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Curator's Corner

Currently on exhibit in our new "**Featured Artifact**" case, James Monroe's paddle strop features a honing stone on one side and a leather strop on the other. Designed for both the home and travel, the paddle strop was a common accessory for gentlemen in the 19th century. It works by first sharpening the metal edge of a razor or other cutting tool on the honing stone, then finely polishing or "removing the burr" on the leather strop.

Constructed of leather, stone, and wood, Monroe's strop was presented to him by an unknown "American gentleman now in London." The gold inscription reads:
"This tablet was expressly made by the manufacturers for James Monroe President of the United States of America / At the special instance of an American gentleman now in London July 4th, 1823"

An interesting feature of the strop is an American eagle emblem on the handle. The eagle is behind a shield displaying an anchor - an unusual motif since Monroe was not in the navy.

However, a similar eagle/anchor emblem is featured prominently on a china dinner service that is attributed to Monroe's presidency. [Pieces of this service are exhibited in our Washington gallery.] The emblem is also similar to the eagle on top of the Tripoli Monument - the oldest military monument in the United States. The monument was damaged during the War of 1812 yet survived, similar to the White House, which was reconstructed during Monroe's presidency.

Come by the Museum to see this and other items owned by Monroe!



Detail of American eagle emblem

[Visit the Museum!](#)

Upcoming Events



July 7, 6:00-8:00 PM, First Friday History Trivia Night, at JMM

Our history themed trivia night featuring our very special Celebrity Quizmaster James Monroe (James G. "Jay" Harrison, III)! Admission, participation, and snacks are free. There will be a cash bar and a 50/50 raffle.



July 10 and 11, 9:00 AM -12:00 PM, Major Monroe's History Camp, at JMM

Enlist in this two half-day, hands-on history camp for boys and girls ages 7-12. This year's camp will feature storyteller and musician Eve Watters who will be at camp on both days to share stories, riddles, and music. Participants will have an opportunity to try out some of the musical instruments! James and Elizabeth Monroe will also be at camp this year! There will be presentations about James Monroe, the use of ciphers, archeology, and the life of a Revolutionary War soldier, along with games, and crafts, to introduce children to life during the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Cost is \$45/child, or \$35/child for Friends of JMM (price includes both days). Snacks will be

provided. Please [contact](#) our Public Programs Coordinator, Lynda Allen for a registration form.

[Calendar of Events](#)

What's In Store?

If you haven't stopped by the Museum Store recently, now is a great time to do so. Our full line of James Monroe Bicentennial products is displayed in an attractive new case. Here you will find puzzles, mugs, bookmarks and more!

If the children in your life need a break from electronics, stop by to grab some old-fashioned toys from the Museum Store. Among the classic selections are dominoes, yo-yos, cup and ball toss, Jacob's ladder, and wooden tops. We also have a children's classic card game set that includes instructions and a deck of playing cards.



2017 WHHA Ornament

Christmas in July:

**Visit the Store for specials on writing sets, books, ornaments, and T-shirts!
Friday July 7, 2017 10 AM - 6 PM**

Stop by for the debut of the **Official 2017 White House Christmas Ornament!** Both sides of this year's ornament honor Franklin D. Roosevelt and his historic four terms in office.

Virginia Capitol Foundation, White House Historical Association, and other holiday ornaments will be offered at special prices on July 7 only! Holiday snacks and beverages will be served throughout the day.



2017 WHHA Ornament

Visit our [website](#) to view other items available in our store.

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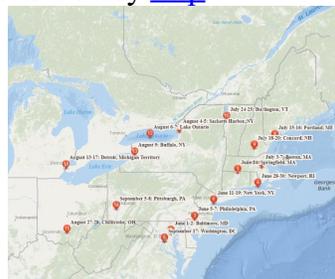
In the Spirit of the People Updates from the road!

To date ***In the Spirit of the People: James Monroe's 1817 Presidential Tour of the Northern States*** has visited Fort Mifflin and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia; the New Haven Museum, New Haven, CT; and the Middlesex County Historical Society, Middletown, CT. The exhibit will be traveling throughout the summer and into the fall. Look for it in Canton, Ogdensburg, and Staten Island in NY; Quincy, MA; Fremont, Columbus, and Monroe Ohio; and



At the New Haven Museum
this helpful interactive story [map!](#)

Be sure to follow [@PresMonroe](#) on Twitter to track the path of the tour, read excerpts from letters and newspaper articles covering the tour, and find out interesting facts from 1817 and 2017 about the towns he visited!



Interactive map tracing Monroe's 1817 tour

Visit our [website](#) for more information and educational resources regarding the tour, including



At Fort Mifflin with Benjamin Franklin and Monroe biographer Tim McGrath



At the New Haven Museum

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