

and resolved to build a rival city or port somewhere on the Mississippi River, where their business could be transacted for them at less expense. They selected a location called Sinipee, a few miles below Potosi, on the Mississippi River, formed a stock company, laid out a city, sold stock and lots, and induced an enterprising young merchant to build a store and warehouse there, promising him their patronage and the handling of all their lead; they also held out inducements to other parties to settle there, and build houses and stores. The prospect for the success of the enterprise was fair, and some twenty or more buildings were erected during the summer. But below the embryo city was a slough and some swampy land, as is usually the case on Mississippi bottoms; and when fall came, and the river was low, it left all the detritus exposed to the rays of a hot sun, breeding pestilence. All the settlers fell sick. The first victim that paid with his life for his attempt to build up the new city was the young fellow who was to be the principal business man of the settlement. Other deaths followed in rapid succession and a panic ensued. All who could, fled from the place, and it was entirely abandoned; the shares became worthless, and the company was bankrupted.

One of the unfortunate settlers offered me his two-story frame store and dwelling house for \$40. As there was no lumber to be had at Mineral Point, Galena, some forty miles away, was our nearest market, and every stick had to be hauled by team at great expense. The distance to Sinipee was also forty miles, hence the expense of hauling would not be more; so I took a carpenter with me, and rode out to the abandoned city to view the property, and to find out what it would cost to take down the building, haul it to Mineral Point, and put it up again.

When we finally rode down the ravine to the Mississippi River, and the bankrupted city burst upon our view, a singular sensation took hold of me. The buildings were all new, showing no sign of decay or deterioration by usage or the weather, having stood there but a little over a year. I expected momentarily to see the occupants come out to bid