

# BIGELOW, HENRY AUGUSTUS

I  
0001

BIGELOW, HENRY AUGUSTUS, born at Walpole, Norfolk County, Massachusetts, April 5, 1833; son of (Rev.) Asahel and Dorcas Freeman (Homes) Bigelow; student at Williams College, 1852-53, but was obliged to leave because of sickness; went to the Pacific Coast and engaged in mining in Oregon and California.

Left San Francisco July 20, 1863, in a party of eight men of whom J. T. Alsop, John M. Roundtree and Lew Barton were members; crossed the Colorado River at La Pas on August 19 and arrived at Weaver on September 13, near which gold had been discovered In May; in 1892 he stated that the town consisted of a single street on the east side of Weaver Creek and:

The ubiquitous pioneer Hebrew, and the whiskey sellers were along with their stocks of goods and tents to display them in, and the town of Weaver in six weeks after Rich Hill was struck, was a hustling, bustling, thriving place of over 800 inhabitant.

We found there permanently located as it were, at work mining, A. H. Peoples, Wm. Murray, Wm. Bradshaw, J. Weber, J. W. Swilling, J. S. Chase, Thos. Forsee, John R. Simmons, Frank Hodge, George Bryant, three Frenchmen whose names are forgotten, Jas. Johnson and Nigger Ben. There were four stores run respectively by N. Van Tassel, B. F. Howell, J. Mullen (James McMullen), and Black Sol (Max Solomon). J. A. Moore was town butcher and Chas. --- town baker, in all twenty-one white men.

In addition to those there were between 300 and 400 Mexicans, and a great number of transient prospect ors constantly coming and going. Mrs. Van Tassel was the only white woman in the town at that time though there were e ores of Mexican women."

Listed Territorial Census, 3d District (Yavapai County) April, 1864, resident in Arizona eight months, occupation, Laborer, property valued ●t \$50; operated an arastra in partnership with "Oregon" Smith in Walker Gulch, Bradshaw Mountains, 1865; Member from Weaver, 3d District, 1st Territorial Council, 1864; named as Charter Member, Arizona Historical Society by Act of the Legislature approved November 7, 1864; Member from Wickenburg, Yavapai County, 2d Territorial. Council, (President) 1865; Chief Clerk, 3d Territorial Council, 1866; Assessor of Internal

Revenue for the District of Arizona at \$2,500 per annum from May 31, 1866, to June 30, 1873; appointed by Governor Safford as Aid-de-Camp with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, October 20, 1869; Public Administrator of Yavapai County, 1873-75; Secretary of the "Prescott Jubilee" celebrating the punishment of Apaches by 16 citizens led by John B. Townsend, June 18, 1871; Listed, Hinton's "Hand Book to Arizona" as Notary Public and Conveyancer at Alexandra, 30 miles south of Prescott, 1878; Entered Apprentice, Azilian Lodge No. 177, F. & A. M., Prescott, 1882; in charge of 30 men working at the Vulture Mine in July 1889; was Secretary of the Republican Territorial Central Committee for many Years.

Died at Prescott, Yavapai County, A.T., December 20, 1892, aged 59, buried \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Cemetery, Prescott; the Prescott Arizona Enterprise printed the following obituary:

"Crossed the Great Divide!" is the laconic response of many an old-timer in Arizona to the intelligence of the death of Colonel Henry A. Bigelow, which occurred at Prescott a few days since. He was a man of broad intelligence, thoroughly scholarly at one time in his life, an extensive reader and thinker. His was one of the most genial, philosophical natures that laughed at reverse and took the world for the enjoyment he found in it rather than for the cares and sorrows he might unearth.

His hand was widely open to every man under all conditions. No one suffered for "bacon and beans" or a spot to roll in his blankets in Colonel Bigelow's camp while the worthy Colonel had a cent, or a cent's worth of credit. His mind seemed to be an ever flowing spring of wit and in everything he saw first and most strikingly the ludicrous side. He was absolutely without fear; calm under the most dangerous and exciting circumstances and his sense of the ludicrous made him the first to laugh when the supreme moment of danger had passed.

Colonel Bigelow was in every sense of the word a typical Massayamper; he loved his teddy, his pipe, his camp, the toils and hardships of a prospector's life, his beans, the free joyous air, the camp fire tale, the grandeur of nature, the gurgling mountain brook, the slumbering song of the pines that whispered their tenderness above his head and in whose temples he loved to worship as those who have learned of their God in the great lessons He has written among the everlasting hills. He was a faithful Mired and an honest man. On the other side we know he has "struck it rich."

BIGELOW, HENRY AUGUSTUS

( 2 )

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Howe, G.B. - The Bigelow Family, 1892, pp. 286-287 .  
 Great Register of Yavapai County, 1876 to 1882.  
 Parish, T.E. - History of Arizona, Volume 3, p. 89; Volume 4, p. 149; Volume 5, p. 348.  
 Kelly, G.H. - Legislative History - Arizona, pp. 2, 18.  
 Walls, E.W., - Argonaut Tales, pp. 387-389.  
 U. S. Treasury Department - Secretary's files .  
 Hinton, R.J., Handbook to Arizona, 1878, appendix, p. LVI.  
 Journals, 1st, 2d and 3d, Arizona Legislatures, 1864, 1865 and 1866.  
 United States Official Register, 1871, p. 58.  
 Hamilton, P. - Resources of Arizona, S.F., 1888, p. 394.  
 Raymond, R.W. - Statistics of Mining West of the Rocky Mountains, 6th Annual Report, 1873, pp. 346-47 and 8th, 1875, p. 348.  
 M. W. Grandodge of California, F. & A. M. - Proceedings, 1882, p. 85.  
 W.P.A. - Roster of Yavapai county officials, 1942.  
 Barney, J.M. - Political Activities of the Territorial Governors - Manuscript pp. 6, 9, 25.  
 The Weekly - - Prescott, March 12, 1870, June 24, 1871, April 9, 1880, and July 3, 1889.  
 The Arizona Enterprise, Prescott, April 4, 1891; September 22 and 29 and December 22, 1892 (obituary).  
 The Prescott Courier, March 31, 1891, p. 4. c. 2.  
 The Weekly Herald, Phoenix, December 22, 1892, p. 2. c. 5 (death notice).

## WANTED

1. Obituaries in the Prescott Courier and in the Miner.
2. Any other references to him found in the newspaper indexes which are of real importance.