



Ferrand Bigelow was born in the town of Reading Windsor Co. Vermont Sept. 13th 1808. He was married to Miss Caroline Hubbard of Royalton Vt. Sep. 16th 1836. Soon after being married preparations were begun for, at that time, a long and perilous journey to Wisconsin Territory. Arriving in Wis. the following year 1837 and locating on what is now known as Sec. No. 29 town of Eagle, the life work of this persevering couple was begun amidst many trying circumstances.



Away from kindred and friends, having for neighbors a few settlers miles apart; no laid out roads, Post Office and store eight miles and grist mill fifteen miles distant. But these hardships and privations were to be endured that those who came after them might live in ease and comfort. Many thrilling incidents of his early pioneer life have been related to me by our departed friend. I will occupy your time with only a single case



To replenish the supply of provisions he took his team - a yoke of oxen - and wagon and went to Prairieville, now Frankesha - 17 miles distant but the day was hardly long enough to go and return by daylight with his slow moving team so when he had arrived at the last house on his return and nearest neighbor within about four miles of his own dwelling right overtook him. His neighbor (Scotfield) kindly pointed out a star in the direction of



which he was to travel to reach his destination. Guided by this star, a part of the way was traveled when the heavens were obscured by dense clouds and he could not tell which way to go and as a rain storm soon set in lasting all the long night there was no alternative, ^{but} to lie in his wagon until day light drenched by a tremendous storm. For over fifty years this couple of early settlers of Eagle traveled this stormy world together



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rearing a family of seven children one of whom gave his life in defence of his country and six remain to honor and lament their parents. On the 18th day of last May Mrs ~~Caroline~~ Bigelow departed this life leaving the husband and companion for so many years on the Western slope of life's hillside near the setting sun of his last and long repose - 7 months and 12 days intervening and the bereft widower and father's flickering light on



earth goes out forever.
 His life stretched almost
 across an entire century.
 It is difficult for us to
 comprehend the import-
 ant events crowded be-
 tween the years 1808 and 1888

This time covers twenty presi-
 dential terms and while some
 have been re-elected for the 2^d term
 there has been 20 different chief
 magistrates of the nation
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At the birth of Ferrand Dige-
 low the American Inde-
 pendence was but 25 years
 old - The English sovereign
 still anxious and hopeful
 of recovering his lost colo-
 nies making an un-
 successful attempt when the
 subject of this sketch was
 four years old. Steam-
 boats and railroads were
 unknown until he had
 reached manhood, nor
 were any of the mecha-
 nical appliances of electric-
 ity made use of until he
 was in middle life. When



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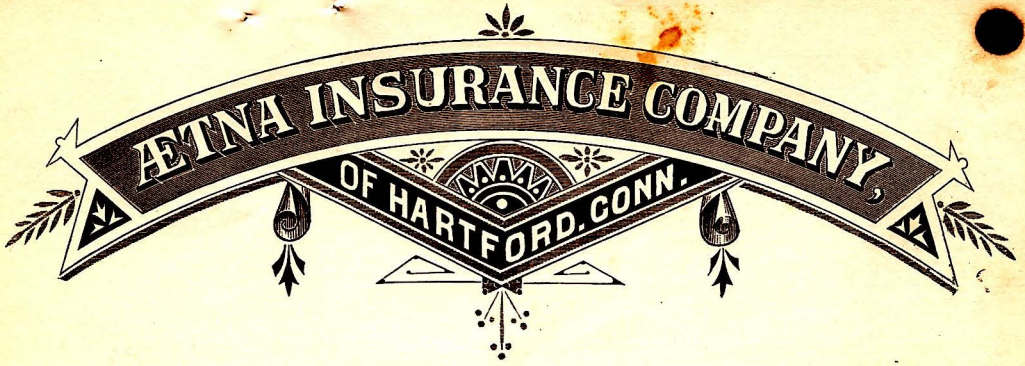
he was a boy grain was reaped with a sickle a handful at a time. Since his birth over 20 States have been organized and admitted to the Union, countless forests have been removed from the continent and the lurking places of wild beasts have become the home of a civilized and enlightened people constituting the mightiest nation the world has ever known. Not by her generals or eminent statesmen has our country



grown to greatness, but by
 her citizens who have de-
 voted their energies to the
 forest and desert places of
 the land and who have
 also planted themselves
 squarely upon their own
 opinions, whatever those
 opinions might be. Mr
 Bigelow's parents were in
 religious belief Presbyteri-
 an and the doctrines of
 that sect early instilled
 in the mind of the boy
 Ferrand but at the youth-
 ful age of ten years he
 began to feel that the



usages and practices of that church were but empty forms and soon after renounced them and adopted the doctrine of the universal salvation of all mankind finally in his later life believing somewhat in modern Spiritualism. In relating these facts given to me by the subject of this sketch in his lifetime, I express no opinion as to the correctness of his conclusions but can ~~truly~~ truthfully say regardless of



his religious beliefs that he was an honest upright citizen, kind and obliging neighbor and the world made better for his having lived in it