



In This Issue

[Holiday Events](#) [Curator's Corner](#) [New Office & Store Manager](#) [What's In Store?](#)



Join us at the James Monroe Museum for our holiday events!

On **Friday, December 2** we will celebrate **A Monroe Christmas** with a holiday Open House from **6:00-8:00 PM**. Kick off the holiday season with James Monroe himself! The beautiful sounds of the harp and the Monroe's pianoforte will fill the Museum with holiday music. There will be cider, Colonial hot chocolate, and cookies! The event is free and open to the public.

Saturday, December 3 is our annual **Deck the Halls** holiday decorating presentation with Fredericksburg's own Jan Williams! The event is held on the UMW campus in Monroe Hall, Room 116 from **9:30 AM-12:00 PM**. The decorations created by Jan are raffled off at the end of the event! Don't miss your chance to take home one of these unique and beautiful creations to brighten up your holiday celebrations! There are still tickets left, so if you haven't picked yours up yet please call the Museum at 540-654-1043 to have tickets held for you.

Curator's Corner

This month's featured artifact is a "Seated Liberty" dime with an inscription of the Monroe doctrine on its reverse. The engraver is unknown and the dime well worn. Seated



Liberty dimes first went into circulation in 1837, continuing until 1891. It is possible this engraving was done in the 1950s, either as a gift or at the request of Museum founding director Laurence Gouverneur Hoes.

Hollowed-out U.S. copper pennies with Monroe Doctrine inscriptions on pull-out copper sheets were given to the museum by engraver George Le Vind of Black, Starr, and Gorham in the 1950s, and it seems Laurence was collecting such artifacts at the time.

Engraving on coins was done with specialized hardened hand-tools called burins or "gravers." One can imagine the steady hand

and amount of skill it took to engrave our Seated Liberty dime. Engraving U.S. coins for novelty purposes is allowed by law. According to the U.S. Mint's website, a coin can be altered "for novelty, amusement, educational, jewelry and similar purposes."

Come see this dime, the pennies, and many other fantastic artifacts in our new exhibit - *Conduct in the Public Service: Artifacts of Politics and Government from the Collection of the James Monroe Museum*.

New Office and Store Manager!

Ms. Tracy DeBernard recently joined the James Monroe Museum staff as Office and Store Manager.



Tracy DeBernard

Tracy brings a wealth of administrative experience to her new position, having formerly managed C & T Produce, one of our region's largest suppliers of locally-grown farm produce. She was previously employed by the City of Fredericksburg as manager of the Fredericksburg Farmer's Market, and was active as a Girl Scout leader for seven years.

As the Museum's Office and Store Manager, Tracy provides administrative support to the staff and has frequent contact with business vendors and the general public. Management of the Museum Store encompasses all aspects of financial accounting, merchandise buying, new product development, and marketing. The Office and Store Manager also fulfills an administrative role for the Friends of the James Monroe Museum and our advisory body, the Board of Regents.

Please join us in welcoming Tracy to the Museum and to UMW!



What's In Store?

As you welcome in the holidays, be sure to keep the Museum Store in mind while shopping for the perfect holiday gift!

New this year is our Holiday Specials Table. Here you will find several unique and discounted items including the **James Monroe Museum Mocha Mug Gift Set**

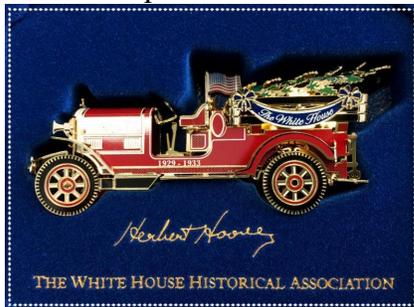
(\$12.75), a beautiful **Virginia Christmas Card Set** (\$6.95), **2015 T-Shirts** (\$7.00), and several other items great for stuffing stockings and gift giving (Discounts up to 50%).

For the adults on your list we have a variety of memorable choices. We offer several distinctive **Quill and Ink Sets** (\$20 and up) that would please anyone. The quality and craftsmanship is superb -- grab one for everyone on your list! For the history enthusiasts, we carry a wide assortment of Monroe related books, as well as books focused on other subjects such as the War of 1812. If you have someone on your list who enjoys crafts, we have the **James Monroe Museum Bookmark Cross Stitch Kit** (\$11.00) and a unique **Cross Stitch Purse Kit** (\$20.00) based on a beaded purse belonging to Elizabeth Monroe in our collection.



If you haven't picked one up yet, come by the store for this year's lovely **White House Historical Association 2016 Ornament** (\$24.95). They make a wonderful holiday gift, but don't forget to pick one up for your collection too! This year's ornament honors the administration of Herbert Hoover, who served

as the 31st president of the United States from 1929 to 1933. It is inspired by the fire engines that responded to the 1929 Christmas Eve fire at the White House and the toy trucks presented to children by the Hoovers the following Christmas. The ornament is crafted from shiny brass plated with nickel and 24-karat gold. The engine carries a Christmas tree for delivery to the White House.



Also new this year, we are pleased to offer holiday gift wrapping for your store purchases. Just ask for information at the cashier/guide desk.

We wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season!

[Back to top](#)

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The James Monroe Museum and Memorial Library, located in historic downtown Fredericksburg, Virginia, is the largest repository in the country for artifacts and documents related to the fifth president of the United States. The museum was first opened in 1927 by Monroe descendants as a place to house their own personal collections, which had been handed down through generations of the family. Eventually, the museum and its extensive collections were turned over to the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the museum is now administered by the University of Mary Washington.

The museum belongs to the American Association of Museums, the American Association for State and Local History, and the Virginia Association of Museums. It is also on the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark.

