

include our homestead. The lands situated south of the Wisconsin River and east of the fourth principal meridian were offered in September, 1835. Then I had to go to Mineral Point to enter our farm. I had never been there before. A neighbor of ours, Mr. Reed, who lived about ten miles lower down on the river, and who had his own land to enter, offered to call for me early the next morning, that we might travel in company. We started about sunrise, both on horseback. I had my money packed in my saddlebag. It was a beautiful September day. We followed the ridge road through the timber. The trees had already assumed the variegated hues, which a few light frosts had imparted to them; the wild plum trees and wild grapes lined our path on both sides as if they were set out in a regular park. I never enjoyed a more agreeable ride, until we came within a few miles of Mineral Point. Here the hills were stripped of their trees, and windlasses, mineral holes, piles of dirt, rocks, and mineral greeted our view on all sides. The distance we had travelled was from twenty-eight to thirty miles, and we arrived in time to find the land offices yet open for business, to which we at once repaired and made our business known.

Maj. John P. Sheldon, the register, to whom I brought letters of introduction from Colonels Hamilton and Gratiot, informed me that I would have to bring witnesses to prove up settlement and right to the land, and gave me till the 21st of September to make the proof. Of course I was ignorant of any land laws or regulations, or I could have been prepared to meet the demand; and my companion also knew nothing. So after letting our horses rest and taking our dinners, we concluded to return home at once. The money being all in silver, I did not consider Mineral Point a safe place to stop in. Besides the large number of miners, the public land sales brought hundreds of strangers to the place, and the accommodations were scarce and poor. It was nearly five o'clock in the afternoon when we started on our homeward journey.

Major Sheldon told me that we were entitled to several