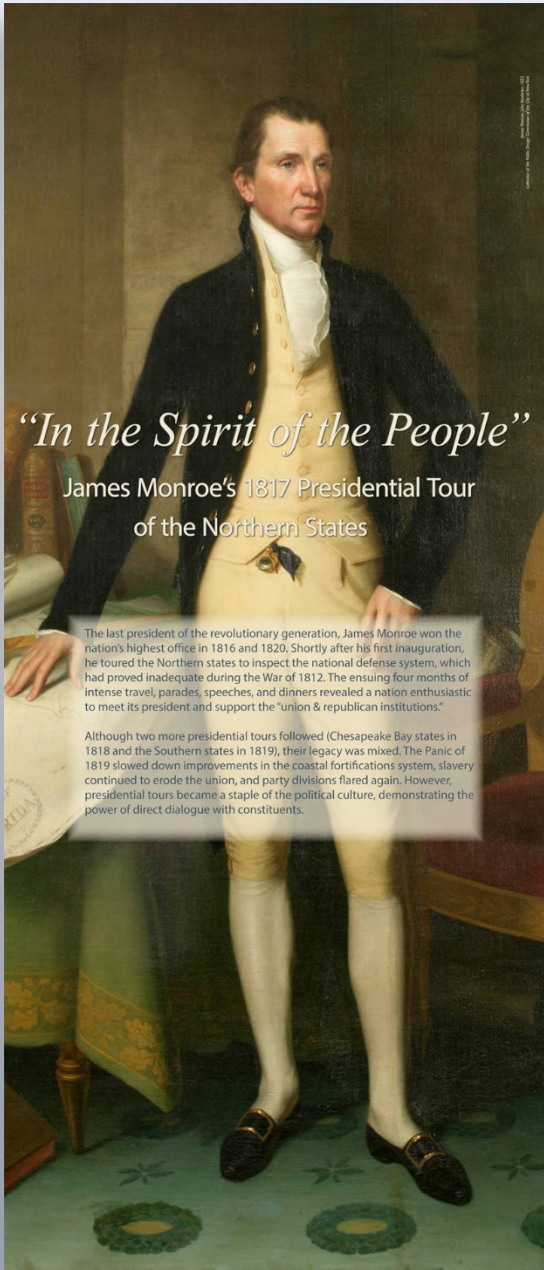


# St. Lawrence Co. Historical Assoc Presents

## *In the Spirit of the People*

James Monroe's 1817 Presidential Tour of the Northern States



### *"In the Spirit of the People"*

James Monroe's 1817 Presidential Tour  
of the Northern States

The last president of the revolutionary generation, James Monroe won the nation's highest office in 1816 and 1820. Shortly after his first inauguration, he toured the Northern states to inspect the national defense system, which had proved inadequate during the War of 1812. The ensuing four months of intense travel, parades, speeches, and dinners revealed a nation enthusiastic to meet its president and support the "union & republican institutions."

Although two more presidential tours followed (Chesapeake Bay states in 1818 and the Southern states in 1819), their legacy was mixed. The Panic of 1819 slowed down improvements in the coastal fortifications system, slavery continued to erode the union, and party divisions flared again. However, presidential tours became a staple of the political culture, demonstrating the power of direct dialogue with constituents.

The exhibit is a joint project of The James Monroe Museum and The Papers of James Monroe, both of which are administered by the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Students in the university's museum studies program worked on all aspects of *In the Spirit of the People*, from research and image acquisition to writing content and graphic design.

On exhibit from August 8<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
at the SLCHA, 3 East Main St., Canton

### ***"An Evening with President Monroe"***

(interpreter Dennis Bigelow)

Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm

### ***"Madison & Monroe"***

(David Button)

Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon

### ***"The Monroe Doctrine"***

(James Monroe, Esq.)

Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon

### ***"The North Country in 1817 & the Rossie Iron Works"*** (Art Johnson & Jim Carl)

Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon

For more information call 315/386-8133 or  
email [info@slcha.org](mailto:info@slcha.org)

### **"Era of Good Feelings"**

James Monroe became the **fifth president** of the United States in March, 1817. Three months later he embarked on a **fifteen-week tour of the northern states**, traveling **more than 2,000 miles**.

Americans came out by the thousands, for the opportunity to see the president. Political differences were forgotten as Americans of both parties joined together in grand celebrations marked by parades, speeches, dinners, balls, receptions, and concerts. A Boston newspaper coined the phrase **"Era of Good Feelings"** to describe the national unity created by Monroe's tour.



The Papers  
of James Monroe

