



# James Madison Museum

A Newsletter of the James Madison Museum

WINTER 2009

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- The James Madison Museum, founded in December 1974 is the only museum to fully commemorate the fourth president and Father of the Constitution.
- The Museum houses exhibits on James and Dolley Madison, featuring one of the nation's most outstanding collections of Madisonsia.
- The James Madison Museum is owned and operated by the James Madison Memorial Foundation.

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## New Year's Greetings from the Museum

Dear Friends,

New Year's tidings to you and yours! It is our hope that this, our winter newsletter, finds you in good health and cheer in spite of our nation's economic problems.

Here at the James Madison Museum in Orange we embrace this new year with a sense of appreciation as we look back on all that occurred in the past year at the museum and in the community.

We are thankful to you our members and friends for all that you have done to keep alive the mission of this museum, which is to preserve and share James Madison's heritage as well as to highlight his connection with Orange County, Virginia and its remarkable heritage.

Many exciting events took place at our museum in 2008, some of which are highlighted here in this newsletter. 2008 has proved to be a defining period in the 33 year life

of the James Madison Museum, which is a vibrant and vital component not only of our



The James Madison Museum in the heart of Orange

community and our commonwealth, but to the country at large as we prepare to take our place in the historic corridor being developed from Gettysburg to Monticello.

We are excited to reflect on the two exhibitions that opened this past year: *Founding Friendship: James Madison and James Monroe, Defenders of Democracy* and *Presidential Cousins*. Both exhibits

highlight the important life contributions of Madison and Monroe and the Orange County heritage of Madison and Zachary Taylor. We encourage you, if you haven't already, to come explore these interesting exhibits!

The museum also maintains its educational mission with its participation in the Time Traveler's program and by offering all local students free admission. We believe that sharing the story of James Madison and bringing history alive to young people is vital.

The James Madison Museum Board looks forward to the New Year and important new exhibits and commemorations. We have much to be thankful for and invite your participation. We ask for your support and hope to see you soon!

-The Board of Directors

## "Founding Friendship" A New Exhibit Commemorating James Madison & James Monroe - Defenders of Democracy in the New Republic

Colonial history connoisseurs from all over Virginia converged on The James Madison Museum on Friday, September 12th, 2008 to celebrate the fourth president and his friend and presidential successor, James Monroe. The evening of early American music and remembrances featured the opening of a lavish new exhibit: "Founding Friendship: James Madison and James Monroe, Defenders of

Democracy in the New Republic."

The opening was a prelude to Constitution Day at Montpelier on September 17th, when the newly restored home of Orange County's first family, James and Dolley Madison, was revealed. "As I stand here and look around, I am convinced more than ever that Virginia has more history - more important history per square inch - than any place

in America," said Michael Quinn, president and CEO of Montpelier, in one of several toasts with Virginia wine.

The Hon. Helen Marie Taylor, a former U.S. representative to the United Nations in the Reagan Administration and a longtime promoter of the Montpelier evolution, expected that the world would take notice of the

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## Founding Friendship (...continued from front page)



Eight year-old Joseph Marsh considers a portrait of James Monroe at the new exhibit.

transformation at Madison's home, which has now meticulously stripped away decades of non-presidential additions. "Surely it's as fine a restoration as America has ever had," Taylor, an Orange County resident, said Friday. "This little museum raised its banner in 1976 in the hopes that the restoration and opening of Montpelier would happen," she said, noting that annual attendance to Montpelier even now stands at 75,000. "So, ladies and gentlemen, you can see that the world is coming to the James Madison Museum and to our little village and it will continue to come by the millions to Montpelier and Orange County."

History buffs can today visit the James Madison Museum to view the new exhibit "Defenders of Democracy." Rembrandt Peale portraits, busts and

memorabilia of Madison and Monroe (whose 250th birthday was April 28) fill the foyer. In an adjoining gallery Monroe's Doctrine and Madison's Constitution ratification documents that once belonged to his elder cousin, Edmund Pendleton, who served as president of Virginia's Ratification Committee, are side by side with a congratulatory letter from George Washington who was jubilant!

Patriots like Madison and Monroe still exist today, concluded U.S. Attorney David Schiller of the James Monroe Foundation, one of various organizations and individuals contributing to the special museum exhibit. His comments received a rousing "huzzah" from the guests. "There are those who preserve and

share our culture, the essence and strength of America. That makes us a light for the rest of the world. The James Madison Museum and its founders and members have certainly done that."

Special thanks goes to the Hon. Helen Marie Taylor, President of the James Madison Museum Foundation and G. William Thomas, Jr. President of the James Monroe Memorial Foundation. Their personal priceless collections formed the basis of the new exhibit.

The Madison Museum Board and Lee Langston-Harrison of the Culpeper Museum, along with many others including a group of homeschoolers, who put countless time and effort into mounting these treasures that have created such an inspiring exhibit, also deserve to take a bow!



## Zachary Taylor's Birthday Celebration

The Zachary Taylor exhibit, "Presidential Cousins," commemorating the kinship of Presidents Zachary Taylor and James Madison was recently opened at the James Madison Museum. Celebrating Taylor's 224<sup>th</sup> birthday was a festive event and notes their relationship through their great grandparents, Col. James Taylor II and Martha Thompson, who built "Bloomsbury" in 1722. This is the oldest house today in what would become Orange County.

Col. James Taylor accompanied Lt. Governor Alexander Spotswood to the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains in 1716 which began Westward Expansion. This adventurous band of explorers became known to history as the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe.

Copies of the handsome busts of Taylor and Madison, commissioned in

1932 by Mr. Jaquelin P. Taylor of Richmond and "Meadowfarm" in Orange County for the Rotunda of the Virginia State Capitol, and on loan from the Orange County Historical Society and the Montpelier Foundation, were placed on either side of a striking portrait of Zachary Taylor. (See image below)

Taylor Crème Sherry and Port were served with Holiday Fruitcake alongside the large birthday cake. The rousing violin of Leonid Prymank, former first chair of the Richmond Symphony, serenaded guests with his medley of the Marches created to celebrate General Zachary Taylor's military triumphs.

Zachary Taylor's traveling desk, Campeche chair, silver baby fork and spoon, the Taylor presidential and family china, along with numerous Currier and Ives etchings, paintings and other interesting memorabilia celebrating his career were displayed throughout along with those of his second cousin, James Madison, Jr.

Governor Timothy Kaine proclaimed November 24<sup>th</sup> President Zachary Taylor Appreciation Day. The Governor

was joined by Henry Lee Carter, Mayor of Orange, and Teri Pace, Vice Chairman of the Orange Board of Supervisors, in reading similar tributes. Budge Porter, a member of the Madison Family Descendants and representing it's President, Frederick Madison Smith, read a congratulatory letter for the occasion.

Helen Marie Taylor, President and Founder of the Museum, commented on the exemplary life of Zachary Taylor and the high regard in which he was held by both Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis and an enthusiastic national constituency. Although a Southerner by birth, and a slave owner, Taylor was in accord with James Madison in wishing to abolish slavery. He was determined to prevent its spread in the vast new lands doubling the size of the United States as he assumed his office. He threatened to have any man tried for treason who attempted to defy California's vote forbidding slavery.

"Taylor with his authority and admiration, she said," was the one man who might have reached solutions to prevent the Civil War. It was a great national tragedy when he died prematurely after laying the cornerstone of the Washington Monument on July 4, 1850. Abraham Lincoln delivered his eulogy in Washington before an unprecedented crowd of one hundred thousand grieving Americans.

Come see the exhibit!



### CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

*(Text of the certificate is mostly illegible due to small size)*



*(Signature of the Governor)*

The Governor's certificate of recognition calling for "Zachary Taylor Appreciation Day" in the Commonwealth of Virginia.



Photos from the exhibit opening.

JAMES MADISON MUSEUM

## Exhibit Highlight



James  
Madison's  
Favorite  
Chair on  
exhibit

A focal point in the exhibit is Madison's favorite chair—a Campeche chair given to him by his good friend, President Thomas Jefferson.

For more information on exhibits at the museum, visit [www.JamesMadisonMus.org](http://www.JamesMadisonMus.org)



**The Museum Gift Shop:  
A Perfect Place to pick up all of  
your holiday gifts!**

## The Museum Gift Shop

Looking for that unique gift? Music for your dinner? A book on Orange County history or James and Dolley Madison for your husband or wife? The Gift Shop at the James Madison Museum is the perfect place to find just about anything for that special someone in your life—or even yourself!

The museum gift shop offers the annual White House Christmas tree ornaments, a variety of books, shirts, mugs, music, software, historical prints, Madisonian items and more! The goal of the museum is to provide quality products and to give you the opportunity to support the museum and its activities.

Please visit our gift shop and check out all of the great items we have to offer.

## The Madison Room

The Madison Room features the personal belongings of James and Dolley Madison, including furniture, correspondence, clothing, books, and other period artifacts.

### Our Museum's Mission

The James Madison Museum's mission is to present the remarkable history of Orange County, Virginia and it's people providing special insight into James Madison Jr's heritage and life as a Planter, Statesmen, Diplomat,

Soldier, President, and primary author of the United States Constitution with its Bill of Rights.



### Officers and Board Members

Helen Marie Taylor,  
President

George William Thomas, Jr.  
Vice President

Rick Sherman  
Treasurer

Carla Bangs  
Secretary

Virginia Donnelly  
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### Advisory Board Members

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Joan Bergstrom

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Margaret Johnston

Beatrice Jordan

Norman Jordan

Sam Kessler

Thomas Marsh

Linda Montgomery

L. Lee Wouters



### Treasurer's Report

As your new treasurer it is a challenge keeping up with the Museum, it's activities, and our accounts! Being open 7 days a week allows us to maintain the Museum's Mission of bringing the unique history of Orange County, it's people, and their great contributions to our children and our visitors. All Orange County children have free admission and we want more tours for them! We have a modest endowment and operating funds and with our need to expand our Exhibit space and create an Orientation Room, these funds need to be increased. We have set our goal for 2009 at \$150,000 and ask you to help us achieve this. If you have seen our two new exhibits and the great increase in artifacts on extended loan, you will know how exciting 2008 has been. Your renewal and additional support will be much appreciated. **-Rick Sherman**

## Great Book Sales



Thanks to our neighbor VonHoltzbrinck, the MPS Publishing House, the James Madison Museum has 2 great book sales in September and the Christmas holiday season. These fundraisers are a community tradition and feature great bargains with a 90% reduction in pricing with all of the proceeds coming to the Museum! The Museum Gift Shop offers a variety of lovely books and items including a selection of The White House Christmas Tree ornaments.



# James Madison Museum

ORANGE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

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E-mail: [info@jamesmadisonmus.org](mailto:info@jamesmadisonmus.org)

Website: [www.JamesMadisonMus.org](http://www.JamesMadisonMus.org)

## Visiting the Museum

**Hours:** Open daily Monday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sundays 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Closed New Year's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**Rates:** \$4 for adults; \$3 for senior citizens over 60 and AAA members; \$1 for children ages 6 to 16. No admission fee for mu-

seum members. Orange County school children, and children under 6. The James Madison Museum is participating in the Time Travelers For Students. For more information on this wonderful program visit their website [www.TimeTravelers.org](http://www.TimeTravelers.org). All Time Traveler students are eligible 50c admission.

**Group Tours:** Tours are self guided or docents and guides may be arranged and are available for groups of all ages at special rates. Please call (540) 672-1776 for additional information.

**Directions:** The James Madison Museum, 129 Caroline Street, Orange, VA is 45 minutes from Charlottesville and Monticello, 2 hours from Mt. Vernon and Washington, D.C., and 1.5 hours from Richmond and the State Capitol.



## Becoming a Museum Member!

### Membership Benefits

Members receive free admission for themselves, invitations to exhibit openings, a ten per cent discount in the Gift Shop, and our quarterly newsletter, which features news of museum events, special exhibits and other items of interest.

### Annual Membership Rates

Benefactor: \$5,000 or more  
Taylor Councilors: \$1,000 or more  
Patron: \$500 or more  
Contributor: \$250 or more  
Friend: \$100 or more  
Family: \$35  
Individual: \$25  
Student/Teacher: \$15

To become a member or to **renew your membership send your name and address to:**

The James Madison Museum  
129 Caroline Street  
Orange, VA 22960-1532

The James Madison Museum is a 501 (c)3 fully tax deductible organization. **All contributions are welcome.**

**2009 Funding Goal is \$150,000 for the expansion of the museum's space for an Orientation Theatre, new Exhibit Galleries, a Conservation Studio, and development of the Caroline Street Cultural Corridor.**

## Dates For your Calendar

**Sunday, January 15th, 2009** -- Martin Luther King, Jr's 80th Birthday Commemoration

**Thursday, February 6, 2009** -- Ronald Reagan's 98th Birthday Tribute, Special Exhibit

**Sunday, February 22, 2009** -- George Washington's 277th Birthday Tribute, Special Exhibit

**Monday, March 16, 2009**--James Madison Day, 258th birthday, Presidential Wreathlaying Ceremony at Montpelier, Special Exhibit at Museum.

**April, 2009**--Plant Sale at James Madison Museum

**Tuesday, April 28, 2009**--James Monroe Day, Presidential Wreathlaying Ceremony at Monroe Monument Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, 11 a.m. Special Exhibit at Museum

**Summer 2009**--Opening exhibit "From Tyndale and Taylor to Madison: A Story of Religious Freedom."

**Wednesday, May 20, 2009**--Dolley Madison Day, 241st birthday of "America's First Lady," Special Exhibit

**Sunday November 22, 2009**--Zachary Taylor Day, 250th Birthday Celebration and Open House, 3pm--5pm "Presidential Cousins Exhibit "

**Tuesday, November 24, 2009**--Zachary Taylor Appreciation Day in Virginia--250th Birthday of the 12th President

**Fall 2009** -- Annual Book Sale in Holiday Season