

educated member of the bar. He was a ripe scholar, a great historian, familiar not only with English, but also French literature, and an admirer of the works of Goethe and Schiller. He was an interesting conversationalist, liberal-minded, and pleasant. M. M. Cothren, afterwards for many years circuit judge of the Fifth judicial circuit, which office he filled with signal credit to himself and to the satisfaction of the people, was then a young lawyer, giving indications of a clear and judicial mind. Parley Eaton was also a successful advocate. Mortimer M. Jackson, a brother-in-law of C. C. Washburne, was an eloquent pleader before the court, and a highly polished gentleman. In 1841, C. C. Washburne and Cyrus Woodman settled at Mineral Point and opened a law, land, and collection office, devoting the most of their time to land business, collections, and paying taxes, in which they succeeded in amassing ample fortunes. Captain Henry was the postmaster, and Maj. John P. Sheldon register of the United States land office.

During the presidential campaign of 1840, politics became bitter, and the parties were sharply divided into Democrats and Whigs; although Wisconsin, being only a territory, had no voice in the election. Major Sheldon was a strong Democrat, and had made himself particularly obnoxious to the Whigs by several newspaper articles. He was removed in the fall of 1840, by President Van Buren, on charges brought by his political enemies, of having permitted his friends to enter lands containing mineral, which lands were withheld from sale by the United States.

Before being permitted to enter land, the purchaser had to make oath that it did not to his knowledge contain any mineral and had to bring witnesses to that effect. Of course the temptation was great to defraud the United States, and such an oath was looked upon by many as a mere formality. I was told of instances where men were blindfolded, led across the land which was sought to be entered, and then swore that they had not seen any mineral thereon.

The Major's friends, and the people of Mineral Point generally, were greatly excited at his removal, and an indig-