

undoubtedly the first Cornishman to come to the Upper Mississippi lead region. He immediately began to prospect, and opened a mine near Shullsburg, Wis., about eighteen miles northeast of Galena. This was probably the first mining to be done in this section of the country by the class of people who did so much to develop the lead region. Soon, Clyma returned to Kentucky and brought his family with him. To Mrs. Clyma<sup>1</sup> undoubtedly belongs the distinction of being the first Cornishwoman in the region.

From 1827 to 1830, there is no record of any Cornishman immigrating hither. This is not entirely without explanation. Clyma was in America when the fame of the rich lead mines went abroad, and of course he heard of them long before the reports spread across the Atlantic, and reached the people in secluded Cornwall. If any Cornish came to the lead region during these three years, it is probable that they did not come direct from their native land, but were in America some years before. In 1830, there set in, direct from Cornwall, a stream of immigration that lasted over twenty years.

Several of the oldest citizens of Mineral Point agree that the first man buried in the old cemetery there, was a Cornishman named Josiah Thomas, but they cannot agree upon the date. The *History of Iowa Co.*<sup>2</sup> says that he was

---

Clyma moved his family. In the following Sept., his family was moved into Ferguson's Fort, within the inclosure of which he built a house which he continued to occupy long after the fort had been dismantled. In 1831, he moved his family to the farm, he cleared and improved, and upon which he lived and labored until 1865, when he took up his residence in Apple River. He was in the frontier service during the Black Hawk War, serving as a Lieutenant. In 1845 he made a trip to Cuba, for the recuperation of his failing health. In 1850 he went to California, where he remained two years. He visited the land of his nativity twice, first in 1856 and again in 1870."—*Galena Gazette*, Sept. 17, 1876.

<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Frances T. Clyma was born in the parish of St. Ewe, Cornwall, July 16, 1798. She was married to Francis Clyma in 1815, came to America in 1821, and to the lead region in 1827. She died in Monticello, Wis., June 13, 1879.

<sup>2</sup> P. 724.