

proved to be, a valuable discovery. He treated us very kindly, and told us "our hats were chalked." We then went to what was called the Cole, Downing and Dudley Diggings, then supposed to be proven for four million pounds of mineral, but they did not turn off more than half that amount. Mineral was then low in price. We then went to John Messersmith's Diggings; his prospect was fine. We got there the best dinner I had met with in the country. At that time, owing to the low price of mineral, and living some distance from market, and having a large family to provide for, Mr. Messersmith was only able to secure a comfortable support for his family. Times have since changed, the old man and his boys persevered, and have been well repaid for their enterprise. We next went on to the Dodgeville Diggings, and there found a town, as it was then called, with five or six cabins, and in three of them "rot gut" whisky and poor tobacco were sold; since then quite a village has grown into existence there.

We then journeyed to what is called Mineral Point, which then went by the name of Little Shake Rag. After looking round the various diggings, I returned to Scrabble, and moved my provisions, tools and furniture, consisting of blankets, spider, frying pan, &c., into the neighborhood of Little Shake Rag. I found that neighborhood staked off; and after spending three weeks or a month, and not getting permission to dig where I wished, I pulled up stakes and moved off. My next mining was in the neighborhood of the old Buck *lead*, near Galena; but meeting with the same luck as formerly, I moved into the vicinity of the Finney patch, which was discovered in the fall of 1828 by men of the name of Clark, who sold to Finney four-fifths, and to one Williams the other fifth. Finney afterwards swindled the men out of some two hundred and fifty dollars he was to have paid them in July, 1830. I struck a vein of mineral that yielded ninety-seven thousand pounds, and paid one-third for ground rent. This was the custom when you dug on a lot where mineral had been raised and sold. Part of that mineral I sold at seven dollars; the next spring I sold the last fifty thousand at twelve dollars per