



# Camp Douglas News

Committed to the Preservation of Chicago History



Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation

Chicago, Illinois

Summer 2015

Volume 6, Issue 2

## Project Phases:

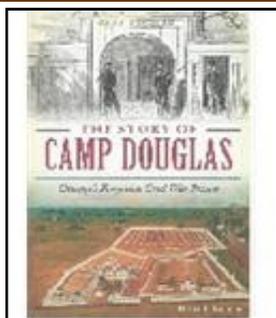
Awareness and Support: 2010-2014

Site Planning: 2014-2015

Archaeological Investigation: 2012-2013, 2014-2015

Construction: 2015-2016

## Don't Miss



*The Story of Camp Douglas, Chicago's Forgotten Civil War Prison* by David L. Keller is available at the Camp Douglas website, [www.campdouglas.org](http://www.campdouglas.org).

Copies are also available from leading bookstores with electronic copies available at Amazon.com

All proceeds from the sale of the book benefit CDRF.

## Support CDRF

Don't miss the Camp Douglas items that are for sale on [www.campdouglas.org](http://www.campdouglas.org).

Purchase of these items supports the efforts of the Foundation.

**SHOP TODAY!**

## Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation—Latest News

### Camp Douglas Display

CDRF has developed two displays used at Civil War Shows and public presentations. David Keller is shown in the photo with the display at the Ohio Civil War Show.

The displays have information on Camp Douglas' history and CDRF activities, including fund raising, education, and archaeology. CDRF items for sale are also offered at the displays.

Included in the display is a scale model of the proposed museum or a model of the entire camp in 1864.

### Bells Across the Land

CDRF and the Chicago History Museum participated in the "Bells Across the Land" program of the National Park Service on April 9, 2015 by ringing the bell from the chapel of Camp Douglas. For details see the Special Edition of *Camp Douglas News* dated April 9 found at [www.campdouglas.org](http://www.campdouglas.org).



### Acquisition of Artifacts

CDRF recently acquired additional artifacts for the museum collection.

A Muster Roll, December 1862 to February 1863 of Company E. 9th Vermont Infantry contains the names of 47 men who served as guards at Camp Douglas

from January 1863 until April 1863. This document is one of the few detailing guard activities at the camp.

Two additional Muster Rolls were obtained. Company A. 45th Illinois Infantry and Field and Staff roster of the 65th Illinois Infantry. Both units mustered in at Camp Douglas. The latter roster was signed by Colonel Daniel Cameron who briefly commanded Camp Douglas.

Mike Boucek donated an 1863 Civil War Token, "First in War, First in Peace." This token, depicting George Washington, is typical of tokens issued by private parties until banned in mid-1864. While not legal tender, they were often used in the exchange of trade.

## The School of the Art Institute Creative Ideas

Early this year, CDRF began a project with the Historic Preservation Program—School of the Art Institute of Chicago on "Site Interpretation and Memory."

David Keller presented the history of Camp Douglas to students on March 18. Subsequently, Dr. Michael Gregory presented a summary of the Archaeological activities.

Professor Charles Pipal, AIA, led the program, providing students wide latitude in developing interpretive proposals. completed

On May 6, students presented ten projects. They were:

- Outline for an Archaeological Field School for CPS students.
- Site model of the camp. It is a model of the entire camp and confirms the Giles Ave. boundary. The model was given to CDRF.
- Updated website for use by students. The authors offered to work on our website.
- Memorial Park. This was a memorial water feature in Lake Meadows Park.
- Interpretive Pavilion. A creative memorial pavilion contemplated to be placed on Draper &

Kramer land. It could easily be combined with the Memorial Park in Lake Meadows Park.

•Interpretation of the stockade wall. Using interpretive lighting to identify the original camp boundary.

•Visitors Center. Interactive center in Lake Meadows Park.

•Icons Branding and Linking. Interpretive stencils on sidewalks bounding the camp.

•Reinterpreting the Gate. Interpretative view of main camp gate in Lake Meadows Park.

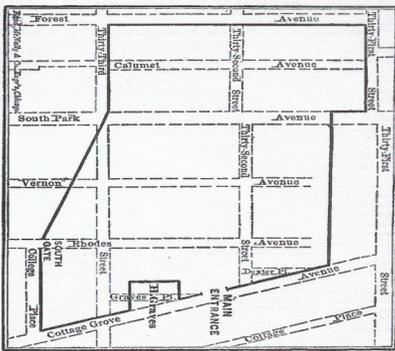
•View Panels. Lexan panels allowing comparison of camp in 1864 with today around the camp boundary.

CDRF has received from the school documentation on all of the projects and plans to follow up with the development of many of the ideas of the students.

The creativity and presentation of the students was outstanding. The Board of Directors of the Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation is deeply indebted to Professor Pipal and his students for a job well done.

Camp Douglas Restoration  
Foundation  
Chicago, Illinois  
www.campdouglas.org

David L. Keller, Managing Director  
1368 N. Mohawk 2S  
Chicago, IL 60610  
Tel: 312-751-1693  
Mobile: 312-859-1940  
dkeller@campdouglas.org



CAMP DOUGLAS, 1864-5.  
Map prepared by William Brass for a paper read before the  
Chicago Historical Society, June 18, 1878

*A Chicago Story that Must  
Be Told*

Join us at:  
www.campdouglas.org

## Upcoming Events

### Presentations:

July 23, 7:00 pm-Orland Park  
Public Library, Orland Park IL.

August 14, 1:00 pm-Civil War  
Museum, Kenosha, WI

December 11, 5:30 pm-Chicago  
Civil War Round Table, Holiday Inn  
Chicago O'Hare, Rosemont, IL

### Special Events:

June 6, 2015, 1:00 pm-Printer's  
Row Book Fair, Chicago-Book Signing.

June 13, 2015, 6:00 pm-Harold  
Washington Library, Chicago-Book  
Signing& discussion.

September 19, 2015cChicago Civil  
War Show, Du Page County Fair  
Grounds

## Recollections-Letters, Diaries and Journals

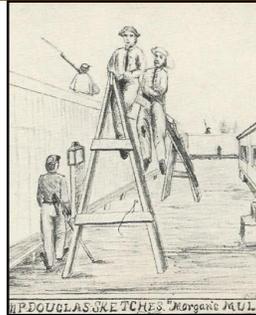
Editor's Note: This section is devoted to letters, diaries, and journals of Civil War veterans. Often considered the best source of contemporaneous information on the war, readers must be cautioned that this material represents individual experiences and feelings. Letters often reflected what the writer thought the 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

### John Copley's Description of Camp Douglas Guards

John Copley was a prisoner at Camp Douglas from December 1864 until June, 1865. In 1893 his Civil War "Sketch" was based on his diary and contained extremely colorful descriptions of his life at Camp Douglas. The following is an edited version of his description of five of the most hated guards at the camp.

**Old Red O'Hara:** "He...possessed an enormous parallelogram-shaped head, which presented a low forehead, and which indicated the opposite of culture and refinement...a nose more for use than ornament...his entire skin appeared to be infected with vermin...Two ponderous ears stood out in bold relief...somewhat resembling the side lamps of a carriage."

**Little Red:** "His eyes were of steel-gray color, giving to his countenance a cold hard expression; the nose, of medium size and a little inclined to be sharp at the point, was almost hid from view by two round and bloated cheeks...the large mouth and filled with a set of unsightly and disgusting teeth; it was a harbinger of filth, the stench emitted there from when it opened, would permeate the atmosphere for a distance of several feet."



**Old Billy Hell McDermott:** "...(a) knotty cornfield cymling would be a fine photograph and an excellent representation of his head...shaggy eyebrows hung over two small, squint eyes, which resembled those of a hog...the knees were perfect strangers to each other."

**Prairie Bull:** "...eyes were small and of a cold lead color, and shaded with heavy eye-brows, which embraced each other above

the bridge of his nose...His hideous features, coupled with a demoniacal expression revolted every living thing near hm."

**Captain Webb (or Wells) Spoonable:**

"He was of medium stature: figure grotesque and ugly in the extreme; features coarse; face resembling a well-grown artichoke, covered over as it was with large lumps...teeth stood out prominently and never presented a neat or clean appearance and seemed to be coated with a yellow substance of some kind...whenever he perambulated the prison square, [he was] trying to favorably impress every one with his peacock looks."

The four guards, along with Captain Spoonable were considered the most vicious by John Copley and other prisoners. They were especially brutal and contributed to the reputation of the camp. Many other guards were considered respectful and humane.

These quotes are taken from *The Story of Camp Douglas, Chicago's Forgotten Civil War Prison.*

## Rosell M. Hough vs. William R. Hoodless

The Illinois Supreme Court in April 1864 ruled on the complaint by Mr. Hoodless against Colonel Hough for "Trespass: Liability of military officer." Hoodless was awarded \$75 damages by a Justice of the Peace for Hough tearing down and destroying a frame building belonging to Hoodless. This was first appealed to the Circuit Court of Cook County who confirmed the decision.

The Supreme Court ruling included the following: "It appears from the evidence that said building was situated outside the territory belonging to Camp Douglas and within which martial law had been declared; but was erected on ground which had theretofore been used for purposes of parade and instruction of troops; that said building was torn down and removed by a detachment of soldiers by order of the defendant, Col. Hough, who was present when the same was done. Evidence was also introduced tending

to show that the ground on which said building was situated was necessary for use in parades for the soldiers of said camp, and that the building was removed as an obstruction preventing its use for that purpose."

The Supreme court ruled in favor of Mr. Hoodless, saying: "The evidence shows conclusively the plaintiff [Hoodless] was in possession of this property at the time the trespass was committed. That he hauled material to the lot and erected the building. The evidence seems to make a case of careless and willful destruction, as the building was light and could have been easily moved on rollers. No justification [by Hough] of any kind whatever is shown."

(Colonel Hough was commander of 67th Illinois Infantry that mustered in at Camp Douglas in June 1862 and acted as guards. In July 1862, martial law was established near the camp by Colonel Joseph Tucker.)