

PRESIDENT JAMES MONROE

Our country's fifth President, James Monroe endured the untimely loss of his parents, carried a musket and faced fierce fighting in the American Revolutionary War, took a bullet to the shoulder and grieved over the death of an infant son. Monroe's war time service was followed by nearly fifty years of public service. It is in those offices that he had a hand in shaping the nation, from conducting negotiations for land purchases which effectively doubled the size of the United States, to penning his Monroe Doctrine which opposed any further colonization by European powers in the western hemisphere, to helping the country avoid a sectional crisis with the Missouri Compromise. He was the most qualified man to ever assume the office, and he was a skilled farmer as well. It seemed there was nothing Monroe could not do. Revolutionary War Hero. Lawyer. State Legislator. Congressman. Senator. Diplomat. Governor of Virginia. Secretary of State. Secretary of War. President of the United States.

“A better man cannot be.” - Thomas Jefferson, 1785

Introduction

James Monroe was a deliberate thinker as well as a nationalist in diplomacy and defense. He supported a limited executive branch of the federal government and advocated that the needs of the public should be paramount over personal greed and party ambition. He extolled the advantages of farmers and craftsmen, and distrusted a vigorous central government in domestic affairs.

Chapter 1: Monroe's Early Years

James Monroe's mother Elizabeth Jones Monroe was pictured as “a very amiable and respectable woman, possessing the best domestic qualities of a good wife, and a good parent,” recounts Monroe. She was the daughter of James Jones, a Welsh immigrant and landowner in King George County, Virginia. A portion of the large plot of land was inherited by Monroe's mother.

James Monroe's father Spence was able to trace his ancestry back to a relative who had fought at the side of Charles I in the English Civil Wars before being taken prisoner and exiled to Virginia in 1649.

1695 – 1735 Andrew Monroe

Andrew was Spence's father. Andrew married Christian Tyler and they had seven children. He died in Kinsale, Virginia.

1666 – 1737 William Gent Monroe I (died on April 26th in Westmoreland)

1625 – 1668 Andrew Monroe I born in Katewell, Scotland

It was major Andrew Monroe, the son of David Munro of Katewell, Scotland, who patented a large plot of land in 1650 in the Washington Parish of Westmoreland County in Virginia. He later developed Monrovia, also known as Monroe Hall on a tributary of the Potomac River known as Monroe Creek. Generations of Monroes would inhabit this estate. Spence was a cabinetmaker and a farmer, and during Monroe's childhood he owned approximately 500 acres on which were produced cattle, tobacco, corn and barley. The family was considered to be moderately wealthy.

Spence was active in local politics. He, together with his brother Andrew were active in a major stand in 1765 by Virginia colonists against the British crown law. It was later known as the Stamp Act Resolutions or the Virginia Resolves. The Stamp Act had been imposed on the American colonies by the British as a form of taxation in order to pay off Britain's debts as a result of the French and Indian War. Items taxed included stamps, legal documents, playing card and dice, as well as other everyday items used by the colonists.

The two Monroe brothers were very supportive of resolutions against the Stamp Act in Westmoreland County, Virginia, and their signatures are on the final document. Virginia's Stamp Act Resolutions opened the door for similar resolves being adopted in most of the original colonies. The next year, in 1766, the Leedstown Resolves were signed by Spence. These Resolves threatened the use of military force via local militia, against British interests if the colonies were not given representation in issues dealing with taxation. This more radical version of the Stamp Act Resolutions gained some clout from having been signed by Spence, as he had been a former Captain in the local militia. His signature also appeared on a petition organized by local farmers on Virginia's "Northern Neck" region made up of four counties, calling for a boycott of British goods in response to the Stamp Act.

These events shaped young Monroe, and with these influences he was bound to be involved in politics much like those before him.

James Monroe was born on April 28, 1758 in Westmoreland County, Virginia at Monroe Hall. James was the second of five children, with an older sister and three younger brothers. His siblings names were Elizabeth Buckner, Spence Jr., Andrew Augustine and Joseph Jones. James spent his childhood on the plantation and explored the marshes and forested areas around the farm. James was home schooled as a child

and beginning at age 11 he attended Campbelltown Academy, considered to be the best school in the entire colony of Virginia at the time. Rev. Archibald Maciver Campbell of the Washington Parish taught a small group of boys each year. James walked several miles each day to get there, sometimes carrying his rifle to fire at game. James was a good student, becoming proficient in both Latin and math. One of his classmates was a young John Marshall, who would later become Secretary of State and Chief Justice. They were close friends until the political animosities of the 1790s.

James' father passed in 1774 at the Monroe farm, and James' mother had passed prior to that. Little is known about her exact date of passing as well as the cause because Monroe did not save any documentation to that effect. Pursuant to the will that Spence left, James and his brother Andrew were to share ownership of the farm. Elizabeth's brother, Judge Joseph Jones became the caretaker of the orphaned Monroe children after Spence passed. Jones was a well-respected attorney in Virginia and encouraged James to enroll in the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.

In the fall of 1774, James attended the College of William and Mary, the second oldest college in the colonies. Monroe attended morning and evening prayer in the college chapel as well as Sunday prayers in the nearby Bruton Parish Church. Shortly after Monroe arrived at the college to begin his studies, he attended the Williamsburg Lodge of the Freemasons. This was the year after the events surrounding the Boston Tea Party and shortly after the General Assembly had been dismantled by Virginia Governor Lord Dunmore. The House of Burgesses members, which included James' uncle Joseph Jones, refused to disband, gathered at Raleigh Tavern to draft a resolution boycotting goods imported from the British East India Company. There was much tension, so much so that James found it nearly impossible to concentrate on his schooling.

The hostilities began when the first shots were fired at Lexington and Concord on April 19th. It was obvious that an all-out war was inevitable and raised with a disdain for the British monarchy, James' studies quickly took a backseat to his interest in Revolutionary matters.

Storming the Palace

On June 24th, 1775, James Monroe was part of a group under the direction of Theodorick Bland, Jr. that raided the Governor's Palace. They aimed to seize confiscated weapons and return them to the town's armory where the citizens could control their use when it came time to fight. The group was able to recover some 230 muskets, 301 swords and 187 pistols from the palace, and turned the items over to the local militia in



Williamsburg. This was a relatively easy task to accomplish, as the Palace had been abandoned. Lord Dunmore had dissolved the House of Burgesses and fled, taking with him any remnants of British rule in the colonial capital. A Committee of Safety was created at the suggestion of representatives at the Virginia Convention. This Committee then became the city's government. James' uncle Joseph Jones was a member of the committee.

Chapter 2: American Revolutionary War - The Young Lieutenant

"Preparation for war is a constant stimulus to suspicion and ill will." - James Monroe

The practice of carrying his firearm with him to shoot at game on the long walks to Campbelltown Academy as a youth paid off when James entered the Continental Army's 3rd Virginia Regiment, as he was quickly promoted to the rank of lieutenant due to being a skilled rifleman. He was just 18, and served in a company under Captain John Thornton and practiced drill with other regiments under the supervision of General Andrew Lewis for most of the summer. Lewis was a stickler for discipline and his men received training that was more advanced than most other men who had enlisted throughout the colonies. James' six-foot frame and exceptional strength made him especially well-suited for a career in the military. The terrain he was exposed to while enlisted was very similar to the countryside in Virginia where he grew up. Training in Williamsburg, though, was monotonous and a far cry from the action of the front lines that James and his fellow recruits yearned for. The summer of 1776 was a long one for James, but he would see action before too long.

In August, 1776, the 3rd and 9th Virginia Regiments were ordered by General George Washington to join his forces in New York. The long and arduous march in the heat of August northward to Manhattan was a grueling experience for the men. The 700 officers and men of the Third arrived in Washington's camp on September 12th, reportedly in good spirits and generally healthy. Between expiring militia terms and deserters, Washington's army was constantly dwindling. To see a fresh batch of well-trained troops arriving was uplifting. Despite their long walk, Monroe's company was given little time to rest. They were assigned a campsite by King's Bridge, some 14 miles north of the city. They could hear British cannon fire from the batteries across the river. At night, Monroe's company was frequently called out by what turned out to be false reports of enemy movements. Such was the state of military intelligence at the time, with much inability to discern rumors from valid reports.

The British began their invasion of Manhattan, New York with a landing at Kip's Bay (near present-day East 34th Street) on September 16th. Washington was expecting the main British threat to be to the north, so he had stationed the main portion of his forces at Harlem (110th Street) which was about six miles from Kip's Bay. The ill-trained Connecticut militia was forced to face the attack, and they had never seen enemy fire before. They retreated without firing and later came under fire of a different sort once word of their flight reached Monroe and the Virginians who were standing in battle formation. They furiously denounced the ones who had abandoned their posts without exchanging fire.

The battle of Harlem Heights took place on September 16th, 1776 as yet another part of the New York and New Jersey campaign of the American Revolutionary War.

The day after the American loss at Kip's Bay, Monroe and the 3rd Virginia Regiment, now under the command of Colonel Andrew Leitch, joined the New Englanders and engaged the British light infantry stationed in the area. The Third was stationed at the edge of the woods overlooking a low-lying meadow which was in between Harlem and Vandevanter's Heights. The enemy could be seen peeking over fences and running back and forth. Small parties of British were slowly advancing and firing from 300 yards. Under a "hold your fire" order, a young officer open fire after being taunted by the redcoats, and soon everyone was firing. Colonel Weedon halted the skirmish and the Virginians sat for an hour without firing, while still exposed to the enemy.

It was Monroe's first taste of battle, and it was decidedly lopsided – 2,000 American troops faced over 5,000 British soldiers. Unfortunately, this initial engagement in what would become known as the Battle of Harlem Heights ended in another American retreat, with the British 42nd Highlanders in pursuit.

As the Americans fled, a British bugler sounded a call often used in fox hunting parties to signal that prey has been located and was on the run. The call was intended as an insult to the Americans' ability to stand and fight. The insult enraged the American forces, and Washington ordered a halt to the retreat. He sent a group of soldiers out to lure the British onto a higher plateau, and sent the remainder of his troops around the British right flank, thus cutting them off from any reinforcements to the south. The bait worked, and the British forces were soon caught in a trap between two walls of American firepower. It was now time for a British retreat. Washington's forces managed to push the British back from the present-day location of 125th Street in Harlem to 106th Street. In the end, the Americans had only 70 casualties, and had inflicted far worse on the British. Monroe and his regiment were singled out and praised for bravery while the troops were gathered for Washington's orders the next morning.

It was a small battle, compared to others that would follow it, but it contributed to the overall course of the war. The British envisioned the war ending before it ever really began, but that was not the case. British commanders and their troops saw that the rebellion among its colonists was more than just a minor uprising. General William Howe realized after the battle of Harlem Heights that the American troops under Washington were more formidable than first thought and he made changes in his plan of attack against them.

On the American side, they realized that they could stand toe-to-toe with the greatest military force in existence at that time, which boosted their morale immensely.

Washington's faith in his troops was renewed, and he understood that they needed better training. At the same time, he felt he could not fully trust his army and dared not engage in battle unless the circumstances proved highly advantageous for him. This caused him to go mainly on the defensive, letting his movements be determined by those of the British.

White Plains

Monroe and the 3rd Virginia Regiment were not involved in the main battle of White Plains on October 28th, 1776. His company did play a decisive role, though, in one of the skirmishes just prior to the main one. It took place on the moonlit night of October 26th and the Virginians under the direction of Lieutenant Monroe captured some 36 British soldiers as prisoners and killed another 20 men. What's more, not a single Virginian was killed.

The actual battle of White Plains saw losses of between 300 – 500 men on both sides, and the island of Manhattan was abandoned to British occupation.

The American War for Independence was now fraught with turmoil. Although the thirteen original colonies had joined together to form a nation and the Declaration of Independence was signed, there were also the horrible defeats for Washington's army, especially during the retreat through New Jersey where Washington had only 3,000 men under his command. James Monroe's regiment was depleted with only 200 active men. The rest, nearly two-thirds of the men, were ill and unfit for duty.

Monroe was one of the few officers who was fit for duty. Many of the men were hungry and not properly clothed. They walked in muddy roads in the rainy November weather.

The first week in December, Washington recovered all the available smaller craft for miles around so that the British had no way to cross the Delaware river after him and were forced to wait until it froze over to cross.

Washington received a message on December 15th that General Lee had been captured by the British as he was enjoying a meal in a tavern. A week later when Lee's army joined Washington's army in Philadelphia, Washington saw that he now had command of a large number of men, as well as control of water transport. Howe was under the impression that the Americans were nearly defeated. Coupled with the fact that they were on the other side of a large river, he was not expecting any attacks from the Continental Army. He allowed his troops to rest in comfortable quarters provided for them in the Princeton and Trenton areas. The British and Hessian troops stationed in Trenton numbered at around only 3,000 so the Americans had a good chance of defeating them. Washington had to make a choice between letting his men rest and attempt to recover, or press on and he chose the latter.

On Christmas Day, 1776, at sunset, Washington assembled 2,400 of his men on the banks of the Delaware river at McKonkey's Ferry, some nine miles north of Trenton. During a heavy snowfall with no moonlight to help guide them, they transported men, horses and artillery across the river in large, flat-bottomed, double-ended wooden Durham freight boats. The temperature kept falling during the night as they made the dangerous crossing of the Delaware River, keeping as quiet as possible so as not to alert any British scouts to their location and mission. This proved difficult as some of the men in each boat had the task of pounding the icy river surface so the boats could get through.

Monroe had already made the river crossing by this time. He was part of a detachment with Captain William Washington, a relative of President George Washington, who had been instructed to bring fifty men in advance of the main army. Their mission was mounting guard at the intersection of Lawrenceville and Pennington roads so that the British would not receive any advance warning. Monroe volunteered his services as officer, and as Captain Washington arrived at the area where the two roads intersected, he sent Monroe, along with a small platoon to mount guard further up the road towards Trenton. The road was long, and the weather was very cold with snow and sleet falling. One house on their route sat close to the road and the homeowner's dogs began to bark as the platoon neared. The owner emerged from his slumber and cursed the group until he realized they were American soldiers. Monroe was able to calm the homeowner, who was Dr. Riker, the man Monroe credited with saving his life at the ensuing battle of Trenton. Riker then invited them in and offered them food and a place to rest and warm themselves. Monroe declined the offer and the doctor instead brought food out to the men and even offered to travel along with the group as a surgeon.

Due to the amount of time it took to cross the river, the attack did not occur until after sunrise. Because of the poor weather conditions, the Hessians had not sent out any

patrols and the Continental Army was able to get within a half-mile of the town and the alarm was given at the moments that the first soldiers entered Trenton on Pennington Road. The Hessians attempted to ready themselves as their commander was awoken from his sleep, and worked to mount two cannons at the intersection of King and Queen streets. This attempt was thwarted as Captain Washington and Lieutenant Monroe led the company in a charge which drove the Hessians back, but left both officers with severe wounds. A bullet had grazed the left side of Monroe's chest and entered his shoulder, injuring the main artery which bled profusely. Dr. Riker was able to stop the bleeding, but the bullet remained in the shoulder and Monroe recovered from the wound a few months later after being cared for in the home of Henry Wyncoop and his family in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

The duo were rewarded for their act; Captain Washington was promoted to the rank of major and Monroe was made a captain in Colonel John Thornton's company.

Shortly after his recovery, Monroe set off to Virginia with the goal to recruit others to enlist. He made two trips into King George County, but his efforts proved fruitless as not a single man enlisted. His fellow recruiting officers came up empty handed as well, locating only 15 or so men.

Monroe set out for Washington's headquarters, stopping on the way in Philadelphia to visit his uncle who was at that time a member of the Virginia delegation in Congress. He penned a letter for Monroe to deliver to Washington explaining to him that recruiting efforts for the Continental army were made more difficult due to the inadequacy of the bounty. Other outfits were offering higher bounties and shorter enlistments.

Washington was responsive to the letter and directed Monroe to write officers in Virginia and urge them to continue their recruiting efforts.

Monroe soon accepted the position of aide-de-camp as a major to one of Washington's most loyal military subordinates, brigade commander William Alexander, also known as Lord Stirling.

Washington's army shadowed the movements of the British during most of the month of June, 1778. The British were at that time under the command of Sir Henry Clinton and they made their way towards New York from Philadelphia. The Americans started minor squabbles and for the most part harassed the British for a number of weeks before Clinton's men were able to take a break and rest in New Jersey by the courthouse in Monmouth.

Washington recognized the opportunity to possibly defeat Clinton, but Major General Charles Lee and other advisers argued against a full-scale attack. Lee stated that now

that France was on board in the war effort, this nearly guaranteed a victory, so there was no reason to risk entering a major battle. Washington decided to press on and Lee was placed in command of a detachment that headed to Monmouth on June 27th.

Monmouth

Lee began his assault on the British at Monmouth Courthouse on June 28, 1778 at 9 a.m. There was no clear battle plan, and his men fled in an all-out retreat. Whether or not Lee gave an order to retreat is unclear. Cornwallis' advance forces were just fifteen minutes behind Lee's retreating columns. Washington and his officers were able to get the situation under control and organized a line of defense. James Monroe and Lord Stirling's men held the left of Washington's line. After an hour-long intense fight, the British relaxed their onslaught. Monroe, serving in the capacity of adjutant, was in charge of a group of 70 men sent out to observe and report on the British movements. Monroe saw that the enemy troops were being shifted to the left in order to thrust at Washington's right. Those reports went right back to Stirling and Washington. Stirling's men delivered the blow that allowed the Americans to claim victory for the day. In the late afternoon, Clinton sent the "Black Watch", or 42nd Regiment of Foot against the left flank of the American line. The cunning American riflemen under Lord Stirling's strong leadership were able to repel the attack, and even countered with an attack of their own, pushing the British back and essentially ending their threat to the Americans. Casualties by the end of the battle stood at 72 fatalities, with nearly forty of those dead from heat stroke. 161 men were wounded. On the British side, there were 147 dead, with more than 60 of those from heat stroke and 170 wounded. These official totals were most likely even higher than those numbers. Washington kept his men on the field and they still held the next morning, so the battle was considered a victory for the Americans, when it was actually closer to a draw.

The Battle of Monmouth Courthouse was Monroe's last as an officer in the Continental Army. Washington did not make any further contact with the enemy before Monroe left Stirling's service at year's end.

Lee's court-martial followed, and Lord Stirling presided over the trial. A few witnesses testified on Lee's behalf, but there were far more who were biased against him and Lee was found guilty on three counts: disobedience to orders, misbehavior before the enemy and disrespect to the commander in chief. Lee was suspended from his command for the time period of one year. Monroe was one of many men to remain friends with Lee.

Although his fellow officers hated Lee's rudeness to Washington, they thought his withdrawal at Monmouth was fully justified.

Brandywine

The British Lieutenant-General William Howe received new orders from across the Atlantic – he was to take Philadelphia. Washington planned to fortify American positions at crossings of the Brandywine Creek, hoping to force the line at Dilworthtown. Stirling's solid virtues as a commander were aptly demonstrated at Brandywine. His brigade bore the main brunt of the enemy attack there, holding fast in the face of a totally unexpected British onslaught. The British began their attack along the Brandywine at dawn on September 11th. The American defeat at the Battle of Brandywine was a serious one. Some 200 men had been killed, another 500 had been wounded and nearly 400 had been captured. With the American army in disarray, the British faced very little opposition in their push towards Philadelphia. The city fell on September 26th. Had General John Sullivan been able to shift his men to support Stirling and the other commanders pressed by the British, the engagement might have had a much different outcome.

Germantown

The Battle of Germantown, Pennsylvania on October 4, 1777 resulted in 152 American deaths. An additional 521 were wounded and nearly 400 were captured. James Monroe was among those who had seen the collapse of the American line in Germantown's Market Square, but he had also seen the courage of those who had stayed at their posts and fought to the very end. Although the battle was a loss for the Americans, Germantown helped to change European opinion about the Americans' chances of winning against the British, and encouraged the French to eventually send aid to the new republic.

A month later at Germantown, Stirling, who had been stationed in the rear, held his brigade firm as the panic-stricken militia rushed by in the all-enveloping early morning fog. The strong resistance offered by Stirling's brigade enabled Washington to retire without any additional losses. Four weeks after Germantown the army buzzed with heated discussions of the engagement as a succession of commanders were court-martialed for their responsibility in losing an engagement before the battle had really commenced. The most serious blame fell on General Adam Stephen, who was believed to have given the order to retreat; he was dismissed for drunkenness on the field.

The battle in the winter at Valley Forge in 1777 was not fought against British troops, but against bitter cold, hunger and disease. The valley, located in the middle of Mount Joy and Mount Misery, seemed an ideal location, but that proved to be wrong as the American army faced an ordeal soon after arriving in the valley on December 18th. Provisions were very low, and the army was weary from months of nonstop battles. Each man was handed a half cup of rice and some vinegar. Shelters were needed, so almost 1,000 primitive cabins were built, each measuring about 14 by 16 feet with walls 6 feet high. Mud was used in the spaces between the logs, and the roofs were mere saplings covered with mud and straw. Between 12 and 14 men would occupy each of these structures, which were damp and cold. The roofs leaked during thaws and rains.

Washington lived in a tent until the huts were almost completed and then moved into one of the few houses still standing.

Brigade commanders were allowed to have two huts each - one for their use and another for their aides. Monroe and the other aides were a little better off in this respect.

James Monroe arrived at the camp in January of 1778. He was part of Lord Stirling's division which was in the rearguard.

In late February of 1778, Friedrich Wilhelm Rudolph Gerhard Augustus von Steuben (Baron von Steuben) arrived at the camp and implemented new drill routines as well as disciplinary actions in order to better the army's performance.

The Baron's secretary was Pierre S. DuPonceau, an eighteen-year-old Frenchman. His fluency in English enabled him to travel with the Baron to the Americas. He was not well-suited for military life, being nearsighted and having poor lung capacity. He and Monroe became very close friends. They shared common tastes in reading and exchanged books with each other. DuPonceau, an enthusiastic supporter of the Revolution, went on to later become an international lawyer based in Philadelphia and a pioneer student of American Indian languages.

Time spent with DuPonceau was a welcome break from the duties he had been performing for Lord Stirling, such as accompanying him on his rounds, delivering messages and keeping muster records. The work was tedious at times, and usually somewhat dangerous. Monroe and other aides were often exposed to enemy fire while delivering messages around the battlefield.

During this same time, supply problems began to ease and conditions at Valley Forge in general were much improved. The army stayed there until June 19th of that year, and continued to receive training from the Baron.

Independence had become even more precious for James Monroe and his fellow soldiers. Their experience at Valley Forge changed them, and readied them to face the British as equals.

Monroe was increasingly frustrated with his lack of command, and while he enjoyed his time with Lord Stirling, he felt his talents could be put to better use than as an aide. Finally, in the summer of 1779, Monroe resigned his commission in the Continental Army, and requested that both Stirling and General Washington write letters of recommendation for him, in the hopes that he might get a command in the Virginia state militia.

Washington did not normally write letters of recommendation, so the fact that he did so for Monroe spoke volumes. The letter that Washington wrote was addressed to a close, personal, wealthy friend of his, Mr. Archibald Cary. Cary was on the Virginia legislature and was one of its most influential members.

He also received a less formal letter of recommendation from Alexander Hamilton, who was one of Washington's aides at the time and was yearning for a field command. Hamilton suggested to Monroe that he could Join John Laurens' group if he could find no other opening. Laurens was planning on forming a Negro regiment by offering freedom to slave volunteers. The state legislature nixed the idea, however.

Monroe was appointed a Lieutenant Colonel in the state militia and was given permission to raise his own regiment to be employed in the defense of the state. However, the regiment never came to be, as recruitment was almost impossible. In the meantime, Monroe was put on active duty in Williamsburg. He remained there until December when he finally decided that there was no hope of securing his own command. He officially left the military and returned to the College of William and Mary with the intention of finishing his studies.

Don't Shoot the Messenger

In May of 1780, the British occupied Charleston, South Carolina and Americans in the southern states were facing the fact that they could see a full-scale invasion. In the middle of June, Thomas Jefferson sent Monroe on a mission to North Caroli:

a system of messaging expresses to report on the advance of the British. Monroe's orders were to set up a station for riders every 40 miles along a route through North Carolina and Virginia. The riders were to await reports from the south, which would then be relayed to the next station. This process would repeat until the messages reached Jefferson in Richmond. Monroe was to gather information on British movements and advise Jefferson on the state of plans to thwart an attack by the British in North Carolina.

He traveled by way of Halifax, North Carolina. On his way south, Monroe witnessed numerous instances of poverty, with many of the supplies having been taken for use by the army. He could scarcely locate any feed for his horse.

Rather than going straight to the headquarters in Hillsboro, North Carolina, Monroe traveled to Cross Creek on the Cape Fear River to meet with Governor Nash and militia commander Gen. Richard Caswell. It was from this location that he was able to report back to Jefferson about a British fleet possibly headed toward Virginia. The system of expresses that Monroe had set up were operating quite well. So much so that his first communication covered the 200-mile distance to Richmond in only a couple of days.

At this point, Monroe went to the headquarters of General Baron Johann DeKalb where he traveled with the army on its marches and spent time with a fellow observer, Captain Thomas Pinckney of South Carolina.

Monroe was happy to join the army as an observer and felt satisfied that he was able to make this contribution to the American cause. This was Monroe's last official duty as a member of the military. In August, he returned to his small estate in King George County, Virginia to finish his law studies and he remained there on the farm for nearly a year.

“Though young at the commencement of our revolution, I took part in it, and its principles have invariably guided me since.” - James Monroe, 1817

Chapter 3: Monroe and the Law

Thomas Jefferson had met James Monroe when Monroe had come to Williamsburg with his letters of recommendation from Lord Stirling and George Washington. Jefferson had taken an instant liking to the young man, and they began a friendly correspondence in which Jefferson often advised Monroe on his career.

Monroe re-entered William and Mary in early 1780 and studied law under Jefferson's direction with William Short and Mercer. By June of 1780, when the state ca

about to be transferred to Richmond, Governor Thomas Jefferson had convinced Monroe to leave William and Mary and to come to Richmond and continue his law studies under Jefferson's tutelage. Monroe was a bit hesitant because he had anticipated being able to study law under George Wythe, who had just become the first law professor at William and Mary. He turned to his uncle Joseph Jones for advice and Jones considered Jefferson's patronage more relevant to Monroe's advancement than lectures given by George Wythe. Monroe left to join Jefferson in Richmond.

He chose to sell his property in Westmoreland County in 1783. It was something he had been considering for a number of years, and he believed it would be beneficial for his political advancement. In a county dominated by prominent landowners, he would not be able to exert enough of an influence in either state or local affairs. Westmoreland County was already home to George Washington's land on Pope's Creek, the Lees with their immense Stratford Hall Plantation as well as the Carters of Corotoman in nearby Lancaster County. Monroe intended to relocate to the Piedmont area where he would be able to acquire a plot of land comparable to that of other local landowners.

The Law Offices of James Monroe

Following his marriage to Elizabeth and the birth of their first daughter Eliza in December of 1786, Monroe contemplated the issue of being able to provide for his family. He chose to practice law – not his first choice for a profession – due to its potential to allow him to earn money more quickly. His decision to move from Richmond to Fredericksburg was influenced by both his uncle Joseph and his longtime friend Hugh Mercer, who mentioned that there were already many established law firms in Virginia's capitol as well as a high cost of living. Joseph Jones stressed that Fredericksburg would make a good location because Monroe already had many friends there. He also pointed out how advantageous it would be as far as politics were concerned. It would be far easier for Monroe to be elected if he were running for the legislature in Fredericksburg than it would in Richmond. Jones also offered to let Monroe have a house if he chose to make the move. Monroe took all these factors into consideration, along with the one with the most urgency – his debt issues – and moved with his family into a basic two-story house owned by Jones just a short distance away from the building where his law office was located. He joined the Fredericksburg Lodge of the Freemasons and was presented with a special ceremonial apron.

Monroe's finances were so strained that he was forced to leave Elizabeth behind with friends when he traveled to Richmond on a business trip in April 1787. The letter he wrote to her from that location is the only letter to her which has survived.

Around that same time, some furniture they had ordered before they had left New York had finally been shipped. Elizabeth Monroe's sister was able to view it and reported that it looked “vile” but the cabinetmaker said that mahogany always looked bad when new. In June, they were still awaiting the furniture delivery.

Monroe did not hold public office that entire first year upon returning to Virginia. Not for lack of wanting to, but because he lost the spring election for the House of Delegates in King George in 1786. He believed his defeat was due to his inability to leave Congress so that he could see voters in person to let them know that his marriage did not mean that he would be taking up permanent residence in the North.

He fared much better in the spring of 1787. It was then that he was elected to the House of Delegates from Spotsylvania County with the assistance of John Taliafero, an influential figure in the County and a relative of Joseph Jones' first wife.

Although Monroe was happy to be a part of the legislature, he was disappointed that he was not allowed, for reasons that are unclear, to participate in the delegation sent to the Philadelphia Convention in 1787.

Albemarle Bound

After three years of practicing law in Fredericksburg, the Monroes made the move to Albemarle County. For 24 years—from late November 1799 to 1823—the Monroe family home was Highland, Monroe's plantation adjacent to Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, on the northern boundary. The plantation also bordered Philip Mazzei's “Colle” plantation, and was bounded to the south by William Short's “Indian Camp” farm. Monroe had purchased this 1,000-acre (later expanded to an over 3,500-acre) plantation just prior to leaving for France. Highland was originally part of a large estate called “Blenheim” which was owned by Champe and Maria Carter. Initially referred to as the “lower plantation,” it was here that he built a one-story frame structure made up of six rooms which he and his family moved into in December of 1799. This was only supposed to be a temporary dwelling on the property, but plans for a grander home were thwarted by continuing financial difficulties and long trips abroad. He was able to clear enough land that first winter to increase his tobacco crop. Sale of this commodity helped him to avoid foreclosure on the property. He sold it soon after harvest instead of holding it to a point where it could have brought him more money. Monroe purchased a neighboring 775 acre farm in 1802. An insurance declaration in 1809 lists further improvements to the property, including a garrett finished, a part stone cellar measuring 40 by 30 feet, and a stone kitchen cellar, 34 by 16 feet. The main house had a

second story addition in 1816. Other assets at highland included barns, grist and saw mills, stables, and basically all the makings of a working and productive plantation.

In the service yard could be found the well, icehouse, smokehouse, overseer's house and domestic slave quarters being situated "below the well" or downhill from the main house.

He did not offer to be a delegate from Spotsylvania in 1789, due to the fact that he would be leaving the country, and in 1790 he declined when the citizens of Albemarle County asked him to run for the House of Delegates.

Chapter 4: Politics – Fifty Years of Public Service

Monroe's public service duties began at age 24 when he was chosen to serve on the Virginia General Assembly and its Executive Council in 1782. He was the youngest member of the Executive Council. He then served on the Council of State which advised the Governor. In 1783, Monroe was elected to the Continental Congress where he worked for expanding the power of Congress, organizing government for the western country, and protecting American navigation on the Mississippi River.

It was in New York where he served as a member of the Continental Congress that he met his future wife, Elizabeth Kortright.

Ratifying U.S. Constitution

Once the Constitutional Convention had drafted the new Constitution of the United States in 1787, Monroe was elected as a delegate to the Virginia convention which was called to ratify it. Among the Virginians, Madison and Randolph were the primary proponents for ratification, while Monroe, at first took a neutral stand. In the end, he opposed ratification because he believed the Constitution created too strong a central government. Monroe implored of the delegates from western Virginia, with the argument that the Constitution was a threat to free navigation on the Mississippi River. Madison was able to rebut this reasoning, but it won over a number of western delegates.

Monroe also objected to the absence of a Bill of Rights in the Constitution, and he wanted a Constitution that allowed for the direct election of senators as well as the President. Though he voted against ratification, Monroe accepted the new government.

U.S. Minister to France

During Monroe's time in France, he fought rumors in the U. S. that he was working against the Washington administration by being partial to France and not so much the British. The Federalists worked towards undermining him, using his actions in Paris to denounce the Republican party back home. Monroe did in fact feel that the Washington administration was not giving France enough support, he did not stray from the instructions he was given. At the urging of Secretary of State Timothy Pickering, a Federalist, George Washington recalled Monroe from France. James never received an explanation for the recall, and the implication of improper behavior angered him.

Thomas Paine

Paine inspired ordinary citizens to rally and defend their liberty with his radical vision. Having authored the three best-selling literary works of the 18th century, Paine virtually inspired the American Revolution by sending out a battle cry for individual rights and challenging corrupt power.

Paine provoked controversy, so much so that the English monarchy drove him into exile and leaders of the French Revolution ordered him into prison where he could have faced the guillotine. Monroe helped to gain his release from prison demanding that they either try him or release him:

“the citizens of the United States cannot look back to the era of their revolution, without remembering, with those of other distinguished patriots, the name of Thomas Paine. The services which he rendered them in their struggle for liberty have made an impression of gratitude which will never be erased, whilst they continue to merit the character of a just and generous people.”

Monroe was uneasy about the prospect of returning to America with Thomas Paine in tow. Paine was an outspoken critic of the President, and Monroe believed keeping company with him would surely put his political future in jeopardy. Monroe himself disagreed with many of the administration's policies, but he did not want to be seen as being hostile.

Monroe asked Benjamin Vaughan to speak with Paine, without making it known that Monroe had asked him to, and remind him that traveling with the Minister would expose him to the possibility of capture. The British would surely jump at the opportunity to seize Paine and try him for treason.

Jay Treaty

In June of 1795, Jay's Treaty was pending and Monroe told Randolph that the time was now "when the duty we owe to ourselves, and the respect which is due to the opinion of the world, admonish us that the insults and injuries of Britain are to lie no longer borne, and that we ought to seek redress by again appealing to arms..."

Later, he suggested to Madison that the United States should invade Canada, occupy the Bermudas and force Britain to recognize American claims, to gain respect both at home and in England.

This proposed tactic was not particularly well-received in Philadelphia, but it became a cardinal principle in Monroe's view of American foreign policy. He would bring up these concepts over and over during the next two decades, though he came to realize that they were disparaged by his fellow Republicans and Washington and the Federalists alike.

Monroe had envisioned from early on that the United States would be far more active around the world as the sole way of safeguarding American interests.

Late in December 1794 Monroe received a letter from the Committee requesting a copy of the treaty be sent to them right away to avoid misunderstanding. Monroe had not yet received the text from Jay, so all he was able to do was to repeat the assurance from the special envoy in England that the treaty did not contain anything to the contrary of the existing obligations. This statement, however, was included in the treaty as a specific restriction and it was short of the truth. Jay's Treaty included provisions which affected several articles of the Treaty of 1778. While these modifications were minor, they were proven enough to give credit to France's insinuation that America would be abandoning her ally.

Monroe's promise to transmit the treaty as soon as he received it caused himself needless difficulties. France could not rightfully be shown an agreement that had not been ratified.

Virginia Governor 1799 - 1802

What is now known as Gabriel's Rebellion was one of the most decisive moments during Monroe's time in office as the Governor. It was August of 1800 and Monroe was told by a local plantation owner that slaves on various plantations all around the Richmond area were planning to attack the city and burn it to the ground, all while stealing supplies of weapons and powder which were stored at the state penitentiary. Monroe

called out the state militia at once and planned for the defense of the capital. A severe thunderstorm overnight flooded the roads into Richmond and foiled the slaves' plans, many of whom were arrested and interrogated in Richmond. About 30 slaves were eventually put on trial and executed for being involved in the conspiracy. The state militia was kept on guard all during the trials and until a slave named Gabriel, the apparent ringleader of the rebellion, could be caught. He had been enslaved on the Thomas Prosser plantation west of Richmond.

Once the threat had passed, Monroe tried to use the situation as an argument for modifying the plantation labor system in Virginia. Just as with many southerners who did not agree with the institution of slavery, Monroe supported the freeing of slaves for re-colonization to Africa. The state legislature ignored Monroe on this subject, and the public's fear of slave revolt lingered during Monroe's time as governor.

Monroe worked diligently to provide support for public education as well as Jefferson's Presidential race.

Louisiana Purchase – Doubled the Size of the U.S.

Monroe's debts saddled him and he practiced law rather than holding public office at the conclusion of his third term, even though there were some opportunities to serve. There was the nomination to a chancery court, which had been newly formed in the state, and there was also the possibility of a vacant United States Senate seat after Steven Thomson Mason desired to retire. Monroe and Jefferson were able to convince Mason to stay on board.

Monroe was contemplating plans to travel in the west as well as to New York so that his wife would be able to see her relatives for the first time in a half dozen years.

In early January 1803, however, Jefferson hastily asked Monroe to make “a temporary sacrifice to prevent the greatest of all evils in the present prosperous tide of our affairs.”

Monroe had been nominated Envoy Extraordinary to France. Shortly thereafter, on January 11th, the Senate confirmed Monroe and he went on his way.

What was at stake was the right to use New Orleans as a port had been revoked. Monroe, together with resident Minister, Robert Livingston were to locate and purchase a major port located on the mouth of the Mississippi, which was at the time mainly controlled by the French government.

Jefferson made the arrangements prior to speaking to Monroe as he felt it the best possible means of quieting the fervor which had been simmering in the West after the suspension of the right of deposit at New Orleans in October by the Spanish authorities.

Jefferson and Madison were concerned over a major power on the western frontier in place of the Spanish, and they instructed Livingston to either secure from France an acknowledgment of America's claim to the free navigation of the Mississippi or to purchase land holdings near New Orleans.

Livingston was already entrenched in negotiations with the French for acquiring New Orleans and West Florida by the time Monroe arrived. French Emperor Napoleon I offered to sell the entire Louisiana colony, not just New Orleans. There was no agreement reached until Monroe's arrival, however. Such a large purchase was not authorized, but negotiations proceeded nonetheless. In April of 1803, Livingston and Monroe completed the treaty that would double the size of the United States – and then some. West Florida was Spanish territory and therefore not included in the deal, so Monroe urged Napoleon to include the French allies' property. Napoleon merely offered to engage his support for the claim to the Floridas with Spain.

Minister to Britain

Upon completion of the negotiations for the Louisiana Purchase, Monroe crossed the English Channel to serve as minister plenipotentiary to Great Britain. He was to obtain relief from British harassment of U.S. shipping activities like the seizure of cargo headed to France, since the recent Jay's Treaty had not resolved this. Relations with Britain were very strained and Monroe was not able to gain much ground. He was therefore sent to Madrid to observe Spain's readiness and willingness to contemplate a purchase of Florida by the United States. This errand was also an exercise in futility.

Monroe returned to Britain in July 1805 to negotiate a treaty. By his side was William Pinkney, a diplomat. The treaty was one dealing with general agreement only and did not touch on the main issues which were a British blockade of French ports as well as the impressment of American sailors into the British navy. The agreement offered no concessions to the United States, and Jefferson wisely refused to forward it to the Senate for ratification. Monroe departed for the United States in 1807.

Virginia Governor - 1811

Monroe had recently been elected to a fourth term as Governor of Virginia, and he had

only served for three months when he was summoned to Washington. Madison had firstly appointed Robert Smith, who came from an important political family in Maryland. Smith, however, proved ill-suited for the position. Monroe was appointed secretary of state by President Madison on April 2, 1811. Vice President at the time was Elbridge Gerry.

Relations were strained for a time between Madison and Monroe, as Monroe had surmised that Madison, while secretary of state, caused the rejection of a treaty with Great Britain which Monroe worked to negotiate while he served as Minister to that country. In 1808, they had also been rivals in the presidential election. They were able to renew their friendship during Monroe's time as secretary of state, which lasted until 1817.

Monroe, as secretary of state made numerous appearances at official functions such as receptions and dinners at the President's home – it was not yet referred to as the White House at this time – as well as public gatherings. The post was not limited to social occasions, however, and Monroe often made the thirty mile trip to Oak Hill, a property in Loudoun County. He owned it outright after 1808 when he inherited the remainder from Joseph Jones, Jr. Their accommodations at Oak Hill at the time consisted of a simple, six-room frame cottage.

Secretary of War - 1812

Monroe looked back to the time when he served under Lord Stirling and he felt that experience had been valuable in giving him military experience that became most useful when he was Secretary of War in 1812.

There were rumors in Washington in August of 1814 that a fleet of British ships were headed up the Potomac river towards Washington, D.C. The United States at the time had no intelligence system, so Secretary Monroe led a scouting party out of the capital and flank the British movements to determine what their plans were. His efforts foreshadowed the Battle of Bladensburg in which the American forces attempted to slow the British progress towards Washington. Things did not go well for the Americans who became inundated at Bladensburg. Monroe and his party fled in front of the British line in an attempt to arrive in Washington first. Once there, Monroe together with President James Madison came to the determination that evacuating the city was the best decision. Monroe was the last of the cabinet members to leave the city on August 24th, the same time that the British infantry began entering the area. Monroe spent that night at a farm ten miles outside the city called Rokeby Farm. It was the home of President Madison's relatives Richard and Matilda Lee Love (her stepmother was related to

Madison) and it was named after the poem *Rokeby* by Scottish writer Sir Walter Scott. James Monroe, the Secretary of State, ordered that a clerk, Stephen Pleasington, take three monumentally significant documents out of the capitol. The plan was originally to store the documents at a mill, but Pleasington felt it was unsafe and transported them to Rokeby. It is at the vault in Rokeby where the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Articles of Confederation were kept safe during the attack on the nation's capital. From a vantage point nearby, Monroe and Madison were able to see the skies turn red with fire as the city burned.

Chapter 5: The Presidency 1817 – 1825

James Madison announced that he would continue the tradition of serving only two terms as President. The general consensus was that Monroe would be the Republican nominee, due to his longstanding partnership with both Madison and Jefferson. That factor, coupled with Monroe's many years of service to the United States should have surely guaranteed him a nomination with the Republican party.

That was not the case, however, as many politicians in the north had become tired of Virginia-born residents becoming presidents. Those in New York state were more vocal about this than any others. They felt as though they had been passed over for a number of years, having to make do with being in second place on the ticket. They did not have a recognized, well-known candidate so they looked to William H. Crawford, who was the secretary of the treasury and a former Georgia senator. The prominent Crawford had an easygoing demeanor and was very much liked by congressmen, which was important as the nomination this time was controlled by a congressional caucus. The backing of Albert Gallatin, secretary of the treasury under Jefferson, was an asset as well.

Crawford's candidacy concerned Monroe and his congressional supporters and they contemplated possibly boycotting the congressional caucus and utilizing a state nomination instead.

Crawford, aged 44, was not enthused about running against his senior colleague but he remained in the race, and when the caucus met in March of 1816, Monroe was nominated by a heartbreakingly small margin of just 65 to 54. The caucus was basically the real election, as the Federalists were only marginally supportive of their candidate, Rufus King, due to being weary from opposing the War of 1812. King, despite a long and distinguished public career, garnered just 34 electoral votes (from Connecticut, Delaware and Massachusetts) in comparison to Monroe's 183. He received the majority of votes from 16 states: Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, New

Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, and Virginia.

This electoral count inequality brought an end to the first two-party system, a welcome change to leaders of Monroe's generation in both political parties, which had long thought of conflict as being a divisive element which would typically destroy republican ideals.

American Colonization Society

Monroe was a supporter of the American Colonization Society, which was founded in 1816 to assist free black people in emigrating to Africa. The idea was the brainchild of Reverend Robert Finley, a Presbyterian minister from Basking Ridge, New Jersey. He believed that blacks would never be able to fully integrate into American society and that they would be more likely to reach their full potential as human beings in the “land of their fathers.” He also believed that it would usher in an end to the practice of slavery. This charitable work would, according to Finley, benefit blacks in America as well as Africans via the spreading of Christianity to that nation.

This would attempt to satisfy two groups; one consisting of clergy, philanthropists and abolitionists wishing to free African slaves and provide them with a chance to return to Africa, and the other being slave owners who feared free blacks and did not want them in the country.

The idea was not a new one. Efforts to find an alternative home for free blacks dated back to 1787 by blacks themselves and allies like Benjamin Rush and Anthony Bezenet. Paul Cuffe was one of the most active proponents of colonization. He believed that they would fare much better in their homeland and that if they lived in America they would never receive the full benefits of citizenship.

Finley gained support for the plan when he traveled to Washington, D.C. in December of 1816. His brother-in-law and Clerk of the Supreme Court, Elias B. Cardwell along with Cardwell's friend and author of the Star Spangled Banner, Francis Scott Key pledged their immediate support. Together, the three of them called an organizational meeting to take place on December 21, 1816 which included some of the country's most powerful and influential men, including James Monroe, Bushrod Washington (nephew of George Washington), Andrew Jackson and Daniel Webster. They all met at the Davis hotel, with Henry Clay presiding over the meeting.

Bushrod Washington was chosen as president of the society, and the vice presidents were Finley, Richard Rush and Henry Clay. Caldwell became the society's secretary and Key was named to the board of managers.

There were various different agendas among those in the society. Some hoped that colonization would put an end to slavery. Some were allies of the free blacks, and were genuinely concerned for their welfare. Yet others wanted to preserve the practice of slavery but to rid the country of free blacks, lest they stage uprisings as part of a slave rebellion.

A week later they met again to draw up and adopt a constitution. Over the next three years, money was raised by selling membership certificates as they kept pressure on Congress and Monroe for support. They received that support in the form of \$100,000 from Congress and shortly thereafter, the first ship, the *Elizabeth* set sail from New York with three white American Colonization Society agents and 88 emigrants aboard.

The first port of call was Freetown, Sierra Leone. The ship then sailed south to the northern coast and the society attempted to establish a settlement. All three of the society agents as well as 22 of the emigrants contracted yellow fever and died within three weeks. Those remaining returned to Sierra Leone to await the arrival of another ship. The *Nautilus* sailed twice in 1821 and a settlement was established on an island named Perserverance. The settlers were met with much resistance by native Africans and some armed conflicts took place. Persevere, they did, however, and over the next decade nearly three thousand African-Americans migrated to the area.

The Inauguration

It was the morning of March 4th, 1817 and thousands of Washingtonians gathered near Capitol Hill to take in the inauguration of President Monroe. Surprisingly, the weather was most agreeable for early March, with warm and sunny conditions. Nearly 8,000 people had gathered, and that was the largest crowd ever to have gathered at the Capital up until then. A temporary frame building with a platform in front had been constructed for the event, as the capitol building was still in disrepair from having been burned during the war.

Behind the scenes, there was much quarreling taking place. The House of Representatives absolutely refused to allow the Senate to bring their armchairs into their space, which is where the inaugural ceremonies had typically taken place. It appeared that the typically generous Speaker Clay harbored much resentment over not being named Secretary of State. His absence from the inaugural later virtually

confirmed that theory. The decision was made to hold the event outdoors, after much squabbling. There was more friction to come, as members of the diplomatic corps were not so diplomatic and became entangled in an argument over precedence, resulting in a decision not to attend. They had not received an official invitation to the event, making the decision easier.

The President-elect, together with Vice-President Tompkins were escorted to the venue by citizens on horseback. Once at the capitol, Monroe was showered with military honors. They entered the House chamber as Tompkins took the oath of office and gave a five-minute speech.

Monroe, together with the members of the Madison administration, the justices and members of Congress, then stepped forward on the outdoor platform to deliver his inaugural address.

James Monroe – On Tour

Monroe revived George Washington's practice of taking a national tour of the country. Shortly after being elected President, he reasoned that he would go off to inspect defense fortifications. This excursion would also enable Monroe to visit with Americans all over the country and show to them his terrific personality. Monroe traveled to Portland, Maine in June of 1817. He then headed west towards Detroit, Michigan and then back to Washington, D.C. Fifteen weeks on the road let Monroe to reach out to a large number of the population, more than any other previous President. Two other tours took place, one in the Chesapeake Bay region in 1818 and another in the southern and western parts of the country in 1819. These tours were not as successful as the first, yet they exposed Monroe to people in various different parts of the country, and they to him. He won many converts.

Era of Good Feelings

This phrase was first used by a newspaper called the *Boston Columbian Centinel* on July 12th, 1817 after President James Monroe's good-will visit to the city of Boston. The term is used to describe the general mood of the nation during the timeframe from around 1815 to 1825. It began just after the War of 1812 and the potential of foreign intervention was no longer a thought in the forefront of the minds of the citizens.

The enactment of the first protective tariff in the United States as well as the establishment of the second National Bank helped keep the good feelings going. It did,

however, prove to be a temporary lull in clashes among political leaders while new issues were emerging.

The Cabinet

Monroe's cabinet consisted of John Quincy Adams as Secretary of State, William H. Crawford as Secretary of Treasury, and John C. Calhoun as Secretary of War. The post of Attorney General was staffed by Richard Rush in 1817, followed by William Wirt and the Secretary of the Navy position was held by Benjamin Crowninshield from 1817 to 1818, then Smith Thompson in 1819 to 1823 and finally by Samuel Southard from 1823 to 1825.

Panic of 1819

It was the first national economic panic since Washington took office. The Panic of 1819 was filled with bank failures, foreclosures, unemployment, deflation, depression and a slump in agriculture and manufacturing, it marked the end of the economic expansion that took place after the War of 1812. Factors that contributed to the Panic of 1819 included a downturn in exports and strong price competition from foreign goods. Agriculture and manufacturing were affected by the falling prices, causing widespread unemployment. Another contributor was risky lending practiced by banks in the west. Eventually these banks were forced to foreclose mortgages on countless farms and other high-risk debtors, resulting in overcrowding in the debtor's prisons as well as bankruptcies.

Florida Ceded By Spain

Monroe lauded the acquisition of Florida as an important achievement of his administration and he owed much of the success to the military operations set forth by Andrew Jackson in 1818. The manner in which Monroe responded to Jackson's seizure of the two Spanish forts culminated in a misunderstanding with the general about how his orders were interpreted. This caused Jackson to act bitterly towards Monroe.

John Quincy Adams presented Jackson's military action and demanded of Spain to either control the inhabitants of east Florida or cede it to the United States. Minister Onis and Secretary Adams came to an agreement on February 22nd, 1819, in which Spain ceded east Florida to the United States and renounced their claims to west Florida. The Adams-Onis Treaty outlined the conditions of the purchase and laid out territorial

boundaries for the remaining Spanish holdings in North America. General Jackson was appointed Governor of the territory in March and he resigned in December of that same year.

Re-election in 1820 – A Near Shoe-In

Despite all the hard times experienced across the country, Monroe and Vice President Daniel D. Tompkins were elected again without a major campaign. Few Democratic-Republicans even attended the congressional nominating caucus, and they declined to make a formal nomination with only a handful of votes, as this would prove an embarrassment to the President. There were just a few remaining Federalists as well, and they did not bother to endorse an opponent, so Monroe and Tompkins, his Vice President ran unopposed. He was the only U.S. President to be re-elected after presiding over a major financial crisis.

This to date was the the third and last presidential election in United States history in which a candidate ran unopposed. George Washington was the only other to face no opposition for his two terms in office.

On March 5th, 1821 Monroe delivered his second inaugural address.

The Missouri Compromise – Drawing the Line

In the United States in 1820, the population numbered around ten million people, and new states were being added. Mississippi had been added in 1817 as a slave state. Illinois joined in 1819 as a free state and Alabama was added as a slave state. There were now a total of 22 states, half of them slave states and half of them free. That same year, Missouri entered an admission application to join as a slave state. Leaders of states in the south were opposed as they feared slavery would be made illegal. Representative James Tallmadge of New York opposed this application request and offered the Tallmadge Amendment on February 13th which allowed for gradual emancipation. It stated that any children born of slave parents after Missouri gained statehood should become free after reaching the age of 25. It would also forbid the further introduction of slavery into Missouri.

The Senate did not pass the bill with the amendment, but the House did.

The debate over Missouri's application for admission lasted from December 1819 to March of 1820. Henry Clay, a United States Senator from Kentucky, authored a document containing three separate bills: to admit Missouri as a slave state, to admit Maine as a free state and to draw an imaginary line at 36° 30' north of which there would be no slavery. On March 3rd, 1820, the House passed the three bills that made up the compromise.

Monroe was a slave owner and friends of his had urged him to veto the bill. He believed it was wrong, and that the Constitution did not give Congress the power to make such decisions. Fearing a civil war if he rejected the bill, he added his signature.

A new problem arose shortly thereafter, that of Missouri and their newly drafted state constitution, a requirement for admission into the Union. The document contained the clause that no free black men were to enter the state. This violated the United States Constitution and a debate was held. Anti-slave Northerners were outraged and threatened to repeal the Missouri Compromise, while Southerners spoke of seceding from the Union if that were to take place. Henry Clay and his committee once again got to work and introduced a bill requiring Missouri to never pass any law that would stop any person who were or may become citizens of other states, from entering the state. The bill passed, Missouri accepted the condition and on August 10th, 1821, President Monroe declared Missouri the 24th state.

Monroe Doctrine

Monroe had decided to make his policy statement a part of his annual message to Congress, which he delivered on December 2, 1823. This Monroe Doctrine had two verses which specifically stated the basic tenets of his foreign policy. The first was based on diplomatic exchange with Russia and it declared that the United States would oppose any further colonization by European powers in the western hemisphere. The second was a stern warning that the United States would “view any interposition” in the affairs of western hemisphere nations “for the purpose of oppressing them, or controlling ... in any other manner their destiny ... as the manifestation of an unfriendly disposition toward the United States.”

. . . At the proposal of the Russian Imperial Government, made through the minister of the Emperor residing here, a full power and instructions have been transmitted to the minister of the United States at St. Petersburg to arrange by amicable negotiation the respective rights and interests of the two nations on the northwest coast of this continent. A similar proposal has been made by His

Imperial Majesty to the Government of Great Britain, which has likewise been acceded to. The Government of the United States has been desirous by this friendly proceeding of manifesting the great value which they have invariably attached to the friendship of the Emperor and their solicitude to cultivate the best understanding with his Government. In the discussions to which this interest has given rise and in the arrangements by which they may terminate the occasion has been judged proper for asserting, as a principle in which the rights and interests of the United States are involved, that the American continents, by the free and independent condition which they have assumed and maintain, are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European powers. .

It was stated at the commencement of the last session that a great effort was then making in Spain and Portugal to improve the condition of the people of those countries, and that it appeared to be conducted with extraordinary moderation. It need scarcely be remarked that the results have been so far very different from what was then anticipated. Of events in that quarter of the globe, with which we have so much intercourse and from which we derive our origin, we have always been anxious and interested spectators. The citizens of the United States cherish sentiments the most friendly in favor of the liberty and happiness of their fellow-men on that side of the Atlantic. In the wars of the European powers in matters relating to themselves we have never taken any part, nor does it comport with our policy to do so. It is only when our rights are invaded or seriously menaced that we resent injuries or make preparation for our defense. With the movements in this hemisphere we are of necessity more immediately connected, and by causes which must be obvious to all enlightened and impartial observers. The political system of the allied powers is essentially different in this respect from that of America. This difference proceeds from that which exists in their respective Governments; and to the defense of our own, which has been achieved by the loss of so much blood and treasure, and matured by the wisdom of their most enlightened citizens, and under which we have enjoyed unexampled felicity, this whole nation is devoted. We owe it, therefore, to candor and to the amicable relations existing between the United States and those powers to declare that we should consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety. With the existing colonies or dependencies of any European power we have not interfered and shall not interfere. But with the Governments who have declared their independence and maintain it, and whose independence we have, on great consideration and on just principles, acknowledged, we could not view any interposition for the purpose of oppressing them, or controlling in any other manner their destiny, by

European power in any other light than as the manifestation of an unfriendly disposition toward the United States. In the war between those new Governments and Spain we declared our neutrality at the time of their recognition, and to this we have adhered, and shall continue to adhere, provided no change shall occur which, in the judgment of the competent authorities of this Government, shall make a corresponding change on the part of the United States indispensable to their security.

The late events in Spain and Portugal shew that Europe is still unsettled. Of this important fact no stronger proof can be adduced than that the allied powers should have thought it proper, on any principle satisfactory to themselves, to have interposed by force in the internal concerns of Spain. To what extent such interposition may be carried, on the same principle, is a question in which all independent powers whose governments differ from theirs are interested, even those most remote, and surely none of them more so than the United States. Our policy in regard to Europe, which was adopted at an early stage of the wars which have so long agitated that quarter of the globe, nevertheless remains the same, which is, not to interfere in the internal concerns of any of its powers; to consider the government de facto as the legitimate government for us; to cultivate friendly relations with it, and to preserve those relations by a frank, firm, and manly policy, meeting in all instances the just claims of every power, submitting to injuries from none. But in regard to those continents circumstances are eminently and conspicuously different.

It is impossible that the allied powers should extend their political system to any portion of either continent without endangering our peace and happiness; nor can anyone believe that our southern brethren, if left to themselves, would adopt it of their own accord. It is equally impossible, therefore, that we should behold such interposition in any form with indifference. If we look to the comparative strength and resources of Spain and those new Governments, and their distance from each other, it must be obvious that she can never subdue them. It is still the true policy of the United States to leave the parties to themselves, in hope that other powers will pursue the same course. . . .

Citation: Message of President James Monroe at the commencement of the first session of the 18th Congress (The Monroe Doctrine), 12/02/1823; Presidential Messages of the 18th Congress, ca. 12/02/1823-ca. 03/03/1825; Record Group 46; Records of the United States Senate, 1789-1990; National Archives.)

Cumberland Road

Construction of the first federally financed interstate began under Jefferson's administration in 1811.

In his last day in office, March 3rd, 1825, Monroe vetoed the Cumberland Road Bill, which provided for yearly improvements to and extend construction of the interstate artery west to Zanesville, Ohio. Monroe's concern was the constitutionality of the bill. He believed it to be unconstitutional for the government to have such a large hand in something that was basically a civics bill which should have been addressed in each state individually.

To the House of Representatives:

Having duly considered the bill entitled "An act for the preservation and repair of the Cumberland road," it is with deep regret, approving as I do the policy, that I am compelled to object to its passage and to return the bill to the House of Representatives, in which it originated, under a conviction that Congress do not possess the power under the Constitution to pass such a law.

A power to establish turnpikes with gates and tolls, and to enforce the collection of tolls by penalties, implies a power to adopt and execute a complete system of internal improvement. A right to impose duties to be paid by all persons passing a certain road, and on horses and carriages, as is done by this bill, involves the right to take the land from the proprietor on a valuation and to pass laws for the protection of the road from injuries, and if it exist as to one road it exists as to any other, and to as many roads as Congress may think proper to establish. A right to legislate for one of these purposes is a right to legislate for the others. It is a complete right of jurisdiction and sovereignty for all the purposes of internal improvement, and not merely the right of applying money under the power vested in Congress to make appropriations, under which power, with the consent of the States through which this road passes, the work was originally commenced, and has been so far executed. I am of opinion that Congress do not possess this power; that the States individually can not grant it, for although they may assent to the appropriation of money within their limits for such purposes, they can grant no power of jurisdiction or sovereignty by special compacts with the United States. This power can be granted only by an amendment to the Constitution and in the mode prescribed by it.

If the power exist, it must be either because it has been specifically granted to the United States or that it is incidental to some power which has been specifically

granted. If we examine the specific grants of power we do not find it among them, nor is it incidental to any power which has been specifically granted.

It has never been contended that the power was specifically granted. It is claimed only as being incidental to some one or more of the powers which are specifically granted. The following are the powers from' which it is said to be derived:

First, from the right to establish post-offices and post-roads; second, from the right to declare war; third, to regulate commerce; fourth, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare; fifth, from the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying into execution all the powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any department or officer thereof; sixth and lastly, from the power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory and other property of the United States.

According to my judgment it can not be derived from either of those powers, nor from all of them united, and in consequence it does not exist.

Having stated my objections to the bill, I should now cheerfully communicate at large the reasons on which they are founded if I had time to reduce them to such form as to include them in this paper. The advanced stage of the session renders that impossible. Having at the commencement of my service in this high trust considered it a duty to express the opinion that the United States do not possess the power in question, and to suggest for the consideration of Congress the propriety of recommending to the States an amendment to the Constitution to vest the power in the United States, my attention has been often drawn to the subject since, in consequence whereof I have occasionally committed my sentiments to paper respecting it. The form which this exposition has assumed is not such as I should have given it had it been intended for Congress, nor is it concluded. Nevertheless, as it contains my views on this subject, being one which I deem of very high importance, and which in many of its bearings has now become peculiarly urgent, I will communicate it to Congress, if in my power, in the course of the day, or certainly on Monday next.

JAMES MONROE.

*Citation: James Monroe: "Veto Message," May 4, 1822. Online by Gerhard Peters and John T. Woolley, The American Presidency Project.
<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=66322>.*

Five new states joined the Union during the time of Monroe's time in office. They were Mississippi (1817), Illinois (1818), Alabama (1819), Maine (1820), and Missouri (1821). Monroe helped to foster the transition of 1st party Democratic-Republicans and Federalists to 2nd party Democratic and Whigs

State of the Nation

Monroe delivered his eighth and final State of the Nation address on December 7th, 1824.

Board of Visitors

Monroe sat on the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia in 1826 where discussions were held about items like the Chairman of the University and the Proctor, their duties and pay. They also made decisions about precincts of the university grounds being collectively considered one entire tract made up of several parcels, and they set dates for two student testing days per year. Monroe served on this board until late in 1828. He had been severely injured after falling from his horse, but he still attended the July meeting of the Board of Visitors in Charlottesville, even though he had been weakened by a bout of fever in the spring.

Monroe's Last Public Service - 1829

Monroe's last act of public service took place as he became a member of the Virginia constitutional convention which met in Richmond in October of 1829. The convention was formed by a reluctant state legislature who had been under fire for decades by leaders of western counties who had been under-represented.

The largest conflict at the event consisted of the equalization of representation by apportioning it based on white population. The other two major issues were the question of suffrage extension and also the reorganization of the gubernatorial office.

Other elder statesmen attended as well, including James Madison, John Marshall, Governor William Branch Giles and John Randolph. Monroe agreed to serve as a delegate from the Loudoun-Fairfax district simply because he felt it was his duty to use his influence to aid in resolving the crisis which was a result of the conflict over

constitutional reform. Monroe also looked forward to working with Madison on a new state constitution.

Monroe and Madison attended the convention with the intent of utilizing compromise tactics in the event that the West may threaten to secede if a satisfactory agreement was not reached. They seemingly only had a disagreement about one point at the convention, which was the method of electing the governor. Both men would have liked to have seen his term extended and to have increased powers, but Monroe did not agree with Madison's advocacy of the popular election mode. Monroe wished to continue the practice of legislative election, which was already in place. He felt this led to far more qualified men being selected.

Eliza Hay accompanied her father on the trip to look after him due to his poor health, but once he arrived in Richmond, he was so excited over the occasion that he felt strongly that the journey had boosted his health.

Much like the Virginia ratifying convention of 1788, the delegates wished to have one of the attending elder statesmen to serve as President of the convention. Both Madison and Marshall, who were older than Monroe were approached but declined the position. Madison nominated Monroe to the post and Monroe accepted. The delegates were in awe of his revolutionary military service, yet they were more taken with Madison, who was the last surviving member of the Virginia Convention of 1776 – which drafted the first state constitution – as well as being a celebrated member of the Philadelphia Convention.

Marriage & Family

Elizabeth Kortright was born on June 30th, 1768 in New York City. She and James married on February 16th, 1786 at Trinity Episcopal Church in New York. They honeymooned on Long Island. Elizabeth died on September 23rd, 1830 at Oak Hill, near Leesburg in Loudoun County, Virginia.

Her parents were Lawrence Kortright (1728 – 1794) a New York City merchant and Hannah Aspinwall (1729 - 1777)

Elizabeth Frees Madame LaFayette From Jail

A carriage was procured and cleaned and polished, and the servants dressed to the nines. Mrs. Monroe got in the carriage and went directly to the prison. Once she entered the street, the public was immediately drawn to the carriage, and gathered around it near the prison gate. People began asking who the owner was of the carriage. ~~~

told that the American Minister owned it. When they asked who was inside the carriage, they were told it was his wife. She had come to see Madame LaFayette. Mrs. Monroe was brought to the iron railing at the gate. Madame LaFayette's mother and grandmother had both been taken from that same prison recently and beheaded, and she thought perhaps she would experience the same fate. When she heard that the wife of the American Minister had come to pay a friendly visit, she was filled with excitement and the two met. Reports of the meeting spread through Paris and created an air of happiness. Mr. Monroe had informal communications with the members of the Committee and Madame LaFayette was soon liberated.

After her release, the American Minister was able to obtain a passport allowing Madame LaFayette to join her husband at Olmutz, where he had been imprisoned by the allies.

The Children

The Monroe's had three children.

Eliza Kortright Monroe

Born: December 1786 in Fredericksburg, Virginia

Died: 1835 France

Buried in Pere LaChaise Cemetery, Paris, France

Eliza received a thorough education while living in France with her parents. She attended the Montagne de Bon-Air school just outside of Paris in St. Germain-en-Laye operated by Mme. Campan, a former lady-in-waiting to Marie Antoinette. It was known as the most fashionable girls' school in all of France for a time. The Monroe's rented a house in the area so they could visit with Eliza, as well as with Joseph Jones, Jr., who was enrolled in a different school nearby and escape Paris during the summer months.

Political leaders for the most part insisted that their daughters learn aristocratic polish, something which Mme. Campan instilled with authority. Accompanying this polish, however, came with a dose of elitism and haughtiness. Eliza became vain and was unpopular after leaving the school.

When James Monroe returned to Paris on a second mission, namely to help negotiate the Louisiana Purchase, Eliza once again attended Mme. Campan's school, this time gaining a lifelong friend, Hortense Beauharnais, who was the daughter of Josephine Bonaparte and a step-daughter of the emperor Napoleon.

Eliza married George Hay (1765-1830), some twenty years her senior. Hay was born in Williamsburg, the son of a cabinetmaker Anthony Hay and Elizabeth Davenport, who later moved to Albemarle County to read law and then to Petersburg to practice law. In May of 1800 he defended James Thomson Callender (1758-1803), author of the anti-Federalist pamphlet, *The Prospect Before Us*, in his sedition trial before Judge Chase in the U.S. Circuit Court at Richmond. Callender was sentenced to nine months in jail and fined \$200.

Hay later represented the government in prosecuting Aaron Burr in his treason trial.

After the wedding (which was Hay's second marriage), Hay, a United States Attorney, became an adviser to his father-in-law. Monroe presented the couple with a small estate near Richmond in the Chickahominy area which they called Ashfield. After a year, in 1809, they welcomed the Monroes first grandchild, little Hortensia into the family. Hay continued to serve as U.S. Attorney until 1816, when he resigned to enter the Virginia legislature. After serving in the House of Delegates and the state senate, he and Eliza and daughter Hortensia moved to Monroe's northern Virginia estate. He continued to practice law and act as an adviser to President Monroe. He became U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, nominated by President John Quincy Adams in 1825 and he held this office until his death.

Eliza's mother, Elizabeth Monroe, claiming poor health, nearly opted out of her role as First Lady, delegating the chores to daughter Eliza, who was perfectly qualified, having studied in France under Madame Campan. It was now Eliza's big chance to prove that she might perform socially on the same level of succeeding president James Madison's wife, Dolley, arguably the most successful First Lady in American history and a hard act to follow. By this point, the Monroes had lived in town for seven years and hardly entertained once. Eliza proceeded to handle all the arrangements for her sister's wedding.

James Spence Monroe

born: May 1799

died: September 28, 1800 in Richmond

The baby had been sick with whooping cough, so in August of 1800 the family spent time in the country air of their home in Albemarle, thinking the fresh air would be beneficial to the boy's health. The symptoms shortly vanished, but he was still suffering from a fever. He also had difficulties with teething, so a surgeon was called to lance his gums to try and alleviate the problem. Monroe had to leave and travel to Richmond a few times after reports surfaced of a yellow fever outbreak in Norfolk. On August 20th, he arranged for his family to travel to Caroline County to pay a visit to his sister, Elizabeth

Buckner, again believing the fresh country air would be good for little James' health. His illness took a turn for the worse on September 20th and he died at 10 p.m. on the 28th. Monroe grieved deeply over the loss, and Elizabeth's health suffered for many months due to her grief.

Maria Hester Monroe (*pronounced "muh-RY-uh" using the traditional Welsh form*) was born in 1803 in Paris, France and died on June 20th, 1850 at the family estate, Oak Hill, near Leesburg in Loudoun County, Virginia. She married her first cousin, 21-year-old Samuel Laurence Gouverneur who was the son of Nicholas Gouverneur and Hester Kortright of New York City, the sister of James Monroe's wife Elizabeth. He also worked as one of Monroe's junior secretaries.

It was the first wedding of a President's child in the White House. The sparkling affair took place on March 9th, 1820 as James and Elizabeth gave away their seventeen-year-old, accomplished daughter. Outside, a heavy rain fell, but inside the "Elliptical Saloon," the room thought to have been used for the ceremony, the Reverend William Hawley officiated. He was pastor of St. John's Episcopal Church, just across the street. He was a controversial religious individual who had access to presidents that was unprecedented. Among his friends he counted John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson and more.

After the conclusion of the ceremony, the couple and 42 of their closest friends and relatives feasted in the State Dining Room which was finely furnished by French cabinet maker Pierre-Antoine Bellange. He had placed a Louis XVIII crown emblem on each piece, whether through his own insistence or by French Law. The emblems all required replacement by an American eagle emblem, an expensive fix. Because of the Monroe's penchant for all things French, many elements of French furnishings appeared in the White House, which had been badly burned by the British in the War of 1812. The Monroes worked diligently to replace items lost in the fire, leaving the house mostly bare inside. Naturally, opposition members on Capitol Hill became outraged at the expense.

Samuel Laurence Gouverneur was both a member of the New York State Legislature and private secretary to his father-in-law President Monroe. He worked as Postmaster of New York City from 1828-1836.

The couple had a son named James Monroe Gouverneur who was born in Washington, D.C. in 1822 and was a deaf and dumb mute. He passed away in the Spring Grove Asylum in Catonsville, outside of Baltimore, Maryland on April 14th, 1865.

The Move From Fredericksburg, Virginia

Monroe had a home on the grounds of what is now the University of Virginia and the little rise with buildings on it became known as Monroe Hill, or what Monroe sometimes referred to as the “lower plantation” or “western farm”. He had purchased the 800 acre parcel near Charlottesville from George Nicholas in 1789, when Monroe was a Virginia legislator. The lands were sold by Nicholas to Monroe in exchange for a part of Monroe's Kentucky land equivalent to the 2,500 pounds purchase price for Monroe Hill.

Insurance records describe three buildings on the acreage: two one-story brick dwelling houses each measuring 26 by 20 feet and a brick kitchen building with dimensions of 20 by 28 feet. One of the buildings was used as Monroe's law office. They likely lived on the property from 1789 to 1799. The Monroes sold the property and its buildings in 1806 to Kemp Catlett and George Divers for 1,500 pounds and moved to their Highland estate near Monticello.

Monroe and his family moved to their estate in Loudoun County after retirement from Presidency. Oak Hill is in Aldie, in the area of Leesburg, Virginia. The some 4,400 acres of land it sits on were purchased jointly by Monroe and his uncle Joseph Jones in 1794. Jones passed away in 1805 and there were no direct heirs, so Monroe gained sole possession of the property. Sitting just north of the intersection of Routes 50 and 15, it was Monroe's only residence from 1827 to 1830. Construction began in 1820 by local builder William Benton and was supervised by James Hoban, designer of the White House in Washington, D.C. Thomas Jefferson also offered design input. In addition to the main house there were numerous outbuildings such as “Monroe's Cottage”, a smokehouse, springhouse, blacksmith's shop, a square barn and the stone Stallion Barn. Owned by Monroe for 22 years, the land had been listed for sale both in 1809 and 1825, but failed to fetch an acceptable price both times. After Monroe's death, the property went to his daughters, Elizabeth and Maria. Elizabeth died there in 1850.

Chapter 6: The Last Days

Monroe made an attempt at authoring book comparing U.S. and modern and ancient governments *The People, the Sovereigns* was a comprehensive study of his political views, and his only lengthy statement of his political theory. His work was left incomplete due to his poor health, the indifference of George Hay, his son-in-law and mainly because in 1829 he was chosen to participate in Virginia's first constitutional convention since 1776.

Monroe began work on an uncompleted autobiography written between 1827 and 1830. The account ends with his mission to Britain in 1806.

Monroe's health gave way in early December of 1829, and he resigned from the Virginia constitutional convention. He remained in Richmond for a month and then made his way to Oak Hill via Washington so that he could travel by steamboat, and also to appease Tench Ringgold who had worked diligently in attempting to restore friendly relations between Monroe and President Jackson. Overhearing Jackson speak sympathetically about Monroe's ill health, Ringgold arranged a meeting between the two at a dinner party in January.

Monroe went to live in New York City with his youngest daughter after his wife passed in 1830 at their Oak Hill estate. He lived there with his daughter and her family for about ten months before he died peacefully, shortly after three in the afternoon of July 4, 1831 at the age of 73. He had developed a persistent cough in the spring of 1831, a possible sign of tuberculosis.

Presidents Thomas Jefferson and John Adams had also died on July 4, but in the year 1826. With Monroe's passing on July 4th as well, it brought to mind his ties to the struggle for independence.

The Funeral

About 70,000 persons paying their last respects to one of the last heroes of the revolutionary generation, witnessed his funeral procession - the most elaborate of any in New York up to that time. His body was removed from Samuel L. Gouverneur's residence by an honor guard, taken to City Hall and placed on a platform covered with a black drape. William Duer, President of Columbia University at the time, delivered the eulogy and the funeral services were held in nearby St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The streets were then filled with the sounds of church bells ringing, and guns could be heard firing at Fort Columbus. A sizable assemblage of citizens and dignitaries traveled along with the procession up Broadway and onward to the Gouverneur family vault in the New York City Marble Cemetery on Second Street. Once the coffin was placed in the vault, the honor guard fired three volleys over the grave.

All across the country, there were memorials and days of mourning for Monroe. President Jackson even ordered all the military bases and Navy ships to earmark a day where Monroe would be honored by firing minute guns as well as a twenty-four gun salute. The press mainly acknowledged his military career and mentioned very little of his Presidency and his many years of additional public service work, other than his

participation in the Louisiana Purchase. John Quincy Adams was the only one who proclaimed the full spectrum of Monroe's extensive contributions as he delivered the eulogy in Boston.

Monroe was re-interred to Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia in 1858, on the 100th anniversary of his birth. Municipal officials and the representatives of the Commonwealth of Virginia made a decision that his remains should be returned to his home state. The Virginia legislature appropriated funds for this process, and the surviving descendants were consulted. They consented to the transfer.

In New York, the remains were exhumed in secrecy on July 2nd so as not to draw a crowd. At 5 p.m., the coffin was placed in a hearse and transported to the church of the Annunciation on 14th Street. It lay in state there and also at City Hall for a few days and on July 5th Monroe's remains, accompanied by the 7th Regiment of New York traveled by the paddle steamer *Jamestown* to Richmond. There was an impressive burial ceremony, highlighted by a graveside speech from Virginia Governor Henry A. Wise.

His tomb was designed by the German-born Albert Lybrock who is buried not far from Monroe. cast iron, obtained from the Philadelphia firm of Wood and Perot, Described by the National Park Service in this fashion:

Each facade is decorated with a lancet arch in the style of a cathedral window. At the top of each of these arches is a rose window tracery; below each tracery are three round arches. On the two longer sides of the rectangle, two subordinate lancet arches flank the main ones. At each of the four corners, a colonette supports a small tabernacle that rises above the top of the facades. The "cage" sits on a solid but elaborately decorated base and is surmounted by an ogive canopy featuring delicate tracery.

Legacy

Various cities, buildings, highways and many academic institutions have been named after James Monroe. Liberia renamed its capital Monrovia after him in 1824. Monroe supported the American Colonization Society which established the west-African nation. The colony grew and became economically stable. The ACS hired white agents to govern them. In 1847, Liberia's legislature declared itself an independent state and Joseph Jenkins Roberts, formerly the governor, became its first President.

A United States Navy submarine was named for Monroe. The USS James Monroe, was a Lafayette class ballistic missile submarine that served with the United States Navy from 1963 to 1990. Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company in Virginia was awarded the contract to construct her in 1961, and the launch took place on August 4th, 1962, sponsored by Mrs. Roswell L. Gilpatric, the wife of Deputy Secretary of Defense. SSBN-622 was the first Lafayette class craft of this kind to be produced at the Newport News facility. She was commissioned on December 7th, 1963 with Commander William H. Sandeford for the Blue crew and Commander Warren R. Cobean, Jr. for the Gold crew. With a length of 425 feet and a breadth of 33 feet, she was the fifteenth Fleet Ballistic Missile submarine to join the active fleet. The first missile firing occurred on February 17, 1964.

Displacement: 7325 tons (surfaced), 8251 tons (submerged)

Length: 425' Beam: 33'

Speed: 16k (surfaced), 21k (submerged)

Test Depth: 1300'

Tubes: 16 missile tubes and four 21" torpedo tubes (forward)

Crew: 14 officers – 126 enlisted men (each of 2 crews)

Power Plant: S5W nuclear reactor Two geared steam turbines, 15,000 SHP, one shaft

Armament:

Missiles: 16 tubes for Polaris or Poseidon

Polaris A2 (1964-1969)

Polaris A3 (1969-1975)

Poseidon C3 (1977-1990)

Torpedoes: four 21" Torpedo Tubes (All Forward)

MK 14/16 Anti-ship Torpedo

MK 37 Anti-Submarine Torpedo

MK 45 ASTOR Nuclear Torpedo

MK 48 Anti-Submarine Torpedo

The submarine's embroidered patches carried the words “Monroe Doctrine”. After President James Monroe set forth the principles in the Monroe Doctrine, he adopted a policy of “Watchful Waiting”. Considering the tasks and missions assigned the USS James Monroe, the officers and crew adopted those words as the ship’s motto.

The United State Postal Service released some postage stamps featuring his likeness. First Day of issue of a 22-cent stamp was May 22, 1986. Stamp designer was Jerry Dadds of Baltimore, Maryland.

James Monroe is remembered annually on his birthday with ceremonies at Presidents Circle in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia and at his birthplace near Colonial Beach, which established a seasonal Visitor Center in 2008. The main road near his birthplace, Route 205, is also known as James Monroe Highway.

In 2015, the ornate birdcage-like canopy structure in the Gothic revival style over the granite sarcophagus at Hollywood Cemetery underwent a \$900,000 renovation in time for the 200th anniversary of Monroe's election. In 1971, Monroe's tomb was added to the National Historic Landmark Registry.

The University of Mary Washington administers the memorial museum in Fredericksburg. The museum sits on the land where Monroe's law office once stood. His great-granddaughter Rose de Chine Gouverneur Hoes learned an adjacent gas station wanted to expand onto the property, so she bought the lot and the old buildings on it so she could display her Monroe family heirlooms. Opened in 1927, it houses over 1,600 artifacts, about 10,000 rare books and 10,000 archival documents primarily through the line of Monroe's youngest daughter Maria. Rose's son, Laurence Gouverneur Hoes continued to track down Monroe items and memorabilia which had made their way out of the family hands through the years. A great number of items were acquired through an estate sale held by Samuel Gouverneur in 1850 after his wife Maria's death. The portion of the museum which houses the desk where it is believed he penned his famous Doctrine is the area thought to be where his law office once stood.

The museum contains 34 pieces of correspondence in its collection. There are nine letters from Monroe's uncle Joseph Jones and one addressed to him with regards to Virginia's western lands, location of the national capital, foreign affairs including trade problems with Great Britain, war debt, personal money issues, the state of national finances, sale of harvested tobacco, information on activities in the Virginia General

Assembly, the improvements of navigation on rivers, John Adams' reception as minister to Great Britain, and lack of congressional authority to manage Indian affairs.

Other correspondents include Peter Muhlenberg (clergyman, soldier, senator, representative) who wrote in seeking a military appointment; Alexander Bullitt (pioneer, statesman) who introduced Kentucky senator John Edwards; Edward Carrington (Supervisor of Revenue for the District of Virginia) who made comments on William Grayson's health and congressional proceedings; John Beckley (clerk of the House of Representatives, Librarian of Congress) who wrote about war in Europe; and John Taliaferro (congressman, Librarian of Treasury Department at Washington) reporting in 1786 that Monroe had lost the election to Daniel Fitzhugh.

General Horatio Gates (hero of the Battle of Saratoga) made comments on negotiations with the Indians and the ineffectiveness of Congress without a source of revenue; John F. Mercer's depart from Congress; President Thomas Jefferson's discussion on affairs in France, and the recovery of British debts; Henry Lee's report on the death of Arthur Lee; Henry Tazewell's attacks on Federalists; and John Marshall's transmission of Monroe's salary as a delegate to Congress.

Other items include an excerpt of a letter by Monroe reporting on congressional proceedings and commenting about an Annapolis woman; a photocopy of a report by Monroe, Richard Henry Lee, and William Grayson to the Governor of Virginia (1785) concerning Virginia state debts and western land cessions; photocopies of the 1784 certificate of Monroe's election as delegate to Congress and the 1790 election to the United States Senate; and letters about the border dispute between Virginia and North Carolina. The museum is located at 908 Charles Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401.

A statue of Monroe was erected at the College of William and Mary in 2015. Donated by a couple who graduated in 1962, the William and Mary statue is unique in that it has a frieze around the base which depicts important milestones in Monroe's life. There are eight panels in total, showing scenes like Monroe leading the assault at the Battle of Trenton, his work as Secretary of War, a diplomat, an ambassador and of course as the President of the United States. The Monroe Doctrine is even referenced, as Monroe's hand on the globe shielding the American continent.

Monroe's Past Residences

Monroe's birthplace home no longer stands, but plans are underway to construct a replica of the 20 by 58-foot dwelling. The birthplace site was uncovered in 1976 in an

archaeological survey by the College of William and Mary and this revealed the foundation of the small, four-room wooden farmhouse, which matched the known etchings of the home from 1845. In 2001, the landscape architecture firm of Susan Nelson – Warren Byrd of Charlottesville was hired by Westmoreland County to design a master plan for a multi-phase formation of the historic site. The County partnered with the James Monroe Memorial Foundation in 2005 and set out to develop an interpretive venue inclusive of a reconstructed house, barn, outbuildings and a visitor center. A bike trail and a walking trail with markers pinpointing milestones in James Monroe's life is also planned for the site. In 2008, the visitor center opened. It is open in season, typically beginning with a Birthday commemoration every April 28th. Also included on the site at the time of this writing are a garden club memorial plaque, interpretive signage, an obelisk, picnic tables, an American flag, a Virginia historical marker sign and a small parking lot. The property is surrounded by a local Moose Lodge #1267, the Monroe Bay Winery and numerous residential dwellings just outside of the present day town of Colonial Beach, a popular riverside resort town boasting the second-longest public beach in Virginia as well as the nearby birthplace of the nation's first President, George Washington.

The James Monroe Foundation was only given 10 acres of the 77-acre property at Monroe Hall for the visitor center, farmhouse replica and outbuildings. This site is a stop on the Road to Revolution Heritage Trail, administered by the Richmond Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau. The address for the birthplace site is 4460 James Monroe Highway, Colonial Beach, VA 22443.

As far as Monroe's former law office and other dwellings near Charlottesville, Virginia, in 1810, George Divers sold the tract that he bought from Monroe to John Nicholas. The property was subdivided in 1814 with the parcels being sold to John Perry. It is thought that the main house was added during Perry's ownership. Arthur Brockenbrough from the newly founded University purchased the property in 1820. The “Monroe Hill” buildings on the campus of the University of Virginia have seen many changes. In 1848, two arcaded dormitories were added to the property by the University in order to house students. One of these dormitories connected Monroe's former law office building, the smallest of the structures, to the main house, and the other dormitory was located on the southwest side of the property. They later became offices, and in the 1980's, the building housed the University News Office and alumni magazine. The Greek Revival structure became the college principal's residence in 1986 when the University established its first residential college, then known as Monroe Hill College. Its name was changed in 1994 because of an endowment donated by the Brown family, and it is now known as Brown College, a close-knit community of nearly 300 undergraduate residents

of all years and majors as well as two resident faculty scholars and 40 non-resident faculty fellows. The area became listed on the Virginia Landmarks Registry in 2004.

Ash Lawn-Highland was not called Ash Lawn-Highland until after Monroe's passing. A later owner of the estate named it Ash Lawn and today both names are used.

Philanthropist Jay Winston Johns together with his wife Helen Lambert Johns opened Ash Lawn-Highland for public visitation in 1931. Mr. Johns bequeathed the estate to the College of William and Mary upon his death in 1974.

Large fields still surround the house and cattle still graze in the pastures. While the field slave quarters no longer stand, the original smokehouse and overseer's house still do, along with a replica of the well and icehouse. The overseer's house is possibly the plantation's oldest outbuilding.

Still owned and operated by The College of William and Mary, Monroe's alma mater, the facility is able to host meetings, parties, weddings, picnics and all sorts of other special events. This continues Monroe's tradition of welcoming friends, neighbors, visitors and dignitaries from all over the world. The address for Ash Lawn-Highland is 2050 James Monroe Parkway, Charlottesville, VA 22902.

Oak Hill in Loudoun County was purchased by John W. Fairfax in 1852. He later became a lieutenant colonel in the Confederate States Army and his wife remained at the estate while Fairfax was off participating in the Civil War. His son Henry purchased the estate and it remained in the Fairfax family until after Henry's death in 1916. It was then purchased by Frank C. Littleton and his wife in 1920, and two wings were added in 1922. Thomas N. DeLashmutt bought the property in 1948. These days the home is still a private residence, currently occupied by Thomas H. DeLashmutt (Tom's son) and his wife Gayle, as of the time of this writing, and is not open to the public. It is occasionally opened to school groups, garden clubs and history groups for educational purposes. Two United States Navy ships have been named after this two-story, Federal style brick mansion which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.