



Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation
Report of Archaeological Excavation
June 25-30, 2012

Introduction and Acknowledgement:

The Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation (CDRF) in cooperation with Loyola University of Chicago, Northern Michigan University, and with the financial support of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation conducted an archaeological excavation June 25-30, 2012 in Chicago's Lake Meadows Park (32d St. & Rhodes Ave.). The excavation site was on an area known as Garrison Square of the Civil War military installation, Camp Douglas.

This report outlines the planning and conduct of that excavation from the perspective of CDRF. It is not intended to be a technical report on the excavation. Such a report will be prepared by Dr. Scott Demel, Northern Michigan University, archaeologist in charge of the excavation. We apologize in advance to Dr. Demel for any technical errors found in this document.

James M. Damato, AIA, Principal, zpd+a architects in Chicago first suggested that an archaeological investigation would be meaningful for the Foundation. Dr. Charles Faulkner, Professor Emeritus, University of Tennessee was most helpful in educating the Foundation on details of organizing an investigation. His introduction of Dr. Dan Amick, Loyola University, led to early planning of this project. Due to unforeseen circumstances and scheduling problems, Dr. Amick was unable to continue with the project. Dr. Rebecca Graff, University of Chicago, who was involved in early planning, identified the earlier work on the site by Dr. Demel while he was associated the Chicago Field Museum, and made an introduction to CDRF.

Dr. Demel and Dr. Theodore Karamanski, Loyola University, became the nucleus of a team including members of the board of directors of CDRF that ultimately planned and executed the excavation. Scott's and Ted's insight, enthusiasm, professionalism, and teamwork were largely responsible for the success of the project.

Claudine Malik, Chicago Park District, was instrumental in assisting the Foundation in obtaining appropriate permits. Special thanks to Jim Serpe, Serpe Insurance, for guidance in obtaining proper insurance for the event, and Alex Hernandez and Andy Irvine, Clark Roofing, Broadview, Illinois for supplying material and supplies for the project. Also special thanks to members of the board of directors of CDRF, Phil Grinstead, Andy Irvine and Bernard Turner who were on site daily. Members of the Bronzeville community who visited the site with interest and enthusiasm along with water and snacks for the volunteers made the excavation special.

The project would not have been possible without the financial support of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation, which is dedicated to perpetuating and expanding Lincoln's vision for America and completing America's unfinished work. Trustees of the foundation, especially Tom Campbell, Chicago, Treasurer, and Harold Holzer, Rye, NY, Chairman, believed in this project when it was only a dream. Their generous grant has been used for the excavation and will be used for further evaluation, study and outreach to the academic community.

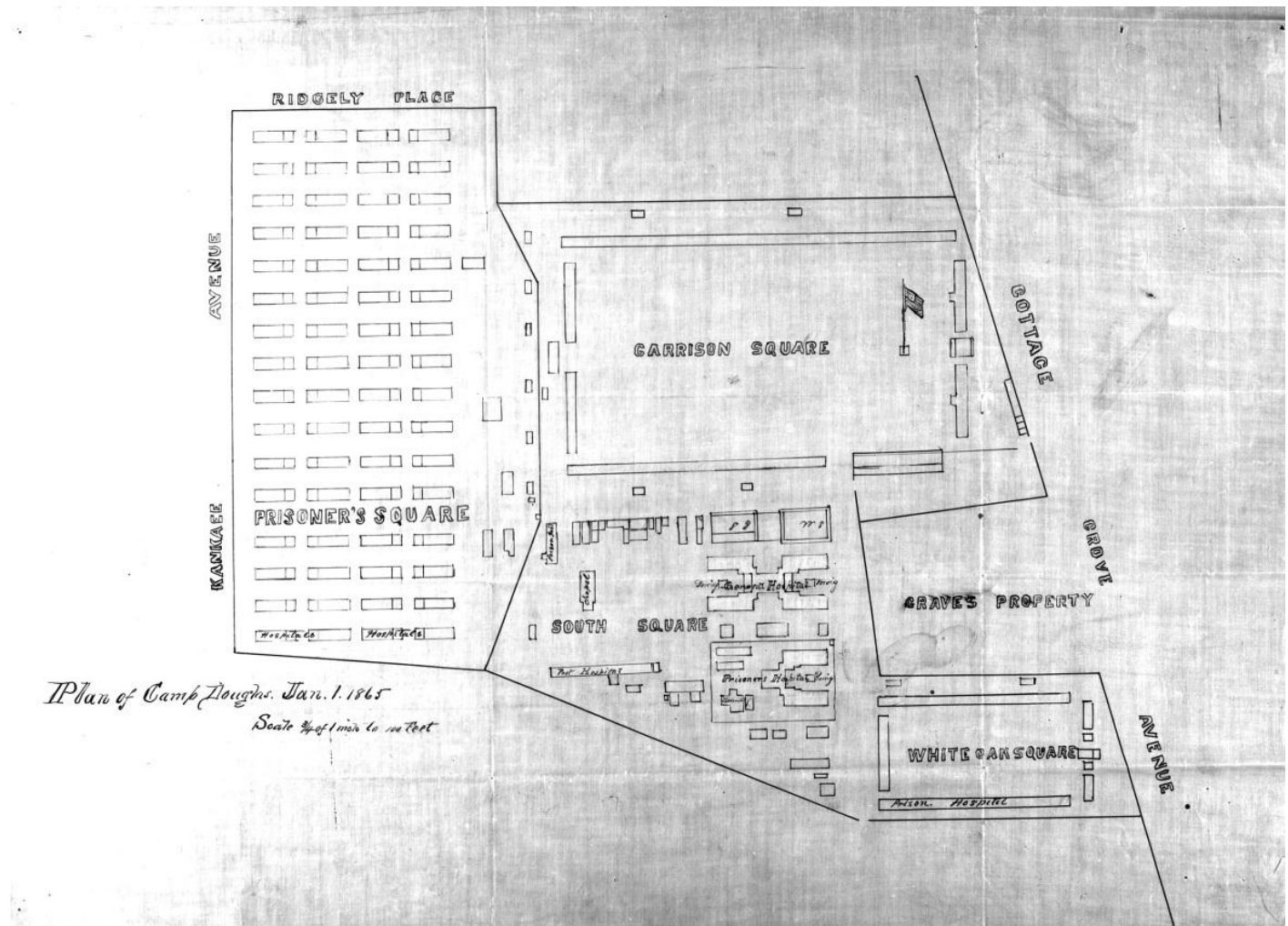
Most of all, CDRF gives special thanks to the volunteers who participated in the excavation. These volunteers worked tirelessly and with good humor in 90 degree plus heat during the week. Aaron Brunmeirer, Erin Feichtinger, Siera Heavner, Joseph Karamanski, Grace Pekar, and Fredrico Padrones Salvador, 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.

Thanks to all for making a dream a reality.

David L. Keller
Managing Director
Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation
www.campdouglas.org.
July 6, 2012

Camp Douglas Background:

Camp Douglas was located between 31st Street, 33rd Place, Cottage Grove Ave and Giles Ave on the near-south side of Chicago. The camp operated between 1861 and 1865 receiving and training nearly 40,000 Union soldiers, including African American troops. From 1862 through 1865 the camp also served as a prison camp housing nearly 30,000 Confederate prisoners during that time. Most of the last prisoners left the camp by July 1865 with the camp completely razed by December 1865. In years after the camp's existence nothing remains of its physical presence. Little, if any, acknowledgement of the camp exists today. Yet, Camp Douglas was the most significant physical facility in Chicago during the Civil War consisting of 30 acres of land and over 200 buildings. 66 of the buildings were barracks housing Confederate prisoners when the camp closed.



Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation:

The Foundation was incorporated July 2, 2010 as an Illinois general not-for-profit corporation. It is exempt under section 501(c) (3) of the IRS code.

The stated purposes of the Foundation are:

1. Develop and manage facilities relating to the Civil War military installation, Camp Douglas, Illinois.
2. Promote, support and conduct educational and interpretive activities and facilities relating to Civil War history and Civil War artifacts.
3. Promote, publicize and provide education activities relating to the role of Chicago and the African American community in the Civil War.
4. Own or manage facilities and artifacts necessary to meet the stated purposes of the corporation.
5. Solicit and manage funds necessary to accomplish the stated purposes of the corporation.

The Foundation is managed by a Board of Directors authorized at ten members with currently six members. All serving with no compensation. David L. Keller is the non-paid Managing Director. Directors serve for a term of one year. There are no term limits on director appointments.

Specific information on the Foundation's activities can be found on the web site www.campdouglas.org.

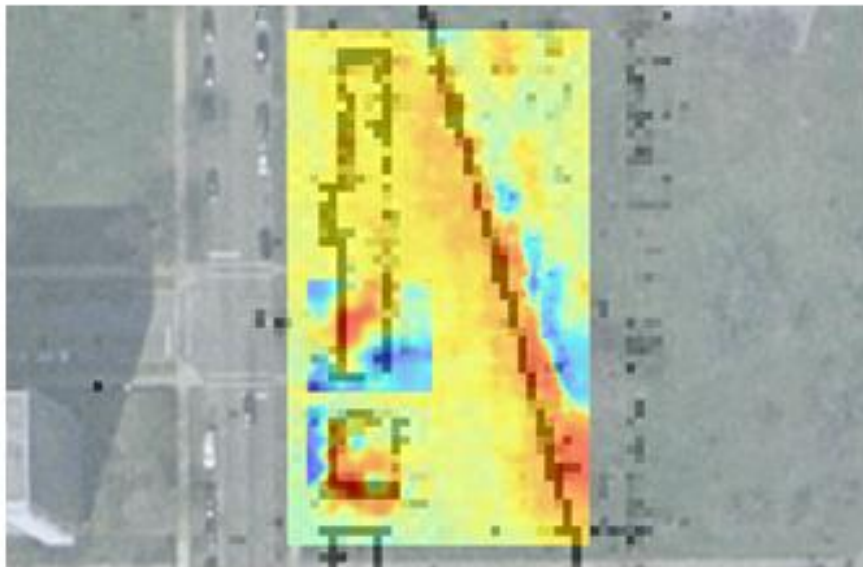
Background and Planning of the Excavation:

In 2010 the CDRF began planning an archaeological investigation on the site of Camp Douglas. These plans were initiated by the Foundation and included Dr. Theodor Karamanski, Professor & Public History Graduate Director, Loyola University and Dr. Daniel Amick, Associate Professor, Chairperson, Department of Anthropology. The site for the investigation was to be determined and the project initiated in the summer of 2011. In July 2011 CDRF received a grant from the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation to be used to fund the investigation. Due to the inability to obtain a site and Dr. Amick's unavailability in 2011 the project was deferred. Dr. Scott Demel, Assistant Professor, Northern Michigan University became a resource for the project. In 2006/08 Dr. Demel, while associated with the Chicago Field Museum, had conducted non-invasive investigations of a Camp Douglas site located in Lake Meadows Park (32d St. and Rhodes Ave.). This area would have consisted of the Garrison Square section of Camp Douglas. This section contained the headquarters of the camp and barracks and other facilities for the camp's cadre. This investigation consisted of ground penetrating radar,

resistivity and magnetometry. This investigation had been reduced to a written report by Dr. Demel indicating areas of interest for future investigation.

The following map shows an overlay of the summary of non-invasive results and an additional overlay of apportion of Camp Douglas.

Summary of non-invasive investigation conducted in 2006/08
overlaid on Google map with Camp Douglas



Areas of additional interest are depicted in red and blue of the overlay. The building of Camp Douglas at the bottom left of the map with bright red on the lower end was the headquarters of the camp. The longer building of the camp was a barracks and also shows strong echoes. The stockade fence of the camp shown running from the lower right to the upper center also indicates red and blue areas of interest. These areas offer the best opportunities for excavation.

Dr. Demel committed to continuing his investigation in the spring 2011. Dr. Demel also agreed to conduct the excavation at no cost to the Foundation. During the fall of 2011 planning with Dr. Karamanski, Dr. Demel and CDRF began in earnest. Dr. Demel contacted the Chicago Park District for appropriate permits to conduct the excavation in Lake Meadows Park.

CDRF agreed to be the coordinating sponsor of the excavation with Northern Michigan University and Loyola University of Chicago participating sponsors. Northern Michigan University (Dr. Demel) would have archaeological management responsibility for the excavation along with providing archaeological specific equipment for the project. Loyola University (Dr. Karamanski) would be responsible for recruiting and managing volunteers for the project. Both Dr. Demel and Dr. Karamanski would provide technical support and guidance to CDRF. CDRF would be responsible for pre-excavation publicity, coordination of VIP's, site coordination and providing on-site material and equipment needed for the project. Any funding needed would be provided by CDRF from the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation grant.

In early 2012 it was determined that it was in the best interest of all parties that the permit from the Chicago Park District be issued in the name of CDRF rather than Dr. Demel. Coordination and negotiation of the permit was assumed by CDRF. These negotiations were completed and the permit was issued Friday evening, June 22 before the excavation was to begin on June 25. Permit requirements included posting liability insurance in an amount of \$2 million which was provided by CDRF.

Educational Involvement-Chicago Public Schools:

One of the early goals of CDRF was to involve Chicago Public School students and staff in the project. It was especially desirable to include middle and high school students from the Bronzeville area. Initial contacts were made with local school administrators who indicated strong interest in being involved in the project. However, the project required "downtown" approval. To that end, CDRF presented a written proposal and oral presentation to representatives of the Chicago Public Schools Central Office, February 22, 2012. This proposal included that CDRF would provide CPS with specific curriculum for middle and high school activities before, during, and after an investigation along with information on Camp Douglas and the Civil War. This curriculum was to be used during the 2012-13 school year with student involvement planned for subsequent investigations to be conducted in the summer of 2013. A "Teacher's Day" was planned for June 27 during the 2012 excavation.

After numerous promises of response from the Central Office (represented by AVID, Advancement Via Individual Determination), CDRF was informed the week of June 4 that, due to staffing changes, the Chicago Public Schools would be unable to participate in the project; even though they believed the project had merit.

As a result of this decline, contact was made with several private schools who have indicated strong interest in participating. An additional attempt will be made to reestablish communications with the CPS Central Office for their involvement in future activities. Failing

that, private schools will be asked to participate with the understanding that they will “adopt” a local Chicago Public School as a partner in the activities.

Project Publicity:

CDRF distributed a news release announcing the excavation to television, radio and printed media June 6.

Beginning June 4, personal letters were sent over 35 “VIPs” including politicians, educators, media, community leaders, historic institutions and museums and others identified by CDRF. In addition, email and telephone invitations were made to contacts of CDRF board members.

As a result of these notifications and specific follow up by CDRF board members, on June 28, NBC-TV 5 News conducted live interviews with David Keller and Scott Demel on the 5:30 am and 6:30 am news. WGN-TV and the *Chicago Tribune* visited the site on June 29. A television feature was prepared and photo and news articles appeared subsequently. Additional contacts were made with *Crain’s Chicago Business*, *Civil War News* and other historic publications with articles promised.

The publicity resulted in a large number of email contacts to the CDRF and a significant increase in subscriptions to the CDRF web site.

Conduct of the Excavation:

During May and early June 2012 CDRF, based on equipment needs determined by Dr. Demel, began to marshal assets for the excavation. Clark Roofing, Broadview, IL donated and stored a significant portion of equipment needed for the project. Fencing, tarps, buckets and plywood were some of the equipment provided. Dr. Demel moved equipment including screens, shovels, trowels, artifacts bags and other archaeological specific equipment to the Chicago area from Northern Michigan University. CDRF provided, on an as needed basis, other equipment such as fence posts, pick-ax, safety glasses and step ladders. CDRF also provided a site headquarters shelter tent, table, chairs and signs for the site.

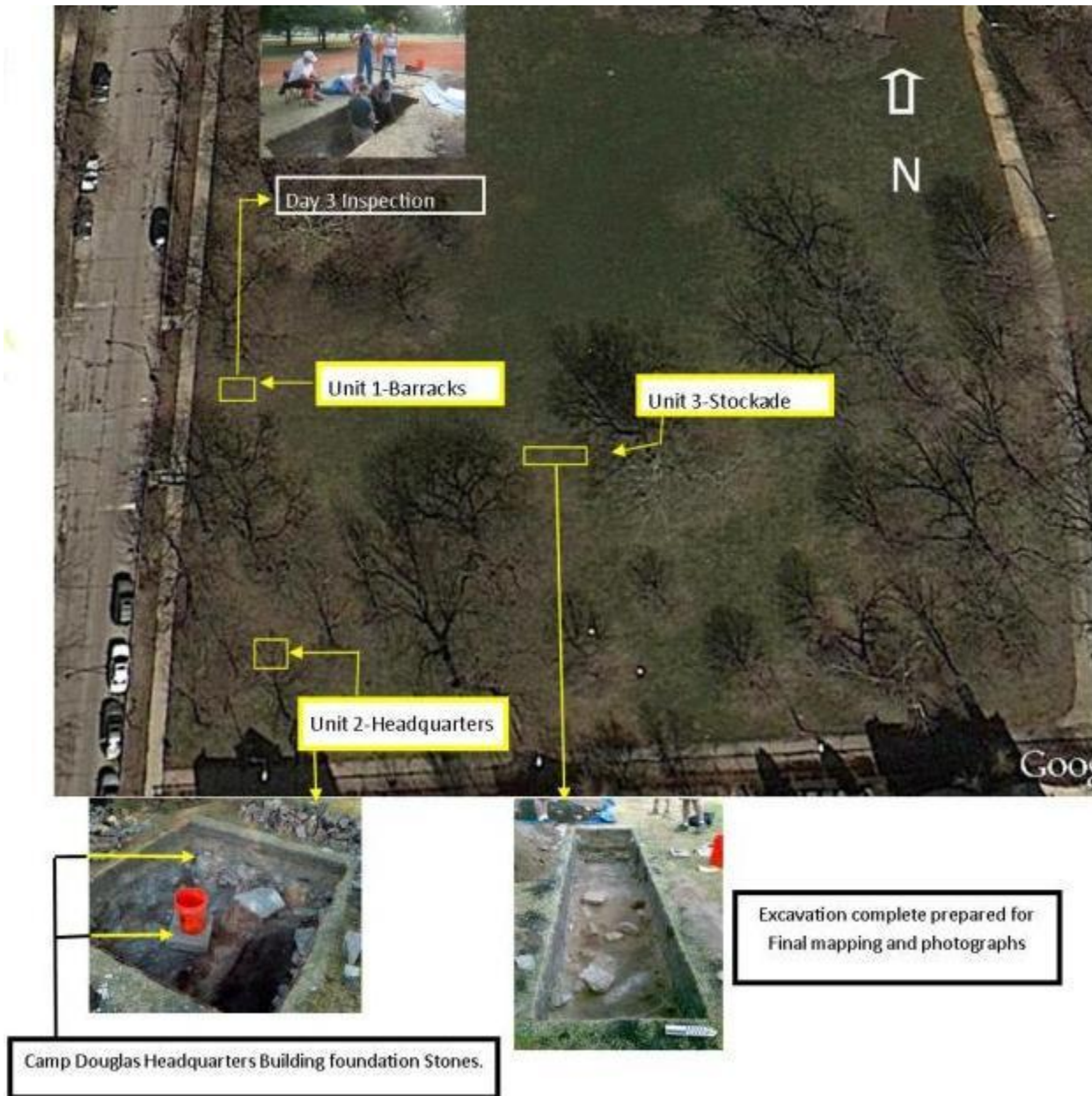
Volunteers were expected to provide transportation to and from the site, lunches and individual protective gear. CDRF and Dr. Karamanski provided water, and snacks for the project. Visitors to the site, including Bronzeville neighbors, provided volunteers with water, power drinks and snacks.

Site Organization & Layout

The site was on the southwestern portion of Lake Meadows Park at 32d Street and Rhodes Ave. Three excavation units were established. Unit 1-Barracks was an area of interest that likely

consisted of the southern edge of the barracks in Garrison Square. Unit 2-Headquarters likely contained the northern portion of the headquarters building in Garrison square. Unit 3-Stockade was planned across the possible fence line on the eastern edge of Garrison Square. Unit 1 was approximately 3 meters by 5 meters. Unit 2 was approximately 4 meters square, and Unit 3 was approximately 3 meters by 6 meters.

Camp Douglas Excavation Site Map



Day 1-Monday, June 25, 2012

Dr. Demel, Andy Irvine, CDRF and David Keller, CDRF arrived at the site at 7:30 am to begin the set up and preparation for the excavation. Representatives of the Chicago Park District were invited to the site and were expected to appear. However, except for the local park manager, they did not visit the site during the excavation.

After Dr. Demel laid out the individual excavation units, fencing was erected around the units and equipment put in place. Between 8:00 am and 8:30 am volunteers arrived and were assigned work in each unit. Each volunteer registered for the excavation by signing a waiver and release document.



Crew unloading and beginning set up



Unit 1—Barracks initial layout



Site Headquarters-L-Andy Irvine
R-Scott Demel



Unit 1-Barracks early screening for artifacts



Lunch Break

Excavation continued until 4:30 when the site was closed. All tents, equipment and signs were removed and stored for the evening by S. Demel, T. Karamanski and D. Keller

The Excavation Process:

Specific individuals were assigned to each unit with the goal of retaining the same staffing during the excavation. Obviously, this is not always possible; however, there was always one member of the team remaining at the unit for the entire excavation process. The excavation consisted of uncovering layers of earth. Each layer was approximately 10 centimeters deep. Upon the completion of excavation of each layer, the layer was measured, mapped and frequently photographed. The mapping shows unit topography and the location of significant artifacts or notable anomalies. When anomalies were noted, Dr. Demel was consulted and the process of examination was determined. Artifacts found were placed in plastic bags marked and stored in larger bags for further analysis. This process was repeated through each layer. During the process mostly small shovels and trowels were used with paint brushes used for anomalies or examining special artifacts. The process was carefully done with meticulous attention to detail. Depth of excavations ranged from approximately one to 1.5 meters.

Artifacts found during the excavation were likely from periods after the camp. Typical artifact found were pottery, glass, nails, metal objects, marbles and other small items. These artifacts will be studied in detail at a later date.

At the end of the excavation GPS reading were taken to accurately locate each unit on the site.

Day 2-Tuesday, June 26, 2012

Activities continued all day with Units 1 & 2 reaching sand. This was important as the original soil of the camp was sand. Over the years, construction, demolition and filling of basements and vacant land resulted in several layers in the ground. Darker land fill was uppermost with sand layers below. In all units building material was found in a random manner. This can be attributed to movement of this material during construction and demolition of the area.



Unit 1-Barracks Day 2 progress



Neighborhood Children Visit the Site

Day 3-Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Site work began, as usual, at 8:00 am with progress made in all Units. Unit 3-Stockade has now reached sand. Unit 1-Barracks encountered extremely compacted dirt and needed to resort to

pick-ax to continue digging. Temperatures rose to the low 90's with a comforting breeze. Forecasts for tomorrow showed heat in the upper 90's. Inspections and mapping of layers continued. More building material was encountered and more artifacts found.



Inspection of an anomaly at Unit 1-Barracks



Measuring a layer at Unit 3-Stockade

Because of concerns about weather work will begin tomorrow at 6:30 am with a plan to close early.

Day 4-Thursday, June 28, 2012

The morning started early for S. Demel and D. Keller as they were scheduled for a live appearance on NBC TV-5 Morning News at 5:30 am and 6:30 am. A. Irvine also arrived at 4:30 am to set up the site. While somewhat disruptive the dig continued.

The biggest excitement of the day was discovery in Unit 2-Headquarters of what is believed to be the foundation stones of the Headquarters of Camp Douglas. Color, location and configuration of the limestone gave Dr. Demel high probability that it is the foundation. This discovery came just after the media left the site. In spite of the heat, all of the volunteers were very excited at the find and raised water bottles in salute.

When the temperature reached 98 degrees excavation was suspended for the day. Volunteers left the site about 2:00 pm.



D. Keller	NBC TV 5 Interviews	S. Demel
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Unit 2-Headquarters. Headquarters foundation stones located



Wooden post found in Unit 3-Stockade



Mapping Unit 1-Barracks

Day 5-Friday, June 29, 2012

This day was for final mapping, photographing and closing the site. In the morning WGN-TV and the *Chicago Tribune* arrived at the site for interviews. Work continued until 11:30 when a storm hit bringing rain and high winds. Radar reading indicated a long afternoon of rain so operations were suspended at noon to resume on Saturday with a reduced crew to finish mapping and closing. While the day was shortened considerable final clean-up of units was accomplished.



Final clean up Unit 3-Stockade



Unit 2-Headquarters ready for final mapping



Closing Unit 1-Barracks

Day 6-Saturday, June 30, 2012

The final day was used for final mapping, photographing and GPS locations of units on the site. A sample of the possible headquarters foundation was removed for future study. All units were closed and the park returned to its former state.



Foundation stone being removed from Unit 2-Headquarters



Photographing Unit 3-Stockade



Closing Unit 2-Headquarters



Unit 3-Stockade Closed

Results of the Investigation:

The goals of the excavation were:

1. Confirm the location of Garrison Square of Camp Douglas
2. Find and identify artifacts relating to Camp Douglas
3. Obtain information that will assist in confirming the history of Bronzeville

Discovering the foundation of the headquarters building met the first goal of the excavation.

A significant amount of artifacts were retained for future study. These artifacts will be processed by students from Loyola University and Northern Michigan University. Results of these studies will be documented in future reports prepared by Dr. Demel. While these artifacts do not appear to come from Camp Douglas, they are likely to be valuable in assisting in confirming the history of Bronzeville.

The effectiveness of non-invasive examination to narrow the desired excavation areas in an urban setting was confirmed. The “hot” reflections that led to the location of the three units confirmed those reflections as being meaningful for future excavations.

Based on the excavation and review of maps and photographs of the area there appears to have been only one major development in the area before the current configuration was completed in the 1950’s. Comparison of the Sonborn (Fire) Maps from 1912 and 1950 reveal little change over that period of time. A majority of development before 1912 is believed to be reflected in the 1912 maps. This would result in only one generation of buildings on a majority of the site before the development of Lake Meadows.

Success achieved in this investigation provides encouragement for future sites within the boundaries of Camp Douglas. The CDRF has received preliminary approval to conduct non-invasive investigation on Chicago Public School property at Pershing West Middle School (3200

S. Calumet) on Giles Ave, the possible western boundary of Camp Douglas, and on the property owned by the Olivet Baptist Church at 31st and King Dr. Non-invasive investigation of these sites is planned for 2012 with excavation anticipated in the summer 2013. Other sites for non-invasive investigation are located in the Lake Meadows area. Of special interest is the open area at 33rd Place and Cottage Grove. This contained White Oak Square a significant part of Camp Douglas that held prisoners early in the war. Maps and drawings are available showing areas of interest in White Oak Square. Unfortunately, the owner of this property, Draper & Kramer, is very uncooperative.

CDRF will continue to pursue archaeological investigations as part of the Foundations goal of providing educational opportunities relating to Chicago, Camp Douglas and the Civil War.

Camp Douglas Excavation Sites

