



Michael M. Gregory, PhD is a professional archaeologist who has worked in a variety of academic, research, and cultural resources management settings during the past 40 years. He presently serves on the Board of Directors of the Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation, Inc., and is semi-employed by SNA International, which is a forensic science consulting firm that contracts archaeologists to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. As a field archaeologist, Dr. Gregory has investigated prehistoric and historical sites in the Upper Midwest, Mid-Atlantic, and American Southwest regions as well as participated in projects in France, Jordan, and Vietnam. His current research interests focus on Camp Douglas and later urban trends related to suburbanization and the Great Migration in the Chicago area. Dr. Gregory is author of numerous technical reports and academic articles documenting his archaeological investigations. A lifelong interest in the Civil War began during his youth while he was growing-up outside of Richmond, Virginia.

The Archaeology of Camp Douglas and the Bronzeville Community

Archaeological excavations offer unique glimpses of Camp Douglas and the existing neighborhood that developed over the former grounds of the camp beginning in the 1870s. Field investigations yielded physical evidence of the camp, which many thought destroyed by urban development, and rich deposits of domestic artifacts that document the everyday lives of neighborhood residents, especially those of African Americans who began occupying the area circa 1915 as part of the Great Migration. While urban settings present a number of challenges to the archaeologist, the Camp Douglas/Bronzeville Neighborhood Archaeology Project equally demonstrates that such places offer rewarding and unexpected research results. Depending upon the interests of the audience, this presentation can highlight the decisions that went into the Camp Douglas/Bronzeville field project as well as the results that have been achieved to date: the “discoveries” and the emerging interpretations of historical patterns that mark community consumerism, social identity, and public health behaviors. The project demonstrates the importance of archaeology to counter balance and raise awareness about a range of historical and contemporary forces that worked to diminish Chicago’s connections with two of America’s most significant 19th- and 20th-centuries events: Camp Douglas and the Civil War, and the Bronzeville community and the Great Migration.

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