

## Mineral Point and Richland County

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By Stephen Taylor

In the year 1835, I pitched my tent at Mineral Point, one of the principal nucleuses of the early settlements of the North-west, prior to which time West Michigan was but sparsely populated. Agriculture occupied very limited attention; mining, smelting, and their requisite mechanical vocations, almost exclusively absorbed the industrial interests of the people of the Lead Mines. Subsequently, July 4th, 1836, Wisconsin Territory, covering the regions embraced by Iowa and Minnesota, merged into existence, with a total population (in 1835) of about twelve thousand (including the Oneida, Stockbridge and Brothertown Indians, some of whom enjoy the rights of civilized citizens), nearly seven thousand of which resided east of the Mississippi River. The State, under its present limits, numbered in 1850, over three hundred and five thousand, and in 1855, it contained over five hundred and fifty-two thousand inhabitants! a respectable increase indeed, in the settlement of a new country. This rapid influx to me is not at all surprising; for as nature allotted a portion of our favored country as an earthly paradise, Wisconsin, with its fertility of soil and salubrity of climate, is eminently qualified in such distinction. Viewing the country from Milwaukee to the Mississippi, and upon a transverse line from Janesville to Green Bay, and from the latter point to the Falls of St. Anthony, in Minnesota, and from the eminences of the bluffs along the "Father of