

atonica flowed past, forming a large and picturesque band bordered by a row of willows into which a good-sized creek emptied its clear and transparent waters, up which the trout could be seen swimming. On the northwest a fine grove of oaks and elms completed the picture.

Of course Lot could give no title to the land, as he had none; it was not yet in market. But it had just been surveyed by the United States surveyors, and it appeared that he had settled on the corner of four quarter sections, so that when the land came to be offered for sale we had the chance of selecting whatever portion we desired. Of course I had not the slightest knowledge of the United States laws regulating the entries and sale of public lands, but trusted implicitly to our friends that all was right; and relied on the promise of Lot that he would prove up his claim when the proper time came, and that he would remain on the place until my mother and family came up from St. Louis to take possession. After all things had been properly and satisfactorily arranged, Colonel Hamilton left for his home, and we started on our return journey to Gratiot's Grove.

Hamilton was a man of culture, active, and enterprising. Although he had lived for many years among the roughest and hardest class of men, the miners and adventurers of early days, he retained and exhibited, when he so desired, the polish of his early training. In stature he was of medium height, stout, well built, and of robust health, able to bear the hardships of frontier life. During the Black Hawk War he had exhibited great courage and rendered valuable services. He was the youngest son of Alexander Hamilton, the father of Federalism, and had imbibed his father's political principles. Socially he was pleasant, but not communicative, and left the impression of a rather cold and distant man. He emigrated to California after the discovery of the gold mines and there died.

We spent another pleasant day with Henry Gratiot and his family, at the Grove. Gratiot had abandoned the business of smelting and mining, to devote his time to farming