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COLLECTIONS

## February 2015 E-Newsletter



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### Happy Anniversary, James and Elizabeth Monroe!



*Elizabeth Monroe, by Louis Sene, 1796*

fulsome Complements during their first Transports," wrote Stephen Mitchell, another member of Congress, to William Johnson, on 21 February.

It was the start of happy and love-filled marriage for the Monroes. "It is a remark, which it would be unpardonable to withhold, that it was improbable for any female to have fulfilled all the duties of the partner of such cares, and of a wife and parent, with more attention, delicacy and propriety than she has done," wrote Monroe in his *Autobiography*.

Two hundred and twenty nine years ago this month (16 February 1786), James and Elizabeth Monroe were married in New York City. He was a 28-year-old delegate to Congress and she was the beautiful 17-year-old daughter of a prosperous merchant. "The night after you left us our friend Monro was married & next morning decamp'd for Long Island with the little smiling Venus in his Arms, where they have taken house, to avoid

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#### Upcoming Events

**Thur, 12 Feb: 3rd Annual Black History Month Lecture, "The Enslaved Community of James Monroe."** Presented by historians Lori Kimball & Wynne Saffer. 7 p.m., Lee Hall 411, UMW

Happy anniversary to the Monroes!

[Go here to see pictures from the 2010 restoration of Elizabeth Monroe's stunning wedding gown.](#)

## 3rd Annual Black History Month Lecture: "The Enslaved Community of James Monroe"

We are proud to present our third annual lecture in honor of Black History Month on **Thursday, February 12**, at 7 p.m., in the Historic Dining Room at Seacobeck Hall (UMW campus).

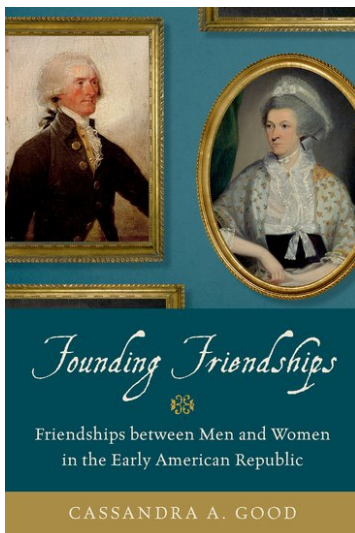


*Slave quarters at James Monroe's Ash Lawn-Highland*

Loudoun County historians Lori Kimball and Wynne Saffer will discuss their ongoing research into identifying and tracing the genealogy of the enslaved community of James Monroe. A reception will follow. The talk is free and will also be video-recorded.

[Read a Washington Post article from 2012 about Kimball and Saffer's research.](#)

## "What's in Store" at the James Monroe Museum?



We are pleased to be able to make available in our store the new book *Founding Friendships* (\$34.95), by Cassandra Good, the Associate Editor of *The Papers of James Monroe*! The book is the first of its kind with a focus on the friendships between men and women during the time of our Founding Fathers. Read the glowing reviews of the book here, then come by the store and pick up a signed copy!

If you have friends or relatives who will be traveling to the area we have two books in the store that would be perfect for their visit. *Fredericksburg: The Official Guide* (\$13.50) is a wonderful guide for visitors to our fair city. 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

campus. Free.

### Thur, 12 Feb: 3rd Annual Women's History Month Lecture, "Never Caught: The President's Runaway Slave Woman"

Presented by Erica Armstrong Dunbar, associate professor at the University of Delaware. 7 p.m., Lee Hall 411, UMW campus. Free.

### Sat, 25 April: James Monroe's Birthday Celebration.

Join us in the Museum garden for cake, punch, and live music to celebrate the 257th anniversary of Monroe's birth! 1-3 p.m. Free.

## Quick Links

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Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc., our co-sponsor for the "James Monroe's Fredericksburg" walking tour in May. For those planning a visit to Fredericksburg and beyond 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.

If you weren't able to make it to our Chocolate and Silver event, there is still a chance for you to make your own Colonial Era hot chocolate with the American Heritage finely grated chocolate drink mix, available in 12.72 oz. canisters (\$19.95). Pick some up before the next snow day!

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

If you are on Pinterest, check out the Store's board [here](#)!

## Article about January's Chocolate & Silver Event

Go [here](#) to read an article from the Free Lance-Star about this successful event and to watch a video of curator Jarod Kearney talking about the restoration of the Monroe silver collection!



*Adele Uphaus-Conner*

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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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