



Runion

The Bringing Eliza Home Project

The Goal of the Project is to Return the Remains of Eliza Monroe Hay from Père Lachaise Cemetery, Paris, France, to the Monroe Family Plot, Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, Virginia.

Eliza Monroe Hay was the eldest child of Elizabeth Kortright Monroe and James Monroe, the fifth president of the United States. During Monroe's presidency, Elizabeth suffered declining health.



Eliza and her family moved into the White House, and assisted Elizabeth Monroe with the duties of First Lady during the eight years of her father's presidency, from 1817 to 1825.

The Monroes re-established stricter White House rules than the "open door" policies of the previous First Lady, Dolley Madison. This new etiquette was implemented in part due to Elizabeth Monroe's declining health, and in part to restore formal protocols of the Washington presidency. The public perceived these changes as limiting access to the President and the First Lady, and resulted in Mrs. Monroe being dubbed "Queen Elizabeth."

Eliza, especially, bore the brunt of scathing disapproval from Washington diplomatic circles.

Strong willed and confident, Eliza withstood the criticism, and steadfastly carried out her parents' directives. Yet Eliza was remarkably giving and caring. She gained increasing admiration for her nursing of the sick: for family, for friends, and, during two epidemics, for the people of Washington. She possessed admirable qualities: a sense of duty and loyalty, strength of character and fortitude, and compassion for the sick and suffering. Despite her good deeds and generosity, the criticisms continued long past her White House years.

Then, beginning in 1830, Eliza suffered the deaths of her mother, her father, and her husband within ten months; and three years later, the death of her only child. Due to complicated circumstances, Eliza was denied her inheritance from her father. The echo of rumors and criticism still resonated, and few came to her defense. She navigated the complicated standing of widows and women in legal affairs, yet her attempts to assert her rightful heritage were repeatedly thwarted.

She spent much of her limited funds on lawyers trying to obtain her inheritance. As her hopes for restitution faded, and her own health began to decline, she was advised to take a sea voyage to help restore her health. In 1838, she sailed to France, where she had lived during her father's diplomatic postings abroad.

When a child in Paris, Eliza had received an excellent French education, and had been acquainted with influential society and nobility. Her privileged early years and her White House service, her societal standing, and her many talents, in the end, mattered little. Her self-confidence as a progressive woman in a world that valued feminine subservience set her apart from societal norms, and she faced her declining years with no male champion.

Creation of a sense of patriotic duty and historical excitement are also goals.

Eliza Monroe Hay died penniless and with no nearby family, in Paris, on January 27, 1840. She was 53.

Eliza was interred in a modest grave in the American section of Père Lachaise Cemetery. Her funeral and burial were arranged through the goodwill of Daniel Brent, who was then serving as American Consul in Paris. Brent had known Monroe since his presidency, and honored his daughter with a dignified, yet modest, interment.



Fredericksburg Home where the Monroes lived 1786-90.



The story behind her indigent end is one with multiple facets. Much of her story has not previously been told. With diligent research and with access to newly discovered primary sources, the true set of circumstances of Eliza's life has been revealed and recorded.

To honor this daughter of President James Monroe, to re-



Monroe family plot in
Hollywood Cemetery

establish her reputation and standing, and to rightfully restore her to her family of origin, this project has as its principal goal to repatriate the remains of this American daughter.

The Bringing Eliza Home Project

Find Out More!

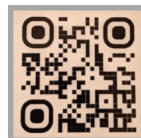
 The Bringing Eliza Home Project

<https://hffi.org/bringing-eliza-home/>

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Mailing address for inquiries and tax-deductible donations, payable to HFFI:

HFFI—Bringing Eliza Home
1200 Caroline Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401



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and online tax-
deductible donations.

WE ARE GRATEFUL

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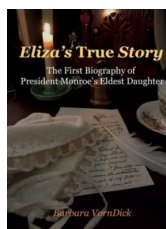
What Is Needed

We estimate that the total cost of this project is about \$15,000-\$20,000.

Details about elements of the project and budget estimates, as well as a formal proposal and other supporting documents are available on request.

Resources for the Project

- In-kind contributions and sponsorships
- Support from individual donors, historical groups, and civic entities
- PowerPoint talks to groups on request
- Details about program elements, brochures, budget, formal proposal, and other planning documents on request.



For Further Reading:

Eliza's True Story:

The First Biography of President Monroe's Eldest Daughter

By Barbara VornDick

Coordinator, *The Bringing Eliza Home Project*

Published by Barnes & Noble

ISBN-13 9781732924345

Five years of digging through letters, court documents, and archives on both sides of the Atlantic uncovered documents buried for two centuries that revealed a tantalizing story: medical conditions carefully hidden from public view; a president who dared to offend foreign dignitaries to protect his beloved wife; and a dutiful daughter reduced to poverty by betrayal.

Extraordinarily well-researched and packed with primary sources, this true story of Eliza rewrites history, and reflects the tragic situation of women in the 1800s who were often at the mercy of the men in charge of their rights to property and survival. Eliza's true story is one you will not soon forget.

—Barnes & Noble