

After many fruitless attempts to bring the mineral lands into market, and to permit their purchase, F. J. Dunn, after a personal visit to Washington, finally succeeded in convincing the government that the best interests of the country demanded that the settlers should be permitted to enter the lands; that by so doing the constant quarrels, fights, and shootings would be put at an end. Many families had been living on their claims from ten to twenty years, built houses, cultivated farms, and had no titles to their homes. The lands were now offered at public sale at the land office at Mineral Point, and in order to protect themselves against speculators and land sharks, the settlers formed an association and elected committees before whom every claimant was required to make proof of settlement and right to the land claimed. Men were also chosen to bid in all the lands in certain neighborhoods, for the purpose of afterwards conveying the same to the proper party. The sale took place, and no disturbance occurred. A few speculators appeared, but when they understood how matters were arranged, they wisely abstained from bidding against any settler, except in one solitary instance, in which a stranger made a bid; but he was immediately seized, lifted over the heads of the bystanders, put out into the street, and told not to show his head again. He left town immediately. After the sale, little was heard about jumping claims, or fighting for diggings. The mining country became as quiet and orderly as any other community, not counting an occasional shooting or stabbing affray, resulting from a drunken row, or a fight for a mine or prospect.

I remember but two cases of premeditated murder for money, during my residence in the mines. One was the killing of an old German shoemaker, who lived alone in a shanty in the outskirts of the village, and was supposed to have saved a large sum of money. One morning he was found lying murdered on the floor of his room. The other victim was an old Cornish miner, named Phil Cox, also a bachelor, living alone in a well-settled part of the town. Cox was a queer character, but a harmless man, and reported