



# Camp Douglas News

Committed to the Preservation of Chicago History



Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation

Chicago, Illinois

Spring 2011

Volume 2, Issue 1

## Project Phases:

Awareness and Support:  
2010-2011

Site Location and Site  
Planning: 2011

Fund Raising: 2010-2012

Gallery Development: 2011

Construction: 2012

Opening: Winter 2012

## Fighting Slavery in Chicago

Thomas Campbell's comprehensive book on abolitionists, the laws of slavery and Lincoln is a must read for those interested in the history of the abolitionist movement in Chicago and Illinois from 1835 through the Civil War. His book *Fighting Slavery in Chicago*, AMP&Sand, Inc. Chicago, 2009 also provides an excellent summary of legal, political and social movements in the ante-bellum period that led to the Civil War,

Tom effectively traces the history of abolitionist movement, particularly in Illinois, along with the development of laws of slavery and the enforcement of slavery laws in the period leading up to the Civil War. He brings to light a number of little known facts about Abraham Lincoln including, Lincoln's legal representation of slave's rights as well as the rights of slave owners.

## Camp Douglas Restoration Project—Latest News

### DISCUSSIONS WITH THE OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH

The Foundation has opened discussions with the Olivet Baptist Church to pursue mutual objectives of the Foundation and the church. The church has agreed to participate in the archaeological investigation, now scheduled for 2012. The foundation and church are discussing possible locations for development of the interpretation and education centers.

Olivet Baptist Church, organized in 1850, is the oldest African American congregation in Chicago. The church played an important role during the Civil War and in the civil rights movement beginning in the 19th century. It was a major institution in the "Black Migration" of the early 20th century.

The church building was built in 1875 on the site of Prisoners Square of Camp Douglas.

Support from Olivet is a typical example of the positive acceptance of the Foundation's projects by the African American Community.

### SPONSOR OF BRONZEVILLE MEETING

On April 23 the Foundation sponsored a meeting in Bronzeville to discuss the goals of the foundation. Presentations were given by the Stephen A. Douglas Association, Bronzeville Community Development Partnership, the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Black Metropolis Convention and Tourism Council regarding the National Heritage Area.

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION RESCHEDULED

Due to the need of additional planning, the archaeological investigation, initially scheduled for the summer of 2011, has been rescheduled for the summer of 2012.

### FUNDING SOURCES NEEDED

The Foundation is pursuing sources for grants and funding to complete preliminary work for the development and construction of the educational and interpretive centers. Anyone with ideas or suggestions for fund raising or funding sources, please e-mail [pgrinstead@campdouglas.org](mailto:pgrinstead@campdouglas.org).

## Old Soldiers' Home Renovation

The Archdiocese of Chicago has effectively and lovingly renovated the Old Soldiers'



Original wall from 1863 building after renovation in 2008. Msgr. Hynes, Director shown in 2011 with original photos of the Old Soldiers' Home.



Soldiers' Home, 2011. Original building on left built 1863. Building on right added 1890. Currently "Cardinal Meyer Center"

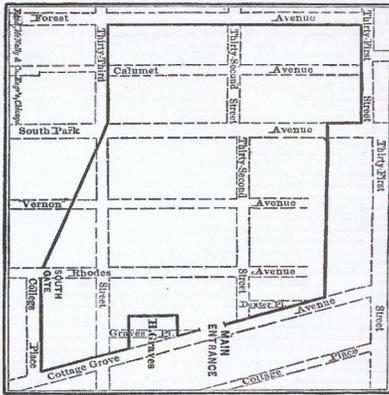
Home at 739 E. 35th St.

The facility now houses offices of 17 Archdiocese Agencies. Originally constructed in 1863 as

a hospital and convalescent home for Union soldiers, the building, which is the last remaining building in Chicago directly related to the Civil War, was designated a Chicago Landmark in 1966. After use as a convalescent home, the facility operated as an orphanage until the 1960's by the catholic church. Msgr. Richard Hynes was instrumental in the historic renovation. He, Cardinal George and the Archdiocese of Chicago are to be congratulated on a job well done.

Camp Douglas Restoration  
Foundation  
Chicago, Illinois  
www.campdouglas.org

David L. Keller, Managing Director  
1368 N. Mohawk 2S  
Chicago, IL 60610  
Tel: 312-751-1693  
Mobile: 312-859-1940



CAMP DOUGLAS, 1864-5.  
Map prepared by William Bross for a paper read before the  
Chicago Historical Society, June 18, 1878

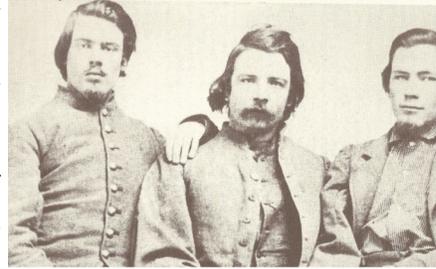
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## The Diaries of Robert Anderson Bagby

*Prisoner Camp Douglas 1863-1865*

Robert Bagby first entered Confederate service in Snider's Battalion, Missouri Cavalry in 1862. He was captured at Ft. Hindman, AK in January 1863. After being held in St. Louis, he arrived at Camp Douglas January 28, 1863.



Camp Douglas prisoners from Franklin, TN November 1864

was taking from 12 to 20 dead loads each day from the camp. This never shook my faith and I remained in good spirits and in good health."

The longest entry in the diaries discussed "taking the oath [of

His first impression of the camp was: "Soldiers very friendly" and "shared bread with prisoners," "could not ask for more generosity" Robert became a nurse in the prisoners hospital shortly after arriving and remained there until released at the end of the war.

His diary entries were made daily and usually began with a comment the welfare of the prison patients. These comments were followed by a summary of deaths from the previous night.

Interestingly, nearly every entry began "Sick doing well." There were no mentions of shortage of food, or medical treatment for the sick or the other prisoners.

On February 11, 1863 he wrote, "Most deaths were from pneumonia, it was enough to discourage the ...most considerate man to see so many deaths-To know the undertaker

allegiance]." "Some of the boys were taking advantage of this opportunity, I did not feel disposed to take it." He could not go home after taking the oath. "How could they have confidence in a man who would take the oath." He presented not signing it as a matter of honor. He indicated most who signed it knew their honor would be questioned.

The only mistreatment of prisoners was noted in January 13, 1865 when "2 shot by guards."

Note: Special thanks to Librarian Teresa Roane, Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond VA for her assistance in reviewing the diaries in the collection of the MOC. The Bagby diaries consisted of 10 of 50, 6" x 4" hand written booklets devoted to the Civil War period. Teresa indicated that the Civil War period of these diaries has not been studied until the visit by D. Keller in March 2011.

## Two Jonathan Bonds

Private Jonathan Bond, Co B, 4th Tennessee Regiment captured January 1, 1863 at the battle of Stone River/Murfreesboro arrived at Camp Douglas February 6, 1863.

Private Jonathan Bond, Co. F, 17th Texas Cavalry was captured January 11, 1863 at Fort Arkansas (Ft. Hindman) arriving, probably with Private Bagby (see story above) on January 28/30, 1863.

Jonathan Bond, 4th TN took the Oath of Allegiance March 30 1863 and was scheduled for exchange April 4. However, he died in the Camp Douglas hospital of pneumonia March 31, 1863 and is buried in the mass grave at Oak Woods Cemetery.

Jonathan Bond, 17th Texas also died in the hospital March 31, 1863 from "congested lungs." He too is buried in the mass grave at Oak Woods Cemetery. Because of the confusion of the two Jonathan Bond deaths, the 17th Texas Bond's name is not included on the bronze plaque at Oak Woods.

Did the two bonds ever meet? Did Robert Bagby administer to them in the hospital? We will

never know. One of the ironies of the Civil War.

Special thanks to Theodore Urbanski, Wellington CT for sharing this information with the Foundation

## Local Connection

Roselle, Illinois was named for Colonel Rosell M. Hough, commander of the guards at Camp Douglas, June-October 1862.

He along with Joseph Medill and S. Hayes went to Washington to ask A. Lincoln for relief from the 1865 draft quota only to receive the famous rebuke from Lincoln to accept their responsibility and recruit the 6,000 man quota.

Special thanks to Joan Beauprez, Roselle History Museum

Col. Benj. Sweet, Commander of Camp Douglas 1864-65, lived in Lombard from 1868 until his death. His daughters were instrumental in women's suffrage movement in Illinois.

Special thanks to Jeanne Angle, Lombard History Society

## Have Any Information?

Have any information connecting individuals or events to Camp Douglas? Let us know!

## Picture Gallery



Pennsylvania Poster- Mid-1863