

St. Louis *Gazette* mentions an editorial visit to a shot-tower a few miles below the city.<sup>1</sup> In 1847, Kennett, Simonds & Co. completed the St. Louis tower, begun three years before, an establishment that is still running.<sup>2</sup>

The pioneer shot-maker of the Northwest was Daniel Whitney, of Green Bay.<sup>3</sup> Coming to this State in 1819 he rapidly extended his business operations so as to include fur-trading, lumbering, and retail and river trade,—and finally, in 1831, shot-making. His many undertakings took him up and down the Fox, Wisconsin, and Mississippi rivers, between Green Bay and St. Louis. The success of the Missouri towers already referred to, and the rapid development of the lead mines in Wisconsin, suggested to his enterprising mind the idea of the Helena tower. The fact also that John Metcalf was employed at the portage by Whitney, to manage his stores there, makes it probable that the new venture was partly a result of Metcalf's previous experience in the same line of business, and that he came from Missouri to manage the tower when it was completed.

The origin of the company that built the Helena tower seems to be involved in uncertainty. Morgan L. Martin, of Green Bay, gives the following account: "About 1830, a shot-tower company was organized, principally composed of gentlemen living here and in Detroit, with one from Oswego. The firm name was Daniel Whitney, Platte & Co."<sup>4</sup>

The following record of the transfers whereby the land on which the shot-tower was built passed into the hands of its successive owners, I have gathered from the records of the Iowa County register of deeds. The tower and buildings were erected on government land, before it was open to settlers. August 4, 1835, John C. Kellogg entered as government land 59.40 acres, which tract appears in

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<sup>1</sup> *Milwaukee Sentinel*, Oct. 6, 1840.

<sup>2</sup> *Annual Review*, etc. (St. Louis, 1854), p. 16.

<sup>3</sup> For a biography of Daniel Whitney, see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xii., p. 274, note.

<sup>4</sup> *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xi., p. 403.