

thousand. The next fall we struck a vein that turned off six hundred thousand of mineral that brought eighteen dollars per thousand; and in the spring of 1839, I struck another vein, south of the second, that turned out four hundred and five thousand. The range altogether produced over two millions of mineral. The old Finney patch turned off two millions more, and good diggings there still.

In May, 1832, I bought a horse and rigging, and rode as a volunteer, serving in Dodge's squadron, during the Black Hawk war. During that campaign I saw more of human nature, than I had before in several years. We had many difficulties to encounter, of which a majority of the present population can form but a faint conception. But to return to my occupation: I have done what no other man has done in these mines—I have worked on one mineral lot for seventeen years, and worked in the ground all that time; blasting occasionally, winter and summer, and never used an air pipe. I have been well paid for my labor; having toiled late and early—no eight hours have answered me for a day's work. After the sales of the reserved land, I moved to my present residence to watch my timber, and dig mineral in the winter; and I think I have made a valuable discovery. Unless some unforeseen occurrence should take place, I expect to end my days in Wisconsin.

I am, like friend Brigham,\* enjoying the blessing of celibacy, and expect to continue to do so; I have never asked the State or general Government for any office, and never asked the people but once for such a favor, and then my health was delicate. Just at the turn of life, I was afflicted with that awful disease called the confluent Small Pox. I was known to be an industrious, persevering man, and therefore had but few friends. Every man that offered, no difference whether he was a dead-fall keeper, block-head, pick-pocket, or a robber of the penitentiary out of three years service, had friends. The

\* Col. Ebenezer Brigham was born in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, April 28, 1789; came to Wisconsin in June, 1827, and became the first permanent white settler in what is now Dane County. He was a member of the Territorial Council from 1836 to 1841, and a member of the Assembly in 1848. He died in Madison, Sept. 14, 1861.