

**THE ARCHIBALD WILLIAMS
FAMILY OF QUINCY, ILLINOIS**

BY

ROBERT D. LOEVY

2015

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

WALTON T. LOEVY

WILLIAMS FAMILY HISTORY

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PREFACE

Archibald Williams, along with a number of his brothers and sisters, moved to the Quincy, Illinois, area in 1829. For more than 130 years after his arrival, Archibald Williams and his descendants remained in and played a role in the political and social life of the Quincy community. This book is the story of their lives and accomplishments.

The most notable member of the Archibald Williams family was Archibald Williams himself. Elected to the Illinois state legislature in 1834, he met and became acquainted with fellow legislator Abraham Lincoln, a future President of the United States. The two men were close friends and political allies for the following three decades.

The first person to take an interest in the genealogy of the Archibald Williams family of western Illinois was James R. Williams, who lived in Des Plaines, Illinois, in the Chicago area. On March 1, 1964, he distributed to the family an essay entitled "Williams Family History and Genealogy." This excellent first effort listed the principal members and descendants of the Archibald Williams family and contained brief summaries of their lives.

At the same time, one of Archibald Williams's granddaughters, Martha Belle Williams Franklin, began systematically collecting and preserving newspaper articles, photographs, and other Archibald Williams family memorabilia. With the interest and assistance of Reverend Landry Genosky, a faculty member at Quincy University in Quincy, Illinois, these Archibald Williams family materials were organized and deposited in the "Archibald Williams File" at Brenner Library at Quincy University.

The photographs in this book are from the "Archibald Williams File" at Brenner Library at Quincy University or from the private collections of Walton Taylor Loevy and Robert D. Loevy.

I am particularly indebted to my brother, Walton Taylor Loevy, who encouraged me in this family history endeavor and accompanied me on research travels to Illinois and Kansas. Also helpful were Pat Tomczak at Brenner Library at Quincy University; Reg Ankrom and Jean Kay at the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County (Illinois); and Iris Nelson at the Quincy Public Library (Illinois).

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