



Camp Douglas News

Committed to the Preservation of Chicago History



Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation

Chicago, Illinois

Spring 2016

Volume 7, Issue 1

Project Phases:

Awareness and Support:
2010-2016

Site Planning: 2014-2016

Archaeological Investigation:
2012, 2013, 2014, 2015,
2016

Construction: 2016-2017

*Great Migration
Centennial*



Creating A New Promise

The largest and single most important movement of people to ever occur in North America, 7 million African Americans left the rural south for the urban north between 1916 and 1970 where they transformed the landscape and the culture. Chicago was one of the beneficiaries of that rich heritage as over 500,000 came to the city seeking a new promise and emerged by the mid-20th Century as a powerful force in the city's political, economic, and cultural life.

The Bronzeville Community was the center of the great migration and will be celebrating the centennial. The Foundation joins the community in this celebration.

For more information call 773.536.9775 or e-mail greatmigrationcentennial@gmail.com.

Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation—Latest News

Michael Gregory Joins Board

Michael Gregory (right) joined the CDRF Board of Directors in February. Michael has managed archaeological excavations on the site of Camp Douglas since 2013.

A native of Virginia with a strong interest in the Civil War, he received his B.S. in anthropology from Washington and Lee University and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Arizona State University.

Michael joined DePaul University in 2009. He is a Professional Lecturer, Anthropology, DePaul University and manages the DePaul Archaeology Field School. The Field School has done extensive work in Maywood, IL at sites related to the community's African American heritage as well as at the Camp Douglas site.

Michael has participated in archaeological investigations in Virginia, Arizona, and in the Midwest, including Isle Royale and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. He has written extensively on these excavations.



Bronzeville News

There are several important events occurring in the Bronzeville community. The most significant is the commemoration of the Centennial of the Great Migration taking place this year and next. (See sidebar)

A new Urban Innovation Center is taking shape at the site of Camp Douglas at 3232 S. King Drive at the old Griffin Funeral Home. Through accelerated technology and creativity, a more prosperous community will be created.

And finally, drumroll please: Bronzeville Visitor Information Center has just acquired a bus for tours!

Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation Board Member, Bernard Turner, is actively involved in the Bronzeville Community and conducts walking and bus tours of the area. You can contact him at bturner@campdouglas.org.

Fresh Approach to History Education

In January CDRF presented a bold experiment in hands-on history education to students at Chesterton (Indiana) High School. With the encouragement of history teacher Matthew Gland and the administration of CHS, a special three station program was presented.

More than 60 students were divided into three groups who rotated through 30 minute stations. After completion of all stations, a question and answer period was conducted.

Michael Gregory, DePaul University, (Top and bottom photo) present a hands-on discussion of the archaeology of Camp Douglas and archaeology as a career choice at one station.

David Keller, Managing Director of CDRF (Top and middle



right photo) presented an illustrated lecture on the history of Camp Douglas and the use of archaeology to better understand the camp and the community at a different station.

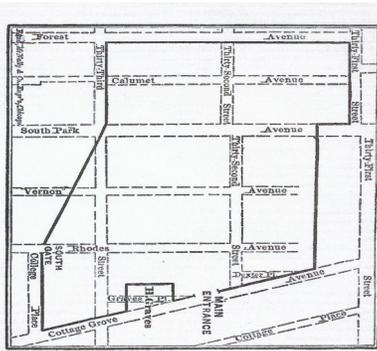
Dean Rodkin (Top and middle left photo) presented a reader's theater to discuss life at Camp Douglas. The theater, entitled "Ghosts in the School Yard," consisted of eleven reading parts. The play provided a view of individuals and overall conditions in the camp and was followed by a discussion group.

The program was well-received by the students and staff and is available for other school groups from seventh grade through high school.

For more information, contact Dean at drodkin@campdouglas.org.

Camp Douglas Restoration
Foundation
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CAMP DOUGLAS, 1864-5.
Map prepared by William Brass for a paper read before the
Chicago Historical Society, June 15, 1878

*A Chicago Story that Must
Be Told*

Join us at:
www.campdouglas.org

Upcoming Events

Presentations

May 10, 7:00 pm—Glen Ellyn His-
tory Book Club, Glen Ellyn Historical
Society, Glen Ellyn, IL

Next Archaeological Excavation

The Camp Douglas Restoration
Foundation and De Paul University will
conduct the spring archaeological exca-
vation at Pershing Magnet School,
3200 S. Calumet, May 18 through May
26.

Anyone interested in joining the
excavation, contact David Keller at
dkeller@campdouglas.org

Colonel James A. Mulligan Papers

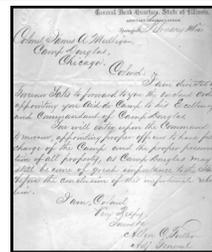
Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation Acquires Important Papers

Thanks to the generous
donation of Joseph and Valery
Cablk, and members of the
Foundation Board of Directors,
CDRF has acquired seven
original documents relating to
Colonel James Mulligan who
commanded Camp Douglas
from February 23, 1862 until
June 14, 1862.

Colonel Mulligan, above all
wanted to be a soldier and leader
of the Irish Brigade. He was born
in 1830 and educated as a lawyer.
He edited a Catholic newspaper in
Chicago before raising the Irish
Brigade (23rd Illinois Infantry). In
September 1861, the 23rd was
captured in Lexington, MO.
Colonel Mulligan was exchanged
in October 1861.

He managed the prison compound,
added security, and rallied medical support,
including local doctors, for the sick and
injured. While allowing civilian access to the
prison, Col. Mulligan was unable to
adequately control escapes and sanitary
conditions remained well below acceptable
standards during his tenure. Col. Mulligan
was not the most competent prison
commander; but he was in no way a tyrant.
He did the best he could for the prisoners
under the circumstances.

Col. Mulligan and the 23rd returned to
the war in June 1862. Col. Mulligan was
killed in action July 1864 in the
Shenandoah Valley. He is interred in Calvary
Cemetery, Evanston, IL.



Documents included in the
collection are:

- 1. Official Appointment as Commandant of Camp Douglas-** February 14, 1862 order directed by Governor Richard Yates and signed by Illinois Adjutant General, Allen C. Fuller. (left below)
- 2. Letter from Governor Yates to Colonel Thomas Mather regarding Mulligan seeking to raise a battery-** January 24, 1862 signed by Governor Yates
- 3. Letter from Governor Yates to Colonel Mulligan requesting a visit-** January 26, 1862 signed by Governor Yates.
- 4. Order for Col. Mulligan to raise a Company-** January 1862 signed by Adjutant General Fuller
- 5. Order for Colonel A. G. Brackett regarding change of command for Camp Douglas-**

February 16, 1862 signed by Adjutant
General Fuller.

- 6. Letter to Colonel Mulligan regarding promotion of officers to the regular army-** March 1, 1862 signed by Adjutant General Fuller

- 7. Letter to Colonel Mulligan ordering him to move his command to St. Louis-** January 20, 1862 signed by Adjutant General Fuller. (Note: The unit did not leave Camp Douglas until June 1862.)

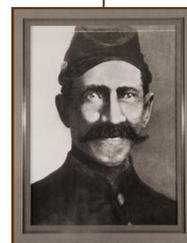
The foundation continues to search
for a donation in the amount of \$1500 for
the naming rights to the collection. Joseph
and Valery Cablk will be designated as
"Benefactors."

Ernest Griffin

More than any other individ-
ual, Ernest Griffin (Right) grand-
son of Charles Griffin (Right bot-
tom), during his life time, kept
the legacy of Camp Douglas
alive.

Ernest was 83 when he died
in December 1995. For over six
decades, Mr. Griffin was the di-
rector of the Griffin Funeral
Home, 3232 S. Martin Luther
King Drive, Chicago, a landmark
building in the Bronzeville com-
munity and located on the site of
Camp Douglas. Mr. Griffin presided
over the funerals of several famous
Chicagoans, including Nation of
Islam leader Elijah Muhammad and
track star Jesse Owens.

An expert on the Civil War, Mr.
Griffin was especially interested in
the experience of the black soldiers



in 1990 he designed the Herit-
age Memorial Wall at the fu-
neral home of the Civil War
and Camp Douglas.

Although criticized by some,
he displayed the Confederate
flag in honor of the prisoners
at Camp Douglas and Confed-
erate and Union black soldiers

Although criticized by some,
he frequently appeared in Civil
War military dress.

His grandfather, Charles
Griffin, entered the 29th USCT
at Camp Douglas. A plaque honoring
Charles and the 29th USCT remains
on the grounds of the funeral home
which closed in 2007.

Currently the former Griffin Fu-
neral home is being converted to a
community center.