

the streets in Galena were turned into regular sloughs, becoming almost impassable. The soil being pure clay, the mud was knee deep, and whoever was obliged to cross the streets had to tuck his trousers into his bootlegs. Our time was mostly occupied in unloading our household goods, which had been brought up from St. Louis, and were stored in the loft of a warehouse.

In all my travels through the mines I had not met a single German or German-speaking miner or settler. In the city, however, there were a number of German or Swiss gentlemen doing business, with whom I afterwards got acquainted. Of these I remember Messrs. Schirmer, Bininger, Chetlain, Rindisbacher, Smith, and others, all in comfortable circumstances; but I found none among the laboring people, except one man who was helping to store our goods.

Toward the end of April or the beginning of May, we had finally settled upon our claim.<sup>1</sup> My mother and sisters occupied one of the cabins for their room, and we boys slept in the larger one, which served also as our living room and kitchen, wherein the family always gathered. The weather had cleared up, and on the fourth of May the sun rose in all its glory and gave us a real summer day. One of our neighbors came and told us that it was time to attend to our fields, and offered to show us how to plant corn. My older brother, who was of a practical turn of mind, and my younger brothers who thought it fun to work in a field, at once entered upon their new occupation. But I, being of a rather delicate constitution, felt totally unfit to do any manual labor. I had spent my whole life in schools and colleges, and had entered the university of Zurich, which was instituted about six months before our emigra-

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<sup>1</sup> *History of La Fayette Co.*, p. 592, says: "In 1834, a Swiss family by the name of Rodolf, the male members of which were H. L. and J. C. F., settled in the town [Gratiot]. \* \* \* The Rodolfs were a high-bred and well-educated family. H. L. Rodolf, uncle of J. C. F., was a polished gentleman, and had been President of the Swiss Republic previous to emigrating to this country."—ED.