



# Camp Douglas News

Committed to the Preservation of Chicago History



Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation

Chicago, Illinois

Spring 2013

Volume 4, Issue 1

## 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

### Fugitive Slave Thoughts

Benjamin Butler to Edward  
Pierce on the future of slavery:

“Shall we now end the war  
and not eradicate the cause  
[slavery]...Will not God demand  
this of us now...?”

In 1861 individual commanders  
were permitted to develop  
their own policy on the return of  
fugitive slaves.

MG George McClelland upon  
entering western Virginia pro-  
claimed his troops would inter-  
fere with slavery in “no way  
whatsoever.”

Colonel Harvey Brown, Com-  
mander, Ft. Pickens, “I shall not  
send the negroes back as I will  
never be voluntarily instrumen-  
tal in returning a poor wretch to  
slavery.”

In Missouri when ordered to  
returned slaves to their masters,  
BG J. H. Lang wrote. “In re-  
sponse to your note today I have  
this to say that I don’t give a fig  
about rank... The institution of  
slavery must take care of itself.”

## Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation—Latest News

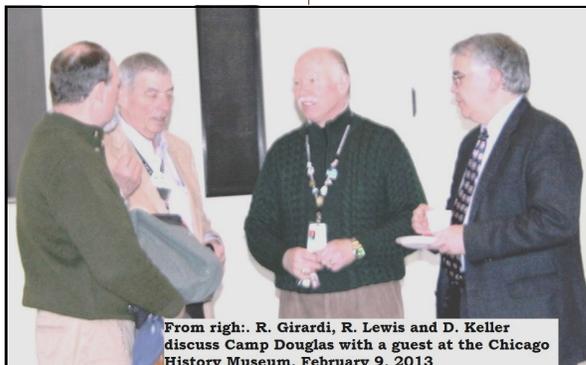
### Chicago History Museum Presentation

The Foundation  
presented the  
history of Camp  
Douglas and the  
activities of the  
Foundation to  
volunteers and  
staff of the  
Chicago History  
Museum on  
February 9.

Included in  
attendance were Russell Lewis, Executive Vice  
President & Chief Historian, Chicago History  
Museum, authors George Levy and Robert  
Girardi; Tom Campbell, Abraham Lincoln  
Bicentennial Foundation, and special guest,  
Eileen Mackovich, Executive Director, Abraham  
Lincoln Museum and Library in Springfield,  
Illinois.

### CHICAGO’S CLARKE HOUSE CIVIL WAR SYMPOSIUM

Camp Douglas will be one of the features at this  
year’s symposium to be held April 27, 2013. In  
addition, Ted Karamanski, author of *Rally  
'Round the Flag, Chicago and the Civil War*,



From right: R. Girardi, R. Lewis and D. Keller  
discuss Camp Douglas with a guest at the Chicago  
History Museum, February 9, 2013

Tom Campbell, author  
of *Abolitionists, the  
Law of Slavery and  
Lincoln*, and Curt  
Carlson, discussing  
Chicago business and  
industry in the Civil  
War, will also  
participate in the  
program.  
Reservations are  
required to Glessner  
House Museum, 312-  
326-1480. The cost is  
\$30 which includes

breakfast and lunch.

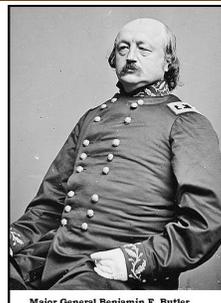
### NEW FOUNDATION DIRECTORS

Dean Rodkin and Roy Malone have joined  
the Foundation Board of Directors. Both Dean  
and Roy have been active volunteers for the  
Foundation preparing curriculum and teacher’s  
guides for the archaeological investigations and  
Virtual Camp Douglas. Ms. Rodkin and Mr.  
Malone are both professional educators in  
primary and secondary schools in the Chicago  
area. The addition of their expertise in  
education, including creating programs that  
meet the education core curriculum standards.  
They will keep the Foundation in the forefront of  
educational opportunities for the community.

## General Butler’s Contrabands

Major General Benjamin Butler, a  
Democrat from Massachusetts and  
an early political appointee by  
President Lincoln, commanded  
Fortress Monroe, Virginia in 1861.  
He created the concept that, if the  
South considered slaves property, the  
Union army could refuse to return  
them, as required by the Fugitive  
Slave Act, by considering them  
“contraband”. From that point on  
the word contraband was associated  
with slaves who escaped from the  
Confederacy. Contrabands also entered the  
lexicon of the American language as a word  
describing individuals.

One of the first three slaves to enter Fortress  
Monroe that led to General Butler’s  
pronouncement was George Scott. Scott, shortly  
before the Battle of Big Bethel Church, went on  
a spying mission for General Butler. Scott had  
commented, “I can smell a rebel furdurer dan I



Major General Benjamin F. Butler

ken a skunk.” He located several  
companies of Confederate infantry  
guarding an artillery position near the  
church. During George Scott’s  
dangerous mission he spent twenty  
four hours observing the unit before  
being discovered and fleeing back to  
the fortress.

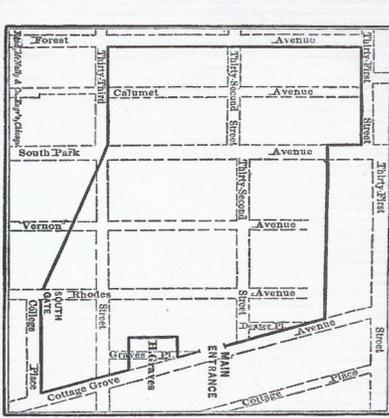
The order prepared by General  
Butler for the attack on Big Bethel  
contained these words: “George Scott  
is to have a revolver,” becoming the  
first record of a Union officer placing a  
gun in the hands of a black man.

The Confederate unit, forewarned, was ready  
for the Union assault and quickly repulsed the  
attack loosing only one killed while the Union  
suffered 18 killed and numerous wounded.

This story is from *1861 The Civil War Awakening*, Adam  
Goodheart, First Vintage Books, February 2012.

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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 Needs to be Told

Join us at:  
www.campdouglas.org

### Chicago Temperatures

Temperatures in Chicago. Source:  
*Chicago Tribune*. Temperatures taken  
at a drug store, Lake and Dearborn  
Streets Note: First prisoners arrived at  
the camp in February 1862

Date	Low	High	Days below 20
Feb 1862	0	4	6
Mar 1862	14	35	4
Feb 1863	10	50	—
Mar 1863	20	54	—
Feb 1864	3	30	19
Mar 1864	17	39	2

### Public Radio

David Keller was interviewed by Rick  
Kogan on WBEZ's "Afternoon Shift"  
February 8. Often considered "Mr. Chi-  
cago," Rick has been a supporter of the  
Foundation's projects since the begin-  
ning of the foundation's existence.

Exposure on the primary Public Radio  
outlet in Chicago has resulted in addi-  
tional interest in Camp Douglas and the  
Foundation.

## Recollections-Letters, Diaries and Journals

Editor's Note: This section is devoted to letters, diaries and journals of Civil War veter-  
ans. 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

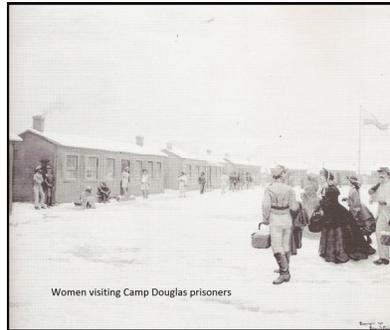
Wartime Letters of  
William Henry Adams,  
Co. G 3rd Kentucky  
Cavalry, CSA

Camp Douglas, Ill.  
Mar. 12th, 1864

Dear Father,  
Your kind letter of the 29th was  
received and read with interest  
George also received one from  
sister. It always cheers us up to  
hear from the old home stead. You know that Georges  
very delicate and what inclined to have the blues  
anyway. I dont think that his health is quite as good as  
it was when you were hear. The dyspepsy and chronic  
diarea are the two diseases that he suffers with. We  
heard directly from Brother John this week he is well  
and getting along first rate. The gentle man that  
brought the news belongs to the same Regt. that John  
does and is intimatily acquainted with him. This  
gentleman was captured the 25th of Feb. James Gill is  
well so are Johnson West, Charley and all the rest of the  
neighbor boys that are hear. We kneed some more P.  
Stamps. When you write your letters they must not be  
Longer than two pages of note or one of this kind of  
paper. I would like to have two callico and two woolen  
shirts if you could find a convient way to send them.  
George joines me in love to all.

Your sons, Wm H Adams

(Editor's Note: Mail was routinely permitted  
at Camp Douglas. Packages, such as Adams  
request for clothing were allowed. Most were  
received from relatives living in Union  
territory. From time to time mail would be  
restricted as punishment.)



Robert Bagby, 5th MO  
Infantry. Prisoner from  
January 1863 until late  
1865, Hospital Orderly in  
prisoners hospital

2/1/63 "It seemed that  
they were bringing the  
dead from every direction  
to the death house. In the  
fore noon I went to the  
house and loaded in one  
wagon with one federal  
among them. They

seemed that they were about ...  
(indecipherable) a day."  
2/11/63 "Most deaths were from  
pneumonia, it was enough to discourage the  
...most considerate man to see so many  
deaths-To know the undertaker was taking  
from 12 to 20 dead loads each day from the  
camp. This never shook my faith and I  
remained in good spirits and in good health."

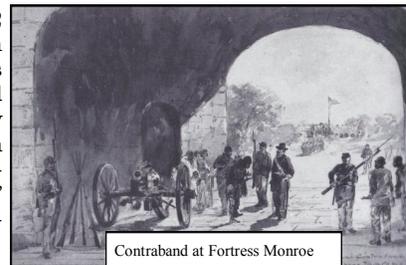
Journal written in 1914 of Curtis R. Burke  
Morgan's Raiders. Entry August 18, 1863.

"The guards said that we were going to  
Camp Douglas near Chicago, Ill. The cars  
run along the lake shore for some distance  
before we got to the suburbs of Chicago  
where we got out. I could see the city and a  
few sailing boats but no large crafts. We were  
marched about four hundred yards inland  
and arrived at the gate of Camp Douglas on  
lake street. I saw two street cars and several  
carriages of city folks waiting to see us. The  
gates swung open and in we marched. The  
camp appeared pretty large, with a high  
fence running around it. I saw a postoffice,  
barber shop, picture gallery, two sutler  
stores, a commissary house, and a chapel.  
The first square we entered was the Yankees  
quarters off to the left, with long barracks on  
the sides and flag pole in the center."

### Edward Lillie Pierce

Edward Pierce was a 32  
year old volunteer with  
the Third Massachusetts  
Volunteers. A well placed  
Republican and attorney  
with degrees from Brown  
and Harvard he was as-  
signed to "superintend"  
the black laborers at For-  
tress Monroe in 1861.

Several thousand con-  
trabands had swelled the population of the  
60 acre fortress after General Butler's contra-  
band announcement. In mid-July 1861 with  
his three month enlistment up, Pierce left  
Fortress Monroe. After saying good by to the  
Union Volunteers this abolitionist had a  
unique opportunity to speak freely to South-  
ern slaves. He later



wrote: "I said to them  
that there was one more  
word for me to add, and  
that was, that every one  
of them was as much  
entitled to his freedom as  
I was to mine, and I  
hoped they would all now  
secure it. 'Believe you  
boss,' was the general  
response, and each one

with his rough gravelly hand clasp mine, and  
with tearful eyes and broken utterances said,  
'God bless you!' 'May we meet in Heaven!' 'My  
name is Jack Allen, don't forget me!'  
'Remember me, Kent Anderson!' and so on."

This story is from 1861 *The Civil War Awakening*,  
Adam Goodheart, First Vintage Books, February  
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