

then went west, editing outspoken Republican newspapers in Kansas and Missouri. In 1863 AL appointed him surveyor-general of Kansas and Nebraska. (*NCAB*; William E. Connelley, "Daniel W. Wilder, the Father of Kansas History and Literature," *Collections of the Kansas State Historical Society* 16 [1923–25])

**WILSON, HENRY (1812–75)**

A Massachusetts politician who nourished a hatred of slavery, Wilson left the Whigs to help found the Free-Soil party in 1848. As a member of the American (Know-Nothing) party in 1854, he again led a revolt over an evasive stand on slavery. Wilson was elected in 1855 to the U.S. Senate, where he chaired its Committee on Military Affairs during the Civil War and constantly urged AL to proclaim emancipation. He was vice president of the United States under Ulysses S. Grant from 1873 to 1875, when he died in office. (*DAB*)

**WILSON, JOSEPH S.**

Wilson was commissioner of the General Land Office in 1860–61 and again in 1866–71, serving as chief clerk in the interim. (Vernon Carstensen, *The Public Lands: Studies in the History of the Public Domain* [Madison, Wis., 1963])

**WILSON, ROBERT L. (1805–80)**

Of Pennsylvania birth, Wilson graduated from Franklin College in Ohio and moved to Sangamon County, Illinois, in 1833. In 1836 he was elected from Sangamon County to the Illinois House of Representatives where, with AL, he was one of the celebrated "Long Nine" who successfully brought the Illinois capital to Springfield. In 1840 Wilson moved to Whiteside County, Illinois, where he was appointed clerk of the circuit court, a position he held for twenty years. During the Civil War he was appointed a paymaster by AL. (*The Biographical Record of Whiteside County, Ill.* [Chicago, 1900])

**WILSON, WILLIAM L.**

A William Wilson served in the Black Hawk War in a Schuyler County company that belonged to the same regiment as the company AL commanded. (Whitney)

**WINTERSMITH, ROBERT LAWRENCE (1816–90)**

A rare Kentucky Republican, Wintersmith was in the mercantile business in Elizabethtown and Louisville, as well as in New Albany, Indiana. (*BEK*; *WWWHC*)

**WOOD, WILLIAM (1784–1867)**

After migrating from Maryland by way of Kentucky, Wood settled in Indiana territory by 1812. As occupant of a farm a mile and a half north of the Lincoln farm, Wood was a relatively close neighbor. (*Spencer County Census*, 1850; Nila Michel Papers, cemetery inscriptions, Wood file, LBNM)