

Scenes from Fox 5 DC's Zip Trip to Fredericksburg!

See the story at the end of the newsletter.



James Monroe times two!

Steve Chenevey & James Monroe

James Monroe & Maureen Umeh

Monroe Returns to Washington



Monroe's Return to Washington, 1817 by Pietro Bonanni, 1817/1821

The President of the United States is expected here to day. The corporation of the city intend waiting on him to congratulate him on his return. He will take possession of a part of the president's house, which is now ready for his reception. He set out from Washington on the 31st of May—an absence of 15 weeks.

City of Washington Gazette, 13 September 1817

When President James Monroe arrived at Washington, DC on Wednesday, September 17, 1817 (four days later than the *Gazette* anticipated), he concluded a tour of the northern states that had lasted more than three months. In that time, he had visited 13 states, the District of Maine (then part of

Massachusetts), and the Michigan Territory, traveling some 2,000 miles by U.S. Mail wagons, private carriages, on horseback, and in a variety of watercraft.

Intended as a low-key inspection tour of military facilities, the presidential promenade inspired unprecedented outpourings of respect and enthusiasm. In communities large and small, Monroe was greeted with escorts of soldiers, musicians, and townspeople; welcomed with speeches and testimonials from prominent citizens; and feted at dinners, barbeques, and receptions. Children were paraded before him by proud parents, and veterans of the Revolutionary War and War of 1812, many bearing the scars of their service, had emotional encounters with their fellow wounded warrior.

Monroe had endured this exhausting schedule of events, often involving multiple speeches day after day, with dignified grace and fortitude. Asked in one town how he could cope with it all, the president replied, "A little bit of flattery will see a man through great fatigue."

Notwithstanding the therapeutic effects of flattery, Monroe must have felt a sense of relief as he approached the District of Columbia and the end of his long journey. There remained, however, one last round of pomp and circumstance to mark his return to the capital, as reported in the Washington *National Intelligencer* of 19 September 1817:

[Read more...](#)

Upcoming Events

Friday, September 1, 6:00-8:00 PM, First Friday History Trivia Night!

Location: James Monroe Museum

Join us in the garden for History Trivia Night featuring first time Celebrity Quizmaster **Sara Bon- Harper**, Executive Director of [James Monroe's Highland!](#) Admission, participation, and snacks are free. There will be a cash bar and a 50/50 raffle.



Friday, September 8, 6:00-8:00 PM, Jefferson, Monroe, and Wine

Location: James Monroe Museum

Gabriele Rausse, Director of Gardens and Grounds at [Monticello](#), and "Father of Virginia Wine," will discuss the Founding Fathers' love of wine, and their efforts to cultivate grapes in Virginia. The presentation will be followed by a wine tasting, including wines from the Gabriele Rausse Winery, and Monroe Merlot, created by Wilderness Run Vineyard.

\$25/person, or \$20/person for members of the Friends of The James Monroe Museum. Event is ages 21+ only. Reservations are required. Please contact Lynda Allen by [email](#) or at 540-654-2111 to register.

Saturday, September 16, 11:00 AM-5:00 PM, 28th Annual Fredericksburg Welsh Festival

Location: 900 block of Charles St.

This popular street festival honors the Welsh ancestry of James Monroe (through his mother, Elizabeth Jones). Craft and food vendors; traditional Welsh music; Welsh country dancing, storytelling, and presentations on Welsh culture, language, and history are all part of this downtown tradition. A new vendor to the festival this year is Fredericksburg's Red Dragon Brewery! The festival is co-sponsored by the Welsh Society of Fredericksburg and the James Monroe Museum. Admission is a suggested donation of \$5/adult or \$1/child.



Saturday, September 16, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM, UMW Family Weekend

If you're planning to attend UMW's Family Weekend celebrations on Saturday, September 16, look for us!

**Friday, October 6, 6:00-8:00 PM,
First Friday Tavern Night
Location: James Monroe Museum**

The Ship's Company Chanteymen will lead us in a boisterous night of merriment and songs of yore. All will be invited to join in the chorus or even lead a chantey or two! It will be a great treat to see this jolly band of merry-makers who have been seen and heard up and down the east coast of the United States.



Admission and participation are free. There will be a variety of specialty beers available for purchase at the cash bar.

Calendar of Events

Curator's Corner



This month's featured artifact is a porcelain charger from the Monroe White House dinner service. Used as a decorative bottom for other dinnerware, the charger is gilded with gold rim, a monogrammed "M," and an eagle with an American shield and larger oval shield with an anchor on it. There are several features of the charger which render it a particularly compelling Monroe artifact. There are twenty stars surrounding the eagle, which correspond to the number of states in the Union in 1817. When Monroe began his Presidency that year, the White House was still recovering from damage by the British three years earlier. The building was largely devoid of furnishing and accouterments, and Monroe took charge of its refurbishing. A top priority was dinnerware for the state dinners that were essential to diplomacy. In early 1817 Monroe placed orders for French furnishings and proper household items through the American merchant firm of Russell & La Farge, which in addition to suites of furniture, produced a dinner set and a dessert set. With its twenty-star decoration, eagle motif, and French origin, this piece may be part of that dinner set (the dessert set has been positively identified and several pieces are currently on exhibit in The James Monroe Museum). On the other hand, the charger may be part of a different dinner set already owned by Monroe which he offered to sell to the government the same year as his order with Russell & La Farge. He offered this set because he thought the order from Russell & La Farge would not arrive in time for the fall social season. The list of porcelain which Monroe offered to sell to the government has the description "Table Set of French China, White and Gold" (the same color scheme as the charger). Although not definitive, this description is compelling enough to place the set as a possible candidate.

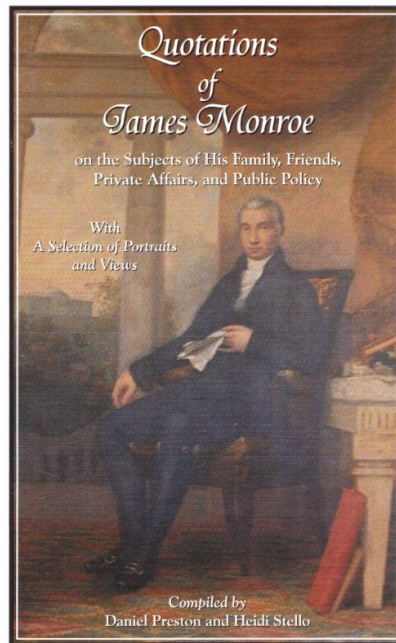
The Monroe charger is *Old Paris* porcelain. Also referred to as *Vieux Paris*, Old Paris porcelain refers to the refined and often elaborately decorated porcelain created in the City of Paris and its surrounding vicinity from approximately the mid-18th century through 1870. Old Paris porcelain is distinguished by its meticulously detailed forms, translucent white body, ornate gilding and decoration, and incorporation of Neoclassical styles. When James Monroe arrived in Paris for his second diplomatic mission to France in 1803, Neoclassicism was the dominant style of ceramics, emphasizing elaborate border designs, pervasive gilding, and symmetry of form. As an embedded diplomat, and admirer of France, Monroe

embraced the prevailing French aesthetic. The influence of French design can be observed in a multitude of Monroe's surviving pieces, including the dinner set of which this charger is a part.

Another fascinating aspect of the Monroe charger is its eagle motif. The oval shield on the eagle has an anchor, typically associated with the Navy rather than the White House. However, the motif is similar to the top of the Tripoli Monument which was in the capital and damaged during the War of 1812 - just like the White House. Monroe may have used the motif as nod to the Tripoli monument. Interestingly, the same symbol can be seen on a razor strop which was presented to James Monroe in 1823, suggesting Monroe was known to have been associated with the symbol.

Come see the charger and our wealth of ceramic artifacts at our upcoming ceramics exhibit opening in October!

[Visit the Museum!](#)



What's In Store?

Quotations of James Monroe (\$6.95)

Today's current events and the political environment are often troubling. What do you think our Founding Fathers would have to say about the conduct of public affairs today?

Nearly 200 years ago, James Monroe issued a statement that is still relevant today. *"Whatever shakes our system, or menaces it, will create a despondence throughout the civilized world. They all look to us, and will give up their cause as lost if we shew a doubt of success."* (Annual message to Congress, December 2, 1823)

Quotations of James Monroe compiled by Daniel Preston and Heidi Stello, offers an insight into one of our Founding Father's thoughts on the subjects of public affairs, government, the presidency, education, family, and friends.

Read James Monroe's own words, and appreciate his insights through messages to former presidents, speeches before Congress, and personal messages to his family members. Discover the character of the man who was our fifth president. This enlightening volume will be a wonderful addition to any library!

Remember, there is never an admission charge to visit the Museum Store. We are open from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. As always, Friends of the James Monroe Museum receive a 20% discount on all merchandise. Not yet a member? Visit our **[website](#)** for information.

We hope to see you soon at **[The James Monroe Museum Store!](#)**



Holly Irwin

Lindsey Crawford

2017-2018 Bowley Scholars

Please join us in welcoming this year's Bowley Scholars, Holly Irwin and Lindsey Crawford! Holly and Lindsey are historic preservation majors at the University of Mary Washington, and both have considerable prior experience working in museums.

Holly works at the Mary Washington House here in Fredericksburg, and has interned at the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, Tudor Place Historic House and Garden in Georgetown, DC, as well as the historic preservation nonprofit, Cornerstones, in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Lindsey interned at the Carnegie Museum of Art, Fort Pitt Museum, Dahlgren Heritage Museum, and most recently the National Museum of African American History and Culture.



On Friday, August 25 Fox 5 DC hosted a Zip Trip in Hurkamp Park in Fredericksburg! The Zip Trips feature different communities in the DC region, giving them an opportunity to promote all they have to offer, from museums and restaurants; to schools and marching bands. Fredericksburg's mayor, Mary Katherine Greenlaw, even answered a few trivia questions about our city. It was a live broadcast, so luckily she answered them all correctly!

James Monroe (James "Jay" G. Harrison, III) and the staff of The James Monroe Museum were on hand to join in the fun and share the life and legacy of our 5th president! President Monroe was interviewed on television - a strange, new experience for him!

Watch President Monroe's [interview](#), and the other segments featured as part of the Zip Trip [here](#).



Mayor Mary Katherine Greenlaw, former mayor Rev. Lawrence Davies, and James Monroe



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[Become a Friend of the James Monroe Museum!](#)