

BIGELOW STORY

Job G. Bigelow arrived in Milford Township in July, 1832, and bought of the government the north half of southwest quarter of section 33. He broke up and sowed to wheat forty acres, and put up the body of a log house, putting down a temporary floor. In October of the same year he moved his family into it, without doors or windows or even a roof. But he soon finished it, and as there was no school-house, or even school district, in the entire township at that time, and there being a few families in the vicinity desiring school-privileges, Mrs. Bigelow opened a school in their own house, where she taught the children of the surrounding country for two years. It is believed that this was one of the first schools ever taught in the town, probably *the very first one*.

Mr. Bigelow, during the fall, had hired a young man by the name of Richard Wilson. One afternoon, with two nephews of Mr. Bigelow's who were there on a visit, it was determined to have a hunting expedition by way of recreation. Returning quite late in the evening, after partaking supper they retired for the night, with the exception of Wilson, who sat down upon the floor with his feet down into the hole intended for the hearth. With his head resting upon his hands and his elbows upon his knees, he was soon fast asleep. In the night, as the fire got low, being somewhat cold, one of the boys got up and threw upon the fire a basket of chips, on which one of them, on coming in from their hunt, had thoughtlessly thrown his powder horn. Again retiring to rest, he was soon in the land of tired hunters, from which he and all the inmates of the house were suddenly summoned by a loud explosion. It seems that as soon as the fire reached the powder the above result followed, scattering the chips and fire all over the house, throwing poor Dick nearly to the back part of the room. Fortunately, no one was injured, *but all were badly frightened*.