

Ferrand Bigelow was born  
 in the town of Reading Wind  
 sor County, Vermont, Sept.  
 13<sup>th</sup> 1808. He was married  
 to Miss Caroline Hibbard of  
 Royalton Vt. Sept. 16, 1836  
 Soon after being married  
 preparations were begun, for  
 at that time, a long and  
 perilous journey to Wiscon-  
 sin 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 dis-  
 couraging 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 come 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 <sup>only</sup> with a single case - To replenish the supply of provisions he took his team a yoke of oxen and wagon and went to Prairieville, now Drake

was 17 miles distant but  
 the day was hardly long e-  
 nough to go and return by  
 day light with his slow mov-  
 ing team so when he had  
 arrived at the last house  
<sup>on his return</sup>  
 and nearest neighbor with  
 in about four miles of his  
 own dwelling sight overtook  
 him His neighbor (Seefield)  
 kindly pointed <sup>out</sup> 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 travelled when  
 the heavens were obscured  
 by dense clouds and he could  
 not tel which way to go  
 and as a rain storm soon  
 set in lasting all the long

might there was no alternative but lay 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 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 10<sup>th</sup> day of May 1887 Mrs Caroline Bigelow departed this life leaving the husband and companion for so many years on the Western slope of lifes hillside near the setting sun of his last and long repose.

6 months, <sup>14 days</sup> intervening  
 and the bereft widower and fath-  
 ers flickering light on earth  
 goes out forever - His life  
 stretched almost across an  
 entire century - It is difficult  
 for us to comprehend the im-  
 portant events crowded between  
 the years 1808 and 1888,\* At the  
 birth of Ferrand Bigelow the  
 American Independance was  
 but 25 years old, The English  
 sovereign still anxious and hope-  
 full of recovering his lost  
 colonies, making an unsuc-  
 cessful <sup>attempt</sup> when the subject of this  
 sketch was four years old -  
 Steamboats and Railroads  
 were unknown until he had

reached manhood, nor were any of the mechanical appliances of electricity made use of until he was in middle life. When he was a boy grain was reaped by a sickle hand ful at a time. Since his birth over twenty States have been organized and admitted to the Union. countless forests have 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  
 devoted their energies to the  
 forest and desert places of the  
 land and who have also  
 planted themselves squarely  
 upon their own opinions, what-  
 soever those opinions might  
 be — Mr Bigelow's parents  
 were in religious belief Presby-  
 terians and the doctrines of that  
 sect early instilled in the mind  
 of the boy Ferrand but at the  
 youthful age of ten years he  
 began to feel that the usages  
 and practices of that church  
 were but empty forms and  
 after renouncing them and a-  
 dopted the doctrine of the

copy

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 ex-  
press no opinion as to the cor-  
rectness of his conclusions  
but can truthfully say re-  
gardless 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.