

Oramel Hinkley.

A. R. HINKLEY, farmer. Sees. 11, 12 and 14; P. O. Eagle; born in Lebanon, Grafton Co., N. H., Oct. 23, 1810 ; was educated in his native town, and lived on his father's farm till he was 21, when he spent a year in Massachusetts.

In August, 1836, he landed at Milwaukee. Wisconsin comprised nearly all of Iowa, then; and Milwaukee consisted of the two-story house of [Solomon] Juneau, near the present Mitchell block, a small jail built on "stilts," and a new houses on Wisconsin street; the heart of the city was a marsh, where the Indian boys used to shoot blackbirds with bow and arrow.

About the 18th of August, Mr. H., his brother, Henry A., Mr. Charles Rayness, and Andrew Schofield, left the village with ox teams, and spent the second night in a log shanty on the present site of Waukesha, and the next night at the cabin of David Orrendorf, who had built near Judge Field's race course, Mukwonago; a terrible rainstorm arose that night, and the travelers passed a miserable night, on bedding laid on poles placed across the corners of the roofless shanty.

The next morning, Mr. H., with his brother and Mr. S., started on an Indian trail for Eagle Prairie; their first view of it was from a hill, now in sight from the residence of Mr. Hinkley; reaching a large spring on his farm, they were so struck with the beauty of the locality that each started for a tree, knife in hand ; Mr. Hinkley cut his name first, at which Mr. S., a Quaker, exclaimed, "Ahira, thee is quick with thy knife" on condition that Mr. H. lend him \$100 he agreed to look further; thus was made the first claim by an actual settler;

Mr. Hinkley that fall built a log house, which still stands, near the spring, and which was the first built in Eagle. In 1838, Mr. Hinkley returned to Plainfield, N. H., and married Miss Mary Daniels, who left a mansion for her husband's 12x12 log cabin, which had to shelter all their furniture, bedding, etc. Mr. H. now has 400 acres, having sold 240 ; the old log house is supplanted by a handsome stone farmhouse, built in 1848, which for years was the only roomy and complete one in town; is frame barn, built in 1842, was the second one built here. Mr. and Mrs. Hinkley have seven living children—Leonard D., Anna E., Frank D., Mary L., Emmeline J., Laura W., and Grace L. Death has never yet visited the house of this hardy pioneer. Mr. and Mrs. H. are almost life-long Methodists; he being a staunch Whig Republican, who has held various town offices.
1880 History of Waukesha County.

February 22, 2020

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