

In December, 1843, Hickox went to his farm in Ridgeway, and his place was taken by Thomas J. Williams.¹ Metcalf, while at Mineral Point in the winter of 1843, had hired Williams and Peter Lloyd to come to Helena in the April following. Lloyd was first employed in hauling the imperfect shot up from the finishing-house, while his wife boarded the hands. Williams began dropping shot after three months' work in the finishing-house, during which apprenticeship Metcalf himself was the dropper.²

During this period, 1843-44, most of the lead was obtained from Todd & Hoskins's furnace at Dodgeville, and from other furnaces at Ridgeway, Blue Mounds, and Ploverville (near Blue Mounds). The shot was sold mostly at Milwaukee, but some of it also at Galena. The hauling was done largely by "sucker"³ teams from Northern Illinois, which came up in the spring and returned in the fall. Their five yoke of oxen and their heavy canvass-topped wagons were familiar sights to the miners and other settlers of the '40's and the early '50's. The return trips from Milwaukee and Galena were made profitable by loads

¹Thomas J. Williams was born in Wales, March 9, 1819. He came to America in the spring of 1842, and went to Pennsylvania for a time. Not liking the country there, he went to Albany, intending to return to Wales; but, meeting a settler from Wisconsin, he heard from him of its rich farming lands and determined to come to this State. With two companions he walked from Albany across New York State, crossed over to Canada, and buying a team there proceeded to Detroit. Embarking on a sailing vessel with his team, he reached Milwaukee. From there he drove to Blue Mounds where he sold his team to the tavern-keeper, Ebenezer Brigham. On his way to Dodgeville he stopped several months at the Messersmith place. He served a Mineral Point store-keeper named Beach in the winter of 1842-43 and left there to work at Helena the following spring. He settled in Spring Green the latter part of August, 1844. In 1861 he moved from Spring Green to a farm in Ridgeway, settling in Dodgeville, his present home, in 1888.

²The wages of the men varied from \$10 to \$13 a month. Hickox received \$200 a year, and Williams \$16 a month.

³See Thwaites's *Story of Wisconsin*, p. 205, *note*, for origin of terms "Badger" and "Sucker," as applied to residents of Wisconsin and Illinois respectively.