



Camp Douglas News

Committed to the Preservation of Chicago History



Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation

Chicago, Illinois

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Project Phases:

Awareness and Support: 2010-ongoing

Site Planning: 2014-2018

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

Construction: To be determined



Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation—Latest News

Happy Holidays

Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation is closing its eight year of operation. The wonderful support we have received over these years has been rewarding.

Whether it is generous financial support or the over 300 volunteers who have participated in our archaeological work, each individual has made our efforts successful.

The Board of Directors of CDRF wish all of our friends a happy holiday season and our wished for a prosperous, safe, and healthy 2019.

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO!!

Study of Five Factors Affecting Prisons Camps

Managing Director David Keller conducted research into five factors affecting Civil War prison camps for the National Park Service, Andersonville National Site POW Research Program. The factors are summarized here. See www.campdouglas.org under the Info Reports tabs for a complete copy of three reports.

- 1. Lack of a strategic plan for handling prisoners:** Prior to the Civil War, few prisoners were held by warring armies. Exchange of prisoners was the usual method of handling POWs. Neither the North nor the South planned for POWs in advance. The North used existing mustering-in facilities as prisons. The South hastily used existing jails, abandoned factories, and warehouses in Richmond as prisons. Neither side anticipated using railroad and river transportation to rapidly move POWs from the war front.
- 2. Inadequate plan for long-term incarceration:** Under the Dix-Hill Cartel, prisoners were to be paroled within 10 days of capture. This requirement proved unworkable but was used as a reason to defer prison improvements by both sides. As prison populations grew (until two exchanges in mid-1862 and mid-1863), and exploded (after the termination of exchanges in mid-1863) the problems with camps were beyond correction. While the North attempted to improve facilities, the attempts were too little too late. The South was never able to make improvements. In addition, the pressures of the war led to constant moving of prisoners to additional inadequate facilities.
- 3. Poor selection and training of camp command:**

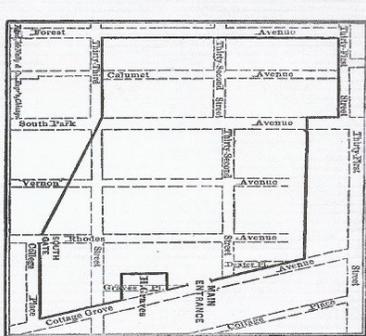
Neither North or South provided any training for camp commanders. The Union employed colonels and brigadier generals, usually from army units mustering in at the facilities. This produced high turn-over and often indifference on the part of the officers. The Confederacy assigned junior officers (lieutenants and captains) who had little influence on improving conditions. This lack of training and selection was a significant cause of poor camp conditions.

- 4. Lack of training of guards:** Guards were often selected from troops available, rather than bring specifically assigned to the task of guarding prisoners. This resulted in inconsistent, and frequently, brutal treatment of prisoners. None of the guards at Civil War prisons had basic training on their jobs.
- 5. Failure to provide individual soldiers with information on how to behave as a prisoner:** This factor contributed significantly to the conditions of individual soldiers. The rare example set by Morgan's Raiders at Camp Douglas of supporting their fellow prisoners and the negative actions of "Raiders" at Andersonville, who preyed on fellow soldiers, reflected the need to provide this training. Standards for prisoner behavior was not codified in the U.S. Army until the Code of Conduct was published in 1955.

All of these five factors contributed to conditions during the war

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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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Be Told*

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Camp Douglas Artifacts



Minié Balls & glass



Black-faced reed pipe



Prosser buttons

Andersonville Prison- A Special Place

In late September, Managing Director David Keller was invited to Andersonville, GA to present two papers he completed financed by two grants from the Andersonville National Site POW Research Program (see article on page 1.)

Georgia Southwestern State University hosted the program, which was part of a week-long series of events relating to prisoners of war.

The staff at the site, especially Jody Mays, Chief, Interpretation & Resource Management, Rangers Jennifer Hopkins and Charles Barr, and



Andersonville today looking SW



Entry to Cemetery

Superintendent Charles Sellars were gracious hosts. They are doing a wonderful job of preserving and interpreting Andersonville and the National Prisoner of War Museum, where the emotionally charged story of the camp and the loss of life is presented in a positive, educational manner.

Special work on the cemetery, including power washing grave stones, has created a beautiful setting

honoring the Union and Confederate soldiers buried there.

If you haven't visited this site, it is a must see.

Captain Albert Wilbur Diary

Curator Cynthia StormCallier, Drummer Boy Civil War Museum, Andersonville, GA, has shared two entries from the diary of Captain Wilbur, 19th NY Cavalry from April 1865. (Captain Wilbur's regiment was one of the units that pursued John Wilks Booth after the killing of Lincoln. Sergeant Corbett Boston of the 19th Cavalry shot and killed Booth on April 26, 1865.)



Sgt. Boston Corbett & Lt. Edward Doherty

"Friday, April 14, 1865

The rejoicing throughout is very great. People are nearly beside themselves at the prospects of peace and quiet once more.

There is every reason for thinking the rebellion "played out." Davis is a fugitive; Pres. Lincoln has perambulated his (Davis') bogus capital and occupies his house. Lee is in our hands and everything seems to go on as we desire it to go."

"Saturday, April 15, 1865

5 o'clock A.M. It has just been signaled that President Lincoln was shot at the theatre (Ford's) last night and Sec. Seward's throat cut in his own house, his son was stabbed at the same time. Nei-

ther are yet dead. Thus this most damnable rebellion seeks to accomplish by treachery and assassination what it has failed to do in open war. - 8 o'clock J. W. Boothe (sic) shot the President and escaped across the Potomac. We are going out to hunt through the country for him and woe to the friend if we find him. God have mercy on his soul- we will not on his body.

10 o'clock- The President is dead Such a profound excitement has never been in this army. Our reg't is ordered out to skirmish through the country to Fairfax Station to the Potomac. Took the cars for Wash. All public and nearly all private

houses are draped in mourning. Sections responsibility are roughly to

handle the people, Andy Johnson has been inaugurated as President. The day has been dark and gloomy with fog + storm as nature mourned the beastly deeds."

Drummer Boy Civil War Museum is a small gem in the town of Andersonville, GA. Don't miss it if you visit the area.



Exhibits at Drummer