

Ephraim Allen Briggs.

Ephraim Allen Briggs was born in Taunton, Plymouth county, Mass., in 1783. He went with his parents to Orange, Franklin county. In 1806, he was married to Sally Townsend, of the town of New Salem, Franklin county, and they resided there until 1815. They had five children born in Massachusetts. They came here with horses and wagon, and were four weeks on the road, and settled on Townsend Hill on the east part of lot sixty, township seven, range six, and cleared up a farm. In 1839, they removed to the middle part of the unimproved lot fifty-three, township seven, range six, and cleared up another farm on which they resided until his death, which occurred on the 25th of February, 1861. He was seventy-eight years of age at the time of his death. After several years she went west to visit her children in Wisconsin and Minnesota, where she died at the residence of her daughter, Sally Briggs Canfield, in Waseca county, Minn., June 25, 1869.

After a long life of useful toil they rest from their labors. They came here when the country was almost an unbroken wilderness, and they labored earnestly and continuously and cleared up two farms, and reared a large family of children. Although they never possessed a very large amount of this world's goods, yet they were generous and free-hearted, and no one in need who desired aid went away from their door empty handed, and the same might be said of most of the old pioneers. My mother always enjoyed excellent health, and she endured and accomplished very much, beside doing the necessary household work and caring for a large family of children she spun and wove and frequently consumed the mid-night oil over her work. She carried us all safely through the measles, scarlet fever and other ailments, and doctors were very seldom seen at our home. Throughout her life of crowded care she did not worry or scold, but quietly and pleasantly pursued the even tenor of her way. She never spoke evil of others, but always found something in the character of every one that was entitled to a kind word. In life she "fought the good fight and kept the faith," and she approached the grave "soothed and sustained by an unflinching trust in the life to come."