

the attention of the Indian as well as the more experienced miner, as it was supposed to indicate great depth of clay or ~~the~~ existence of crevices in the rock beneath. By such means were the mineral resources of Wisconsin explored and developed, and thus was the manner of the discovery of the productive mines at

MINERAL POINT,—

a piece of land elevated about two hundred feet, narrowing and descending to a point, situated in the midst of a valley, as it were—a ravine bounding the same both eastward and westward, through which tributaries of the Pekatonica River flow, uniting in a wider valley to the southward. It was upon *this point* that the “leads were struck,” the fame of which spread, and so quickly became the centre of attraction, the miners flocking to them from every quarter. It was customary, upon the discovery of new diggings, to distinguish them by some appellation, so this locality, on account of its peculiar position and shape, was formally called “Mineral Point,” and hence the name of the present village, the nucleus of which was formed by the erection of a few small log cabins, and huts built with square cut sods, covered in with poles, prairie grass and earth. These very comfortable though temporary shelters were located in the vicinity of the intersection of what are now called Commerce and High streets, at the margin of the westerly ravine, and in view from the diggings on the *point*.

Females, in consequence of the dangers and privations of those primitive times, were as rare in the diggings as snakes upon the Emerald Isle, consequently the bachelor miner, from necessity, performed the domestic duties of cook and washerman, and the preparation of meals was indicated by appending a rag to an upright pole, which, fluttering in the breeze, telegraphically conveyed the glad tidings to his hungered brethren upon the hill. Hence, this circumstance, at a very early date, gave the provincial *sobriquet* of “*Shake Rag*,” or “*Shake Rag under the Hill*,” which that part of the now flourishing village of Mineral Point, lying under the hill, has acquired, and which in all probability it