

peared simultaneously. As my health was bad, I was sent back for the winter to St. Louis, in a keel-boat that had brought goods to the firm. My sister-in-law, Mrs. Henry Gratiot, was then left, most of the time alone, with her young family, her husband and her brother being necessarily absent at "Gratiot's Grove." But to the greatest gentleness and fortitude, Mrs. Gratiot joined the courage of a heroine, a most devoted wife, an affectionate mother and a kind friend, she was beloved and honored by all. I returned to Fevre River in May, 1827, Gratiot's Grove being now our home. Never in my wanderings had I beheld a more delightful prospect, the beautiful rolling prairie extending to the Blue Mounds, a distance of thirty miles, the magnificent grove, as yet untouched by the felling axe, forming a graceful frame for the lovely landscape. From the slope of the hill, you could see as far as the eye could reach, miners' shanties, and windlasses in activity. The store was furnishing tools and provisions to hundreds of miners. Three four-horse teams making regular trips to town every other day, could hardly supply the demand or transport the lead, smelted night and day.

Ours was a happy life—we were, it may be said, camping out. We made the most of it, we were full of life and enjoyment, we had many visitors, strangers as well as friends, all were welcome, we could offer a pallet and a meal under a shade of green boughs. Our families were intimately united, we lived within a stone's throw of each other; enjoyments, trials, privations were all in common. It was about the time that the name of "Sucker" was given to the Illinois folks, and it was from this circumstance: Every spring, when the grass was high enough to afford pasture for their teams, large numbers would come and do all the heavy hauling during the summer, over beautiful prairies furnishing all that they could desire. But at the first frost they would all disappear not to return until the next spring. Their habits of migration being exactly timed with that of a fish, called the "Sucker," which abounded in all the creeks and rivers, caused the people of the upper settlements to give that name to those of the lower counties. So came the