

Life in Eagle

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Oramel Hinkley, was born at Randolph, Vt. November 19, 1812, his wife, Phebe Earle, was born January 14, 1811, at Westford, in the same state. In early life both emigrated to St. Clair, Mich., where they were united in marriage on the 23d of May, 1837. Three years later they came to Waukesha County and located in the town of Eagle. His first purchase was of forty acres of land on section 10, on which, as he supposed, he erected his cabin home; however, it turned out that he had built on land that did not belong to him. A neighbor knowing this was about to buy the land on which Mr. Hinkley's home stood. Learning of his intention the latter walked to Jericho, borrowed the money to pay for the land, and continued his journey to Milwaukee, where he arrived in the morning before the land office was open. He was the first man to get in, and had just made the entry when he met his neighbor who, had he been a little sooner, would have saved him that trouble. On that farm Mr. Hinkley resided as long as he lived. Subsequently he added a third forty, all of which he obtained from the Government. He afterward increased his farm to one hundred and sixty acres. Beginning poor he made every dollar he possessed, and that by the hardest labor. For the first cow he ever owned he made four thousand rails, walking five miles morning and evening to get to and from his work. Industrious and energetic he overtaxed his physical manhood, and died August 18, 1855, ere he had reached his forty-third year. His wife joined him in the spirit world on the 17th of February, 1879. Both led consistent Christian lives, being identified with the Congregational Church. Their family originally consisted of nine children. Four sons and five daughters, of whom six are living.