

those from the eastern states, whose enterprise in trade was proverbial,—made their calculations to arrive at Black Rock in time to take passage on its day of sailing. They brought their goods in their own wagons, and left their teams here two or three months, while they took their goods “out west” and disposed of them. Some hired interpreters and went into the Indian country, and exchanged their merchandise for pelts and furs, doing a very profitable business; they and their goods having been carried through the lakes in sail vessels, before the advent of the steamboat. After the first trip to Detroit she was employed to carry the United States mail; confidence in her success being established. Her speed was from eight to nine miles an hour. She made seven trips to Detroit the first season, and was laid up for the winter in November, 1818, in Conjockety creek.

One or two anecdotes concerning the first appearance of the *Walk-in-the-water* at the upper end of the lake, will be here in place. It was told me that when the *Walk-in-the-water* first made her appearance, going up Detroit river, some one of the native French, residing there, pointing to the boat, said to his associate, “Jean, Jean, just see! what are these Yankees asending us now but a saw mill?” It is said also, that these people were told, by the knowing ones, that the boat was drawn by sturgeons, and that some very readily believed the statement.

It was related to me by one of the pilots, that when the boat first arrived at Detroit she was a wonder to all, and was visited by many who came to see this marvelous craft; and that among the visitors were quite a number of Indians. They manifested great curiosity and wonder, wanting to see and examine everything about the boat. While they were very intent and busy in examining the engine and machinery, the engineer, Mr. Calhoun, let off steam under its greatest power. The Indians started with a spring, leap, and bound, off and away from the boat, and ran up the hill, nor did they