March 2015 E-Newsletter

Women's History Month Lecture: "Never Caught: The President's Runaway Slave Woman"

Join us on Thursday, March 12 for a talk by Erica Armstrong Dunbar, Associate Professor of Black American Studies & History at the University of Delaware, on the fascinating life of Ona Judge Staines - former slave to George and Martha Washington - who took her freedom once she fled from the President's House in May of 1796. "Never Caught" will examine the complexity of race, gender, and emancipation following the years of the American Revolution up through antebellum America.

The talk is co-sponsored by the UMW Women's and Gender Studies program.

7 p.m., Historic Dining Room at Seacobeck, UMW Fredericksburg campus. Free and open to the public.
"What's in Store" at the James Monroe Museum?

Candle snuffer & ink well

The Store got a little sprucing up over the winter months, so be sure to spend some time here on your next visit!

Be prepared for the next snow day with a history-focused jigsaw puzzle ($16.00)! We have two new 1,000-piece puzzles in stock: State Flags and Capitols, and Historic Virginia (see if you can find the James Monroe Museum!). Additionally, there are puzzles featuring the U.S. Presidents, an overview of the American Revolution, and the well-known image of Washington crossing the Delaware (inaccurately depicting James Monroe holding the flag behind him in the boat).

If you're looking for a unique item to add to your collection or to give as a gift, look no further than our selection of decorative items. New to the Store are a lovely cobalt glass inkwell ($13.00) and a pewter candle extinguisher ($19.50). Or, if you're looking for a good book for a cold day spent reading beside the fire, pick up a copy of The Faiths of the Founding Fathers ($20.00), which includes an interesting chapter about James Monroe.

We look forward to seeing you soon at The James Monroe Museum Store!

Slogan Contest

You're invited to help us come up with a slogan for the museum! The winning entry will go on new museum t-shirts and mugs. You can e-mail your ideas for a short, catchy slogan to auphaus@umw.edu, with the subject "Slogan Contest," until March 31. Please keep it tasteful! We're looking forward to hearing your ideas!

Inclement Weather Closings

We all hope spring is on the way,
but March could still see some snow and ice, so we thought a note about the museum's weather-related closing policy would be useful!

The museum will be closed to the public if Fredericksburg City Public Schools are closed. On the weekends, we will be closed if there is a Winter Storm Warning.

We will post updates about weather closings on our website and Facebook page.

A tiny snowman someone built on one of the benches in front of the Museum!

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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.

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