



## In This Issue

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### Monroe is the Man!



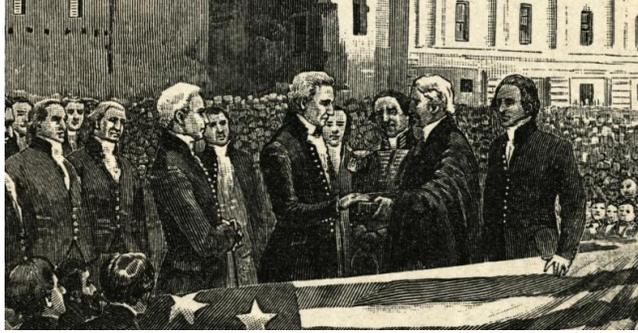
*Oh say sov'reign people whose voice is the law,  
Whose will is supreme and keeps faction in awe?  
Who shall o'er the Union dear vessel preside  
And sit at the helm and her course wisely guide?*

*Among the best pilots say who leads the van,  
MONROE--yes MONROE--he indeed is the man!  
Among the best pilots say who leads the van,  
MONROE--yes MONROE--he indeed is the man!*

In the spirit of his 1816 presidential campaign song, James Monroe will indeed be "The Man" in 2017, with an exciting series of programs, exhibits, and publications that chronicle his career, including the bicentennial of his presidency:

**Presidents' Day Presidential Press Conference. Monday, February 20, 6:00-7:30 PM, Monroe Hall Room 116, University of Mary Washington main campus.**

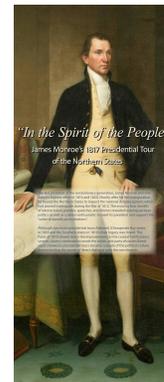
This free public event, which will also be streamed live online, will feature James Monroe (portrayed by historical interpreter Jay Harrison) and UMW President Troy Paino. In February, 1817, Mr. Monroe was just weeks away from his inauguration in March as our nation's fifth chief executive. Dr. Paino will be inaugurated as UMW's tenth president on April 21, 2017. The press conference will focus on public education, civic responsibility, and leadership—subjects of vital interest to Presidents Monroe and Paino. A reception will follow.



**James Monroe Presidential Inauguration Reenactment. Saturday, March 4, beginning at 11:00 AM, James Monroe Museum, 908 Charles Street, Fredericksburg, Virginia.** Speaking of inaugurations, James Monroe's first such ceremony will be reenacted 200 years to the day after the original event. Monroe was the first president to be sworn in out-of-doors, a consequence of the damage inflicted by British troops on the U.S. Capitol and other public buildings in the District of Columbia during the War of 1812. The brick facade of the Museum will stand in for the Old Brick Capitol used by Congress from 1815 to 1819. Also a free public event, the inauguration reenactment will include music, costumed historical interpreters, and, not surprisingly, speeches. An open house and reception in the Museum will follow.

**President James Monroe Inauguration Bicentennial Symposium. Saturday, March 11, 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM, Church of Our Savior Oatlands, 20340 James Monroe Highway, Leesburg, Virginia.** The Mosby Heritage Area Association will commemorate the 200th anniversary of Monroe's inauguration at Church of Our Savior Oatlands, followed by a reception at the Monroe family's home, Oak Hill. Speakers will include JMM Director Scott Harris; Dan Preston, Editor of the Papers of James Monroe; Sara Bon-Harper, Executive Director of James Monroe's Highland; and Gordon Kray, sculptor of the James Monroe Statue at the College of William and Mary. For more details visit <http://mosbyheritagearea.org/events/>.

On view at all of these events will be *In the Spirit of the People: James Monroe's 1817 Tour of the Northern States*. A joint project of the Museum and the Papers prepared by museum studies students at the University of Mary Washington, this exhibit of ten vinyl panels commemorates the bicentennial of President Monroe's first national tour, highlighting his visits to Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Detroit, Ohio, and western Pennsylvania. The exhibit will travel to selected venues along the presidential tour route beginning this spring.



Finally, two publications pertaining to Monroe will appear in the first quarter of this year. The spring edition of White House History, the journal of the White House Historical Association, will publish an article by Scott Harris, "'Republicks should approach near to each other . . .': James Monroe's Ties to France." Also upcoming is *The Papers of James Monroe, Volume 6*, edited by Dan Preston and the Papers staff, which will encompass Monroe's tenure as secretary of state (and, temporarily, secretary of war), in the administration of James Madison.

Stay tuned for further details on these and other exciting happenings in 2017, as we tell the world that *Monroe is the Man!*

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## James Monroe Museum First Fridays in January and February



**Fri., Jan. 6, First Friday History Trivia Night, 6:00-8:00 PM at JMM** with Celebrity Quizmaster Dr. David A. Sam, President of [Germanna Community College](#). Admission, participation, and snacks are free. There will be a cash bar and a 50/50 raffle.

**Fri., Feb. 3, First Friday Winter with the Presidents, 6:00-8:00 PM at JMM** - an evening of storytelling, harp music, songs, and dulcimer with [Eye Watters](#). Free and open to the public. Sponsored in part by the Virginia Commission for the Arts..



## Curator's Corner

This month's featured artifact is Elizabeth Monroe's ivory pocket notebook. Containing thin rectangular slabs or "leaves" with the day of the week inscribed in block letters on the ends (Sunday is missing), Mrs. Monroe would have used this notebook to organize her daily chores or social activities. Employing a sliver of charcoal or graphite pencil to write her notes, she could easily wipe off the ivory leaves at the conclusion of the week.



Ivory notebooks were used by upper class ladies and gentleman throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Resembling a small fan when opened, they were often decorated with silver fittings and contained a clasp to keep the ivory leaves closed when folded. Elizabeth Monroe's memo pad was passed down to her daughter Maria Hester Gouverneur. Her son, Samuel Laurence Gouverneur, Jr. kept it as a memento of his grandmother. Upon his death in 1880, Mr. Gouverneur's wife, Marian Gouverneur, gave it to her daughter Rose de Chine Gouverneur Hoes, co-founder of the museum.

Come see Elizabeth Monroe's pocket notebook and many other intriguing artifacts on display in our newly refurbished orientation gallery!

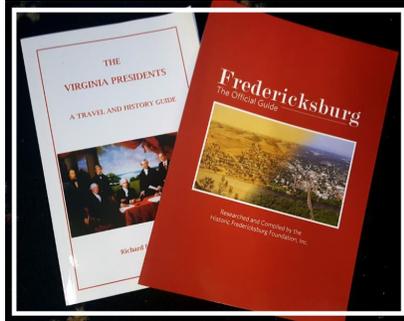
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## What's In Store?

Happy New Year from the Museum Store!

As you kick off the New Year we hope you take a moment to appreciate and enjoy Fredericksburg, one of Virginia's most historic cities. Bundle up and head to town for a visit and browse the Museum Store. Remember, store shoppers are not charged an entrance fee. But once inside, you may decide the history within our walls is well worth your time and the admittance fee.

Are you curious about the history of Fredericksburg? Whether for yourself or for friends or



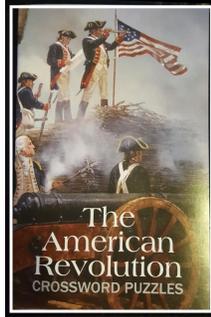
relatives who will be traveling to the area, we have two books in the Store that would be perfect for learning about our fair city and state. **Fredericksburg: The Official Guide (\$13.50)** is a wonderful guide for visitors to town. It features information about 39 of our most notable historic sites, including The James Monroe Museum. Even locals will learn some new and interesting facts about Fredericksburg! The guide is published by the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc. For those planning a visit to here and elsewhere in

Virginia, we have **The Virginia Presidents: A Travel and History Guide (\$18.50)**. The book focuses on the lives of the eight US Presidents who were born in Virginia and historic sites associated with their lives, including birthplaces and presidential homes (like James Monroe's Highland).

If you weren't able to visit the Museum Store over the Holidays, there are a few items back in stock that you don't want to miss. Beautiful quill **Writing Sets (starting at \$20)** flew out the door as elegant Christmas gifts, but are fully stocked once again. The **Griffin Tie (\$28.00)** is also back on our shelves. The tie features a griffin - an adaptation of a dragon and the flag of Wales, representing Monroe's heritage through his mother, Elizabeth Jones. It makes a wonderful gift for the history enthusiast in your life, especially those with Welsh heritage themselves. A nice compliment to the tie is our new **James Monroe Postage Stamp Pin (\$4.00)**. This 3-cent stamp was issued to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of James Monroe, through the post office in Montross, Virginia on April 28, 1958. In addition to being a great tie tack, it makes a distinctive scarf pin or brooch.



If you need a little something to keep your mind busy on the cold winter days ahead, be sure to check out our entertaining puzzle book **American Revolution Crossword Puzzle book (\$3.95)**. Also, a great way to keep busy is cooking with our featured book of the month **Monroe Family**



**Recipes (\$4.00).** Highland, the Monroe Family home, compiled this collection of recipes over the course of several years. Tasty treats such as macaroons, oyster rolls, and pandowdies are included. Not sure what a 'pandowdy' is? Come on by and pick up a copy to find out!

From all of us at The James Monroe Museum, we wish you a happy and joyous New Year!

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### Quick Links

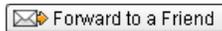
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### Find us on Social Media!



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.

