

crooked course around hills and through open prairie, in a southeasterly direction, to its junction with the Rock.

Here we struck the first settlement we had seen or reached that day. A squatter named Hastings had built himself a log cabin and outhouses, and lived there with his family, keeping a sort of tavern. The village of Riverside is now built where this lonely cabin stood fifty-five years ago. We enquired of Hastings where we could find Gratiot, and he informed us that he was across the river in the timber. We rode on about one and a half or two miles till we struck the fording place. Crossing the river, which in the spring was very high, we for some distance had to swim our horses. We crossed in safety, and this being my first adventure of that nature I greatly enjoyed the novelty. We then rode along the bottom and soon heard the sound of the wood-choppers' axes, and guided by them found the camp, shortly after sundown, and were most cordially received by Colonel Gratiot.

There was no flour mill within forty or fifty miles, and Gratiot and Curtis concluded to build one about six miles from this camp upon Wolf Creek, where an excellent water-power was available. The timber cut in the bottom was first floated down the Peckatonica to the mouth of Wolf Creek, then towed up that stream to this place, which afterward grew into a village called Gratiot, and which for more than thirty years was the residence of my oldest brother Frederick.

We were thoroughly tired, hungry, and wet after crossing the river. Not having had a mouthful to eat since morning, the men hurried up supper for us. Sitting before a large fire outside of the tent, we soon succeeded in drying ourselves, and were prepared to do ample justice to our meal, which consisted principally of roasted potatoes, corn-bread, and catfish caught in the Peckatonica.

After eating, we crept into our tent and had a delightful rest till morning, which broke clear and pleasant, although I thought I heard distant thunder. I was greatly astonished as I could see no clouds or any indication of a storm.