



Camp Douglas News

Committed to the Preservation of Chicago History



Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation

Chicago, Illinois

Fall 2014

Volume 5, Issue 3

Project Phases:

Awareness and Support:
2010-2014

Site Location and Site
Planning: 2012-2014

Archaeological Investigation:
2012-2013-2014

Virtual Camp Douglas: 2014

Construction: 2015-2016

Excellent New Book

Theodore Karamanski and Eileen McMahon have edited an excellent new book on Chicago and the Civil War. *Civil Chicago-Eyewitness to History*, Ohio University Press, 2014, offers an outstanding look at Chicago's background, politics, and those who led and influenced the city and nation during the war.

Ted and Eileen provide historic information and eyewitness accounts that shaped Chicago.

Included is an excellent section on Camp Douglas.

Ted's book, *Rally 'Round the Flag-Chicago & the Civil War*, Rowman & Littlefield, 2006, is another excellent book on the subject.

Support CDRF

Don't miss the Camp Douglas items that are for sale on www.Campdouglas.org.

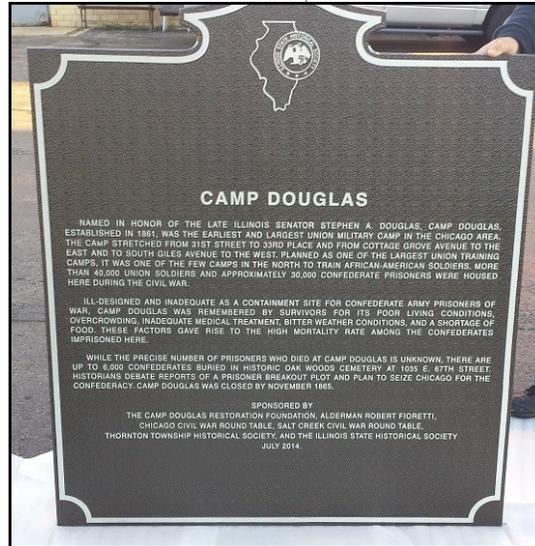
Purchase of these items supports the efforts of the Foundation.

SHOP TODAY!

Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation—Latest News

Historic Marker

The historic marker (right) has been placed on King Drive near 33rd Street and the former Griffin Funeral Home A date for the dedication of the marker will be announced soon.



Archaeological Excavation Announced

The third excavation at John J. Pershing Magnet School, 3200 S. Calumet Avenue, is scheduled October 16-21. This excavation will focus on an area identified

in the spring 2014 investigation and will be led by De Paul University's Dr. Michael Gregory

2014 IPRO

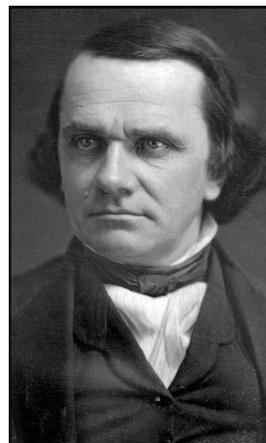
The foundation will again work with the IPRO program of the Illinois Institute of Chicago to complete the Virtual Camp Douglas Project started in 2012. The project should be completed by year end.

New Camp Douglas Book

History Press is scheduled to publish *Camp Douglas-A View from Within* (Working title) by David L. Keller the first quarter of 2105.

Stephen A. Douglas and Camp Douglas

Without question, Camp Douglas was named in honor of Stephen A. Douglas (1813-1861). The favorite Democratic son of Chicago and Illinois served in the US Senate from 1847 to 1861. He was most renowned for his "popular sovereignty" stand and the Lincoln/Douglas debates.



Following the attack on Fort Sumter, Douglas gave his famous speech supporting the Union and Lincoln's call to arms. After voicing his support for the war effort he said, "There can be but two sides to the question. Every man must be for the United States or against it. There can be no neutrals in this war, only patriots and traitors."

After Douglas' death, June 3, 1861, and the creation of the military camp in September, Senator Douglas' name has forever been associated with this infamous facility.

A common misconception is that a majority of

Camp Douglas was built on land provided by the estate of Stephen Douglas. In fact, a majority of the land was provided by Henry Graves and others.

In October 1865, Obadiah Jackson, Jr., attorney representing the estate of Stephen Douglas, requested compensation for approximately 33 acres of Douglas land used in the camp.

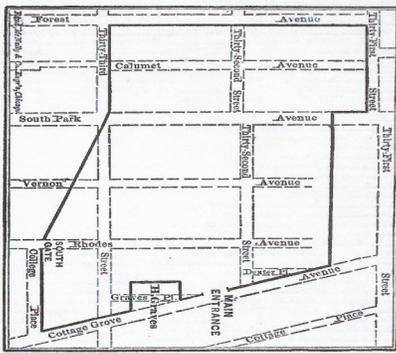
In March 1866, Major General Meigs, Quartermaster General, US Army, based on reports from the Depot Quartermaster of Chicago, determined that five acres

consisting of the Small Pox Hospital, was on Camp Douglas, proper. 24.98 acres were south of Camp Douglas but used by Union troops between March 1862 and December 1863 with a portion occupied by Union troops from September 1860 until August 1862.

In May 1866 \$4,246.23 was ordered paid to the estate.

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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
Be Told*

Join us at:
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The Priscner Vidette

Prisoner Vidette newspaper was published by Morgan's Raiders in Camp Douglas in March 1864. The only known copy of the *Vidette* is in the collection of Chicago's Harold Washington Public Library.

Want Ads

The following ads appeared in the *Prisoners Vidette*:

The Greatest Wonder of the Age
Prof. Curds
Magic Hindoo Soap
This soap is good for all the eruptions of the skin, tans, and freckles. Will take the paint off ladies cheeks take the grease out of their hair and make an ugly woman pretty.

Soldier Friend
Boyd's Pills
And OINTMENT
The cry rings throughout the land
Peace Peace
Boyd's Pills
No Humbug

Wanted	A Safe	Wanted
	Conduct out of	
	Camp Douglas	
	Any price will be paid	
	for the secret	
		Rebel

Recollections-Letters, Diaries and Journals

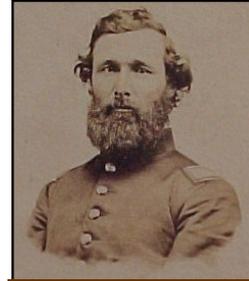
In September 1862, after capture at Harpers Ferry, VA, the 9th Vermont Infantry along with the 60th Ohio, 32d Ohio, 65th Illinois, 31st, 111th, 115th, 125th, 126th New York, and artillery units from the 1st Independent Indiana Battery, 15th Indiana Battery, 19th Ohio Battery, 5th New York Battery, and Phillips' Chicago Battery were paroled to Camp Douglas. Approximately 8,000 soldiers including 1,000 from Illinois were housed at Camp Douglas until their exchange in November. The 9th Vermont was the only of these units to remain at Camp Douglas after exchange as guards.

9th Vermont Infantry

Copies of six photos of soldiers from the 9th Vermont, including James Bolton and James Gorham (right and below), have been provided to the Foundation by collector John Gibson and Ron Coddington, Editor, *MI Magazine*. These photos were taken by D. F. Brandon, photographer at Camp Douglas. (See Brandon article in *Camp Douglas News*, Fall 2012)

Unfortunately, the timing of the parole of the troops from Harpers Ferry so soon after the conclusion of Dix-Hill Cartel provisions were announced caused confusion in the administration of the provisions. The paroled soldiers knew nothing of the Cartel until the terms were published in the *Chicago Tribune*. Many of the paroled soldiers believed that through parole they were removed from any US military authority. Brig. Gen. Tyler, commander, and the staff of Camp Douglas, on the other hand, expected the soldiers to act in a military manner, respect military authority, and follow all military orders.

During the stay there were many incidents with these Union troops until their exchange. Court Martials were called for "mutinous soldiers" from the 9th Vermont, and 125th



James Bolton Co Gyth



James Gorham Co Hyth

New York including disobedience of orders, contempt of officers, assaulting officers, selling whiskey rations, tearing down enclosures, and barracks burning. Barracks of the paroled soldiers were burned on three separate occasions in October.

William L. Brown, Chicago Mercantile Battery, in a letter to his father, September 29, 1862 commented, "The paroled men from Harpers Ferry are nearly all here and a harder looking set of customers I never saw. Ragged, dirty and nasty with few exceptions and most of them have only been in the field about five weeks. I talked to several smart fellows and they say they are treated like dogs."

All paroled troops were exchanged and removed from Camp Douglas by November 1862. Only the 9th Vermont was to remain at Camp Douglas as guards until April 1863.

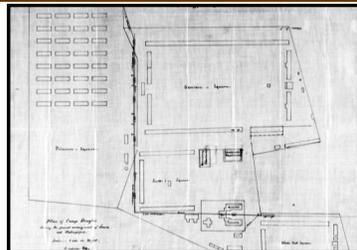
The city of Chicago and administration of the camp were glad to see these Union troops leave. The paroled Union soldiers created more ill will and caused substantially more damage to government property than all of the Confederate prisoners who were housed at Camp Douglas.

The 9th Vermont performed their guard duties without any significant incidents after

Camp Douglas Lease

In the fall of 1861 the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago entered into a lease for "All that certain piece as parcel of land in or near the City of Chicago containing sixty acres more or less and formerly occupied as United States Fair Grounds and now enclosed by a high board fence." Interestingly, the land was outside the city limits and not owned by the city. The southern city limit was 31st Street until February 13, 1863 when the area to 39th Street was annexed.

A significant provision of the lease was that the city would provide a water line to the camp and "at all times sufficient water for the accommodation of all troops and horses as shall from time to time encamped therein."



The lease also required that the city "will at all times cause to be transported and conveyed free of charge upon the Horse Railway running past said land all troops, agents and employees having passes from the commandant of the said camp that may be located in or connected with the camp." How this was to be handled with Franklin-Parmalee, the private owner of the "Horse Railway," is unknown.

The State agreed "at the expiration of the lease mentioned in said agreement that he will deliver up the land and premises buildings and fences thereon situated in as good condition as the same now and reasonable use expected..."

Except for providing water, the basis for involving the City of Chicago is questionable.