

James Monroe Tech

[NOTE: This is the second in an occasional series of articles on technological developments in the United States that occurred during the lifetime of James Monroe, primarily during his presidential administration, 1817-1825.]

Robert Fulton's *Demologos*

*To-day, we understand, says the gazette, he will proceed to the forts on the Narrows on board the steam-frigate. The spectacle will be a grand one. None can behold this immense castle propelled by steam, without being sublimely moved with the boldness of her front, and her terrific and impenetrable sides. To Mr. Monroe, this jaunt must be peculiarly interesting.*¹

When President James Monroe crossed New York Harbor from New York City to Staten Island on June 18, 1817 during his tour of the northern states, he was conveyed by a unique example of naval technology—*Demologos*, the world's first steam-powered warship, developed by Robert Fulton (1765-1815). Though none present realized it at the time, this presidential sightseeing excursion would be the revolutionary vessel's only day of active service.²

Although Fulton gained fame in 1807...[Read the whole article.](#)

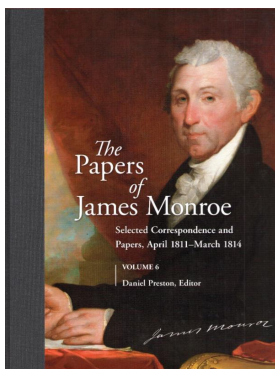


LAUNCH OF THE STEAM FRIGATE FULTON THE FIRST, AT NEW YORK, 29th OCT. 1814.

150 feet long and 38 feet wide, with masts 38 long 35 pennants and 2 1/2 1/2 masts - (Gibson's)
Propeller - (Gibson's) 100 ft. to 15 ft. from the bow of 1/2

Launch of the Steam Frigate "Fulton the First" [later name of the *Demologos*], at New York, 29 Oct. 1814. This period engraving published by B. Tanner in Philadelphia gives an idea of what James Monroe's trip on the vessel may have looked like.

The Papers of James Monroe Volume 6 *Daniel Preston, Editor*



The Papers of James Monroe: Volume Six, April 11-March 1814 was published in March 2017. The 503 documents in this volume begin with Monroe's appointment as secretary of state and cover the first three years of his service in President Madison's cabinet (including a brief term as acting secretary of war).

The central feature of the volume is Monroe's activities during the War of 1812, most noticeably, his efforts to reach a negotiated settlement with the British before the declaration of war, his role in planning and conducting American military operations, discussions regarding his possible appointment to a field command with the army, and his reconnaissance of British movements in southern Maryland during the summer of 1813. The volume also documents the unsuccessful attempt to form a treaty with Napoleonic France and the problems caused by incursions into Spanish Florida and Spanish Texas from the United States.

There is only a limited amount of personal material from this period. His correspondence with men of opposing political views, especially with John Taylor of Caroline County, testifies to his ability to place friendship ahead of political

differences. His correspondence with his son-in-law George Hay primarily reflects Hay's continuing role as a political adviser, particularly in regard to Monroe positioning himself as a candidate for president in 1816, but it also touches upon family matters. A letter to niece Emily Monroe in July 1812 offers an unusual glimpse into Monroe's personal affairs and his troubled relationship with his brother Joseph Jones Monroe. His letters to his nephew James Monroe, Jr., a cadet at the U. S. Military Academy, contain not only practical advice to his young relative but also comments upon his own education.

Visit [The Papers of James Monroe website](#).

Upcoming Events



Friday, November 3, 6:00-8:00 PM
First Friday Monroe Conversations
Location: James Monroe Museum

Daniel Preston, Editor of The Papers of James Monroe, will discuss the Monroes' time in France, and the connections they made while there. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A and light refreshments. Admission is free.



Monday, November 6, 7:00-10:00 PM,
Era of Good Eating
Location: James Monroe Museum

Dine with President James Monroe and First Lady Elizabeth Monroe, and in the Monroe's spirit of service, support a worthy cause at the same time! The James Monroe Museum is opening our doors to E.A.T. Foundation (www.eattogether.org), as they host their second event here in Fredericksburg, a welcome home dinner for President James Monroe!

In the fall of 1817, President Monroe returned from his tour of the northern states to a grand welcome in Washington, D.C. It was during this presidential tour that the term

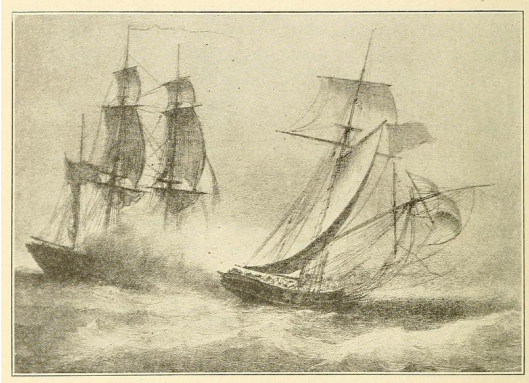
“Era of Good Feelings” was coined in an article in Boston's *Columbian Centinel*.

E.A.T. Foundation will create their own presidential celebration as they welcome President Monroe (James “Jay” G. Harrison, III) back from his successful tour with a sumptuous meal and good company, including First Lady Elizabeth Monroe (Heidi Stello)! The menu will explore how “flavor-pairing” works, in order to discern if food can have a “purpose” beyond its obvious utility for keeping us alive. With Era of Good Eatings, Chef Will Lacey will experiment with out of the ordinary flavor combinations, and take the time to focus on each of the five tastes (sweet, salty, umami, bitter, and sour), to see if we can better understand the ways in which

flavor communicates ideas.

E.A.T. Foundation is a nonprofit organization committed to eradicating food deserts and promoting food-equity in the community. They raise funds and awareness through pop-up dining. They support a variety of projects dedicated to eradicating food deserts. E.A.T is committed to working with Fredericksburg to promote food equality, healthy eating and community development!

Advance registration is required. Please visit E.A.T. Foundation's [website](#) for more information and to register for this exciting event!



Thursday, November 9, 7:00-9:00 PM

30th Annual James Monroe Lecture

Location: Monroe Hall, room 116, University of Mary Washington

Speaker David Head, lecturer at the University of Central Florida, will discuss "James Monroe Versus the Spanish American Pirates." A reception will follow.



Friday, December 1, 6:00-8:00 PM

A Monroe Christmas Holiday Open House,

Location: James Monroe Museum

Celebrate the holidays at our annual Open House featuring President James Monroe, seasonal music played on the harp and the Monroe family Astor piano forte, and seasonal beverages and treats. Don't miss the Museum Store holiday specials!



Saturday, December 2, 9:30 AM-12:00 PM

Deck the Halls

Location: Monroe Hall, room 116, University of Mary Washington

Join us for our beloved annual event Deck the Halls with Fredericksburg's own Jan Williams! Jan will demonstrate how to craft beautiful holiday arrangements from local evergreens and flora. Refreshments are served, and all attendees are entered to win the decorations created during the presentation! Advance registration is required. Tickets are \$30/person or \$25/person for Friends of The James Monroe Museum. Please contact our Public Programs Coordinator [Lynda Allen](#) to purchase tickets.

Calendar of Events

What's In Store?

There's always something new in the James Monroe Museum Store! We just received shipments of two of our favorite products:

James Monroe Museum Tote Bags (\$12.95)

- Large main compartment with snap fastener
- 24" Reinforced Straps
- Two side pockets that will easily accommodate water bottles or cellphones
- 5.75"(W) x 6.75"(H) front pocket for keys or phones
- Available in red, green, or blue

These bags would make a wonderful gift for someone on your list!



Official 2017 White House Ornaments (\$24.95)

The Official 2017 White House Christmas Ornament honors the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt, who served as the thirty-second president of the United States from 1933 to 1945, and his remarkable journey to restore the faith of the American people. The ornament is crafted from shiny brass plated with nickel and 24-karat gold.

With autumn well underway and the holiday season just around the corner, it's time to plan your Christmas decorations. As a retailer of the Official 2017 White House Ornaments, The James Monroe Museum Store is stocked with an abundant supply of this year's ornament- ready for your collection! Don't delay. They will sell out before the holidays!

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.

You can find information about other holiday merchandise on our [website](#). We hope to see you soon at The James Monroe Museum Store!

Curator's Corner



This month's featured artifact is a stoneware storage crock with a baluster-form body and molded lug-style handles on the side. Featuring under-glazed slip decoration of a branch with graduated petals, this crock is typical of the storage ceramics James Monroe would have used at his Loudoun County residence, Oak Hill.

The pottery variety of the crock is known as "American Stoneware." A dense and vitrified ceramic, American Stoneware has its origins in the Rhenish Stoneware of Westerwald, Germany. The blue and grey color contrast comes from the clay body decorated with cobalt oxide patterns. The pots were fired to temperatures of up to 2,300 degrees Fahrenheit, effectively burning off any coloration other than the blue cobalt oxide. Typical decoration patterns included floral branches and pastoral scenes. Because of its strength and waterproof body, American Stoneware was often used for larger storage crocks. Indeed, these crocks have become closely associated with the American ceramics tradition.

The surface of the storage crock has an "orange peel" type texture. This translucent yet noticeable effect is the result of salt glazing. One of the most prolific techniques in early American ceramics, salt glazing provided additional protection to the ware from chipping, added a further layer of water resistance, and created a decorative effect. Salt glazing was achieved by adding salt to the kiln at appropriate temperatures - usually around 1,625 degrees Fahrenheit. As the kiln heats to 2,000 degrees and higher, the sodium chloride of the salt vaporizes to form hydrogen chloride and soda, which in turn reacts with the silica of the clay to form a glaze layer. Salt glazing remained popular until the early 20th century, when wider varieties of glazes regulated salt glazing largely to artisan wares.



Detail of the crock salt glaze surface. Note the glossy texture.

We invite you to see the storage crock and other ceramics in our new exhibit – “Dynamic Ceramics: Selections from the James Monroe Museum Collection”

Visit the Museum!



The James Monroe Museum

908 Charles St.

Fredericksburg, VA 22401

540-654-1043

www.jamesmonroemuseum.org



Become a Friend of the James Monroe Museum!