

THE FERRY

1 May 1867, Frank Wood began working on the North Hector-Starkey ferry owned by Alfred Goodwin and Ira Fowler. This was built by John Goodwin and was the first on the lake sometime in 1805. It had no charter until 1810. In its early days oars and sails were used and if the passengers were in a hurry, they were provided with oars and set to work. A horse provided some power by means of a tread mill. It took about 60" to cross the lake. Everything or anything was carried to make a load; 20 to 80 head of cattle, horses, wagons, passengers, grain, soft soap etc.

Passengers would come over rough roads from Bath, Dundee, Penn Yan, Interlaken and Auburn as the route was the main way between Auburn and Bath. The fare was 25 cents per person. A horse and wagon with two passengers were 75 cents. Cattle were carried for 2 shillings (25¢) a head. A Sunday school party got a reduced rate. If a special trip was made for one passenger the rate was one big silver dollar. On 15 June 1867 Mr. Wood stated that he carried 208 passengers on his first trip and made \$340. for the days work. The daily receipt for the day would usually run from \$20 to \$50.

On Friday evening and Monday morning when Starkey Seminary was in its infancy, he carried 21 students to and from the school. At times the boat would be chartered by guests at the hotel for parties.

In 30 yrs of service. he never had a serious accident. One time his son, who helped him on the ferry, fell overboard but Mr. Wood rescued him without a great deal of difficulty. An engine was later placed in the boat and the trips were made in 12". The last month it operated in 1897 it took in only \$70.