

two lower (stone) stories. A. B. Sampson was afterwards employed by Whitney to take charge of his mill on the Wisconsin River, where he worked for five or six years after he left Helena (1837). An Englishman, named Thomas, took Wilson's place as cooper, until the latter's return three years later.

Before leaving this early period we must mention Jefferson Davis's connection with the pioneer days of Helena. Although he resigned his commission in the United States army in 1835, and never again returned to this State, yet he was a well-known character at Fort Winnebago (Fox-Wisconsin portage), where he was stationed with troops; and at Helena, where the boats to and from Ft. Crawford (Prairie du Chien) frequently stopped.¹ Davis was many times at Helena, and in after life was wont to refer to his experiences there.²

The Wisconsin Shot Company was replaced by the Wisconsin Mineral and Transportation Company, incorporated by the Territorial legislature December 8, 1836.³ The old name, Wisconsin Shot Company, was retained, however, and occasionally appears even in legal documents. Besides the shot-making, the company had a well-stocked store and lumber-yard which supplied the surrounding country with necessities. The first notice of the store occurs in 1836,⁴

¹ Mrs. Katherine Oertel, of Prairie du Sac, tells me that when a child she boarded a boat commanded by Lieut. Davis, which was conveying soldiers from Ft. Winnebago and had stopped at the shot-tower. She was a favorite with the soldiers, but for some childish prank was sent from the boat by Davis, who was a strict disciplinarian. This occurred in the summer of 1835, after her father, John Wilson, had arrived at Helena with his family.

² From a MS. letter by Mrs. Davis, dated June 13, 1895.

³ *Laws of Wis.*, 1836-39, p. 69; *Id.*, 1836, No. 33. Among the members of the new association were James H. Lockwood, David Jones, Benjamin L. West, William H. Buen, Daniel Whitney, Robert McPherson, and Theophilus S. Morgan.

⁴ Adv. in *Belmont Gazette*, Nov. 23, 1836: "*New Store at Helena.*—The Wisconsin Shot Company have opened and now offer for sale a general assortment of European, Indian, and American Dry Goods, Groceries,