

The Buffalo & Fort Erie Ferry:::1796- 1951. pertaining to BLACK ROCK

Up until 1801, almost all of the supplies for the settlers in the Village of Buffalo Creek were bought from Fort Erie. The western shore of the Niagara River from Niagara on the Lake to Lake Erie was largely cleared, settled and cultivated. Not soon the easterly side of the river.

By the year 1800 there was a tolerable ~~road~~ leading to the river margin, over a flat plateau of land about 220ft. in width. Upon the northern extremity of the plateau was a black rock in the shape of a regular triangle protruding out into the river, This had a breadth of about 110ft. at the north end, and extended southward along the river for a distance of 300ft. This rock was four or five ft. high; at its southern extremity it was square, so that an eddy was formed there into which the Ferry boat could be brought, and where it could be beyond the influence of the current.

From the Rock teams could be driven into the boat from a connecting bridge. The natural harbour thus formed was almost perfect; and could not by the appliance of art have been made a more complete dock or a landing place for a boat. A hamlet called Black Rock grew up around it. It discontinued for a time during the war (1812) but resumed operation again till the building of the Erie Canal, in 1825.

The landing was then placed at the foot of Ferry St., and in 1826 the Legislature required the substitution of horse power for oars, in the operation of the Ferry boats.