

trips when in command of the *Eagle*, a vessel of ninety tons (one of a hundred tons being at that time considered a good-sized craft), while other vessels would be lying in the harbor.

He also told me that he had run with his vessel three times the length of Lake Erie in eight days, carrying a full load each way; and this when all loading and unloading was done entirely by hand.

Late in the month of November, 1833, westerly winds had prevailed at this end of the lake for about a week. Buffalo Creek had become quite filled with sail vessels,—so much so, in fact, that there was but a narrow passage-way left, only wide enough to allow one vessel to pass up and down the channel. Captain Wilkeson's schooner, the *Eagle*, was one of the thirty or more thus in waiting. The docks along the creek at this time were not very extensive,—nearly or quite all lying below the foot of Main street. One night there came a heavy fall of snow, fully a foot in depth, and during the latter part of that night the wind veered around to the east. I was to take passage on the *Eagle* for Perrysburg, and early that morning Captain Wilkeson kindly sent a sailor out to my father's house (about three miles), to notify me that the vessel was ready to start, and was only waiting for me. I immediately rode down to the dock in a sleigh and went aboard. The *Eagle* was then quickly gotten under way. Most of the vessels that had been in the harbor were already off in the lake, and some were out of sight. We were soon beyond the pier (the original one,—our outer pier had not yet been built). When fairly in the lake, with all sails set, for the wind was favorable though light, Captain Wilkeson directed the men to try the pumps, and to his great surprise found water in the hold. He therefore concluded to lay his course for Dunkirk, and kept the pumps going. He soon found that the vessel took in water when on one tack, but not when on the other. He then ordered the mate, Frank Bushaw, to lower the small boat and examine the vessel's sides. While he was doing so, I leaned over the port