

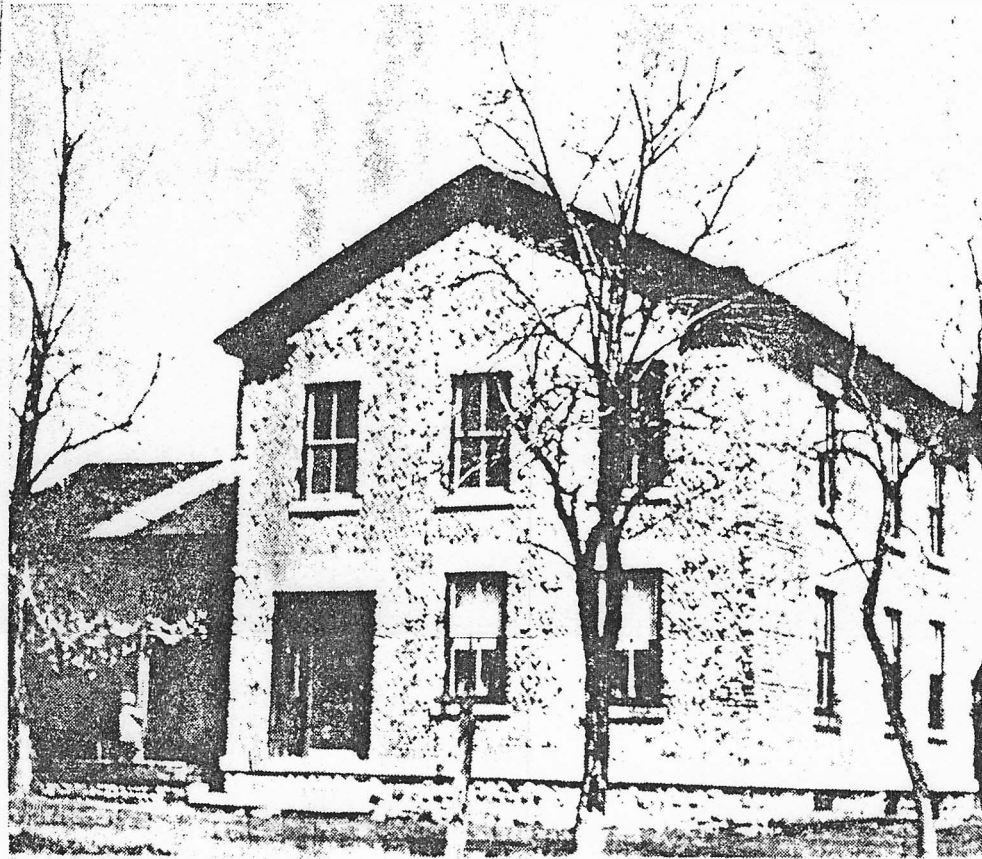
Below, Mrs. Gilbert Thomas (left) of Eagle, a descendant of the Hinkleys, looks over her gift to the Loerke family with Mrs. Loecke. The cradle was built by an Eagle cabinetmaker named Wambold for one of the Hinkley grandchildren. Mrs. Thomas, great granddaughter of Ahira Rockwell Hinkley, builder of the home, and daughter of Mrs. Florence Pardee of Eagle, will be a hostess at the Loerke home for the tour.



The library of the Loerke home is furnished in Elizabethan-Jacobean revival period of 1910. The room has avocado green walls with white panels at the windows. The other wall contains bookshelves.



(Loerke)



**BUILT IN 1848** — This picture was taken in 1884 of a cobbleshed house built in Eagle in 1848. It was built by A. R. Hinkley, Eagle town's first settler who arrived in September, 1836. (The first white settler of Waukesha county was Morris D. Cutler who came to Waukesha in May of 1834.) Barely visible on the porch in picture above is Donald Pardee, grandson of Hinkley. The picture is property of Mrs. Gilbert Thomas, great-granddaughter of Hinkley.

During the 70 years that A. R. Hinkley lived in Palestine, he was the outstanding man of the region. A versatile man, he built his cobbleshed house — on Hy. 59, occupied by Phillip Folts — in 1848. He collected the stones, burnt some of them to get lime for the plaster and passed them through a hole in a board to insure uniformity. He traveled to Pretty lake for its white sand for the plaster and mortar and went to Waukesha quarries for lime slabs for lintels and slabs for the door steps which still exist.

As a kind of sideline, Hinkley pulled teeth. Seeing a neighbor coming across his furrows, he knew an aching tooth was probably the cause. He would stop his plow, lean the patient up against the plow, take the extractors he always kept in his pocket and remove the offending tooth.

### Told of Terrifying Sounds

Hinkley was active in civic, religious and political affairs. He served the public in various school, church and town offices. He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge.

He was a promoter of the proposed Milwaukee and Mississippi railroad, and to hasten its construction, he mortgaged his farm for \$2,000. Although there was a bond given him stating that no interest would be charged on his purchase of stock, in later years, after litigation,

*Clipping sent by Mrs. Loerke*

he was charged interest at 10 percent for the full amount. Promise had also been made that he and his sons and daughters would be given free transportation on the road as long as they lived. That promise was repudiated several years before they died.

When the railroad came to Eagle, all hope of a town at Palestine vanished. The store was abandoned and in a short time the building was razed. The one remaining institution was the public school.

Many people do not know that the first school building was logs, but this is proved by a pioneer story:

In 1849, an Englishman was walking out from Milwaukee to Melendy's prairie to friends. He wanted to find land for his family. Reaching Palestine just as darkness was coming on, he heard peculiar noises — many of them and from different directions. In his reading about America, he had come across terrifying stories about wolves, how they bayed from various directions, getting closer and closer, finally coming together in their blood thirsty attacks upon their victim.

The traveler was discreet, so, fearing that these noises were those of wolves, and seeing the log schoolhouse at Palestine, decided to stay there overnight and finish his journey the next day.

In later years, when he could laugh over his experiences, he told about the "terrifying sounds" of . . . frogs!

A second school was built in 1854 and a third in 1928.

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The guest bedroom (left) at the Loerke home is full of pleasant, small surprises such as the commode at the side of the bed which turns into a sewing machine, vintage 1900. The bedroom is done in typical late Victorian period of 1880 to 1900.



Mary Daniels Hink-

*Waukesha Freeman 12-4-1968*

ley posed (above) in her bedroom on her 85th birthday when this photograph was taken in 1898. The bedroom is now used as the library by the Loerkes. The only furnishings of the Hinkleys when the Loerkes purchased it in 1961 were two picture frames.