

to be excellent as this vessel will be enabled to complete with others at a reduction of expense equivalent to fully £4 a day, which of itself will furnish a handsome [sic] proffitt [sic] at the end of the season. Besides she will equal [sic] in speed, if not exceed many of the present steamers.

August 30: A delightful morning refreshed by strong northerly breezes. Rode for nearly two hours. The roads and country pleasant. Next week I propose visiting the "woods & wilds" if the weather continues fine, my trip may be agreeable. If otherwise, oh! Misery! --- my back; my rump.

1/2 past 9 o'clock. Engaged during the evening in reflections respecting the proper form to be adopted in the model of Mr. Lockhart's new boat. Have some thoughts of altering the curve of the stem. By diminishing the sweep I anticipate obtaining a finer water-line, and thus reducing the friction of the body when propelled through the fluid and destroying, in a great measure, the present wave, which rises at the entrance of the stem and bow when the vessel is set in motion. Before deciding a model shall be made & from observations on it, my determinations shall be fixed. A fine cool night.

August 31: Devoted the greater part of the day to my draught. It has not much advanced, so far as I could have desired, but tomorrow my labours shall if possible be more steady, and by Monday a model will be constructed sufficiently displaying the form to give Mr. Lockhart a correct idea of what he may expect from the proposed dimensions. May it please.

September 1: ...Drawing all day.

[September 4: new president of the Niagara Harbour & Dock Company, William Cayley⁵]

October 13: ... A meeting of directors took place at the Dock office this forenoon, the result of which has been favourable as far as regard my employment. Mr. Lockhart it appears is determined to build, so that I shall have my hands full this winter in spite of all the unfavourable prognostics hitherto held forth. Mr. Bethune, another steam-boat proprietor is in treaty with the Comp'y for a boat.⁶ If both are engaged the Dock Comp'y will still flourish.

⁵ William Cayley was a recent immigrant to Upper Canada who in 1838 was admitted to the bar, the same year he became president of the Niagara Harbour and Dock Company. By 1839 he was also a director of the Bank of Upper Canada. He served in two Conservative administrations in the 1840s and 1850s as Inspector General (in general, in charge of government finances).

⁶ Donald Bethune would have several steamboats built at the Niagara Harbour and Dock Company in the early 1840s, beginning with *America* and *Princess Royal* both of which were launched in 1841. His failure to make payments on the mortgages to the Dock Company was largely responsible for the company's failure later that decade.