



# Camp Douglas News

Committed to the Preservation of Chicago History



Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation

Chicago, Illinois

Summer 2017

Volume 8, Issue 2

## Project Phases:

Awareness and Support:  
2010-2017

Site Planning: 2014-2017

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

Construction: 2017-2018

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All proceeds benefit the Foundation.

## Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation—Latest News

### Lake Meadows Shopping Center

In 2010 developer, Draper & Kramer, announced a 30-year plan to redevelop Lake Meadows. This project has been deferred since the announcement.

Recently Draper and Kramer announced that Culver's restaurant chain, headquartered in Wisconsin, will be occupying space near the northwest corner of the Lake Meadows Shopping Center.

Recent identification of the Camp



Douglas smallpox burial ground (see article below) shows that Culver's will be built on, or adjacent to, the burial grounds.

CDRF has notified Culver's and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency of the existence of the burial ground, as it may be subject to the

Illinois *Human Skeletal Remains Protection Act* (20 ILCS 34401).

To date the Foundation has received no response from our notifications. CDRF will continue to follow this situation

## Smallpox Burial Ground

In October 1865, the estate of Stephen A. Douglas filed a claim with the U.S. Army Quartermaster General to receive payment for land used at Camp Douglas. (See Fall 2014 Newsletter.)

Included in the support material submitted with the request was a Plat of Blocks 1,3,4,5, & 6 of University Subdivision. On the plat was a section drawn in titled "Rebel Graves." This area is shown on the modern map below and located just south of 33rd Place (originally College Street) between Rhodes and Vernon (originally Colfax) Streets. This material was found in the National Archives (RG 92, Entry 800, Box 64,8w2-43-27-2, Claim #76-211).

Archaeologist and Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation Director, Michael Gregory conducted research on the origin and location of the "Rebel Graves."

The smallpox hospital was located approximately 400 yards south of the camp, near Rhodes Street, west

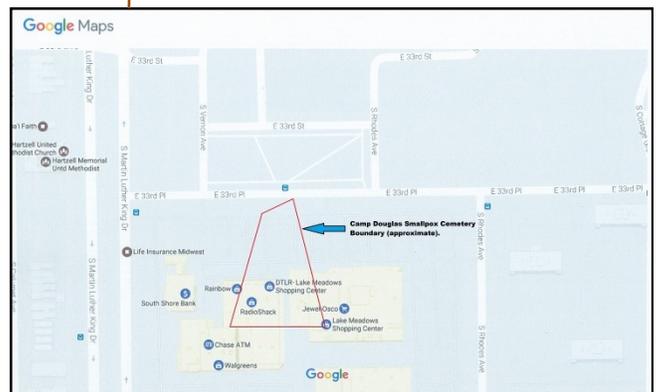


Oak Woods Cemetery

of the University of Chicago.

Smallpox casualties began to be buried near the hospital in August 1863. By the end of the war, over 650 bodies were reported in the burial grounds. 655 bodies were reported disinterred and relocated to Oak Woods Cemetery in April 1867.

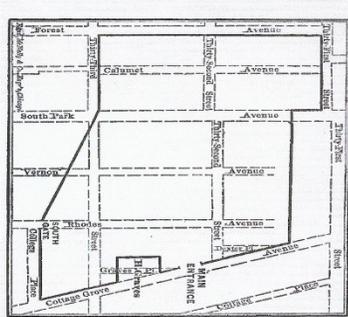
This information along with photos and maps including 1912 Sanborn Fire Maps and Robinson Fire Maps-1886, confirmed the location on the site today.



Burial Grounds on Current Map

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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

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### The Strange Case of Mrs. Finley

On February 10, 1863, the *Chicago Tribune* reported a near riot over the closing of Mrs. Finley's unauthorized store operating for some time through an often repaired hole in the northern fence of Garrison Square. The closing was a result of the McIntosh & Mackin sutler store opening in Garrison Square.

It was reported that Mrs. Finley accepted Confederate currency at 5¢ to 12¢ per dollar which was prohibited for McIntosh & Maklin. Over \$300 damage was done to McIntosh & Maklin including a brick through the window.

On February 13, the *Tribune* reported that Mrs. Finley was to become a sutler inside the camp, paying the \$100 per month fee.

On November 12, 1863 a fire consumed 600 feet of barracks in Garrison Square, including Mrs. Finley's sutler store with a loss to her of \$300 of merchandise and \$1,100 in "greenbacks."

Nothing is known of Mrs. Finley after this date.

## Camp Douglas and the Lost Cause-Part 3 (Today)

In a "Post Everything Perspective" in the *Washington Post*, May 11, 2017 New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu wrote "The record is clear: New Orleans's Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis and P.G.T. Beauregard statues were erected with the goal of rewriting history to glorify the Confederacy and perpetuate the idea of white supremacy. These monuments stand not as mournful markers of our legacy of slavery and segregation, but in reverence of it. They are an inaccurate recitation of our past, an affront to our present and a poor prescription for our future."

This opinion, to remove these monuments, is not shared by many southerners, including the Alabama legislators who in May approved a bill to prohibit the removal of monuments in that state.

This movement, as well as the call to remove the Confederate battle flag from public view are clear examples of the lingering results of the Lost Cause.

The battle flag, designed to differentiate it from the U.S. flag during battles, became a symbol of segregation and white supremacy after the Civil War. It was a frequent symbol of groups such as the KKK.

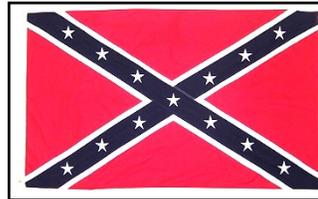
Removal of this symbol from common use has met with mixed success. Most



New Orleans Protesters call for  
removal of Confederate Monuments



The Choctaw County Courthouse in  
Butler, AL



Confederate Battle Flag

historians support its use in historic settings, but not as a protest symbol. Supporters of the flag cry "Article 1" protection for its use.

The fact remains that outside the historic context, the battle flag is a symbol of our dark past and troubled present.

The Lost Cause, as reported in the last two *Camp Douglas News*, traces the background from the end of the Civil War. As early as January 1865, the *Chicago Tribune* was publishing articles refuting southern Lost Cause comments about the treatment of Confederate prisoners.

This back and forth argument, North versus South, continued, unabated, until the early 20th Century. Then, through World War II, the argument slowed. Re-kindled in the late 50s and 60s, the Lost Cause arguments again came to prominence in regional discussions.

Current controversy over monuments and the battle flag again fan the fire of the Lost Cause.

The Civil War continues to be fought!

Much of the material for earlier articles 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.

## National Park Service Grant

CDRF Managing Director David Keller received a 2017 National Park Service, Andersonville National Site POW Research Grant.

The grant will be used for the investigation of the following factors effecting conditions in Union Prison Camps for Confederate prisoners:

- Lack of a strategic plan for prison development and management before and in the early stages of the Civil War,
- Inadequate plan for long term incarceration of prisoners of war,
- Poor selection and lack of training of camp command,
- Lack of training of camp guards, and
- Failure to provide individual soldiers

information on how to act as POWs.

These factors were selected for the study based on their impact on Camp Douglas. The goal is to look at these factors, not to place blame, but to better understand conditions in the 19th century prison camps.

Eleven Union prisons will be studies representing 73 percent of Confederate prison deaths during the Civil War.

Mr. Keller will be interviewing authors of material on Civil War prisons and reviewing nearly two dozen books and papers on prisons and the history of prisoners of war.

The study will be completed by the end of the year and will be prepared for future publication.