

than afterwards taken by the American miners, despite the fact that it was one of the richest mines in the region, and came to be worked in a scientific manner.

In June and July, 1819, Major Thomas Forsyth, United States Indian agent for the Sacs and Foxes, made a voyage from St. Louis to the falls of St. Anthony, and in his journal gives us,¹ upon good authority, "the number, situation, and quality of all the lead mines between Apple Creek and Prairie du Chien." The first he places about fifteen miles up Apple Creek, "a short mile" from the right bank; the next at Red Head's village, "six miles above the Grand Macoutely," on the west side of the Mississippi,—but this had been abandoned; the next, four miles up Fever Creek, on both sides of that stream, flat boats being able to approach within a mile and a half of the mine; the fourth, six miles above the mouth of Fever River on the east side of the Mississippi; the fifth, Dubuque's mines,— "too well known to require any description;" the sixth, fifteen miles above the Dubuque mines on the west bank of the Mississippi, six miles up the "Little Macoutely Creek;" the seventh, six miles above the Little Macoutely, but on the east side of the Mississippi; he adds that "There are many other lead mines on the Ouisconsin River, but my informant says he never was at any of them." Contractors for army and Indian supplies were at this time frequently passing the mines, on their way between St. Louis and Prairie du Chien, and Green Bay and Mississippi river points, and both Indian and white miners found ready customers for their lead.

In 1807 Congress had reserved the mineral lands from sale, and ordered that leases should be granted to individuals for terms of three and five years. But owing to Indian opposition and the intrigues of Canadians, operations under government leases were confined chiefly to Missouri. Elsewhere, men operated on their own account, and without system. The first lease in the Fever River

¹ *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, vi., p. 194.