



Camp Douglas News

Committed to the Preservation of Chicago History



Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation

Chicago, Illinois

Summer 2013

Volume 4, Issue 2

Project Phases:

Awareness and Support:
2010-2014

Site Location and Site
Planning: 2012-2014

Archaeological Investigation:
2012-2013

Virtual Camp Douglas: 2013

Construction: 2013-2014

Civil War Bits & Pieces

Lincoln's Assignment & Prisoners of War

The initial plan of John Wilkes Booth was to abduct President Lincoln and spirit him off to Richmond to be delivered to Jefferson Davis.

Samuel Arnold, early conspirator with John Wilkes Booth recalled that the whole point of capturing Lincoln was to force the resumption of prisoner exchange.

In early 1865 Booth actively worked on this plan even though Grant, in January 1865 had resumed the exchange.

From: Michael Kauffman, *American Brutus*, Random House, New York, 2005

Stanton Cuts Prison Rations

In May 1864 the Confederate government released sick and injured prisoners without exchange. This "goodwill" gesture backfired when Secretary of War Stanton accused the Confederacy of a system of "savage and barbarous treatment and starvation." Stanton issued an order to cut rations of Confederate prisoners in retaliation.

Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation—Latest News

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION-2013

With approval of the Chicago Public Schools, noninvasive investigation will be done June 27 and June 28 at Pershing West School (32nd and Calumet) and the former Griffin Funeral Home (3232 S. King Drive). Work will be done by Dan Joyce of the Kenosha Civil War Museum using ground penetrating radar.

Excavations, likely later in the fall, will be scheduled based on the results of the noninvasive work

WEB SITE UPDATE

Www.campdouglas.org has been upgraded to include a "Store" tab where Foundation items can be purchased featuring the unique CDRF pin, the diary and print discussed below. In addition, an "Information" tab is now available that contains various reports and

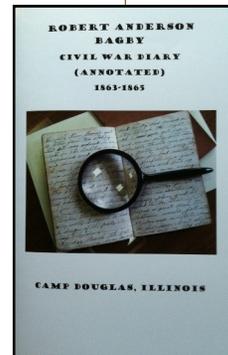


Camp Douglas, Chicago, Illinois
From Albert E. Meyer oil on canvas, 1865
Courtesy, Chicago History Museum

presentations. Archive of the Newsletter has been added to this tab to allow more current information to be placed on the home page of the web site.

PUBLICATION OF BAGBY DIARY

The Foundation has published the *Robert Anderson Bagby Civil War Diary (Annotated)*, shown left, below. The Diary contains Bagby's entries while he was a prisoner at Camp Douglas and is available for purchase on the web site for \$10.00, plus shipping and handling.



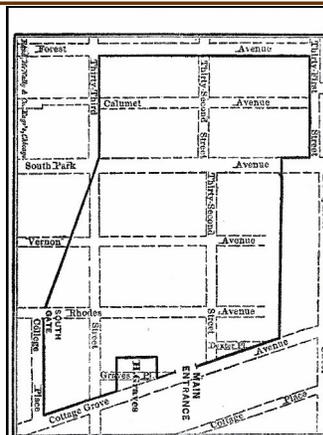
ALBERT MEYER REPRINT

With the cooperation of the Chicago History Museum, the Foundation has reproduced the Private Albert E. Meyer, oil on canvas rendering of Camp Douglas. (shown above) This 19 inch by 11 inch quality print is available for purchase on the web site for \$15.00, plus shipping and handling.

135 Year Mystery Solved!

As reported in earlier newsletters, the Foundation has been working with Illinois Institute of Technology to create Virtual Camp Douglas.

A major part of this project was the creation of a computerized, 3D model of the Camp to be placed on existing Google Maps. The IPRO program at IIT has been working for two semesters on this project. Under the guidance of architect Jim Damato, AIS, zpd+a Architects, students have completed modeling the camp using photos, drawings, maps and personal descriptions of camp features. The final map was displayed at "IPRO Day" on the IIT campus April 26, 2013.



CAMP DOUGLAS, 1864-5.

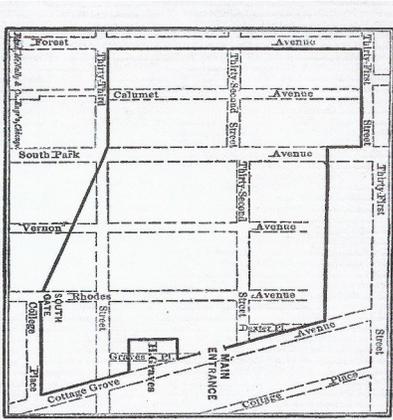
Map prepared by William Bross for a paper read before the Chicago Historical Society, June 18, 1878

On May 9, 2013, these results were presented to the Historic Resources Committee, American Institute of Architects (AIA), Chicago Chapter. Both Jim Damato and those attending are in agreement that the western boundary is Giles Avenue as reported by William Bross in 1878.

This resolves a controversy that has existed for 135 years. Many have supported the opinion that Martin Luther King Drive (South Park in the Bross Map to the left) was the western boundary. The IIT work clearly shows that, using the eastern boundary of Cottage Grove Avenue, the western boundary is at Giles Avenue.

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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 Must
to be Told*

Join us at:
www.campdouglas.org

Future Events

Representatives from the Foundation
will be at the following events:

August 15 -South Chicago
Archaeological Society

October 16-Illinois State University-
Seniors

November 14-Des Plaines History Center

December 7-8-Middle Tennessee Civil
War Show, Franklin, TN.

Kenosha Civil War Museum

A hidden gem just across the Illinois
boarder in Wisconsin is the Kenosha
Civil War Museum. This extensive facility
features the upper Mid-west before,
during, and after the Civil War.

While the exploits of upper mid-west
units, such as the storied Iron Brigade
are highlighted, you will find an insight
into life in the towns and rural areas of
Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa,
Minnesota, and the Indian Territory
from the 1840's to the 1860's.

Don't miss a chance to visit!

www.thecivilwarmuseum.org

Recollections-Letters, Diaries and Journals

Editor's Note: This section is devoted to letters, diaries and journals of Civil War veterans. Often considered the best source of contemporaneous information on the war, readers must be cautioned that this material represents individual experiences and feelings. Letters often reflected what the writer thought recipient wanted to hear. In addition, many of the journals were written well after the war and include the frailties of age and time. Grammatical and spelling errors have not been corrected in quotes

The Robert Anderson Bagby Diary covers the period from January 1863 until January 1865 and has been transcribed and published by the Foundation

Robert Bagby, 1st NE Missouri Cavalry. Was a hospital orderly in prisoners hospital.

Upon arrival in Chicago, Bagby included the following in his January 27, 1863 diary entry.

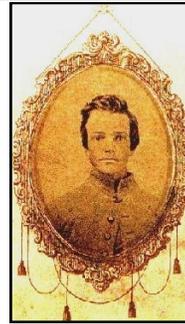
"Before we got out of the cars many had crammed around the cars and one fellow remarked that the prisoners all should be hung. He had no more than said it until some Irishman had knocked him down. There liked to be a general riot. Finally we finally were marched out to Camp Douglas which on or near Lake Michigan shore. There were at least 170 or 180 prisoners of us. I was very much pleased with the prospects here."

William H. Adams, Prisoner Camp Douglas July 1863 until 1865

June 19th, 1864

Camp Douglas, Ill.

Dear Father,
I rec your kind letter of the 9th & 10th but could not answer them until now. I also recd half of sisters of the 1st and recd the box of eatibles on Monday for which I am very thankful. I got permission to visit the hospital on Sunday, the day after you were to see him last. It is unnecessary for me to say anything about his condition then, he is



Cpl. William Henry Adams
Photo taken at Camp Douglas

about like you left him he is sinking slowly. he dont seem to suffer mutch but is very weak. It seems very hard for such a boy as George to be compelled to suffer so long. He is not imprisoned but is afflicted with a lingering disease without I might say a friend to comfort him. I think that he has more symphatysers in prison than any boy that has ever been in hear nearly every one knows him and are always inquiring of his welfare. I could not have the pictures taken in time for you but will send one in this letter. I suppose you will recognise all of the faces except Mon Merritt (Dr. M son).

Give my love to all.

Your affectionate son

Wm. H. Adams
Co. G 3rd Ky Cav.

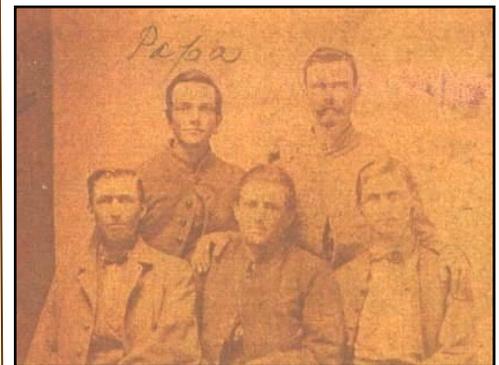
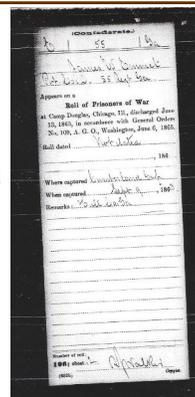


Photo that accompanied Adam's letter

Seeking Support for a Special Project

The National Archives has an extensive collection of Camp Douglas records and information. Some of this, including camp rosters, has been digitized by ancestry.com. However, the individual information is difficult to read and data on the rosters can not be sorted. Rosters are alphabetical by unit. However, navigating the records is difficult and time consuming.

Photos of the 4, 243 names contained on tablets at Oak Woods Cemetery are available on line. Like the rosters, this information is difficult to read and provides no cross references.



The Foundation intends to create a data base from the ancestry.com and Oak Woods records that can be accessed by name, unit, date of capture, place of capture, etc. This data base could then be used by the Foundation or be made available to interested individuals.

With funding of approximately \$10,000 a data base consisting of all rosters on ancestry.com and the Oak Woods names could be created. Funds would be used to develop the data base and to fund individuals to input data from the primary sources.

Help in obtaining this funding would be appreciated.