

the men who have been distinguished in all your annals, and did so much to give your State so high a rank among the commonwealths of the Union.

I can boast of having known Wisconsin for nearly half a century, for I first trod its soil in 1840, four years after it had been organized as a Territory. This was in Southwestern Wisconsin, for it was in that section that the first considerable settlements were made. That was due to the discovery of lead mines at a very early day in that region. I have now in my possession an old map, which I found in Paris, published in 1703, thirty years after the discovery of the Upper Mississippi by Jolliet and Marquette, which shows the existence of lead mines in that vicinity. What was afterward known as Fevre River, is put down on this map as "La Rivière Parisien," and in the immediate neighborhood of that river a lead mine is marked down, "mine de plomb." Lead ore discovered at so early a period, continued to be sought for by the Indians and the early French traders and explorers in what is now Southwestern Wisconsin and Northwestern Illinois, and in 1820 and 1821 what soon became known as the "Fevre River lead mines" began to attract public attention. It was at this time that Col. James Johnson, of Kentucky, brother of Richard M. Johnson, afterward vice-president, engaged in lead-mining and developed what was known as the "Buck Lead," near where Galena now stands, which undoubtedly yielded the largest amount of mineral or lead ore ever discovered in any one lode throughout the whole mineral region of the Northwest.

"Galena" had not then an existence, and when a post-office for that remote and almost unknown country was established in 1826, it was named "Fevre River, Crawford County, Illinois." At that time, the boundary line between Illinois and Michigan Territory was so ill-defined, that in the presidential election two years later (1828), a poll was opened at Platteville, and presidential electors for Illinois were voted for. On the 4th day of June, 1828, the commissioners of Joe Daviess County, Illinois, established a voting precinct at Platteville. The boundary line between Illinois