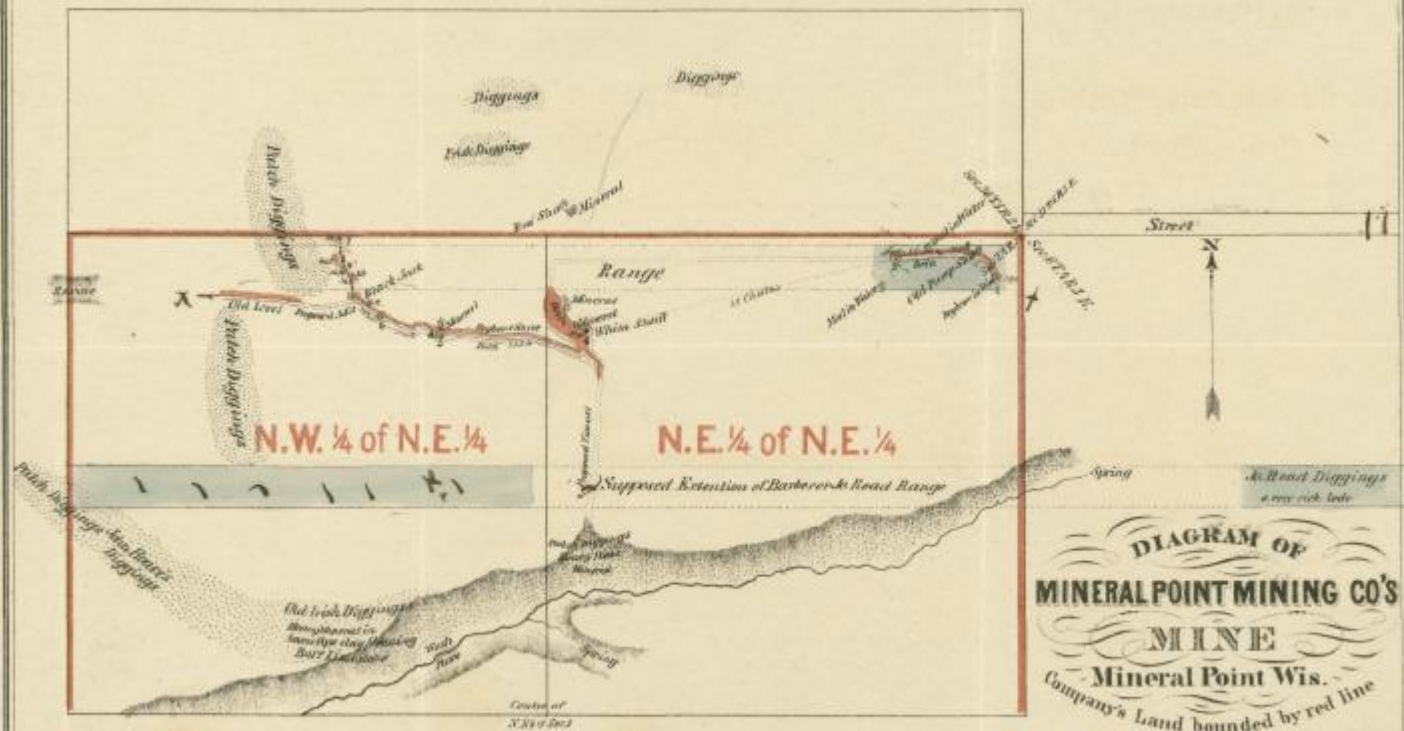




Edw. E. H. Seligman, Milwaukee

Drawn by H. Madden

Mineral Point Nov-8 1847

May James B. Campbell

My Dear Sir

Herewith

I enclose you a plat of Townships One North of Range Five East in LaSalle County in this Territory, and in connexion with it ~~a~~ plat of the west half of Township One North of Range Six East in Green County (the Range line between Ranges Five and Six being the boundary line between LaSalle & Green Counties) which plat exhibits the "Spafford's Creek Copper mine" and the lands for several miles adjacent to it. -

The tracts of land embracing the mine contain one hundred and twenty acres, and are known and described on the plats of the public surveys as The South West quarter of the South East quarter of Section Eight, in Township One ^{North} of Range Five East of the Fourth Principal Meridian containing forty acres, and the West half of the North East quarter of Section Seventeen in Township One North of Range Five East of the Fourth Principal Meridian containing eighty acres. -

The land you will observe is situated within half a mile of the Pekatonica river, which ~~is navigable~~ discharges its waters into Rock River about five miles below the state line, and about fifty miles (by land) from these lands. The Pekatonica is navigable all the way from its ~~mouth~~ junction with Rock River up to the mouth of Spafford's creek in Section Ten, by the same class of boats that can navigate Rock River to the junction, and stern boats of eighty tons burden and drawing three feet water have ascended Rock River, up to the forks near the center of Jefferson County in this Territory. The main road from Galena to Winston, and thence on to Rockford and Chicago passes through the Copper lands, Winston being distant from them eight miles, and Galena twenty eight. The Road from Mineral Point to ^{Wista} Winston passes within less than two miles to the East of the lands, and the distance to Wista ~~the~~ ^{where} is Hamilton's extensive lead is about six miles and to Mineral Point about twenty eight. Wista and Winston are both small and flourishing villoges, at the former

is William S. Hamilton's (son of Alexander Hamilton) extensive and very valuable lead diggings, where he has had a steam engine in operation to drain them, and has raised such immense quantities of lead ore, there are at this village also, three taverns, two or three stores, two or three blacksmith shops, smelting furnace, mechanics shops, &c. - At Winslow is a very good water power, with a large & excellent flouring mill, saw mill, taverns, stores, mechanics shops &c. -

On Spaffords creek are several good water powers, entirely adequate for furnaces, and every thing incident to them such as wash places, for washing the ore &c. - The first and best one, is on Section fifteen, at the crossing of the old trail, just below the first forks up ^{nearly to this point} ~~to about~~ place there is back water from the river, this is unimproved, and can be purchased, including eighty acres of land, for about four hundred dollars; There is another on the 16th Section (the school section) which could probably be obtained ~~for~~ after we go into a state government - There is also another water power on Section 21 - which could probably be purchased, but on what terms I do not know, the owner (Mr. Kimball) has in connection with it 240 acres of land & I presume would not sell the water power, without the land. - To conduct mining profitably it would be desirable to have one of these three water powers. - The land south and west of the Puckatowica River, except in its immediate proximity is either prairie or very scattering small oak openings, and is high and rolling, becoming as you go south a few miles a broad smooth & extensive prairie, resembling in its general appearance very much the country between Green River (near San Diggings) and the Wisconsin mound, with which you are well acquainted, and which you know is the richest mineral country in the Upper Mississippi valley.

~~In relation to~~ ^{of} the "Spaffords Creek Copper mine", I think I am fully justified in saying, from what is already ascertained in relation to it, that in ^{the} quality of the ore, the quantity which it will ~~produce~~ ^{yield}, the facilities of smelting, and of getting to market, it is not equalled by any thing that has ever been discovered in Wisconsin. - As to the facilities for smelting, and of getting to market, I will only add to

what I have already said, that any ^{desired} quantity of timber
can be obtained at \$1.25 per acre within four miles of the
furnace site, and all the wood that would be required in
twenty years could be delivered at the furnace as low
as \$1.25 per cord, indeed there is no difficulty in boating
wood down the river for a distance of thirty miles. - As
to the quality of the ore I regret very much that the cir-
cumstances were such that I could not send you speci-
mens that would give a more just idea of it - You know
that it was thought very important that you should take
one the specimens with you, as there was so much danger
of their getting lost if I was to undertake to send them
on after you, and as you would leave in a very few days,
I took two miners with me and left my business
in court, which was in session, and went down to the
diggings (28 miles) to get down specimens, when we got there
we found the diggings all caved in, not having been
worked for about four years, and that it would take
at least a week to clear them out, so that we could
not get at the main sheet, nor to get a specimen
from it - we had not time - and were forced to
content ourselves with picking up such refuse small
pieces as we could find, looking about the old piles of
slag, and all the specimens, which I sent you in the
small box, were of that character, and obtained in that
manner, we did succeed in finding one place in
the old diggings, where some remnants of an old sheet were
left, that were so near the surface that we were able to
get them, from which we obtained the other specimens, that
I sent you, which were ~~not~~ ^{but left in the small one} in the large box. - I do not
know what yield can be obtained from the specimens
I sent you, but you can rely with perfect certainty
that they are not more than two thirds as good as the
general average of the mine, and it will be entirely
safe, if you have them assayed, to add fifty per cent to the
result, (as the average quality of the ore (that is, if those specimens
yield 20 per cent, the average of the mine will be 30; if 18 - the average
will be 27 - if 16 - average will be 24 &c) - After Court is over I
will go down with some men, and spend two or three weeks
and clear out the old diggings, but this will not be
much before Christmas, and too late I am afraid to give

was any opportunity of sending you other specimens -
The one that has been heretofore raised from this mine has
averaged about twenty ~~five~~ ^{seven} or twenty ~~three~~ ^{four} per cent, and is beyond
doubt better ~~than~~ than the one of the Mineral Point mine
now owned by C. Buck & Co - There are specimens from both
that will yield 40 or 50 per cent, and others that will not yield
more than 10 or 12 - C. Buck & Co have shipped the copper man-
ufactured by them to Chandler, Howard & Co, Boston, where any quantity
of it can be sent. -

It is impossible to say what quantity of ore, this mine will
yield. The mine was first discovered about nine years since,
where about four tons of the ore was raised; up to that time
although several efforts had been made ^{in this section of the county} to smelt copper
ore, yet none of them proved profitable, and only resulted
in proving that the ore was valuable, and ascertaining nearly
the percent it would yield, but for all practical purposes
copper smelting was an abortion, and there was no market
for the ore, consequently there was no motive for digging
and the diggings were abandoned for about five years. - Some
four years since another effort was made at smelting which
proved more successful than the former and induced
in consequence of it the diggings were resumed and some-
thing like five or six tons were raised, but this effort at
smelting like the former proved a failure, and the diggings
have from that time to this been entirely neglected, and nothing
has been done with them. - More recently experiments in this
vicinity have proved that copper ore yielding as much
as nine per cent can be smelted at a profit, and large
quantities are now manufactured every day, and sent
to market. ^{It is all sent to Chandler, Howard & Co, Boston, where any quantity of it can be sent} Under these circumstances I have purchased
the mine, but have not yet worked it any. The digging
that has been done as yet, is extremely superficial, not
more than from ten to twenty feet deep, and it is evidently
from 80 to 100 feet more to water. - The digging that has been
done as yet indicates a north and south strata, but the ridge
is an east and west ridge, and the parallel ridges are also
east and west ridges, and my opinion is that we shall
find the main body of the copper ore, in an east and west,
and all we have to do now is to follow the north and
south, untill we find an east and west crossing and
then we shall find a large body of copper ore. - It will

require the expenditure of a few hundred dollars, probably \$500 or \$600, but not in any way to expend a thousand thoroughly to prove the ground, and I entertain no manner of doubt that when that is done, it will demonstrate that the mine is inexhaustible, and of a superior quality.

From these general ideas you will be able to form a tolerable opinion of the mine and of its value, and I will now proceed to state the terms upon which I am willing that you should dispose of a portion of it. I will sell the one half of it, (or if the purchaser wishes for the sake of having a controlling interest in it, a fraction over a half) for the sum of three thousand dollars, cash in hand, which is at the rate of \$25 per acre, on the following conditions, that the purchaser shall invest ^{the additional sum of} one thousand dollars in proving the mine, and shall purchase one of the water powers on Spefford's Creek, provided it can be purchased for \$500. - and all the profits resulting from the copper mine and the water power shall be equally divided ^{or within a fraction of it, as above stated} between us. - Or in relation to the water power he shall pay me \$500, and I will guarantee to purchase it for our joint benefit. It must be a sin qua non of any trade that you make, that I retain one half of the mine or very nearly that, and that the purchaser shall furnish the means to prove it, for our joint benefit, as ~~my~~ the only thing that would induce me to despair of any part of it is the making arrangements to have it worked, for I know that it only requires to have its value developed to make a fortune for whose embarks in it. -

I have written you more at length than I intended and will detain you no longer - Please let me hear from you soon -

Very Respectfully
Yours Obt. Servt
Moses M. Strong