



**UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON MUSEUMS  
224 Washington Street, Falmouth, VA 22405**

**Gari Melchers Home and Studio \* James Monroe Museum \* Papers of James Monroe**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Public Release  
**FROM:** Scott Harris, Executive Director  
**DATE:** January 4, 2021  
**RE:** University of Mary Washington Museums Temporary Closing

Gari Melchers Home and Studio and the James Monroe Museum are closed to the public until further notice.

The temporary closing is a precautionary measure taken in response to actual and potential increases in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in Virginia and nationally. University Museums leadership, in conjunction with the UMW administration, will determine a reopening date for the museums with regard to the general public health situation, including any applicable local, state, or federal directives.

The Stafford County Tourist Information Center, administered by Gari Melchers Home and Studio, is also closed to the public until further notice. For information on Stafford County attractions, please visit <https://www.tourstaffordva.com/>.

University of Mary Washington Museums offer a wide array of online educational resources, which may be accessed at the following sites:

Gari Melchers Home and Studio “Learn” page: <https://www.garimelchers.org/education/learn/>.

James Monroe Museum “Hands-On History” page: <https://jamesmonroemuseum.umw.edu/about-james-monroe/hands-on-history/>.

Papers of James Monroe “COVID-19 Resources” page:  
<https://academics.umw.edu/jamesmonroepapers/covid-19-resources/>.

*The University of Mary Washington Museums, comprising Gari Melchers Home and Studio, the James Monroe Museum, and the Papers of James Monroe, support and enhance the educational mission of the University. In accordance with their respective missions, the component sites and programs of UMW Museums collect, preserve, and interpret artistic, cultural, and historic resources; promote scholarship and the diffusion of knowledge; provide experiential learning opportunities for UMW students; and support economic development through heritage tourism.*