

few beyond the circle of my husband's relations. My mother-in-law was highly respected and accomplished, and I was among the frequent visitors to her house. I became acquainted with some remarkable persons of these early times: Col. Thomas H. Benton, then ascending the political ladder; Gen. William Clark, Mr. Edward Bates, the two Messrs. Gamble, Gen. William Rector, U. S. surveyor, Gen. W. H. Ashley, Edward Hempstead, first delegate in Congress from Missouri Territory, and brother of Charles S. Hempstead, of Galena, and some others.

As soon as Missouri was admitted into the Union as a State, emigrants began to pour in from all parts, principally from Virginia and Kentucky, bringing with them wealth and enterprise. Long trains of wagons would cross the ferry at the foot of Market street, nearly all making their way toward north Missouri, the richest lands in the State. One or two small steamers made their way to us during the season, from New Orleans or Louisville. On such occasions nearly the whole population of the town would run to the river bank to see the rare sight.

During the year 1825, discoveries of large lead mines had been made in the northern part of Illinois. My husband had just returned from a voyage to Santa Fé. After hearing the news, and consulting with his brother Henry, the two brothers made up their minds to go immediately, and try their chances in a new field of enterprise. About the middle of October of the same year, after fitting up a two-horse wagon with all necessary implements and supplies, with three hardy and trusty Canadians for assistants, they started for the long and arduous voyage; for after passing Peoria, itself a small outpost, the country lay an unbroken wilderness or prairie, camping at night in the forest or on the prairie, shooting a variety of game for their subsistence, broiling their meat, Indian fashion, by the camp-fire, they enjoyed the journey exceedingly. After crossing the Rock River, at Dixon's Ferry, they soon reached the new Eldorado. Nor were their expectations, in any way, disappointed. A number of miners were already on the spot. Their intention was to erect a smelting establishment. Capt. Comstock, Mr.