



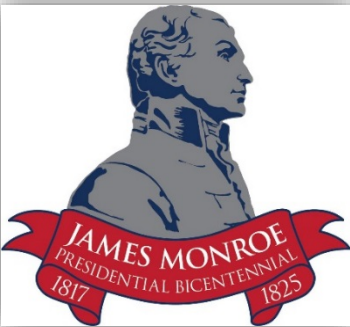
THE JAMES MONROE MUSEUM

908 Charles Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401 540-654-1043 www.jamesmonroemuseum.org
An historic property administered by the University of Mary Washington

2017 in Review

The James Monroe Museum is pleased to share this summary of 2017, a truly eventful year in our institution's long history. Observance of the bicentennial of James Monroe's presidency, which will be a dominant overarching theme for the next eight years, began with innovative public programs and the Museum's first national traveling exhibit. Throughout the year, new First Friday programs were introduced; special exhibits highlighted fascinating artifacts in the Museum's collection; and awareness and support of the Museum grew steadily. Echoing the term used two centuries ago to describe the positive effect of the president's northern tour, 2017 was manifestly an "Era of Good Feelings" for The James Monroe Museum!

Public Programs and Outreach



Presidential Bicentennial activities loomed large as 2017 began, with two public programs tied to commemoration of Monroe's first inauguration: a joint press conference featuring James Monroe (portrayed by James G. "Jay" Harrison III) and new University of Mary Washington President Troy Paino; and a reenactment of Monroe's March 4, 1817 inaugural ceremony, held 200 years to the day after the historic event. Both programs had enthusiastic audiences and were live-streamed online by UMW.



Director Scott Harris with Jay Harrison as Monroe and UMW President Troy Paino at the Presidents' Day press conference.

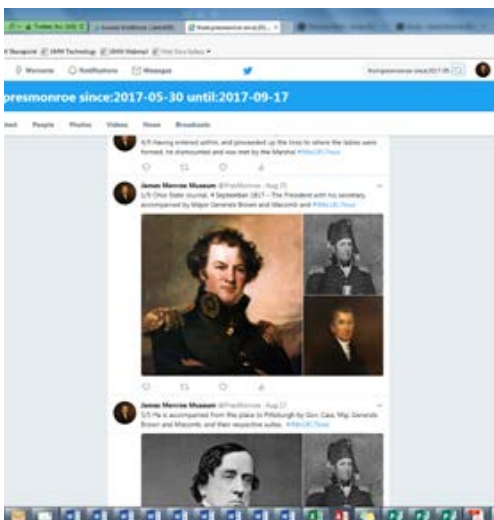


Monroe inauguration reenactment, March 4.

The traveling exhibit, *In the Spirit of the People: James Monroe's 1817 Presidential Tour of the Northern States*, proved very popular at more than 17 venues in six states from May to October. The exhibit, designed in large part by UMW museum studies students, is a collaboration between the Museum and the Papers of James Monroe.



Clockwise from Top Left: "In the Spirit of the People" at Fort Mifflin (PA); Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site (NY); Historic Richmond Town (NY); Monroe Historical Society (OH); New Haven Museum (CT); Monroe County Museum (MI).



The exhibit was complemented by online resources such as daily Twitter updates and Facebook quizzes.

In the Spirit of the People Travel Schedule, 2017:

Fort Mifflin, Philadelphia, PA	June 1-18
Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia	June 19-July 14
New Haven Museum, New Haven, CT	June 1-25
Middlesex County Historical Society, Middletown, CT	June 1-25
Monroe County Museum, Monroe, MI	Purchased own set.
St. Lawrence County Historical Association, Canton, NY	July 22-August 5
Adams National Historical Park, Quincy, MA	July 3-23
Historic Richmond Town, Staten Island, NY	July 3-23
Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center, Fremont, OH	August 1-20
Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Park	August 1-20
Washington County Historical Society, PA	September 1-24
Monroe Historical Society, Monroe, Ohio	September 1-15
Midpoint Library, Monroe Branch, Monroe, Ohio	September 15-30
Columbus Metropolitan Library, Columbus, OH	September 11-October 14
Old Petersburg-Addison Historical Society, Addison, PA	October 14
Fayette County Historical Society, Smock, PA	October 15-31



Curator Jarod Kearney describes mother-of-pearl jewelry at the opening of "Era of Good Fashions: Clothing and Accessories of the Monroe Family."

Popular First Friday events, previously confined to the warm-weather months, now take place throughout the year thanks to the gallery renovations done in 2016. Highlights of these free programs were presentations on collection artifacts by curator Jarod Kearney and several new programs, including "Sketchy History," the Museum's version of "Win, Lose, or Draw,"™ and Tavern Night.



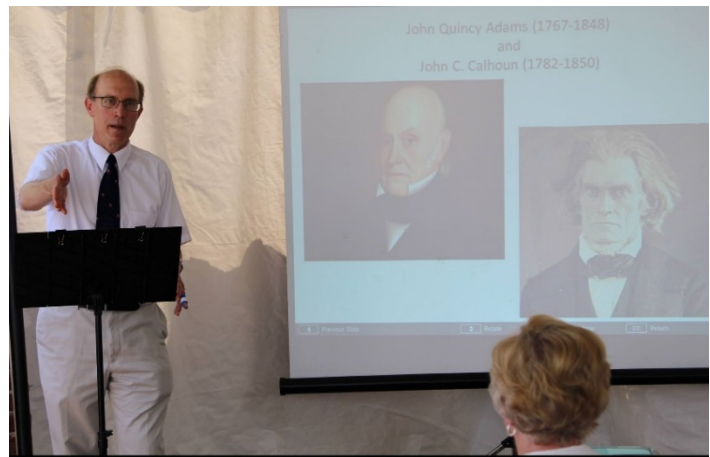
"Sketchy History," the First Friday program for May and August.

Outreach opportunities abounded during the first part of 2017, again largely due to the commemoration of the presidential bicentennial. In March, JMM director Scott Harris took part in a symposium on Monroe sponsored by the Mosby Heritage Area Association in Loudoun County. Among the other speakers were Dan Preston,



editor of the Papers of James Monroe, and Sara Bon-Harper, executive director of James Monroe's Highland. The symposium closed with a reception at the Monroe's former estate, Oak Hill. The individual lectures are viewable at the [C-SPAN website](#).

On April 27, Harris was the concluding speaker in UMW's inaugural "Mary Talks" lecture series at the Hurley Convergence Center. The talk was live-streamed, and like other such programs has been archived on the University's website.



James Monroe's 259th birthday observance at the Museum included a discussion of the recently published new edition of Monroe's autobiography by Dr. William Ferraro, editor of the Papers of George Washington at UVA, who wrote the foreword to the new edition. On April 28 Scott Harris and Sara Bon-Harper took part in the James Monroe Memorial Foundation's annual birthday ceremony at the newly-restored Monroe tomb in Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery.





Counterclockwise from Left: Gabriele Rausse, Director of Gardens and Grounds at Monticello and "Father of the Modern Virginia Wine Industry," leads a tasting during "Jefferson, Monroe, and Wine," in September; the 28th Annual Fredericksburg Welsh Festival enjoyed one of its best years ever; the Ship's Company Chanteymen serenade passersby before the start of Tavern Night.

Below: Curator Jarod Kearney shows off his potter's skills during Tavern Night, which coincided with the opening of the latest changing exhibit, "Dynamic Ceramics."



Exhibits

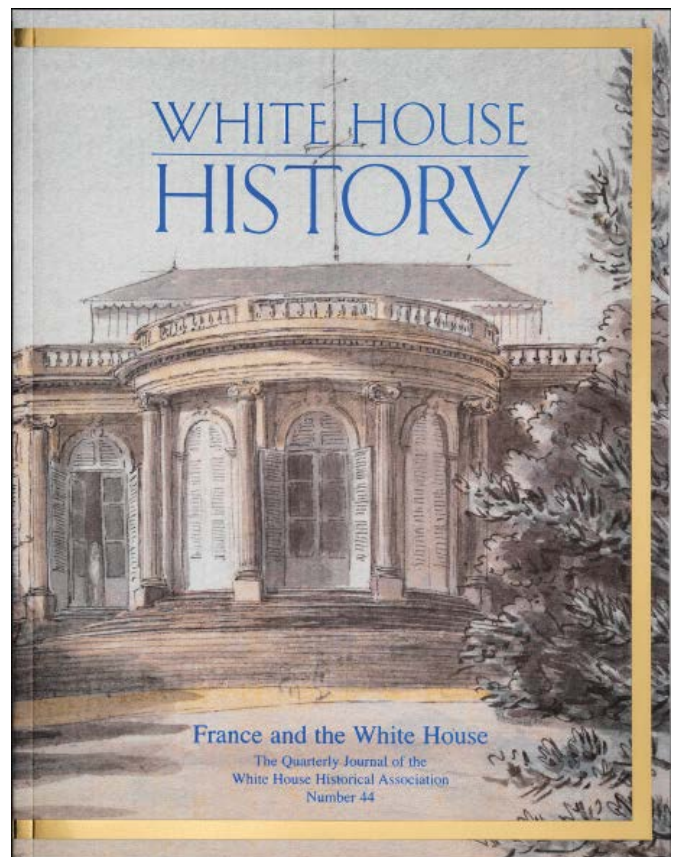
April saw the opening of *The Era of Good Fashions: Clothing and Accessories of the Monroe Family*. Featuring details on the composition and construction of distinctive items from the Museum's extensive collection of textiles and accessories, the exhibit ran until the fall. It was replaced by *Dynamic Ceramics: Selections from the James Monroe Museum Collection*, on view until the fall of 2018.



Another changing exhibit introduced in 2017 showcases a different “Featured Artifact” each month, such as an ivory pocket notebook owned by Elizabeth Monroe (below left) and James Monroe’s portable writing set (below right).

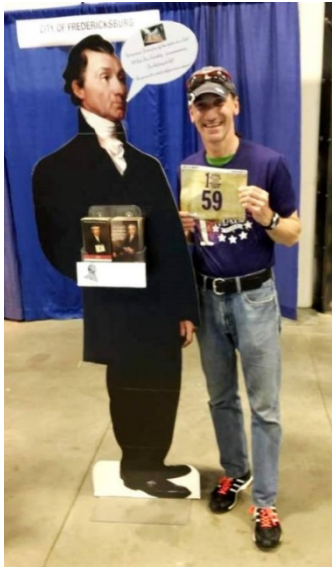


The Museum partnered with James Monroe’s Highland to present a small exhibit of Monroe presidential china at the White House Historical Association's symposium, "France in the United States," on May 4. The symposium complemented the latest issue of the WHHA's journal, *White House History*, devoted to French influences at the executive mansion. The issue has a large amount of Monroe-related content, including lavish photography of pieces from The James Monroe Museum's collection and the lead article on Monroe's ties to France written by Scott Harris.



Marketing and Public Relations

James Monroe got around in 2017 as the Museum took part in several community events. A display at the registration area for the Marine Corps Historic Half-Marathon in May provided free admission for runners, including Monroe character interpreter Jay Harrison. Jay, in appropriate period dress, joined Fredericksburg Mayor Mary Katharine Greenlaw for the Fox 5 Zip Trip event in the city's Hurkamp Park in August. Scarecrow James Monroe, one of more than 60 scarecrows entered in a contest sponsored by the Fredericksburg Main Street organization, won the judges' award in the Historical category. Media coverage of Monroe Presidential Bicentennial activities was also favorable.



A4 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2017 FREDERICKSBURG, VA. TH

OPINION

ONLINE: FREDERICKSBURG.COM/OPINION TWITTER: @FLS_OPINION

Presidents Monroe, Paino to trade ideas

IT'S not often that you get two presidents in the same room. Usually, that happens only at the White House, or some national memorial or international summit meeting.

But tonight, that will occur on the University of Mary Washington's Fredericksburg campus, and you are invited to attend.

The presidents in question were born in vastly different eras, so a bit of imagination and quasi-time travel may be required.

Yet James Monroe, fifth U.S. president, and Troy Paino, UMW's 10th president, share a spirit of civic engagement in common.

Tonight, they'll share a stage inside, appropriately, the university's Monroe Hall as well as their thoughts about education, democracy and responsibility.

Turns out that their views on various pressing issues of their day are remarkably alike.

Kortright, a New York socialite. Many decades later, Monroe's great-granddaughter rescued his Charles Street office's site from oblivion and founded the museum that still occupies it, beside the Masonic Cemetery. It is administered by UMW, as is artist Gari Melchers' home in Falmouth.

Back in his time here, Monroe could scarcely have imagined he would one day become president of the United States. But he did, and his presidency mattered. Recently, many U.S. communities and historic sites have begun honoring the bicentennial of his two terms in office, which an admiring Boston newspaper dubbed "the Era of Good Feelings." That's not news to Paino, a historian by trade before he became a university administrator.

But consider the accord between these two men's ideas. One example: "In providing for the prosperity and happiness of a country, a careful attention to literary institutions, and

1817 STYLE

Celebrating President Monroe's Inaugural Bicentennial

A crowd gathered near UMW's Monroe Hall in early March to celebrate the statesman the building is named for. James Monroe, fifth president of the United States, was inaugurated March 4, 1817, in Washington, D.C. Two hundred years later to the day, the James Monroe Museum invited the community to witness the pageantry of a re-enactment of the inauguration on the steps of Mary Washington's oldest building.

Soldiers in plumed caps and coarsely stitched breeches held muskets and bayonets. Ladies in colorful hats and dresses – hands in muffs and shawls pulled tight against the early March cold – waited with a crowd of modern guests.

Jaunty music rang out from the trumpets of the United States Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps. Soldiers from the Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia presented the color guard, and a smart, white carriage delivered the dignitaries of an earlier era: outgoing President James Madison, first lady Dolley Madison, and John Marshall, chief justice of the Supreme Court. The crowd cheered as the president-elect and his wife – James and Elizabeth Monroe – stepped down from the horse-drawn rig.

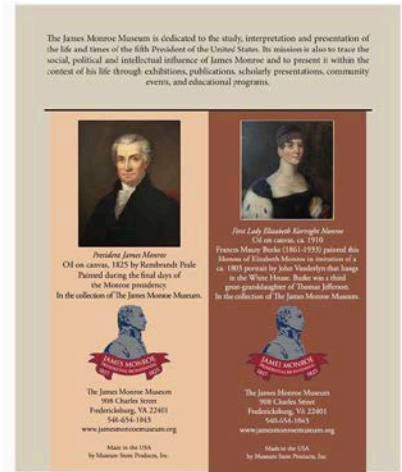
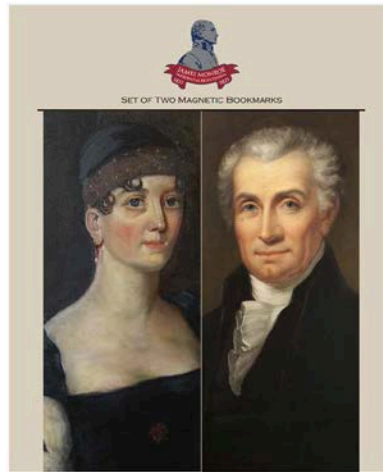
James Monroe Museum Director Scott H. Harris '83 welcomed the crowd as did Fredericksburg's mayor, Mary Katherine Greenlaw '61. UMW President Troy D. Paino said the university is proud of its association with the museum, which it administers, and with James Monroe.

The modern speakers left the dais to a tableau lifted from the 1800s: James Monroe delivered an excerpt from his first inaugural address, and Chief Justice Marshall administered the oath of office. After a military salute, the trumpets and fifes struck up a brisk rendition of *Yankee Doodle*. Harris led the crowd in cheers of "hip, hip, huzzah!" before a reception where guests got to meet the interpreters and learn more about their costumes and the people they portrayed.

★ Photos by Norm Shafer ★

24 UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON MAGAZINE • SPRING/SUMMER 2017

The Museum Store introduced many new products during the year, including a line of [Monroe Presidential Bicentennial Merchandise](#). The Store also carried 2017's official White House Historical Association Christmas Ornament, dedicated to Franklin D. Roosevelt, as well as other holiday-themed merchandise.



And, coming soon . . . the James Monroe Bobblehead!

