



Camp Douglas News

Committed to the Preservation of Chicago History



Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation

Chicago, Illinois

Fall 2012

Volume 3, Issue 3

Project Phases:

Awareness and Support:
2010-2013

Site Location and Site
Planning: 2012

Archaeological
Investigation: 2012-2013

Virtual Chicago: 2013

Construction: 2013-14

Correction

In the Summer 2012 *Camp Douglas News* the 54th Massachusetts Regiment was referred to as U.S. Colored Troops. The 54th was formed before the U.S. Colored Troops were authorized.

Unlike many state regiments that were converted to U. S. Colored Troops the 54th remained a Massachusetts regiment throughout its existence.

We apologize for the error.

Artifacts Follow Up

Scott Demel and students from Northern Michigan University have begun the task of cleaning and cataloging artifacts found during the Camp Douglas archaeological excavation this summer.

Students from Loyola University of Chicago will then assist Dr. Demel in final identification and interpretation of the material.

It is unknown if any of the artifacts will relate directly to Camp Douglas. Most of the material was found at what was considered the 1900 level of the excavation.

Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation—Latest News

Virtual Camp Douglas Begins to Take Shape

Beginning with the fall semester at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), students from IPRO started work on the creation of Virtual Camp Douglas. The three semester program will engage students from a variety of academic disciplines in the creation of the 3D computer model of the camp.

Supported by Jim Damato, AIA, Principal of zpd+a architectural firm and Josh Anderson, Chicago History Museum, 14 students began the project in August. IIT's Laura Batson, Ph.D. is leading students majoring in architecture, engineering, computer science, information technology and psychology in the three part program.

Part one includes modeling the camp using Sketchup. Part two will develop a website and work on the final "look" of the program. Part three is researching and preparing story boards

and scripts for videos and text that will accompany the program.

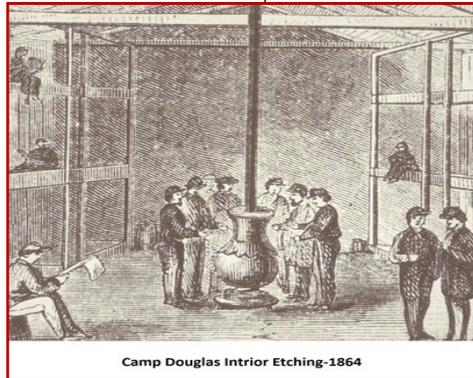
2013 Archaeological Investigation

The Foundation continues to negotiate with the Chicago Public Schools and Olivet Baptist Church to conduct additional investigations in 2013. It is anticipated that non-invasive work will be done yet this fall or early next spring with excavation planned for the Summer of 2013.

Additions to the Board of Directors

The Foundation is eager to add to its Board of Directors. Of special interest are individuals with background or experience in fund raising, use of social media, grant writing and volunteer coordination.

Anyone interested in being considered for the board should contact David Keller, Managing Director at dkeller@campdouglas.org and send a resume to the Foundation at 1368 N. Mohawk, Chicago, IL 60610



Camp Douglas Interior Etching-1864

Camp Douglas Photographer

Recently the Foundation obtained two photos taken by Daniel F. Brandon at Camp Douglas. Mr. Brandon came to Chicago from Pennsylvania and in 1861 opened a photographic studio on Cottage Grove near the camp.

In 1862 he opened a studio in Garrison Square of the camp and in early 1864 he opened another studio in Prisoners Square.

General William Orme, commander of the Camp (December 1863 to April 1864) banished Brandon from the Camp when prisoners were thought to be employed by him. Orme later relented. Col Hoffman, U. S. Commissioner General of Prisoners, banned Brandon and others as luxuries. Brandon continued to

come into Prisoners Square and photograph prisoners.

After the war Brandon moved his studio downtown. This studio and most of his work was destroyed in the great Chicago fire of 1871.

The top photo, acquired by the Foundation, appears to be of a soldier, since he is wearing a military vest under a civilian coat. The lower is of an unknown civilian. The reverse of each photograph carried the inscription D. F. Brandon, Photographer, Camp Douglas, Ill.

The foundation is interested in obtaining additional Camp Douglas photographs and original written material including diaries, letters and military records. Those with information contact us at www.campdouglas.org.



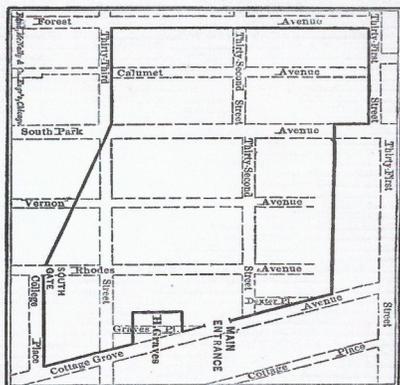
D. F. Brandon Photographer
Camp Douglas



Daniel F. Brandon Photographer
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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

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The Great Conspiracy of 1864

The Sons of Liberty, bushwackers and guerillas reportedly led by Captain Thomas H. Hines, CSA (Right) began a conspiracy to free the prisoners at Camp Douglas, raze Chicago, then move to release prisoners at the Rock Island prison. The action was to begin during the postponed Democratic Convention held in Chicago August 29, 1864.

The planned assault never took place. Charles Walsh, alleged leader of the Sons of Liberty, was to provide "many thousands" of soldiers for the assault. He could provide only 25. Additional support promised from local Copperheads and other conspirators never materialized. Captain Hines, John Castleman, his second in command, and British soldier of fortune Col George St. Leger Grenfell (lower left) realized the assault was not possible. Hines and Castleman return to Canada while Grenfell remained in Chicago.



COL. G. ST. LEGER GRENFELL,
Hero of the "Black Flag," Chicago Conspirator.

The conspiracy was over before it began.

Many at the time, and historians today, question if there ever was a conspiracy. Some believe the conspiracy existed only in the mind of camp commander Col. Benjamin Sweet and the wishful thinking of the Confederacy.

Col Sweet was not to

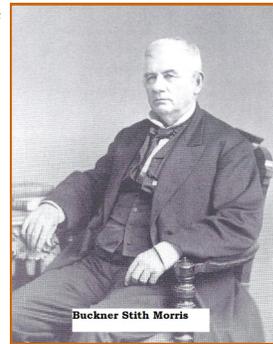


Captain Thomas H. Hines, CSA. (Image courtesy of The Illinois Club.)

be deterred by the inaction of the conspirators. He had recruited a convicted felon and prisoner at Camp Douglas, John T. Shanks, to join the conspirators in Chicago as an escaped prisoner. It is hard to believe than Hines and the others accepted Shanks into their confidence. Col Sweet continued warnings of the conspiracy in November 1864. On November 6 he warned General John Cook, Commander, Military District of Illinois, in Springfield "the City is filling up with characters...plotting to release the prisoners of war at Camp Douglas."

Sweet then conducted a raid on November 6 & 7, 1864 arresting Walsh, Grenfell and several other Shanks' identified conspirators including Judge Buckner S. Morris (lower right) former Chicago mayor and Southern sympathizers.

A trial was held in Cincinnati where Grinfell was sentenced to death (he later escaped from prison), Morris was found not guilty but his wife Mary was banished to Kentucky. Others convicted, including Walsh, received sentences up to five years.



Buckner Stith Morris

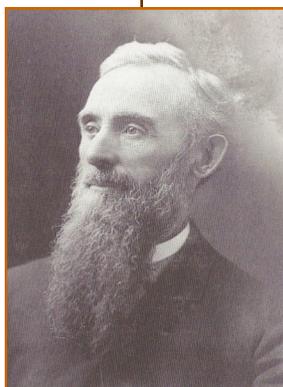
Travels of the Dead Prisoners at Camp Douglas

The total death toll at Camp Douglas is somewhere between the 4,243 names contained on the monument at the Confederate Mound in Oak Woods Cemetery and 7,000 reported by some historians. The exact number has never been established thanks to poor record keeping by both the Union and Confederate armies and the actions of those who cared for the bodies after death.

C. H. Jordan, a longstanding and respected Chicago funeral director, had an oral agreement with Camp Douglas to remove and inter prisoners who died at Camp Douglas at a cost of \$4.75 each. The bodies were to be buried in the City Cemetery, located at what is now the southern end of Lincoln Park. The \$4.75 included removing, interring and furnishing the coffin. His costs were about \$1.00 to \$1.50 for a burial plot plus less than \$1.00 for the coffin.

In addition to the burials in the City Cemetery, Jordan managed the shipment of nearly 150 bodies to relatives in the south. Exact numbers of deaths become confused by these shipments plus the movement of up to 655 bodies from graves at the smallpox hospital at Camp Douglas. Add to this grave robbing for medical purposes that was common during the period and no one knows how many bodies were buried. One thing for certain, those interred from Camp Douglas were located in Potters Field which was subject to flooding and blowing of sand over the grave markers.

3,384 bodies were said to be interred in potters Field. Based on



C. H. Jordan, Undertaker. Received \$4.75 per body to bury Camp Douglas prisoners mostly in the City Cemetery, now Lincoln Park

inventories and documents of the time up to 50% of the prisoners who died by April 1863 vanished. It was reported that bodies were washed into Lake Michigan and often found at the water intake "cribs".

In January 1867, the army agreed to remove remains from the city cemetery. Most cemeteries in the city, including Rosehill and Graceland, that accepted Union soldiers bodies refused to accept Confederate remains. Oak Woods Cemetery agreed to bury the Confederate remains for \$3.00 including \$2.00 for the grave site and \$1.00 for the burial. This did not include disinterment. The removal of bodies from City Cemetery was contracted to M. O. O'Sullivan for \$1.98 each, including a coffin. City Cemetery reported 3,384 bodies were removed with only 40 bodies missing.

The move to Oak Woods took place between April 13, 1867 and April 30. O'Sullivan was paid based on 3,384 bodies. Oak Woods never confirmed the number of coffins received. Ultimately the Union Quartermaster reported 4,039 Confederates (3,384 from City Cemetery and 655 from the Camp Douglas smallpox hospital) and 12 Union soldiers were at Oak Woods. Reconciliation with the 4,243 names on the Confederate Monument has never been done. The total number of bodies buried, shipped or lost in Chicago will probably never be known.

Even with the poor record keeping, it is acknowledged that more Confederate soldiers are buried in Chicago than anywhere north of the Mason-Dixon line.