

## Henry Burnell

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HENRY BURNELL, a wealthy farmer of Eagle township, is a native of Yorkshire, England, born in 1832, the son of John and Ann (Walgate) Burnell. The former was born May 7, 1801, was married in 1828, and came to America in 1834, locating at White Pigeon, Mich. Two years later he came to Waukesha county, made a claim in Mukwonago township, and on June 11, 1837, brought his family thither. The first year was a very hard one for the early settlers on account of the difficulty of getting provisions. There was probably no one in the settlement who did as much to supply the deficiencies as Mr. Burnell. He brought thirty barrels of flour from Michigan, the first herd of cattle and the first drove of hogs to the town of Mukwonago, four horses,—then a great luxury,—and opened the first road past Spring Lake to Waukesha. Mrs. Burnell died in 1840, leaving four children: Henry, then eight years of age, Elizabeth, now the wife of Charles Harker of Dane county, and two other children, since deceased. Mr. Burnell contracted a second marriage with Miss Jane Cobb, a native of Yorkshire, England, who died in 1879, leaving six children, viz., Mary (Mrs. Jane C. West), Ann (Mrs. Thos. E. Jones), Hannah (Mrs. David B. Wilson), Emma (Mrs. Orlando Stubbs), John T. and Kate T. (Mrs. Edward Harrison). The father died on Oct. 4, 1890, at the old homestead. Henry Burnell's educational advantages were very meager. He attended the primitive country school a part of the time, but the conditions of pioneer life demanded that every one who was able should be at work. He followed the plow all day when he was ten years old, and when a mere lad, helped in clearing the land of the heavy timber. His services were given to his father until he was twenty years of age, and then for two years he farmed for the latter. In 1854 his father gave him 75 acres of land in Mukwonago township, which some two years later he traded for 70 acres in the town of Eagle,—a part of his present farm,—which he added to from time to time until he has now 320 acres, one of the best farms in the township. He is interested in dairying, has a herd of 17 cattle, and is a stock-holder in the creameries at North Prairie and Eagle. He has a flock of 40 sheep, but his chief agricultural interest is in grain, being the largest producer in the township. Mr. Burnell was married on Sept. 5, 1885 to Mrs. Mary A. Downing, daughter of John and Mary A. (Matters) Burden, who are elsewhere mentioned in this volume. Mrs. Burnell was born in Cornwall, England, in 1846 and came with her parents to the United States when she was eleven years of age. Her first marriage was with Walter Downing, by whom she had two children. Celia G., wife of Robert Johns, a bridge-builder and contractor of Chicago, has four children, William, Maude, Eliza and Lucelia. Elizabeth Ann (Mrs. Mortimer), who now makes her home with her mother, has one daughter, Ida, wife of Chelsea Jones, a farmer of Ottawa township. Mrs. Burnell has also one great-grandchild. To Mr. and Mrs. Burnell have been born two children. Luella Walgate, born Aug. 15, 1888, is a student at Carroll college, Waukesha. She has an especial talent for music, plays the piano, violin and mandolin, and will enter the conservatory of music and art at Waukesha, upon the completion of her literary studies. Henry, born April 12, 1890, has finished in the district school and is assisting his father in the management of the farm. Mr. and Mrs. Burnell are members of the Methodist church at North Prairie, the former being one of its trustees. He is a man of careful and conservative business methods, and although his taxes are twice the amount of any other resident of the town, his wealth has not been accumulated by speculation, but by industry, attention to details and excellent judgment.