



Camp Douglas News

Committed to the Preservation of Chicago History



Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation

Chicago, Illinois

Fall 2011

Volume 2, Issue 3

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

Return to Chicago & Camp Douglas

Before the war John B. Miller, later Captain John B. Miller, CSA, operated a soda fountain and saloon on Lake Street in Chicago. As his whiskey enterprises faltered, John skipped town after amassing substantial debts. He returned to Camp Douglas as a prisoner in February 1862. While he was in no position to repay his debts, his creditors were able to gloat over his confinement.

Among the prisoners in 1862 was a young lad who in 1857 went South to make his way in the world. His elderly mother located him at Camp Douglas sobbing "Oh, dear boy, you have been the subject of many prayers, and you are not past praying for yet." Prison authorities immediately initiated the release of the prodigal son.

From: *Rally 'Round the Flag, Chicago and the Civil War*. Theo. J. Karanski, Nelson Hall Publishing, Chicago, 1993

Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation—Latest News

ALDERMAN WILL BURNS SEEKS DRAPER AND KRAMER SUPPORT

Fourth Ward alderman Will Burns has opened discussions with Draper and Kramer which will hopefully lead to D & K's support of the archaeological investigation planned in 2012.

SCOTT DEMEL ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK
Scott Demel, Northern Michigan University, has conducted remote sensing on the SE corner of the site. He is making permit application to the City of Chicago for a confirming excavation. We are in contact with Professor Demel and hope to add him to our archaeological team.

MARY SURRATT RE-TRIAL RESULTS

The retrial was held on September 23, 2011 in the Pritzker Auditorium at Chicago's Harold Washington Library sponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum.

Judge James B Zagel, United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois, presiding. After sharp examination of Mrs. Surratt by Karen Conti, for the defense, and stinging cross examination by Dan Webb, for the prosecution, Ed Genson's impassioned closing argument on behalf of Mary countered the demands for retribution by Michael Monico for the State. Broadcast journalist Bill Kurtis managed the voting from the audience/jury finding Mary Surratt not-guilty by a vote of nearly 4 to 1.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLES

The Foundation has received financial support from the Chicago Civil War Round Table and the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table.

We are extremely grateful for these generous donations for the work of the Foundation.

CAMP DOUGLAS RESTORATION FOUNDATION PIN NOW AVAILABLE

Order your commemorative Camp Douglas Foundation Pin for only \$4.00 at www.Campdouglas.org.



SOMETHING NEW...VIRTUAL CAMP DOUGLAS

With the inspiration of www.vbi.lakeforest.edu and the assistance of Davis Schneiderman of Lake Forest College, we are developing a project that will lead to a virtual Camp Douglas that can be overlaid on Google Maps®. Adding video, photos and other visual aids, virtual Camp Douglas can be an important educational tool for the foundation. Watch for future up dates.

More About Colonel James Mulligan

Col. James Mulligan's, 23rd Illinois "Irish" Regiment was patrolled at Harpers Ferry by Stonewall Jackson. Col Mulligan became the Camp Douglas commander when the first Confederate prisoners arrived in February 1862.

Mulligan, not known for his record keeping (\$1,450 of the Prisoner's Funds were missing after his unit returned to the war), was faced with the daunting task of managing over 7,000 prisoners who were sent to Camp Douglas. Neither the War Department nor Camp Douglas was prepared for the task. He managed the prison compound, added security, and rallied medical support, including local



Col. James A. Mulligan, Camp Douglas Commander
Feb-Sept 1862

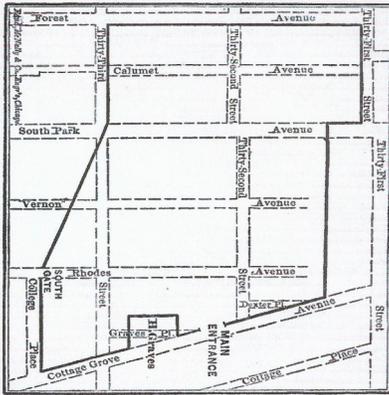
doctors, for the sick and injured. While allowing civilian access to the prison, Col. Mulligan was unable to adequately control escapes and sanitary conditions remained well below acceptable standards during his tenure. Col. Mulligan was not the most competent prison commander; but, he was in no way a tyrant. He did the best he could for the prisoners, under the circumstances.

Col. Mulligan and the 23rd returned to the war in June 1862. Col. Mulligan was killed in action July 1864 in the Shenandoah Valley.

He is interred in Calvary Cemetery, Evanston, IL.

Camp Douglas Restoration
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CAMP DOUGLAS, 1864-5.

Map prepared by William Bross for a paper read before the Chicago Historical Society, June 18, 1878

*A Chicago Story that
Needs to be Told*

Join us at:
www.campdouglas.org

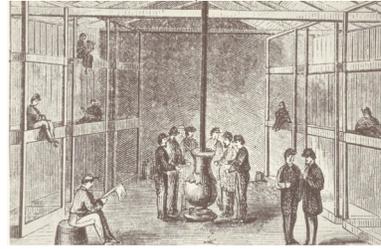
*Camp Douglas... Why Forgotten then?... Why should it be
Remembered Now?*

Camp Douglas operated from September 1861 until it was completely razed by December 1865. Over 25,000 union soldiers were received and trained there and approximately 30,000 Confederate prisoners were housed there.

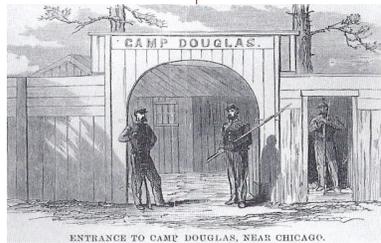
Camp Douglas was the single most important and prominent physical reminder of the Civil War. Yet, in 1865 it was forgotten. Today no meaningful remembrance of the Camp remains.

Why was it forgotten? Why do so few Chicagoans even know of its existence?

From 1865 until today history has played an evil trick on the memory of Camp Douglas and those who served and were incarcerated there. Initially the devastation of the Civil War was to be relegated to the battlefields of the South. Best forgotten in the North. The unforgivable loss of life in the Camp and the image of the "Andersonville of the North" was a source of shame in Chicago and perhaps, a source of potential retribution...best forgotten. As Chicago became the fastest growing city in the world the insatiable need for land for expansion left no room for memorials to the camp. Then the great Chicago fire of 1871



Camp Douglas Interior Etching-1864



ENTRANCE TO CAMP DOUGLAS, NEAR CHICAGO.

demanding all of the city's energy to rebuilding for the future, not the past. As the increasing need for housing and the impact of the black migration and two World Wars left their mark on Chicago and Bronzeville, there was no room for Camp Douglas to be remembered.

Today as we enter the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, it is proper that we remember our past and tell the story of Camp Douglas for all time. As a part of the history of Chicago and Bronzeville, future generations of Americans and Chicagoans need a permanent place to

reflect on the past and interpret the history of Camp Douglas, the Civil War, and the contribution of African Americans to the Civil War.

The Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation is dedicated to leading the way to telling this story that must be told. The foundation is "Committed to the Preservation of Chicago History"

Help us develop the interpretive and educational facilities on the site of Camp Douglas. For more information see www.campdouglas.org.

Medical Dates of Significance

Medical treatment in the Civil War and at Camp Douglas was at best rudimentary. However, it is important to place this treatment in context with the history of medicine.

Anesthetics were used during the war. The South used ether (first used in 1842). Ether unfortunately was highly flammable! The North preferred chloroform, around since the 1830's. Even with the availability of these two compounds, amputation was often done with little or no anesthetics and no sanitary precautions.

Well after the war, in the late 19th century, with the development of the controversial germ theory by Louis Pasteur and its subsequent application to surgical sterility by Joseph Lister, surgeons were able to operate with a substantially reduced risk of infection. Lister began applying carbolic acid to compound fracture wounds, and the mortality rate from amputation plummeted from 45 to 15%.

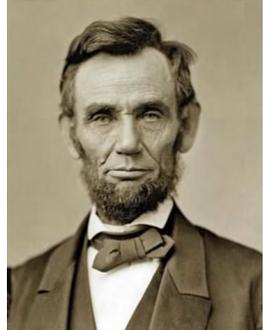
The process of smallpox vaccination was discovered by Edward Jenner in 1796. Used widely in the Civil War infection from the vaccination was often worse than the prevention of smallpox.

The Civil War occurred just before the age of medical enlightenment.

Lincoln Quiz

Following are seven quotes from A. Lincoln during the Civil War. Can you guess when he said it, to or about whom and the circumstances. (answers below)

1. "The hen is the wisest of all animals in creation, because she never cackles until the egg is laid."
2. "It is called the Army of the Potomac but it is only _____'s bodyguard."
3. "I can't spare this man, He fights."
4. "...like an ox jumped half over a fence and is liable to be torn by dogs, front and rear, without a fair chance to gore one way or kick the other."
5. "Your military skill is useless to me, if you do not do this."
6. "The fat is all in the fire now and we shall have to crow small..."
7. "The people are impatient; Chase has no money and he tells me he can raise no more; the General of the Army has typhoid fever. The bottom is out of the tub. What shall I do?"



Your Score:
7- Lincoln Scholar
5-6- You know the Civil War
3-4- Good but, read more
1-2- Get with it
0- Try another war

Answers:
1 1863-Referring to Joseph Hooker's over confidence
2 1862-George McClelland after Battle of Antietam
3 1863-Of U.S. Grant after complaints of his drinking at Shiloh
4 June 1863-To Joseph Hooker when Hooker suggested crossing the Rappahannock River
5 January 1863-To Henry Halleck in Lincoln's request that he visit Gen Burnside.
Halleck did not make the visit.
6 1862-Letter to Mary Lincoln of the first battle of Bull Run
7 January 1862-Quote while visiting Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs

Medical Dates of Significance