

AHIRA HINKLEY SUCCUMBS AT
NINETY-SIXFirst Settler to Come to Eagle and
Last to go.

On Wednesday morning at half past seven o'clock Ahira R. Hinkley departed this life at the family home east of the village familiarly known to early settlers as the "Cobblestone." Mr. Hinkley has been in ill health for some time and his death was momentarily expected. He was born in Lebanon, Grafton county, New Hampshire, Oct. 23, 1810, and remained at home until he reached the age of twenty-one years when he spent one year in Massachusetts. In August, 1836, he came to Milwaukee which at that time was a little burg and the heart of the city was a marsh where the little Indian boys shot black birds with bows and arrows. The same month Mr. Hinkley with his brother, Henry A., Andrew Scofield and Chas. Kayness started out with ox teams towards Waukesha, thence to Mukwonago where Field's race course is situated. Next morning they followed an Indian trail to Eagle Prairie, which they first viewed from a hill on the Thomas farm, and in sight of the present home. Thence they walked onward until they reached the spring on the present farm, where Mr. Hinkley engraved his initials in a tree and thus made the first claim for land from the government in this town. Mr. Scofield, who was with him on his journey, made a claim on lands further south and towards Eagleville. Mr. Hinkley built a log house on his claim soon thereafter, which was the first house built here. For many years the Hinkley log house was a conspicuous landmark, but little of it remains now. Mr. Hinkley returned to Plainfield, N. H., and married Mary Daniels who left her beautiful eastern home for the pioneer home of the west. At the time of his death Mr. Hinkley owned 400 acres of the section of land claimed from the government. He always resided on this farm and although his old friend, William Sherman, now of Lake Geneva, claims a few days of earlier settlement in Eagle, Mr. Hinkley has the record of being the longest continual settler in Eagle and in the state, so far as relates to residing on lands claimed from the government. In 1848 the old log house was supplanted by a large and commodious farm home built of cobblestone. Here Mr. and Mrs. Hinkley reared a family of seven children all of whom are living. Leonard D. and Mrs. M. B. Pittman, Bosobel; Mary Kline, Negaunee, Mich.; Mrs. A. J. Pardee, Eagle; Mrs. John H. Payne, Canada; and Mrs. R. H. Pardee, California. The mother died about eight years ago. Mr. Hinkley was one of the chief promoters of the Milwaukee & Mississippi railroad and was one of its first directors. In politics Mr. Hinkley was a staunch Republican and was chosen to town office. He was a member of Robert Morris Lodge No. 115 of Free Masons. In religion he was a life-long Methodist. The funeral will take place from the family home Saturday morning at 10:30. Rev. W. W. Perry of Milwaukee will officiate. Interment will be in the family lot in Oak Ridge cemetery. In our next issue we will give a more extended

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