

location, which, according to their instructions, must have a healthy climate, good water, and plenty of timber, they came into the vicinity of Mineral Point, and proceeded to the land office, then located there, for advice and directions. They first examined a tract in Rock County, close to the line of the Mineral Point and Milwaukee Land District; but, on returning to the Point, found that it had just been bought. After further fruitless search in the Wisconsin River Valley, in Dane and Sauk counties, they were finally directed to Little Sugar River, where, on both sides of the Mineral Point and Milwaukee road, they found and located a tract according to instructions. Twelve hundred acres were purchased in one body, and eighty acres of heavy timber two miles south of the main location.

It was considered an excellent selection. Springs abounded, the soil appeared good; and as it was on one of the most frequently traveled roads at that time in the State, a railroad seemed to be a possibility; but this expectation has not yet been realized. Owing to location, and the difficult character of the country, railroads have passed us by; the nearest station is Brooklyn, fifteen miles east, on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad. If the pioneers had not literally followed the instruction to buy in one body, it would have been better, as the twelve hundred acres included much rough and worthless land which could have been avoided, and valuable land bought instead; but it is of little consequence now, as it all, good and bad, belongs to the colonists, their children or their countrymen.

As soon as possible after taking possession of the land, the two pioneers commenced building a little cabin on the western bank of Little Sugar River, near the east wall of the old grave-yard, covering it with boards; it was a small affair, and is only recollected, and referred to, as the primitive hut of the settlement.

And here we will leave them awhile, and rehearse the story of the migration, and final arrival, of the little colony of which they were the precursors. On the 10th of April, 1845, one hundred and ninety-three persons, of all ages and both sexes, were collected on the banks of the Linth canal, which runs alongside of the Linth River, a tributary of the Rhine, in the canton of Glarus.