



Camp Douglas News

Committed to the Preservation of Chicago History



Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation

Chicago, Illinois

Fall/Winter 2016

Volume 7, Issue 3

Project Phases:

Awareness and Support:
2010-2017

Site Planning: 2014-2017

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

Construction: 2017-2018

*Fall/Winter
Newsletter*

Due to my illness during the summer and fall, the fall newsletter was not published.

This combined Fall/Winter, *Camp Douglas News* is a one time event.

As in past years, subsequent newsletters will be published quarterly beginning with the spring 2017 edition.

Thank you for your patience.

David Keller, Managing Director/Editor.

*Camp Douglas Web
Site*

CDRF Communications Director, Mary Brennan, is working on upgrading the foundation web site www.campdouglas.org. This will include improving the front page and displaying other material in a more organized way.

Anyone wishing to volunteer to assist Mary should contact her at:

mbrenan@campdouglas.org

The web site is fully available during the improvements. Visit the site and see the Camp Douglas items available.

Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation—Latest News

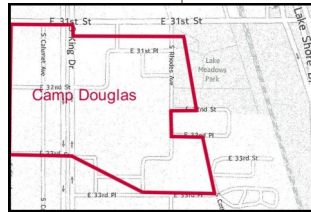
National Register

The Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation continues to work on the application to have the foot print of Camp Douglas listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Over 700 people have supported the petition drive which is available on our web site, www.campdouglas.org. In addition, we have received letters of support from many individuals and organizations. These include both Illinois senators.

The basis for inclusion in the Register is the archaeological significance of the area. Most properties listed in the Register are buildings or groups of buildings. While unusual, designation of Camp Douglas would join prison camps Johnson's Island in Ohio and Belle Isle in Richmond, VA.

Initial discussion with the State of Illinois, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, and the



Nation Park Service have resulted in concerns of the agencies that the "integrity" of the site is in question. This is a result of our successful, but limited, archaeological excavation of the site.

Michael Gregory has been working on confirming and documenting the integrity of the site including incorporating archaeological studies conducted in other urban areas.

In addition, with the assistance of Alderman Sophia King, we are investigating limited excavation in public parkways on the site. We are also planning to investigate in a few private sites that have been identified. The major land holder on the site, Draper & Kramer, continues to refuse to communicate with the foundation.

The Foundation continues to believe that listing on the Register is important; we will work toward that end.

Anyone interested in assisting in this project should contact us at info@campdouglas.org.

Prisoner of War Training

While many other factors contributed to conditions in Civil War prison camps, the lack of training of Civil War soldiers on how to act as a prisoner of war was part of the cause of prison camp conditions and deaths.

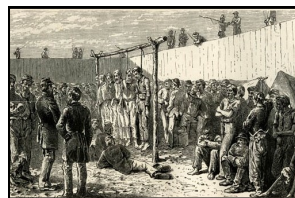
With both the Union and Confederates failing to consider the need to confine prisoners for lengthy periods of time during the war, training of soldiers in matters other than moving and shooting was omitted.

Today our military is trained in the Code of Conduct that clearly defines the responsibilities of soldiers as POWs. The duties include not cooperating with the enemy, refusing to sign parole or other documents, attempting to escape, and maintaining the chain of command.

This last point, the chain of command, was a major contributor to Civil War prison problems. At Andersonville anarchy was so prevalent that Union soldiers eventually executed six of their



Camp Douglas



Andersonville
Prisoner Executions

own after a trial of the leaders of the "Raiders." These raiders preyed on other prisoners until Camp Commander Captain Henry Wirz agreed to a trial.

Lack of discipline and respect for the chain of command was also evident at Camp Douglas and other camps.

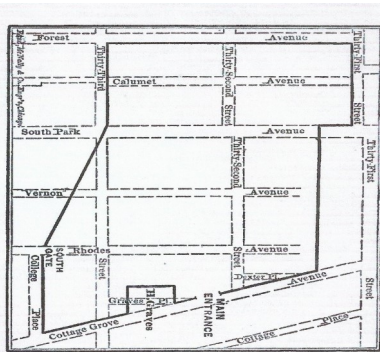
What was a soldier to do? His sergeant, who was also a prisoner tells him one thing and a guard with a gun tells him another. The choice for the untrained POW was easy...the guard. Morgan's Raiders at Camp Douglas were an exception to the lack of discipline. They supported each other and made certain that soldiers' wants were met. As a result, the death rate among this group was between 6% and 7%

compared for 17% in the total Camp Douglas population.

Story after story of the lack of preparation of the average soldier during the war to be a POW have been told in journals, letters, and historic

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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

Camp Douglas in Historic Novels

Camp Douglas is frequently included in historic novels about the Civil War.

Three books include Camp Douglas are:

Faded Lines of Gray, An Historical Novel, Steven D. Harris, Bookstand Publishing, Morgan Hills CA, 2013.

Long Road Home, Trials and Tribulations of a Confederate Soldier, Richard G. Zevitz and Michael C. Braswell, Brandon Books, Boston, 2012.

The Late Unpleasantness, Pamela Wielgus-Kwon, Friesten Press, Victoria BC, 2016.

Upcoming Events

Presentations

February 21, 2017, Country House
5600 127th Alsip, IL 6:30 p.m.

March 2, 2017, Darien Public Library,
Darien, IL 7:00 p.m.

Camp Douglas and the Lost Cause

Camp Douglas, "the Andersonville of the North," was a title given to the camp as part of the prisoner of war conflict after the Civil War.

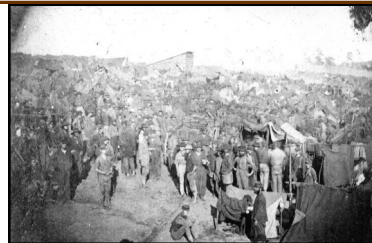
The Lost Cause interpretation was developed by white southerners defining the Civil War as an honorably contested battle over constitutional principles. The Lost Cause provided a sense of purpose and a justification of how the honorable South was defeated by the brutal North.

In part, the Lost Cause was a reaction to Northern attempts to further dishonor the defeated South through accusations of mistreatment of Union soldiers in Confederate prisons. The execution of Captain Henry Wirz, commander of the Andersonville prison, fueled the negative sentiment in the south. Wirz was the only Confederate officer executed for war crimes.

The North continued, in the view of the South, to demean the Confederacy by Union Civil War prisoners "waiving the bloody shirt." This asserted their virtue and reminded them of the South's barbarity toward prisoners of war.

The Republican press, portraying the Democrats as unsympathetic, unpatriotic, and disrespectful of the dead Union prisoners, further added to the concern of the Southern place in reconstruction.

The Grand Army of the Republic's (GAR) super Northern political justification of the war and the influence of major publications, such as *Harper's Weekly*, further heaped blame on the Confederacy. *Harper's*



Andersonville



Camp Douglas

published a variety of drawings and cartoons referring to the tyranny of the unrepentant South. Chicagoan, Charles F. Gunther (see article below) contributed to the Northern position on the ritcheous Union versus the barbarian confederacy

All of this contributed to the Lost Cause entrenchment in the South. A component of the Lost Cause was defiance of the northern prison interpretation, justification of the honorable Confederate war effort, and the sacrifice of the Confederate victims of Union prisons.

The Lost Cause versus the Union view of the prisoner situation in the Civil War continued for decades after the war was over. In 1876 the *Southern History Society Papers* (SHSP) led in defending the Confederate prison record while attacking the hypocritical North. Not until the survivors of the prison camps were dead in the early Twentieth Century did the Lost Cause arguments decrease.

The impact on the Lost Cause from 1914 until the present will be the subject of future *Camp Douglas News* articles.

Much of the material for this article was taken from the following excellent books:

Haunted by Atrocity, Civil War Prisons in American Memory, by Benjamin G. Cloyd, Louisiana State University Press, 2010.

Andersonvilles of the North, The Myths and Reality of Northern Treatment of Civil War Confederate Prisoners by James M Gillispie, University of North Texas Press, 2008.

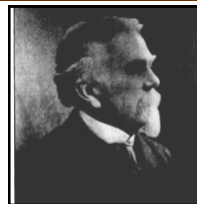
Charles F. Gunther

Charles F. Gunther, known as "the candy man," came to the United States in 1837. He worked for the Confederate Navy when the Civil War broke out. He moved to Chicago after the boat he was working on was captured by the Union Navy and he was released.

It was here that he struck it rich as a confectioner, starting with a small candy store that opened in 1868 at 125 N. Clark St. When destroyed in the 1871 fire, Gunther re-established his business and prospered enough by the 1880s to open another store and factory in the 200 block of South State Street. His caramels became famous enough that he soon began shipping them throughout the U.S.

In the late 1800s he began collecting a fantastic array of artifacts including nearly every item (including his death bed) from the Petersen House where President Lincoln died.

Almost everything he gathered was put on



display in a private museum he operated above his candy store in the late 1800s. They were later, during the 1893 Columbian Expedition, exhibited inside his most stunning achievement as a collector: The totally reconstructed Libby Prison, a facility used to house Union prisoners during the Civil

War. Gunther had the building, originally in in Richmond, Va., taken apart, shipped to Chicago by railroad, and rebuilt in 1888-89 in the 1400-1600 blocks of South Wabash Avenue. The museum was devoted largely, to the Civil War, but, also included shrunken heads and the skin of the serpent from the Garden of Eden. There was no mention of Chicago's Camp Douglas at the exhibit.

The relocated Libby Prison later became the site of the Chicago Coliseum.

Following Gunther's death in 1920, the Chicago Historical Society acquired his extensive collection.