

# A Letter from a Miner



Charles' letter was folded and sealed with wax without using an envelope. Postage stamps weren't used so 5 cents was written in the corner and the person who received the letter paid the cost. We've cleaned up the spelling and punctuation, but left his grammar. Charles wrote a friend "a perde well sadusfied" (appeared well satisfied); he sent regards to "allinquiren friends" (all inquiring friends); and said that he was "halling led on the rod" (hauling lead on the road.).

Grant County, Wisconsin  
August 10, 1846

Dear Brother,

We are all well and I hope these lines will find you all well. We have quit breaking [prairie] and has gone up to the territory. We are hauling lead at this time from Blue River to Galena. We expect to haul til about the first of October.

George Baxter is gone to the pinery with John Center. Dennis T. Provin stopped at Frank Burns' on Rush Creek and appeared well satisfied.

We got up into Grant County the last of July and fell into company with John Stallings and Joseph Shares. They hauled on the road til the first of June and then broke prairie til I come up and we are all on the road together. We expect to come down again the fifteenth or twentieth of October.

The health of this country is very good and has been since I have been here. Times is hard in this country. Wages is from ten to twelve dollars a month. Flour is from three to four hundred dollars a barrel. Bacon is worth four to six cents a pound. Cattle is low in proportion to the way they was in Logan County when I left. Grain is low.

Fall wheat miserably failed. Other crops is good. I want you to write to me as quick as you can. If the red steer's foot has got well so you think he would stand it to work on the roads you need not sell him.

Give my best respects to all inquiring friends and have my horse in good plight. Nothing more at present, I remain, your affectionate brother,

Charles Huston

Direct your letter to Hazel Green.

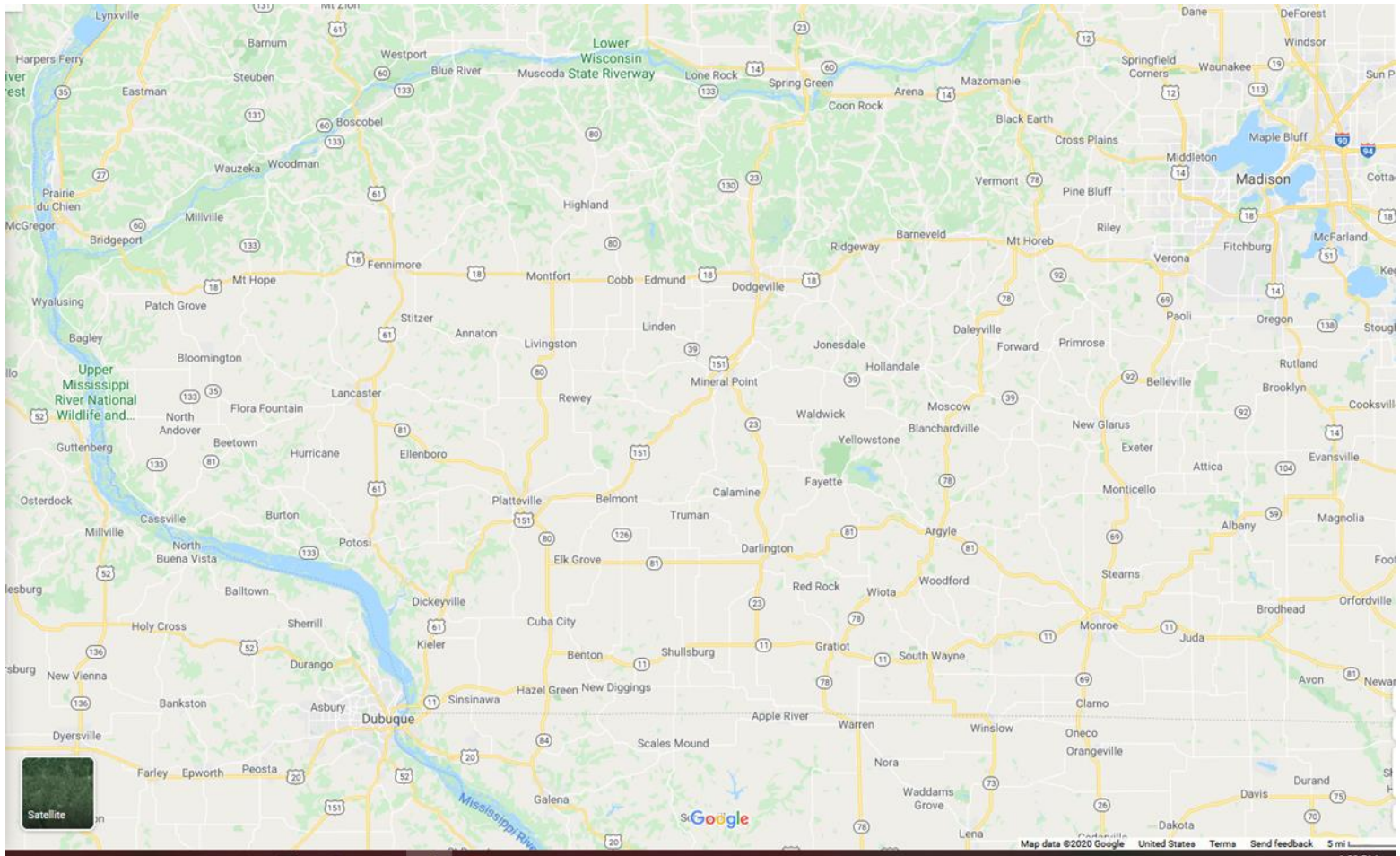
# Hauling Lead to Market

The business of lead mining includes other workers besides miners. Charles hauled lead ore using oxen.

1. Trace a route from Blue River to Galena, on this map or your own map.
2. How many miles is that?

Oxen averaged 2 miles an hour pulling a wagon. Though this can vary depending on the conditions of the road, and how heavy their load was.

3. How long would it take to make the trip from Blue River to Galena?



**Hint:** To find Blue River, a hint is in its name.

**Hint:** To find Galena, remember that Galena is in Illinois.

**Hint:** On this map, 1 centimeter is about 5 miles.