

Captain Wilkeson was fond of practical jokes with his associates. When sailing the *Eagle* and making her last trip for the season before returning home, it was his custom to lay in supplies at Buffalo for himself and men for the winter, such as clothing, boots and shoes, etc. On one of these occasions he and some of his men stepped into a store, and he said to the merchant, "There are a half-dozen of us that want to be fitted out with boots and shoes." A display of these articles was of course soon made. "Well, now," said the Captain, "what will you charge a pair; there is one man aboard to come up, beside the colored boy Joe, six pairs in all?" The merchant at once named a price which was satisfactory to the Captain, excepting that he claimed he ought not to charge more than half price for the black boy's pair. So the merchant said he would not mind as to that, and agreed to put the boy's boots at half price. The articles were selected, for those present, and the man and boy aboard were sent for; but when the boy came to be fitted, he required a larger boot than any of the crew. After this the Captain would joke the merchant about his sale of a black boy's boots at half price.

Captain Wilkeson was very fond of instrumental music; and in 1831 or 1832, as we had at my father's a piano (there being at that time but one or two others in the town), one of my sisters who had taken lessons while away at school used to entertain him by playing. The piano was a new thing to him, as it was to most of the people here at that time.

The Captain had been a hard worker from his boyhood, and had accumulated some property. He had full faith in the success of lake navigation, and in the fall of 1832 made arrangements to build himself a steamboat. Work was commenced on this vessel in December of that year, at Perrysburg, by the late F. N. Jones (the latter part of whose life was spent in Buffalo), who superintended the building. He was sent for this purpose by his father, who had taken the contract for constructing the boat. Some of Captain Wilke-