James Monroe (1799-1870) Family Papers

Manuscripts and Rare Books Department
Swem Library
The College of William and Mary in Virginia

Form of material and dates: Papers, 1806-1860. Correspondence, primarily 1823-1845, of James Monroe (1799-1870), Army officer, U.S. Representative from New York, and nephew of President James Monroe (1758-1831). Letters relate to Monroe's military career, family life, and politics. Correspondents include Francis Barber Ogden (1783-1857), Elizabeth (Kortright) Monroe (1768-1830), and Monroe's nephew, also named James Monroe.

Acc. no.; Number of items; Date Received; Source
83-60; 35 items; Nov. 1983; Purchased from Brick Row Bookshop.

Processed by: Debra Perry, 1984.
Copyright information:
Microforms available:
Other remarks:
JAMES MONROE (1799-1870) FAMILY PAPERS, 1806-1860

Folder 1

[1806?]. [?], to "Brother" [?]. News of his children - George, who is preparing for the Seminary; William, who is improving at school; and his daughters, who are "old enough to show their friends what they have to expect from them"; detailed discussion concerning the administration of their brother's vast estate, involving Mr. Troup, his attorney, and a Dr. Tillary and a Mr. Scott. 4pp. L. Incomplete.

[ca. 1814]. [Eliza (Kortright) Monroe], n.p., to her nephew, James [Monroe, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.]. His uncle [James Monroe] thinks he should come for the week-end to visit with them, as well as Fanny [sister?]; mentions "the last number published by Lockharts Sir Walter [?]" and refers him to that for advice; hopes he has enough respect for her to follow her advice and uphold the name of "James Monroe," listing the following concerns: continuing to refrain from consuming liquor; always paying in full so as to not go into debt; refraining from gambling; avoiding attachments with women; not spreading rumors; attending church, reading the Bible and praying; trusting no one until he knows they can be trusted; and keeping family affairs private. 4pp. AL. Drf.

28 February 1823. Ch[arles] J. Power [?], Adj. General, N.Y., to Lt. J[ame]s Monroe, Arsenal U.S. Army, New York. Has nothing further to say concerning the pay of the aide-de-camp and the acting Adj[utant] Gen[eral]; hopes that his move to the arsenal will prove agreeable to both him and Mrs. Monroe; inquires about an order for transportation to New York. 1p. ALS.

16 April 1823. Peter Clark, Utica, [N.Y.], to James Monroe, Junior, New York, [N.Y.]. Discusses his "investigation of the general titles to land estates in the great state of New York"; makes reference to a Mr. Abel and Mr. Otis. 2pp. ALS.

23 July 1823. L[ieutenant] [James] Monroe Jr., [sic] U[ntited] States Arsenal, New York, to Dr. Joseph Lowell, Sur[geon] General, USA, Washington, D.C. Has been told by Mr. Gate, the aide-de-camp of Gen. Scott, that correspondence between him [JM] and the recipient concerning Dr. Dayton and payment had been forwarded to Gen. Scott by the Secretary of War; also understands that further correspondence between Dr. Dayton and the recipient were also forwarded, in which the Mr. Dayton referred to him [JM] in not very "delicate...language"; inquires if his office normally retains and/or forwards correspondence to outsiders without
sending copies to those directly affected. 2pp. ALS.

26 August 1825. E.B. Mayo, "Belville," Rich[mond], Va., to Lieut. James Monroe, Governors Island, New York. Had an enjoyable time staying at his [JM] quarters; discusses his journey home from N.Y. through Trenton, Baltimore, and ending in Virginia; announces shipment of half dozen Virginia hams and sweet potatoes on the schooner Fly which sets sail Sept. 2; will announce shipment of dogs after checking on his kennels. 2pp. ALS.


15 Dec[ember] 1829. Fra[nclis] B[arber] Ogden, Liverpool, [Eng.], to [James] Monroe, n.p. Mentions the voyages of several ships including the Florida, John Jay, Caledonia, Canada, and Manchester; mentions the passage of Mrs. Douglas and Miss Margaret [?] and includes rumors that she is marrying; states Mrs. Douglas' condition of health is low but everything possible is being done to make her comfortable. 3pp. ALS.


1 June 1830. Fra[nclis] B[arber] Ogden, Liverpool, [Eng.], to [Eliza (Douglas Monroe), n.p. Describes outing with his friends, including a description of the English countryside; relates the life story of Miss [Sarah] Ponsonby and Lady Eleanor Butler. 4pp. ALS.

3 April 1834. W. [?], New Orleans, [La.], to [Eliza (Douglas)] Monroe, (Mrs. James), New York, [N.Y.]. Mentions Scheepin[?] entering political life and his meeting with Col. Worth; mentions daughter Julia; expresses wishes concerning "the enemy" and "the sultan" [?]; describes weather conditions; mentions Jimbo [?], his political career, and the state of the country. 3pp. ALS.

his father [James Monroe], n.p. Discusses studies at school. 2pp. ALS.

Folder 2

25 June 1836. William D. Monroe, Jamaica, [N.Y.], to his father, James Monroe, New York, [N.Y.]. Discusses his studies, and work he would have to make up to come home for the 4th of July; also mentions a Mr. Luck[?]; would like another basket of cherries. 2pp. ALS.


1 Nov. 1837. Ja[mes] Monroe, New Rochelle, [N.Y.], to Mr. Halliday, n.p. Forbids him to use the Monroe name in any connection with the previous incident [?]. concerning his daughter; warns him to be careful of judgements because his past misunderstandings have led him into error before. 4pp. ALS.

4 June 1839. J. Monroe, Jr., Fort Atkinson, Tallahassee, Flo[rida], to his aunt, E[liza] M. (Douglas) Monroe, New York. His Regiment will leave Florida soon, and be stationed in Trenton, N[ew] Jersey; information concerning the American and Indian war in Florida and the constant killings, despite the treaty; mentions the Seminoles, MckinRics[?], and Hostida bruka; other information concerning the war, such as withdrawal of troops and the capture of tribes. 3pp. ALS.

15 Sept. [18]42. A. Loomis [?], Little Falls, N.Y., to James Monroe, New York, [N.Y.]. Concerns a business adventure dealing with mortgages and deeds; mentions a Mr. Deveureux[?]. 1p. ALS.

28 September 1843. E[liza] M. (Douglas) Monroe, Farmwood, to William [Thompson] Van Zandt, n.p. States she wouldn't have had to send him the previous letter if he had ceased pursuing their daughter [Fanny] as they requested; expresses belief that eventually it will be like the situation never occurred and he will be welcome at Farmwood again. 3pp. ALS.

22 December 1843. Fanny Monroe, Farmwood, to William [Thompson] Van Zandt, n.p. She can no longer receive his visits except as a friend after reaching an understanding with her parents. 1p. ALS.


[23 Dec. 1843?]. [William Thompson] V[an] Z[andt], n.p., to Mrs. Ja[me]s [Eliza M. (Douglas)] Monroe, n.p. Explains his affection for her daughter [Fanny] and expresses his grief at their opinion of him; states he will obey their wishes, but hopes they will do him justice and reevaluate their opinion of his motives. 3pp. ACyS of L.

8 June 1844. [Eliza M. (Douglas) Monroe], Farmwood, to [?]. States that Mr. Monroe doesn't approve of Mr. V[an] Z[andt] visiting his daughter [Fanny], but if visits must occur, they may only take place at Farmwood; he also feels V[an] Z[andt] is in no position "to ask any lady to take his name." 2pp. AL.

Folder 3

28 July 1845. E[liza] M. (Douglas) Monroe, New York, to [William Thompson Van Zandt], n.p. Concerns her meeting with him; has decided to let him see her daughter [Fanny] as "any other gentleman," but states all understanding will be lost if his intentions appear to be those of an "intended lover." 1p. ALS.

29 July 1845. W[illiam] Thompson Van Zandt, New York, to [Eliza M. (Douglas) Monroe (Mrs. James), n.p. Assumed an understanding concerning their daughter [Fanny] could be reached after speaking with Dr. Mutter; now that he realizes they will oppose every effort or reconciliation, he intends to ask their daughter to marry, with or without their consent, as soon as he is in a position to do so. 2pp. ALS.

22 August 1845. W[illiam] Thompson Van Zandt, New York, to [Eliza M. (Douglas)] Monroe (Mrs. James), Farmwood. Received her letter of the eleventh; has had no communication with Dr. Mutter since their last interview.
24 Sept. 1845. William Douglas, Henderson Home, to "Sister" [Eliza M. (Douglas)] Monroe (Mrs. James), New York, [N.Y.]. Has heard that their daughter, Fanny, was in town, and she may have met with Mr. Van Zandt; suggests they send Fanny to stay with him to prevent further meetings. 1p. ALS.

26 Jan[uary] 1850. Samuel W[ilson] Parker, [?] New York, to James Monroe, n.p. Writes as a constituent, expressing his opposition at prohibiting slavery, and his feelings towards those who wish to prohibit it. 4pp. ALS.

[ante 1853]. Mary L.[?], Albany, [N.Y.], to [Eliza M. (Douglas)] Monroe, Balston Spa, [N.Y.]. Concerns a projected visit to Lebanon[?]; lists complaints about the living conditions from people who have just returned from there; states Miss Melson's brother isn't there; more about travels. 3pp. ALS.

28 Nov. 1860. G.G.W. Duttes[?], Dunboynes [?], to James Monroe, New York, [N.Y.]. Concerns the issue of slavery; refers to [Lincoln] as "a low, ignorant, and obscure man, known only as a "Rail Splitter"; Cha[rlie]s Sumner as a "coward", and [William Henry] Seward as an "arch-traitor"; believes a civil war is inevitable and refers to the pending difficulties between the North and the South; family news and information about previous travels; mentions that if Mr. [John C.] Breckinridge had won, Edward [?] would have had a promotion, but the diplomatic career of Edward [?], the Sec. of Legation at Berlin, will end with [James] Buchanan's presidency. 8pp. ALS.