



Camp Douglas News

Committed to the Preservation of Chicago History



Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation

Chicago, Illinois

Winter 2015

Volume 6, Issue 4

Project Phases:

Awareness and Support:
2010-2016

Site Planning: 2014-2016

Archaeological Investigation:
2012, 2013, 2014, 2015

Construction: 2015-2016

Volunteers

Special thanks to the following volunteers who participated in our October archaeological excavation:

DePaul Archaeology Field School: ANGELICA ALBA, AUSTIN CAREY, SYDNEY FLORSHEIM, STEPHANIE GUTHRIE, MERCEDES JOHNSON, RACHAEL JOHNSON, MARINA LABARTHE, KATIE MUMMA, MICHAEL MURPHY, TREVOR SALAZAR, MARTIN SCHISSLER, EMILY STEINHAEUER, EMMA TRUYAERT, and OLIVIA PUCCETTI (Teaching Assistant).

Northern Michigan: STACY BRUGER, BROCK CALAMARI, SCOTT DEMEL, DANIELLE DESPELDER, KARA FOX, KIMBERLY HOMIK, SKUNTA MANUSSANEE, AMANDA TEMPLE, and AMY WILLIAMS.

Other Volunteers: ROBYN BETCHER, MARY BRENNAN, CHRISTOPHER BRINK, JOE CABLK, B. A. CHURCH, MEGAN CLARK, ASHLEY DAVIS, ELIAS DRISCOLL, WAYNE ETHERIDGE, COLLEN FAHEY, MARLISA FEIN, CHRISTINE FIORE, JOSEPH FULBECK, TOM GORMAN, NICHOLE GRINBARG, PHIL GRINSTEAD, AMY GUTMAN, CAHTHLENE GUTMAN, KAITLIN HASENBECK-MEYER, KITTY HAYES, DONALD JONES, HARRISON JONES, JESSICA KALVIG, LINDA KELLER, MORGAN KRAUSE, LAURA LAUDADIO, IAN MCKITTERICK, CHRISTOPHER MEISTER, BRITANY MOORE, GAIL MOSS, MAEVE PRUSNICK, DEAN RODKIN, LISA ROTTENBERG, KELLY SCHMIDT, BOB SODERHOLM, LAURIE TURPIN-SODERHOLM, PATRICIA SPAETH, MANUSAWEE SUKUNTA, YASMIN TAVAI, JOHN THOMAS, SAMATHA "SAM" WILSON, JOE WHEELER, ADAM WIDERA, PHOEBE YATES, DAWN YOUNG, NICHOLAS ZAEUZINSKI, SHARON ZINGERY, and HANNA ZUBER.

Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation—Latest News

Civil War Symposium

Special thanks to (l to r) George Buss, as President Lincoln; Dean Rodkin, CDRF; Rob Girardi, CDRF; Doug Dammann, Kenosha Civil War Museum; David Keller, CDRF, Ted Karamanski, Loyola University, and (not shown) Christopher Reed, Professor Emeritus, Roosevelt University, for presenting a day-long Civil War Symposium November 7 at Chicago's Northerly Island.

The event co-sponsored by the Chicago Park District also included members of the Garibaldi Guards (above), Eighth Regiment, Veteran Reserve Corps, and the 17th Field Hospital who provided activities and exhibits for those attending. Kathleen Sober, Chicago Park District, prepared hardtack and fried bacon for visitors to the encampment.

More than 50 people attended the seminar and a number of people visiting Northerly Island stopped to enjoy the festivities.



National Register

The Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation is considering a nomination application for the inclusion of the site of Camp Douglas in the National Register. This designation acknowledges the importance of the area while protecting the rights of property owners.

Preliminary work has been done with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency to begin the process.

Basis for consideration is the historic value of the site and the archaeological significance of the area. The six archaeological excavations sponsored by CDRF on the site have demonstrated the existence of military artifacts and other archaeological evidence of the camp.

Michael Gregory, DePaul University, has agreed to develop the archaeological justification for the project. Six other noted archaeologists are supporting the nomination.

Your comments and support would be appreciated.

October Archaeological Dig

October 7-16, CDRF and DePaul University conducted the fifth archaeological investigation at John J. Pershing Magnet School, South Calumet and 33rd Street.

Again led by Dr. Michael Gregory, DePaul University, a record of over 60 volunteers participated in the event.

CDRF was especially pleased that eight students from Northern Michigan University along with archaeologist Scott Demel joined our team. The group was sponsored by the University as part of their archaeological studies.

Again, Civil War artifacts were discovered in the excavation. A bone toothbrush from the period along with a variety of items such as clay pipes, glass and nails, associated with the camp



were found.

The major find of three .58 caliber Minié balls was located on top of window glass pieces. This was especially interesting since those who claimed the western boundary of the camp did not extend to Giles Avenue believed that the area of our excavation was open land. The existence of the Minié balls on

top of glass indicates otherwise.

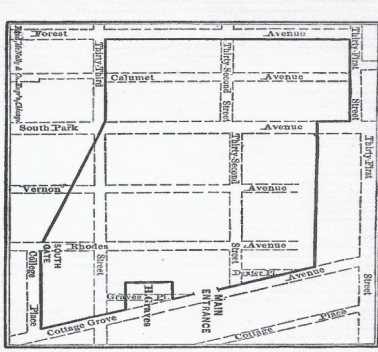
As with previous excavations, CDRF provided educational experiences for students of Pershing School. Third grade students participated in a reading program and seventh graders presented a reader's

theater program that resulted in a spirited discussion of Camp Douglas and the Civil War.

A report of the project is available at www.campdouglas.org.

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

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CAMP DOUGLAS, 1864-5.
Map prepared by William Bross for a paper read before the
Chicago Historical Society, June 15, 1875

A Chicago Story that Must Be Told

Join us at:
www.campdouglas.org

Upcoming Events

Presentations

December 10, 6:30 pm-Milwaukee
Civil War Round Table, Wisconsin
Club's Country Club, Milwaukee.

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

January 13, Noon, Special pro-
gram at Chesterton High School, Ches-
terton, IN.

Support of Camp Douglas

The Camp Douglas Restoration
Foundation needs your help

- ◇ Volunteer to work on a project.
- ◇ Attend an event sponsored by CDRF..
- ◇ Support CDRF activities.
- ◇ Invite your friends to sign up on the web site.
- ◇ Make a financial donation.
- ◇ Purchase Camp Douglas items .
- ◇ Write a letter of support for the National Register. (see page1)

Profiles of Camp Douglas Prisoners

Editor's Note: Material in this section of the newsletter has been received from various sources including information from descendants of these prisoners.

Civil War Diary Located

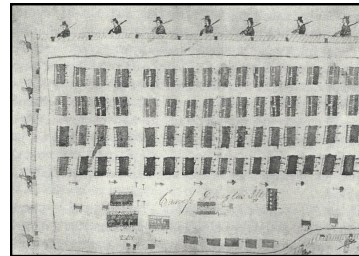
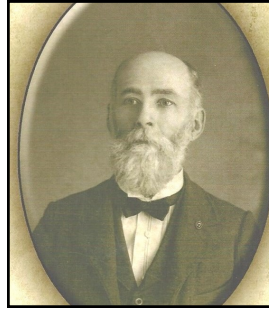
Rick Brown of Trussville, AL brought to our attention a diary written by his great-grandfather Andrew Jackson Brown between August 1861 and June 1865.

Nineteen year-old Andrew joined the Twenty-Third Mississippi Infantry on August 2, 1861. He entered as a private and served as a first sergeant in the unit.

Andrew was a prisoner at Camp Douglas on two occasions. Captured at Fort Donelson in February 1862, he arrived at Camp Douglas on February 21, 1862. He remained there until exchanged in September.

He returned to the Confederate Army participating in action through out the war.

In the summer of 1864 he was assigned to John Bell Hood's, Army of Tennessee and was captured on December 16, 1864, at the Battle of Franklin, TN. Andrew was marched to Nashville then taken by train to Camp Douglas via Louisville and Indianapolis arriving at Camp Douglas on December 22, 1864. He remained there until the end of the war; after signing the Oath of Allegiance he was released on June 18, 1865 and arrived home in Pontotoc County MS June 26. He died in Aberdeen, MS August 18, 1926 and is buried in Odd Fellow's Rest, Aberdeen.



Pen & Ink Drawing by Brown of
Camp Douglas

His experience at Camp Douglas was not unlike other diarists. Cold weather, clothing not suited for the North, boredom, and minimal rations were common during both of his internments at the camp.

His diary was void of discussion of guard treatment and sanitary conditions, except for mud during wet periods. He also made little mention of prisoner health or death. His only mention was of smallpox and a friend dying.

Conditions were reported as improved during 1864, except for crowded barracks. During this second stay, discussions centered around possible exchange and the acceptance or rejection of taking the Oath of Allegiance. He commented on the lack of news available to prisoners,

especially news of the result of the 1864 US presidential election. He reported details on surrenders at the end of the war.

The contrast of Camp Douglas in 1862 and 1864, from his perspective, is important to the history of the camp.

The diary *Andrew Jackson Brown Confederate Soldier*, compiled by Patricia Pickle Wolf, published by Publish America, Baltimore, MD in 2011.

A copy of the diary was donated to CDRF by Rick Brown. CDRF is grateful for this important find.

Ten Questions About Camp Douglas

The following are ten True/False questions about Camp Douglas

1. CD was named for Stephen A. Douglas and was located on his land.
2. CD was located in the southern end of the City of Chicago.
3. CD was considered the second largest Union prison camp.
4. All Confederate officers were sent from CD to Johnson's Island, OH.
5. CD had the most deaths of all Union prisons.
6. CD had highest death rate of any Union prison.
7. Confederate soldiers who died at CD were initially buried in Oak Woods Cemetery.
8. Oak Woods Cemetery is second to Gettysburg with the most Confederate Prisoners buried north of the Mason/Dixon Line.
9. Oak Woods Confederate Mound is considered the largest mass grave in the Western Hemisphere.
10. CD had eight different commanders during its 2 1/2 years as a prison.

Answers:
(1) False: CD was named for Senator Douglas, but only 5 acres were attributed to his land. (2) False: The southern city limit of Chicago was 31st street in 1861. (3) False: CD ranked third, for most held at any one time, behind Point Look Out, MD and Fort Delaware. (4) False: Most were sent to Johnson's Island, but some remained at CD. (5) True: 4,452 deaths were reported. Estimates of actual death were between 5,000 and 6,000. (6) False: Death rate at CD of 15% to 17% was less than Elmira, NY at 24%. (7) False: Buried in City Cemetery and moved in 1867. (8) False: Oak Woods Cemetery. (9) True. (10) False: There were 12 commanders with 13 command changes in 2 1/2 years.