

corncob pipes, completed the assembly. The Misses Harris were there, pretty little girls, the oldest I saw, about thirteen; the boys, seventeen and under.

About this time came down from Fort Snelling, a number of Swiss families who had emigrated to Lord Selkirk's settlement on the North Red River. After suffering for several years from starvation, and from the several overflows of the river, destroying their crops, and almost destruction from the half-breeds and fierce tribes surrounding, they at last made up their minds to leave in a body. They were industrious, honest people, and a great acquisition to a new country. Henry Gratiot and my husband secured the services of several families, among whom was Peter Rendesbacher, afterwards so celebrated for his pictures of Indians and other works of art. Also the Chetlains—one of the sons was afterwards a general in the Union army. There were also the Longets, Bricklers, and many others whose names I have forgotten.

Late in the same summer came a report that a number of Winnebago Indians had come to a beautiful prairie about fifteen miles north, and taken out a large quantity of lead ore. A man by the name of Shull went there to put up a shanty with the intention of prospecting for lead ore; but the Indians drove him off. During that summer they made complaints through their agent, and appeared much dissatisfied with the encroachments of the whites upon their territory. The two brothers, taking with them a half-breed woman named Catharine Mayotte, very popular with her tribe, proceeded immediately to the place, and proposed to pay a large amount to the Indians for the privilege of mining on that prairie. After much consultation, they consented to let them work for a large amount of goods and supplies, which were delivered within a week. These were the celebrated "diggings" of Gratiot's Grove, then called "Gratiot's Survey."

It was then thought advisable to commence the new establishment without delay. Miners were already flocking to the new discoveries; although late in the season the work advanced rapidly, cabins, store-houses and furnaces ap-