

Mississippi and Green Bay trade met, became the starting point for a newer and more economical route directly to Milwaukee. Its wagon-loads of shot pioneered the way, marking out the track that was followed by lead shippers whenever Mississippi navigation was obstructed; and along this route came returning loads of merchandise and of emigrants seeking homes. Thus was a mere teamster's trail developed into a broad highway, multiplying a hundredfold Wisconsin's connections with the East.

It is of no slight significance that of all the men prominently connected with the Helena shot-tower, nearly three-fourths were from New England and New York. Such facts indicate clearly enough what was going on during the decade following the Black Hawk War. It is not easy to exaggerate the importance of a movement that sent the best men from the states of Maine, Massachusetts, and New York along the Great Lakes to take possession of the new states of the Northwest. And it is a fact no local historian can safely ignore, that in the period when the southern half of Wisconsin received its first peopling, the shot-tower at Helena played an important part in attracting and distributing the new elements added to the State at this early day.