

INDEPENDENT AMERICAN

Platteville:

FRIDAY, JULY 4. 1845

Our enterprising citizen, Lorenzo Bevans, Esq. has, by untiring perseverance, probed the rock on the "east ridge," in the suburbs of Platteville, and discovered, what at this time, has the appearance of a big lead.— He has raised 24,000 of mineral already, and yesterday he found a lower opening, which seems to be filled with mineral. The discovery is midway between Rountree's two old leads. It is being whispered amongst the miners that have examined it, that the old leads were merely "side'uns."

WISCONSIN HERALD.

LANCASTER, WISCONSIN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1845

Bevans' Lead – This lead, now constituting the very soul of business at Platteville, is on the east ridge, near the old Rountree lead. There are fifteen or twenty men engaged in working it; sheds are built over the shafts so that the ground can be worked in any weather. Descending one of these shafts about 50 feet, you find yourself in an opening extending east and west between two and three hundred feet, between wall rocks ten or twelve feet asunder, and so deep that one may walk under the cap rock without stooping. This subterranean street is well lighted with candles and at each end in diverse pockets, chambers and side veins may be heard the constant clatter of the pick and the crowbar, prying out rocks and glittering ore. At the west end it shows symptoms of petering; but running east it goes strong; with every prospect of bulging into Rountree's branch, of full size. Mr. Bevans owns the whole lead, paying one tenth rent; and has already realized many thousand dollars from it; and infused new life and spirits into every branch of business in and about

Platteville. Let it be remembered to the credit of Mr. Bevans, that he has not only been liberal in public and private charities, since Fortune has taken him by the hand and lifted him out of the quagmire of poverty, but what is more unusual, he has been just to his creditors, and paid the full amount of those debts from which he had been already legally discharged by compounding.

The last sentence refers to Bevans' earlier bankruptcy while running a store. In 1845 galena (lead ore) was sold at \$22 a thousand pounds. According to another source, eventually two million pounds of ore were taken out of the mine in its first year.