

Ferry at Black Rock:::

Inf. 1863.:: ON a high hill back from the river overlooking "Black Rock" stood Fort Adams which was later named Fort Porter. During the war of 1812 Scott planted his cannons at Breckinridge. Black Rock warehouse stood by Bird Island(Now long gone) Silas Carter who had his mill on the Canadian shore of Lake Erie crossed from Black Rock to Canada. He married at 75 yrs and lived to be 100. He had three children: It was in 1796 the the official Ferry Landing was established, this being at Black Rock. The first Ferryman was a man known as Gilmer. His house and barns were burnt to the ground during the war. He returned soon after to Penn.

Col. O'Neil the next Ferryman lived at Black Rock. 1806.

In 1812 Maj. Frederick Miller took the lease of the Ferry.

1812 the Ferry lease went to Mr. Orange Brace. At this time the ferry was a scow propelled by a sweep handled by two to four men with another long sweep at the stern. It held ten ton burden.

When Mr. brace had the Ferry Dr. Josiah Towbridge crossed the Black rock ferry to Fort Erie.

In 1821. Ferry lease went to Asa Stoddard.

Between 1822 and 24., the Ferry ceased to exist while preparations got underway for the building of the Erie Canal. It was necessary to blow up the original black rock on the waterfront. The Ferry landing was moved 1/4 mile north to the foot of Ferry St.

In 1826 at the new Ferry site the lease went to Donald Fraser & Lester Brace.

It was recommended that the Ferry had to become a horse boat or a steam boat.

It was Brace & Fraser that first placed a steam boat on the river.

It was a scow with a wheel upon a main horizontal shaft, propelled by means of cogs, plying into clogs on the shaft. Four horses treading the wheel propelled the boat. It was the second of it's kind in the country.

In 1840 the lease went to James Haggart, who installed a steam ferry. Judge Bull was part owner. (there is an early map of the Ferry location prepared BY Henry Lovejoy in the Buffalo Historical files) This inf. from their records.