

for their nomadic use. And most especially were the Winnebago Indians jealous of, and determinedly opposed to, any intrusion upon or occupation of the country, which should threaten to interfere with their exclusive occupancy of the lead mine region, the sole right to which east of the Mississippi, was claimed by that tribe.

Mr. John Shaw, who died a few years since in Green Lake County, was engaged between 1815 and 1820, in running a trading boat between St. Louis and Prairie du Chien. In one of those trips he was anxious to visit the lead mines at Galena, with one of his trading boats; but was told by the Indians that the "white man must not see this Lead Mines;" but as he spoke French fluently, he was supposed to be a Frenchman, and was permitted to go up Fever River where he traded with the Indians for lead.

The first occupation of the lead mines by white men was in 1822, when Col. James Johnson, brother of the famous Richard M. Johnson, took possession with a small party of men, under the protection of several detachments of troops sent forward by order of the war department. A very few persons, probably not more than twenty, spent the ensuing winter at Galena.

Col. Morgan was then in command at Fort Crawford, and had charge of the troops, and some sort of treaty or agreement was probably made between him and Col. Johnson on the one part, and the Indians on the other, by which the occupancy by the whites was assented to; but whatever it was, it does not appear to have been ratified by, if ever submitted to, the senate.

In 1823, some accessions were made to the population; and in August, by a census there taken, there were seventy-four persons, men, women and children, of whom a number were negroes. The total produce of lead shipped that year was 425,000 pounds.\*

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\* R. W. Chandler, of Galena, drew, and had published in Cincinnati, in 1829, a valuable map of the lead mines, including all that part of Wisconsin west of the Four Lakes, giving the location of the few Indian villages, and all the lead diggings of that day.

Some statistics of the lead manufactured, and the estimated population of the Lead Region, are given on the margin of the map—including, of course, the small lead section around Galena, as well as the territory now constituting western Wisconsin. These early data are well worthy of a note in this connection.