



Lafayette and American technology in 1824
Pier 16 South Street Seaport
Saturday, August 17, 11:00-12:00

When Lafayette first set foot at New York's Castle Garden on August 16, 1824 New York City, and particularly the South Street Seaport, was a center for commerce and the advancement of technology. Robert Fulton's steam ferries, which ran from Fulton Street in Manhattan to Fulton Street in Brooklyn were creating a revolution internationally in worldwide transportation. The Black Ball Line from South Street to Liverpool permitted efficient communication from America to Europe. The Erie Canal, connecting New York harbor with the Great Lakes in 1825 was one of the most audacious engineering projects in world history. This discussion will discuss the connection of Lafayette's 1824-1825 visit with these projects and Lafayette's fascination with American technology and

11:00 to 11:20 **Lafayette's fascination with American technology and legal developments**, particularly Robert Fulton and Robert Livingston's steamboat and their steamboat wars with Cornelius Vanderbilt and Thomas

Gibbons, in New York harbor resulting in the landmark Supreme Court case of Gibbons v. Ogden in 1824 (the date of his arrival) **presented by James S. Kaplan**

11:20 to 11:40 **Lafayette: the Hero of the American and French Revolutions** Lafayette's military career starting with the Battle of Brandywine and ending at Yorktown as well as subsequent developments in France resulting in his almost establishing a French constitutional monarchy but later having to flee to an Austrian jail in the reign of terror. **Presented by Jonathan Kruk, Master storyteller**

11:40 to 12:00. **The Building by the State of New York and Governor De Witt Clinton of the Erie Canal and its impact on New York City and the South Street Seaport.** How Lafayette in 1824 and 1825 was one of the first visitors to the then under construction Erie Canal and was amazed as to how a democratic society could undertake such a visionary project. **Presented by James S. Kaplan, walking tour historian, writer and Chairman of the Lower Manhattan Historical Association**



ERIE CANAL OPENING, 1825.
New York Governor DeWitt Clinton pouring water from Lake Erie into the Atlantic Ocean at the Grand Erie Canal Celebration in New York Harbor, 4 November 1825.