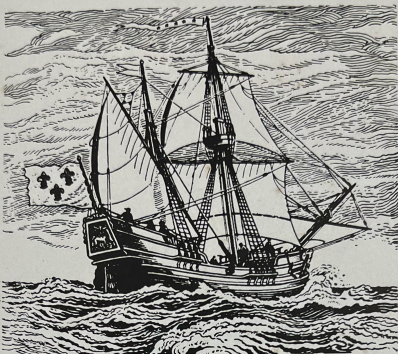


The Great Lakes Historical Society



Sketch by Rowley Murphy

WHAT BECAME OF THE GRIFFON?

FRANKLY, WE DON'T KNOW. Within the past decade several wrecks of early lakes ships have been found. Any one of them may or may not be the French explorer La Salle's *Griffon*. The Great Lakes Historical Society, a non-profit organization, endeavors to bring all the facts on this and other lakes lore to light. Its job is to promote interest in discovering and preserving such material relating to the Great Lakes.

The *Griffon*, built at Niagara in 1679, was the first ship to sail on the Great Lakes, today the richest area in the world. The significance of this little ship is not only historical but curious since it disappeared mysteriously on its first voyage. The *Griffon* heralded the beginning of an exciting future packed with more fascination and romance than any one could ask for.

In the more than 275 years since the *Griffon* weighed anchor and stretched her sails from Niagara, the Great Lakes have grown immensely in importance. They have keynoted the development of the United States and Canada. They have carried thousands of new Americans and many cargoes of commerce to and from the growing cities of the Midwest. During World War II alone the Great Lakes carried more than 89,000,000 tons of shipping over their busy lanes. The anticipated opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway brings promise of an even greater future.

