

## Bigelows in the Civil War

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.

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

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**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**

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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.

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.

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 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

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.

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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 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: 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