

Nov. 16, 1809, when J. Macklot ran his first cast through a tower which he had erected at Herculaneum, thirty miles distant from St. Louis, on the Joachim River. Indians brought lead in small quantities in their canoes, but the bulk of the ore was transported from the mines by Frenchmen.

In February, 1810, Nicholas Boilvin, then United States agent for the Winnebagoes, passed through on foot from Rock Island to Prairie du Chien, with Indians for guides, and by them was shown a lead mine near Fever River,—supposed to be what afterwards came to be known as the "Buck lead."¹ In a letter to the secretary of war, dated a year later,² Agent Boilvin reported that the Sacs and Foxes (on the eastern side of the river) and the Iowas (on the west side) had "mostly abandoned the chase, except to furnish themselves with meat, and turned their attention to the manufacture of lead, which they procure from a mine about sixty miles below Prairie du Chien,"—undoubtedly the Fever River and Dubuque mines. He reports that in 1810 they manufactured 400,000 lbs. of the metal, which they exchanged for goods, mainly with Canadian traders, who were continually inciting them to opposition against Americans. Boilvin alludes to the fact that the Indians found lead mining more profitable than hunting, and that the government would be wise to introduce a blacksmith and improved tools among them. He thinks that by thus encouraging the Indian miners, "the Canadian trade would be extinguished."

In 1810, Henry Shreeve is said to have worked up the Mississippi as far as Fever River, and taken back from there a small cargo of Indian-smelted lead, to the towns on the lower Mississippi.

Between 1815 and 1820, Capt. John Shaw, afterwards a resident of Marquette county, Wisconsin, made eight trips with a trading boat between St. Louis and Prairie du Chien, and several times visited the Fever River mines,

¹ *Hist. La Fayette Co.*, p. 396.

² *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xi, p. 252.