

into operation as far as Barrie, in 1853, the former boat ran in connection with the railway.

The next steamer built on the lake was the *J. C. Morrison*. She was built at Bell Ewart in 1854, by Capt. Hugh Chisholm (afterward of Meaford) and launched in 1855. The Northern Railway Company, then the newly started "Ontario, Simcoe, and Huron Railway Company," owned her, and had built her for the purpose of accommodating pleasure seekers from Toronto and other cities. She was commanded by Captain Fraser during the short period of her existence. From the Meaford *Mirror* of April, 1888, we derive the following particulars with regard to this well-equipped vessel:—

"She was one hundred and fifty feet in keel, was fitted with upper cabins, and in every way a magnificent steamer for those days, and had a record of fifteen miles per hour, which is much faster than the majority of steamers on our lakes at the present time. Her cost was \$60,000. She was called after the late Judge Morrison, who at that time was president of the Northern Railway Company. Her route was from Bell Ewart to Beaverton and Orillia, making daily trips."

This vessel is said to have been exceedingly handsome, but her career was a short one, for about two years after she was launched she took fire while at the wharf in Barrie, Aug. 4, 1857, and had to be sent adrift. A young lady was sleeping in one of the cabins at the time, and was with some difficulty rescued. All ablaze, and drifting on the water for some time she finally foundered at the head of the bay, near Allandale.

Following the *J. C. Morrison* came the *Emily May*—a steamer built at Bell Ewart by the same builder, Capt. Chisholm. She was launched in 1861, and was owned by the late Capt. May. The *Emily May* afterward passed into the hands of the Northern Railway Company, which changed her name to the *Lady of the Lakes*. She in turn gave place to other steamers, after a long and useful career, and her hull now lies rotting at Bell Ewart.

Judge Ardagh, in a paper read before the Historical Society, April 22, 1892, and afterward published in the local newspapers, gave some particulars of the early steamboats on Lake Simcoe; and about the same date the *Orillia Times* gave an article containing some further particulars narrated by Capt. Hugh McKay, of Hawkestone.