendered invaluable assistance by completing the layout of this panel within a tight deadline.

To date, the exhibit is booked at 15 venues in six states, with more to come. The list of venues as of this newsletter's publication is as follows:

Fort Mifflin, Philadelphia, PA (June 1-18)

Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA (June 19-July 14)

New Haven Museum, New Haven, CT (June 1-25)

Middlesex County Historical Society, Middletown, CT (June 1-25)

Monroe County Museum, MI (Purchasing exhibit)

(will share with Monroe County Bicentennial Committee)

St. Lawrence County Historical Association, Canton, NY (July 22-August 5)

(shared with Frederic Remington Museum, Ogdensburg, NY)

Adams National Historical Park, Quincy, MA (July 3-23)

Historic Richmond Town, Staten Island, NY (July 3-23)

Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center, Fremont, OH (August 1-20)

Washington County Historical Society, PA (September 1-24)

Monroe Historical Society, Monroe, Ohio (September 1-30)

(shared with Midpoint Library Monroe Branch)

Columbus Metropolitan Library, Columbus, OH (September 11-October 14)



Photos of the exhibit from the road will be shared in future newsletters.

Visit *In the Spirit of the People* [online](#) for educational resources, and an interactive map of the tour!

Curator's Corner

A highlight of our current exhibit,
*Era of Good Fashions: Clothing
and Accessories of the Monroe*



Family, is a delicately carved shell cameo brooch that belonged to Elizabeth Monroe. Purchased during James Monroe's second diplomatic mission to France, the cameo is bound in gold and depicts a profile of a young woman in relief over a pale orange background.

A cameo is a piece of jewelry consisting of a carved relief on a background of different color. They often took oval form, and were typically used for brooches

and pendants. With shell cameos, the different background color comes from the varying layers of the shell.

The complex process of creating cameos has changed very little over the centuries. Cameo carvers select a shell, often conch or helmet shell depending on their needs. The shell is then cut and ground into the general outline of the jewelry piece (in the case of Mrs. Monroe's cameo an oval). The carver uses a pitch and chalk mixture to affix the shell to a wood dowel for easier carving. The carver then draws the general outline of the carving onto the shell, and using small hardened-steel chisels begins the painstaking process of removing material for the relief. A crucial step, and one that takes great skill, is removing enough material to successfully create the relief image while exposing the different color of the background.

Napoleon I and his wife Josephine were both connoisseurs of fine cameos. Napoleon was a patron of Nicolo Morelli, one of the most skilled cameo makers in Europe, and Josephine was often depicted in paintings wearing cameo jewelry. Napoleon's court jeweler, Marie Étienne Nitot, created a set of cameo jewels for Josephine, including a tiara. Josephine's daughter by her first marriage, Hortense Eugénie Cécile de Beauharnais, was loaned these jewels by Josephine when she became Queen of Holland upon her marriage to Napoleon's brother, Louis Bonaparte, who was appointed King of Holland by Napoleon. Hortense was good friends with Eliza Monroe, daughter of James Monroe, having attended with Eliza the private school of Madame Campan, the former lady-in-waiting to Queen Marie Antoinette. They were such close friends that Eliza named her daughter Hortensia in honor of her schoolmate. Hortense can be seen in a circa 1812 painting wearing the cameo tiara. It was passed down to Hortense's niece, Joséphine of Leuchtenberg, who became queen consort of Sweden. The piece subsequently descended through the Swedish royalty, and as recently as 2010 was worn by Crown Princess Victoria at her wedding to Daniel Westling in Stockholm Cathedral.

We invite you to come view the cameo in our exhibit *Era of Good Fashions: Clothing and Accessories of the Monroe Family!*

[Visit the Museum!](#)

Upcoming Events



June 9, 6:00-8:00 PM, History Trivia Night, at JMM (Please note: this event is on the second Friday.)

Trivia Night featuring returning Celebrity Quizmaster Ted Schubel, radio personality and host of Town Talk on NewsTalk 1230 WFVA. Admission, participation, and snacks are free. There will be a cash bar and a 50/50 raffle.



June 24, 1:00-4:00 PM, Elizabeth Monroe Birthday Celebration - The Era of Good Fashions, at JMM

Join us for "A Revolution in Fashion: Clothing during Elizabeth Monroe's Lifetime," by textile historian Colleen Callahan, followed by a living history portrayal of Elizabeth Monroe by Heidi Stello, JMM guide and editorial assistant for The Papers of James Monroe. Tea and light refreshments. Free.



July 10 and 11, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM, Major Monroe's History Camp, at JMM

Enlist in this two half-day, hands-on history camp for boys and girls ages 7-12. This year's camp will feature storyteller and musician Eve Watters who will be at camp on both days to share stories, riddles, and music. Participants will have an opportunity to try out some of the musical instruments! James and Elizabeth Monroe will also be at camp this year! There will be presentations about James Monroe, the use of ciphers, archeology, and the life of a Revolutionary War soldier, along with games, and crafts, to introduce children to life during the late 18th and early 19th

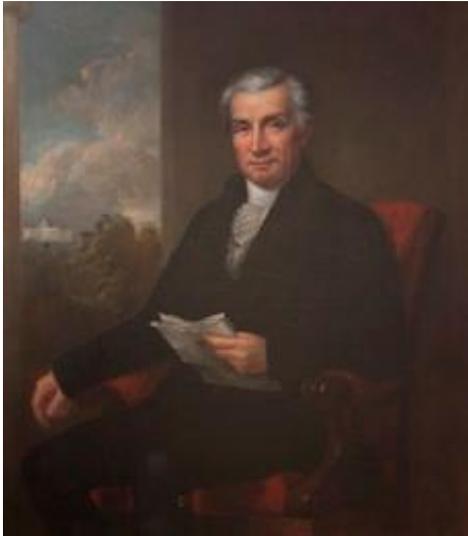
centuries.

Cost is \$45/child, or \$35/child for Friends of JMM (price includes both days). Snacks will be provided. Please contact our Public Programs Coordinator, Lynda Allen for a registration form.

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Back to top](#)

@PresMonroe New Social Media Campaign



The James Monroe Museum is kicking off a new social media campaign to mark the bicentennial of Monroe's presidency and his 1817 presidential tour of the northern states. The three-part campaign marks the launch of the new Twitter username [@PresMonroe](#).

The campaign will feature three major themes designated by three different hashtags. Tweets featuring #JMo 1stTerm will concentrate on the beginning of Monroe's presidency (1817-1821), including issues of focus as represented by his first inaugural address, cabinet appointments, and purpose for and speeches from his presidential tours. This portion of the campaign features a secondary hashtag, #JMo Inaugural, which will highlight excerpts from his inaugural address.

The 1817 Tour of the Northern States will come to life through tweets from the road from President Monroe using #JMo 1817Tour. The messages will trace the trail of the tour and highlight cities and towns Monroe stopped in, as well as the receptions he received, the activities he engaged in and excerpts from speeches along the way. It will also feature selections from newspaper articles about the tour.

The campaign includes a modern-day element as well, through the use of #MonroeUSA, which will feature fun facts and stories about places named after James Monroe, with a focus on cities, counties, and towns he visited during his tours.

All three hashtags, plus the occasional use of #PresMonroe will appear in tweets on the new @PresMonroe account and help distinguish its different themes.

The existing [@JMonroeMuseum](#) account will still be used to disperse Monroe history, Museum related tweets, and general history information as usual.

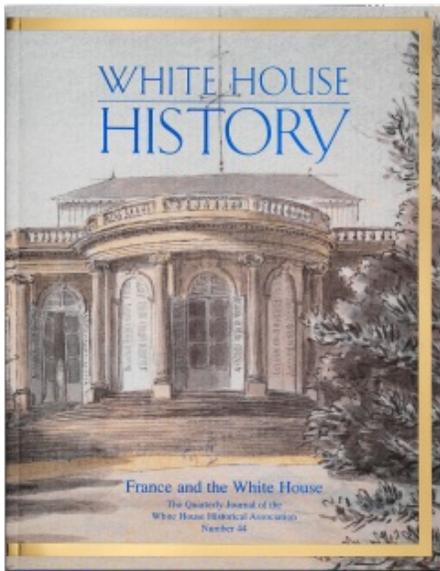
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[Back to top](#)

What's In Store?

White House History #44: France and the White House

The Museum Store is proud to offer a wide range of distinctive products related to the life and times of James Monroe. Newest among these is the current issue of *White House History* (\$9.95), the quarterly journal of the White House



Historical Association. The issue, titled "France and the White House," explores various French influences on the official residence of our nation's chief executive.

The bicentennial observance of Monroe's presidency is a recurring theme in "France in the White House," both in the narrative content and many stunning photos of artifacts in the collection of The James Monroe Museum. Among the highlights are:

- An article by JMM director Scott Harris on the lifelong connections between James Monroe and France, from his first diplomatic posting to the presidency.
- Four recently discovered watercolor paintings of the Folie de la Bouëxière, James Monroe's diplomatic residence in Paris, which may have influenced reconstruction of the White House South Portico. Art historian Ulrich Leben, who acquired the paintings for the White House Historical Association, speculates on the architectural similarities of the two homes. In another article, Leben examines the influences of French style on the Monroes' choices for personal furnishings, including items used in the White House.
- A discussion of the 53-piece suite of Bellangé furniture acquired for the White House by the Monroes, authored by Leslie Jones, Vice President of Museum Affairs at Cheekwood Botanical Garden and Museum of Art.
- An article by costume historian Lynne Bassett on clothing and accessories worn by James and Elizabeth Monroe at the coronation of Napoleon I, featuring newly commissioned photographs. These and other items are currently featured in the exhibit *The Era of Good Fashions: Clothing and Accessories of the Monroe Family* until Fall, 2017 at the Museum.

We hope you will take a moment to stop in the Museum Store soon. The supply of these marvelous journals is limited, and definitely not to be missed!

Visit our [website](#) to view other items available in our store.

[Back to top](#)

Summer Bowley Scholar

The James Monroe Museum is happy to welcome our summer Bowley Scholar Marianne Brokaw. Marianne is a non-traditional student at the University of Mary Washington. She left pediatric nursing in 2014 to further her education. She



earned an associate's degree from Germanna Community College in December 2015 and began her career at UMW in January 2016. She is a history major with a museum studies minor, focusing on military history as her preferred concentration. Marianne was elected by her classmates as a History Department Representative for the upcoming academic year. She will graduate from UMW with a bachelor of liberal studies degree in December 2018.

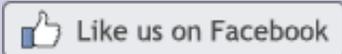
We have already discovered her excellent attention to detail, and are looking forward to working with Marianne throughout the summer semester.

[Back to top](#)

James Monroe Museum

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