

The controversy was sharp, and competition was high between the contending villagers. As an inducement to the Steamboat Company both parties agreed to furnish all the timber that would be required to build the new boat, at an exceedingly low price. Notwithstanding all the adverse representations and discouraging endeavors of the citizens of Black Rock, Buffalo prevailed. So, on condition that the new boat should be built here, contracts were entered into by Buffalonians to furnish all the timber needed at the low price already promised; and they also gave their bonds for a large amount to the company, on the condition that the channel of Buffalo creek should be deepened by a certain time, so that the new boat, when built, could float out into the lake, or they should be paid one hundred and fifty dollars for each day it was detained.

The deepening of the channel was accomplished within the time required, to the great joy of the inhabitants of Buffalo. I have not space within my proposed limits to give an account of this great undertaking. How piles were driven by means of a "driver," extemporized from an old mortar, how the channel was dredged out by a scraper, made of a log sawed in half endwise, armed at the edge thus left with long saw-blades, floated into place on a scow and dropped, and dragged out by oxen, these and many like things may not now be described. But it is due to the spirit of the people of that day, and above all, to the memory of their leader in this as in so many of the "good works" that have created Buffalo city, Judge Samuel Wilkeson, to say that for an example of displays of energy, ingenuity, and persevering sacrifice in a good cause, this affair may be set down as among the foremost. And so the second steamboat, built to navigate these lakes, was constructed on the north bank of Buffalo creek at the foot of Washington street. She was called the *Superior*, and was of three hundred and fifty tons burthen. She was built in the winter of 1821-2, and launched on the 16th of April following.