



VISITING EXHIBITS & PROGRAMS NEWS RENTALS GIVING ABOUT THE MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

## May 2016 Newsletter



### May Special Events

#### **First Friday History Trivia Night Returns May 6**

Back by popular demand, *First Friday History Trivia Nights*, our monthly trivia contests in the Museum Garden hosted by local celebrity quizmasters. First up: **Karen Hedelt**, Director of Economic Development & Tourism with the City of Fredericksburg. Cash bar, prizes, 50/50 raffle, 6:00-8:00 PM

#### **Yoga in the Garden**

After stretching your mind Friday evening, you'll want to stretch your muscles Saturday morning. In keeping with the spirit of First Lady Michelle Obama's *Let's Move* initiative, the Museum is pleased to host Yoga in the Garden from 8:30-9:30 AM every Saturday (except Memorial Day weekend). \$12 per person/\$10 Friends of JMM. Walk-ins welcome!



Dragonfly Yoga Studio will offer Yoga class in the Museum Garden Saturday mornings in May and June (no class Memorial Day weekend).

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### **Update on James Monroe Portrait Research**



As previously reported, the Museum has continued to research the provenance of a James Monroe portrait acquired in early 2015. Results of this effort indicate that the painting is likely the work of nineteenth-century portrait artist Bass Otis, who made likenesses of Monroe, James and Dolley Madison, Thomas Jefferson, and others in June or July, 1816 for a planned catalogue by Philadelphia publisher Joseph



Delaplaine that was never published. The collection was subsequently purchased by Rubens Peale for display in his New York museum, which was acquired by P.T. Barnum in 1837 for his American Museum. At least some of the Otis paintings ended up in other hands before the American Museum was destroyed by fire in 1865.

Director Scott Harris and Curator Jarod Kearney went to Monticello on March 10 to examine a portrait of Thomas Jefferson that is positively identified as the work of Otis. With assistance from Monticello assistant curator Emilie Johnson, Harris and Kearney compared proportions and features of the two portraits, which were reunited for perhaps the first time since the early 19th century. Conclusions from this investigation support the consensus of professional opinion that the Museum's portrait was painted by Bass Otis in 1816.



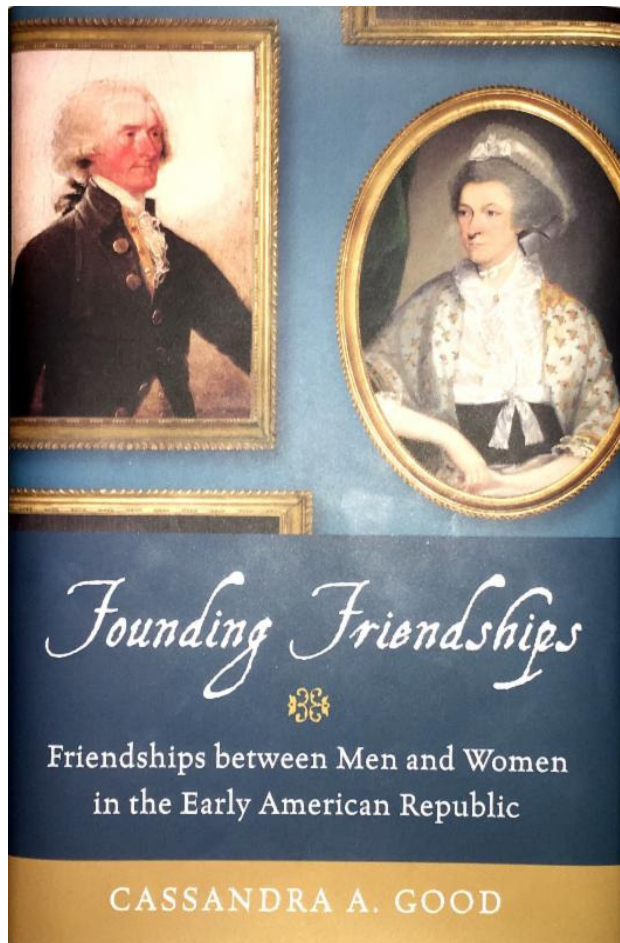
Visit [this link](#) to watch Scott Harris's interview with Fredericksburg area journalist Ted Schubel on the Monroe portrait research journey.

### What's in Store?

Mother's Day is May 8. What better way to mark the occasion than by a visit to the James Monroe Museum and Store? We will

be happy to help you find a perfect gift for the mom in your life.

The Museum Store's featured book this month is *Founding Friendships* (\$34.95) by UMW's own Cassandra Good, Associate Editor of *The Papers of James Monroe*. *Founding Friendships* was recently awarded the Mary Jurich Nickliss Prize by the Organization of American Historians (OAH). The prize "is given for 'the most original' book in U.S. Women's and/or Gender History. The OAH defines 'the most original' book as one that is a path-breaking work or challenges and/or changes widely accepted scholarly interpretations in the field." *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* had this to say about the book, "Meticulously researched, clearly written, and fascinating... It will inspire both more debate and more research on the hitherto-neglected topic of inter-gender friendships." We offer our congratulations to Ms. Good and are proud to carry her book in our Store. Pick up a copy for yourself or for a history enthusiast in your life!



Our first round of Freund-Mayer **pewter and brass quill pen writing sets** were such a hit that we ordered more! We have more colors and styles, including a lovely **pewter quill pen with stand** (\$20.00), and sets including quills in green, blue, natural, white, and burgundy. They make the perfect, unique gift for those who enjoy writing, for those about to graduate, or for Mother's Day. Some kits include **wax seal stamps** (a Welsh

dragon, American eagle, or fleur-de-lys) and wax sticks, while others include a variety of nib styles for the quills. Come by today to see the full selection!



If Mom enjoys crafts, consider one of our cross stitch kits! There is a variety to choose from; including an **Elizabeth Monroe Purse Counted Cross Stitch kit** (\$20.00) based on a c. 1804-7 French beadwork réticule, or purse, belonging to Elizabeth Monroe, or the **James Monroe Museum Bookmark kit** (\$11.00). There is also a cross stitch kit featuring the exterior of the **James Monroe Museum** (\$7.50), and an **Early American Flag kit** (\$15.60). Or if Mom prefers reading we have a wide selection of books on the Early American era.





We wish all the moms in our lives a very happy and relaxing Mother's Day and look forward to seeing you in the James Monroe Museum Store!



The James Monroe Museum has been a Blue Star Museum every year since the program started in 2010 and is proud to do so again this summer. Participating institutions offer free admission to active duty members of the military and their families from Memorial Day (May 30) through Labor Day (September 5).

### **Museum Bids Adieu to 2015-2016 Bowley Scholars and Interns**



2015-2016 Bowley Scholars Katie Finch and Melissa Parent

The Museum thanks our Bowley Scholars Katie Finch and Melissa Parent for their outstanding contributions during the 2015-2016 academic year. The Bowley Scholars helped create our new exhibit, *In Loving Memory: Donations from Camilla Hoes Pope*, helped with research, maintained museum collections, and performed countless other tasks. We wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors! We also thank interns Jason James and Meghan Page for their help this semester in cataloging of the Museum's rare book collection in Trinkle Hall.

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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.



James Monroe Museum, 908 Charles Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

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