



Camp Douglas News

Committed to the Preservation of Chicago History



Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation

Chicago, Illinois

Summer 2012

Volume 3, Issue 2

Project Phases:

Awareness and Support:
2010-2013

Site Location and Site
Planning: 2012

Archaeological
Investigation: 2012-2013

Virtual Chicago: 2013

Construction: 2012-13

Fund Raising

Funds are needed as the Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation continues its important work in preserving this significant part of history.

Contributions to the Foundation are accepted on the web site, www.campdouglas.org.

Anyone knowing of foundations or other sources of funding should contact David Keller at the Foundation for our follow up.

THE Volunteers

Special thanks to the volunteers who participated in the archaeological excavation in 90 degree heat with enthusiasm and good humor. **THEY ARE THE GREATEST!**

Aaron Brunmeirer, Erin Feichtinger, Siera Heavner, Joseph Karamanski, Grace Pekar, and Fredrico Padrones Salvador, all students from Loyola University, Anjaneen Campbell, Robert Girardi, Rebecca Graff, Ted Karamanski, Andrew Leith, Dan Malone, Joan Ramsey, Rebecca Ramsey, Sophia Sallas-Brookwell, and Verlyn (Buzz) Speerman.

Archaeological Excavation a Major Success

Beginning Monday, June 25, 2012, 17 volunteers, including seven students from Loyola University, began an archaeological excavation in Lake Meadows Park, the former site of Garrison Square of Camp Douglas. Led by Dr. Scott Demel, Northern Michigan University and Dr. Ted Karamanski, Loyola University, three units were investigated on the site. Unit 1 was an area believed to be the location of one of the barracks for the camp cadre. Unit 2 was at the headquarters building and Unit 3 at the stockade fence on the eastern edge of the camp. These units were selected based on earlier non-invasive investigations conducted by Dr. Demel.

With the help of the



Scott Demel, left, Ted Karamanski, right discuss mapping Unit 1-Barracks

Foundation board members, contacts were made with a number of neighborhood visitors as well as the media, including NBC-TV 5, WGN-TV and the *Chicago Tribune*.

The "dig" continued until Saturday, June 30, when all excavations were filled and the park was returned to its original state. The most significant find was the foundation of the headquarters building (see article below) uncovered in Unit 2.

The project was funded by a grant from the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation as well as generous in-kind contributions from Clark Roofing, Broadview, IL.

With the success of this excavation, additional non-invasive investigations are planned for 2012-13 and future excavations for the summer of 2013.



Bronzeville kids visit site

Camp Douglas Headquarters Foundation Found

On Thursday, June 28, Scott Demel's volunteer crew of Anjaneen Campbell and Rebecca Ramsey uncovered what is believed to be a portion of the south foundation of the headquarters building in Garrison Square of Camp Douglas.

Dr. Demel based his assessment on the color and age of the limestone, the location of the pieces and their configuration. While limestone was a building material used after Camp Douglas was



Camp Douglas Headquarters Foundation in Garrison Square Discovered

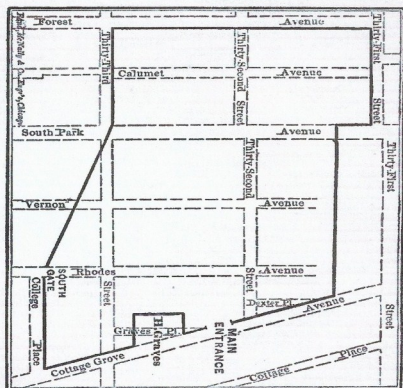
razed, these pieces appear to be different than others found at the site.

Based on earlier non-invasive investigation of the site using ground penetrating radar, resistivity and magnetometry, along with the estimated location of the headquarters building, Dr. Demel identified Unit 2 of significance for the excavation.

Further study will be made on the foundation stone and the many artifacts found on the site.

Camp Douglas Restoration
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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
Needs to be Told*

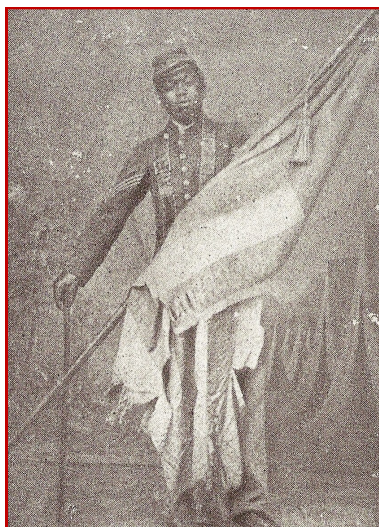
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U. S. Colored Troops 54th Massachusetts Regiment

By 1863 many battles had been waged by brave Union Army soldiers, but their ranks were shrinking with fewer volunteers and many deaths. Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton authorized then Massachusetts Governor, John A. Andrews to organize an African American regiment of soldiers. Calls for volunteers were placed in newspapers in the North and posters were put up seeking black soldiers for the Union Army. In speech after speech Frederick Douglass urged black men to join the Union Army. "Liberty won by white men would lack half the luster.

Who would be free themselves must strike the blow." he said. Escaped slaves Freedmen went north to join the U.S. Colored Troops. They came from Canada and many U.S. states to join.

Within a few months there were more than 1,000 Black soldiers in Massachusetts. They were organized as the 54th and 55th Regiments. Governor Andrews wanted to appoint an African American to command the 54th Regiment, but that was not



Sgt William H. Carney, Co C. 54th Mass
Medal of Honor Winner-Ft. Wagner

allowed and he appointed a white man, Robert Gould Shaw to command the 54th along with the rest of the officers numbering in the twenties, all white.

The African Regiment was ordered to march south to Darien, Georgia. Their mission was to plunder and destroy the homes of the southerners. But they wanted to support the cause in combat. That opportunity came when they were sent to capture Fort Wagner in Charleston. The troops were met by considerable shelling from the fort. A shell hit the flag bearer and he fell to the ground, but before the flag landed, a soldier named William H. Carney seized

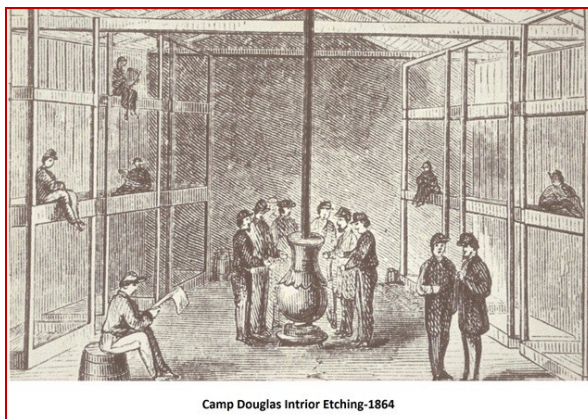
the flag and moved to the front of the assault. They soon had to retreat. Carney, still carrying the colors for his regiment, made it to safety and to medical assistance for the wounds he received, without letting the flag hit the ground. Fort Wagner was abandoned by the Confederate forces after two months and the 54th Regiment was recognized for their bravery. Sgt. Carney was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in May, 1900.

Article by Bernard Turner, CDRF Director

Illinois Institute of Technology Joins the Foundation to Create Virtual Camp Douglas

Illinois Institute of Technology joins the Foundation in creating Virtual Camp Douglas. Thomas M. Jacobius, The Inter-professional Projects (IPRO) Program at IIT announced that Laura Batson would be the instructor for the Camp Douglas project at IIT for the 2013 school year

She will join James Damato (AIA), Principal, Zpd+a, Architects and Josh Anderson, CDRF in the development of this three-dimensional view of Camp Douglas as it appeared in 1864-65. Using existing architectural software, that will be superimposed on Google Earth, Virtual Camp Douglas will offer a view of the entire camp.

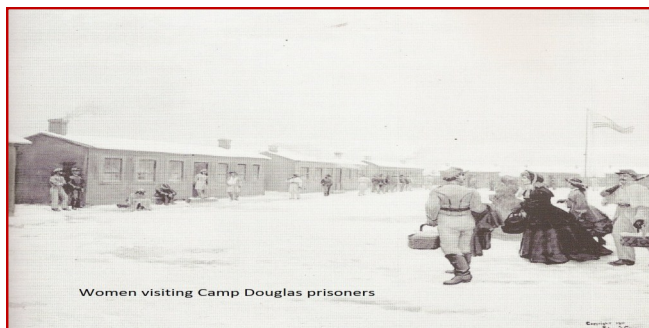


Camp Douglas Interior Etching-1864

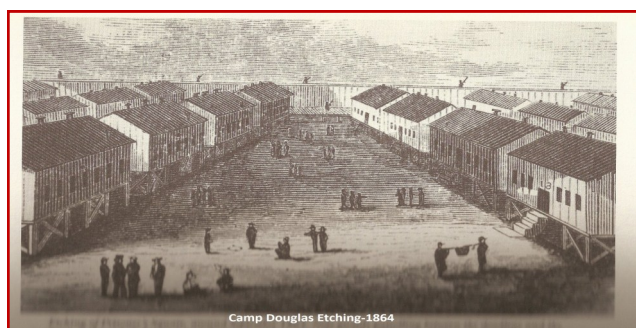
In addition, selected views of the interior of the camp will be available. These scenes will be based on drawings and descriptions of prisoners and guards of the facility. The interior views will include individuals who when clicked on will present actor portrayed videos. Using letters, diaries and other contemporaneous reports, these videos will portray daily life in the camp.

Students from IIT will have research information from the Foundation; but, will be expected to do additional research to determine the size and location of all buildings in the four sections of Camp Douglas. It is anticipated that this project will be

completed by the end of the year and will be available to anyone at no charge.



Women visiting Camp Douglas prisoners



Camp Douglas Etching-1864