THE PIONEER STEAMBOATS

From this time forward Buffalo began to assume a superiority over Black Rock in a commercial and business point of view. The deepening of the channel of the creek, so that vessels of all kinds could enter our harbor, and the locating here of the terminus of the Erie Canal at about this time (as published in the Canal Board Report in 1823), seemed to settle the controversy between the two rival villages, and Buffalo began to be regarded as a place of some considerable importance. Very soon, some of the merchants and other business men who had been doing business for years at Black Rock, expecting that to be the great city, left that place and came to Buffalo. And yet, at that time during gales of wind down the lake, or in very dark nights, vessels would frequently, as they do now, run down the river and come to anchor, not venturing to try to enter Buffalo harbor, the channel being so narrow. The steamboat would frequently run down also, and lie by the dock for safety, and Captain Thompson would then have to apply his "horned breeze" to help her up the rapids again.

In the fall of 1875, little more than fifty-three years after the Superior came out, on a visit to some of my friends in Mansfield, Ohio, I met with an aged lady, who related to me an incident of her journey from one of the New England states to that place. It was in the summer of 1822. She said she was then twenty-two years of age. She, with others, took passage at Buffalo on the steamboat Superior and were landed at Huron, Ohio. The boat hove to, off shore, and the yawl was lowered and manned, to take the passengers ashore. The wind was pretty strong, and a high sea was rolling. The Captain (Rogers) thought there was some danger in landing, and therefore accompanied them to the shore. There being no dock they were obliged to land through the surf, which was running very high. When the row-boat struck the beach one of the sailors got out into the water, this young lady mounted on his back, her arms around his neck, and he then carried her

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