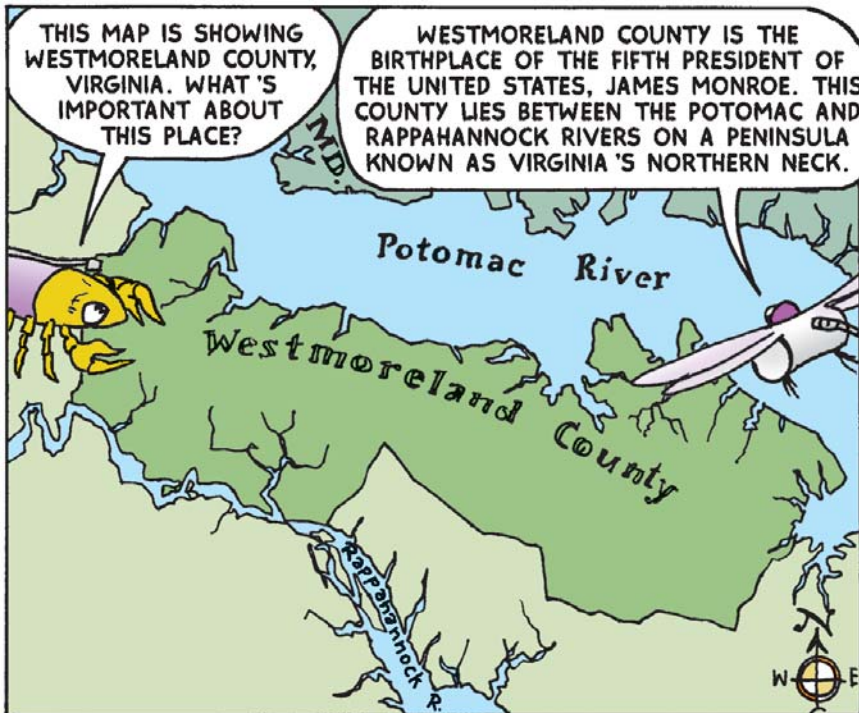
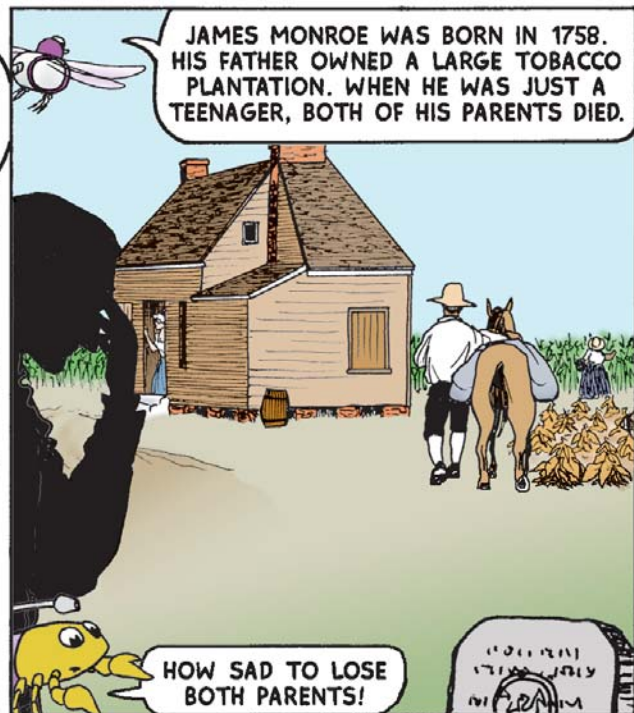


THIS MAP IS SHOWING WESTMORELAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA. WHAT'S IMPORTANT ABOUT THIS PLACE?

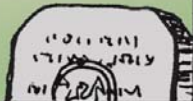
WESTMORELAND COUNTY IS THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE FIFTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, JAMES MONROE. THIS COUNTY LIES BETWEEN THE POTOMAC AND RAPPAHANNOCK RIVERS ON A PENINSULA KNOWN AS VIRGINIA'S NORTHERN NECK.



JAMES MONROE WAS BORN IN 1758. HIS FATHER OWNED A LARGE TOBACCO PLANTATION. WHEN HE WAS JUST A TEENAGER, BOTH OF HIS PARENTS DIED.

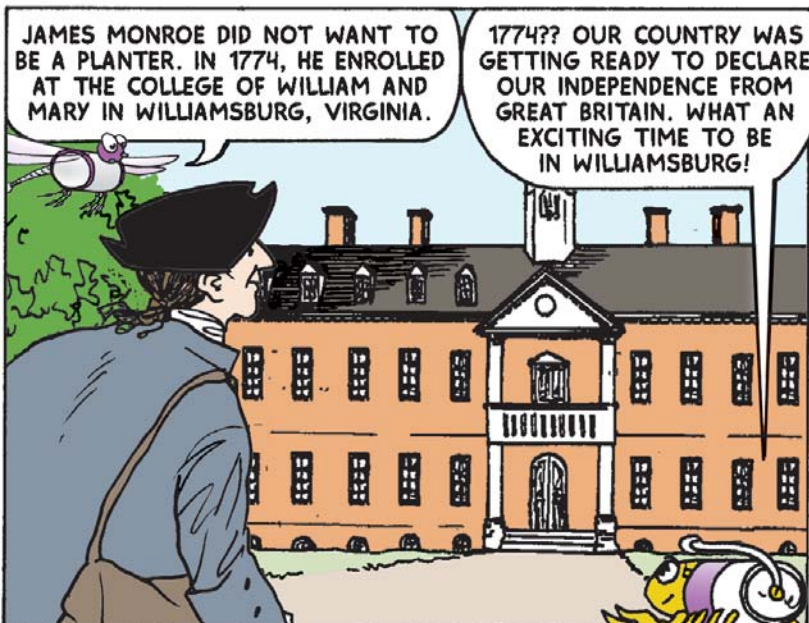


HOW SAD TO LOSE BOTH PARENTS!

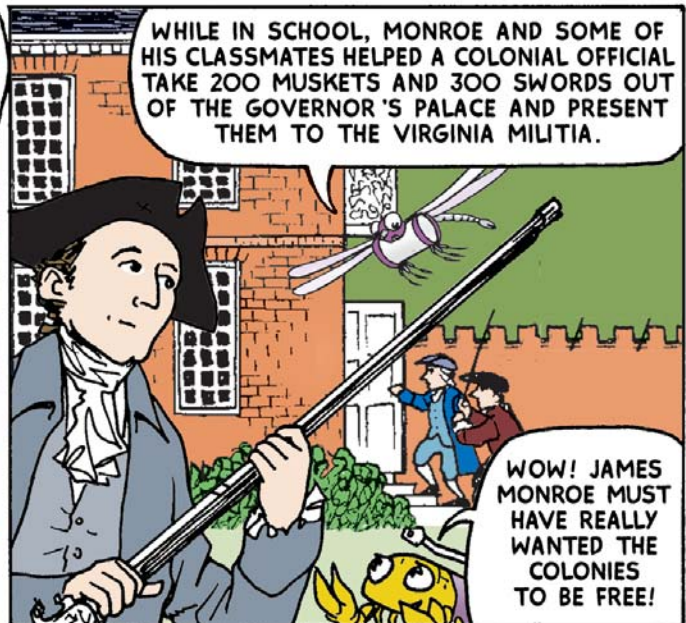


JAMES MONROE DID NOT WANT TO BE A PLANTER. IN 1774, HE ENROLLED AT THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY IN WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA.

1774?? OUR COUNTRY WAS GETTING READY TO DECLARE OUR INDEPENDENCE FROM GREAT BRITAIN. WHAT AN EXCITING TIME TO BE IN WILLIAMSBURG!



WHILE IN SCHOOL, MONROE AND SOME OF HIS CLASSMATES HELPED A COLONIAL OFFICIAL TAKE 200 MUSKETS AND 300 SWORDS OUT OF THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE AND PRESENT THEM TO THE VIRGINIA MILITIA.



WOW! JAMES MONROE MUST HAVE REALLY WANTED THE COLONIES TO BE FREE!

MONROE KNEW THAT BEING AN INDEPENDENT NATION WAS NOT GOING TO BE EASY. HE KNEW THAT HE MUST HELP, SO HE DECIDED TO ENLIST IN THE COLONIAL ARMY IN 1776.

**militia
VOLUNTEERS!**

JAMES MONROE WAS GOING TO FIGHT FOR OUR COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE!

IN DECEMBER, 1776, MONROE WAS WITH GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON AS HE CROSSED THE DELAWARE RIVER TO BATTLE WITH THE BRITISH TROOPS.

SOUNDS VERY DANGEROUS TO ME! I HOPE JAMES MONROE KNOWS WHAT HE IS GETTING INTO!


HE STAYED WITH GENERAL WASHINGTON'S TROOPS AT VALLEY FORGE DURING THE HARSH WINTER. IT WAS A TERRIBLE TIME FOR THE AMERICAN TROOPS AND MANY DIED FROM STARVATION AND EXPOSURE... BUT JAMES MONROE SURVIVED!

THAT'S GOOD NEWS!

AT THE END OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR, JAMES MONROE HAD BEEN PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF MAJOR, BUT HE WANTED TO RETURN TO VIRGINIA.

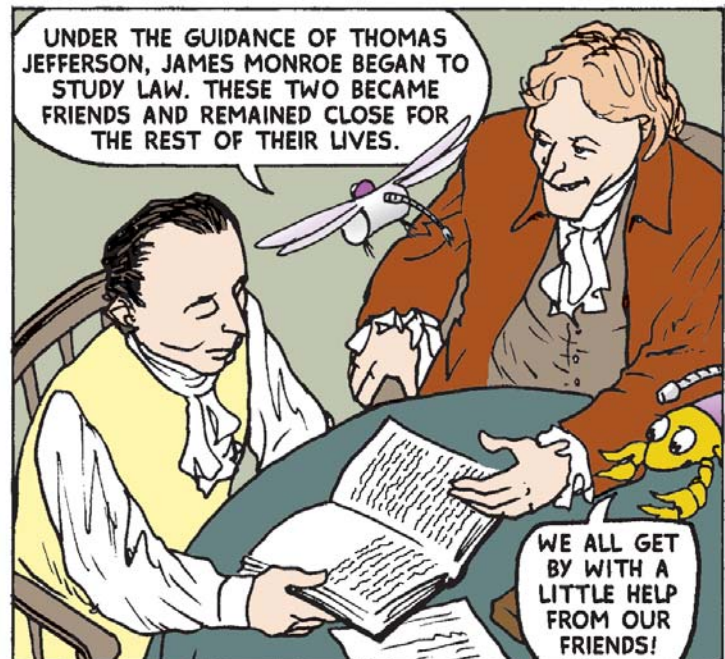
War Ends in Win!

I GUESS IT'S TRUE, THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME!



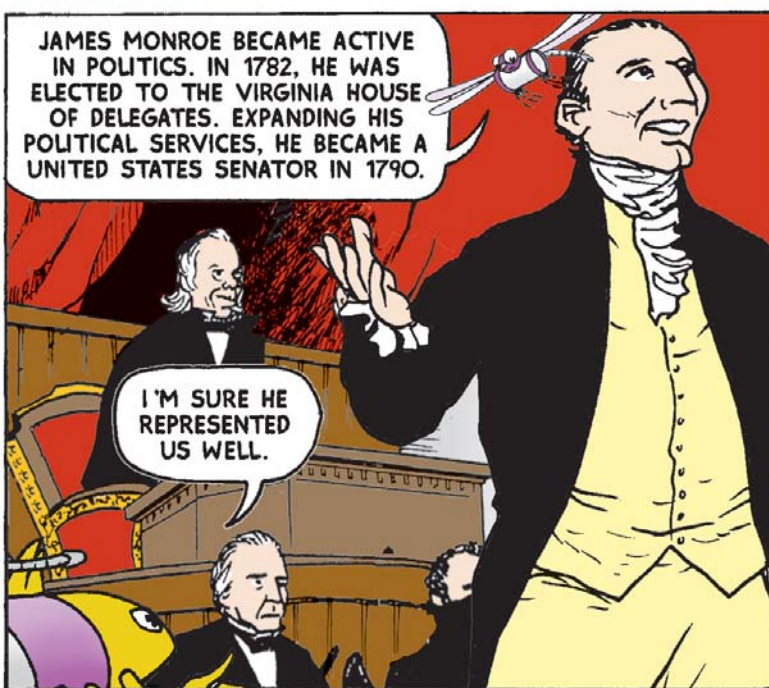
AFTER THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR WAS OVER, JAMES MONROE RETURNED TO WILLIAMSBURG WHERE HE MET THOMAS JEFFERSON.

I'LL BET THEY HIT IT OFF.



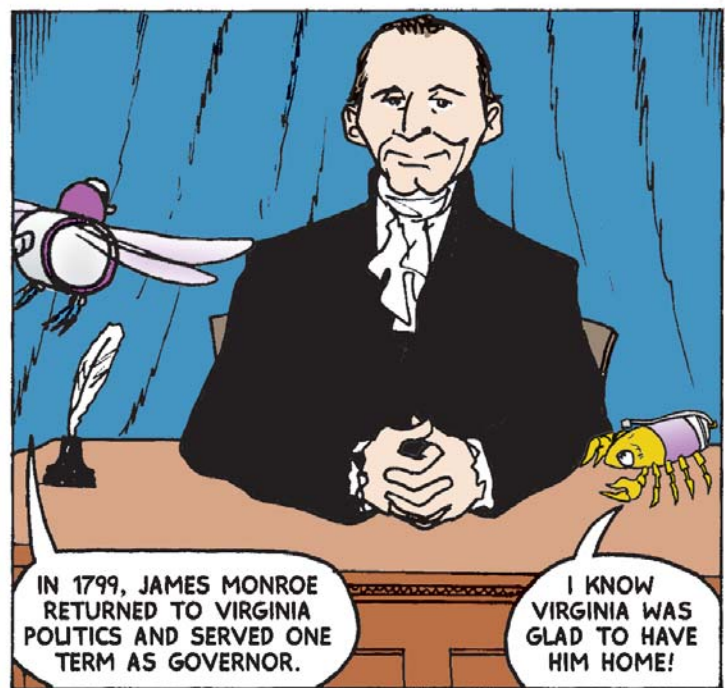
UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THOMAS JEFFERSON, JAMES MONROE BEGAN TO STUDY LAW. THESE TWO BECAME FRIENDS AND REMAINED CLOSE FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES.

WE ALL GET BY WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS!



JAMES MONROE BECAME ACTIVE IN POLITICS. IN 1782, HE WAS ELECTED TO THE VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES. EXPANDING HIS POLITICAL SERVICES, HE BECAME A UNITED STATES SENATOR IN 1790.

I'M SURE HE REPRESENTED US WELL.



IN 1799, JAMES MONROE RETURNED TO VIRGINIA POLITICS AND SERVED ONE TERM AS GOVERNOR.

I KNOW VIRGINIA WAS GLAD TO HAVE HIM HOME!

AFTER SERVING AS THE GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA, JAMES MONROE RETURNED TO NATIONAL POLITICS. HE HELPED NEGOTIATE THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE FROM FRANCE!

I REMEMBER THAT PURCHASE! IT DOUBLED THE SIZE OF THE U.S.!

HE WAS LATER APPOINTED SECRETARY OF STATE AND SECRETARY OF WAR FOR PRESIDENT JAMES MADISON.

IT SOUNDS LIKE HE IS ON THE RIGHT TRACK TO BECOMING PRESIDENT!

JAMES MONROE WAS FIRST ELECTED PRESIDENT IN 1816. HE SERVED THE COUNTRY FOR TWO TERMS.

I KNEW IT! I JUST KNEW HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO THE WHITE HOUSE!

ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS MONROE DID AFTER BEING ELECTED PRESIDENT WAS PLAN A PRESIDENTIAL TOUR. THIS TOUR TOOK 15 WEEKS AND HE MET LOTS OF PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY.

NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL A ROAD TRIP!

