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a vessel passes down the river in the night but should this ever be necessary from any cause, the lights to be erected upon both sides of the draw in my opinion would be of great service, and a help instead of a detriment, in affording to the pilot or master of such vessel a suitable guide to enable him to keep his vessel in the channel of the river. The undersigned would here state that it is a very small share of the navigators of our lakes that are at all familiar with the channel of this river.

The undersigned would state that he has heard that a project is on foot for constructing a ship canal from a point below Fort Erie on the Canada shore to a point still further below, for the double purpose of a water power and of improving the navigation of the river, by locking past the rapids. The undersigned would simply state that it would be a great benefit to all vessels in passing up the river, thus being enabled to avoid the stiff current.

WILLIAM DICKSON.

Acknowledged before me this 18th }  
day of February, 1857,

AMOS T. HOLMES, *Commissioner of Deeds.*

Statement of Capt. John N. Gardner, seventeen years experience as a navigator, and engaged in the commerce of the lakes.

STATE OF NEW-YORK, } ss.:  
City of Buffalo,

John N. Gardner, being duly sworn, deposes and says:—I have sailed upon the lakes for seventeen years in the capacity of sailor, mate and captain. I have been mostly engaged upon sail vessels running from Buffalo to Chicago and the intermediate ports, as well as to the different ports on lake Ontario. I have also been frequently up and down the Niagara river and have become familiar with its currents, channels, shoals and reefs. For the last nine years I have been engaged in the marine insurance business upon the lakes and canals, and for the last two years have been one of *executive committee* of board of lake underwriters. I have heard the statements made and sworn to by Capt. David P. Dobbins, touching the effect upon the navigation of the Niagara river at the point indicated by him, and I fully concur with his statements and opinions as therein set forth and hereto annexed.

JOHN N. GARDNER.

Subscribed and sworn before me this }  
4th day of April, 1857,

F. P. STEVENS *Mayor of Buffalo.*