

fifty dollars and costs, and the court decided that Fox River was a public highway, and that any person had a right to obtain license for a ferry at any point across the river, and the military had no right to interfere. The guard was withdrawn, and we had no further trouble about crossing and re-crossing Fox River.

As Judge Arndt and I were doing the most business on the river, going to and from our mill with a small schooner and smaller boats, the commanding officer, probably to gratify his pride and arrogance, issued an order requiring all boats, vessels, or canoes, passing up or down the river, to stop and report at Fort Howard. I concluded in my mind that I would pay no attention to this arbitrary requirement. So one day as I was coming up the river with a load of lumber in our schooner, when I came near the Fort, the sentinel hailed me and ordered me to heave to and report. I had a fine breeze, and under full sail, I replied that I could not stop. By this time I was directly opposite the Fort, when the officer of the day ordered me to heave to and come ashore. I replied that I had not time. He said if I did not stop, he would fire on me. He wheeled a cannon round, and prepared to fire; when all of my men went below into the cabin. I told him to shoot and be —. But he didn't shoot; and this was the last time that they attempted to stop me.

The mineral country took a start during the period of 1827-28. A great many fine citizens migrated to the Lead Region, such as Gen. Dodge, John Messersmith, Col. Ebenezer Brigham, Col. Abner Nichols, Col. John B. Terry, Gen. Charles Bracken, Gen. John H. Rountree, Gen. Geo. W. Hickcox and others. They did not cultivate much land, but devoted their attention exclusively to digging mineral. I think that Gen. Dodge built the first smelting furnace. About this time, there were Government troops sent into the Mining District to prevent the people from digging lead without a license; and when the miners were driven from one point, they would go to another, and renew their labors. At length the