

## Visiting President Monroe

By Amy Leiser  
Executive Director

Every February, I attend the Small Museums Association Conference, a wonderful gathering of people who work and volunteer in small museums nationwide. By attending hands-on workshops, listening to inspirational keynote speakers, exploring vendor tables, and talking with colleagues, I always learn something new that I can bring back to Monroe County to strengthen our organization.

This year's conference was held in Richmond, the capital of Virginia. Because a snowstorm was threatening, I traveled down a day early and was able to explore that beautiful city. I am a bit of a taphophile,\* and I was excited to visit the Hollywood Cemetery, which spans 135 acres of rolling hills overlooking the James River.

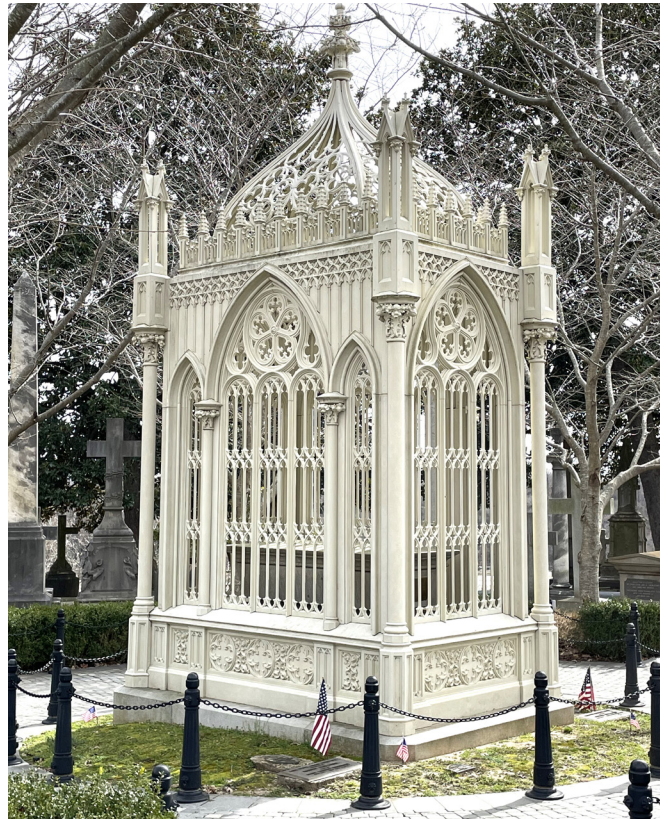
Established in 1847, the cemetery was designed by Philadelphia architect John Notman. Because of its stately grounds, natural beauty, and a collection of over 2,000 trees, the Hollywood Cemetery is a registered arboretum. Native trees include the tulip poplar and white oak, some older than the cemetery itself.

One of the standout examples of the cemetery's architectural charm is the final resting place of President James Monroe, for whom Monroe County is named. Monroe's grave is a granite sarcophagus enclosed in a Gothic Revival cast iron canopy commonly known as "The Birdcage," designed by Albert Lybrock and erected in 1859.

Monroe died and was buried in New York City in 1831. In 1858, 100 years after his birth, his body was moved to the Hollywood Cemetery, a cooperative effort by citizens of New York and Virginia. In 1971, the National Park Service registered the grave as a National Historic Landmark.

### The connection to Monroe County, Pa.

Although settled by some of the earliest-arriving European colonists, Monroe County was not one of the earliest-formed counties in Pennsylvania. It was the 53rd recognized county out of 67 statewide. Years before its official recognition as a separate entity, residents living in the area, which was part of Northampton and Pike counties, petitioned the legislature to create the new county. They felt that the region was too far away from Easton or Milford for



James Monroe's grave in Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, Va.

those county seats to care about the local population.

After nine years of debate, Gov. Joseph Ritner, with an act by the Pennsylvania General Assembly, acknowledged that the area known as "north of the Blue Mountains of Northampton County" had been settled for long enough, and that its population had grown enough to be considered an independent county.

And so on April 1, 1836, Monroe County was formed, with the townships of Chestnuthill, Hamilton, Pocono, Ross, Smithfield, Stroud, and Tobyhanna of Northampton County moved into the new county, along with the townships of Coolbaugh, Middle Smithfield, and Price of Pike County.

There was no shortage of suggestions for names. Petitions included "Fulton," for Robert Fulton, a

Story continues, Page 2



### MCHA Officers

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**Newsletter Editor/Webmaster**  
Kim de Bourbon

### 2024 Meetings

The MCHA Board of Directors meets the fourth Tuesday of most months at 7 p.m.

#### Now meeting via Zoom

January 23  
February 25– Annual Meeting  
March 26  
April 23  
May 28  
June 25  
July – No meeting  
August 27  
September 24  
October 22  
November 26  
December – No meeting

The Monroe County Historical Association is a cultural and learning center that assists our diverse community of residents and visitors in connecting the county's past with the present.



Tobyhanna Elementary Center invited Executive Director Amy Leiser to read to this amazing class of second graders during Read Across America week in March. They all enjoyed “Art & Max,” a tale of two lizards with a shared love of painting whose artistic mishaps take them on a chaotic creative journey.

## Monroe County

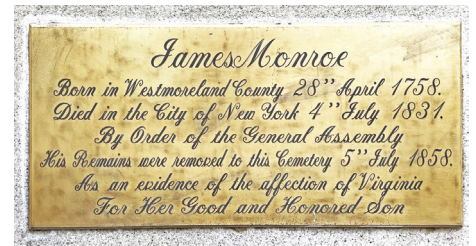
Continued from Page 1

Pennsylvania native and the engineer and inventor of the submarine; “Evergreen,” for the many conifer trees; and “Jackson,” after President Andrew Jackson. None of these got enough support in Harrisburg.

We don’t know exactly who suggested “Monroe,” but we do know that the county is named for President Monroe, who served as the country’s fifth president from 1817 to 1825. He had been a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, the governor of Virginia, a U.S. senator, and the minister to Spain, France, and Great Britain.

Public support for the late president created enough votes to secure the new county’s name.

James Monroe never traveled north of the Blue Mountains, but his dedicated service to the country



James Monroe

Born in Westmoreland County 28<sup>th</sup> April 1758.  
Died in the City of New York 4<sup>th</sup> July 1831.  
By Order of the General Assembly  
His Remains were removed  
to this Cemetery 5<sup>th</sup> July 1858.  
As an evidence of the affection of Virginia  
For Her Good and Honored Son.

earned him a place in Pocono mountain history. If you find yourself in Richmond, please stop by the Hollywood Cemetery and visit Monroe’s beautiful grave.

*\* A taphophile is a person interested in cemeteries and gravestones.*



Third Thursday  
**LECTURE  
SERIES**

Mark your calendars and plan to attend these free educational and informative presentations.

Details online

[www.monroehistorical.org](http://www.monroehistorical.org)

**Starting Soon!**

Locations Around the County

Third Thursdays • 7 p.m.

**April 18**

Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort

**Tocks Island: Dammed If You Do**

*David Pierce*

**May 16**

Barrett Twp. Municipal Bldg., Cresco

**Promised Land &  
the Civilian Conservation Corp**

*Peter Gonze*

**June 20**

NCC-Pocono Campus, Tannersville

**1955 Flood Through the Lens  
of Albert Koster: Then & Now**

*David Koster*

**July 18**

Stroud Ford Auto Park, Stroudsburg

**History of the SS United States  
America's Greatest Ocean Liner**

*Dan McSweeney*

**September 19**

Middle Smithfield Community Center

**African American Community  
in Monroe County**

*Jeffrey Wright*

**October 17**

Monroe Co. Bar Assn., Stroudsburg

**History of Public Defenders  
in Monroe County**

*Michael Muth*

## MCHA Rocks! Literally and Figuratively

By **Russell D. Scott III**

*Outgoing MCHA Board President*

Some may recall when the Stroud Mansion was damaged due to issues with the building's chimney. The MCHA Board of Directors hired Anderson Masonry for repairs, but after a week of work, John Anderson reported that the massive stone chimney that supported seven flues was dangerously unstable and had to be removed.

It was determined the best course of action was to remove the chimney to the roofline, install a temporary roof, and reevaluate it later.

With the construction of the Heritage Center underway, the old chimney stones had to be moved from the yard. Volunteers spent an afternoon loading them so they could be transported off-site. When it is time to rebuild the chimney, these rocks will be returned to their old home atop the Mansion.

Now, here is why the Monroe County Historical Association rocks. The outstanding accomplishments of this organization are nothing short of amazing. We continue to grow as we reach more and more people to share our history. The construction of the Heritage Center will allow more to explore our past, the elevator will ensure all have access to the



Ken Sandri and John Hamilton pass the old chimney rocks to young volunteers Brent Hamilton and Nathaniel Leiser to transport them offsite during construction.

entire building, and the high-traffic areas, such as the community room and library, will be moved to help preserve the old structure.

What seemed unsurmountable has become a reality. To receive funding in excess of \$7 million dollars while operating on an annual budget under \$300,000 is more than impressive. This shows our commitment, dedication, and support for the Heritage Center and the improved access to our area's past.



As my term on the Board of Directors ends, let me thank all our membership and supporters for your efforts to support the Monroe County Historical Association. When the organization was formed a century ago, I am not sure they ever envisioned it thriving to the extent it has today. The next 100 years has begun.



# 2024 PEP Award

## 1962 Cartwright Home

The Historical Association’s 2024 Preserve, Enhance, Promote Award recognized a solar-designed modernist home completed in 1962 by David Churchill Cartwright, now owned and preserved by his son and daughter-in-law, Brett Cartwright and Jean Turn.

The Minisink Hills home is unique. Cartwright (1920-1975), who was not trained in architecture or engineering, conceived and built the house himself. The passive single-story solar home is considered early in the U.S. environmentally sustainable movement. No other such home designed and constructed by one individual is known to exist.

The foundation is concrete and stone, and the walls of the house were constructed using conventional wood framing. The exterior sheathing is vertical pine siding with a clear natural finish. The low-pitched roof is rubber membrane; originally it was tar and paper.



2024 PEP Award Winner — The David Churchill Cartwright House, Minisink Hills.

The front facade is functional more than decorative. The southeast-facing walls have large glass panes to maximize the sun’s energy to warm the house in the winter, spring, and autumn. A wide overhanging roof reduces the sun’s rays from penetrating during the summer.

David Cartwright’s design and orientation of the house required calculations to understand the sun’s path and declination in the sky. This occurred well before the first Earth Day and the recent conservation of resources movement.



Homeowner Brett Cartwright, left, with Ken Sandri, MCHA Board member and historic preservation specialist.

## Welcome, New Members

Jim & Joan Agins  
Scott Amick & David Baker  
John M. Anzivino  
Frank & Adele Azarelo  
Jeanne French Berry  
Daniel & Maria Bickart  
Vanessa Capriglione  
Brett Cartwright & Jean Turn  
Antonette Mildred  
& Michael Lee Caswell  
Sara Cornell  
Debby Cullen  
Richard T. Davies, Jr  
Jeffrey Allen & Melanie Davis  
Jennifer & Gary Dillon  
Terrence & Maryann Fagan

Gabrielle Ferrara  
John & Josephine Ferro  
Barbara & Nicholas Fredericks  
Stephen Gallagher & Karen Lemke  
D. Lynn Gibbons  
Mark & Julie Golin  
Marguerite Hope  
Robert N. & Janice K. Hosier  
Amy & Cortland Huffman  
Alyce Iannone  
Stacey Johnson  
Cindy Knecht  
David Koster  
Martha LaBar  
Mary C. LaBar

Carole & Richard Ludwig  
Anna Lukasiak  
Fallon Maggio  
Amy & Joel Manson  
Carole McGarry  
Dan McSweeney  
Anita Mignat  
D’Lane Miller & Ed Chandler  
Edwin James Montalvo, Jr.  
Kelly Murmello  
Andrew & Eileen Mutch  
Christopher Nicholson  
& Elizabeth White  
Patricia O’Shea & Joel Cardillo  
DeWitt & Jean Paul  
Gregory Quire

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Frank & Joan Revitt  
Barbara & James Roberts  
Kate Rosset & Patrick Forney  
Donna Sadawski  
Tim Sanders  
Douglas & Britney Searles  
Mark Skesavage  
Matt Sobrinski  
Nathan Strunk  
Margaret Tidd  
Elizabeth Tilley  
Melody Trunfio  
Caroline Whitmore  
Rodger & Judith Wright  
Kietryn Zychal



# A history of 748 Main St., our temporary home

**By Tania Shelton**  
*Research Librarian  
and Social Media Coordinator*

Although the Stroud Mansion is closed during construction of the Heritage Center addition, the staff remains hard at work from our temporary second-floor headquarters at 748 Main Street in Stroudsburg. Our offices and research library continue to operate there, serving the community for the duration of the construction project.

We are grateful to ESSA Bank & Trust for the use of this wonderful space. As historians, we couldn't wait to find out more about the earlier years of this property. So we searched our records to see what we could learn about the history of the building, which includes both 748 Main Street (the upstairs, where our offices are located), as well as its downstairs counterpart, 746 Main Street.

The historic maps in our collection revealed that this section of Main Street near 8th was once owned by Stogdell Stokes, who came to Stroudsburg from Bucks County in 1816 and soon became one of the area's most prominent citizens. He was heavily engaged in the local business and civic life, founding Stokes Mill, a successful flour and grist mill on Brodhead Creek in Stroud Township. He was founder, director, and president of Stroudsburg National Bank; helped start the Jeffersonian Republican newspaper; and worked toward the formation of Monroe County in 1836 and the establishment of Stroudsburg as its county seat.

But first, upon his arrival, Stogdell Stokes built his home and established a general store in the approximate location of where this building is now. The general store, selling dry goods,



The MCHA's temporary home is on the second floor at 748 Main Street, in the building to the west of ESSA Bank & Trust.

Below, Biggs' American Restaurant, which occupied the building from 1923-1966.

groceries, hardware and more, was a successful family business for many years. His son, John, took over when Stokes was appointed associate judge in 1849. Stokes remained in his Main Street home until around 1877, when he moved to Moorestown, N.J., to live with his daughter, Martha.

We believe that the current building was constructed in the 1880s when it became an office of the United States Express Company, with Archibald Jansen as its agent. Jansen operated the office on the first floor, and he and his wife, Eliza, lived upstairs. After Jansen's death in 1900, tailor Freeman Arnold set up shop downstairs, while Mrs. Jansen continued to live above. By 1912, the shop had moved, and the building served as a residence for a few years.

Then, in 1923, it became home to a beloved local eatery that still lives fondly in many local memories: Biggs' American Restaurant

Established by Theresa and George Biggs and operated with their seven daughters, the restaurant remained a popular spot for a delicious Main Street meal for more than 40 years. Like the Jansens before them, the Biggs family resided upstairs. Biggs' American Restaurant closed in 1966.



The building then housed a succession of businesses and organizations, including the Alice-Anne Shoppe, Groner's Dress Shop, the Carbon-Monroe-Pike Mental Health Board, the Monroe County Children's Bureau, Pocono Scenicards & Photographics, and Greta's Women's Apparel, before being purchased by ESSA Bank & Trust.

We are proud to be part of the rich history of this property. If you have memories about this building and its occupants, please share them with us!



# Sponsors of the MCHA



**Premier Sponsor**  
\$5,000  
Skytop Lodge Resort

## Past Premier Sponsors

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2021 | Pocono Raceway  
2019 | Buck Hill Falls  
2018 | Bushkill Falls  
2017 | Camelback Resort

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### Preservation Advocate | \$2,000

Anonymous  
ESSA Bank & Trust

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West End Fair Association

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Stroud Township

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East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania  
Northampton Community College  
Pocono Mountain School District

### Small Business

Barley Creek Brewing Company  
Bentzoni Machine, LLC  
Deer Head Inn  
FRM Group Insurance and Financial Services  
Ken and Company Salon  
Pocono Magazines, LLC  
Ray Price Cars

### Grants

Ann and Joseph Farda Foundation  
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Monroe County Commissioners  
Monroe County Industrial Development Authority  
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  
R. Dale and Frances M. Hughes Foundation  
The Weiler Family Foundation





## *Mansion moves — all but Monroe Mouse*



Monroe Mouse here. I'm scurrying around a mostly empty mansion these days. Things sure are different. My family has packed up and left, but I see new faces working hard everywhere I look. I've seen a lot in the past year ...

Let's start at the beginning. A year ago, I learned that the Stroud Mansion would temporarily close its doors. This was so we could build a beautiful Heritage Center addition to the Stroud Mansion. This new building will even have an elevator! Everyone worked so hard planning this project, and I overheard many a meeting making sure everything was just right.

Then I heard them say we would have to pack up the mansion. I had to decide, should I leave too and travel to the temporary office? On the other hand, perhaps I should stay here, in my home, and keep an eye on things?

I decided to stay, and I would love to share with you the incredible project of packing up the Stroud Mansion that I witnessed last year. Talk about a well-oiled machine!

Let's think about the task that was at hand. Five floors of a 18th Century building, full of artifacts, artwork, papers, books, furnishings - everything you could imagine! I'm just a little mouse, and I can barely think about a project so big!

Before the staff and volunteers could even pack a box, they needed to assess what exactly they had in their charge and strategize how to best care for each item and safely transport it out of the Mansion. All five floors of it! That's a whole lot of problem-solving! While this might seem like a backward method, the staff and volunteers first had to think about unpacking and how to make that process easy for everyone.

And that's when they formed a fabulous idea. As each box was carefully filled, they would mark it with a specific color of duct tape so that each exhibition room or category of items could be easily identified. I had no idea there were so many different colors of duct tape available! The library books received one color, the artifacts in the Victorian Parlor were assigned another color, the lightbulbs from the upstairs closet were yet another color, and so on.

The staff and a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers worked tirelessly for months. They packed up the library, the seemingly endless files, and shelves of books so that guests could continue to research at the temporary location. They boxed the offices so our Historical Association could continue functioning and serving our members and friends in the temporary offices. Attics, bathrooms, kitchens, closets, - nothing was forgotten. Even the holiday decorations had to be packed away! The museum and its thousands of artifacts were all carefully wrapped.

I loved being there for this flurry of activity! Seeing everyone rallying together daily to make this happen was awe-inspiring. There was terrific teamwork and much collaboration.

And finally, one day, they were done! The boxes went into moving trucks, and everything was kept safe until they are ready to be displayed and used again.

And I stayed behind in my beloved Stroud Mansion, excited for each new day and the ongoing activity I would witness. I'll keep you updated and let you know all the new developments at the Stroud Mansion. Until next time!



# Downtown Walking Tours return with warm weather

Step back in time with our Walking Tours of Historic Stroudsburg! The Monroe County Historical Association is pleased to offer tours three days a week — Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 2 p.m. and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

Knowledgeable tour guides will lead you through the charming streets and tell fascinating stories about Stroudsburg's rich history. From the iconic buildings that have stood the test of time to lesser-known landmarks,

you'll discover it all on this one-of-a-kind experience. This is a great activity if you have out-of-town guests visiting!

Tours begin at the Monroe County Historical Association's temporary office at 748 Main Street, Stroudsburg. Reservations encouraged. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$8 seniors 65+, \$5 for youth 7-17, and children 6 and under are free.

Reserve your spot now, and let's hit the pavement together!

## Looking for guides

Do you have an extra hour or two to offer a week to become a walking tour guide?

We'd like to expand the times these tours are offered.

All guides are trained and partnered with another guide.

Call 570-421-7703.

### MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

[admin@monroehistorical.org](mailto:admin@monroehistorical.org) • 570-421-7703 • [www.monroehistorical.org](http://www.monroehistorical.org)

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