

without the present means of paying them, but almost invariably payment would some time or other be made. While living here, I had no neighbors nearer than twelve miles, except a family of Oneida Indians from the State of New York, the head of which afterwards served in Gen. Dodge's squadron during the Black Hawk war.

Removing, in 1829, to Mineral Point, I opened the first tavern ever kept in the place. Mineral Point was then the great centre of attraction to all miners; some of the largest *leads* were there struck and extensively worked, and quite a number of mining and smelting establishments erected there and in that vicinity. Many merchants came and settled there, among whom were Messrs. Wright and Guiard, Morris, Ansley, and others; and among the principal smelters were Capt. James H. Gentry, Richard H. Kirkpatrick, and Robert C. Hoard, all three of whom served as officers in the Black Hawk war. Business was of the most animated character. The town grew up with great rapidity, and every thing wore the most pleasing and encouraging aspect. The anniversary of American Independence was this year celebrated at Mineral Point with great pomp and ceremony, under the direction of Gen. Henry Dodge, of Dodgeville, as President, William Hempstead, of Galena, Vice President, John C. Scott, Marshal, and Dr. Snyder, Orator of the day. I prepared the dinner, and at night a dance came off at my house. There were at least a thousand persons in attendance; the oration and ceremonies were as fine, as well timed, and all as happily adapted to the occasion, as any I have since witnessed in this country.

After this apparent prosperity, business very much declined, and in the fall and winter ensuing, the inhabitants experienced the severest times that they ever had in the country. Lead and mineral fell in value from a good price, to almost nothing—lead depreciating to one dollar or one dollar and a quarter per hundred, and mineral only brought no more than four dollars per thousand, and often but three. And not only was our great and