

into the interior, those adventurous agents had lost their lives. What was to be done? Long delay would inevitably break up the party; some had already, through fear, dissatisfaction or other causes, dropped off, and sought and found work at some of the various stopping places by the way.

After remaining, with no little anxiety, in St. Louis two weeks, with no tidings from their agents, it was resolved that two of the party should go and search for them. Jacob Grob and Matthias Duerst were selected for this service. They proceeded to Galena, Ill., and there learned that those whom they were seeking had been there some weeks before, and had gone northward. They were advised to go to Mineral Point, where there was a government land office; and where the pioneer agents would have been likely to enter land, in case they had bought in Wisconsin. The searchers went to "the Point," as it was termed; and, on inquiry at the office, found that their agents had bought land in town four, range seven, on Little Sugar River. The men were much rejoiced when this good news was communicated to them, and at once sent back word to St. Louis for the party to start for Galena immediately. They then resolved to find the location. Mr. Theodore Rodolph, now of La Crosse, who was then at Mineral Point, offered his services as guide, which were thankfully accepted. They commenced their journey at once over a trackless country for thirty-two miles, fording creeks and streams, with a compass to direct their course, until they came to a point directly north of the location about three miles, according to a corner stake which was found on a hill.

Rodolph led the men due south, and, on rounding a point of brush land, came directly upon the pioneers, on the 8th of August, who were busy erecting the primitive hut of the settlement. After the first joyous greetings were over, it was decided that Mr. Nicholas Duerst should go to St. Louis, and guide the colonists to their new home.

The two newcomers were eager and anxious to remain, and assist in the work of building. Duerst at once left, and had proceeded as far as Galena, when just as he was about to leave for St. Louis one morning, he heard some one remark that a large party of em-