



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:
2010-2013

Site Location and Site
Planning: 2012

Archaeological Investigation:
2012-2013

Virtual Camp Douglas: 2013

Construction: 2013-14

Civil War Bits & Pieces

Civil War Units

The basic unit recruited during the war was the Regiment consisting of about 1,000 men and commanded by a Colonel. Four or more Regiments combined to make a Brigade commanded by a Brigadier General or Colonel. Two or Three Brigades made up a Division commanded by a Brigadier or Major General. Up to four Divisions made up a Corps commanded by Major General in the Union Army and Lieutenant General in the Confederacy.

Senior officers were appointed while company officers (Captain and Lieutenant) were frequently elected by the units.

Illinois Troops

**58% of 1860 census Illinois military-aged white men served in the Union Army. This compared to 42% in New York and 41% in Massachusetts.

**Of 217,000 Illinois volunteers, 18,000 were from Germany, 12,000 from Ireland and 2,000 were African American.

These Bits and Pieces were from *Chicago's Irish Legion, the 90th Illinois Volunteers in the Civil War*, James B. Swan, 2009

Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation—Latest News

VIRTUAL CAMP DOUGLAS PROJECT CONTINUES

The students from IIT presented their results November 30 as part of the IPRO Day at IIT. They, along with 29 other IPRO teams, were judged on a video, table top display and oral presentation to a panel of judges.



IIT-IPRO-378 Nov 2012 Left to Right-Gabrielle Prof Batson, Joclyn, Romit student presenters of Virtual Camp Douglas

Preliminary views of the camp map, story boards and web site were impressive. Students working on the story boards have conducted research into stories about camp life in preparation for videos to be produced. Mapping of Camp Douglas is nearly completed and the web site brings stories and mapping together. Next semester the project will continue at IIT under the leadership of Professor Laura Batson.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL UPDATE

Scott Demel and students from Northern Michigan University are in the process of cleaning and cataloging all artifacts found in the excavation this past summer. After this is completed, students from Loyola University will

place the artifacts within historic perspectives.

GRIFFIN FUNERAL HOME TO BE DEVELOPED

Prologue, Inc. announced plans to develop an alternate school, community center and Civil War museum on the site of the former Griffin Funeral Home, 3232 S. King Drive. The announcement was made by Dr. Nancy Jackson, Executive Director of Prologue which operates alternate schools in Chicago providing educational opportunities to school drop-outs who are not eligible to reenter the public schools. The Foundation has been in contact with Dr. Jackson and is cooperating with them on the development of the museum.

Ernest Griffin and his family, after his death in 1995 and the closing of the funeral home in 2007, maintained a display of Civil War and Camp Douglas memorabilia as a tribute to his grandfather Charles Griffin who entered the 29th USCT at Camp Douglas.



Charles H. Griffin-29th USCT

Company K, 1st Michigan Sharpshooters

Chicago Connection With Native American Union Soldiers

The 1st Michigan Sharpshooters were mustered into the Union Army in July 1863 and were commanded by Colonel Charles V. De Land. The unit included Company K that was comprised of Native Americans and recruited from tribes in Michigan including the Chippewa and Ottawa, even though Native Americans were not subject to the draft and therefore were not required to serve in the Union Army.



These soldiers developed into an excellent fighting unit. The 1st Sharpshooters in July 1863 were sent to Indiana to check the advances of Morgan's Raiders. The unit was then ordered to Camp Douglas where they served as guards. They proved to be an oddity. Many Chicagoans wanted to go see the mysterious group of Indians. Col. De Land commanded the camp from August 1863 until the unit was sent to join

the Army of the Potomac in March 1864.

After participating in fierce fighting during General Grant's 1864 campaign the 1st, including Company K, arrived at the siege of Petersburg in June 1864.

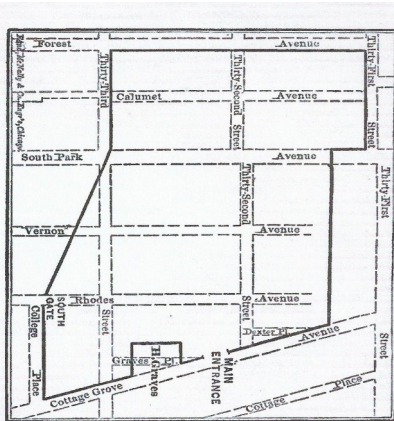
At the famous battle of the Crater the 1st Sharpshooters, part of Humphrey's Brigade, were on the left of the 29th USCT from Illinois commanded by Lt. Col. John Bross of Chicago who died in the battle. Their Brigade suffered 216 casualties compared to 722 casualties for the brigade containing the 29th.

From Camp Douglas to the Crater the Native Americans of Company K, 1st Michigan Sharpshooters had a connection with Chicago.

Special thanks to Shari Aljimah for bringing this story to our attention.

Camp Douglas Restoration
Foundation
Chicago, Illinois
www.campdouglas.org

David L. Keller, Managing Director
1368 N. Mohawk 2S
Chicago, IL 60610
Tel: 312-751-1693
Mobile: 312-859-1940
dkeller@campdouglas.org



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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Satellite Camps

Camp Douglas had many satellite camps during its existence. Physical facilities were limited in Camp Douglas requiring units to bivouac in the area surrounding the camp. These camps could be found as far south as Hyde Park and as far west as today's Dan Ryan Expressway.

Sub-camps such as Camp Dunne and Camp Doggett, usually named after a commander or financial backer, were common. For example, the 90th Illinois Volunteers (Chicago Irish Legion) were at Camp Dunne, one mile south of Camp Douglas but followed the routine laid out for soldiers at Camp Douglas and acted as guards for the Confederate prisoners.

Firing Weapons

Colonel Joseph Tucker in mid-1862 issued General Order Number 10 in response to concerns about the Union soldiers wounding fellow recruits rather than developing weapons proficiency. The order directed "whenever arms are to be discharged the men should be sent to the Lake Shore."

No one knows how effective the order turned out to be.

Recollections-Letters, Diaries and Journals

Editors Note: This section of the newsletter will be devoted in this and future editions to letters, diaries and journals of Civil War veterans. Often considered the best source of contemporaneous information on the war, readers must be cautioned that this material represents individual experiences and feelings. In addition, many of the journals were written well after the war and include the frailties of age and time.

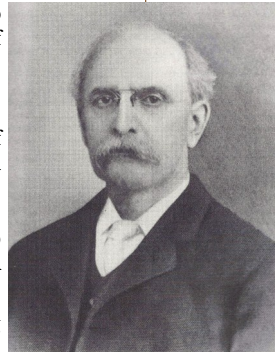
Curtis R. Burke, a member of Morgan's Raiders was captured in July 1863, arriving at Camp Douglas August 18, 1863. He remained there until March 2, 1865. His journal, covering the period October 1862 to June 1865, was dictated in 1915 at Indianapolis, IN. He died November 5, 1919 at the age of 77. Many excerpts from his journal can be found in



Morgan's Raiders prisoners at Camp Douglas

George Levy's, *To Die in Chicago*.

Burke arrived at Camp Douglas after traveling by train from Camp Morton in Indianapolis, through Michigan City, IN. His first comments on the camp were dated Tuesday, August 18, 1863. "The camp appeared pretty large with a high fence round it... The barracks [in White Oak Square] were divided into little rooms with from two to ten bunks in each and doors and windows to match." "We received rations of crackers, bread, bacon, pickled [sic] pork, coffee, sugar, potatoes, hominy, salt, sugar, soap and candles. Of course a man only got a hand full of each when it was divided, but we received better rations here than we did at Camp Morton, Ind." He continued, "A heavy dew fell during the night. I slept better than I expected in my bunk without any blankets."



William Liston Brown (circa 1900)

132 letters written by William Liston Brown, Quartermaster of the Chicago Mercantile Battery (August 1862 to July

1865) are archived at the Chicago History Museum. The battery was organized in Camp Doggett, a satellite camp of Camp Douglas.

In September 1862, after capture at Harpers Ferry, units from New York, Vermont, Ohio, Illinois and Indiana were sent to Camp Douglas to await exchange. These units refused to participate in any military activities and

burned their barracks three times during their stay. They also disrupted life in and around the camp including a number of incidents with the Chicago police as a result of their drunkenness. They were exchanged in December 1862 relieving the Camp of some of its most disruptive and destructive troops.

In a letter to his father, September 29, 1862 Brown commented "The paroled men from Harpers Ferry are nearly all here and a harder looking set of customers I never saw. Ragged, dirty and nasty with few exceptions and most of them have only been in the field about five weeks. I talked to several smart fellows and they say they are treated like dogs."

After the war Brown became a leader in the iron ore and ship building industry in Chicago with Picklands, Brown and Company and Chicago Shipbuilding Company. He died November 1, 1929 in Pasadena California.

Concordia Guards - Chicago's Jewish Company

Company C (Concordia Guards), 82d Illinois Infantry was the only all-Jewish unit to fight in the Civil War. The unit was nicknamed because the men volunteered at a B'nai B'rith Ramah Lodge meeting at the Concordia Club in Chicago.

The unit was recruited largely through the influence of Henry Greenebaum, Chicago banker and alderman. Within three days of formation, the initial 96 recruits, from a Jewish population in Chicago estimated to be 1,500, raised \$11,000 for the benefit of the men.

Organized in Springfield October 28, 1862, the unit was assigned to the Army of the Po-



82d Illinois Monument-Gettysburg

tomac, then commanded by General Burnside. They participated in the battle of Fredericksburg, the famous "Mud March," and Chancellorsville. At Gettysburg the 82d was assigned to defend Cemetery Hill and participated in all three days of the conflict. In October 1863 they were transferred to the Army of the Cumberland participating in battles at Missionary Ridge (Chattanooga), Atlanta Campaign (Resaca, Kenesaw Mountain, Peachtree Creek), March to the Sea, and the Campaign of the Carolinas (Bentonville). The 82d was mustered out June 1865 in Washington D. C.