

country was granted, January 4, 1822, to T. D. Carneil and Benjamin Johnson, and Messrs. Suggett & Payne, all of Kentucky; Lieut. C. Burdine, U. S. A., was ordered to aid them in selecting 160 acres each in the lead region, and to protect them with an armed force.<sup>1</sup> But no result of the expedition, if it was ever undertaken, appears to have been published.

As early as April 12, following, a lease was granted to Col. James Johnson, who had for three years operated in the country without license. His lease was to run three years. He immediately took to the mines a number of workmen, including some negro slaves, and a supply of good tools; his party and appliances proceeded up the Mississippi and Fever rivers in keel-boats. Encamping where Galena now stands, and under strong military protection,<sup>2</sup> Johnson commenced operations on the most extensive scale yet known in the lead country. At the time, there were several French and Indian settlements on the Fever, the former being engaged in trade and the latter in mining and smelting. Amos Farrar, an agent of the American Fur Company, also had a trading post on the river.<sup>3</sup>

At once there flocked thither a horde of squatters and prospectors from Missouri, Kentucky, and Tennessee; while many came from Southern Illinois via Fort Clarke (Peoria) and the old Indian trail which was afterwards developed into a wagon road and styled "Kellogg's trail." For the most part, the new-comers paid little attention to congressional enactments. The lessees not being supported in their rights, protracted disputes ensued, many of them disastrous to all concerned. In 1822 there were, as we have seen, but four other lessees besides Johnson; and in 1823 but nine were added to the list;—among them Dr. Moses Meeker, who established a considerable mining

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<sup>1</sup> *Hist. La Fayette Co.*, p. 402.

<sup>2</sup> *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, vi., p. 272; viii., p. 250.

<sup>3</sup> *Hist. La Fayette Co.*, p. 402.