



Camp Douglas News

Committed to the Preservation of Chicago History



Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation

Chicago, Illinois

Spring 2018

Volume 9, Issue 1

Project Phases:

Awareness and Support: 2010-ongoing

Site Planning: 2014-2018

Archaeological Investigation: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

Construction: to be determined

Chicago Landmark Status

CDRF officially applied for Landmark status of Camp Douglas to the Chicago Department of Planning and Development of the City of Chicago on December 13, 2017.

The official request for landmark status was provided by Alderman Sophia King, 4th Ward. Support was also provided by Alderman Ed Burke.

Dr. Theodore Karamanski, Loyola University of Chicago, is assisting CDRF in the preparation and follow-up on the application. Matt Crawford is coordinating for the city.

CDRF has provided the Landmark Designation Report which is an extensive report on the background and justification for the designation.

The designation is winding its way through the approval process. We hope to have approval by early summer when an appropriate marker will be erected on the site.

Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation—Latest News

Kenosha Civil War Museum Exhibit

Thanks to Dan Joyce, Executive Director, Kenosha Museum System, a special exhibit has been developed in the Kenosha Civil War Museum to highlight Camp Douglas and the Foundation's archaeological activities.

The CDRF Board stands in front of the display of artifacts discovered in our series of excavations are included as well as photographs and maps of Camp Douglas and out activities.

Dan has been a good friend of the Foundation for several years. He provided ground-penetrating radar examination of



the John J. Pershing Magnet School and Griffin Funeral Home, both potential archaeological sites. With this information, our excavations at Pershing School were a success.

The Civil War Museum is a Midwestern treasure that should not be missed. Colorful and descriptive exhibits highlighting the impact on the Civil War on the Upper Midwest are engaging and educational. The museum includes a 360 degree film depicting the Civil War that is one of the best in any Civil War museum.

The Civil War Museum | 5400 First Avenue Kenosha, Wisconsin | 262-653-4141 | Open Monday – Saturday 10am – 5pm; Sunday Noon-5pm. <https://museums.kenosha.org/civilwar/>

Military Images—MI Magazine Special Photo

The photograph of prisoners from the 2nd Kentucky Cavalry, Morgan's Raiders, was shared by Ron Coddington, Editor and Publisher of *MI-Military Images* magazine. The reverse of the photo had the names, units, and date of capture of the five soldiers pictured. The stamp of "D. F. Brandon, Photographer, Camp Douglas, Ill," also appears on the back. (See *Camp Douglas News* Fall-2012.)

Research by CDRF reflected that all five soldiers, Sgt. Dean K. Mason, Sgt. Jefferson Barbee, Sgt. Johnson P. West, Pvt. George P. Gillum, and Pvt. Thomas W. Madison, were captured in Ohio in July 1863 and sent to Camp Douglas. Information available on all, except Pvt. Madison, indicating they remained at Camp Douglas until February 13, 1865 when they were sent to Point Lookout, MD. for exchange. Like most of Morgan's Raiders, these soldiers refused to sign the Oath of Allegiance. We did determine that Pvt. Gillum signed the Oath on May 3, 1865 in West Virginia.



There are no records of the fate of these men after the war.

MI magazine has become the standard of excellence in reproducing, researching, and documenting photographs from the Civil War. Ron Coddington has scanned an astonishing number of *carte de visite*, ambrotype, albumen prints, lithographs, daguerreotype, tintypes, and etchings into his data base and has published a significant number in each quarterly magazine.

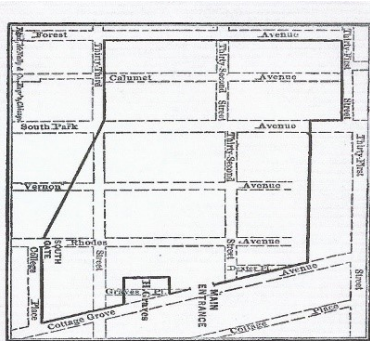
Ron provided the high-quality scan of our Sam Houston Jr. drawing. (See *Camp Douglas Newsletter* Winter 2013, Summer 2014.) Thanks for your support of CDRF.

Frequently you can find Ron and his wife Anne at Civil War shows. In the Chicago area, they can be seen at the Chicago Area show in Wheaton.

We strongly recommend you add *Military Images* to your Civil War collection at MilitaryImagesMagazine.com/subscribe

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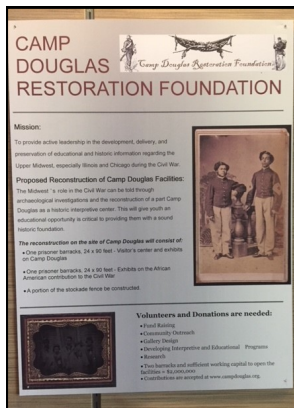


CAMP DOUGLAS, 1864-5.
Map prepared by William Bross for a paper read before the
Chicago Historical Society, June 18, 1878

*A Chicago Story that Must
Be Told*

Join us at:
www.campdouglas.org

*Photos of Display at
Kenosha CW
Museum*

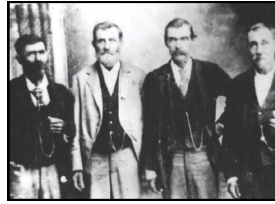


John Williford Justiss

Special thanks to Joy Lynn Justiss Edwards for sharing information on her great-great grandfather, John Williford Justiss.

John, born in 1829, joined Company H, 9th Texas Cavalry, October 14, 1861. His horse was valued at \$135 and equipment at \$30. (Confederate cavalry soldiers provided their own horse.)

The 9th Texas Cavalry first fought at the Battle of Pea Ridge. Later it participated at the battle of Corinth, MS. They participated in the raid in December 1862 on Holly Springs, MS. Later the unit joined General Johnston's relief unit of Vicksburg, MS. In April 1864, the 9th fought at the Atlanta campaign. After their defeat in January



John Justice (left) with
Brothers, Ca. 1900

1865 at Franklin, TN, the 9th ended the war in Louisiana and Mississippi.

While there is no indication of Justiss' activities during these engagements, he was assigned to the unit and appeared to be a "wagon smith in the field," between February 1, 1863 and July

31, 1863.

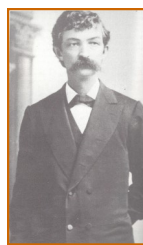
Records show he was captured January 31, 1864 at St. Joseph, LA or February 2, 1864 at Natchez, MS.

J. W. Justiss was shown as a prisoner at Camp Douglas February 24, 1864. There are no letters or documents indicating his stay at Camp Douglas. He was discharged June 14, 1865 after taking the Oath of Allegiance.

1864 Conspiracy and John Shanks

John T. Shanks was a significant player in the Camp Douglas Conspiracy of 1864. The conspiracy was planned by Captain Thomas Hines, CSA to take place during the Democratic Political Convention in August 1864. The plan was delayed until the November presidential election. For more details see the Fall 2012 *Camp Douglas News*.

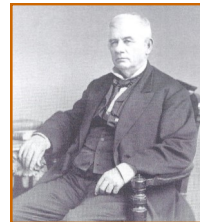
John Shanks was a prisoner at Camp Douglas acting as a clerk in the prisoner express office. He was well-known to Mary Morris, wife of Buckner Morris, former mayor of Chicago. The Morris family were known Confederate sympathizers. Captain Hines considered Shanks, who he met during the conspiracy, "a forger, thief, traitor, spy, perjurer, and coward."



Captain Thomas
Hines, CSA

His opinion was shared by fellow prisoner and diarist, Robert Bagby who accused Shanks of stealing letter paper and postage from prisoners that had been provided by Mrs. Morris.

Shanks was a spy for Colonel Sweet during Sweet's investigation of the conspiracy. Shanks allegedly became a confidant of Morris and Hines. It is hard to believe that either Hines or Morris would place any confidence in Shanks or give



Buckner Morris

him any meaningful information on their plans.

At the trial of the conspirators in Cincinnati in January 1865 John T. Shanks testified and was cross examined by Mr. Harvey on behalf of Mrs. Morris. The *Chicago Tribune* January 26, 1865, published extensive details of Shanks' testimony.

Shanks presented himself as an important spy to Colonel Sweet giving details of the plot that permitted Sweet to arrest all principals. During his examination, he denied reports of having two wives and committing forgery. These allegations had been repeated by Bagby and, apparently, Hines. Much of his testimony appears contrary to the likely truth.

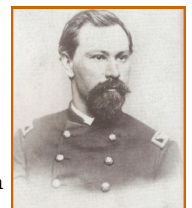
Buckner Morris was found not guilty. Mary Morris was found guilty and banished to Kentucky. Shanks' history after the war is unknown.

For more information see:

Chicago Tribune,
November 8, 1864 &
January 26, 1865.

Also available at
www.campdouglas.org
*Robert Anderson Bagby, Civil War
Diary*, CDRF.

*The Story of Camp Douglas Chicago's
Forgotten Civil War Prison*, History Press.



Colonel Benjamin
Sweet