

ADDITION ONE

TO

ARCHIBALD WILLIAMS:

A FRIEND OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

By

ROBERT D. LOEVY

2019

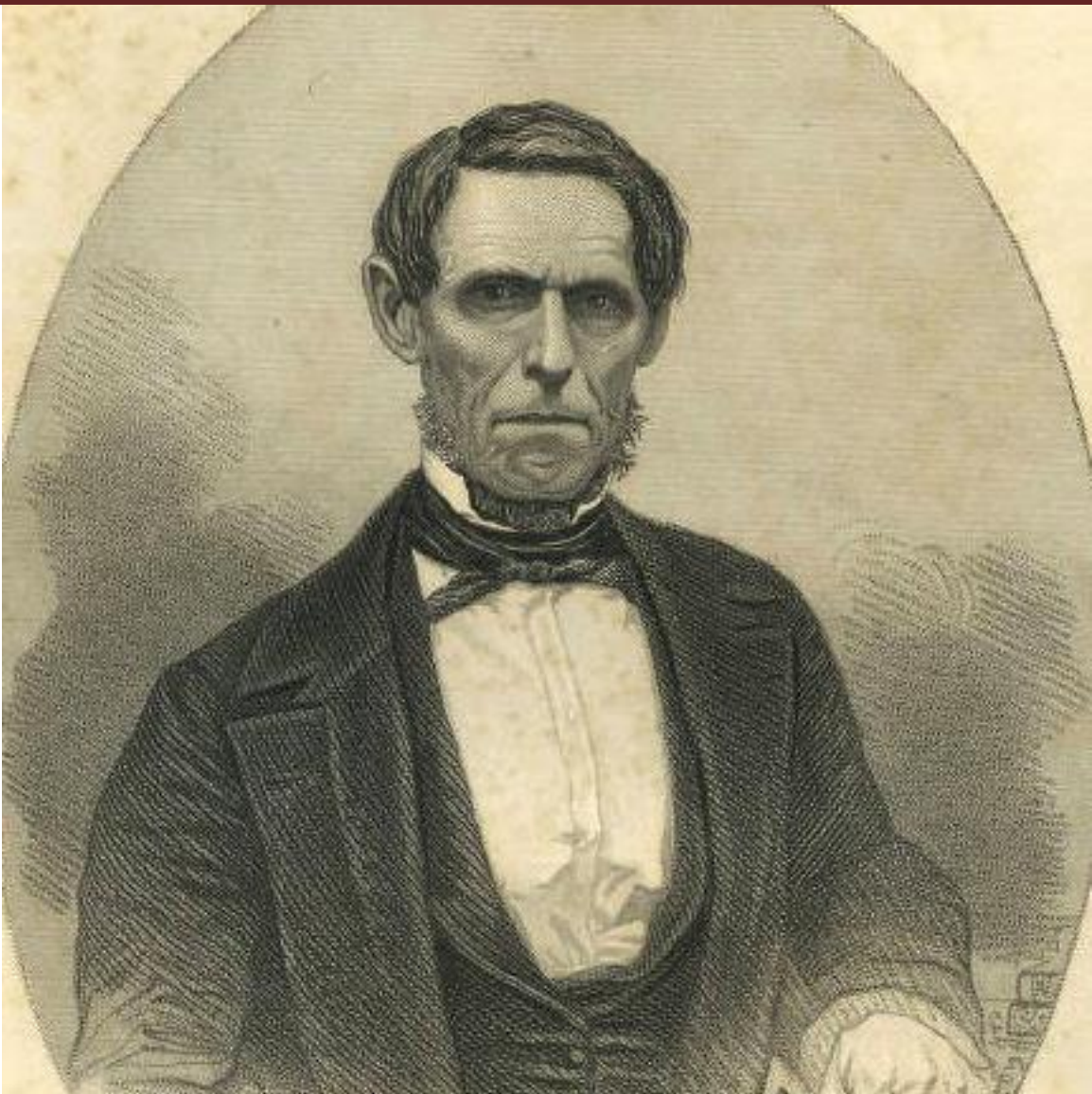
Research Associate

WALTON T. LOEVY

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ARCHIBALD WILLIAMS



ARCHIBALD WILLIAMS

He was a leading politician in mid-Nineteenth Century Illinois and a close friend and political ally of Abraham Lincoln. Source: Quincy Public Library

WHEN ARCHIBALD WILLIAMS SLEPT IN THE SAME BED WITH ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Archibald Williams was an early 19th Century lawyer from Quincy, Illinois, a busy steamboat port on the Mississippi River. Elected to the Illinois state legislature in the 1830s, Williams became a close friend and political ally of Abraham Lincoln, who was also serving in the legislature at that time. Both men became members of the Whig Party, and both attended an Anti-Nebraska convention in Bloomington, Illinois, in 1856.

A noted historian, Albert J. Beveridge, described how Archibald Williams and Abraham Lincoln came to sleep in the same bed together:

“At Bloomington, Lincoln, Archibald Williams, his old associate in the Legislature, T. Lyle Dickey of Ottawa, a good lawyer, went to [David] Davis’s house, and lived there during the Convention. Lincoln and Williams slept in one bed and Dickey and Whitney in another. All were Whigs and conservatives, and all were skilled politicians. The [Davis] residence was a half a mile from town, and the feverish excitement of the crowds did not reach that tranquil spot. It was an ideal place for calm thought and cool judgment; and Whitney tells us that the course of the historic Bloomington Convention was decisively influenced by the counsels that came from the steady men in the Davis House.”¹

The Anti-Nebraska Convention in Bloomington was considered the birthplace of the Republican Party in Illinois. Archibald Williams served as the temporary president of the convention until a permanent president was elected. Lincoln gave his famous “Lost Speech,” a critique of slavery in the territories that was so powerful and moving that the newspaper reporters put down their pencils and note pads and made no record of it.

Archibald Williams and Abraham Lincoln were staying at the Bloomington home of David Davis. He would become Lincoln’s campaign

¹ Beveridge, Albert J., *Abraham Lincoln 1809-1858*, Vol. II (Houghton Mifflin Co., 1928), p. 364. Beveridge sites as his source, *Lincoln: Whitney*, I, 259.

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manager in the 1860 presidential election. After Lincoln was elected, the new president appointed David Davis to the U.S. Supreme Court.

**THE PARENTAGE OF NANCY KEMP,
THE WIFE OF ARCHIBALD WILLIAMS**

Nancy Kemp's parents were Charles Kemp and Martha Hamilton.

Nancy Kemp's father, Charles Kemp, was born about 1766 in Sussex County, New Jersey. He served in the War of 1812 as a private in Captain Maurice Langmore's Company of the First Rifle Regiment, Kentucky Militia.

Her grandfather, Reuben Kemp, married Jane Stewart in 1762. Jane Stewart's father was Henry Stewart.

Nancy Kemp's mother, Martha Hamilton Kemp, was born May 23, 1783 or 1784. She was the daughter of John Hamilton and Rebecca Davis, who was known as Grandmother Hamilton in her later years. Rebecca Davis was born about 1764 or 1765 and passed away about 1850 in Ellington Township north of Quincy, Illinois.

Nancy Kemp Williams had a brother, Henry Stewart Kemp. One history stated that he built a large frame house in Ellington Township that served as a station on the Underground Railroad for runaway slaves.

Nancy Kemp Williams had another brother, Charles J. Kemp, who was killed in the Civil War fighting for the Union. He was listed as a recruit in Company C of the 16th Illinois Regiment. He had an enlistment date of January 3, 1864, and a death date of June 14, 1864. The 16th was in Georgia at that time serving under General William T. Sherman's command.

**A LETTER FROM ARCHIBALD WILLIAMS
TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

Abraham Lincoln papers –Library of Congress

From Archibald Williams to Abraham Lincoln, December 19, 1860²

Washington, D.C., December 19. 1860

Dear Sir,

Two weeks & a half close observation here at the Capital have convinced me that disunion is even now at a discount. But for the inability of President [Buchanan] & the treachery of his subordinates [Southern Cabinet members], even South Carolina would not venture upon secession.

His [Buchanan's] message, as well as his omission to strengthen the forts in the port of Charleston [Fort Moultrie, Fort Sumter, etc.] is an invitation to the commission of treason. The question is not as he states it, whether the government has power to declare war against a State, but simply whether it has the right and power to execute its laws. These laws act on individuals & not on states.

With the possession of the forts of the harbor, the revenue laws could be enforced with great ease. If South Carolina should refuse the advantages of federal courts & postal facilities, in my opinion, it would be inexpedient at this hour to attempt to force them upon her. The supremacy of the laws being asserted & maintained by the collection of the revenue, [plus] time & reflection, will cure the frenzy that rules South Carolina.

² Archibald Williams was an old political and legal associate of Lincoln. They had served together as Whigs in the Illinois state legislature, and Lincoln had helped Williams obtain an appointment as U.S. District Attorney in Illinois in 1849. In 1854, Williams ran unsuccessfully for Congress as an opponent of the Kansas-Nebraska Act. During the Civil War, Lincoln appointed Williams the first U.S. district judge in the new state of Kansas.

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I listened yesterday to Mr. Crittenden's³ speech in support of his proposed compromise. In my opinion, he is one of the most patriotic & at the same time mischievous of the Southern Senators. His known patriotism & moderation give his opinions great weight with the better portion of the Southern people. The ultra men of the South have frightened him and made him believe that the Union can only be saved by concessions on the part of the North which they know cannot & will not be made.

Under this impression he proposes a compromise based on the assumption that great wrongs have been committed by the North against the rights of the South. [He asks] for guarantees against their recurrence & declares his solemn conviction that, unless the North accedes to his reasonable proposition — thereby stultifying itself & yielding up its cherished principles — the Union would inevitably be dissolved. His fear is that Old Kentucky would concur in the act of dissolution.

Now it is a little strange that Mr. Crittenden has failed to discover, what is obvious to all discerning men, that this preposterous cry of Southern rights violated is, with South Carolina, a mere pretext by which he hopes to involve the whole South in her treasonable purpose.

After Mr. Crittenden, Mr. Johnson⁴ of Tennessee took the floor. In his estimation, the North was a great criminal. But he was not going out of the Union. If anybody went out, it should be those who violated the Constitution. Those who had done no wrong should assert & maintain their rights inside of the Union. [unclear] The simple declaration that the supposed wrongs must be settled inside of the Union is worth a hundredfold more than all the patriotic wailing of the antediluvian Crittenden.

I had feared that you would be embarrassed in your administration by the action of Congress, but I am happy to be able to announce to you my firm conviction that the Northern Democrats, with a few exceptions, will unite with the Republicans in such legislation as may be required to meet the

³ John J. Crittenden. He was U.S. Senator from Kentucky. His compromise would have reinstated the Missouri Compromise with slavery legal in the territories below the southern border of Missouri.

⁴ Andrew Johnson. He was a U.S. Senator from Tennessee who remained loyal to the Union and was Abraham Lincoln's vice-president in Lincoln's second term in the presidency. He became president when Lincoln was assassinated.

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present crisis. In view of this fact & his complete humiliation, I have commissioned Colonel Baker⁵ to say to Douglas⁶ that, for the first time in my life, I felt like affiliating with him [Douglas].

With a cabinet of able, prudent, & determined men, I have an abiding confidence that you will be able to overcome the trouble that threatens the peace of the country & restore its wonted quiet & prosperity.

Your friend

Archibald Williams

P.S. Since writing the above, I learn that Johnson has been improving upon [his] speech of yesterday. You will see his speech in the papers. I therefore forbear any comment further than to say that it will do more good than any amount of cajoling.

[Edward D.] Baker intends to visit you during the Christmas holy days.

AW

Abraham Lincoln papers <http://www.loc.gov/resource/mal.0522200>

ANALYSIS

This letter places Archibald Williams in Washington, D.C., from roughly December 1 to December 19, 1860. This was one of the most tumultuous periods politically in United States history. Lincoln's election to the presidency in a four-way race in November of 1860 was inspiring widespread talk of secession from the Union on the part of Southerners and Southern sympathizers. At the same time, other politicians from both the

⁵ Edward D. Baker. He was a longtime political ally of Lincoln in Illinois. He subsequently moved to Oregon and was elected U.S. Senator. He would have just arrived in Washington, D.C., when Archibald Williams learned that Baker planned to visit Lincoln over the Christmas holidays. Baker was one of the men who rode in the horse-drawn coach from the White House to the Capitol with Lincoln on Lincoln's inauguration day.

⁶ Stephen A. Douglas. He was U.S. Senator from Illinois. He finished fourth in the four-man race for U.S. president in 1860 that was won by Lincoln.

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North and the South were busily promoting a variety of “compromises” designed to reconcile the two sides and prevent the slow drift into Civil War.

Archibald Williams blames the deteriorating situation on the incumbent president, James Buchanan, a Democrat. Williams criticizes Buchanan for not strengthening the military garrisons in the “ports of Charleston,” which include Fort Sumter. Military action in the Civil War will begin four months later when South Carolinians fire an artillery barrage and compel the surrender of Fort Sumter in April of 1861.

U.S. Senator John J. Crittenden’s speech, which Williams attended, proposed preserving the nation by reinstating the Missouri Compromise, which would have allowed slavery across the West below the southern boundary of Missouri. This would have permitted slavery in a portion of the territories acquired by the United States in the Mexican War of 1846, primarily what is now New Mexico, Arizona, and southern California. Williams makes it clear such a compromise would be totally unacceptable to Lincoln and the Republicans, who had just won the presidency on the campaign pledge of “No Slavery in the Territories.”

Williams notes that, by accepting the Crittenden compromise, the North would be “thereby stultifying itself & yielding up its cherished principles.”

A speech by U.S. Senator Andrew Johnson of Tennessee is more to Williams’s liking. Johnson acknowledges his opposition to Northern ideas and actions, but Johnson also emphasizes that, as Williams summarizes him, “he was not going out of the Union.”

It is important to note that Johnson was an elected official from a slave state (Tennessee) who was determined to stay in the Union. For that reason, he was selected as Lincoln’s vice-presidential running mate when Lincoln ran for reelection to the presidency in 1864. Johnson became president of the United States when Lincoln was assassinated in 1865.

One of the most interesting parts of this letter concerns U.S. Senator Stephen Douglas of Illinois. Douglas was a leading Illinois Democrat who had tangled politically for decades with Abraham Lincoln and Archibald Williams, both of whom were originally Whigs but switched to Republicans over the slavery issue. Williams notes that, at this moment, Douglas and the Northern Democrats in Congress are working with the Republicans in opposing Southern secession.

ARCHIBALD WILLIAMS

After pointing out that Douglas experienced “complete humiliation” by finishing fourth in the recent four-way race for U.S. president (won by Lincoln), Williams acknowledges that “for the first time in my life, I felt like affiliating with him [Douglas].” There is a touch of irony there.

Archibald Williams concludes his letter on a cheery note, stating that with the help of “able, prudent, & determined men,” the newly-elected President Lincoln will bring the nation “wonted quiet and prosperity.”

A short time later, on January 13, 1861, Archibald Williams wrote a letter to his brother, Wesley Williams, showing much less optimism. The letter included the line: “If Mr. Lincoln shall be allowed to be inaugurated,” thereby suggesting that the ruckus over Lincoln’s election victory might actually prevent his inauguration as president. Archibald Williams also renewed his criticism of outgoing President James Buchanan and his cabinet. Williams wrote: “[President James] Buchanan ought to be hung for imbecility and his chief cabinet officers for treason.”

Here is a list of major political events that occurred during Archibald Williams’s visit to Washington, D.C., in December of 1860.

EVENTS WHILE ARCHIBALD WILLIAMS WAS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Roughly December 1, 1860, to December 19, 1860

- December 4: President Buchanan condemns Northern interference with slave policies of Southern states but also says states have no right to secede from the Union. The U.S. House of Representatives appoints a Committee of Thirty-Three to consider "the present perilous condition of the country."
- December 8, 1860 – January 8, 1861: Buchanan administration cabinet members from the South resign. Secretary of the Treasury Howell Cobb of Georgia resigns on December 8. On December 23, President Buchanan asks for the resignation of Secretary of War John B. Floyd, a former governor of Virginia, whose actions appear to favor the Southern secessionists. He arranged to shift weapons

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from Pittsburgh and other locations to the South. Floyd resigns on December 29. The War Department stops the transfer of weapons from Pittsburgh on January 3. United States Secretary of the Interior Jacob Thompson of Mississippi resigns on January 8, 1861.

- December 10: South Carolina delegates meet with Buchanan and believe he agrees not to change the military situation at Charleston.
- December 11: Major Don Carlos Buell delivers a message to Major Anderson from Secretary of War Floyd. Anderson is authorized to put his command in any of the forts at Charleston to resist their seizure. Later in the month, Floyd says Anderson violated the President's pledge to keep the status quo pending further discussions and the garrison should be removed from Charleston. Floyd soon will join the Confederacy.
- December 12: Secretary of State Lewis Cass of Michigan resigns. He believes President Buchanan should reinforce the Charleston forts and is unhappy about Buchanan's lack of action.
- December 17, 20, 24: The South Carolina Secession Convention begins on December 17. On December 20, secession begins when the convention declares "that the Union now subsisting between South Carolina and other states under the name of the 'United States of America' is hereby dissolved." The convention published a *Declaration of the Immediate Causes Which Induce and Justify the Secession of South Carolina from the Federal Union* in explanation and support of their position. The document cites "encroachments on the reserved rights of the states" and "an increasing hostility of the non-slaveholding states to the institution of slavery" and "the election of a man to the high office of President of the United States, whose opinions and purposes are hostile to slavery" as among the causes. On December 24, South Carolina Governor Francis Wilkinson Pickens declares the act of secession in effect.
- December 18, 1860 – January 15, 1861: Senator John J. Crittenden of Kentucky proposes the "Crittenden Compromise." Its main features are a constitutional amendment that would reinstate the Missouri Compromise

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line between free and slave territory and retention of the fugitive slave law and slavery where it existed, including in the District of Columbia. On January 16, 1861, the Crittenden Compromise is effectively defeated in the United States Senate.

**THE LETTER FROM ARCHIBALD WILLIAMS
TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN
IN WILLIAMS'S HANDWRITING:**

ARCHIBALD WILLIAMS

Washington 16 December 19. 1860

Dear Sir

I have written a half dozen observations here at the Capital has convinced me that discussion is even now at a discount. Still for the integrity of President & the treachery of his subordinates even South Carolina would not venture upon secession. His message as well as his omission to strengthen the forts in the port of Charleston is an invitation to the commission of treason.

The question is not as the States it whether the government has power to declare war against a State but simply whether it has the right and power to execute its laws. These laws act on individuals & not on States.

With the possession of the forts of the harbor the revenue laws could be enforced with great ease & if South Carolina should refuse the advantages of federal courts & postal facilities in my opinion it would be impudent at this time to attempt to force them upon her.

5222

The supremacy of the laws being asserted & main-
 tained by the collection of the revenue time & reflection
 will cure the frenzy that rules S Carolina

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 port of his proposed compromise. In my opinion
 he is one of the most patriotic & at the same time
 mischievous of the Southern Senators. His known
 patriotism & moderation give his opinions great
 weight with the better portion of the Southern people
 The ultra men of the South have frightened him
 and made him believe that the Union can only be
 saved by concessions on the part of the North which
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 clares his solemn conviction that unless the North
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 itself & spurning up its cherished principles - the Union
 would inevitably be dissolved & his fear that Old Kentucky
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I had feared that you would be embarrassed in your administration by the action of Congress but I am happy to be able to announce to you my firm conviction that the Northern Democrats with a few exceptions will unite with the Republicans in such a coalition as may be required to meet the present crisis. In view of this fact & his complete humiliation I have commissioned Col. Baker to say to Douglass that

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for the first time in my life I felt like affiliating
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With a cabinet of able, prudent, & determined men
I have an abiding confidence that you will be able
to overcome the trouble that threatens the peace of
the country & restore its wonted quiet & prosperity

Your friend
Archibald Williams

Wm A Lincoln

P.S. Since writing the above I learn that Johnson
has been improving upon Spuch of yesterday you
will see his speech in the papers I therefore for-
bear any comment further than to say that it will
do more good than any amount of copying
Baker intends to visit you during the Christmas
holy days

AW

ARCHIBALD WILLIAMS



**A LETTER FROM ARCHIBALD WILLIAMS
AND JACKSON GRIMSHAW
TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

Quincy, Ills, 9 May 1861

President Lincoln
Washington, D.C.

We understand that under recent proclamation calling for an increase of regular Army, there will be a necessity for the appointment of an additional number of Brigadier Generals. As we learn that the South West has no officer in the regular Army above the grade of Major, we take pleasure in recommending the appointment of Captain John Pope to the rank of Brigadier General. Our high estimate of Captain Pope's professional qualifications, and long acquaintance with his father's worth as a man and a judge, cause us to ask this appointment for Captain Pope.

Very Respectfully

Archibald Williams
Jackson Grimshaw

ANALYSIS

Jackson Grimshaw was Archibald Williams's longtime law partner in Quincy, Illinois. Captain John Pope's father was Nathaniel Pope, a U.S Judge in Illinois and a lifelong friend of Archibald Williams.

Captain John Pope did become a Union general. He was the winning commander for the Union at the Battle of Island Number Ten, a strong point in the Mississippi River located between Tennessee and Missouri. Later in the Civil War, General John Pope was in command of Union troops when they suffered defeat at the hands of the South at the Second Battle of Bull Run.

**A LETTER FROM ARCHIBALD WILLIAMS
TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

Abraham Lincoln papers: Library of Congress

From Archibald Williams to Abraham Lincoln, July 2, 1861

Leavenworth City, Kansas, July 2, 1861

Sir

I was in Quincy when your instructions to me, touching the matter of the Leavenworth Pawnee & Western Rail Road Company and the Delaware Indians, reached this place. Being advised thereof, I returned here and at once entered upon the discharge of the duty assigned me.

I have seen, as my certificate shows, all the chiefs named in your instructions, except Kock atoowah, who is dead. I have also seen James Connor, who was not mentioned by you but who signed the treaty as delegate at large, and fully advised them all of the nature and effect of the whole transaction. After fully understanding it, they all gave their unqualified assent to the arrangement.

There was no hesitation on the part of any of them, except one whose mind temporarily had been prejudiced by a man called Judge Wright, from Indiana. [Wright] I believe claims to be a resident of Quindaro, Kansas, (a small town of about one hundred inhabitants), and their agent.

I have been informed and fully believe that this man Wright, and associates, among whom may, I have no doubt, be included the agent for the Delawares, have a plan on foot to break up the present appraisement of the lands, procure another, and receive the one half of the excess of the new appraisement over the present one; hence their hostility to the arrangement entrusted to me, and their desire to break it down unless they can levy black mail upon the company.

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It was my desire to see the chiefs alone, but in this I was disappointed by the officious intermeddling of agent Johnson.⁷ When I reached the Council House, he sent immediately for Judge Wright and interposed every difficulty in his power to prevent a conference with the Chiefs. He wanted to impose upon me a private interpreter of his own selection, and to compel me to hold the conference outdoors in the crowd of Indians assembled at a payment which was then being made, when I insisted upon a private interview with the Chiefs. Through the sworn interpreter of the United States, he obtruded himself and interposed captious and unfounded objections to the proposition. From these circumstances and the alleged fact that Wright was instrumental in procuring his appointment, I doubt not you will concur with me that he is a party to the speculative plan above mentioned.

It is fortunate indeed for the interest of the people of this young state [Kansas] as well as for the Indians that these men have utterly failed in influencing the Indians. The objection urged by them [is] that the appraisement is too small is not at all well founded. I think I am well acquainted with these lands, having been almost entirely around them and across them in two different places. It certainly is a good tract of land, but the condition of the money market: the very low rate of land warrants by which just as good land can be had, for fifty to seventy-five cents per acre, and the further fact that this arrangement embraces the entire tract, the bad as well as the good, and a reference to the appraisement of their lands under the treaty of 1854, which were sold in 1857, when there seemed to be a mania for western lands at about one dollar and forty cents per acre net, as I am advised, all concur in convincing me that the present appraisement is entirely just and fair. No man, free from prejudice, could entertain a different opinion.

It is also fortunate for all parties concerned that the directors of this railroad consist of gentlemen of high honor and unimpeachable standing in the community. From my knowledge of them, I am satisfied that they will carry

⁷ Fielding Johnson was agent to the Delaware Indians in Kansas. He was appointed by Abraham Lincoln in 1861 and served throughout the Civil War.

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out in good faith every obligation they have taken upon themselves, and that they will reflect no discredit upon the [Lincoln] administration which has, in the exercise of a sound discretion, seen proper to favor them.

I may also remark that any attempt for a new appraisalment could result only in failure as the treaty has been partially executed. In addition to this, the moment a movement of this nature is made, the lands will be covered by squatters, who will combine to prevent a fair sale, and thus make issue with the government.

I trust this enterprise so manifestly just to all parties, and the good name of the gentlemen of the directory will not be prejudiced by representatives of petty local interests. It is difficult for anyone not here to understand the jealousies arising from such interests among many of the politicians of Kansas.

Being quite unwell, I have engaged the services of a friend who writes at my dictation.

I am very respectfully,

Archibald Williams

ANALYSIS

This letter from Archibald Williams to Abraham Lincoln concerned a treaty that had been negotiated with the Delaware Indians of Kansas to build a railroad across Indian lands. Lincoln was counting on Williams, who Lincoln had appointed the first U.S. Judge in Kansas, to make certain the Indians were getting an honest deal.

Archibald Williams found a group of men in Kansas, including Indian Agent Fielding Johnson, trying to mess with the proposed treaty by offering the Indians more money for their land. Fortunately, according to Williams, the Indians wanted to stick with the initial treaty.

Shortly after receiving this letter from Archibald Williams, President Abraham Lincoln tidied up a few lines of the treaty and sent it to the U.S.

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Senate for approval, which was granted.⁸ The railroad was built, became part of a major east-west rail line across Kansas, and eventually was absorbed into the Union Pacific Railroad.

It is sad news that Archibald Williams was so physically ill in July of 1861 that he had to dictate this letter to Lincoln to a friend. Williams appears to have recovered, however, and lived another two years until September of 1863.

⁸ For further information, see Robert D. Loevy, *Archibald Williams: A Friend of Abraham Lincoln*, pp. 146-149.

**A LETTER FROM ARCHIBALD WILLIAMS
TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

Abraham Lincoln papers: Library of Congress

From Archibald Williams to Abraham Lincoln, March 31, 1863

Washington, March 31, 1863

Dear Sir,

I dislike, in the midst of your arduous cares & duties, to annoy you with the consideration of Kansas affairs. Yet I wish to make one suggestion. General Blunt⁹ is a brave soldier but not a wise & prudent politician. Beside he is so hampered by past & present partisan associations as greatly to impair his efficiency & usefulness as a Military Commander of the Department of Kansas. [He] also embarrasses the administration of the State government.

Could he not be transferred to a command where he would have more fighting to do & less temptation to engage in partisan intrigues? If this could be done & some person assigned to the Department of Kansas who would have nothing to do with the little partisan intrigues of Kansas politicians, I do assure you it would be a great relief to our State. Law & order would be restored & maintained. There will be no peace & quiet there so long as the Military attempt to control the civil functionaries.

I know Mr. President that certain factions in Kansas who wish to control & use the Military authority for the promotion of their own private ends will object to this.

You will please observe that any suggestion requires the appointment of an impartial person who will do his duty without regard to any faction in Kansas. To remove the partisan of one faction & appoint the partisan of

⁹ James G. Blunt. He was a Union General during the Civil War who fought in many battles in Kansas.

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another would do no good. Nothing short of an impartial administration of the department will give us permanent quiet.

Very respectfully,

Your obt. Servt.,

Archibald Williams

ANALYSIS

This letter indicates the extent to which Archibald Williams, in his role as judge of the U.S. Court in Kansas, kept an eye on political as well as judicial affairs for President Abraham Lincoln.

Major General James G. Blunt was an important person in the early history of Kansas. During a confrontation with the pro-slavery territorial government in 1857, Blunt joined a force including abolitionist John Brown. He was a key member of the anti-slavery Wyandotte constitutional convention that framed the Kansas state constitution in 1859.

During the Civil War, in 1862, Blunt was given command of the Department and Army of Kansas. He and his men fought a number of battles with Confederate forces in Kansas, winning some and losing a few. A major battle at Prairie Grove was technically a draw but was a strategic victory for the Union.

In October 1863, Blunt and a detachment of Union soldiers were attacked by a Confederate force under William C. Quantrill. At the Battle of Baxter Springs, Quantrill's Raiders routed and killed over 80 of Blunt's 100 escorts. This action resulted in Blunt's removal from command.

In 1864, Blunt was able to redeem himself. Confederate Major General Sterling Price began an invasion of Missouri. Blunt took command of a division of Union troops and, along with other Northern forces, inflicted a defeat on Price at the key Battle of Westport. Blunt commanded the District of South Kansas when the war ended.

Archibald Williams encountered Blunt in the midst of Blunt's somewhat successful but important military career in Kansas. Williams left no doubt that, in a democracy, civilians rather than military leaders should control the government.

**A LETTER FROM ORVILLE BROWNING
TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

Abraham Lincoln papers: Library of Congress

From Orville H. Browning to Abraham Lincoln, September 25, 1863
With Endorsement by Lincoln on envelope

Quincy, Ills— Sept 25, 1863

Mr. President,

Our mutual and much valued friend, Hon. Archibald Williams, died in this city at 6 o'clock A. M. on the 21st inst: His death, at this time, is a public calamity. His influence in Kansas was great and salutary, and it will be difficult, if not impossible, to supply his loss; and especially so as our own friends in Kansas are divided into factions exceedingly bitter towards each other, which will make it exceedingly very difficult to select a successor there who will be acceptable to all parties.

Now, without intending any improper interference with matters which don't concern me, I wish to make a suggestion for your consideration in the event that you should think proper to look elsewhere than Kansas for an appointee. In such an event I cannot too strongly urge the claims of our friend Jackson Grimshaw Esqr.

You know Mr. Grimshaw is a gentleman of fine abilities, and an accomplished lawyer, and I know that there is no man in this state [Illinois] more deserving the confidence of the government. I do not make this suggestion at the solicitation of Mr. Grimshaw, but know that if the place was offered, he would gratefully accept it at your hands, and I have no doubt he would soon reconcile all parties in Kansas.

ARCHIBALD WILLIAMS

I think he could get the unanimous recommendation of the Republican party of this state, and no appointment could give your friends here greater satisfaction.

We are anxious about events at Chattanooga, but [we are] hoping for the best.¹⁰

I still have faith, and do most earnestly hope, that you will yet crush this outrageous rebellion before the close of your Administration.

Please present my kind regards to Mrs. Lincoln, and believe me,

As ever, most truly your friend,

O H. Browning

Abraham Lincoln papers <http://www.loc.gov/resource/mal.2659000>

ANALYSIS

In spite of Browning's entreaty, Lincoln appointed Mark W. Delahay to replace the deceased Archibald Williams as United States District Judge in Kansas. Jackson Grimshaw was Archibald Williams's longtime law partner in Quincy, Illinois, and thus well-known to both Lincoln and Browning. Orville H. Browning was a fellow lawyer and one of Archibald Williams's best friends in Quincy.

¹⁰ A reference to the Union defeat at Chickamauga on September 20, 1863.

