

out the country as "Doctor Rodolf," and so called by my friends in Galena and by all the older settlers. I was advised by my friends to set myself up as a physician. There was no law preventing my doing so, and I was assured of quite a fair practice, but I would not do it. I had but too recently arrived from Europe, and lacked the impudence necessary for a successful imposter.

Although the settlers were all simply squatters, belonging, with few exceptions, to the poorer classes of citizens, we never had the least difficulty or trouble with any of our neighbors; but found them willing and ready at all times to assist us with their counsel and advice. Whenever there was a corn husking, or quilting party, or barn raising, we were sure to receive an invitation, and a cordial reception, whenever we could accept the offer. We heard of no violation of law or other outrage, and although rumors reached us of lawlessness at Mineral Point, which became a great mining center, yet Wiota, Hamilton's settlement, and the Peckatonica country enjoyed peace and quiet. Occasionally, bands of thirty or fifty Winnebago Indians would pass our place on their way to see their agent, Col. Henry Gratiot. In view of the remembrance of the outrages so lately committed during the Black Hawk War, we at first felt some trepidation at their visits; but soon got used to their calls, and felt perfectly safe.

As for churches there were none; neither were the settlements overrun by itinerant preachers. I remember but one instance, in which services were held at the house of a neighbor, Ezra Lamb, about five miles distant, by I think, a Methodist minister.¹ There may have been more, but I am not aware of it. People spent their summer Sundays walking in the woods or over their fields; and in the winter trying to keep warm in the chimney corner.

That fall the United States land office was established at Mineral Point; but the proclamation for a public sale did not

¹ The *History of Iowa County* (Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1881), p. 761, says that a Methodist itinerant named Simpson was preaching in the neighborhood of Dodgeville as early as 1837.—Ed.