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James Monroe Presidential Inauguration Bicentennial Commemoration



L to R: Jarod Kearney, Heidi Stello, James "Jay" Harrison III, Katherine Spivey,
Charles Wissinger

"Under the auspices of a delightful day, yesterday took place the interesting ceremony attendant on the entrance of the president elect of the United States, on the duties of his arduous station. The ceremony and the spectacle were simple, but grand, animating and impressive."

So said the Niles' Weekly Register in the March 8, 1817, edition, and so went the James Monroe Inauguration Bicentennial Commemoration on March 4, 2017.

The James Monroe Museum is grateful to all who attended, and to all who participated in making it such an auspicious day! Our gratitude goes out especially to James "Jay"

Harrison III, Heidi Stello, Charles Wissinger, Katherine Spivey, and Jarod Kearney who formed the presidential party, as well as our speakers UMW President Troy D. Paino, The Honorable Mary Katherine Greenlaw, The Honorable Robert D. Orrock, Sr., and Christopher H. Snider, District Representative for Congressman Dave Brat. Additionally, we are grateful to Staff Sergeant Kevin Lynch and the United States Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps for helping to transport us back in time with their wonderful performance. The following groups and individuals were also essential in setting the scene for March 4, 1817: Gunnery Sergeant Thomas E. Williams, USMC (Ret) and the United States Marine Corps Historical Company, The Regency Society of Virginia, 1st Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line, Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia, Ship's Company 1812 Marines, 1st Maryland Light Dragoons, Olde Towne Carriage of Fredericksburg, and Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society. Last, but certainly not least, our thanks to the AV staff of the University of Mary Washington.



If you were not able to join us for the commemoration, you can view it online [here](#).

Era of Good Fashions: Clothing and Accessories of the Monroe Family

A New Exhibit Opening Friday, April 7, 2017

Artifact revealed: Elizabeth Monroe's Perfume Bottle

Last month we gave a teaser of our upcoming exhibit - *Era of Good Fashions: Clothing and Accessories of the Monroe Family*. Were you able to guess the artifact? It is Elizabeth Monroe's perfume bottle! This eight-sided crystal perfume bottle with a silver-hinged



lid and cork stopper is an elegant example of early 19th century Dutch craftsmanship.

The silver lid of the bottle is marked with a Dutch "sword mark," barely visible to the eye. In 1814 the Netherlands enacted a standard system of hallmarking their silver for quality control. The hallmark on Mrs. Monroe's bottle is the earliest of these, and was used from 1814 until 1906. The sword mark indicated a silver fineness of .833-.934, meaning it is 83.3% - 93.4% pure silver. The meticulous inspection process of the Dutch was such that Mrs. Monroe's bottle is

actually marked with the sword three times on three different sections of the lid, despite its relatively small size.

"Crystal" glass, as opposed to common glass, has a higher lead oxide content, giving it an improved appearance and rendering it more malleable during the working process. During the 19th century, as well as today, these properties were well-suited for smaller objects like perfume bottles. In the case of Mrs. Monroe's bottle, the glass was given an initial round shape and then ground



into an octagon shape. If you look at the bottom, you can see where the craftsman ground slightly off center of the bottle cavity.

We invite you to come view our new exhibit *Era of Good Fashions: Clothing and Accessories of the Monroe Family* opening April 7th.



The Dutch sword mark on three different sections of the silver lid, verifying the quality of each section.



James Monroe Museum Events!

Friday, April 7, 6:00-8:00 PM First Friday Curator Talk at JMM

Curator Jarod Kearney delves into the collection of the Museum, and showcases artifacts rarely seen by the public, specifically those related to our exhibit, *Era of Good Fashions: Clothing and Accessories of the Monroe Family*, opening the same day. Free and open to the public. Light refreshments.

Wednesday & Thursday, April 19 & 20, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM Colonial Academy at JMM and Mary Washington House

A **spring break camp** presented in conjunction with Washington Heritage Museums for students in 3rd-5th grades. There will be instruction and discussion on a variety of topics related to the Colonial Era, including architecture, archeology, etiquette, candle making, ciphers, and the importance of being able to read cursive. Students will spend the morning at **Mary Washington House on Wednesday, April 19, and at JMM on Thursday, April 20**. Cost: \$40/student for both days. Advance registration is required. Contact Michelle Hamilton at Mary Washington House by [email](#) or at 540-373-1569 to register. A flyer for the camp is [here](#).

Thursday, April 27, 7:00 PM Mary Talks at Hurley Convergence Center Digital Auditorium, UMW

Scott Harris, director of JMM, will present "Revolutionary Idealist: the Life and Legacy of James Monroe." Registration is required and will open **Monday, April 3**. If you are unable to attend, a live stream of the event will be available through the Mary Talks site. Online viewers will be able to submit questions via Twitter by using the hashtag #UMWMaryTalks! For more information, please visit [Mary Talks](#). Once registration for the event opens on April 3rd you will find a Register Here button at the top of the page.



Scott Harris

Saturday, April 29, Noon-4:00 PM James Monroe Birthday at JMM

Celebrate the 259th anniversary of the birth of our fifth president with James Monroe! Join us for a book talk on the newly-reissued *The Autobiography of James Monroe* with historian William Ferraro. There will also be family-friendly activities, music, refreshments and a



presentation by James Monroe!

Stay tuned for information about our **First Friday Game Night in May, "Sketchy History!"** It will be a Pictionary™ type of game night with history-themed images to draw!

What's In Store?

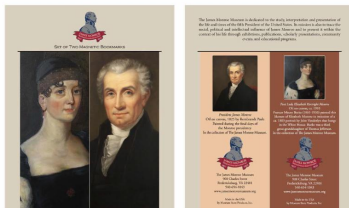
We are pleased to announce the debut of a new line of merchandise in the Museum Store!

We are very happy to see the return of spring weather! We hope you can take advantage of the pleasant temperatures and plan a day out in town with a visit to The James Monroe Museum.

The Museum Store has several featured items on the shelves. As we continue to celebrate the James Monroe Presidential Bicentennial, we are excited to announce the debut of a new line of merchandise featuring the Rembrandt Peale portrait of President Monroe and the Frances Burke portrait of First Lady Elizabeth Monroe. This month the Store spotlight is on the following merchandise:



James and Elizabeth Monroe Ceramic Coffee Mug (\$9.95) - Attractive full color 15-ounce ceramic mug featuring both portraits on each mug.

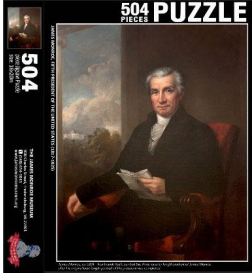


Set of two Bicentennial Magnetic Bookmarks - James and Elizabeth Monroe (\$4.95)- Featuring the Rembrandt Peale portrait of President James Monroe and the Frances Burke portrait of the First Lady with the bicentennial logo.



President James Monroe Puzzle (\$16.00)- 11"x17" 300-piece jigsaw puzzle. A bust-length portrait of James Monroe painted during the final days of his presidency. Oil on canvas, 1825 by Rembrandt Peale. Packaged in an attractive metal tin with the bicentennial logo.

President James Monroe Peale Portrait Puzzle (\$18.00)- 16"x20" 504-piece jigsaw puzzle. James Monroe, ca. 1825. Rembrandt



Peale painted this three-quarter length portrait of Monroe after his original bust-length likeness of the president was completed. A 504-piece puzzle in a full color custom box with the bicentennial logo.



First Lady Elizabeth Kortright Monroe Puzzle (\$16.00)- 11"x17" 300-piece jigsaw puzzle. Oil on canvas, ca. 1910 by Frances Maury Burke after John Vanderlyn. Packaged in an attractive metal tin with the bicentennial logo.

The James Monroe Museum, Store, and Garden are the perfect finish to a busy day downtown. In the Store, we offer many books pertinent to President Monroe, Fredericksburg, and Virginia (\$4.00 and up) that you may enjoy reading while relaxing in the Museum Garden or at home. We hope you choose to cap your exploration of Fredericksburg with a visit to The James Monroe Museum and Store.

We look forward to seeing you!

James Monroe On the Road!

The James Monroe Museum is always eager to reach out to new audiences. Two events this spring epitomize the concept of putting Monroe "on the road."

On March 11, the Mosby Heritage Area Association in Loudoun County hosted a symposium on Monroe tied to his first inauguration. JMM director Scott Harris and PJM editor Dan Preston joined Highland executive director Sara Bon-Harper and sculptor Gordon Kray in discussing various aspects of the Monroe legacy. The event concluded with a reception at the Monroe estate Oak Hill, hosted by owners Tom and Gayle DeLashmutt. Jay Harrison provided an appropriately presidential presence for the affair. Pictures from the symposium



Dan Preston, Editor, The Papers of James Monroe; Sara Bon-Harper, Executive Director, James Monroe's Highland; Gordon Kray, Sculptor, the James Monroe Statue at the College of William and Mary; Scott Harris, Director, The James Monroe Museum.



Scott Harris and James "Jay" Harrison III

may be viewed at the [Mosby Heritage Area Association's Facebook](#) page, and the event will be televised on C-SPAN's American History TV in the near future.

Music of Monroe's era will highlight "James Monroe: Theme and Variations," a presentation on April 8 during the annual James Monroe Dinner held by the Arts Club of Washington. The club is headquartered in the home on I Street in Washington, DC utilized by Monroe and his

family during his tenure as secretary of state and in the early months of his presidency. Scott Harris will discuss several pivotal

episodes in Monroe's career, each followed by a piano piece from Maria Monroe's music book performed by JMM guide and PJM editorial assistant Heidi Stello.



Heidi Stello

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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.



