

From: Parkinson <wraithp@charter.net>
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2009 3:46 PM
To: mrice4@wi.rr.com
Subject: Bigelow in the Civil War

Hi Mike,

I went to the Bigelow site and saw the letter from Franklin to his father! This is most interesting as this confirms a comment by one of the cousins that her ancestress, Sarah Bigelow (youngest sister) nursed Franklin back to health and he returned to service. The picture of him seems to show that he is missing a finger. I have never been able to find proof that he served more than the few months before his death at Petersburg. This makes it obvious that he did!

now father donte you let orfe inlist for of all plases in the world a soldier has the hardest I halve got broke in I can stand it now and the prouibility is that thare will be some Drafting done. if thare is I would advise bill to inlist then he can halve a chois of in the ofisers whitch Drafted men don't.

"orfe" is Orpheus, "bill" is William. I would think the comment about Orpheus is because he was only 16 when the letter was written. He does not mention Elverton, who was already serving when this letter was written. William ended up in the band, I am not sure what his instrument was.

Tradition says that Elverton Bigelow was on duty at Ford's Theater when Lincoln was shot. I have found no proof of this to this date. The Iowa cousins tell me that there was a brown stained piece of cloth.. supposedly from the towels that were used on Lincoln, in family possession. No one seems to know what became of it.

I do have some Bigelow pictures that are identified. I certainly would love to see the ones you have. We live in Wisconsin, so it would not be impossible to get to Eagle!

I was in touch with Clyde Rice at one time. The picture that I have of the Bigelows with the Parrot rifle are not the same as the one on the Bigelow web site. I do have pictures of Elverton and Franklin in their uniforms.

The information I have on Elverton's service is a bit messed up. I compiled it chronologically and find a couple of questions need answering. Did he enlist as a private or Corporal?? Co K history needs to be checked as well as Comp A. I did read the history of the switch and records of the objections to it, but that was long ago. He served most of the war in Virginia in the various forts surrounding Washington DC

Elverton Bigelow , Residence: Eagle, Wisconsin

Enlisted as a Private on 26 April 1861

Enlisted in Company K, 2nd Infantry Regiment Wisconsin on 26 April 1861.

Transferred Company K, 2nd Infantry Regiment Wisconsin on 08 December 1861

Transferred in Company A, 1st Heavy Artillery Regiment Wisconsin on 08 December 1861.

Enlisted as a Corporal on 26 April 1861

Enlisted in Company A, 1st Heavy Artillery Regiment Wisconsin on 26 April 1861.

Transferred on 25 April 1864 from company A to company S

Promoted to Full Sergeant Major on 25 April 1864

Mustered out Company A, 1st Heavy Artillery Regiment Wisconsin on 06 July 1864.

Enlisted as a Junior Lieutenant 1st Class on 19 September 1864

Enlisted in Company E, 1st Heavy Artillery Regiment Wisconsin on 19 September 1864

Promoted to Full Jr. 1st Lieut on 19 September 1864 (As of Co. E)

**Commission in Company E, 1st Heavy Artillery Regiment Wisconsin on 19 September 1864.
Mustered out Company E, 1st Heavy Artillery Regiment Wisconsin on 26 June 1865**

Please let me know where I can help. I will start the hunt for the photos I have as well as the letters of Elverton Bigelow.

Happy New Year!

Kathy

----- Original Message -----

From: [Mike Rice](#)

To: ['Parkinson'](#)

Cc: ['Mark Dexter'](#)

Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2009 1:24 PM

Subject: RE: Bigelow Website

Kathy,

Thanks for your email. My interest in the Civil War started with my search for 3 gg-uncles who fought for the Michigan Infantry in the Civil War and has branched out to my hometown, Eagle. Recently, our Eagle Historical Society received numerous items from a local resident whose family staked the first land claim in Eagle in 1836. Among the many artifacts were several Civil War letters which piqued my interest. Six are from one soldier, Sidney P. Kline, who served in the band for the 24th Wis Infantry along with three other Eagle soldiers. After the war, they formed a band called the Eagle Cotillion Band which was well respected here in Waukesha County.

As we've been cataloging items, we came across several items related to the Farrand Bigelow family including deeds, letters, and a variety of other things. There are dozens of photos which haven't been cataloged to date, but after the 1st, we plan on looking at all of them to see which are identified. I expect there may be some Bigelow pictures there.

I and fellow Civil War historian, Mark Dexter, thought this would be a great opportunity to follow the "Boys from Eagle" through the Civil War using their letters as the guide. Mark has had a passion for Civil War history all of his life and has a great knowledge of Wisconsin Regiment battles.

One of the things I've found in common with all the letters is the expectation that the war to be over very soon. Certainly the South could not hold up to the Union forces for long. Some of these hopeful letters came only days before the Union army suffered great defeats.

I've been to all of the cemeteries here in Eagle where these great men rest and have stood in prayer by their graves thanking them for their courage. Once strong and proud leaders of this community, I am saddened to find how little our community knows of them and their sacrifice.

I currently have a list of 84 soldiers from Eagle on the roster and Mark Dexter has more to add. We want to tell their story, show their faces, and take readers on a journey through the war as our home town heroes experienced it. The book will be a credit to their memory, a significant contribution to the historic record, and an historic jewel for our community, state, and nation.

We appreciate your help in this endeavor and your support. We may want to publish a couple of the pictures from the Bigelow website, specifically a picture of William & Alice (Betts) Bigelow shortly after the Civil War and a picture of William in front of a large cannon. These are on the website but may belong to Clyde Rice, if we can get permission. Any additional images are greatly appreciated. The images would be identified as part of the owner's collection.

Most sincerely,

Mike Rice
Historian, Eagle Historical Society

(Home)
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262-594-2011
mrice4@wi.rr.com

From: Parkinson [mailto:wraithp@charter.net]
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2009 10:17 PM
To: mrice4@wi.rr.com
Subject: Re: Bigelow Website

Hi Mike,

Kathy Parkinson here.. my husband, Bruce Bigelow Parkinson is great grandson of Elverton Bigelow. The lakefield.net email is my old one. The other email W9JEF@webtv.net is my husband's first cousin. He is very interested in the family history, but does not have the information that I have.

This particular Bigelow family had 3 sons serve in the Civil War. Some say another son, Orpheus, also served, but I have not found any record to prove this.

William Bigelow (13 Jun 1840-16 Sep 1911)
Elverton Bigelow (13 Feb 1842-23 Nov 1893)
Franklin Bigelow (30 Jan 1844-30 Jul 1864)

These brothers were all born at Eagle, sons of Ferrand Bigelow and Caroline Hibbard.
I have pictures of Elverton and Franklin, but none that I know of for William.

Hmm.. Wait.. I do have a picture of William and Elverton with their unit and their parrot rifle. Locating it might be a bit of a problem as we are in construction on our house right now.

Elverton's letter mentions brother "Will" as well as another Eagle man.

Franklin died at Petersburg, VA in the famed mine explosion.

William and Elverton married sisters, Alice Maria Betts and Mary Jane (Jennie) Betts, daughters of Jonathan Betts and Lucin Ewer, after the Civil War was over. Both families removed to Whiting, Monona Co. Iowa and are buried there.

The history of Company E is interesting.. the men volunteered to Company K.. and the powers that be seem to have shifted them. They were not originally planning on being heavy artillery!

The cousin who sent me the pictures and letter is long since passed. He mentioned that the Parrot rifle had a reputation for exploding, killing those who tended it. His comment: "Obviously, this one did not explode, or we would not be here!"

Below is some of the information I have gathered. Some overlaps. Elverton's name was commonly a problem as it was unusual and therefore folks seem to have guessed at the spelling. The letters and data directly relating to him indicate Elverton was the correct spelling. His wife called him Vert. The Bigelow site and Bigelow genealogy calls him Elverton "Pod" Bigelow, but I have never seen any information about the "Pod!" We believe it may have been a nickname. It does not appear in any other records that I have found.

My husband, Bruce is very interested in all this, but is visually impaired. He leaves the research to me. We had been to the cemetery in Eagle. Until we visited there, he did not understand my love of searching for our roots!

Let me know what I can gather for you. I don't know that I can locate the original letter or the Company E photo at the moment, but certainly am interested in setting Elverton, William and Franklin in their proper place in history.

Kathy Parkinson, Two Rivers, WI

Name: Franklin Bigelow , Residence: Eagle, Wisconsin Enlistment Date: 28 March 1864 Distinguished Service: DISTINGUISHED SERVICE Side Served: Union State Served: Wisconsin Unit Numbers: 3090 3090 Service Record: Enlisted as a Private on 28 March 1864

Enlisted in Company G, 37th Infantry Regiment Wisconsin on 28 March 1864.

Killed Company G, 37th Infantry Regiment Wisconsin on 30 July 1864 in Petersburg, VA

Military Records of Individual Civil War Soldiers. [database online] Provo, UT: Ancestry.com, 1999-. Data compiled by Historical Data Systems of Kingston, MA from the following list of works.

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Name: Elverton Bigelow , Residence: Eagle, Wisconsin Enlistment Date: 26 April 1861 Distinguished Service: DISTINGUISHED SERVICE Side Served: Union State Served: Wisconsin Unit Numbers: 3059 3059 3059 Service Record: Promoted to Full Sergeant

Promoted to Full Sergeant 1st Class

Enlisted as a Corporal on 26 April 1861

Enlisted in Company A, 1st Heavy Artillery Regiment Wisconsin on 26 April 1861.

Transferred on 25 April 1864 from company A to company S

Promoted to Full Sergeant Major on 25 April 1864

Mustered out Company A, 1st Heavy Artillery Regiment Wisconsin on 06 July 1864

Promoted to Full Jr. 1st Lieut on 19 September 1864 (*As of Co. E*)

Enlisted in Company E, 1st Heavy Artillery Regiment Wisconsin on 19 September 1864.

Mustered out Company E, 1st Heavy Artillery Regiment Wisconsin on 26 June 1865

Name: Elerton Bigelow , Residence: Eagle, Wisconsin Enlistment Date: 26 April 1861 Distinguished Service: DISTINGUISHED SERVICE Side Served: Union State Served: Wisconsin Unit Numbers: 3082 3082 Service Record: Promoted to Full Corporal

Enlisted as a Private on 26 April 1861

Enlisted in Company K, 2nd Infantry Regiment Wisconsin on 26 April 1861.

Transferred Company K, 2nd Infantry Regiment Wisconsin on 08 December 1861

Transferred in Company A, 1st Heavy Artillery Regiment Wisconsin on 08 December 1861.

Name: Elverton Bigelow , Residence: Eagle, Wisconsin Enlistment Date: 26 April 1861 Distinguished Service: DISTINGUISHED SERVICE Side Served: Union State Served: Wisconsin Unit Numbers: 3059 3059 3059 3059 Service Record: Promoted to Full Sergeant

Promoted to Full Sergeant 1st Class

Enlisted as a Corporal on 26 April 1861

Enlisted in Company A, 1st Heavy Artillery Regiment Wisconsin on 26 April 1861.

Transferred on 25 April 1864 from company A to company S

Promoted to Full Sergeant Major on 25 April 1864

Mustered out Company A, 1st Heavy Artillery Regiment Wisconsin on 06 July 1864

Promoted to Full Jr. 1st Lieut on 19 September 1864 (*As of Co. E*)

Enlisted in Company E, 1st Heavy Artillery Regiment Wisconsin on 19 September 1864.

Mustered out Company E, 1st Heavy Artillery Regiment Wisconsin on 26 June 1865

Name: Elverton Bigelow , Residence: Eagle, Wisconsin Enlistment Date: 26 April 1861 Distinguished Service: DISTINGUISHED SERVICE Side Served: Union State Served: Wisconsin Unit Numbers: 3059 3059 3059 3059 Service Record: Promoted to Full Sergeant

Promoted to Full Sergeant 1st Class

Enlisted as a Corporal on 26 April 1861

Enlisted in Company A, 1st Heavy Artillery Regiment Wisconsin on 26 April 1861.

Transferred on 25 April 1864 from company A to company S

Promoted to Full Sergeant Major on 25 April 1864

Mustered out Company A, 1st Heavy Artillery Regiment Wisconsin on 06 July 1864

Promoted to Full Jr. 1st Lieut on 19 September 1864 (*As of Co. E*)

Enlisted in Company E, 1st Heavy Artillery Regiment Wisconsin on 19 September 1864.

Mustered out Company E, 1st Heavy Artillery Regiment Wisconsin on 26 June 1865

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Enlisted as a Private on 26 April 1861

Enlisted in Company K, 2nd Infantry Regiment Wisconsin on 26 April 1861.

Transferred Company K, 2nd Infantry Regiment Wisconsin on 08 December 1861

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Promoted to Full Sergeant 1st Class

Enlisted as a Corporal on 26 April 1861

Enlisted in Company A, 1st Heavy Artillery Regiment Wisconsin on 26 April 1861.

Transferred on 25 April 1864 from company A to company S

Promoted to Full Sergeant Major on 25 April 1864

Mustered out Company A, 1st Heavy Artillery Regiment Wisconsin on 06 July 1864

Promoted to Full Jr. 1st Lieut on 19 September 1864 (*As of Co. E*)

Enlisted in Company E, 1st Heavy Artillery Regiment Wisconsin on 19 September 1864.

Mustered out Company E, 1st Heavy Artillery Regiment Wisconsin on 26 June 1865

Name: Elverton Bigelow , Residence: Eagle, Wisconsin Enlistment Date: 19 September 1864 Distinguished Service: DISTINGUISHED SERVICE Side Served: Union State Served: Wisconsin Unit Numbers: 3059 3059 Service Record: Enlisted as a Junior Lieutenant 1st Class on 19 September 1864

Commission in Company E, 1st Heavy Artillery Regiment Wisconsin on 19 September 1864.

Mustered out Company E, 1st Heavy Artillery Regiment Wisconsin on 26 June 1865

----- Original Message -----

From: [Mike Rice](#)
To: wraith@lakefield.net ; W9JEF@webtv.net ; wraithp@charter.net
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2009 6:40 PM
Subject: Bigelow Website

Hi,

I am doing research on American Civil War soldiers from Eagle Wisconsin for a book for the Eagle Historical Society. I have seen the Bigelow family website and found your submission of a letter by Elverton Bigelow to be very interesting. Do you have a copy of the original that I can see, or any other pictures, letters, etc. that can add to the historical record? We have many other items on the Bigelow family that we may be able to exchange.

Thanks for your help,

Mike Rice
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