

# SPECIAL EDITION

## Camp Douglas News



*Committed to the Preservation of Chicago History*

Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation

[www.campdouglas.org](http://www.campdouglas.org)

Chicago, Illinois

**April 9, 2015**

### *Camp Douglas Bell*



### *Surrender Table*



The Chapel bell from Camp Douglas and table on which General Robert E. Lee signed the surrender at Appomattox are currently on display in the Chicago History Museum's exhibit "The Secret Lives of Objects."

The bell has been in the museum's collection for nearly ninety years.

The table was acquired as a part of the Gunther Collection in the 1920's

### *National Park Service--Bells Across the Land*

On April 9, 2015 the Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation along with the Chicago History Museum participated in the National Park Service Bells Across the Land commemorating the surrender of Robert E. Lee at Appomattox Court House.

David Keller, CDRF Managing Director (speaking); CHM Executive Vice President and Chief Historian, Russell Lewis (left) and President, CHM President Gary Johnson (right) led the program that included ringing the Camp Douglas chapel bell four times beginning at 2:15 (CDT). Each ringing, by descendants of



prisoners or Union soldiers at Camp Douglas, represented one year of the war and was accompanied by a brief description of each year by Kevin Naughton and David Corbett, in blue and gray Civil War uniforms.

The program concluded with a reception at the museum and book signing by CDRF Managing Director, David Keller.

Chicago Catholic Archdiocese and Chicago Public Schools also participated in the ceremonial ringing of bells at the appointed time.

### *The Camp Douglas Chapel Bell*

Elisabeth Caldwell Meeker and Ann Meeker Ryan stand with the Camp Douglas chapel bell.

When a new chapel was built in mid-1864, the Reverend Edmund B. Tuttle requested a bell from the US government only to be denied. He then collected silver and brass coins from prisoners and



members of the garrison and had a bell cast in Springfield, Massachusetts.

After the camp was razed in late 1865 the bell was moved to St. Mark's Episcopal Parish at 36th and Cottage Grove where it remained until the church was torn down in 1919. Shortly after, the bell became a part of the collection of the Chicago History Museum.

### *Reception Following the Bell Ringing*

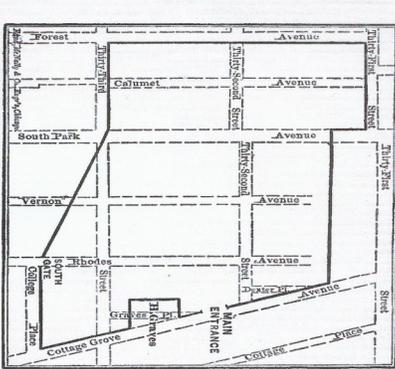
Guests were invited to attend a reception in the Robinson Gallery of the CHM following the bell ringing. They were entertained by Mike



Felten who sang and played period songs from the Civil War. David Keller signed copies of his new book.

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

Join us at:  
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## William Huff Diary

The diary of Private William Huff, 13th Louisiana Infantry, is also in "The Secret Lives of Objects" exhibit at the Chicago History Museum.

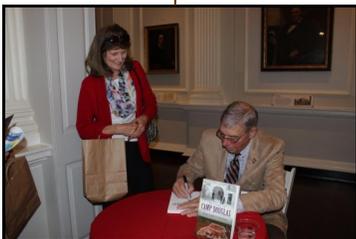
This diary is also featured as one of five prisoners reporting first hand experience



at Camp Douglas in David Keller's

*The Story of Camp Douglas, Chicago's Forgotten Civil War Prison.*

Huff was a prisoner at Camp Douglas from October 1863 until May 1865.



Book signing by David Keller after the bell ringing ceremony.

## Bell Ringers and Their Antecedents

From left to right in the photo. Olivia (Libby) Mahoney, Senior Curator, Chicago History Museum represented the brother verses brother nature of the Civil War.



Libby's antecedents included members of both Union and Confederate armies. Five names of members of the Hudson and Kirby family are contained on the Confederate Mound in Oak Woods Cemetery.

Neville Frierson Bryan rang the bell representing her grandfather, John Bell Gallaway, a member of the 14th Mississippi and a prisoner at Camp Douglas from February 1862 and September 1862.

Dawn Griffin O'Neal's great-grandfather, Charles Griffin, served in

the 29th US Colored Troops and entered Union service at Camp Douglas.

Elisabeth Caldwell Meeker and Ann Meeker Ryan (not shown)

represented their great-grand father, Thomas Dabney Wier, 14th Mississippi Infantry. Wier was a prisoner at Camp Douglas from February 1862 until exchanged in September 1862.

Ms. Bryan and the Meekers were unaware that their antecedents served in they same unit and likely knew each other while serving in the Confederate army.

These individuals, all from the Chicago area, demonstrate the connection of Chicago to the Civil War.

## Remarks of Gary Johnson

One century and a half ago, the Confederate troops at Appomattox laid down their arms. The campaign had been deadly: 80,000 Union and 30,000 Confederates. May we never forget those who have sacrificed and served—and those who continue to sacrifice today.

We are met at the Chicago History Museum in the presence of "witnesses" to that time—the table where General Robert E. Lee signed the surrender and the chapel bell from Camp Douglas in Chicago, where Union troops trained and served and where Confederate soldiers were imprisoned and many died. Artifacts from the Great Emancipator are nearby. Joining us are descendants from both sides who were at Camp Douglas.

With Appomattox, the nation endured. One test had ended, but another



was beginning. And so it was that General Grant distributed rations to the Confederates and allowed them to return home with their horses. He let the officers retain their side-arms-with malice toward none. We ring the bell to-

day as remembrance and as a call to action. May we, the living, rededicate ourselves to our great tasks that lie ahead. Let the mystic chords of memory stretching from Camp Douglas to Appomattox to our own time and place remind us. As Lincoln reminded us, "we are not enemies, but friends," and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, may parish from the earth if we are a polarized people.

Thank you

(These remarks by Mr. Johnson contained the same number of words as A. Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.)