

for the steamboating men, and after 1858 the river navigation quickly dropped to only one or two boats, confined chiefly to local traffic, and these running regularly below Grand Rapids only.

River Steamers.

Brief mentions are here appended of most of the vessels which have plied upon Grand River from the beginning to the present time, in chronological order:

1835-36. A pole-boat was built by Lyman Gray for Louis Campan. It was named Young Napoleon. Among the early proprietors of pole-boats were Thomas D. and Francis B. Gilbert, then of Grand Haven, but who some twenty years later made Grand Rapids their home. Richard Godfroy had a pole-boat which was run by Willard Sibley below the rapids until the coming of steamboating. The Campaus also had pole-boats and bateaux.

1837. The Cinderella, a pole-boat, was launched in June at Grandville. The Governor Mason, first steamer, built here by James Short for Richard Godfroy and others, made her trial trip to Grandville, July 4. This boat was fitted out with the engine of the Don Quixote, that was wrecked while bringing round the lakes the press for the first newspaper here. Governor Stevens T. Mason named the new steamboat and presented it with a stand of colors. Captain William Stoddard was its first commander; then Captain William Kanouse for a year or two, and afterward Willard Sibley. It made a trip up the river the season of 1837, to Lyons, with Alanson Cramton as bugler. The Mason was not a success pecuniarily, but ran to Grand Haven irregularly for some years. At the time of the great freshet in February, 1838, this steamer was forced by the floating ice inland toward where the Union Depot now is, and left aground by the receding water; but was returned to the river at the expense of much labor and cash, the work being done by Howard Jennings and Captain James Short, with several able-bodied assistants. The Mason was driven ashore and wrecked, in May 1840, near the entrance to Muskegon Harbor. In 1837 was put afloat also the river steamer Owash-tanong, built by Robinson, White, Williams & Co., at Grand Haven. It was commanded by Capt. Thomas W. White; was a flat-bottomed freight boat, not a very stanch craft, and was