CHAPTER ONE

RODGER, HUKEY, AND JOHN WILLIAMS

RODGER WILLIAMS:

The earliest grandsire of the Williams family known with any certainty bore the name of Rodger Williams (not to be confused with the Roger Williams who founded Rhode Island). The first residence of the Rodger Williams family in the United States was in Brunswick County, Virginia. They were all of Welsh descent and came to the American colonies before the American Revolution.

Rodger Williams had seven wives. He raised a large family of children whose descendants scattered to all parts of the United States.

It was said that Rodger Williams was murdered, supposedly by his own African-American slaves, although that was never definitely known. Some time after his death, his body was found concealed in the body of a hollow tree.

These meager facts were passed from generation to generation. No written records or dates are known to exist.[1]

HUKEY WILLIAMS:

Hukey Williams was one of the numerous sons of Rodger Williams. Hukey was of pure Welsh extraction and lived in Brunswick County in the state of Virginia, between the Meherrin and Nottaway rivers.

Note: Brunswick County is located on the southeastern border of Virginia adjacent to North Carolina. The Nottaway River forms the northern border of the county, and the Meherrin River runs through the center of it.

[1] This chapter on the early history of the Williams family is an edited and rewritten version of "The Story of the Williams Family in America," an account by Martha Williams Franklin (1865-1962). Note her archaic style. She was the great great great granddaughter of Rodger Williams. Copy in possession of Robert D. Loevy in 2015.

The county seat is Lawrenceville. U.S. Highway 1 connects Brunswick County to Petersburg, Virginia.

Hukey Williams was the Williams family's lineal forbear. The date of his birth is unknown. It also is not known definitely whether he was born in Wales, before his father emigrated, or in Virginia, after his father arrived in America. However, it is believed he was American born.

The later facts of his life have all been verified by written records and authenticated dates, so from here on this story is history.

Hukey Williams married Miss Sarah Jones, also of pure Welsh extraction. The Jones family lived in Granville County, North Carolina. The marriage was in the year 1762 or 1763. She had two brothers, Roger and William Jones.

Note: Granville County is located on the northern border of North Carolina adjacent to Virginia and only slightly to the west of Brunswick County, Virginia. The county seat is Oxford.

Hukey Williams was strangely murdered by two desperate ruffians and robbed. The time was the early 1760s. This terrible crime occurred about the time of the birth of Hukey's only son, John Williams.

The circumstances were as follows:

The family home was in Virginia. The town of Petersburg was their trading place. He was on his way there one day to transact business. A short distance from the road in a thick pine woods, he heard the cries of a woman in distress, to whose rescue he immediately detoured.

He found the woman in the hands of two strange men, who were about violating her person. When he vigorously assaulted them, they fled, leaving the woman. Hukey Williams took her up behind him on his horse. Learning that she was the respected wife of a citizen in the neighborhood, he carried her to her home. On the urgent request of the lady and her husband, he tarried with them during the noon meal.

After the meal, bidding farewell to his hosts, Hukey Williams resumed his journey toward Petersburg. This was the last time he was seen alive. When he failed to return home, the alarmed family and friends started an investigation and learned he had not reached Petersburg.

Search was made along the road, and his body was found about two miles from the house where he had dined. His body was a short distance from the road, sunk in a pool of water in the creek. He was taken home and buried.

About eighteen months later, the gentleman whose wife had been rescued was riding into Petersburg. He observed a horse hitched in the outskirts of the town, which he immediately recognized as that of Mr. Williams. It was an unusually fine and distinctive horse. He hastened into town to give information of his discovery.

Officers were stationed to watch and arrest any parties who should come for the horse. Toward evening two men arrived to where the Williams horse and another were tethered. They were promptly arrested and taken into custody.

The gentleman's wife was summoned and positively identified the two men as those who had assaulted her and from whom she had been rescued by the late Mr. Williams. The men were indicted, tried, convicted, and executed in Petersburg.

Before execution, they confessed the murder, saying they had resolved to kill Hukey Williams, not only because he had assaulted them in defense of the woman, but to get the fine horse and the money. The horse and Hukey Williams's watch were recovered.

After the death of her husband, Hukey Williams's wife, Sarah Jones Williams, returned to her relatives in Granville County, North Carolina. She took her infant son, John Williams, with her. Subsequently she married Mr. John Bobbitt, by whom she had two sons – Archibald and Claiborne Bobbitt. They were John Williams's half brothers.

Archibald Bobbitt died young, but Claiborne Bobbitt lived a long life. In 1857, he was said to be living in the extreme southern part of Tennessee.

TYPEWRITTEN TEXT OF A BILL OF SALE FOR A NEGRO SLAVE SOLD BY HUKEY WILLIAMS IN 1764

A search of Virginia Court records produced a Bill of Sale for a Negro slave sold by Hukey Williams in 1764. Here is a typewritten copy of the Bill of Sale. A copy of the actual Bill of Sale is on page 5:[2]

Williams to Jones (in margin)

Know all men by these Present that I Hukey Williams of the
County of Brunswick for and in Consideration of the Sum of
Forty Pounds Current Money of Virginia to me in hand paid
by Lewelling Jones the receipt where of I do hereby Acknowledge
my Self therewith fully and Entirely Satisfied have Bargained Sold
and Delivered by these ---------- in plain and open Market
according to just and _ _ _ _ form of law in that Case made and Provided
do Bargain Sell and Deliver unto Lewelling Jones one Negro man
called and known by the name of George **to have and to hold**
Said Bargained and Sold Negro unto the said Lewelling Jones his Heirs
and Assigns forever to the Only Proper use and behoof of him the Said
Lewelling Jones his Heirs and etc., the said Hukey Williams for myself
My Heirs etc. the above Bargained and Sold Negro will Warrant and for
Ever Defend to the Said Lew. Jones His Heirs etc. from the Claim or Claims
of any Other person or persons any Claim Right or Title thereto
In Witness whereof I have herewith Set my hand and Assigned my Seal.
This 5th day of December 1764 –
Signed Sealed and Delivered Hukey Williams
In presence of
James Creswell At a Court held for Brunswick County the 27th Day
John Edmundson of June 1765 ---
This Bill of Sale was proved by the _ _ _ _
of John Edmundson one of the witnesses thereto and ordered to be recorded
_ _ _ _ H. Edwards

[2] Archibald Williams File, Brenner Library, Quincy University, Quincy, Illinois.

Williams to Jones

Know all men by these Presents that I Hubrey Williams of the County of Brunswick for and in Consideration of the Sum of Forty Pounds Current Money of Virginia to me in hand paid by Lewelling Jones the Receipt whereof I do hereby Acknowledge my Self therewith fully and Entirely Satisfied have Bargained Sold and Delivered and by these ~~presents~~ in plain & Open Market

31 according to Such and Due form of Law in that Case made and Provided do Bargain Sell and Deliver unto Lewelling Jones one Negro Man Called & known by the Name of George To have and to hold the Said Bargained and Sold Negro unto the Said Lewelling Jones his Heirs and Assigns forever to the Only Proper use and behoof of him the Said Lewelling Jones his Heirs & and I the Said Hubrey Williams for my Self my Heirs &c the above Bargained and Sold Negro will Warrant and for Ever Defend to the Said Lewl. Jones his Heirs & from the Claim or Claims of any Other person or persons Laying any Claim Right or Title thereto In witness Whereof I have hereunto Set my hand & Affixed my Seal this 5th day of December 1764 —

Signed Sealed & Delivered in presence of James Braswell, John Edmundson

Hubrey Williams (L.S.)

At a Court held for Brunswick County the 24th Day of June 1765 —

This Bill of Sale was proved by the oath of John Edmundson one of the Witnesses thereto and Ordered to be Recorded

Test W. Edwards Jr Dr.

JOHN WILLIAMS:

John Williams, the son of Hukey Williams, was born in the early 1760s in Brunswick County, Virginia. After his father was murdered, and while still an infant, he was taken by his mother, Sarah Jones Williams, back to her family home in Granville County, North Carolina. He was reared by his uncle, Roger Jones, with whom he lived, and he clerked in Roger Jones's store.

John Williams was married to Amelia Gill on November 15, 1787, at her father's residence in Franklin County, North Carolina.

Note: Franklin County, North Carolina, is located in north central North Carolina just to the southeast of Granville County, North Carolina. The county seat is Louisburg.

That same fall, John Williams emigrated to and settled in Lincoln County, Kentucky, where he resided until his three oldest children were born.

He then removed to Montgomery County, Kentucky, where all his other children were born, and where he remained for more than three decades until the spring of 1831.

John Williams then removed to Adams County, Illinois, where he remained for two years until his death on October 11, 1833, at the residence of his son, John A. Williams.

When he came to Illinois, John Williams had intended settling in Hancock County, but the Black Hawk War, a Native American war, caused a change in plans. He settled in Adams County with his son instead.

Note: Adams County, Illinois, is in western Illinois and borders on the Mississippi River. The county seat is Quincy. Hancock County, Illinois, is located on the Mississippi River immediately to the north of Adams County. The county seat is Carthage.

The Black Hawk War was named for Chief Black Hawk of the Native American tribe known as the Sacs. The war was fought from June 1831 to August 1832. The Sacs and the Fox Native Americans, who were led by Chief Keokuk, had agreed by treaty to move west of the Mississippi River. When whites began to occupy the vacant lands east of the Mississippi, the Sacs and Foxes invaded. They were defeated by the U.S. Army, aided by the Illinois militia, and removed to a reservation west of the Mississippi.

John Williams was never a robust man but was always active. His hair was wavy and black as jet. He never had a grey hair and never lost a tooth. He was a man of great order and piety, irreproachable in all his dealings with mankind.

Martha Williams Franklin wrote the following remembrances about her great grandfather, John Williams:

"When a little portrait of John Williams came into my proud possession, I and his other great granddaughters eagerly examined it, searching for traces of resemblance to our own fine father, who was his grandson and namesake. We found that the family traits as we knew them were strikingly apparent in the picture. Not only the black hair, but the fine brow, the large expressive eyes, and the general intellectual countenance, had all been transmitted to our father."

"There is a legend in the family that he was the John Williams who preached the belated funeral oration over the body of Abraham Lincoln's mother. I find no mention of it in my data. I asked my father about the report, and he smilingly answered he could not say. He had heard the report, and it could have been. The families were contemporaries in Kentucky, and John Williams had been a traveling preacher."

AMELIA GILL (WILLIAMS):

Amelia Gill was the wife of John Williams. She was born in Franklin County, North Carolina, on May 28, 1772. She lived there until her marriage to John Williams on November 15, 1787. Her father, Joseph Gill, was also born in Franklin County, North Carolina. Her mother's maiden name was Owens. The Gills and Owens were all of pure Welsh descent.

JOHN WILLIAMS

He was born in Brunswick County, Virginia, in the early 1760s. He was married to Amelia Gill in Franklin County, North Carolina, on November 15, 1787. That same year, he and Amelia moved to Lincoln County, Kentucky, and then later to Montgomery County, Kentucky. They were the parents of twelve children. John died in Adams County, Illinois, on October 11, 1833.

CHILDREN OF JOHN WILLIAMS

John Williams and his wife, Amelia Gill Williams, were the parents of twelve children born over a period of 23 years (1789 to 1812). Apparently all twelve children lived into adulthood and eleven were known to have married. It is assumed that children numbers four through twelve all were born in Montgomery County, Kentucky.

These are the known facts about each child:

1. **JOSEPH GILL WILLIAMS** – Born in Lincoln County, Kentucky, January 9, 1789. Died February 18, 1857, of rheumatism, on Licking River, Booth County, Kentucky. Married to Nancy Hasty.

2. **WESLEY WILLIAMS** – Born in Lincoln County, Kentucky, March 24, 1792. First marriage to Elizabeth Ayres on April 2, 1816, in Bourbon County, Kentucky. They had four children. His second marriage was to Ruth Scoby on June 9, 1831, in Hancock County, Illinois. They had four additional children. He held many public offices in Hancock County, including probate judge, postmaster, justice of the peace, and police magistrate. He died May 12, 1870, in Hancock Township, Hancock County.

3. **SARAH JONES WILLIAMS** – Born in Lincoln County, Kentucky, December 11, 1793. Married Jesse Steel in Montgomery County, Kentucky, in the summer of 1814. Later married to Mr. Honey in Adams County, Illinois.

4. **JOHN A. WILLIAMS** – Born in Montgomery County, Kentucky, November 15, 1795. Married Miss Anne Alfrey in 1826. Moved to Adams County, Illinois, where he died in 1845. Cause of death was either falling from a horse or from the effects of a fall from a house he was raising. His widow afterwards married Thomas Malone.

5. **FRANCIS P. WILLIAMS** – Born September 20, 1797.

6. **AMELIA WILLIAMS** – Born July 15, 1799. Married Thomas Thompson in Quincy, Illinois (Adams County), in the fall of 1831. Died in Quincy, Illinois, on Sunday morning at 3 o'clock, May 17, 1874.

7. **ARCHIBALD WILLIAMS** – Born June 10, 1801. Married to Miss Nancy Kemp on Thursday, July 28, 1831, in Quincy, Illinois. Died September 21, 1863, in Quincy, Illinois. An attorney, he was a close personal friend of Abraham Lincoln.

8. **ISABEL WILLIAMS** – Born March 27, 1803. Married John McKnight. Died December 10, 1827.

9. **ROBERT R. WILLIAMS** – Born May 5, 1805. His first marriage was to Christina A. Urquehart, who died in 1832 of cholera. His second marriage was to Miss Almira Sowers. Robert Williams was licensed to practice law, and he was the law partner of his brother, Archibald Williams, from 1837 to 1841. Robert R. Williams died August 22, 1841, in Quincy, Illinois. He had one son.

10. **ANN G. WILLIAMS** – Born September 6, 1808. Married John Manier on December 18, 1828. Died September 16, 1863, in Mount Sterling, Kentucky. Lived part of her life in Carthage, Illinois.

11. **WILLIAM THOMAS WILLIAMS** – Born April 29, 1810. Married Mary Ann Westcott. For a time he resided in Marion County, Illinois. He was a Christian minister.

12. **GEORGE W. WILLIAMS** – Born August 11, 1812. Married Harriet Tawers. Last heard of as pastor of a Congregational Church near Hannibal, Missouri.

CHAPTER TWO

ARCHIBALD WILLIAMS

Archibald Williams was born in Montgomery County, Kentucky, on June 10, 1801. His ancestors originated in Virginia, owned slaves, and joined the Westward Movement across the United States by moving to northern Kentucky.

Archibald Williams was the son of John Williams and Amelia Gill Williams. He was named "Archibald" for his father's half-brother, Archibald Bobbitt, who was raised with John Williams but died at a young age.

Archibald Williams grew up in Kentucky, qualified to be a lawyer in Tennessee, and moved further west to Quincy, Illinois. As a young attorney, he rode circuit, going from county court to county court arguing legal cases. He was elected a trustee of the City of Quincy.

On July 28, 1831, Archibald Williams married Nancy Kemp. She and her family moved from Kentucky to Quincy, Illinois, at about the same time Archibald Williams did. Archibald Williams and Nancy Kemp had nine children, five of whom lived to be adults.

In early 1832, Archibald Williams volunteered to fight in the Black Hawk War. That meant spending several months riding on his horse around northwestern Illinois trying to catch Chief Black Hawk and his band of raiding Native Americans. Chief Black Hawk and his braves proved elusive, however, and Archibald Williams never experienced active combat. Chief Black Hawk and his warriors were eventually captured by regular U.S. Army soldiers.

At the State Legislature – With Abraham Lincoln:

Archibald Williams won a seat in the Illinois state Senate in 1832. He presented a report on School Financing to the state Senate in 1833. Abraham Lincoln, a future President of the United States, was elected to the state legislature in 1834, and the two men became good friends. Williams was described by observers as the older of the two and a mentor to Lincoln, who saw Archibald Williams as a great "reasoner."

In his last days as a legislator in 1839, Archibald Williams wrote to his friend in Quincy, Henry Asbury, about what was transpiring in the state legislature. Williams sarcastically called the Internal Improvements program "Infernal Improvements" because of its financial difficulties, which eventually produced bankruptcy.

Active in the Whig Party:

Archibald Williams twice attempted to get the Illinois state legislature to name him the United States Senator from Illinois. One attempt was in 1836 and the other in 1842. Both efforts were unsuccessful.

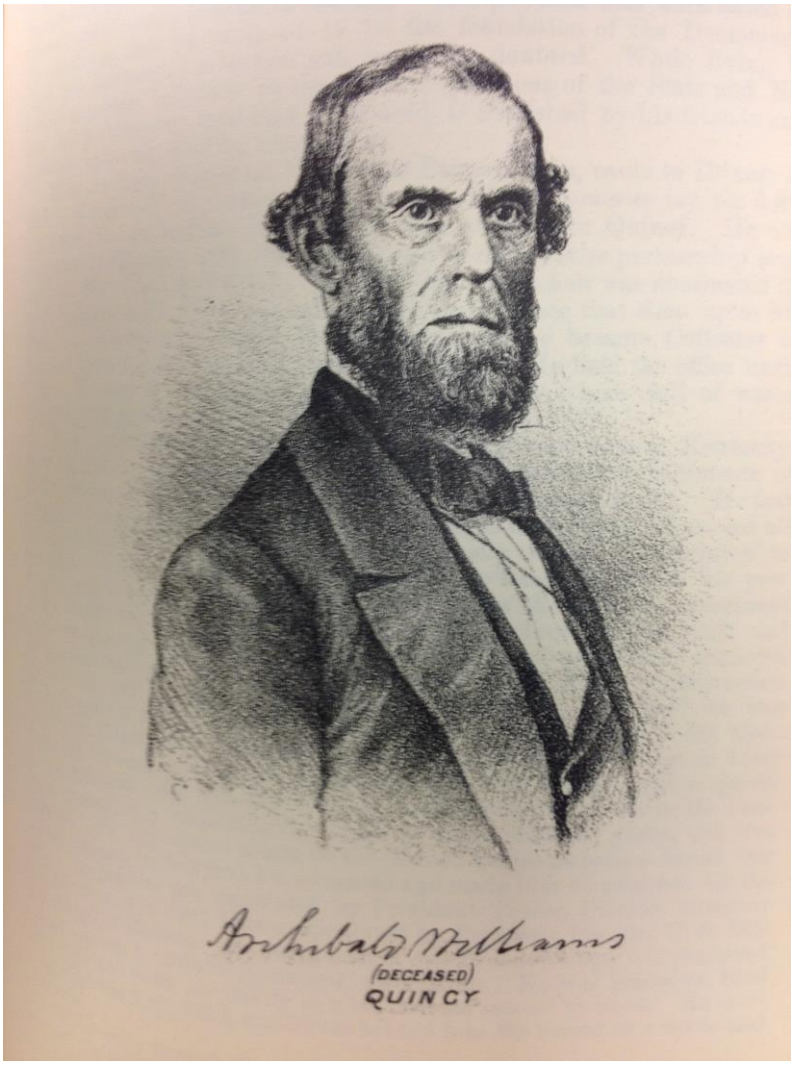
Williams was elected President of the Whig Party convention in Peoria, Illinois, in 1844. It was the start of a long career attending political party state conventions (Whig, Anti-Nebraska, and Republican) and playing leadership roles at them. He supported African colonization of freed slaves, received a business letter from Abraham Lincoln, and published his legal argument in a case before the Supreme Court of Illinois.

The Mormon Problem in Illinois:

Archibald Williams joined with fellow Quincy lawyer Orville Browning in successfully defending Mormon leader Joseph Smith from being extradited to the state of Missouri to face possible execution for alleged "crimes." After Joseph Smith was murdered in Illinois, Archibald Williams switched sides and, along with Browning, defended the murderers of Joseph Smith and his brother, Hyrum Smith. Then Archibald Williams chaired a meeting in Quincy that sent a delegation to the Mormons that convinced the new Mormon leader, Brigham Young, to leave Illinois for Utah.

The Illinois Constitutional Convention of 1847:

Archibald Williams was elected a delegate to the Illinois Constitutional Convention of 1847. He was described as one of three Whig Party delegates to the constitutional convention who dominated the convention despite the fact it had a Democratic Party majority.



ARCHIBALD WILLIAMS: 1801-1863

Born in Kentucky, Archibald Williams moved to Quincy, Illinois, and became a lawyer. He was elected to the Illinois state legislature, where he made the acquaintance of fellow legislator Abraham Lincoln. The two men were friends and political allies for the next 29 years.

NANCY KEMP WILLIAMS: 1815-1854

She was the wife of Archibald Williams. They were married July 28, 1831. They had nine children, five of whom grew to adulthood.

Archibald Williams gave a major speech at the constitutional convention opposing the idea of the Illinois Supreme Court riding circuit, calling for the Illinois high court to meet permanently in the state capital of Springfield, Illinois. Williams introduced and supported an amendment prohibiting private banks from circulating their own currency.

The Presidential Election of 1848:

On April 30, 1848, Archibald Williams received an important letter from Abraham Lincoln urging Williams to build support in Quincy, Illinois, for Zachary Taylor, who was running for the Whig nomination for President of the United States. Lincoln wanted Williams to send a Whig delegation from Quincy committed to vote for Taylor at a Whig nominating convention. Abraham Lincoln's instructions to Archibald Williams were very direct. "In my judgment," Lincoln wrote, "we can elect nobody but General Taylor; and we cannot elect him without a nomination – Therefore don't fail to send a delegation."

Archibald Williams joined the Taylor campaign and became an Assistant Presidential Elector in Illinois for Taylor. Although Zachary Taylor lost Illinois in the 1848 presidential election, he won nationally and moved into the White House.

United States District Attorney for Illinois:

Newly elected President Zachary Taylor appointed Archibald Williams the United States District Attorney for Illinois in 1849. The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 put Williams, an opponent of slavery but not an Abolitionist, in the difficult position of having to help return captured runaway slaves to their Southern masters. A Democrat in the House of Representatives attempted to get Archibald Williams removed as U.S. District Attorney on the grounds Williams was not adequately enforcing the Fugitive Slave Act. The attempt failed.

The Slavery Issue Intensified:

To smooth the way for a transcontinental railroad from Omaha, Nebraska, to Sacramento, California, U.S. Senator Stephen Douglas, a

Democrat from Illinois, pressed for legislation in Congress that would grant territorial status to Kansas and Nebraska. To deal with the slavery issue in the two new territories, Douglas proposed to use "popular sovereignty," the idea of letting the citizens of Kansas and Nebraska decide by ballot whether their territory should be slave or free.

Instituted at Douglas's insistence, popular sovereignty produced an opposing movement called "anti-Nebraska." Archibald Williams and Abraham Lincoln both became anti-Nebraska men because, they argued, popular sovereignty raised the possibility that Kansas and Nebraska might vote to be slave states. This would undo the Missouri Compromise of 1820, which limited slavery to western territories south of roughly the southern boundary of Missouri. Both Kansas and Nebraska were north of that boundary.

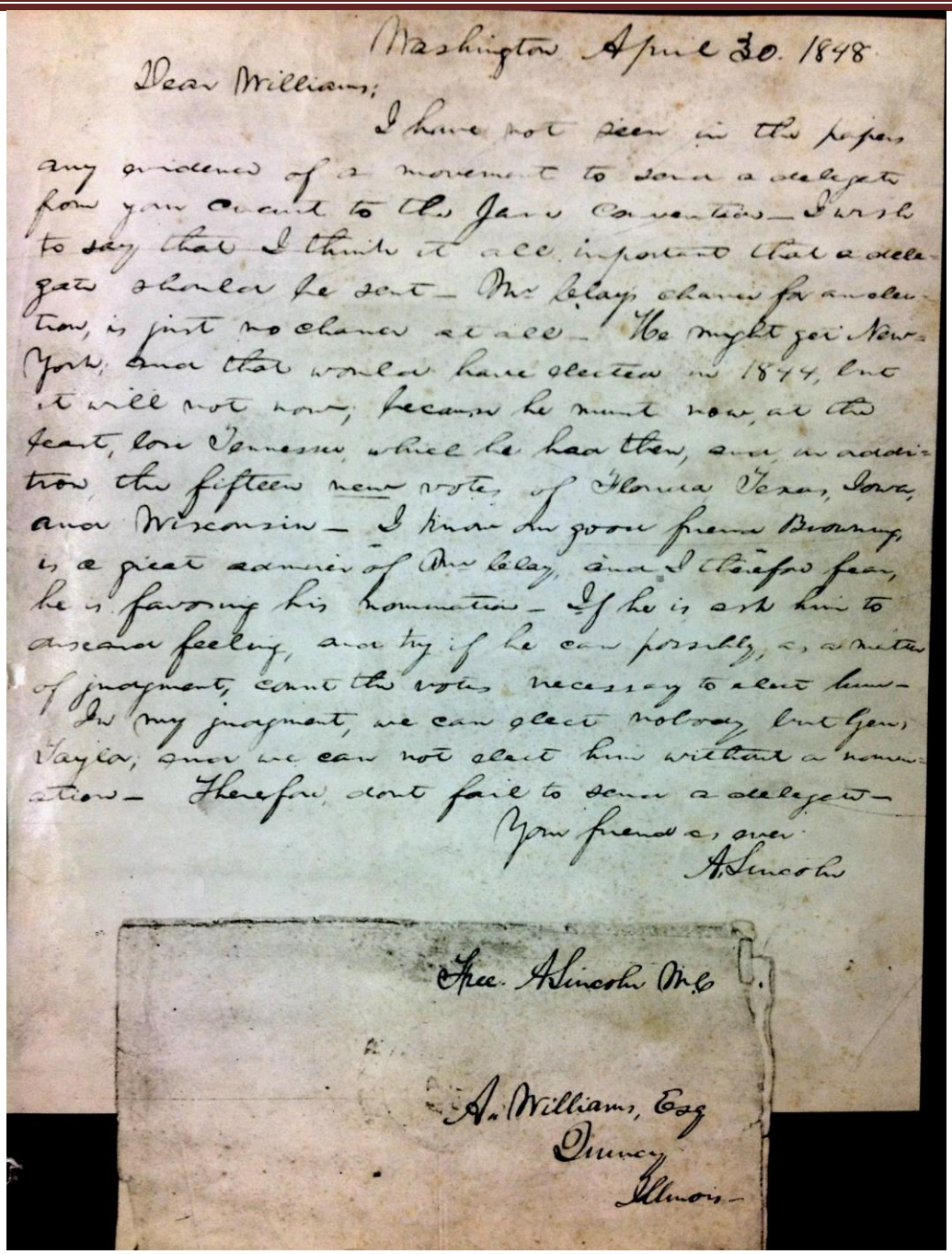
Death of Nancy Kemp Williams:

On March 16, 1854, Archibald Williams's wife, Nancy Kemp Williams, died in childbirth. The baby survived, however, and was named Nancy Williams.

The 1854 Campaign For
The U.S. House of Representatives:

While U.S. Senator Stephen Douglas was getting popular sovereignty for Kansas and Nebraska through the U.S. Senate, U.S. Representative William A. Richardson was getting the same job done in the U.S. House of Representatives. Richardson was a Democrat who represented Quincy, Illinois, and the surrounding area in the U.S. House. Archibald Williams was selected to be the "Anti-Nebraska" candidate to oppose Richardson in the 1854 U.S. House of Representatives election.

Richardson was an incumbent member of the U.S. House, a Mexican War hero, and was running in a strongly Democratic district. Archibald Williams, on the other hand, hoped to be elected by the wave of "Anti-Nebraska" sentiment sweeping the Northern states, including Illinois.



Washington April 30. 1848

Dear Williams;

I have not seen in the papers any evidence of a movement to send a delegate from your county to the Jan's Convention— I wish to say that I think it all important that a delegate should be sent— Mr Clay's chance for a nomination, is just no chance at all— He might get New-York, and that would have elected in 1844, but it will not now, because he must now, at the least, lose Tennessee, which he had then, and in addition the fifteen new votes of Florida Texas, Iowa, and Wisconsin— I know the good sense Browning is a great admirer of Mr Clay, and I therefore fear, he is favoring his nomination— If he is ask him to ascertain feeling, and try if he can possibly, as a matter of judgment, cancel the votes necessary to elect him— In my judgment, we can elect nobody, but Gen. Taylor, and we can not elect him without a nomination— Therefore, dont fail to send a delegate—

Your friend as ever

A. Lincoln

Hon. A. Lincoln M.C.

A. Williams, Esq

Quincy

Illinois—

LETTER FROM ABRAHAM LINCOLN
TO ARCHIBALD WILLIAMS DATED APRIL 30, 1848

Abraham Lincoln asked Archibald Williams to send a delegation supporting Zachary Taylor for President to a Whig Party convention.

A Speech in Pittsfield, Illinois:

Archibald Williams gave a lengthy campaign speech in Pittsfield, Illinois. He emphasized his opposition to popular sovereignty and the undoing of the Missouri Compromise. In the speech, Williams pretended to "recruit" the Founding Fathers and many leading Democrats to "testify" against popular sovereignty and to praise the Missouri Compromise.

The Outcome of the 1854 U.S. House of Representatives Election:

Abraham Lincoln traveled to Quincy, Illinois, to give a major speech at Kendall Hall in behalf of Archibald Williams. In a letter to U.S. Representative Richard Yates, Lincoln wrote: "I am here now going to Quincy, to try to give Mr. Williams a little life."

Lincoln's speech traced the history of the Missouri Compromise and criticized William Richardson for undoing the Compromise and creating so much "agitation" in the United States. Despite receiving Lincoln's help, Archibald Williams lost the election to William Richardson. Lincoln noted that sad fact in a post-election letter to Archibald Williams's close friend Orville Browning.

The Abraham Lincoln Letter to Owen Lovejoy:

In a letter to an Abolitionist named Owen Lovejoy, Abraham Lincoln said he was ready to "fuse" with other anti-slavery groups according to "principles" adopted at a public meeting in Quincy, Illinois. Lincoln mentioned in the letter that those principles had been written by a three-person committee chaired "by Mr. [Archibald] Williams." The main principle was that the South could keep its slaves but that no slavery would be allowed in the territories.

This was an incident of Abraham Lincoln being influenced by the thinking of Archibald Williams. Or it might have been Lincoln having his position on "fusion" publicly confirmed by the thinking of Archibald Williams.

At the United States Supreme Court:

On December 6 and 7, 1855, Archibald Williams argued a case before the United States Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. The opposing lawyer was Orville Browning, Williams's close friend from Quincy. The case, *Wright v. Mattison*, dealt with rival land claims and hinged on whether the question of "bad faith" in the matter should be decided by the judge or the jury. The Court ruled that "bad faith" should be decided by the jury, and not the judge, which had been previously done. The case, a victory for Browning and a loss for Williams, was ordered retried by the lower court.

The Founding of the Republican Party in Illinois:

Archibald Williams served as the temporary chair (prior to the election of a permanent chairman) at a major Anti-Nebraska convention in Bloomington, Illinois, in 1856. Abraham Lincoln gave his famous "Lost Speech" in which he brought various anti-slavery elements together into a single political force with the slogan: "No slavery in the territories."

Although the name "Republican" was adopted later, the Bloomington Convention, in which Archibald Williams participated, was said to have marked the birth of the Republican Party in Illinois.

The Election – And Debates – Of 1858:

Abraham Lincoln received the Republican nomination for U.S. Senator from Illinois in 1858 at a party convention in Springfield, Illinois. The nominating resolution at the convention stated that Lincoln "was the first and the only choice of the Republicans of Illinois for the U.S. Senate." Archibald Williams attended the convention and probably heard Lincoln's famous "House Divided" speech. In that speech, Lincoln started with a quote from the Bible. He said:

"'A house divided against itself cannot stand.' I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half *slave* and half *free*. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved – I do not expect the house to *fall* – but I *do* expect it will cease to be divided. It will become *all* one thing, or *all* the other."

In the famous debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas during the 1858 Illinois U.S. Senate campaign, Douglas attacked Lincoln three times for presenting himself as "the first and only choice" of the Republicans for U.S. Senate in 1858. All three times, Douglas mentioned Archibald Williams as a Republican who would have made a more than acceptable alternative to Lincoln as the Republican Party choice for U.S. Senator from Illinois in 1858.

Archibald Williams embarked upon an extensive speaking schedule in Abraham Lincoln's behalf during the 1858 U.S. Senate election campaign in Illinois. The Republican Party newspaper in Quincy, Illinois, noted:

"Old ARCHY WILLIAMS is doing good service for the Republican cause… He has already spoken at Macomb, Oquawka, Monmouth, Cameron, Galesburg, and other points…to large assemblages; and everywhere, he has created enthusiasm and confidence among our friends, and animated the lukewarm… In the winter of his life…Mr. Williams is found battling for the cause of Republicanism…"

"…but the game is not played out."

Abraham Lincoln lost the 1858 U.S. Senate election in Illinois to Stephen A. Douglas, but the extensive national newspaper coverage of the Lincoln-Douglas debates made Lincoln a nationally known political leader, particularly in the newly founded Republican Party. A close friend of Lincoln's, Charles S. Zane, who was an attorney, wrote:

"In January, 1859, while the Democrats were celebrating the election of Stephen A. Douglas to the United States Senate, Archibald Williams…came into Lincoln's office and finding him writing said: 'Well, the Democrats are making a great noise over their victory.' Looking up Lincoln replied: 'Yes, Archie, Douglas has taken this trick, but the game is not played out.'"

***Debates* Book Autographed by Abraham Lincoln Was Given to Archibald Williams:**

The debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas during the 1858 U.S. Senate campaign in Illinois became so famous that Abraham Lincoln handed out signed presentation copies of the debates to his close

friends and political allies. One was given to Archibald Williams and bore the inscription: "To Hon: Archibald Williams, with respects of A. Lincoln."

The fact that Abraham Lincoln gave a signed copy of the Lincoln-Douglas debates, perhaps the most famous election campaign debates in U.S. history, to Archibald Williams was yet another sign of Lincoln's close friendship and strong political alliance with Archibald Williams.

The Presidential Election of 1860:

On December 25, 1859, Archibald Williams and a number of other leading Republicans in Quincy, Illinois, met with Horace Greeley, a leading East Coast journalist and editor of the *New York Tribune*. Greeley was famous for composing the famous slogan: "Go west, young man. Go west!" Archibald Williams and the other Quincy Republicans at the meeting talked to Horace Greeley about the possibility of Abraham Lincoln soon becoming a viable candidate for the Republican nomination for President in 1860.

Archibald Williams gave a number of speeches in behalf of Abraham Lincoln during Lincoln's successful 1860 campaign for President.

On the Eve of Civil War:

In a letter to his brother, Wesley Williams, Archibald Williams questioned whether the political turmoil over the election of Abraham Lincoln might prevent Lincoln from being inaugurated as President. The direct quote was: "If Mr. Lincoln shall be allowed to be inaugurated…"

In the same letter, Archibald Williams, indicated his contempt for recent decisions and actions by Democratic President James Buchanan and his cabinet. Archibald Williams concluded the letter with the line: "Buchanan ought to be hung for imbecility and his chief cabinet officers for treason."

Almost on the Supreme Court,
Then U.S. District Judge in Kansas:

There is printed evidence, in both books and newspaper articles, that Abraham Lincoln, following his election to the U.S. presidency in 1860, offered a seat on the United States Supreme Court to Archibald Williams.

The story goes that Williams turned the offer down because of his ill health and advanced age. Williams is said to have recommended that Lincoln appoint a younger person who could live longer and serve more years on the Court.

Abraham Lincoln then appointed Archibald Williams to be the United States District Judge of Kansas, a state newly admitted to the Union. Williams relocated to Topeka, Kansas, where he served 2½ years as Judge of the U.S. District Court until his death in 1863. During his tenure as judge, Williams dealt with matters concerning the building of a transcontinental railroad across Kansas, fair treatment of the Native Americans in railroad matters, and the loyalty to the Union cause of a U.S. Army officer stationed in Kansas.

A Second Marriage:

While serving as the United States District Court Judge for Kansas, Archibald Williams married Ellen M. Parker. The ceremony was conducted on September 24, 1861, in the Quincy, Illinois, home of Judge Williams's daughter, Almira, and her husband, Dr. Charles H. Morton.

A family member later noted: "Ellen Parker was a family friend, a lovely and charming person who capably managed his household and family [matters]."

This second marriage lasted a little less than two years, ending with the death of Archibald Williams on September 21, 1863.

Death and Burial of Archibald Williams:

In obituaries, Archibald Williams was highly praised as one of the leading attorneys in Illinois in the mid-19th Century. His many political activities and his friendship with Abraham Lincoln were noted. The Adams County Bar Association donated a large grave marker for Williams. He was buried in Woodland Cemetery in Quincy, Illinois. His grave site overlooked the Mississippi River.

A Daughter's Recollections:

Archibald Williams's daughter, Almira Jane Williams Morton, wrote this highly personal remembrance of her father:

"He was a most emphatic man in every particular. His convictions were strong, his feelings warm and earnest, and his scorn of moral or political obliquity was unbounded – equaled only by his contempt of legal pettifogging."

"He was remarkably absent minded, in consequence of his absorption in any subject that occupied his thoughts – frequently coming home from the office in the coldest weather without hat or overcoat, and upon one occasion lighting his pipe with a banknote, which had been handed to him while he was talking upon a subject that interested him."

"He was once left penniless, and many times seriously embarrassed, by having to pay the debts of men for whom he had stood as security, and he often said if his life was to live over he would do the same thing – that men went to ruin for want of a little help and encouragement."

"He retained the freshness of his feelings to a wonderful extent – would read a romance by Scott or Bulwer with the keenest delight – his face glowing or his eyes brimming as he followed the fortunes of the various characters. One night a novel – the next an abstruse work, would make him equally oblivious of time, and he would be surprised by the approach of daylight – and it was sometimes quite comical to see the shame-faced way in which he excused himself."

"In his extreme tenderness of heart – in his compassion for and benevolence toward his needy fellow creatures, and in the rigid integrity, the entire simplicity, and the perfect modesty of his character, he was positively sublime."

"As his public career was without blemish, so his daughter – left at sixteen years of age without a mother, and feeling in him the tenderest father, and a most congenial friend, attributed to him but one fault – *his amiability*."

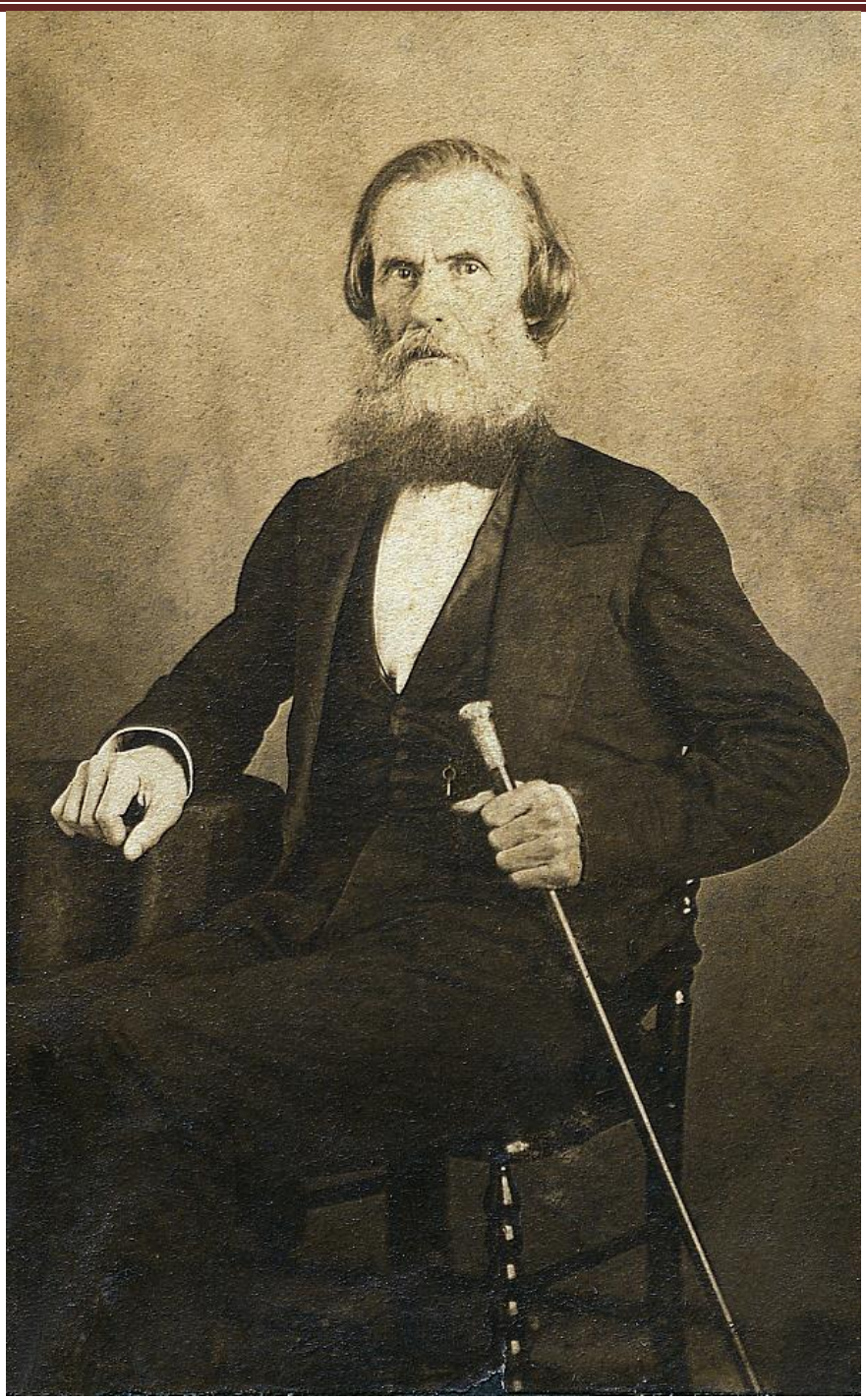
His Law Partner's Recollections:

Archibald Williams's longtime law partner, Jackson Grimshaw, provided this intimate view:

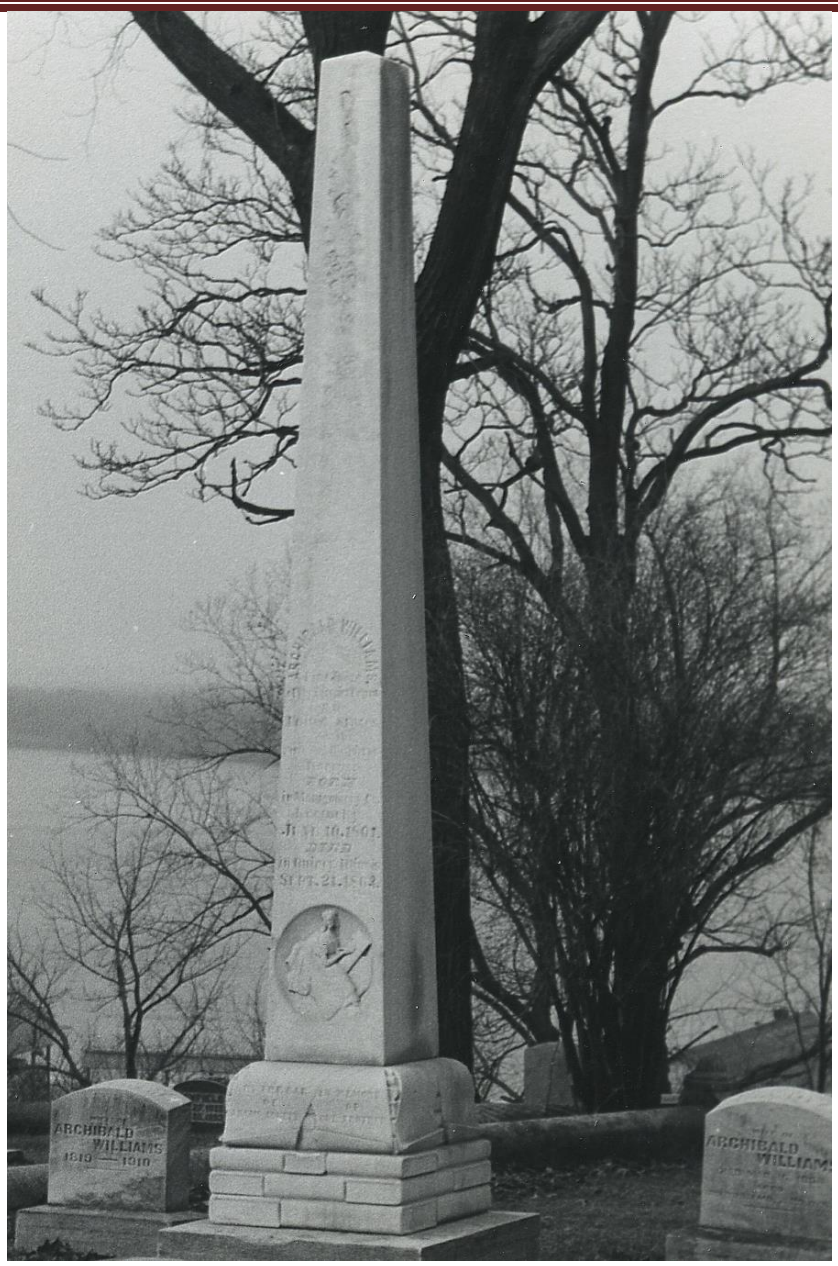
"But great as was Judge Williams as a lawyer, it was necessary to know him well in private life to appreciate the singular beauty of his character. The writer of this was in daily and intimate intercourse with him for many years – in prosperity and adversity, in defeat and in triumph – and he can truly say that, of all the men he has ever known, Judge Williams was the least controlled by selfish considerations."

"It was not merely to the widowed, the fatherless, and the poor, [that] his professional services were rendered without a fee… It was not merely that an ample professional income was so freely divided with almost anyone who would ask… [It was all these things, and] he died at last with a meagre fortune."

"...In the affairs of everyday life, in the little things where most men are so certain to be selfish – as well as the great things where they can afford to be heroic – everywhere and at all times, Judge Williams totally ignored himself for the sake of others."



ARCHIBALD WILLIAMS IN HIS LATER YEARS



GRAVE MARKER OF ARCHIBALD WILLIAMS

Archibald Williams was buried in Woodland Cemetery in Quincy, Illinois, overlooking the Mississippi River. His first wife, Nancy Kemp Williams, is buried to the right. His second wife, Ellen Parker Williams, is buried to the left.

NANCY KEMP WILLIAMS
(First wife of Archibald Williams):[3]

Reuben Kemp was the oldest known ancestor of the Kemp branch of the family. He came from Germany to what was then Ledstone, Virginia. The city name was later changed to Wheeling, and the city is now in West Virginia.

He amassed a fortune, which made him one of the wealthy men of his time.

Note: Dating backward from the birth date of his granddaughter, Nancy Kemp, on April 8, 1815, Reuben Kemp probably was born around 1765 or earlier.

A born pioneer, Reuben Kemp was one of the first settlers to enter Kentucky. He spent his first winter there living in a military fort. He later crossed the Ohio River into Ohio and acquired a large tract of land that later became the downtown area of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Reuben Kemp had eight children:

*1. The oldest was Charles Kemp, a lineal ancestor of the Williams and Loevy families.

*2. Leah Kemp was a twin to Charles and died in infancy.

*3. Jeremia Kemp married Loren Todd.

*4. Sallie Kemp married a Mr. McCarty.

*5. Reuben Kemp died in early youth.

*6. Edward Kemp's wife was a Miss Sharp.

*7. Elizabeth Kemp married Elijah McClauaban. They had a daughter, Sallie McClauaban, who married John Holden. He and his mother are reported to have "joined the Mormons."

[3] This account is developed from "The Kemp Descent," in James R. Williams, "Williams Family History and Genealogy," March 1, 1964. Martha Belle Williams Franklin, Archibald Williams's granddaughter, is the likely author of this account. No dates were included in the account except for July 28, 1831, the date of Nancy Kemp's marriage to Archibald Williams, and March 16, 1854, the date of her death.

*8. James Kemp married but his wife's name is unknown. They had a son named Elijah Kemp.

The oldest son of Reuben Kemp, Charles Kemp, married Martha Hamilton, who was the daughter of John Hamilton. The name of John Hamilton's wife is not known. She is referred to in family records as Grandmother Hamilton.

Note: Again, dating backward from the birth date of Nancy Kemp on April 8, 1815, her parents, Charles Kemp and Martha Hamilton Kemp, would have been born around 1790 or earlier. Her grandparents, John Hamilton and Grandmother Hamilton, would have been born around 1765 or earlier.

Charles Kemp and Martha Hamilton Kemp lived in Pendleton County, Kentucky. Pendleton County is located in northern Kentucky about 50 miles north of Lexington, Kentucky, and 30 miles south of Cincinnati, Ohio. The county seat is Falmouth, Kentucky.

Nancy Kemp, one of the daughters of Charles Kemp and Martha Hamilton Kemp, married Archibald Williams. Nancy Kemp is thus the person who brought the "John Hamilton" name into the Williams family line. John Hamilton was her grandfather.

Charles Kemp and Martha Hamilton Kemp had the following children:

*1. Harrison Kemp. No other information is available about him.

*2. Henry S. Kemp. Moved to Illinois. He married and had four children – Charles, Henry Tarleton, Lucy, and Archibald.

*3. Nancy Kemp. Moved to Illinois and married Archibald Williams.

*4. Rebecca Kemp. Moved to Illinois. Married to Simon Laughlin and raised a large family of seven sons.

*5. Elizabeth Kemp. No other information is available about her.

*6. Charles Kemp. Unmarried. Died in the Civil War.

John Hamilton and his son-in-law, Charles Kemp, both passed away in Pendleton County, Kentucky. Charles Kemp's widow, Martha Hamilton Kemp, joined by her son Henry S. Kemp (Nancy Kemp's brother) and Grandmother Hamilton, apparently moved to Harrison County, Kentucky.

Harrison County, Kentucky, adjoins Pendleton County to the south. The county seat is Cynthiana, Kentucky.

Martha Hamilton Kemp, her son Henry S. Kemp, and Grandmother Hamilton are reported to have left from Harrison County when they moved to Illinois.

The journey of the Kemp family to Illinois began in October when they departed Kentucky. The group spent much of the winter in St. Genevieve, Missouri, which is located on the west bank of the Mississippi River south of Saint Louis. They arrived in Adams County, Illinois, on the 14th day of February. The year in which the trip occurred is unknown.

Nancy Kemp was born in Kentucky. She either came to Illinois with her widowed mother, Martha Hamilton Kemp, and brother, Henry S. Kemp, or she was transported there in some other fashion. What is known is that she was living on a farm in Adams County near Quincy, Illinois, when she married Archibald Williams on July 28, 1831. She was 16-years-old at the time of her marriage.

Nancy Kemp's brother, Henry S. Kemp, married, had four children, and remained in Quincy, Illinois. Nancy Kemp's sister, Rebecca Kemp, married Simon Laughlin, reared a family of seven sons, and also lived and died in Adams County, Illinois. Additional siblings of Nancy Kemp also may have settled in the region of Quincy, Illinois.

The result was that the children and grandchildren of Archibald Williams and Nancy Kemp Williams knew their Kemp family cousins and Laughlin family cousins very well.

One of Nancy Kemp's brothers, Charles Kemp, was unmarried. He was killed in action in the Civil War. One assumes he was fighting for the North, but which side he was fighting for is not definitely known.

CHILDREN OF ARCHIBALD WILLIAMS AND NANCY KEMP WILLIAMS

Archibald Williams and his first wife, Nancy Kemp Williams, had nine children, but only five of them lived to maturity.

JOHN HAMILTON WILLIAMS – Born April 12, 1833. Died September 24, 1912, in Quincy, Illinois. Buried in Woodland Cemetery in Quincy. Married November 28, 1854, in Huntsville, Missouri, to Rebecca Caroline Walton.

ROBERT H. WILLIAMS – Born April 17, 1835. Died in infancy on September 15, 1835.

ANN ELIZABETH WILLIAMS – Born January 16, 1837. Died in infancy on July 27, 1837.

ALMIRA JANE WILLIAMS – Born February 23, 1838. Died August 26, 1904. Married November 27, 1860, to Dr. Charles H. Morton, in Quincy, Illinois.

ARCHIBALD LEWELLYN WILLIAMS – Born September 2, 1840, at Mounds Farm in Adams County, Illinois, near Quincy, Illinois. Died August 28, 1907, while vacationing near his summer home in Manitou Springs, Colorado, at the foot of Pike's Peak. Married August 28, 1862, in Terre Haute, Indiana, to Elizabeth Cloud Ferguson of Posey County, Indiana. She was born in 1842 and died in Topeka, Kansas on February 27, 1907. They had six children.

MARTHA ANN WILLIAMS – Born January 1, 1843. Died in infancy on October 20, 1843, and was buried in Quincy, Illinois.

HENRY CLAY WILLIAMS – Born October 21, 1844, in Quincy, Illinois. Married Sadie Baker and had one surviving child. Died December 25, 1879, in Topeka, Kansas. He served in the Union army in the Civil War

and was captured by the Confederates. He died of consumption, which he contracted some years earlier while in a Confederate prison.

CHARLES JOSEPH WILLIAMS – Born November 21, 1846. Died in infancy on May 5, 1847, and buried in Quincy, Illinois.

NANCY WILLIAMS – Born March 16, 1854, in Quincy, Illinois. Her mother, Nancy Kemp Williams, died in childbirth the day Nancy was born. Little is known about the younger Nancy. One account said she died about 1900 in Chicago, Illinois. She would have been about 46-years-old at the time of her death.

CHAPTER THREE

JOHN HAMILTON WILLIAMS

John Hamilton Williams was born on April 12, 1833, in Quincy, Illinois. He was the first child born to Archibald Williams and Nancy Kemp Williams. He followed his well-known father, Archibald Williams, into the legal profession in Quincy and the general western Illinois area.

EDUCATION AND MARRIAGE:

John Hamilton Williams attended and graduated from the University of Missouri Law School in Columbia, Missouri. In a horse and buggy, he drove his sister, Almira Jane Williams, to Christian College, also in Columbia, at the same time he was traveling to and from law school.

On one of his many visits to Christian College to drop off, pick up, or visit his sister, he met Rebecca Caroline Walton. She had entered Christian College when it first opened in 1851. Romance blossomed, and Rebecca Caroline Walton remained at Christian College for only two years. She returned to her home in order to prepare her trousseau for her wedding to John Hamilton Williams on November 28, 1854.

Almira Jane Williams was in the first graduating class at Christian College in 1854.

LAW PRACTICE:

In addition to law school, John Hamilton Williams trained in the law office of his father – Archibald Williams. He was admitted to the bar on February 5, 1855. At that time, the elder Williams was in a law partnership with Jack Grimshaw, and the name of the firm was Williams and Grimshaw. When John Hamilton Williams joined the law firm, the name changed to Williams, Grimshaw, and Williams. John Hamilton Williams never had any other law partners than his father and Jack Grimshaw.

Exactly as his father, Archibald Williams, had done, John Hamilton Williams as a young attorney traveled around Illinois attending to his legal

business at the various county courts. And, similar to his father, John Hamilton Williams often traveled in the company of his father's close friend – Orville Browning. Thus, on Tuesday, October 7, 1856, John Hamilton Williams and Orville Browning rode in "Moore's hack" from the train station at Plymouth, Illinois, to the Hancock County courthouse in Carthage, Illinois.[4]

Sometimes the travel from home to a distant courthouse and back could be rough, or at least part of the trip could be. On Thursday, March 12, 1857, John Hamilton Williams and Orville Browning had to ride from Carthage, Illinois, to Plymouth, Illinois, with several other lawyers in a "two horse wagon…with four mules attached." The carriage, the mules, and the lawyers were said to have "got along pretty well" over the road. At Plymouth, a railroad passenger train could be taken to Quincy, Illinois.[5]

An uneventful trip to a distant court took place on Monday, May 13, 1861. John Hamilton Williams and Orville Browning rode a passenger train to Galesburg, Illinois, and "thence to Oquawka Junction." A hack took them on to the Henderson County courthouse in Oquawka, Illinois.[6]

On Wednesday, October 23, 1861, John Hamilton Williams and Orville Browning took a passenger train straight from Quincy, Illinois, to Chicago, Illinois, to argue cases before the U.S. Circuit Court in Chicago.[7]

[4] Theodore C. Pease and James G. Randall, *Diary of Orville Hickman Browning* (Springfield, IL: Illinois State Historical Library, 1925 and 1933), Volume I, p. 258.

[5] Theodore C. Pease and James G. Randall, *Diary of Orville Hickman Browning* (Springfield, IL: Illinois State Historical Library, 1925 and 1933), Volume I, p. 278.

[6] Theodore C. Pease and James G. Randall, *Diary of Orville Hickman Browning* (Springfield, IL: Illinois State Historical Library, 1925 and 1933), Volume I, p. 469.

[7] Theodore C. Pease and James G. Randall, *Diary of Orville Hickman Browning* (Springfield, IL: Illinois State Historical Library, 1925 and 1933), Volume I, p. 505.

JOHN HAMILTON WILLIAMS
AND REBECCA CAROLINE WALTON

They are shown on their wedding day – November 28, 1854.

JOHN HAMILTON WILLIAMS – 1833-1912

He was the first child and oldest son of Archibald Williams and Nancy Kemp Williams. He graduated from the University of Missouri Law School and became his father's law partner in Quincy, Illinois.

REBECCA CAROLINE WALTON WILLIAMS – 1837-1912

She met her husband, John Hamilton Williams, while a student at Christian College in Columbia, Missouri.

John Hamilton Williams's professional connection and acquaintance with Orville Browning proved valuable when Orville Browning became a United States senator from Illinois. Browning noted in his diary on Thursday, December 10, 1863, that, while in Washington, D.C., Browning "went to Treasury Department this morning on business for John Williams."[8]

THE QUINCY, ILLINOIS, FAMILY HOME:

In 1864, in the closing years of the American Civil War, John Hamilton Williams purchased a large house for his family at 1233 N. Sixth Street in Quincy, Illinois. The location was at the southwest corner of Sixth and Spruce streets.

The house was two and one half stories high and built of wood. It was an early example of the plain but durable Prairie style of architecture that was popular throughout the Midwest. It was a gable-front design with a shingle roof and a large wrap-around front and side porch. The house was built in 1863, at a cost of $4,000, by J. J. Whitney, who intended the house for his son in law, General Benjamin M. Prentiss. General Prentiss in turn sold the house to John Hamilton Williams.[9]

General Prentiss was a hero for the Union Army in the American Civil War. He commanded a Union division in the Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee. Prentiss's troops were the first ones attacked by the Confederates at Shiloh, and they took heavy casualties during the early hours of the battle. General Prentiss and his men defended a 3-foot sunken road. The battle became so furious it was nicknamed the "Hornets' Nest." General Prentiss was captured by the Southerners, but he and his fellow soldiers put up a spirited fight that gave Union General Ulysses S. Grant enough time to organize a counterattack and be victorious at Shiloh.

The John Hamilton Williams home remained in the family for almost a century. John Hamilton Williams's youngest daughter, Martha Belle

[8] Theodore C. Pease and James G. Randall, *Diary of Orville Hickman Browning* (Springfield, IL: Illinois State Historical Library, 1925 and 1933), Volume I, p. 650.

[9] "From Quincy's Past; Archibald Williams, Early Lawyer," *Quincy (Illinois) Herald-Whig*, December 5, 1971.

Williams Franklin, was living in the house when she died on February 23, 1962. Sadly, the house was not cared for by subsequent owners and was sold at public auction in 1983 and eventually torn down.

A LEADING QUINCY, ILLINOIS, LAWYER:

In 1876, John Hamilton Williams was one of the incorporators in the formation of the Quincy Bar Association.

John Hamilton Williams maintained his social connection to Orville Browning, his father's fellow lawyer and close friend. On Tuesday, June 19, 1877, thirteen years after Archibald Williams died, John Hamilton Williams "and family" took tea with Orville and Eliza Browning at the Browning home. Also at tea was "Mrs. Archie Williams," who was Archibald Williams's second wife and then widow – Ellen Parker Williams.[10]

In a similar vein, John Hamilton Williams and his wife, Rebecca Caroline Walton Williams, attended a breakfast at the Browning home on Thursday, September 26, 1878. Another guest at the breakfast was a "Judge Davis," who may have been David Davis. He was Archibald Williams's acquaintance from Bloomington, Illinois, who was one of Abraham Lincoln's campaign managers in the 1860 presidential election and later an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Also at the breakfast at the Browning home was Judge Joseph Sibley and his wife. John Hamilton Williams would, the following year, succeed Judge Sibley as one of the circuit court judges for the area around Quincy, Illinois.[11]

[10] Theodore C. Pease and James G. Randall, *Diary of Orville Hickman Browning* (Springfield, IL: Illinois State Historical Library, 1925 and 1933), Volume II, p. 477.

[11] Theodore C. Pease and James G. Randall, *Diary of Orville Hickman Browning* (Springfield, IL: Illinois State Historical Library, 1925 and 1933), Volume II, p. 495.

HOME OF JOHN HAMILTON WILLIAMS AND FAMILY
1233 N. SIXTH STREET, QUINCY, ILLINOIS

HOME OF JOHN HAMILTON WILLIAMS AND FAMILY
SIDE VIEW

HOME OF JOHN HAMILTON WILLIAMS AND FAMILY
IN THE 1950s OR 1960s

HOME OF JOHN HAMILTON WILLIAMS AND FAMILY IN 1960

Martha Belle Williams Franklin, a daughter of John Hamilton Williams, was the only family member living in the house at the time this photograph was taken. She passed away two years later in 1962 at the age of 96 years.

HOME OF JOHN HAMILTON WILLIAMS AND FAMILY IN 1960

Standing on the veranda is John Hamilton Loevy, age five, the great-great-grandson of John Hamilton Williams.

"J.H. WILLIAMS" STEPPING STONE

This stepping stone facilitated getting on or off of a horse or stepping in or out of a horse-drawn carriage. It was located for many years at 1233 N. Sixth Street, the family home of John Hamilton Williams in Quincy, Illinois. By 2013, the "J.H. Williams" stepping stone had moved to 403 S. 16th Street in Quincy.

WILLIAMS FAMILY HOME SITE IN 2013

This modern ranch-style building stood at 1233 N. Sixth Street in Quincy, Illinois, in 2013. The John Hamilton Williams family home, which previously occupied the site for almost 120 years, was torn down sometime after 1983. Members of the Williams family lived in the home for 98 years, from 1864 to 1962.

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

When the vacancy occurred on the Circuit Court, John Hamilton Williams filled it. He replaced Judge Joseph Sibley in 1879. He was the first Quincy, Illinois, native to be a circuit court judge in Quincy. From that point on in his life, John Hamilton Williams was generally addressed as Judge Williams. He retired from the judicial bench in 1885, having served six years.[12]

As would be expected, there was some electoral politics involved in John Hamilton Williams attaining the position of circuit court judge. There were three judgeships in the circuit. On Thursday, May 15, 1879, the Democrats held a nominating convention in Quincy, Illinois, and nominated C. L. Higbee of Pike County, George Edmunds of Hancock County, and Jo Thompson of Quincy (Adams County). All three nominees were, of course, Democrats.

Previously, however, a "non-partizan" convention had been held at Mt. Sterling, Illinois, at which Higbee of Pike County was nominated along with S. P. Shope of Fulton County and John Hamilton Williams of Quincy (Adams County). Higbee and Shope were the Democrats on the non-partisan ticket and John Hamilton Williams was the lone Republican. Higbee enjoyed the distinction of being nominated on both the Democratic and the non-partisan tickets.

Judicial election day was Monday, June 2, 1879. All three non-partisan candidates were elected to the circuit court. C. L. Higbee, S. P. Shope, and John Hamilton Williams, two Democrats and one Republican running on a non-partisan ticket, took their positions on the circuit court bench shortly thereafter.[13]

A notable case tried before Circuit Court Judge John Hamilton Williams was *City of Quincy v. Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad*

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[12] "Mrs. Franklin, 96, Dies; Member of Pioneer Family," *Quincy (Illinois) Herald-Whig*, February 23, 1962.

[13] Theodore C. Pease and James G. Randall, *Diary of Orville Hickman Browning* (Springfield, IL: Illinois State Historical Library, 1925 and 1933), Volume II, p. 505.

Company. No details were reported about the case, but the decision favored the Burlington Railroad over the City of Quincy, Illinois.[14]

SUMMER VACATIONS IN COLORADO:

In the 1880s and 1890s, John Hamilton Williams took his family on summer vacations to Manitou Springs, Colorado, a resort community in the Rocky Mountains at the foot of Pike's Peak. The family frequently was joined by John Hamilton Williams's brother, Archibald Llewellyn Williams, and his family.

Archibald Llewellyn Williams owned "Llewellyn Place," a summer home in Manitou Springs on a road known as Pilot Knob. John Hamilton Williams and his family sometimes stayed at Archibald Llewellyn Williams's summer home. On other occasions, the John Hamilton Williams family would rent a separate home in Manitou Springs.

DEATH AND OBITUARY:

John Hamilton Williams died of a heart condition on September 24, 1912, at the age of 79 years. His wife, Rebecca Caroline Walton Williams, had passed away a little more than a month earlier on August 18, 1912. A local newspaper commented: "But a month had passed since his beloved wife had gone before him, and though his grief was quiet and restrained, the light of his life had gone out."[15]

At the time of his death, John Hamilton Williams was described as "almost the original Quincy pioneer" and one of the "oldest persons born in this city still living up to the present day."

His passing was sudden. He dined with his daughter, Ann Almira Williams Cruttenden, and was said to be "in the best of spirits." He woke up the next morning feeling ill, however, and he "sank rapidly" and "quietly passed away." He was described as "entirely conscious and in possession of all his faculties and knew the family until within five minutes of his death."

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[14] Theodore C. Pease and James G. Randall, *Diary of Orville Hickman Browning* (Springfield, IL: Illinois State Historical Library, 1925 and 1933), Volume II, p. 515.

[15] *Quincy (Illinois) Daily Herald*, September 26, 1912.

JOHN HAMILTON WILLIAMS AT THE TIME OF HIS 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY IN 1904

REBECCA CAROLINE WALTON WILLIAMS AT THE TIME OF HER 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY IN 1904

REBECCA CAROLINE WALTON WILLIAMS
IN HER LATER YEARS

GRAVE OF JOHN HAMILTON WILLIAMS

He is buried in Woodland Cemetery in Quincy, Illinois, next to his wife. The inscription on the gravestone reads: "An Honest Man Is The Noblest Work Of God."

GRAVE OF REBECCA CAROLINE WALTON WILLIAMS

She is buried in Woodland Cemetery in Quincy, Illinois, next to her husband. The inscription on the gravestone reads: "None Knew Her But To Love Her."

John Hamilton Williams's newspaper obituary concluded with this statement:

"As an attorney, Judge Williams was a man of high attainments, honorable and upright. As a judge he made a record for his sincere and learned opinions. As a man, and a citizen, he has always stood in the highest esteem. In his passing one of the links between the older and the newer Quincy has gone forever."[16]

At the time of his death, John Hamilton Williams was described as having poor eyesight. He had retired from the practice of law "some time ago." He was identified in an obituary as a member of the First Christian Church of Quincy, Illinois.[17]

WESLEY C. WILLIAMS:

Wesley C. Williams was a first cousin of John Hamilton Williams. He thus was the nephew of Archibald Williams. His father, Wesley Williams, was Archibald Williams's brother.

Archibald Williams and two of his brothers – John and Robert – chose to locate in Quincy, Illinois, the county seat of Adams County. Wesley Williams, however, settled some 50 miles to the north in Carthage, Illinois, the county seat of Hancock County. When Wesley C. Williams was born on August 13, 1833, he was the first child of European extraction born in Carthage, Illinois.

As a young man, Wesley C. Williams went to California in 1856-1859 to search for gold. He returned to Carthage, Illinois, and married Mary E. Moore on June 6, 1860. She was born near Wilmington, Delaware, but was an infant when the family migrated to Carthage.

During the Civil War, Wesley C. Williams was a Sergeant in the Union Army in Company G, 12th Illinois Cavalry. He was a Wagon Master, placed in charge of seeing that the military supplies for the cavalry unit were successfully hauled by horse and wagon from battlefield to battlefield. He mainly was in military action in the Maryland and Virginia area.

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[16] "Passing of Judge Williams, Former Judge of Circuit Court; Pioneer of Quincy," *Quincy (Illinois) Daily Herald*, September 26, 1912.

[17] "Judge Williams, Aged 79, Is Dead," *Quincy (Illinois) Daily Journal*, September 24, 1912, p. 8.

On September 15, 1862, Wesley C. Williams, serving under the command of Union General John Pope, was captured by Confederate troops led by General "Stonewall" Jackson at a battle at Harpers Ferry, Virginia [later West Virginia]. Instead of being imprisoned, however, Wesley C. Williams was paroled. General "Stonewall" Jackson did not have the capability of handling prisoners.[18]

Three weeks prior to the battle at Harpers Ferry, Wesley C. Williams wrote a pair of letters to his wife, Mary Moore Williams, describing both his service in the Union Army and his concerns for his family and friends back home in Carthage, Illinois:[19]

Martinsburg, [Virginia, later West Virginia], August 24, 1862

Dearest Mary,

I sit down this Sabbath evening to answer your welcome and loving letter, which I received the 21st of this month, and would have written sooner, but I started for Cumberland in Maryland and have not had time since my return.

There is nothing new going on here. The regiment has all got in without accomplishing anything. There was one company started for Winchester, [Virginia], today. The rebels have torn up the railroad track last night, and they have taken 40 of the 5th [?] Maryland prisoners last night about 12 miles from this place. They were guarding a bridge.

My health is fine, I guess. I might as well tell you about my getting thrown from my horse, since you have heard about it. The way it came, one of the teams got stuck pulling up a steep hill, and I got off of him [the horse] to help whip, and when I went to get on, he stept on a yaller-jacket nest, and he commenced running and jumping down the hill. The first jump he made was about ten feet high and 30 [feet] long, and he kept gaining on it and his nature could not stand it.

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[18] James R. Williams, "Williams Family History and Geneology," unpublished manuscript, no page numbers, March 1, 1964.

[19] Letter, Wesley C. Williams to Mary Moore Williams, Martinsburg, Virginia, August 24-25, 1862, hand-numbered p. 37-40, Archibald Williams File, Brenner Library, Quincy University, Quincy, Illinois.

It hurt me pretty badly for a while. I fell on a small stump [of a tree] with my side. I did think for awhile that my ribs were torn apart, but I am all right now.

I have made a [purchase] of some postage stamps, so you need not send any more…

I don't think your mother can complain about you girls coming back home. She said you might if you didn't bring your husbands.

I have made up my mind that, if I do not get what wages are due me, I will get discharged this winter.

I must quit for tonight. Good night, love.

Monday, 25 [August, 1862]

I wish you will let me know if you got all of your things from father's yet or not. You have never told me how your cow got along. How I would like to be back there and get some of those kisses.

I guess I will send those things by express when I get the money to do it with.

I expect before you get this letter that there will be one of the hardest fought battles between [Union Major General John] Pope and [Confederate Major General Thomas J. "Stonewall"] Jackson. The [railroad] cars on this [railroad] for the last three days and night have been loaded down with soldiers.

This town [Martinsburg] is the place where Showers came from, and his relations are all secesh [secessionists].

Write and let me know how that Captain Logan gets along recruiting. If the people back there was acquainted with this regiment, they would not want to come to it.

The boys are all well. Nathan sends his love to all. I have sent a letter to Uncle Archibald [Williams] last week.

Let me know if Wilson has paid you or not. I do not know what the people will do for hands to gather corn this fall. What is Gardner doing this summer? Is Willy Moore going to the war?

I believe I have written all of the news. I will send you them things the first chance. Henry McClelland is coming home in a week or less, and I will send them by him.

No more this time from your loving husband. Good by my love. Good [by] my dear.

Wesley C. Williams
Wagon Master
of the 12th Illinois Cavalry

Wesley C. Williams returned to Carthage, Illinois, after the Civil War. He was elected to the Illinois state legislature and held many other public offices. He and his wife, Mary Moore Williams, had six children, two of whom died in infancy. Wesley C. Williams passed away November 4, 1891. His wife, Mary, died April 9, 1920.

THE WALTON DESCENT

REBECCA CAROLINE WALTON:

Ison Walton married Anne Dickenson in Albemarle County, Virginia, about 1836. Albemarle County is located in central Virginia in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The county seat is Charlottesville, Virginia.

About the same time, Ison Walton's sister, Hilvey George Walton, married Anne Dickenson's brother, Leighton Dickenson. It was a "double wedding" in the sense that a brother and a sister married a sister and a brother.

The two young married couples decided to leave Albemarle County, Virginia, and go west to seek their fortunes. They brought with them their slaves, cattle, horses, and household goods. They were well-equipped for their new lives in the wilderness.

The Waltons and the Dickensons were headed for Randolph County, Missouri, located in the center of the state north of the Missouri River. The two families settled on adjoining farms between the present-day cities of Huntsville and Moberly, Missouri.

Prior to their arrival in Randolph County, however, the two-family caravan was temporarily halted near Rocheport, Missouri. At that spot, on the south bank of the Missouri River across the river from Rocheport (on the north bank), Ison Walton's and Anne Dickenson's daughter, Rebecca Caroline Walton, was born. The date was April 30, 1837.

The caravan moved on, and the two families arrived at their adjoining farms in Randolph County. Shortly thereafter, a son was born to Leighton Dickenson and Hilvey George Walton Dickenson. He was named George Nimrod Dickenson, but he was known to the family by the nickname "Nimmy Dick."

In 1844 or 1845, when Rebecca Caroline Walton was seven years old, her mother, Anne Dickenson, died.

Rebecca's father, Ison Walton, in addition to his sorrow and grief over the death of his wife, had to deal with the fact that his daughter Rebecca was now the only white woman resident on the family farm. There were the household slaves, who were devoted to Rebecca, and Rebecca even had a personal slave named Lizzie Tucker serving as her maid.

Nevertheless, Ison Walton feared for Rebecca's safety if anything should happen to him. Rebecca was the sole heir to the farm and the slaves, and there were tales of ugly incidents on the part of slaves who resented their owners.

The result was that Rebecca Caroline Walton spent most of her time riding over the farm with her father. That permitted Ison Walton to know what his daughter was doing and that she was safe. Rebecca attended the local rural school, but otherwise she was mainly her father's constant companion. As a result, he was able to teach her about crops, farm management, farm finances, etc.

In 1851, when Rebecca Caroline Walton was 14 years old, Christian College was established in nearby Columbia, Missouri. The new college offered a three-year college program under the auspices and direction of the Christian Church. It was a place where a young lady, even a young farm girl, could complete her education and acquire social graces as well as erudition.

Christian College was the perfect place for Rebecca from the viewpoint of Ison Walton. He could now provide for his daughter's education in a safe and supervised environment that was close to his farm.

Rebecca Caroline Walton was enrolled in the first class at Christian College. One of her classmates was a young woman from Quincy, Illinois, named Almira Jane Williams. The two became close friends. It happened that Almira Jane Williams's brother, John Hamilton Williams, was attending law school at the University of Missouri. Similar to Christian College, the University of Missouri was located in Columbia, Missouri.

While visiting his sister Almira Jane at Christian College, John Hamilton Williams met and fell in love with his sister's friend, Rebecca Caroline Walton. They became engaged to marry, and Rebecca Caroline did not return to Christian College for her senior year. She spent most of that time at home in Randolph County preparing her trousseau. She and John Hamilton Williams were married in her father's home in Missouri on November 28, 1854.

REBECCA CAROLINE WALTON WILLIAMS – 1837-1912

Rebecca Caroline Walton was seventeen at the time of her marriage, and John Hamilton Williams was twenty-one.[20] John Hamilton Williams took his bride to Quincy, Illinois, where they resided for the remainder of their lives.

Similar to her husband, Rebecca Caroline Walton Williams maintained social contact with Orville and Eliza Browning of Quincy, Illinois. On Tuesday, July 13, 1880, "Mrs. Judge Williams" was entertained at breakfast by the Brownings along with a number of other guests.[21]

Rebecca Caroline Walton Williams was prominent in the civic and social life of the community. In the typical flowery style of the age, her Quincy, Illinois, newspaper obituary noted:

"A resident here for nearly three score years, where she had been active in uplifting all best interests of the place, she was widely known and highly appreciated in many circles that came in contact with her gracious influences. Her home, made attractive by the estimable traits of all members of her family, became famed for open hospitality. There are countless numbers [of people] retaining pleasantest memories of visits and social hours in the cheerful home circle."

"A devout Christian…in the simplest and most unpretentious manner, she apparently was unconscious of her bright example and the wholesome influences she wielded in many directions."[22]

Rebecca Caroline Walton Williams was a semi-invalid for a number of years prior to her death on August 18, 1912. Her funeral was held at the longtime family home at 1233 N. Sixth Street in Quincy, Illinois. Her

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[20] This history of the Walton and Dickenson families, considerably edited, is from Annabel Walton Loevy Rule, "Loevy Family History," a typewritten document in the possession of Walton Taylor Loevy and Robert Dickinson Loevy.

[21] Theodore C. Pease and James G. Randall, *Diary of Orville Hickman Browning* (Springfield, IL: Illinois State Historical Library, 1925 and 1933), Volume II, p. 528.

[22] "Beautiful Life Ends: Mrs. John H. Williams Died Sunday Evening; One of Quincy's Best Beloved Women Is Called Home; Came to Quincy Fifty-Eight Years Ago as a Bride," *Quincy (Illinois) Daily Herald*, August, 1912. Copy in James R. Williams, "Williams Family History And Genealogy," March 1, 1964.

husband, John Hamilton Williams, died about one month later on September 24, 1912. They had seven children, six of whom lived to adulthood.

GEORGE NIMROD DICKENSON:

George Nimrod Dickenson, known to his family as "Nimmy Dick," grew up on the Dickenson family farm in Randolph County, Missouri. He attended college at St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri. He was an excellent student, receiving a number of "Premium" awards in the form of small silver shields that could be used as window-shade pullers. One award was for English and another was for Mathematics.[23]

When the American Civil War began, George Nimrod Dickenson volunteered for duty. Although Missouri was a slave state and his family owned slaves, family tradition says he fought for the Union. He was killed at the Battle of Stones River in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. In that bloody battle, fought over New Year's 1862-1863, the Confederates scored early advances but were eventually repulsed and forced to retreat by Union forces.

[23] In 2013, two of the St. Louis University "Premium" awards won by George Nimrod Dickenson were in the possession of Robert D. Loevy of Colorado Springs, Colorado.

DESCENDANTS OF JOHN HAMILTON WILLIAMS AND REBECCA CAROLINE WALTON

ANN ALMIRA WILLIAMS – Born October 28, 1855, in Quincy, Illinois. She was married December 14, 1882, at her parents' home in Quincy to John Smith Cruttenden (1859-1909). Her grave marker indicated that she was called by the name "Anna."

John Smith Cruttenden was in the real estate and farm loan business. He developed the neighborhoods of Walton Heights and Lawndale in Quincy. He became ill, went to Albuquerque, New Mexico, for his health, and died there of spinal meningitis. His grave marker reads: "The World Is Better For His Having Lived."

Ann Almira Williams Cruttenden died in Quincy on August 30, 1926. She and her husband, John Smith Cruttenden, were buried in the John Hamilton Williams Family Plot in Woodland Cemetery in Quincy. They had one son – John Williams Cruttenden.

John Williams Cruttenden, known as "Jack" Cruttenden, was born on March 25, 1884. He married Gladys Rudy, and they had one son, John Rudy Cruttenden. Following Jack Cruttenden's death in the mid-1950s, Gladys Cruttenden married Fred Paul.

Jack Cruttenden owned and operated a successful apple orchard at Barry, Illinois, a small town close to Quincy. Jack and Gladys Cruttenden lived for many years at 2020 Maine Street in Quincy, a large home in a historic section of the city.

John Rudy Cruttenden, the son of Jack and Gladys Cruttenden, married Josephine Maxwell. They had two children, John Maxwell Cruttenden, born April 30, 1942, and Cynthia Anne Cruttenden, also born in the 1940s. John Rudy Cruttenden had a large collection of butterflies and the eggs of wild birds. He died tragically of brain cancer in 1956 at age 40. His widow, Josephine, subsequently married John Ficke.

John Williams "Jack" Cruttenden, Gladys Cruttenden Paul, and John Rudy Cruttenden were buried together in the Archibald Williams Family Plot in Woodland Cemetery in Quincy.

John Maxwell Cruttenden, called "Jack" similar to his grandfather, took over the apple orchard in Barry, Illinois, and ran it for many years. He later moved to Houston, Texas. When John Maxwell Cruttenden left for

Houston, there were no longer any descendants of Archibald Williams living in Quincy, Illinois.

SALLIE REBECCA WILLIAMS – Born May 13, 1857. She was unmarried and taught school for many years in Quincy, Illinois, at the Madison School. She was much loved and respected. Her school was close enough that she often ate lunch at the home of her sister, Ann Almira Williams Cruttenden, at 2020 Maine Street in Quincy. Sallie Williams died in 1943 and was buried in the John Hamilton Williams Family Plot in Woodland Cemetery in Quincy.

MARGARET ELLA WILLIAMS – Born in Quincy, Illinois, on February 6, 1859. Married December 18, 1895, to Henry Tarleton Kemp, who was her cousin. Henry Kemp was in the insurance business. They had no children. Margaret Ella Williams Kemp's date of death is unknown. Henry Kemp was born in 1849 and died in 1923. Both are buried in the John Hamilton Williams Family Plot in Woodland Cemetery in Quincy. Margaret was known in the Williams family as "Aunt Money."

CAROLINE HAMILTON WILLIAMS – Born March 1, 1861, in Quincy, Illinois. She was married to Hannibal A. Loevy (November 15, 1855 – April 9, 1937) of St. Louis, Missouri, where they made their home. Caroline Hamilton Williams Loevy died in St. Louis, Missouri, on April 3, 1942. She was buried, as was her husband, Hannibal Loevy, in the Archibald Williams Family Plot in Woodland Cemetery in Quincy.

Caroline Hamilton Williams and Hannibal A. Loevy had two daughters and one son. They were Marguerite Loevy Boyd, Annabel Loevy Rule, and Walton Williams Loevy I.

Marguerite Loevy Boyd and Annabel Loevy Rule had no children. Walton Williams Loevy I married Helen Taylor Topping on April 2, 1927, and they had two sons – Walton Taylor Loevy, born June 23, 1932, and Robert Dickinson Loevy, born February 26, 1935.

Walton Taylor Loevy married Ethel Mae (Terry) Knill in 1954 and they had three children:

John Hamilton Loevy, born 1954, married Carol Bucklin.

Robert Walton Loevy, born 1958, died 2013, unmarried.

Caroline Anne Loevy, born 1961, married to Seth Hurwitz. They had three children:

Joseph Hurwitz
Samuel Hurwitz
Fred Hurwitz

Robert D. Loevy married Constance Belcher on August 24, 1968. She passed away May 4, 2006. They had two children:

Walton Williams Loevy II, born 1970, married Amy Louise Pittard on January 1, 1995. They were divorced on February 27, 2015. They had six children:

Rebecca Allison Loevy
Rachel Christine Loevy
Daniel Robert Loevy
Abigail Ruth Loevy
Hannah Katharine Loevy
Selah Annabel Loevy

Katharine Denise Loevy, born 1973, married Richard McGregor in June of 2014. They had one son:

Aimé Francis McGregor

ARCHIBALD WALTON WILLIAMS – Born February 26, 1863, in Quincy, Illinois. He was married to Hattie O'Connor, who apparently died early in the marriage. Archibald Walton Williams died on June 23, 1926, in Quincy. He was buried in the John Hamilton Williams Family Plot in Woodland Cemetery in Quincy.

At the time they were growing up, Walton T. Loevy and Robert D. Loevy possessed silver-topped hairbrushes with the initials "A. W. W." engraved on them. The brushes had belonged to Archibald Walton Williams.

MARTHA BELLE WILLIAMS – Born September 10, 1865, in Quincy, Illinois. She attended elementary school in Quincy and was a graduate of Quincy High School. She married Walter Dement Franklin (1870 – November 4, 1944) on May 11, 1898.

Walter Franklin was a businessman. He was recruited by the Universal Leaf Tobacco Company to manage the firm's operations in South America. He and his wife, Martha Belle Williams Franklin, traveled to New York City and from there sailed to Buenos Aires in Argentina. Walter

Franklin studied the Spanish language before embarking on the assignment.[24] They also lived for a while in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

In his later years, Walter Franklin was head of Gem City Building and Loan in Quincy. He was Secretary of the Boulevard and Park association, the group charged with looking after landscaped boulevards and parklands in Quincy. He played an important role in the development of the Quincy city park system.

Late in life, Martha Belle Williams Franklin took up art in the form of fine needlework. Her descendants often received gifts of towels with their names delicately sewn into them.

Martha also took a strong interest in preserving and promoting the memory of her illustrious grandfather – Archibald Williams. She gave many newspaper interviews about the life and accomplishments of Archibald Williams, particularly his close friendship with U.S. President Abraham Lincoln. Working with Father Landry Genosky, O.F.M., of Quincy College (later Quincy University) in Quincy, Illinois, she created an extensive collection of materials on Archibald Williams, the Archibald Williams File, which were deposited in Brenner Library at Quincy University.

Martha Belle Williams Franklin died on February 23, 1962, at age 96. She passed away at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, having been injured in a fall. At the time of her death, she was living in the home that had belonged to her parents, John Hamilton Williams and Rebecca Caroline Walton Williams, at 1233 N. Sixth Street in Quincy. She lived in that home much of her life, and she was the sole family resident of the home when she passed away. In her later years, her live-in nurse was Mrs. Weinburg.[25]

JOHN WENTWORTH WILLIAMS – Born on June 6, 1873, in Quincy, Illinois. Died in infancy on May 7, 1875. Buried in the John Hamilton Williams Family Plot in Woodland Cemetery in Quincy. His grave marker reads: "Our Baby, J. H. and R. C. Williams, June 6, 1873 – May 7, 1875."

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[24] "Big Businessman for Big Position; Walter Franklin Starts for South America to Develop American Trade – Sails August 1," transcribed undated newspaper story, hand-numbered p. 13, Archibald Williams File, Brenner Library, Quincy University, Quincy, Illinois.

[25] "Mrs. Franklin, 96, Dies; Member of Pioneer Family," *Quincy (Illinois) Herald-Whig*, February 23, 1962.

THE QUINCY AUNTS:

John Hamilton Williams and Rebecca Caroline Walton Williams had six children who lived to adulthood – five daughters and one son. Four of the five daughters grew up and made their permanent lifetime homes in Quincy, Illinois. As would be expected, the four daughters who remained in Quincy stayed very close together as family.

The other daughter, Caroline Hamilton Williams, moved to St. Louis, Missouri, following her marriage to Hannibal A. Loevy. She and her husband and children, however, stayed very close to their Quincy relatives and frequently traveled the relatively short distance from St. Louis to Quincy, Illinois, to visit.

As a result, the four daughters of John Hamilton Williams and Rebecca Caroline Walton Williams who remained in Quincy became known to their St. Louis relatives as "the Quincy aunts." They were Ann "Anna" Almira Williams Cruttenden, Sallie Rebecca Williams, Margaret Ella Williams Kemp, and Martha Belle Williams Franklin. They were considered an important force in the extended Williams family.

A FAMILY LEGEND ABOUT RUNAWAY SLAVES:

The story has come down through the Williams family that there was a period of time when runaway slaves were secretly hidden for short periods of time in a stable or barn in back of one of the Williams family homes in Quincy, Illinois. The gist of the story is the two older children of John Hamilton Williams told their younger sisters that there were days in their childhood when they could not play in the backyard of the home because of the close proximity to the runaway slaves hidden in the stable or barn.

The ages of the two older girls, Ann "Anna" Almira Williams and Sallie Rebecca Williams, give credence to this Williams family story. Ann Almira was born in 1855, and Sallie Rebecca was born in 1857, so both would have been old enough (over five years old) to remember events that took place in the family during the Civil War (1861-1865). Their younger sisters and brother, born just before or during the Civil War, thus would have needed to hear the story of "runaway slaves in the stable or barn" from there older siblings to know about it.

Also giving credence to the story is the fact that Quincy, Illinois, is known to have been a major stop on the Underground Railroad. That was the secret system of routes and hiding places by which runaway slaves were helped by northern opponents of slavery to escape from the South to freedom in Canada.

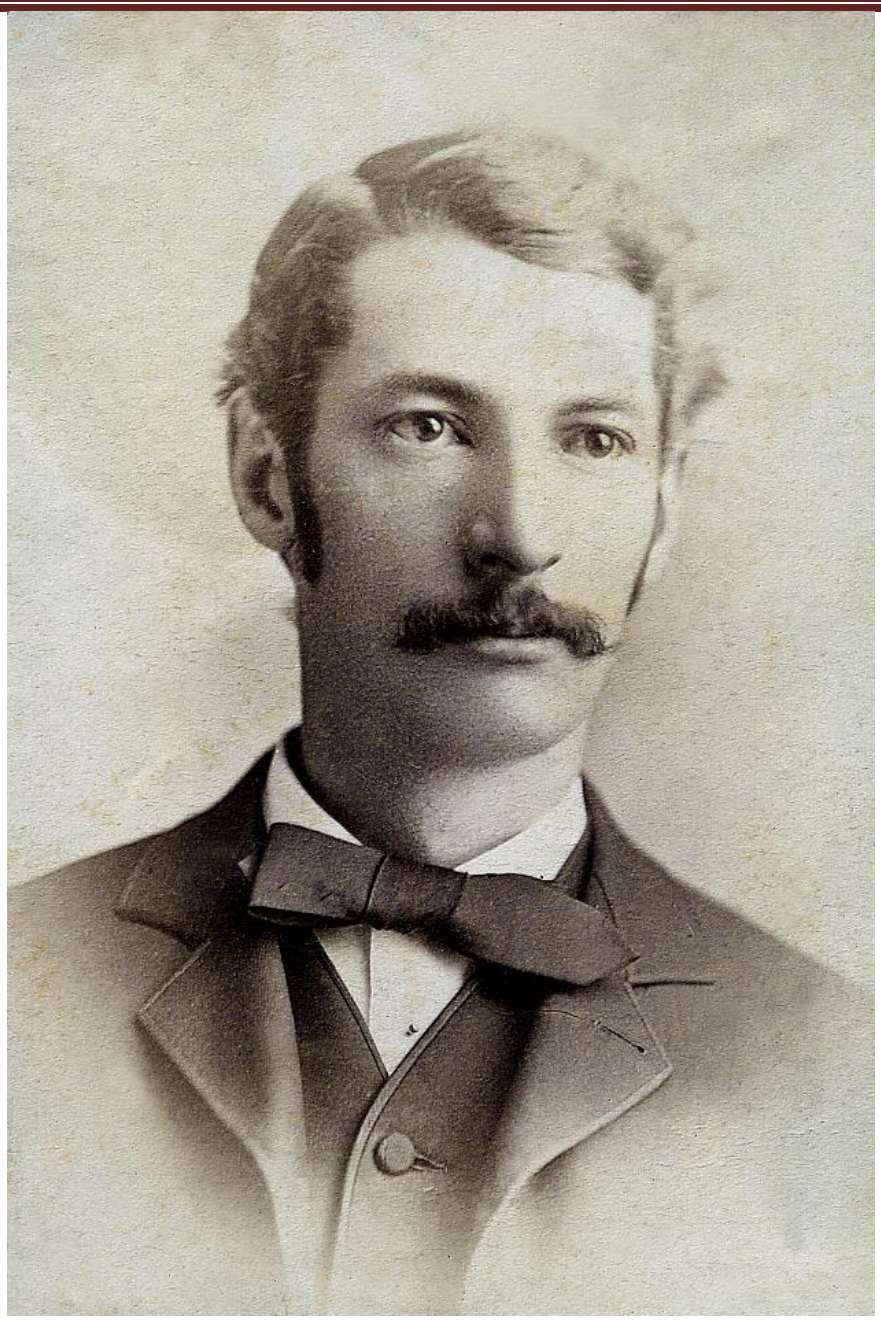
This family legend does not tell in which of the Williams family homes in Quincy the hiding of runaway slaves took place. What is known is that John Hamilton Williams did not acquire the house at 1233 N. Sixth Street in Quincy until 1864, the next to last year of the Civil War. If that home were ever a station on the Underground Railroad, it could have been only for one year or less, as the Civil War ended in the spring of 1865.

These events, however, could have taken place at the residence (address unknown) of the John Hamilton Williams family prior to their move to 1233 N. Sixth Street in 1864. On the other hand, runaway slaves could have been hidden at *both* the former home and the Sixth Street home.

PHOTO ALBUM OF THE
DESCENDANTS OF JOHN HAMILTON WILLIAMS
AND REBECCA CAROLINE WALTON

ANN "ANNA" ALMIRA WILLIAMS CRUTTENDEN – 1855-1926

She was the oldest child of John Hamilton Williams and Rebecca Caroline Walton Williams. She married John Smith Cruttenden on December 14, 1882. They had one child, a boy, named John "Jack" Williams Cruttenden.

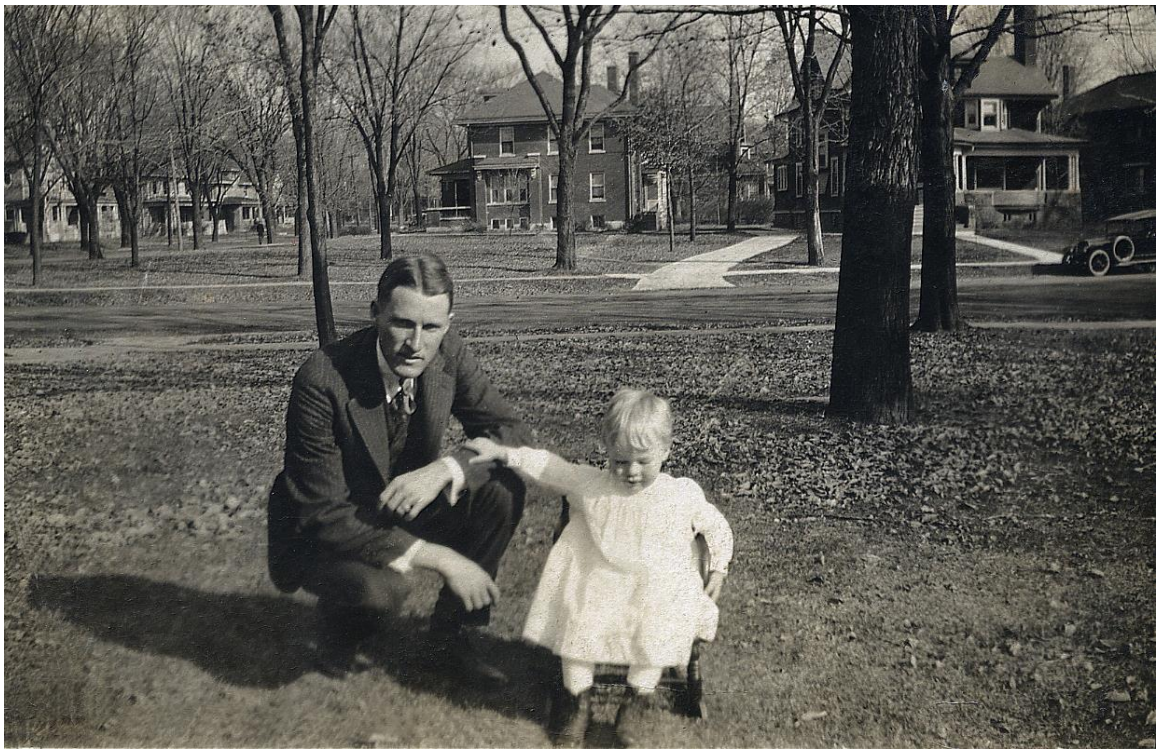


JOHN SMITH CRUTTENDEN – 1859-1909

He was the husband of Ann "Anna" Almira Williams. He was in the real estate and farm loan business in Quincy, Illinois.

JOHN "JACK" WILLIAMS CRUTTENDEN – 1884-1957

He was born at 1233 N. Sixth Street, the Williams family home, in Quincy, Illinois. He married Gladys Rudy. They had one child – John Rudy Cruttenden.



JOHN "JACK" WILLIAMS CRUTTENDEN – 1884-1957
WITH HIS SON, JOHN RUDY CRUTTENDEN – 1915-1956

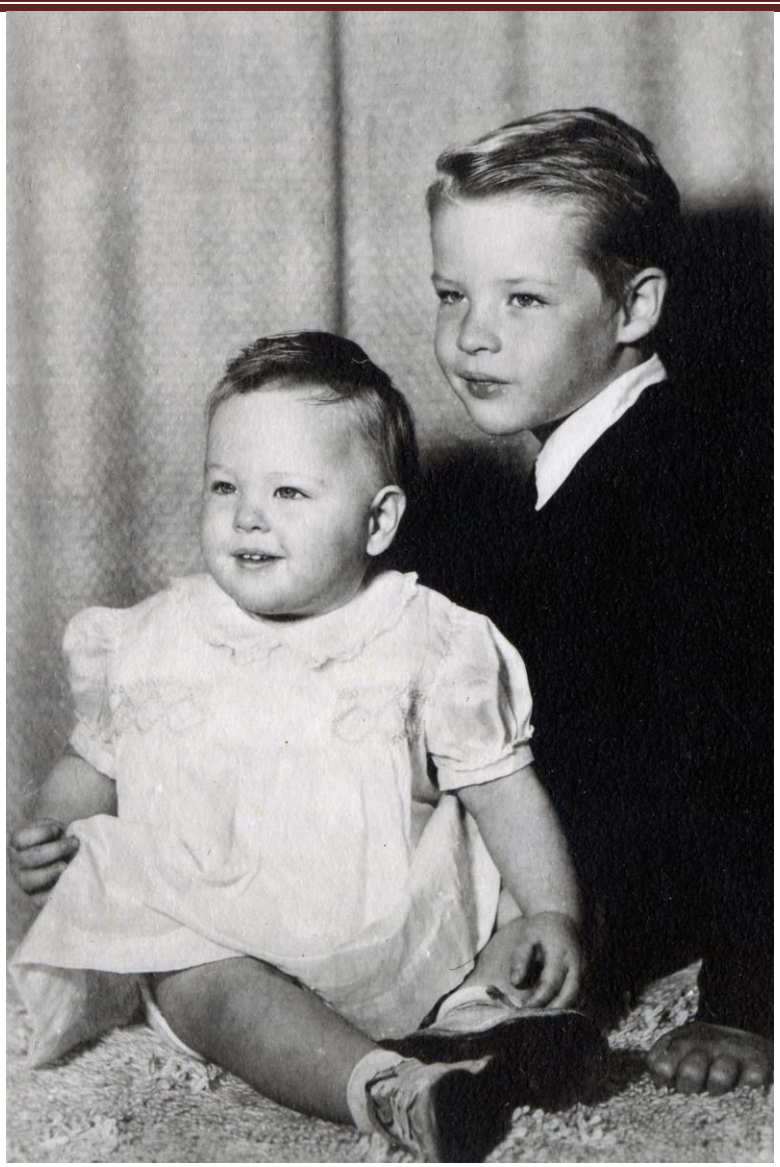
They are on the side yard of the Cruttenden family home at 2020 Maine Street in Quincy, Illinois.

JOHN RUDY CRUTTENDEN – 1915-1956

He is standing in front of the Cruttenden family home at 2020 Maine Street in Quincy, Illinois.

JOHN RUDY CRUTTENDEN – 1915-1956

He was the only child of John "Jack" Williams Cruttenden and Gladys Rudy Cruttenden. He married Josephine Maxwell. They had two children – John "Jack" Maxwell Cruttenden and Cynthia Ann Cruttenden.



JOHN "JACK" MAXWELL CRUTTENDEN
AND CYNTHIA ANN CRUTTENDEN

They were the children of John Rudy Cruttenden and Josephine Maxwell Cruttenden. "Jack" was born in 1942. Cynthia was born a few years later.

ANN "ANNA" ALMIRA WILLIAMS AND SALLIE R. WILLIAMS

This is the only known photograph of Sallie Williams. She was born on May 13, 1857. She was the second daughter of John Hamilton Williams and Rebecca Caroline Walton Williams. She never married. For many years she was an elementary school teacher in Quincy, Illinois.

MARGARET ELLA WILLIAMS

She was born on February 6, 1859, and was photographed in 1863 at about four-years-old. She was the third child, and third daughter, of John Hamilton Williams and Rebecca Caroline Walton Williams. She married Henry Tarleton Kemp, a cousin, on December 18, 1895. They had no children. She was known in the family as "Aunt Money."

CAROLINE HAMILTON WILLIAMS

Born on March 1, 1861, she was the fourth child (fourth daughter) of John Hamilton Williams and Rebecca Caroline Walton Williams.

CAROLINE HAMILTON WILLIAMS LOEVY

She married Hannibal A. Loevy, whom she met while vacationing in Colorado. She made her home with him in St. Louis, Missouri, where he worked as a lawyer. They had three children – Marguerite Loevy, Annabel Walton Loevy, and Walton Williams Loevy I.

CAROLINE HAMILTON WILLIAMS LOEVY

This photograph was taken in 1899, when she was the mother of three young children. She died in 1942 at the age of 82 years.

MARTHA BELLE WILLIAMS

She was the sixth child and fifth daughter of John Hamilton Williams and Rebecca Caroline Walton Williams. She was born on September 10, 1865, in Quincy, Illinois.

MARTHA BELLE WILLIAMS FRANKLIN

She was married on May 11, 1898, to Walter Dement Franklin.

HENRY TARLETON KEMP

He was the husband of Margaret Ella Williams Kemp.

MARTHA BELLE WILLIAMS FRANKLIN

This photograph was taken when she was 92-years-old. In her later years, she was the last member of the Williams family to live in the family home at 1233 N. Sixth Street in Quincy, Illinois. She passed away on February 23, 1962, at the age of 96 years.

THREE OF THE FIVE WILLIAMS FAMILY DAUGHTERS

These three daughters of John Hamilton Williams and Rebecca Caroline Walton Williams are (left to right) Martha Belle Williams Franklin, Caroline Hamilton Williams Loevy, and Margaret Ella Williams Kemp.

CHAPTER FOUR

ALMIRA JANE WILLIAMS MORTON AND CHARLES H. MORTON

Almira Jane Williams was the daughter of Archibald Williams and Nancy Kemp Williams. She was born February 23, 1838, near Quincy, Illinois, probably at a place called Mounds Farm. Her family apparently owned a residence of some sort at Mounds Farm.

Almira Jane Williams attended Christian College, a women's college located in Columbia, Missouri. She graduated in its first graduating class in 1854. Her father supposedly sent her there because the President of the College was a relative. Almira Jane rode from Quincy, Illinois, to Christian College by horse-drawn buggy with her brother, John Hamilton Williams, who was attending the University of Missouri in Columbia.[26]

In 1970, Christian College changed its name to Columbia College and became a co-educational, four-year liberal arts college.

Almira Jane's college roommate, Rebecca Caroline Walton, married Almira Jane's brother, John Hamilton Williams, in 1854.

Also in 1854, Almira Jane's mother, Nancy Kemp Williams, passed away while giving birth to a girl named Nancy Williams. The task of raising two younger brothers, ages 13 and 9, and the newborn baby fell to Almira Jane Williams, who at age 16 appears to have shouldered the burden both willingly and with success. A newspaper later noted:

"She [Almira Jane Williams] did her duty conscientiously, unselfishly, bravely. Herself a mere girl, she cheerfully gave up many of the pleasures of youth that she might more fully devote herself to the children committed to her care."[27]

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[26] Letter, W. G. Rule to Rev. Landry Genosky, Quincy College, Quincy, Illinois, February 29, 1964, Archibald Williams File, Brenner Library, Quincy University (successor to Quincy College), Quincy, Illinois.

[27] Letter to the Editor labeled "The Daily Capital, I. H. Hudson, Editor and Proprietor, The Late Henry C. Williams," hand-numbered page 591, no date, Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

MARRIED TO CHARLES HENRY MORTON:

Almira Jane married Charles Henry Morton in Quincy, Illinois, on November 27, 1860, after a five-year engagement. He was 34-years old; she was 22. Charles H. Morton was born in Halifax, Plymouth County, Massachusetts, on August 30, 1826. His family moved to Quincy, Illinois, in 1835.

Charles Morton trained as a physician at McDowell Medical School in St. Louis, Missouri, but he practiced medicine only for a short time. According to a family biography, "Dr. Morton had decided that his medical training had not been sufficient to properly equip him for the responsibilities of his profession, and he stopped the practice of medicine."[28]

In 1850, Charles Morton was reported to have traveled overland to California to participate in the Gold Rush. He then embarked on a Pacific Ocean voyage that included stops in the Sandwich Islands, now known as the Hawaiian Islands, and the Society Islands, which include Tahiti.[29] On returning to Quincy, he worked for a while in the drug business in a drug store to the west of the Tremont Hotel.

The Civil War began six months after Charles H. Morton's marriage to Almira Jane Williams. In September of 1862, Morton was commissioned a Major in the Union Army and served with the 84th Illinois Infantry. He saw action in major battles at Stones River in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and Chickamauga in northern Georgia. He was "praised for gallantry" in battle. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel just prior to the Battle of Chickamauga, where he was captured by the Confederates and sent to a prisoner-of-war facility in Richmond, Virginia.[30]

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[28] Two-page history of Almira Jane Morton by Annabel Loevy Rule, her grandniece, at Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, Illinois.

[29] Typewritten page entitled "Morton (Williams Collection)," Archibald Williams File, Brenner Library, Quincy University, Quincy, Illinois, hand-lettered page 43.

[30] Typewritten copy of an obituary: "Charles H. Morton, *Quincy (Illinois) Daily News*, May 26, 1880, found in Archibald Williams File, Brenner Library, Quincy University, Quincy, Illinois.

ALMIRA JANE WILLIAMS
IN HER WEDDING DRESS - 1860

ALMIRA JANE WILLIAMS MORTON

THE QUINCY, ILLINOIS, NEEDLE PICKETS:

While Charles H. Morton was serving in the Union Army, Almira Jane Williams Morton stayed in Quincy and was prominent in a women's society supporting the Union cause by providing community services and caring for wounded Union soldiers. Known as the Needle Pickets, the 102-member society originally was organized along military lines, with Almira Jane Williams Morton holding the rank of Orderly Sergeant. After three months, the military titles were dropped, and Mrs. Morton became the Recording and Corresponding Secretary.

A book on the history of Quincy, Illinois, described the Civil War activities of the Needle Pickets:

"The work performed by the society consisted in relieving the destitute families of soldiers at home, and ameliorating the condition of the inmates of hospitals… At first the labors of the society were dedicated to soldiers in hospitals and on the [battle] field, but it soon became manifest that assistance should be rendered to the poor of the city, the families of soldiers, and other needy persons. Food and wearing apparel were thus given out to worthy applicants, and much suffering relieved at home, while the hospital stores sent…during the year 1861-1862 did much good to the inmates of hospitals…

At the instigation of the society, the [Quincy] city council allowed the building formerly used as a poor house, to be used as a home for convalescent soldiers. It was fitted up accordingly, and afforded a pleasant retreat for invalid soldiers…

The society furnished reading material, both English and German, for the soldiers confined in the four large hospitals at Quincy… The greater part of the [funds] raised [by the Needle Pickets] was through the exertions and enterprise of the society, by means of amateur entertainments, lectures, fairs, and by generous donations from citizens of Quincy and elsewhere…

During the years 1863-1864, in addition to the regular work of the society, assistance, in the shape of money, was sent to…the 'Freedman's Relief Society,' of Quincy. Two nurses were also sent, on a few hours' notice, to Vicksburg [site of a major Civil War battle].

The hospital for the colored soldier, established in Quincy, was kindly cared for by the society."[31]

Almira Jane Williams Morton, in a letter to a Quincy newspaper, gave her own description of the work of the Needle Pickets of Quincy, Illinois, during the Civil War:

"The Pickets were called upon for anything from a paper of pins to a barrel of wine, and all requests were always met with a prompt response.

I recall a letter from General Ulysses S. Grant's staff surgeon thanking the Pickets for the first stores received after the Battle of Fort Donelson in Tennessee.

One notable instance of the energy and the promptness of the Pickets was when Captain Flagg, I think, had a telegram, received at 8 o'clock A.M., saying the 52nd Ohio, as I remember it, would arrive in Quincy at noon that day, having had nothing to eat for twenty-four hours.

The Pickets were at once called upon and asked what they could do. The reply was: 'The best we can.'

We had a party on hand for the evening and so had some refreshments collected, but we started out scouts, fairly raiding the town and demanding in the name of the soldiers the private dinners Quincy prepared. The result was that we seated 1,000 hungry men at a board, literally boards, which groaned with good substantial food. The boards, however, were covered with the daintiest linens that our homes possessed.

On a cold, blustering Saturday night, Annie Jones and I asked for a collection next day for two horribly maimed soldiers, who were stranded in town. One had lost both legs below the knees, and the other was not much better. They had been sent to the Pickets, whose treasury was low and who had a few local families dependent on them for rent and fuel.

We gave these two needy, helpless men board and lodging at a house with which we had a contract. Then Miss Jones and I started out to see the ministers of Quincy, with the result that on Monday morning we bought a

[31] *History of Adams County, Illinois*, (Chicago, IL: Murray, Williamson, and Phelps, 1879), p. 492-493.

new suit of clothes for each man, bought their tickets to their home (they were brothers), and gave them $50."[32]

CHARLES H. MORTON
IN THE CIVIL WAR:

Charles H. Morton mustered into Field and Staff of the 84th Regiment of Illinois Volunteers on September 1, 1862. The 84th Illinois was part of the Union Army of the Cumberland. Major Morton fought at the Battle of Stones River, a major engagement of the Civil near Murfreesboro, Tennessee. According to the Regimental History of the 84th Illinois: "Major Morton was ever present, cool, calm, and collected in the moments of greatest peril. He had one horse killed and one badly wounded under him on the 31st (December, 1862) and was slightly wounded in the left knee."

A surviving member of the 84th Illinois gave the following account of Lieutenant Colonel Morton's Civil War service:

"Colonel Morton entered the service during the late war as Major of the 84th Illinois, and participated in nearly all the battles fought by the Army of the Cumberland. At the Battle of Stones River, Lieutenant Colonel Hames, of Vermont, Illinois, was wounded and resigned, and Major Morton was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel of the Regiment…

Colonel Morton was a man of generous impulses, and was greatly beloved by all the soldiers under him. He was the most popular officer in the regiment in the field. He was naturally of a kind and sympathetic nature and each soldier of the Regiment looked upon him as a friend as well as commander."[33]

[32] "Feeding Hungry Soldiers; An Interesting Letter from Mrs. C. H. Morton," *Quincy (Illinois) Whig*, no date. This article was in a newspaper found at the Quincy Historical Museum. Typewritten copy in James R. Williams, "Williams Family History and Genealogy," March 1, 1964.
[33] "The Late Colonel Morton," *Quincy (Illinois) Herald*, May 30, 1880, p. 3.

CAPTURED AT CHICKAMAUGA:

On September 20, 1863, the second day of the Battle of Chickamauga in northern Georgia, Lieutenant Colonel Morton was captured by the Confederate Army. The Union Army was seeking to defend Chattanooga, Tennessee, at Chickamauga Creek, in Georgia, when the Southerners broke through the Union line and forced the Northerners to retreat. Chickamauga was considered the most sanguinary battle of the Civil War because the percentage of total casualties exceeded that of any other battle of the war.

Lieutenant Colonel Morton was imprisoned at Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia, on September 29, 1863. The prisoner-of-war facility was for Union officers and not for enlisted men. The prison had been improvised from a four-story warehouse and consisted of six large rooms. There was no glass in the prison windows, thus the inmates were subjected to outdoor temperatures throughout the year. Due to lack of food and overcrowding, Libby Prison became notorious for the high number of Union prisoners who became ill, many of whom died there.

Charles H. Morton survived his ordeal at Libby Prison and was paroled at City Point, Virginia, on March 14, 1864, in a prisoner exchange. He returned to duty and commanded the 84th Illinois in the successful December 1864 attacks on John Bell Hood's Confederate troops near Nashville. His actions were described this way:

"During the Atlanta campaign, Colonel Waters of the 84th was detailed as Brigadier Commander, leaving Colonel Morton in command of the Regiment. His command was under General Thomas, and was engaged in every battle from the time the Army left Chattanooga until Hood was driven from before Nashville."[34]

Lieutenant Colonel Morton mustered out of the Union Army on June 8, 1865.

During the final 2½ months of his six months at Libby Prison, Lieutenant Colonel Charles H. Morton kept a diary of his experiences as a prisoner of war.

[34] "The Late Colonel Morton," *Quincy (Illinois) Herald*, May 30, 1880, p. 3.

CHARLES H. MORTON
IN HIS CIVIL WAR UNIFORM

LIBBY PRISON IN RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

LIBBY PRISON DIARY OF COLONEL CHARLES H. MORTON:

NOTES FROM LIBBY[35]

[A Visit to Belle Isle Prison:]

Note: Lieutenant Colonel Morton began his diary with a description of a visit to Belle Isle, an island in the middle of the James River near Richmond, Virginia, that was used as an outdoor Confederate prison for captured Union soldiers. Conditions at Belle Isle were much worse than at Libby Prison, where Colonel Morton was imprisoned, because the inmates were forced to live in tents in the rain, snow, and cold. President Lincoln was reported to have been shocked when he learned that prisoners at Belle Isle had been left outdoors to freeze and starve in the outskirts of Richmond – the Confederate capital.

Lieutenant Colonel Morton does not tell us why he was sent over to Belle Isle from Libby Prison.

January 24, 1864.

I went to Belle Isle today. The first time I have breathed the fresh air or felt the sunshine for nearly four months. Not so with our poor soldiers on the island. They have only had too much of the fresh air this winter, and the sunshine has been but little consolation to them in their long exposure to the bleak winds from the river. Before cold weather came upon them, they were better off than if closely confined in buildings. They had no clothing from the Rebel authorities, and if they had not been supplied by our government, must have perished during the cold weather.

There are over eight thousand on the island, and eight hundred are without any shelter and cannot even find room to crawl into the miserable

[35] Charles H. Morton, "Notes from Libby." A typewritten copy of the diary, which was originally written in lead pencil on the pages of a small pocket memorandum book, is in the Archibald Williams File, Brenner Library, Quincy University, Quincy, Illinois, hand-numbered pages 33-41. The diary has been lightly edited to improve readability.

old tents which the magnanimity of the Rebels has afforded to the others. As I have stated before, many have perished from the cold and all have suffered so much that they will be long in recovering from the effects of the exposure, if ever they get entirely over it.

I saw some who looked well, which can be accounted for by the fact of their having had money with them when captured. For money the guards will furnish them with anything they want. But most of them looked squalid, hungry and lean. I pitied them from the bottom of my heart and felt the government ought to do something for them at any sacrifice. Their tents are closely crowded together. The space allowed to the men is not large enough for one-fourth of the number confined there, if the sanitary condition was at all taken into consideration.

I was glad when I turned my face again towards Libby [Prison], as the sight [of Belle Isle] was a painful one.

[The Tedium of Prison Life:]

February 10, 1864.

…Usually the history of our days is the history of the whole month in Libby [Prison]. I have not kept a daily record for this reason, and also because [of] the wearisome recurrence day after day of the morning roll call.

[Repetitive daily events included:]

- The rush for a place on the stove to cook our breakfasts.
- The gathering around the room in squads to read the morning papers (which is now about the only moment during the day that anyone seems thoroughly awake).
- The pacing back and forth through the rooms of everyone for exercise, like lions or hyenas in their cages.
- The settling down to read, as each one becomes tired.
- The afternoon roll call.
- The scramble to get supper.
- And at nine o'clock the spreading of blankets on the floor for beds.

It is enough to make a man crazy in time, without his taking special pains to impress it upon his mind by making a note of it every night.

Note: Colonel Morton was writing that inmates will go crazy from the boring routine if they do not remind themselves to guard against it each night.

[There is] occasional variety in the program, when a [piece of] mail is delivered to us, or the Rebels surprise us by distributing the boxes from our friends, which they received on a promise of delivering [the boxes] to us. The promise [is] sometimes kept by delivering the box minus the contents.

The above is the daily record of my first four months in Libby. During that time I have attended 120 morning roll calls – eaten and in part cooked 120 breakfasts – read (or heard read) the Richmond papers for 120 days, minus the Sundays.

[I] walked from one end of the room to the other and back to the end from which I started – repeating *ad libitum* – or going to some other room for a change of scenery. [I] put myself through the same [walking] process several hours each day for 120 days.

[I have] eaten and part cooked supper for 120 days and made my bed on the floor and rolled myself in the blankets for 120 nights. I forgot to mention that I had also gotten up and washed my face in the morning for 120 days, but such is the fact.

[A Daring Escape Plan:]

[At last I have] something of interest to write. There has been a grand escape from the prison of Yankee officers, which threw that of John Morgan in the shade.

Note: John Hunt Morgan was a Confederate general and cavalry officer during the Civil War. He led a daring raid into the North in southern Ohio, but he was eventually captured by Union soldiers and imprisoned at the Ohio Penitentiary near Columbus, Ohio. Morgan and six of his men staged a famous escape from the Ohio Penitentiary. It included digging a tunnel and scaling a wall with a rope made from prison bunk coverlets.

Last night one-hundred-and-ten officers of all ranks under brigadier general made a successful exit from the prison. For 56 nights a party [of prisoners] had been at work digging a tunnel under the basement of the building. It was commenced in the room used for cooking purposes which is on the ground floor – all the other rooms occupied by us being in the second

and third stories. The first opening made was in the fireplace behind the stoves and led into the basement under an adjoining room used as a hospital.

This basement or cellar at one end was dark and littered with straw. Fortunately the prison authorities were not at all vigilant in inspecting it, evidently thinking it impossible for the Yankees to get out in that direction. The tunnel was now opened through the stone wall of the east end of the building, [running] three or four feet beneath the surface. After many nights of hard labor, [the tunnel] finally emerged to the outer world about 55 feet from the main building. [It was] outside of the guards and hidden from them by a board fence.

It was not the intention for any except the working party to go the first night. The number missing at roll call was to be kept right by the same number passing back through one of the upper rooms to be counted over the second time. That could have been easily done, thus keeping the prison authorities satisfied that all was safe.

[A Rush to Depart:]

I was apprised of all the arrangements and determined when the time came to be amongst the number. But men confined in prison for so long a time lose all restraint when a chance of escape is open. Like sheep when one goes over a fence or through a hole, all the rest dash after him.

Soon after dark, though it was not the intention to go, the working party found the excitement and pressure so great that they were afraid of discovery and commenced making their exit. It was soon known and a grand rush made. In a few moments, the [escape] room was full, and even some who belonged to the working party were crowded out and obliged to give up going altogether.

This jam continued to near daylight, when it was found that 110 men in all had made their escape. Though I had lost my chance, it was a good affair, and I heartily rejoiced with those who had the good luck to get off.

As they passed out during the night from the yard into which the hole opened, they could be plainly seen by the [Confederate] guards, [who] were only a few feet from them. [The guards] apparently took no notice of them. Every half hour [the guards] would sing out the time of night and "All's well" – much to the amusement of the prisoners within who were looking out of the windows.

[The Confederates Tricked Themselves:]

But the explanation came the next morning when the [escape] was discovered. The Rebels, about two months ago, received from one of our Flag of Truce boats a cargo of about 800 boxes containing supplies for us from our friends. Of course, when [the Confederates] received them, it was under the promise of immediate delivery, but with their usual meanness they withheld them.

We knew that a great deal of stealing had been done [by Confederate guards], as the building in which the [boxes of supplies] were stored was just beyond the yard through which the prisoners made their escape. We had frequently heard persons in there at night and seen them passing out carrying bundles of various kinds. It was admitted by the guards nearest to this building that they saw persons passing out of the yard all night, but they supposed it was their own men stealing from the boxes.

Thus their own meanness in withholding the boxes has cost them dearly, and they are in anything but good humor just now.

The guards are doubled. The steps leading to our kitchen below are taken down at night and the utmost vigilance observed to prevent a repetition of this affair. If half the number who have escaped get through the lines safe, it will be a good thing.

[Stay Away from the Windows:]

February 20, 1864.

Eighty-three of the prisoners who escaped have been recaptured and 47 have gotten safely through the lines. Those recaptured were kept in the dungeons under Libby [Prison] and some are still there. Some had to be released, as there was not room for all. So [some] of them are with us again.

Richmond today has a "big scare." Kilpatrick is on a raid and his cavalry [are] all around the city.

Note: Hugh Judson Kilpatrick was an audacious Union cavalry general, praised for his daring victories but criticized by Southerners for the destructive raids he carried out in Confederate territory. In February of 1864, Kilpatrick and his men sneaked around Southern General Robert E. Lee's flank and drove toward Richmond, the Confederate capital.

Kilpatrick's avowed purpose was to free captured Union soldiers held at Libby Prison and Belle Isle. Although General Kilpatrick and his Northern cavalrymen came within five miles of Richmond, they were quickly chased away by Southern forces.

The [Richmond] militia has turned out and [Confederate] troops are flying in every direction to man the fortifications.

Our brave [Confederate] prison commandant has given orders to the guards to shoot any [Union prisoner] who shows himself at the windows. [The Confederate commandant] is in mortal terror of an outbreak [by the Union prisoners].

Note: Apparently the Confederate prison commandant did not want any Union prisoners standing at the windows and thereby giving an indication to General Kilpatrick and his Union raiders as to where the prisoners, and the prison, were located.

Several shots have been fired at the [enlisted men] in the building near us who would occasionally show themselves at the windows, but no one was hurt.

At Castle Thunder, in their eagerness to kill a Yankee, the [Confederates] killed one of their own men who happened to be in the room and showed himself at the window.

Note: Castle Thunder was another Confederate prison in Richmond, Virginia. It was for civilians from the North who were taken into custody when found in Southern territory.

At Libby, they have been trying to make up for their bad luck at Castle Thunder, but so far [the Confederate guards] have only grazed one [Union prisoner's] ear.

This man, [Thomas P.] Turner, who has command of [Libby Prison], has laid up a long score against himself and sooner or later his time will come.

Note: Confederate Major Thomas P. Turner was indeed notorious for the manner in which he treated the Union officers imprisoned at Libby Prison. A historian noted: "The commandant of Libby Prison was Major Thomas P. Turner, who showed a marked intolerance and lack of compassion for the prisoners. A cruel and ruthless man, Turner did little to

make prison life easier. He was generally despised by the prisoners, and often by his own guards."[36]

[Prisoner Exchanges Begun:]

March 7, 1864.

Today 64 officers and 640 [enlisted men] have been sent to City Point, an equivalent [number of prisoners] from the North having arrived.

Note: City Point was a city in Virginia overlooking both the James River and the Appomattox River. It was a major Union military installation during the Civil War and served as Union General Ulysses S. Grant's headquarters in his campaign against Confederate General Robert E. Lee, who was defending Richmond. Since the North controlled the Chesapeake Bay, Union prisoners-of-war freed by the Confederates in a prisoner exchange at City Point could easily be transported by steamboat up the Chesapeake Bay to Union territory in Maryland. By 2015, City Point had become a part of Hopewell, Virginia.

The hope is strong now that a general exchange is to take place immediately. The appearance of the Rebel prisoners just from the North in contrast to our men sent in exchange for them is enough to satisfy anyone of the difference in the treatment.

Both have passed by Libby [Prison]. Those from [prison camp in] the North are ruddy, in good flesh and spirits and well-clothed.

Our men as they passed here on their way from the island [Belle Isle] to the boat looked like convalescents from the hospitals. They were thin, half-starved in appearance, spiritless, ragged and dirty. Though kept on an island where water was plenty, the Rebels have even denied them the privilege of bathing and only a small point of their encampment, when the water was let in, was allowed them for washing.

Of course it was a mud puddle for all except the few who could get at it early in the morning.

As the Rebel prisoners [from the North] passed by Libby [Prison], I fancied they were not excessively rejoiced at their return. In reply to the

[36] "Forward," James Gindlesperger, *Escape from Libby Prison* (Shippensburg, PA: White Mane, 1996).

question of one of our officers from the window as to where they were going, they replied: "Back to starvation."

["And Then for HOME":]

March 15, 1864.

Off Fortress Monroe.

Note: Colonel Morton later wrote he was on a steamboat, the "New York," at the mouth of the James River off shore from Fortress Monroe, a major United States Army military installation in Hampton, Virginia.

"Three cheers." "Hurrah. Hurrah." "Hip. Hip. Hurrah." "Yankee Doodle is the tune." "Hail Columbia, Happy Land." "Rally Round the Flag, Boys." "March on. March on." "All hearts rejoice." Etc.

There's my sentiments, and if "yer" don't believe it, "just you go and git yourself took prisoner" and live on Confederate rations for six months. Then see how you feel when you find yourself again under the old Stars and Stripes. "Long may they wave!"

If I don't express my feelings, it's because language is inadequate. We are all in a state of ecstatic delirium, and it is hard to realize that we are free again.

Forty-one officers and 400 to 500 [enlisted men] came down by this boat. It is hoped the exchange will go on more rapidly hereafter, as the suspense to those who are left behind is painful to bear, as no one feels sure of getting out until he is safe in our lines. The last week of my captivity in Libby [Prison] was harder to endure than the whole previous time spent there.

It seems that there is no resumption of the old cartel, nor is a new cartel agreed upon. *Note: Apparently Colonel Morton is referring to a permanent prisoner exchange agreement between North and South.* But it appears to be only an agreement to parole on both sides at the rate of ten Rebel to seven Union prisoners, so long as both parties are satisfied to continue it… Major Mulford says there is no such agreement, but they are sending their prisoners up and getting all they can in return.

Note: President Abraham Lincoln appointed Major John E. Mulford to organize and pursue prisoner exchanges with the Confederates.

So far, [Mulford] says, we have got about 3,000 of our men from Richmond since [Northern General Benjamin] Butler, [commander of the Union Army of the James River,] took charge of the matter. So far, the Rebels only have [a small] advantage. About 300 men is the difference in numbers.

We came down on the *Schultz*, a little miserable side-wheel Confederate steamer, being six hours feeling our way through the obstructions in James River to City Point. We were received by Major Mulford aboard the steamer *New York*, and today came to Fortress Monroe. Tomorrow we will be at Annapolis, [Maryland,] and then for HOME.

POSTWAR LIFE OF CHARLES H. MORTON AND ALMIRA JANE WILLIAMS:

Charles H. Morton's gruesome experiences in the Civil War and at Libby Prison haunted him after the end of the war. He held a number of public offices in Quincy, Illinois, and then went into the real estate business. His demeanor progressively altered, however, from that of a happy and healthy person to a man who was often morose, melancholy, and despondent. Both he and his wife, Almira Jane, struggled with his illness.

In September of 1872, Almira Jane Williams Morton left her husband at home in Quincy and began a one-year tour of Europe, starting in Dresden, Germany, and traveling to Italy, Austria, Switzerland, France, and England. Charles H. Morton appears to have approved of his wife's travels as she wrote him 40 letters telling of her joy in the beautiful churches, art museums, and palaces on the Continent. Although the two of them were separated for more than a year, the letters indicated their relations remained perfectly cordial.[37]

Charles H. Morton's mental and physical health continued to decline. In 1879, he suffered sunstroke. On the advice of physicians, he was planning to move to Colorado in hopes the cooler climate might improve his health.

[37] Letter, W. G. Rule to Rev. Landry Genosky, Quincy College, Quincy, Illinois, February 29, 1964. Located in Archibald Williams File, Brenner Library, Quincy University (successor to Quincy College), Quincy, Illinois.

On May 26, 1880, he is believed to have died by his own hand, shooting himself in the head, the right temple, with a revolver while lying in bed. His death was attributed in the newspapers to "temporary insanity."[38]

The local coroner empanelled a jury which concluded the cause of death was suicide, but in a later deposition the coroner noted "there were no powder burns on Colonel Morton's right temple and there was room for doubt about the cause of death."[39]

Orville Hickman Browning, a family friend, noted both the death and the funeral in his diary. In his usual succinct manner, Browning wrote:

"Wednesday, May 26, 1880. Col. Charles Morton committed suicide this morning by shooting himself…

Friday, May 28, 1880. Attended funeral of Col Chas. Morton at 3 P.M."[40]

Seven years later, in 1887, Almira Jane Williams Morton applied for a widow's pension as a result of Lieutenant Colonel Morton's service-connected disability. Here is the deposition she filed in connection with her application for a pension. [41]

[38] *Quincy (Illinois) Daily News*, May 26, 1880.

[39] "Colonel Charles H. Morton, 1826-1880, 84th Illinois Infantry," unpublished manuscript by John Hattenhauer, p. 1.

[40] Theodore C. Pease and James G. Randall, *The Diary of Orville Hickman Browning* (Springfield, IL: Illinois State Historical Library, 1925 and 1933), Volume II, p. 522.

[41] National Archives, Washington, D.C., Record Group 15, Pension No. WC 266 629. A copy of the pension deposition, minus four pages, is in the Archibald Williams File, Brenner Library, Quincy University, Quincy, Illinois, p. 5-8, 13-16.

ALMIRA JANE WILLIAMS MORTON

She had this portrait of herself painted from a photograph while she was touring in Europe in 1872-1873.

CHARLES H. MORTON

His wife, Almira Jane Williams Morton, had this portrait painted from a photograph while she was touring in Europe in 1872-1873.

PENSION DEPOSITION OF
ALMIRA JANE WILLIAMS MORTON:

My age is 49 years. Occupation – clerk. P.O. [address] – 1915 Chicago Street, Omaha, Nebraska. Family residence – Quincy, Illinois. I am the widow of Charles H. Morton, late Lieutenant Colonel, 84 Illinois battalion infantry. He enlisted as a Major on August 9, 1862, and was mustered out June 8, 1865. He did not serve prior or subsequent to said dates in the Army or Navy of the United States.

We were married November 27, 1860. Neither had previously been married, and there was no legal bar to our marriage. I have not remarried and continue his lawful widow. We had no children. I had been acquainted with soldier all my life and engaged to him five years prior to our marriage.

He was a physician by profession, a graduate of McDowell College, St. Louis, Missouri, but never practiced after our marriage. Soon after his return from the Army, he was elected [Adams] County Clerk and served two terms, of four years each, as such. Mr. H. C. Nichols, Kansas City, Missouri, was his Deputy [Clerk] most of the time. He then engaged in the real estate business, which was his occupation up to and at the date of his death. For about five years prior to his death, he was also Secretary of a building association at Quincy, Illinois.

I never aided or abetted the Rebellion. On the contrary, I did constant…labor for the Union cause… I contributed of my financial means to the comfort of the soldiers and rendered personal service at the various hospitals located at Quincy.

My maiden name was Almira J. Williams. We were married at Quincy, Illinois, by George P. Giddings, Episcopal minister. I never made application for pension previous to [this application]. My husband had not made application prior to his death.

Why did he not make application?

It was his understanding at first that pension was only granted on account of wounds, and thus he refrained from asking government aid as long as he was not actually in want. I claim pension on account of my husband's service in the Army aforesaid and his death in consequence of disability contracted during said service.

At and prior to enlistment, he was healthy and robust physically and perfectly sound mentally. He was always cheerful, hopeful, and buoyant in

spirit – always ready to push his way, and able to achieve success in his undertakings. He had a bright, active and strong mind, and excellent business judgment. He had not suffered from any disease or received any injury to my knowledge. He had not been sunstruck and did not suffer from the effects of heat more than the common run of people.

He was home on furlough – a business furlough – during the second year, I think, of his service. He then had a touch of diarrhea which had been contracted during service from the hardships and exposures incident thereto. Otherwise he was in fairly good health. He had not at that time been in prison.

I next saw him after he had been in prison six months and then out on parole, about April and May 1864. When he was home on furlough his mind was as strong and his spirits as buoyant as before service. When I saw him as a paroled prisoner, he was very poor and dejected. The diarrhea had become…confirmed. His spirits were less buoyant than formerly, and [his] mind somewhat morbid.

I of course attributed this change to prison life and had no thought that it would be permanent. He suffered from no disease except diarrhea. He had been wounded slightly in the knee at Stones River [Murfreesboro, Tennessee], but [he] was not disabled therefrom. He received no injury during service and no other wound or disease than those already mentioned.

I was along with my husband during his last six months of service. During that time there was noticed a marked change in his physical and mental conditions and appearance. He suffered constantly and severely from the diarrhea. He also suffered greatly while on the march…from the heat. In fact he suffered much from heat during his whole service.

I was under the impression that he received a sunstroke while in the Army but about this am not sure. I have been unable to find any letters from him in which sunstroke is mentioned.

During those six months [after being in a Confederate prison], he was morose, morbid, and suspicious of his brother officers. He conceived this idea that his Colonel had done him some injury, which I think was wholly imaginary. I am very certain that he had no first cause of complaint against his Colonel or other officers. In my opinion, these suspicions were creatures of a disordered and diseased mind.

He acted so differently and unnaturally from what he had ever done before. He attracted the notice and excited comment from his brother

officers. I regarded his condition at this time, both mental and physical, a result of prison life. So did he, to the extent of his realization of his actual condition. He complained of the constant exposure to the hot sun, and the hardships of prison life to which he had been subjected.

I have no knowledge that he received medical treatment while in service, but if he did, Surgeon James [unrecognizable name], now dead, was his physician.

Soon after returning from [military] service, he was elected County Clerk of Adams County, Illinois, and was re-elected at the end of his four-year term. At the end of his second term, he declined the nomination – or rather refused to be a candidate – for the position on account of his inability to properly and satisfactorily discharge the duties of his office. In 1875, he was elected Police Magistrate and served one term of four years. He was obliged to decline a re-election to that office on account of his mental and physical disabilities.

The political party to which he belonged was largely in the minority, but his record as a soldier and his great personal popularity gave him his first election as County Clerk by a large majority. Such was the case in the two subsequent elections. Although with the aid of assistants and deputies he performed the duties of the two offices which he held satisfactorily, yet he was not elected because of his actual or supposed mental of physical ability. His excellent record as a soldier and his personal popularity were the grounds upon which he was elected to office.

The condition of despondency, peevishness, and suspicion of his associates manifest during his last six months of soldier service continued after service. It was, however, not so marked as to be generally noticed and commented upon till the end of his first term as County Clerk. I noticed it and others of his immediate family and [close] friends [noticed it] from the date of his discharge [from military service].

From said date [of his discharge] to the date of his death, mental decadence was manifest but of slow and gradual growth. Without technical knowledge, I called the disease "softening of the brain." His condition and the progress of his disability were so like what I had observed in others, whose diseases were pronounced "softening of the brain," that I gave his disability that name…

[Four pages missing.]

He looked at everything upon the dark side, complained severely and bitterly of his trials and burdens and was in a state of melancholy generally. He was constantly apprehensive of evil, much subject to wakefulness, and when his sleep was disturbed his mind would dwell upon unpleasant occurrences invariably. He finally became suspicious of everybody and thought everybody, including myself, was conspiring against him…

The day [before his death] had been excessively hot, and he had suffered much. After some general conversation and just before retiring for the night, he remarked: "Do you notice the great change in the temperature?"

"Yes, much pleasanter," I said.

He replied quite impatiently: "'Much pleasanter' doesn't express it. It's a perfect Godsend to me. I don't believe I could have lived another 24 hours longer had not a change occurred."

These were the last words I heard him speak.

I went to his room to see if his toilet and articles of dress were in order, and we both retired for the night. [He was] in a room in the second story that had once been a porch and had windows all about it through which a perfect draught might be secured. [I was] in a room on this same floor with one intervening room but doors open through. The servant slept in a room on the other side of his with one intervening room and doors closed. There was nobody else in the house.

At about 7 o'clock the next morning, the 26th, before going down stairs, I stepped to his room to ask him if he would have a cup of coffee brought, thinking he might like the coffee and to take a longer nap in the cool of the morning. [I was] considering his suffering the day before from excessive heat and his usual broken rest, especially in hot weather.

As I approached his door, I first noticed that he was "desperately pale," and I thought he had fainted. I immediately screamed for the servant to call a doctor and for Mrs. Belle McElfresh, who lived next door, to come at once. She was the first there, and in a very short time, I think, Dr. A. H. Nickerson was the next to arrive. The house was full of neighbors in a very few minutes.

When I first learned that my husband was dead, I thought of *murder* – that somebody had entered the house and murdered him for money.

He was lying on his left side with left arm under the pillow. The right arm was dropped comfortably partially bent, on the body. The pistol was lying beside him on the bed and had apparently dropped from the right hand

as it fell to the body after the shot was fired. The ball entered the right temple.

The doctor said his post mortem appearance indicated that death had occurred several hours before. Dr. Nickerson picked the pistol up and carried it to his office. Otherwise, nothing about the bedroom was disturbed till the Coroner's Jury had been summoned, the result of whose findings has already been filed in my claim, properly certified.

It had been his custom for several years to sleep with a pistol under his pillow and to carry it in his pocket by day. The pistol on the bed was the identical weapon I had often seen in his possession and under his pillow.

Neither myself nor the servant heard the report of the pistol, but some of the neighbors thought afterward that they did about the time the shot must have been fired.

He met with no great losses or violent reverses in business. The condition of his business at his death was simply the result of his business disqualification and loss of judgment which came upon him gradually in consequence of mental decadence already described.

I claim that he had become utterly discouraged, worn out, and in a fit of melancholy ended his life in the manner indicated. I also claim that his prison life at Richmond, Virginia, – the hardships, exposures, and privations incident thereto – was the cause and origin of the disease of mind which gradually developed and finally culminated in suicide.

There is no knowledge of any previous attempt to commit suicide or of any indications that the act was premeditated.

I have no letters from soldiers bearing upon his physical or mental condition in the service…

[Inserted here was a list of doctors, military officers, and acquaintances available to comment on the health, military career, and post-Civil War life of Colonel Morton.]

I don't write to convey the idea that my husband's office was directly opposite the Police Court when he received sunstroke. It was on the opposite side of the street two blocks away.

Questions are understood and answers correct.

Almira J. Morton, Deponent.

TESTIMONY OF FELLOW OFFICERS:

The deterioration in Charles H. Morton's mental condition, which Almira Jane Williams Morton witnessed following his release from Libby Prison, was noted by his fellow Union Army officers. When Colonel Louis H. Waters was severely wounded at the Battle of Franklin in November of 1864, Lieutenant Colonel Morton was placed in command of the 84th Illinois Regiment. Colonel Waters recovered from his wounds and returned to the command of the 84th Illinois in February of 1865.

The Regimental History of the 84th Illinois summed up Charles Morton's three months of regimental leadership this way: "Lieutenant Colonel Morton had for some weeks been losing in the estimation of the Regiment and was never at any time capable of securing the high degree of popularity which seemed naturally to flow to Colonel Waters."

An officer serving with the 84th Illinois at that time, Captain Willis Edson, observed the following about Lieutenant Colonel Morton: "He did not seem to me a fit man to command a Regiment. He would 'fly all to pieces' – was wild looking, very irritable, and had a good deal of trouble with other officers. I always regarded him as very eccentric to say the least and with a mind that was not quite well-balanced."[42]

PENSION REQUEST DENIED AND APPEALED THREE TIMES:

Almira Jane Williams Morton's initial claim for a Civil War widow's pension was denied, but she appealed three times, in 1887, 1888, and 1889.

The following excerpts from depositions taken during the pension hearings highlight Lieutenant Colonel Morton's progressive mental deterioration following the horrors of Libby Prison:[43]

[42] *Regimental History: 84th Illinois Infantry*, quoted from "Colonel Charles H. Morton, 1826-1880, 84th Illinois Infantry," unpublished manuscript by John Hattenhauer, p. 6.

[43] These excerpts are quoted from: "Colonel Charles H. Morton, 1826-1880, 84th Illinois Infantry," unpublished manuscript by John Hattenhauer, p. 7-9.

Colonel Louis H. Waters (knew Morton before and after the war):

"Prior to his capture, Morton was a healthy, vigorous man, with a sound and well-balanced mind, cheerful in disposition, and always ready for Army duty. After his return from prison, he was afflicted with (chronic) diarrhea and was much affected by his imprisonment and disease, so that at times he failed to recognize the faces of friends or to recall their names.

He was peevish and at times childish and would frequently shed tears without any apparent cause. In his conversation during the service and after he was mustered out, he would dwell on the unpleasant occurrences of the service and seemed at times very despondent. He believed he was threatened with softening of the brain and apprehended that he would lose his mind.

During the service, Morton took an occasional drink of spirituous liquors. He never drank to excess. After the war, he drank more freely and perhaps to excess. He said that drink was the only thing that gave him any relief."

Joseph G. Waters (former Private, Company A, 84th Illinois Infantry):

"…upon his release from Libby and his return to the Regiment, quite a period afterwards, Charles H. Morton was an entirely different man; unsound in mind, spirits broken, and in a state of permanent ill health… He was petulant, irritable, cross, and acted just exactly like a sick child… [He] would shed tears upon the slightest provocation."

Edwin A. Clark (bank clerk in Quincy after the Civil War):

"He impressed me as a man dominated in his deeds by his emotions and impulses rather than by…reason or sober judgment… Much in his conversation seemed to me to be the vagaries of an unbalanced intellect… [It] impressed me that he was in that mental condition known as melancholia."

John Hamilton Williams (Almira Jane Williams Morton's brother):

"[He] seemed more or less easily confused, lost energy, seemed bewildered and absent-minded, his mental power seemed to continue to

grow less… There were times when he was not in a mental condition to be responsible for his acts."

A COMPLICATION – THE TESTIMONY OF LUCY BAGBY:

Almira Jane Williams Morton's application for a Civil War widow's pension was complicated by the testimony of Lucy Bagby, who lived across the street from Almira Jane's and Charles Morton's home in Quincy, Illinois.

Miss Bagby stated that, on the evening prior to the suicide, she had been a guest in the Morton home. Lucy Bagby returned to her home, but she testified that, about midnight of the same evening, she saw Mrs. Morton leave her home and get into a carriage with a man identified as Eben G. Baldwin. He was a partner in an agricultural business in Quincy and had an invalid wife and no children.

When Mrs. Morton and Eben Baldwin returned in the carriage about 90 minutes later, according to Lucy Bagby, Mrs. Morton discovered she was locked out of her home and had to knock loudly on the door in an effort to get her husband to let her in.

As subsequently noted in a document relative to Almira Jane's pension request: "…the statement made by Lucy Bagby was intended to raise the suspicion that Mrs. Morton was, on the occasion named, a party to a liaison, and that it was one of a series of similar instances of domestic infelicity in the Morton household leading to the soldier's suicide."[44]

THE DISCREDITING OF THE BAGBY TESTIMONY:

Lucy Bagby's statements about Almira Jane Williams Morton were contradicted in subsequent testimony. Four witnesses testified that Lucy

[44] Decision in the Charles H. Morton pension case by Assistant Secretary of the Interior Cyrus Bussey, US National Archives Military and Pension Records of Col Charles Morton, quoted in "Colonel Charles H. Morton, 1826-1880, 84th Illinois Infantry," unpublished manuscript by John Hattenhauer, p. 11.

Bagby had *not* been, as she asserted, at the Morton home on the evening before Colonel Morton committed suicide.

Lucy Bagby also claimed that her woman servant, Bessie Barry, had witnessed with her Almira Jane Williams Morton's comings and goings on the night in question. When Bessie Barry was subsequently questioned, however, she said she had been out of town (Quincy, Illinois) that evening and was "surprised" by Miss Bagby's statements about her. In a deposition to the pension claims board, Almira Jane Williams Morton described the situation with Bessie Barry this way:

"Being hotly pressed as to whether anyone else had shared her vigil and seen what she had sworn she saw, she [Lucy Bagby] said triumphantly, 'Yes, my servant, Bessie Barry, was with me the whole time.' By still greater effort, the girl's (servant's) whereabouts were learned to be out of the city, and early the next morning, after Miss Bagby's cross examination, the girl was found and denied…everything Miss Bagby had said…

I [Almira Jane Williams Morton] did not fear the result of cross-questioning. The Examiner was so sure that she [Bessie Barry, the servant] would confirm Miss Bagby's story that he read the official subpoena to her, after she came to his office, and so secured her a fee.

I asked him, then and there, why he did so, as he never did so [paid a fee] to my witnesses. He said he had his reasons! When the witness [Bessie Barry] said she had never heard such a thing as was embodied in Miss Bagby's statement and that she was surprised by it, he [the Examiner] said never mind…"

In the same deposition to the Civil War pension claims board, Almira Jane Williams Morton detailed her relationship with Eben Baldwin, the man who Lucy Bagby said called for her in a carriage about midnight of the night in question:

"With a cowardice equal to her malignity, Miss Bagby gave the name of a man [Eben Baldwin], now dead, as the companion of my alleged disreputable escapade. As he and his wife – my dear and intimate friend – are both dead, and none of their friends have such convenient and omniscient memories as to say just where he was on the night in question – I have had to leave that one point untouched."

A roomer in Lucy Bagby's home, who was acquainted with Eben Baldwin, said that Baldwin was chronically and seriously ill at the time and could not have taken a carriage ride with any person.

Almira Jane Williams Morton discredited yet another of Lucy Bagby's many statements about the case. Bagby had stated she saw the revolver that killed Charles Morton lying on the bed next to his head. Almira Jane's deposition noted: "She [Lucy Bagby] also, under oath, remembered when she saw the body, how the pistol appeared to have been slipped into his hand – but, in point of fact, Dr. Nickerson had gone with the pistol before she came into the house…"

Almira Jane Williams Morton concluded her deposition on Lucy Bagby's charges thusly: "With love of my husband and the fear of God in my heart, I swore that every word of Miss Bagby's statement was totally and absolutely false."[45]

A FURTHER COMPLICATION – WAS IT REALLY A SUICIDE?

The coroner's jury that pronounced Charles H. Morton's death a suicide was not told that there were no powder burns on Colonel Morton's right temple. Years later, in a deposition, Coroner Seehorn noted the lack of powder burns on the temple and thus raised some questions about the actual cause of death. Was it really a suicide? Could it possibly have been murder made to look like suicide? What about the fact that no suicide note was ever found?

This issue was never resolved, but it did figure in the rejection of one of Almira Jane Williams Morton's first three claims for a Civil War widow's pension. T. F. Hensley, a Special Examiner for the Bureau of Pensions, said the pension claim should be turned down because "the cause of the soldier's death (suicide) was not a result of his military service." Hensley further stated:

"The testimony in my opinion settles the [pension] claim adversely. Judging from this testimony, it is very difficult to tell whether the soldier

[45] The refutations of Lucy Bagby's testimony by Almira Jane Williams Morton are included in a portion of a transcript of Almira J. Morton's widow's pension claim provided by John Hannenhauer. No date available.

came to his death by his own hands, or at the hands of someone else. To my mind the weight of the testimony is against the theory of suicide. But if he did [commit] suicide, there is scarcely a doubt but that family difficulties, and financial troubles and hard drinking and not his military service caused him to commit the act."[46]

THE GRANTING OF THE PENSION CLAIM:

After being turned down three times, Almira Jane Williams Morton's application for a widow's pension was finally approved by Cyrus Bussey, a Union Army officer during the Civil War who was the Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior. The Interior Department handled Civil War pension claims at that time. In a March 6, 1890, decision, Assistant Secretary Bussey wrote:

"[Lucy Bagby's] statement lacks, however, all claims either to credence or to value as to testimony in this case. It is wholly unsupported and devoid of corroborative evidence…

A large part of the examination was devoted by Examiner Hensley to an apparent prosecution of the claimant, based upon rumors or reports said to have been prevalent in the city of Quincy, alleging the existence of an infelicitous relationship between claimant and her late husband as the cause which led to the soldier's suicide. The result, however, of the prosecution, not to say persecution, has in no degree sustained the said rumors or reports… Not a single fact [has] been established to show even a reasonable ground for them.

…the preponderance of the evidence tends, decisively, to establish the widow's claim. It is admitted that there exists in the case some room for doubt or for speculation as to the immediate cause of death. [Was it truly a suicide?] … [But] in view of the strong testimony of close associates, of the explicit and convincing statement of the claimant under oath, of the stainless and brilliant record of the soldier in the service, of his long, vexatious, and painful imprisonment, and of the culminating act of suicide (so impressively

[46] T. F. Hensley, letter to J. C. Black, Commissioner of Pensions, March 29, 1888. Quoted from "Colonel Charles H. Morton, 1826-1880, 84th Illinois Infantry," unpublished manuscript by John Hattenhauer, p. 10.

consistent with the history of similar cases of mental disease), I regard this appeal as too clearly and formidably supported to be denied."

You are respectfully directed to place the widow's name upon the pension roll, in accordance with the rules and regulations of your bureau."[47]

One of the U.S. Government's Special Examiners in the case said the following about Almira Jane Williams Morton: "The claimant is a lady of rare intelligence and perfect reliability. Her statements are entitled to full credit."[48]

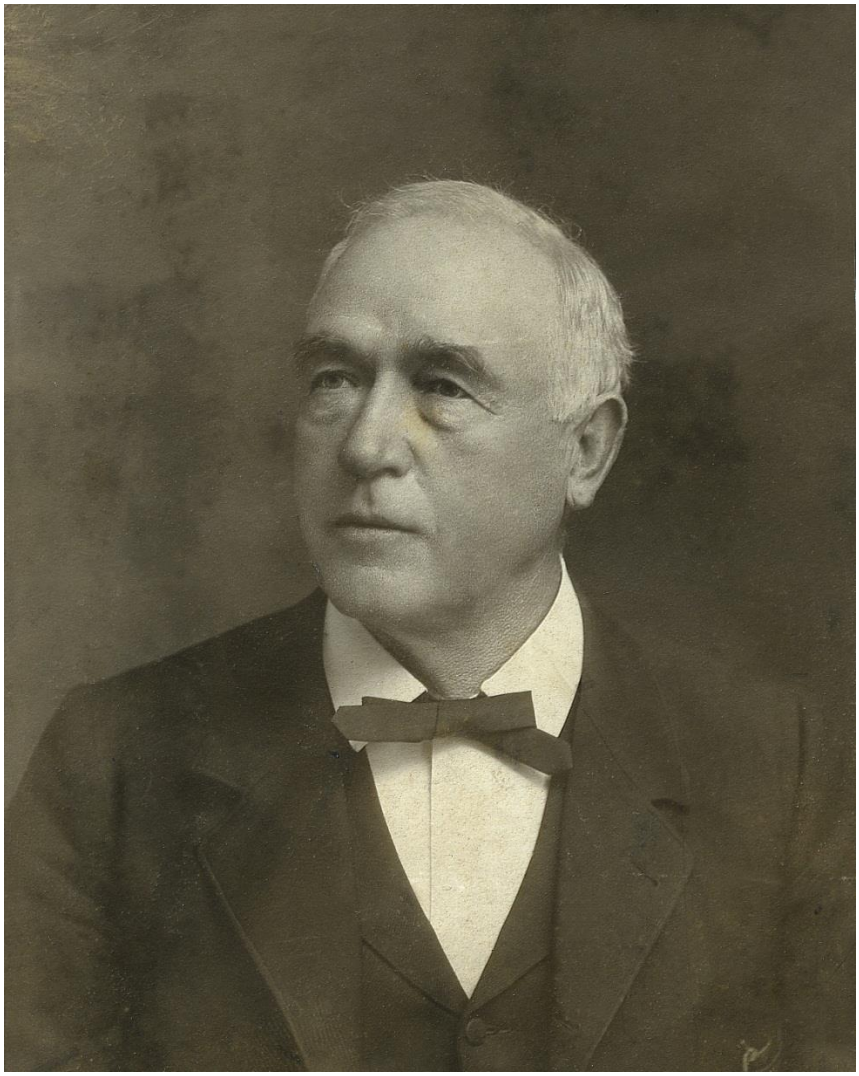
UNFAMILIARITY AT THE TIME WITH POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD):

In the year 2015, there would be no question that Lieutenant Colonel Charles H. Morton was a victim of what had become known as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). His depressed mental condition and eventual suicide were clearly the result of his service in the Union Army during the Civil War, particularly his imprisonment at notorious Libby Prison.

It was probably the general unfamiliarity with and a lack of understanding of PTSD at the time that required Almira Jane Williams Morton to struggle so hard and appeal multiple times to get her Civil War widow's pension.

[47] "Colonel Charles H. Morton, 1826-1880, 84th Illinois Infantry," unpublished manuscript by John Hattenhauer, p. 12-13.

[48] "Colonel Charles H. Morton, 1826-1880, 84th Illinois Infantry," unpublished manuscript by John Hattenhauer, p. 10.



CHARLES H. MORTON
IN THE LATER YEARS OF HIS LIFE

CONTINUED LIFE OF
ALMIRA JANE WILLIAMS MORTON:

Following the death of her husband, Almira Jane Williams Morton worked in the Internal Revenue Service office in Quincy, Illinois, which was the district headquarters for the IRS.[49] In 1887, when she filed her deposition for a widow's pension, she was living in Omaha, Nebraska, and was employed as a clerk.

Almira Jane lived for a while in Washington, D.C., where she was badly injured when she was run into by a bicycle rider. In 1903, she returned to Quincy, Illinois, and lived with her step-mother, Mrs. Ellen Parker Williams. Almira Jane's condition continued to decline, and she died at Blessing Hospital in Quincy on August 26, 1904.

In an obituary, the *Quincy (Illinois) Whig* gave the customary, for the time, glowing evaluation of Almira Jane's life:

"Mrs. Morton was a lady of much refinement and culture, being well-educated, and having traveled extensively, and her friends loved and admired her for her graceful manners and fine character… She was a member of the Cathedral of St. John and was a woman of broad charity, high principles, and fine feelings. Those who knew her intimately delighted in her friendship, and will cherish her memory as long as they live. In her passing, a noble woman has been taken from among us, leaving to her family and her friends the memory of a beautiful life well spent."[50]

[49] A newspaper article on a salary matter indicated that, as of April 15, 1884, Almira Jane Williams was employed as a clerk in the office of the Internal Revenue Service Collector for the Quincy district. *Quincy (Illinois) Herald*, April 22, 1884, p. 5.

[50] "Widow of the Late Col. C. H. Morton, at Blessing Hospital, Last Evening," *Quincy (Illinois) Whig*, August 27, 1904.

APPENDIX: CHAPTER 4

CHARLES H. MORTON'S CIVIL WAR COLT REVOLVER

In March of 1986, John Hattenhauer purchased a Colt 1851 Navy-Fourth Model revolver (Serial No. 153852) from Richard Donaldson of Dixon, Illinois. Donaldson was a dealer in antique and collectible firearms.

Hattenhauer did not know where Donaldson obtained the weapon. It was in good used condition and did not appear to have ever been abused. Somehow the revolver had come into the possession of a gun dealer.

The back strap of the revolver was inscribed: "Col. C. H. Morton from his friend C. E. Allen." The butt of the grip was engraved "John McLean."

Charles H. Morton enlisted in the 84th Illinois Infantry Regiment of the Union Army while living in Quincy, Illinois. C. E. Allen was a merchant and hardware dealer in Quincy. It is unknown who "John McLean" was.

On September 20, 1863, Lieutenant Colonel Morton was captured by the Confederates at the Battle of Chickamauga. If Lieutenant Colonel Morton possessed and was carrying the revolver at the time he was captured, it would have been taken from him when he surrendered to the Southerners and probably never returned to him.

It is unknown whether or not this revolver was the one with which Colonel Morton took his own life on May 26, 1880.

COLT REVOLVER ENGRAVED
"COL. C. H. MORTON"

ENGRAVED HANDLE OF "C. H. MORTON" REVOLVER

The engraving reads: "Col. C. H. Morton from his friend C. E. Allen."

CHAPTER FIVE

ARCHIBALD LLEWELLYN WILLIAMS

Archibald Llewellyn Williams was the son of Archibald Williams and Nancy Kemp Williams. He was the younger brother of John Hamilton Williams and Almira Jane Williams Morton.

Archibald Llewellyn Williams was born on September 2, 1840, at Mounds Farm in Adams County, Illinois, near Quincy, Illinois. His father, Archibald Williams, owned land at Mounds Farm and apparently had a residence of some sort there.

A POETRY CONTEST WITH JOHN HAY:

When growing up in Quincy, Illinois, Archibald Llewellyn Williams was an excellent student, a bit of a poet, and somewhat mischievous. The following newspaper story highlighted one of his youthful adventures:

"In his young manhood Archibald L. Williams was a noted wit and raconteur, gifted of speech, a student, and something of a poet. Altogether, he was the most brilliant young man in Quincy, modestly disclaiming superior distinction, but sustaining the honor of his native town against all comers.

In the good old town of Warsaw, forty miles [up the Mississippi River], lived John Hay, who afterwards became Abraham Lincoln's private secretary and his biographer, and late in life rose to great distinction in statecraft and diplomacy.

By using [the many and frequent Mississippi River steamboats], the young people of [Quincy and Warsaw] were wont to exchange weekend visits. The boats touched at the several ports on the river so punctually on schedule time that travel was easy, and often between regular trips [the steamboats] took on moonlight excursions.

Through these associations, the young people of Warsaw and Quincy came to be intimate friends, and sometimes rivals. Young [Archibald L.] Williams and [John] Hay became rivals inevitably, for both were poets.

John Hay signed his verses, 'The Untutored Bard,' and gave them to the *Bulletin*, Warsaw's weekly newspaper. Williams used no nom de plume, and he took on youthful disgust whenever the Warsaw bard's productions appeared.

Finally, the upriver poet wrote a sonnet which Williams thought was so fiercely bad that he wrote one in paraphrase of Hay's lines and style, signing it, 'The Unbuttered [Pastry].' This he caused to be printed on old-fashioned brown wrapping paper and, boarding a small tramp steamboat one Saturday night, took it to Warsaw and posted it on the walls of the town, creating a Sunday morning sensation.

* * *

Soon afterward [John] Hay left the family roof in Warsaw and proceeded to Springfield, [Illinois,] where he joined his fortunes with those of Abraham Lincoln – and there you are! Private Secretary [to Lincoln], martyred President's biographer, … Ambassador to [England], [United States] Secretary of State, eminent man of letters! However, distinguished as John Hay became, Archibald L. Williams never quite forgave 'The Untutored Bard' and ever afterward claimed that he, by 'The Unbuttered [Pastry]' satire, drove his rival out of the prosaic life of Warsaw to Springfield – and opportunity.

Subsequent distinction, however, was not exclusively the share of 'The Untutored Bard,' for [Archibald L.] Williams as well became famous, first as Attorney General of Kansas and later, and until his death, general [lawyer] in Kansas for the Union Pacific railway system."[51]

CAMPAIGNING FOR ABRAHAM LINCOLN:

As a young man, Archibald Llewellyn Williams helped his father, Archibald Williams, and his father's friend, Orville Browning, campaign for Abraham Lincoln in the 1860 presidential election. On Tuesday, August 14,

[51] "The Old Reporter Lights His Pipe," *Quincy (Illinois) Herald*, July 30, 1921.

1860, Archibald Llewellyn Williams and Orville Browning started out in a two-horse buggy for Hannibal, Missouri, a town on the west bank of the Mississippi River south of Quincy, Illinois.

That evening, about 200 Republicans and 300 or more other persons had assembled in a hall in Hannibal to hear the Republicans speak. The Republicans were subjected to "continual interruption and indignity from the…Democrats who were present… They [the Democrats] struggled hard to incite a mob, and break up the meeting, but failed."[52]

Clearly Archibald Llewellyn Williams, in his youth, received an object lesson at the rally in Hannibal as to the competitiveness and bitterness of United States election campaigns in the latter half of the 19th Century.

On Saturday, August 25, 1860, Archibald Llewellyn Williams joined his father, Archibald Williams, and two friends of his father, Orville Browning and Abraham Jonas, for a carriage ride to a Republican picnic and rally in Stones River, Illinois. Once again, Archibald Llewellyn Williams witnessed Democrats "who were drunk and disorderly" trying to break up a Republican rally and stop the speechmaking. This time the Democrats were repulsed by a group of young Republicans, called the Wide Awakes, who made it their business to keep the Republican speakers from being interrupted.[53]

Another time, on Saturday, September 1, 1860, Archibald Llewellyn Williams set out with Orville Browning to attend a mass meeting of Republicans. The group assembled in a wooded grove southwest of the town of Mendon, Illinois. The rally was a great success, with about 14,000 persons present and no attempt by the Democrats to make mischief.[54]

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[52] Theodore C. Pease and James G. Randall, *Diary of Orville Hickman Browning* (Springfield, IL: Illinois State Historical Library, 1925 and 1933), Volume I, p. 423-424. In his diary, Orville Browning mistakenly referred to Archibald Llewellyn Williams as Archibald Williams, Jr.

[53] Theodore C. Pease and James G. Randall, *Diary of Orville Hickman Browning* (Springfield, IL: Illinois State Historical Library, 1925 and 1933), Volume I, p. 425.

[54] Theodore C. Pease and James G. Randall, *Diary of Orville Hickman Browning* (Springfield, IL: Illinois State Historical Library, 1925 and 1933), Volume I, p. 426.

MOVED TO TOPEKA, KANSAS:

Archibald Llewellyn Williams moved from Quincy, Illinois, to Topeka, Kansas, when he was 20 years old. His father, Archibald Williams, a close friend and political ally of Abraham Lincoln, came to Topeka early in 1861 to serve as United States District Court Judge for Kansas. The older Williams brought his family with him from Quincy, Illinois, to Topeka. The older Williams was appointed U.S. District Judge by Abraham Lincoln shortly after Lincoln was inaugurated President of the United States in 1861.

Archibald Llewellyn Williams began practicing law in Topeka. Later in life, when asked by a writer for the story of his life, Archibald L. Williams said "Certainly!" and dictated the following paragraph to his stenographer:

"Archibald L. Williams was born September 2, 1840, in Adams County, Illinois. He was miss-educated at all of the schools within a radius of 100 miles of that point. At the age of 20 he came to Topeka and began the practice of law, in which he has ever since continued."

In fact, Archibald Llewellyn Williams educated himself. A Kansas newspaper said of him:

"Mr. Williams had a common school education, but his real education never ceased during his life. He was a student, and his private library, within which he spent much of his time, was one of the largest as well as best chosen in Kansas.

Outward appearances had little interest for Mr. Williams. His own clothes were notorious, and the bindings of his books showed the same carelessness of appearance; between the covers was much of the world's best literature…

He was a fine judge as well as a lover of poetry, and a great satirist of stuff often passing for poetry. His memory was as retentive as his reading was wide, and naturally he was one of the most entertaining men in conversation, full of anecdotes and allusions and epigrams [a sage or witty saying]."[55]

[55] J. Frank Jarrell, compiler, "Archibald L. Williams…Tributes," a compilation of newspaper articles upon the death of Archibald L. Williams, 1907, Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas, hand-numbered p. 317.

UNCOUTH IN APPEARANCE BUT LIKEABLE IN CHARACTER:

Another Kansas newspaper summed up Archibald L. Williams's negligent dress but agreeable manner this way:

"It has been said by another attorney that Archie [Llewellyn] Williams was the best lawyer and looked the least like one of any man he ever knew. His utter disregard of personal appearance might have led a stranger at times to take him for a common hobo. It was necessary to know him intimately to appreciate him…

His uncouth appearance and sometimes brusque manner were calculated to make an unfavorable impression upon a stranger, but on further acquaintance it was found that the brusqueness was only on the surface, that at heart he was a man of tender sentiment and a lover of culture…

But while we might criticize his eccentricities and foibles, we always admired his ability… The more intimately we came to know him, the more we found about him that was likeable. When he was in a humor to talk, he was a most charming conversationalist. Few men had minds as richly stored, and his discourse was lighted by flashes of wit such as are rarely equaled."[56]

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN:

Archibald Llewellyn Williams was married on August 28, 1862, in Terre Haute, Indiana, to Elizabeth Cloud Ferguson of Posey County, Indiana. She was born in 1842 in Mt. Vernon, Indiana, and died in Topeka, Kansas, on February 25, 1907. They had six children, who were raised under the care of Felix North, a former African-American slave who was employed by the Williams family for many years following the Civil War.[57]

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[56] J. Frank Jarrell, compiler, "Archibald L. Williams…Tributes," a compilation of newspaper articles upon the death of Archibald L. Williams, 1907, Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas, hand-numbered p. 322.

[57] "Mrs. Dickey, 82, Last of Pioneer Family, Is Dead," unidentified and undated newspaper article, Archibald Williams File, Brenner Library, Quincy University, Quincy, Illinois.

Archibald Llewellyn Williams and Elizabeth Ferguson met when she was attending Johnson Seminary in Quincy, Illinois. The Johnson Seminary building later became the Jefferson School building. Archibald Llewellyn Williams and Elizabeth Ferguson Williams, although they made their permanent home in Topeka, Kansas, frequently visited in Quincy because of the many family members and friends who lived there.[58]

SERVED IN THE KANSAS MILITIA DURING THE CIVIL WAR:

Archibald Llewellyn Williams was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), the national association of Union Army veterans of the Civil War. He served as a Private in Burns's Battery but subsequently gained the rank of Captain of Company I, 16th Regiment, Kansas Militia. His Regiment saw the most military action when Confederate General Sterling Price attempted a major rebel invasion of Missouri and Kansas in 1864.[59]

Major General Sterling Price was a lawyer and planter who was a former Governor of Missouri. A victorious hero for the United States in the Mexican War, he joined the Confederate Army when the Civil War broke out.

Late in the war, in 1864, he led a large cavalry raid into Missouri with the goal of seizing that state for the South. He hoped to capture St. Louis, Missouri, but Major General Price and his men were forced westward by Union troops toward Kansas City, Missouri, and nearby Leavenworth, Kansas. At the battle of Westport, later a part of Kansas City, Major General Price was defeated by regular Union Army troops aided by the Kansas militia.

Price and the remnants of his troops were forced to retreat into Arkansas and Texas. The Price Raid, which Archibald Llewellyn Williams and his Regiment helped to repulse, was the last major significant Confederate military action west of the Mississippi River.

[58] "Mrs. Williams Dies at Topeka," *Quincy Daily Whig*, February 26, 1907, p. 5.
[59] *Proceedings: Bar Association of Kansas, 1908*, p. 32.

As a result of his military service in the Civil War, Archibald Llewellyn Williams was buried with full military honors when he passed away in 1907.[60]

AN EXPANDING POLITICAL CAREER:

Archibald Llewellyn Williams held a wide variety of political and governmental offices in Kansas. He was the City Attorney in Topeka, Kansas, and the County Attorney for Shawnee County, in which Topeka is located. He served four years as the acting United States District Attorney for the state of Kansas.[61] A highpoint in his political career occurred in 1871 when he was appointed to fill out an unexpired two-year term as Kansas state Attorney General. Running on the Republican ticket, he was elected to a second two-year term as Attorney General in 1872.

Despite his political success and the high position he held as state Attorney General, Archibald L. Williams was always known as "Archie" to the people of Kansas.[62]

DIARY OF ARCHIBALD L. WILLIAMS DURING HIS FIRST YEAR AS ATTORNEY GENERAL:

Archibald Llewellyn Williams kept a diary of his first year as Attorney General of Kansas. The entries were brief but provided a running commentary on Kansas politics and government at the time. Archibald L. Williams's sarcastic humor is often in evidence. Some highlights: [63]

January 2, 1871 – A. Danford, Attorney General, resigned, and I was appointed to fill vacancy.

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[60] *Proceedings: Bar Association of Kansas, 1908*, p. 32.
[61] *Proceedings: Bar Association of Kansas, 1908*, p. 28.
[62] J. Frank Jarrell, compiler, "Archibald L. Williams…Tributes," a compilation of newspaper articles upon the death of Archibald L. Williams, 1907, Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas, hand-numbered p. 317.
[63] "Diary of Archibald L. Williams for 1871," Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

January 7, 1871 – Politicians and candidates [are] flocking in for spoils. [I] promised no man my assistance… I took possession of my office. The [Kansas Pacific railroad] sent me a [free pass to ride their passenger trains] for 1871… The [state] legislature bummers went to Kansas City for a free drunk.

March 25, 1871 – A man confessed guilty of both forgery and embezzlement, and whose only defense is the statute of limitations, is a very proper person for appointment in Kansas.

April 20, 1871 – Delahay and Tom Fenlon [were] drunk all day – [there was] no court, therefore.

[In July of 1871, Attorney General Williams took a ride westward from Topeka, Kansas, on the Kansas Pacific railroad. He brought along his younger brother, Henry Clay Williams, to serve as his clerk. Henry Clay Williams served in the Union Army during the Civil War, was captured and imprisoned, and contracted tuberculosis while in a Confederate prison. Archibald L. Williams was constantly trying to find employment for his ailing brother.]

July 14, 1871 – Started for Kit Carson [a station on the Kansas Pacific railroad in eastern Colorado] at 2:30 A.M., taking Henry with me as clerk.

July 16, 1871 – Henry enjoyed the ride to Idaho Springs, Colorado, in the mountains west of Denver, hugely.

July 18, 1871 – Henry did not feel well, as usual.

[In August of 1871, Archibald L. Williams returned to his family home in Quincy, Illinois, and visited with his many relatives there.]

August 15, 1871 – Stayed all night at John's [home of his brother, John Hamilton Williams, in Quincy].

August 16, 1871 – Uncle Henry's to breakfast. [Uncle Henry was Henry Kemp, his mother's brother. While at Uncle Henry's home, Archibald L. Williams met some of his Kemp relatives from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.]

August 25, 1871 – Passed over Sherman [Hill] on the [passenger train] cars. [Sherman Hill was a famous steep grade on the Union Pacific railroad west of Cheyenne, Wyoming.]

August 27, 1871 – Heard Brigham Young speak at the tabernacle in Salt Lake City, [Utah].

October 3, 1871 – [Archibald L. Williams was staying at a hotel in Abilene, Kansas.] I was interviewed by an army of bedbugs.

October 21, 1871 – My pistols are Smith and Wesson improved patent large sized silver mounted – No. 3889 and 6215 – and of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.

November 1, 1871 to *November 4, 1871* – Went hunting on the Saline River [in Kansas], killed 37 buffalo.

November 22, 1871 – [He was traveling to Quincy, Illinois.] Missed the train at Kansas City and took a freight train [instead].

November 27, 1871 – [Enjoyed] a family dinner at John's [home of his brother, John Hamilton Williams, in Quincy, Illinois].

DEFENDED PROHIBITION OF LIQUOR
BEFORE THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT:

While Archibald L. Williams was serving as Attorney General of Kansas, the state legislature passed a law prohibiting the sale and use of alcoholic beverages in the state. This "prohibition" law was strongly contested in the courts, and Attorney General Williams set to work defending the constitutionality of the new law.

Although Archibald L. Williams "did not fully agree with the prohibitionists as to the wisdom of a prohibitory law," he fought for the new

law through the lower courts of Kansas right on up to the Supreme Court of the United States. Several lower courts had ruled that the prohibition act was illegal, and the Kansas state government was "about ready to 'lay down,' when it was decided to try one more round with Attorney General Williams in the arena for the law's supporters."

A prominent Kansas attorney, David Overmyer, argued the case for declaring the Kansas prohibition law unconstitutional. The Supreme Court of the United States, however, sided with Attorney General Williams, and the Kansas prohibition law was ruled valid and placed in force.[64]

PROSECUTED AN ELECTED OFFICIAL FOR BRIBERY:

Also during his tenure as Attorney General of Kansas, Archibald L. Williams prosecuted Senator Samuel C. Pomeroy for giving a bribe in the senatorial election of 1873. Senator Pomeroy was defeated for reelection by John J. Ingalls.[65]

A RAILROAD ADVENTURE WHEN ATTORNEY GENERAL OF KANSAS:

Archibald L. Williams was reputed to be a great storyteller. One of his favorite stories he told on himself. It happened while he was serving as Attorney General for the state of Kansas in the early 1870s. Here is the story as related by a Kansas newspaper in 1901:

"Many years ago, when Attorney General of Kansas, Mr. [Archibald L.] Williams had occasion to make a trip to the East. He had no railroad passes [so he could ride the train for free] east of the Missouri River, so he borrowed [a pass] over an Illinois [railroad] from his old friend Jake Smith.

It happened during the first stretch through Illinois that the conductor of the train on which the Kansas man rode was a former schoolmate of his.

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[64] J. Frank Jarrell, compiler, "Archibald L. Williams…Tributes," a compilation of newspaper articles upon the death of Archibald L. Williams, 1907, Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas, hand-numbered p. 325.
[65] "Arch [F.] Williams Dead," *Topeka Capital*, November 23, 1929.

The conductor recognized Williams, but Williams didn't recognize the conductor, and about this fact the fun of the story hangs.

'Mr. Smith,' said the conductor. [He had] worked his train [collecting all the other tickets and passes] and had returned to have a chat with his passenger from Kansas. 'I see you are from Topeka, [Kansas]. Did you ever know a man out there by the name of Archie Williams?'

'Yes, I know him very well,' responded the pseudo Smith after struggling hard to steady his nerve and regain his composure. 'Yes, Williams is considerable of a fellow out there. He is Attorney General of the state.'

'Who? Williams? Attorney General? Well, I'll be [damned],' [exclaimed] the conductor. 'What kind of people are they out there in Kansas to elect a chucklehead like that for Attorney General? Why, sir, I used to know Williams back here in Illinois – grew up with him, you might say – and of all the dundle-pated, slab-sided, step-on-himself-and-fall-over fellows you ever saw, Williams was the worst.'

'That man Attorney General? Why, if you will believe me, Mr. Smith, he didn't know law enough to wad a shotgun. He was run out of here because – '

'Stop it! Stop it!' yelled Williams, springing to his feet. 'There is your blankety-blank Smith pass. Take it up and collect fare if you want to, but you can't abuse me any longer!'"[66]

THE EVIL AND IRONY OF RAILROAD PASSES:

The above story was only the beginning of Archibald L. Williams's association with railroad passes. A number of years later, he wrote a short opinion piece in which he recommended that public officials be prohibited from accepting railroad passes. The passes, he argued, were given for the main purpose of winning political influence for the railroad. His final conclusion was an unhappy one. The practice of giving railroad passes to politicians could not be ended because existing pass holders were too influential to ever let it happen.[67]

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[66] "Story by A. L. Williams; What Happened When He Rode on Jake Smith's Pass," *Topeka Capital*, July, 1901.

[67] "Some Taps," *The Kansas Knocker*, Volume I, #2 (no date), p. 36.

HUNTING DOWN "THE BOODLERS" IN WESTERN KANSAS:

In 1874, while serving as Attorney General of Kansas, Archibald Llewellyn Williams tracked down and exposed the fraudulent activities of a gang of "boodlers" in western Kansas. These men were organizing fictitious county governments in a part of the state that was basically an unpopulated wilderness inhabited by hostile Native Americans. Once the phony county governments were supposedly in operation, the "boodlers" sold bonds from the counties to unsuspecting investors.

"Boodlers" was an expression of the time for persons who engaged in bribery, graft, thievery, or other illegal financial activities. The funds they garnered were called "boodle."

Three Kansas counties – Barber, Harper, and Comanche counties – had been set up by the boodlers. On behalf of the three counties, the boodlers issued over $250,000 worth of phony bonds. A portion of the bonds had been sold to the Kansas State School Fund, but most were unloaded on ill-informed investors in the eastern United States.

Word of this scandalous scheme got out, and the Kansas state legislature appointed an investigating committee comprised of one member of the state Senate and one member of the state House of Representatives. A third and final member of the investigating committee was Archibald L. Williams, the state Attorney General.

The state Senator and the state Representative left for western Kansas in an attempt to see for themselves what was going on in the three counties in question. They were turned back, however, by gruesome tales of Indian raids. The tales were told to them by some of the boodlers. The two legislators returned to the state capitol in Topeka and presented a worthless report on the matter.

Similar tales of warlike Native Americans were told to state Attorney General Archibald L. Williams, but those who told him the stories soon learned he was a man of considerable mettle. Archibald L. Williams paid no attention to the stories, ventured into the wilds of western Kansas, and returned very much alive. He discovered that Barber County had a few residents, but not enough to organize a functioning county government. Harper and Comanche counties had no inhabitants whatsoever.

Archibald L. Williams returned to Topeka and sent a report to the state legislature that exposed the entire fraud and put an end to it. The workmanlike report began with a humorous reference to classical history and concluded with a stirring demand for honest government and strict law enforcement. An excerpt:

"There is no population in Comanche County. If Marius sat amid the ruins of Carthage and wept, I camped upon the town site of Smallwood, the county seat, and feasted upon wild turkey, with no white man to molest me or make me afraid. In Smallwood there are two log cabins, both deserted, without doors, windows, sash or blinds. About a mile off is a deserted ranch. These compose the houses of the householders of the county.

In this county there is not an acre of land or a dollars-worth of property subject to taxation; its sole inhabitants are the Cheyenne and the coyote, the wolf and the Arapaho, and its organization is and always has been a fraud.

Harper and Comanche counties were organized solely for plunder. The vast amount of bonds issued has seriously injured our credit abroad. To issue these bonds required wholesale perjury and forgery. When these counties are properly attached to some other county for judicial purposes, the thieves who issued these bonds should be attended to.

The State, through its Attorney General and the proper county attorneys, should put every engine of the law in force; should pursue, capture, try, convict and lock up these rogues, so that our credit may be restored and other incipient rascals of a like character, quickened with a similar ambition, may be deterred from the crime through a fear of a like fate."[68]

STOPPING "THE BOODLERS"
IN A HUMOROUS WAY:

Here is another story of what happened to "boodlers" when they encountered Attorney General Archibald L. Williams:

[68] James L. King, "Archibald F. Williams," *History of Shawnee County, Kansas, and Representative Citizens* (Chicago, IL: Richmond & Arnold, 1905).

"…a man walked into his office with an issue of $120,000 of bonds from Comanche, or some other then wildcat county, and wanted his approval as Attorney General so [the man] could get them registered by the State Auditor. The man informed Mr. Williams that he did not expect him to do this for nothing and told him that he would be as liberal as Mr. Williams could ask.

It was about noon. The man was told to come back that afternoon and get his bonds.

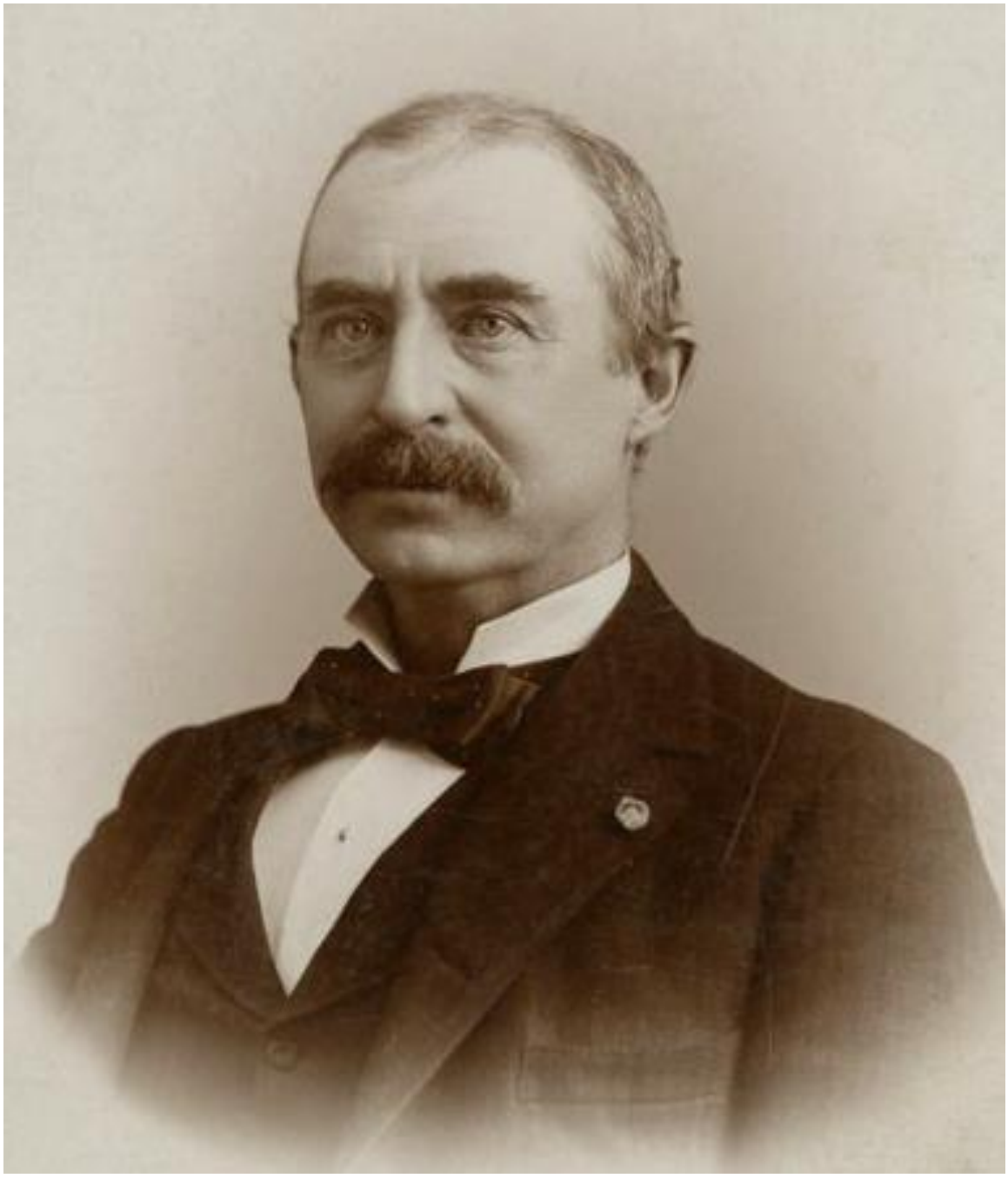
As soon as he left, Mr. Williams, itching all over to get [to] his work, locked the door and spread the bonds out on the table – a pile six inches high.

[Archibald L. Williams] wrote a crawly, irregular hand; he had a poor pen, bad ink, and was a miserable scribe. He dipped the pen to the bottom of the ink bottle. [Dropping] the ink in drops all over the face of the bonds, his teeth set hard, he wrote diagonally all over the blue and gold of each bond, in and out of its pictured vignettes, the pen on a sputter, the following words: 'This bond is not worth a damn. A. L. Williams, Attorney General.'

When the man came, he was handed his package all nicely done up as before and, on inquiring what the charge was, he was told there was no charge and the man took his adieu.

When the door shut, Mr. Williams indulged in his first chuckle over it. [Archibald L. Williams] had a real spine. [He] was an honest and capable official and absolutely fearless. It was no thought of his, what the great populace in an excited clamor might think, for he was his own man at every turn of events and in all situations."[69]

[69] Joseph G. Waters, commentary on Archibald L. Williams, quoted in J. Frank Jarrell, compiler, "Archibald L. Williams…Tributes," a compilation of newspaper articles upon the death of Archibald L. Williams, 1907, Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas, hand-numbered p. 315-316.



ARCHIBALD LLEWELLYN WILLIAMS

HOME OF ARCHIBALD LLEWELLYN WILLIAMS

Records at the Kansas Historical Society list this house as the longtime home of Archibald Llewellyn Williams and his family in Topeka, Kansas.

ATTORNEY FOR THE KANSAS PACIFIC RAILROAD:

In the mid-1860s, the Eastern Division of the Union Pacific Railway was being constructed westward across the state of Kansas from Kansas City to eastern Colorado and thence to the city of Denver, Colorado. The simultaneous construction of a railroad from Denver to Cheyenne, Wyoming, connected the trans-Kansas line to the main line of the Union Pacific, which was the transcontinental route from Omaha, Nebraska, to Sacramento, California, via Cheyenne, Wyoming.

The east-west route across Kansas was known for a while as the Kansas Pacific railroad. From its inception, Archibald Llewellyn Williams served as a consulting attorney for the railroad. In 1887, after the Kansas Pacific was formally consolidated with the Union Pacific, Archibald L. Williams was named general attorney for the Union Pacific railroad for Kansas. Operating from an office in Topeka, Kansas, he held that position [for 20 years] until his death in 1907.[70]

Archibald Llewellyn Williams's father, Archibald Williams, played a key role in the early formation of the Kansas Pacific railroad. While serving as United States District Judge for Kansas in the early 1860s, the elder Williams negotiated and approved a treaty permitting the railroad to be built across Native American lands in return for a financial interest in the railroad being allocated to the Native Americans.[71]

Due to the importance of railroads in the United States industrial economy of the late 19th Century, Archibald L. Williams, as attorney for the Union Pacific railroad in Kansas, was considered one of the most influential

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[70] "Noted Names on U.P. Law Staff for This State," unidentified and undated newspaper article from Kansas.

[71] For a full discussion of the early development of the Kansas Pacific railroad and the treaty with the Delaware Indians, see David G. Taylor, "Thomas Ewing, Jr., and the Origins of the Kansas Pacific Railway Company," *Kansas Historical Quarterly*, Summer 1976 (Volume 42, No. 2), p. 155-179. President Abraham Lincoln wrote the elder Archibald Williams a letter on the matter. "Order for Issue of Bonds for Use of Delaware Indians," June 10, 1861, in Roy P. Basler, *Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln* (Springfield, IL: 1953), Volume IV, p. 400-402.

men in the state of Kansas as well as the United States. A Bar Association of Kansas eulogy noted: "He was long an attorney of the Kansas Pacific and became and was for years the general attorney of its successor, the Union Pacific, in which positions he achieved a national reputation as lawyer of the first rank."[72]

It was not unusual in the late 1800s for a railroad attorney to be so well-known and powerful. A newspaper pointed out: "[Archibald L. Williams] and two other railroad lawyers – George R. Peck of the Santa Fe [railroad] and M. A. Low of the Rock Island [railroad] – were influential in the political life of the state [of Kansas]. William Allen White, [a famous Kansas newspaperman,] once wrote that 'this benevolent triumvirate ruled the state until the rise of Populism [a political movement at the turn of the 20th Century].'"[73]

Although Archibald L. Williams worked for a powerful industrial corporation – the Union Pacific railroad – he was said to be willing to disagree with his corporate bosses when he felt strongly on an issue. A newspaper pointed out:

"While he was a railroad attorney, his sympathies were with the people in their struggles against corporate greed and, during his active service as counsel for the Union Pacific, he was remarkably successful in forcing his own railroad to make many concessions in controversies respecting the rights of individual citizens."[74]

CONFESSION OF A COW CORONER:

One time while riding on a railroad train to Mexico City, Mexico, Archibald L. Williams struck up a conversation with another passenger. At the time, Williams had a sore jaw and was stammering in his speech. It was

[72] Memorial Resolutions to the Shawnee County Bar Association, quoted in "Proceedings: Bar Association of Kansas, 1908," p. 31.

[73] "Mrs. Dickey, 82, Last of Pioneer Family, Is Dead," unidentified and undated newspaper article, Archibald Williams File, Brenner Library, Quincy University, Quincy, Illinois.

[74] J. Frank Jarrell, compiler, "Archibald L. Williams…Tributes," a compilation of newspaper articles upon the death of Archibald L. Williams, 1907, Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas, hand-numbered p. 325.

a condition that Williams experienced from time to time but made light of and used to advantage while telling stories about himself.

When asked what he did for a living, Archibald L. Williams replied: "I am a c-cow c-coroner."

His new acquaintance asked: "What is that?"

Williams stated: "I am emp-p-ployed by r-railroads to s-settle k-killed c-cow c-claims."

Obviously confused, Williams's companion said: "I don't understand you."

"W-well," Williams went on, "it is th-this w-way. W-when a c-cow is k-killed by our r-road, I am s-s-sent out t-to s-s-s-settle th-the m-matter w-with th-the f-f-farmer. After we h-have t-t-talked it over, I may b-be in-c-c-clined t-to offer h-him t-t-twenty dollars in s-s-settlement, b-but it t-takes me s-s-so l-long t-to sa-say it, that I h-have t-t-time to change m-my m-mind and offer h-him f-f-five."[75]

ADVICE FROM A RAILROAD ATTORNEY:

In the course of his work as attorney for the Union Pacific railroad, Archibald Llewellyn Williams's gained a reputation for being witty and making strong rejoinders. Here is an example:

"In a reorganization of the Union Pacific [railroad's] affairs, twenty or more years ago [about 1900], the Boston owners of the system installed a new General Manager, Thomas Potter, of Burlington, Iowa. [He was given] absolute authority to hire and fire, regardless.

Now Charles Francis Adams, President of the Union Pacific, had a habit of pushing his jobless kin into the corporation's payroll until the point was reached when this waste of resources had nearly brought about bankruptcy.

Appearing in Kansas to inspect the [railroad] lines, Mr. Potter invited Mr. [Archibald L.] Williams to be his guest and guide. On the trip the new

[75] J. Frank Jarrell, compiler, "Archibald L. Williams…Tributes," a compilation of newspaper articles upon the death of Archibald L. Williams, 1907, Kansas History Museum, Topeka, Kansas, hand-numbered p. 313.

General Manager began telling the old [railroad lawyer] his plans, and first of all he was going to discharge all the 'dead wood.'

'What? Adams's kin?' exclaimed Williams, interrogatively.

'Sure!' retorted Potter.

'No!' returned Williams.

'But I have a written contract from Adams,' explained Potter.

'Hell!' Williams exploded. 'Suppose you had a contract from a man with the itch that he would not scratch. Do you think he would keep it?'"[76]

A CUTTING AND BITING WIT:

Along with his ability as a storyteller, Archibald L. Williams was famous for his biting wit, which he often unleashed against unsuspecting targets:

Dunning a Tailor:

This story about Archibald L. Williams ran in a Topeka newspaper under the column heading "Good Williams Story:"

"Mr. Williams, like many other newcomers [to Kansas], was often hard-pressed for money. A Topeka tailor presented repeatedly a bill of $45 for a suit of clothes he had made for Mr. Williams and which the latter had already worn almost to the limit. Finally, the tailor came into the office one day after Mr. Williams had received a fee of $50 in a single bill. This Mr. Williams presented to the tailor at once.

The [tailor] was so suddenly overcome that he could scarcely receipt the bill and was totally unprepared to give the $5 in change. 'Never mind the $5,' said Mr. Williams. 'Just let that stand a while. I will keep after you for it and have the supreme satisfaction of dunning a tailor. Tailors have dunned

[76] "Story by A. L. Williams; What Happened When He Rode on Jake Smith's Pass," *Topeka Capital*, July, 1901.

me often enough, and this is the first opportunity I have ever had to reciprocate.'"[77]

Gave Votes to an Opponent:

On one occasion, he was running against a man named Balie Waggener for Attorney General of Kansas. Waggener was from Atchison, Kansas, and Archibald L. Williams traveled to Atchison to give a speech. Waggener expected to be vigorously attacked verbally and get a political "roasting" from Williams.

To Waggener's great surprise, Archibald L. Williams got up and simply said to the people of Atchison: "He needs your votes. I do not. I'll have at least a 40,000 majority anyhow."

When the election returns were counted, Archibald L. Williams had a 50,000 vote majority.[78]

Neither One nor the Other:

At another time, Archibald L. Williams was addressing Richard C. Olney, who served as Attorney General of the United States under President Grover Cleveland. Olney was said to have a chilly demeanor and be the coldest man in America. During a quarrel between the two men, Archibald L. Williams said pointedly:

"I have met gentlemen who were not lawyers, and I have met lawyers who were not gentlemen. But I never met the combination until I met you. You are neither."[79]

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[77] J. Frank Jarrell, compiler, "Archibald L. Williams…Tributes," a compilation of newspaper articles upon the death of Archibald L. Williams, 1907, Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas, hand-numbered p. 320.

[78] J. Frank Jarrell, compiler, "Archibald L. Williams…Tributes," a compilation of newspaper articles upon the death of Archibald L. Williams, 1907, Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas, hand-numbered p. 313.

[79] J. Frank Jarrell, compiler, "Archibald L. Williams…Tributes," a compilation of newspaper articles upon the death of Archibald L. Williams, 1907, Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas, hand-numbered p. 313.

A Test of Honesty:

Archibald L. Williams was always ready to seek out and expose the dishonesty of his fellow human beings. In one instance, he saw a large number of new nickels on display at the bank and purchased them all. He then poured the nickels into a box, which he placed on a hot stove. In a very short time, the nickels were very hot and painful to the touch.

It was early in the month, and people were coming to his office to collect bills. When Archibald L. Williams would hear someone's footsteps coming down the hall, he would take the box of hot nickels off the stove, open the lid, and let the box sit out in plain sight to the bill collector.

Several times during the day, one of the bill collectors would say to himself: "I believe I will help myself." He would then stick his hand in among the hot nickels with the expected painful results.[80]

A Wagon Rather than a Platform:

One day Archibald L. Williams set out for the western part of Kansas, where he was to speak at a big Republican Party rally. Republican governors, senators, and famous Civil War generals had been scheduled to speak at the rally, but it turned out that none of them could come. Archibald L. Williams was to be the only speaker.

When he arrived in the western Kansas town, Archibald L. Williams went to see the chairman of the meeting, who was busy building a large platform. The chairman had been told there was going to be a big meeting with lots of important speakers, and he was building a big platform. When Archibald L. Williams told the chairman that he was to be the only speaker on the platform, the chairman carefully looked closely at Mr. Williams.

Then the chairman threw his tools down in disgust and said: "That ends it, mister. A wagon will do for you."[81]

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[80] Joseph G. Waters, commentary on Archibald L. Williams, quoted in J. Frank Jarrell, compiler, "Archibald L. Williams…Tributes," a compilation of newspaper articles upon the death of Archibald L. Williams, 1907, Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas, hand-numbered p. 316.

[81] Joseph G. Waters, commentary on Archibald L. Williams, quoted in J. Frank Jarrell, compiler, "Archibald L. Williams…Tributes," a compilation

Every Load of Wood in Town:

Archibald L. Williams once turned his love of humor, overstatement, and sarcasm on his wife Elizabeth, usually called Lizzie. She had asked him repeatedly to get a load of wood for the family, but he kept putting if off. Finally, when the job had to be done, "he went round to the wood wagons, bought every load, and marched on foot at the head of the procession to his home with them."[82]

AN INDEPENDENCE DAY TRADITION:

Ross Burns was a life-long close friend of Archibald L. Williams. The two men had the custom, continued for years, of celebrating the Fourth of July, Independence Day, in a very unique manner. Sitting on the curb of the street, they would set off a pack of firecrackers together.[83]

A VACATION HOME IN COLORADO:

Archibald Llewellyn Williams loved the Colorado mountains. He owned a vacation home in Manitou Springs, a resort community located to the west of Colorado Springs at the foot of Pike's Peak. The vacation home was named Llewellyn Place. It stood on a high hillside overlooking the town of Manitou Springs. Archibald Llewellyn Williams and his family often vacationed there with Archibald's brother, John Hamilton Williams of Quincy, Illinois, and his family.

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of newspaper articles upon the death of Archibald L. Williams, 1907, Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas, hand-numbered p. 316.

[82] Joseph G. Waters, commentary on Archibald L. Williams, quoted in J. Frank Jarrell, compiler, "Archibald L. Williams…Tributes," a compilation of newspaper articles upon the death of Archibald L. Williams, 1907, Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas, hand-numbered p. 316.

[83] Joseph G. Waters, commentary on Archibald L. Williams, quoted in J. Frank Jarrell, compiler, "Archibald L. Williams…Tributes," a compilation of newspaper articles upon the death of Archibald L. Williams, 1907, Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas, hand-numbered p. 316.

The home was located at the northwest corner of Ruxton Avenue and Pilot Knob in Manitou Springs.

Archibald Llewellyn Williams also owned a rustic cabin on the east side of Pike's Peak close to the halfway point on the Pike's Peak cog railroad. The area was known as Mountain View. Archibald L. Williams and John Hamilton Williams supposedly retreated to this high mountain getaway, leaving the women and children and the accompanying noise and activity far down the mountain at Llewellyn Place.

AN ENCOUNTER WITH AUGUST BUSCH HALFWAY UP PIKE'S PEAK:

A family story told that one day Archibald L. Williams and John Hamilton Williams were up at the rustic cabin on Pike's Peak when August Busch, with a group of friends, rode by on horseback or mule back. August Busch was a member of one of the families that owned the company, Anheiser-Busch, that brewed and sold Budweiser beer.

Because Archibald L. Williams and John Hamilton Williams were on a mountain vacation, they were dressed in old clothes. They had no trouble recognizing August Busch, as he and his wealthy family were quite famous. The August Busch party had gotten lost on their ride up Pike's Peak, and they politely asked Archibald L. and John Hamilton Williams for directions.

After the directions were given, August Busch reached in his pocket, pulled out a quarter of a dollar, flipped it to one of the Williams brothers, and said: "Thank you, my good man."

Of course August Busch had no idea he was flipping a quarter to Archibald Llewellyn Williams, one of the top attorneys for the Union Pacific railroad, and to John Hamilton Williams, a successful lawyer and at one time a district court Judge in Quincy, Illinois. Both of the Williams men thought August Busch's gesture was funny rather than insulting, however. It was simply the result of being uninformed.

Both Archibald Llewellyn and John Hamilton Williams delighted in telling the story to family and friends.[84]

[84] This family story was told to Robert D. Loevy by his uncle, William Glenn Rule.

LLEWELLYN PLACE

This house in Manitou Springs, Colorado, was the summer home of Archibald Llewellyn Williams and his family. It is located at the northwest corner of Ruxton Avenue and Pilot Knob. This photograph was taken in the late 1960s.

ANOTHER PIKE'S PEAK ENCOUNTER:

August Busch was not the only mountain tourist to encounter the wit of Archibald Llewellyn Williams when he was vacationing in the Rocky Mountains:

"Near the trail [leading to the top of Pike's Peak], Williams had converted a tree stump into an armed chair, and one of his favorite diversions was to sit there and have fun with the passing tourists.

As is generally known by his Kansas acquaintances, his old slouch hat and careless manner of dress gave him the appearance of a 'hobo,' in which he appeared to take enjoyment. Tourists the world over are ever ready to make comments, and Williams's shabby appearance would lead them into a trap, where his brilliant wit could turn the tables on them.

Not long ago a party of some size was passing [by him], and one woman who appeared to be a leader in the crowd, called out, 'Hello, old man, what are you waiting for?'

'I have been waiting,' replied Williams, 'to see if some good-looking woman would come along, but I guess it's no use.'"[85]

A "LLEWELLYN PLACE" SILVER SPOON:

On a trip to New York, New York, Archibald Llewellyn Williams went to Tiffany's jewelry store. He handed over a drawing of Llewellyn Place, his Colorado vacation home, and asked Tiffany's to engrave the image of the house on the bowls of a number of large and ornate silver tablespoons. These mementos were then given as presents to various members of the extended Williams family. One of them was in the possession of Robert D. Loevy in 2015. Two others were in the possession of Walton Taylor Loevy at the same time.

[85] J. Frank Jarrell, compiler, "Archibald L. Williams…Tributes," a compilation of newspaper articles upon the death of Archibald L. Williams, 1907, Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas, hand-numbered p. 325.

OPPOSED DAYTIME FREIGHT TRAINS ON RAILWAY LINES ON CITY STREETS:

In his later years, Archibald Llewellyn Williams took an interest in local matters in his hometown of Topeka, Kansas. He frequently appeared before the City Council to use his legal skills to protect average citizens from the grasping manipulations of public franchises such as the electric light franchise and the street railway franchise.

In his final appearance in public life in Topeka, Archibald Llewellyn Williams took a strong stand against daytime freight trains operating on rail lines on city streets. Following a spirited debate, the Topeka City Council adopted Williams's position opposing the idea.[86]

DISLIKED THE FEEBLENESS OF OLD AGE:

By a year or two before his death, Archibald Llewellyn Williams was so physically disabled that he had almost entirely given up his legal practice. He gave the following lament to an old friend:

"The other day I was sitting on my porch when I saw a young looking vigorous man come striding up the walk. I cannot see very well and wondered what young fellow it was. When he got nearer, I noticed that it was Joe Hudson. He was cantering about like a young fellow of 30, and I was wishing that I was young like him.

Then we commenced to compare ages and found that he was four months older than I. And here am I hardly able to hobble downtown or ride on a [streetcar]."

There is an ironic end to this story. Joe Hudson, the vigorous elderly man with the energy of a youth of 30 years or so, died and was buried four months before his crippled friend, Archibald Llewellyn Williams, passed away.[87]

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[86] J. Frank Jarrell, compiler, "Archibald L. Williams…Tributes," a compilation of newspaper articles upon the death of Archibald L. Williams, 1907, Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas, hand-numbered p. 315.

[87] J. Frank Jarrell, compiler, "Archibald L. Williams…Tributes," a compilation of newspaper articles upon the death of Archibald L. Williams, 1907, Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas, hand-numbered p. 322.

DEATH OF ARCHIBALD LLEWELLYN WILLIAMS:

In his later years, Archibald Llewellyn Williams suffered from dyspepsia, a severe irritation of the digestive system that was painful and often put him in a grouchy and critical mood.

He died on August 28, 1907, at his summer home at Mountain View, Colorado, halfway up the side of Pike's Peak above Manitou Springs and Colorado Springs, Colorado. He had been a semi-invalid for two years prior to his death and had come to Colorado in hopes of finding relief from his illness. He was 66-years-old, dying just a few days before his 67th birthday.

His physical and mental condition was said to have been greatly aggravated by the death of his wife, Elizabeth Cloud Ferguson Williams, the previous February. She was 64-years-old and suffered from Bright's disease at the time of her passing.

Present with Archibald Llewellyn Williams at the time of his death was one of his daughters, Mrs. W. L. Dickey of Tulsa, Indian Territory (later Oklahoma). Also at his side was one of his sons, Burns Williams.

Archibald Llewellyn Williams's body was transported down Pike's Peak by a special train on the Pike's Peak cog railroad and then returned to Topeka, Kansas, on an eastbound railroad train.[88]

His funeral, a simple ceremony of the Episcopal church, was conducted in the family home at 1195 Fillmore Street in Topeka, Kansas. Reverend James P. De. B. Kaye presided. A quartet of two men and two women provided the musical accompaniment, and a short speech of remembrance was given by a close friend, Colonel W. H. Rossington.[89]

All the state offices in the Kansas statehouse were closed for the afternoon during the funeral.

Services at the cemetery were conducted by the Lincoln Post of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), an association of Union veterans of the Civil War. Attending the funeral from Quincy, Illinois, were a brother, Judge

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[88] J. Frank Jarrell, compiler, "Archibald L. Williams…Tributes," a compilation of newspaper articles upon the death of Archibald L. Williams, 1907, Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas, hand-numbered p. 312.

[89] J. Frank Jarrell, compiler, "Archibald L. Williams…Tributes," a compilation of newspaper articles upon the death of Archibald L. Williams, 1907, Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas, hand-numbered p. 318.

John Hamilton Williams, and a niece, Ann "Anna" Almira Williams Cruttenden (Mrs. John Smith Cruttenden).[90]

RETROSPECTIVE ON THE LIFE OF ARCHIBALD LLEWELLYN WILLIAMS:

Following the death of Archibald Llewellyn Williams in 1907, a committee of his friends and neighbors presented a series of Memorial Resolutions to the Shawnee County Bar Association. Although these resolutions contained a healthy dose of the overstatement and flattery typical of the time, they provided an additional perspective on the life of Archibald Llewellyn Williams:

"Mr. Williams had the splendid equipment of an illustrious house and a heroic time. His father was as great a lawyer as there was in the Union; and it follows, as the oak the acorn, that he came by his ability as a lawyer through a strain of the blood…

Around his father's board grave men assembled to discuss solemn problems and high concerns that threatened the Union and its perpetuity, and involving the very existence of democracies on the face of the earth…

Coming with his father [Archibald Williams] to the new state of Kansas, he found it a desert; torrential streams, treeless rivers, a parched earth, a sky of brass, a meager population, and when he died, nearly a lifetime after, we covered his [corpse] with roses plucked from its gardens, and buried him beneath its lilies,… and we wove him a laurel of its very sweetest flowers.

His was a fit tutelage for the strenuous days that were to come. In the great march that Kansas made from desolation to empire, from desert to orchards, cultivated fields, wooded streams, beautiful rivers, planted groves, splendid homes and a magnificent people, [Archibald L.] Williams was part and parcel of all this grand development.

There has never been a time when Kansas had before it a living issue, but what the right of it had his voluntary and vigorous support; many of our

[90] J. Frank Jarrell, compiler, "Archibald L. Williams…Tributes," a compilation of newspaper articles upon the death of Archibald L. Williams, 1907, Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas, hand-numbered p. 319.

good people rightfully thought the road less rocky after he had openly espoused their cause.

It may be said of him, that no eye has seen a paragraph from his pen, nor ear heard him deliver a sentence that was not of the highest and best thought, of the soundest wisdom and the highest citizenship… His influence was toward the enactment of good laws and the enforcement of all…

[Archibald Llewellyn] Williams had a keen predilection for constitutional questions and engaged in many great causes where such controversies arose; among them a case in the Supreme Court of the United States involving the constitutionality of the Kansas Prohibitory Law, answering in his argument there, as special counsel for Kansas, an apparently unassailable position by a higher view of the constitution, in clear, terse words, that won the case…"[91]

[91] Memorial Resolutions to the Shawnee County Bar Association, quoted in "Proceedings: Bar Association of Kansas, 1908," p. 28-31.

CHILDREN OF ARCHIBALD LLEWELLYN WILLIAMS

Archibald Llewellyn Williams and Elizabeth Cloud Ferguson Williams had six children, three girls and three boys:

1. **Nancy Williams:** Born in Topeka, Kansas, she was also called Nannie. About 1889, she married Harry L. Bert of Quincy, Illinois, and they made their home in Quincy.

   A notice of the marriage in the Quincy newspaper described a reception in the newlyweds' honor: "As Nancy Williams, the bride was a … winsome, charming lady; as the bride of Mr. Bert she looked womanly last evening, and graceful and lovable… Until spring, the groom and bride will reside at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Bert [the groom's parents]. Then they will begin housekeeping in their own home – in the house at present occupied by Mr. Austin and family, Sixteenth and Vermont streets."[92]

   The Austins may have been cousins of the John Hamilton Williams family in Quincy.

2. **May Williams:** She was born in Topeka, Kansas, right after the Civil War. She was a little girl when her father was serving as state Attorney General of Kansas. She and her brothers and sisters were cared for by a former African-American slave, Felix North, who was employed by the Archibald Llewellyn Williams family for many years after the Civil War.

   Educated at Bethany college, she married W. Lyle Dickey of Omaha, Nebraska. He was the son of the general superintendent of the Western Union Telegraph Company.

   For a number of years, Lyle Dickey operated an ice company in Topeka. The family lived in Omaha, Nebraska, for a while, and then moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where Lyle Dickey was prominent in insurance circles for nearly 40 years. The Dickeys retired in La Jolla, California, where May Williams Dickey passed away.

[92] "The Bert Reception," *Quincy (Illinois) Herald*, January 26, 1889.

Mrs. Dickey was survived by her husband and three daughters. The daughters were:

Mrs. Elizabeth Copmann, of Oxford, Kansas
Mrs. Dorothy Blake, of La Jolla, California
Mrs. Lyle Goodwin, of La Jolla, California

There were seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.[93]

3. **Myra Williams:** Born in Topeka, she married J. Frank Jarrell and remained in Topeka until her death in 1937. They had four children, three boys and one girl. The three boys were:

   Sanford Jarrell, of Long Beach, California. He worked as a newspaperman for the *San Diego Journal* until May 1950. He then worked for the *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, retiring in 1959. He died accidentally in January of 1962 of carbon monoxide poisoning from an unvented heater in his home in Long Beach. He was survived by his widow, Ruth, at least one son, John S. (Pat) Jarrell of Long Beach, and seven grandchildren.[94]

   Arch W. Jarrell, of Grand Island, Nebraska, was editor of the *Grand Island Independent*.

   John W. Jarrell, of Washington, D.C., was Washington correspondent of the *Omaha World-Herald*.

4. **Archibald F. Williams:** He was born in Topeka, Kansas, on October 11, 1869. Educated in the public schools of Topeka and at Washburn College, he studied three years at Kemper Military Academy in Boonville, Missouri. He read law under the instruction

[93] "Mrs. Dickey, 82, Last of Pioneer Family, Is Dead," unidentified and undated newspaper article, Archibald Williams File, Brenner Library, Quincy University, Quincy, Illinois.

[94] "Jarrell Rites Set; Retired Newsman," *San Diego Union*, February 1, 1962, p. a-21, Archibald Williams File, Brenner Library, Quincy University, Quincy, Illinois.

of his father and took courses at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, graduating in 1892.

During his early legal career, he worked as an attorney for the Union Pacific railroad, as his father had done. He was elected to the Kansas state legislature in 1903, but he resigned to accept a position as United States Commissioner.

In 1917, he settled in El Dorado, Kansas. During World War I, he was in charge of the Red Cross in Butler County, Kansas. He was then elected County Attorney of Butler County. In 1926, he moved to Wichita, Kansas, to work as the attorney for the Santa Fe railroad.

He was active in the Republican Party and a member of the Kansas state Bar Association and the Elks.

He was, for a while, the law partner of Charles Curtis, who later became Vice-President of the United States.[95]

5. **Harry Williams:** Also a lawyer.

6. **Burns Williams:** He was a musician and composer.

[95] James L. King, "Archibald F. Williams," *History of Shawnee County, Kansas, and Representative Citizens* (Chicago, IL: Richmond & Arnold, 1905). "Archibald [F.] Williams Dead," *Topeka (Kansas) Journal*, November 22, 1929.

CHAPTER SIX

HENRY CLAY WILLIAMS

Henry Clay Williams was born on October 21, 1844, in Quincy, Illinois. He was named for Henry Clay, a Whig Party politician of the early 19th Century. Henry Clay Williams's father, Archibald Williams, was a great admirer and political follower of Henry Clay.

Henry Clay Williams died December 25, 1879, in Topeka, Kansas. Here is the newspaper report of his death:

"Sunday morning Mr. Henry Clay Williams of this city, brother of the Honorable Archibald Llewellyn Williams, died at his residence on Jackson Street between Fourth and Fifth streets… Mr. Williams has been an invalid for some time, a victim of that dread disease consumption [tuberculosis], which was contracted in a rebel [Confederate] prison. He leaves a widow and child and a large circle of sympathizing friends to mourn his decease."[96]

A SKETCH OF HIS LIFE:

A few days after his death, a letter to the editor of the *Topeka Daily Capital* newspaper, signed only "W.", gave a more complete picture of the life of Henry Clay Williams:

"The subject of this sketch died in this city a week ago Sunday, and, although he has lived here twenty years, honored and respected by all who knew him well, no mention even of his death was made by any of our papers, save yours.

Long illness and its usual attendant – poverty – speedily separate a man from the mass of his fellows, and it is not strange that he should have passed from the thoughts, if not the memory, of most of our citizens.

Society is, in one sense, inexorable and pitiless. Engaged in the daily struggle for life, for place and power, it takes some note of all – even the humblest – engaged actively in the same struggle. But when one falls

[96] *Topeka (Kansas) News*, December 25, 1879.

exhausted by the wayside, dead or disabled, the tide of humanity flows on, and forgets him.

It was so with this man. Stricken down several years ago with consumption, he lived a living death and was seen but by few for the last three years. Yet there are enough left who knew him well and loved him to justify me in offering a slight sketch of his life.

Henry C. Williams, better known as Clay Williams, was born in Quincy, Illinois, on the 21st day of October, 1844, and was consequently nearly 37-years-old when he died. When about nine years old, he lost his mother [Nancy Kemp Williams], whose place was as well supplied as it could be by an elder sister [Almira Jane Williams], who devoted herself to the care of the family.

His father [Archibald Williams], absorbed in his law business, and at all times singularly absent-minded, could not give him that personal attention which his youth demanded, so that he was left almost entirely to the care of his sister. She did her duty conscientiously, unselfishly, bravely. Herself a mere girl, she cheerfully gave up many of the pleasures of youth that she might more fully devote herself to the children committed to her care.

Under these circumstances [Henry Clay] Williams grew up until 1861 [in Quincy, Illinois], when he came to Topeka to live.

Note: Henry Clay Williams moved from Quincy, Illinois, to Topeka, Kansas, at the time newly-inaugurated President Abraham Lincoln appointed his father, Archibald Williams, to be the first United States District Court judge for Kansas.

[Henry Clay Williams] remained here [in Topeka] until 1863, when he returned to Quincy, and shortly after, though still a mere boy, enlisted as a private in the 137th Illinois infantry, his captain being Hon. J. B. Johnson, of [Topeka]. It is the unanimous testimony of all who served with him that he was an exceptionally good soldier. Brave, willing and cheerful, he shunned no danger and he shirked no duty.

At the time General [Nathan Bedford] Forrest made his raid on Memphis, Tennessee, in 1864, [Henry Clay Williams] was captured by that hard rider, and was compelled – hatless, shoeless, and almost naked – to keep up, on foot, with a cavalry force in full retreat, marching in 24 hours a distance of 72 miles. He was taken to a rebel prison at Cahaba, Alabama,

where I am glad to add, he was treated kindly and was as well taken care of as, under the circumstances, was possible.

Note: The Confederate prison at Cahaba, Alabama, was considered to have been more humane than the average Civil War prisoner of war camp, mainly due to the Methodist beliefs of the Confederate prison commander, Captain Howard A. M. Henderson. After the Civil War, Henderson, a Methodist minister, conducted the funeral service for Hannah Simpson Grant, the mother of Union Army General Ulysses S. Grant.

But the best of treatment in a rebel prison was hard to one delicately nurtured, and under the hardships of his life and the fatigues of his terrible march, his strength gave way and he acquired the dread disease that ultimately carried him to the grave.

After his exchange [in a prisoner exchange] – which was not affected until his regiment had been mustered out [of the Union Army] – he was honorably discharged and returned to Quincy, [Illinois]. He remained [in Quincy] until 1868, when he returned to [Topeka, Kansas].

In 1871, he married Miss Sadie Baker, by whom he had two children, both boys, one of whom sleeps by his side [at the cemetery]. The other, a bright boy of ten, and his widow are left to mourn his loss.

Shortly after coming [to Topeka], he began the study of law, and in time was admitted to the bar. His health was too poor for him to engage in active general practice, and he confined himself to practice in the probate court, becoming, I venture to say, as familiar with the law and practice of that court as any member of the [Topeka] bar [association].

It seems useless to speculate on the possibilities of the future to one doomed at the onset of life to a lingering death, and yet, making what allowance I can for the unconscious bias of affection, I give it as my opinion that he had one of the brightest legal minds I ever knew, and would have made a good lawyer had he been possessed of health. It [was] not to be! Disease had laid hold of him, and thenceforth his life was a long, brave, hopeless battle with death.

For a few years he ran as route agent [sorting mail on the railroad train] in the mail service between Kansas City and Denver, in the vain hope that the climate of Colorado might arrest his disease, and he continued his work as long as he had strength to lift a mailbag. At length he was absolutely compelled to desist, and for several years past he has been unable to do anything. For the last two years past he knew that his case was hopeless, and

when death came, [it] came as a gentle, kindly friend, to relieve him from his constant pain and give him rest.

His faults, like his virtues, were pronounced, and were in part due to his education and in part to inheritance. He was imperious, self-willed and impatient of contradiction, but his very faults begot corresponding virtues. He lived and died an honest man; his lofty scorn of mean men made him incapable of a mean action, and his dauntless spirit which disease and pain could neither bend nor weaken, met death without a tremor.

He was buried Monday in the Topeka cemetery. His two elder brothers [John Hamilton Williams and Archibald Llewellyn Williams], who had rocked him in his cradle, saw him laid in the grave.

Many men of this city for whom he did many kindly acts in other days, will join me in rejoicing that he is now free from suffering and in regretting that he was compelled to suffer at all. W."[97]

AN EDITORIAL COMMENT ON HIS LIFE:

The following essay on Henry Clay Williams was either part of a newspaper editorial or a newspaper column published in Topeka, Kansas, shortly after his death:

"In an evening paper last evening we notice that Henry Clay Williams died a week ago last Sunday. No notice has been handed into this newspaper, and we knew nothing of it until last evening. The death of a man so well known in Kansas as Clay Williams should not pass unnoticed.

The writer of this has known 'Clay' Williams, as he was generally called, as boy and man, since about 1862, and always as [a person who was] proud, intrepid, self-willed, and high-spirited. He held shame of all kinds, in man or woman, in politics or religion, in private or public life, in the utmost contempt. He had such an intense hatred of everything of the kind that he

[97] Letter to the Editor labeled "The Daily Capital, I. H. Hudson, Editor and Proprietor, The Late Henry C. Williams," hand-numbered page 591, no date, Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas. Because of the references to the early history of the Archibald Williams family of Quincy, Illinois, it is likely that Archibald Llewellyn Williams wrote this Letter to the Editor concerning the death of his brother, Henry Clay Williams.

never could bring himself to speak calmly of proceedings that savored of hypocrisy.

In other words, there was no such thing in his make-up as 'policy.' No matter how much a given course might affect his private interests, he would not be brought to favor it, if he did not believe in its justice.

As a boy in this city [Topeka, Kansas], the son of the Judge of the United States Court [in Kansas], he was noticed and often led into practices that were injurious to himself, but no one detested them more than he did, as soon as they were over.

He went into the [Union] army, was taken prisoner and suffered much, but was always brave and always did his duty. After he came back to Topeka he read law, but the disease contracted in the army – consumption – forced him into other business, and for a time he was a postal clerk in the service of the Post Office Department.

For the past two years he has been but a shadow, occasionally appearing upon the streets, and when he did he was the same jovial, good-natured bundle of contradictions that he always was. He stayed with us longer than many expected, but at last has gone where all must go. He leaves a widow and one child, having buried [another child] some five years ago.

We think he had but one relative in Topeka, his brother Hon. [Archibald Llewellyn] Williams."[98]

MENTIONED IN HIS BROTHER'S DIARY:

Henry Clay Williams's brother, Archibald Llewellyn Williams, kept a diary during the year 1871. The diary entries concerning Henry Clay Williams suggested that Archibald Llewellyn Williams cared for his brother, taking him traveling and listening to his complaints about his health. Here are some examples of diary entries:

July 14, 1871: Started for Kit Carson, [a town on the Kansas Pacific railroad in eastern Colorado], at 2:30 A.M., taking Henry with me as clerk.

[98] Unidentified newspaper article entitled "Henry Clay Williams," hand-lettered page 593, Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

July 16, 1871: Henry enjoyed the ride to Idaho Springs [in the mountains in Colorado] hugely.

July 18, 1871: Henry did not feel well as usual.[99]

[99] "Diary of Archibald L. Williams for 1871," Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.