History of Camp Butler

Emma E. Parrotte

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.butler.edu/grtheses

Part of the History Commons

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.butler.edu/grtheses/196

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by the Graduate Scholarship at Digital Commons @ Butler University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Graduate Thesis Collection by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Butler University. For more information, please contact omacisaas@butler.edu.
The purpose of this study is to give an accurate account of the history of Camp Butler, Illinois, from the time of its establishment to the present time. The contents have been drawn from historical records, letters, manuscripts, government reports, newspapers, and interviews, besides tombstone inscriptions and Springfield traditions.

Throughout the thesis, I have tried to keep in mind that history is made by man and not by events, therefore, I have tried to evaluate my material, giving concrete statements and not mere generalizations.

I am indebted to a number of persons for assistance rendered in the preparation of this thesis, but most of all to: Professor A. Dale Beeler, of Butler University; Dr. Harry E. Pratt, Secretary of the Abraham Lincoln Association of Springfield, Miss Ruth Parker of the Illinois State Historical Library; and Miss Marie Dean of the English Department of the Springfield High School, for their kind suggestions and helpful criticisms in locating and assembling the material.

Emma E. Parrotte.
## CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. ESTABLISHMENT OF CAMP BUTLER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Origin</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Development of Camp Butler</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. CAMP BUTLER: A MILITARY RENDEZVOUS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. History of Military Camp</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. General Camp Life</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. CAMP BUTLER: A CIVIL WAR PRISON</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Camp Butler a Military Rendezvous Changed to a Prison Camp</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Confederate Prisoners</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Regulations for Prisoners of War</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Condition of Prisoners' Camp</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Hospitals</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. CAMP BUTLER SINCE THE CIVIL WAR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Historical Background of This National Cemetery</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Appearance of Camp Butler at the Present Time</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Arrangement of Grounds</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. SIGNIFICANCE OF CAMP BUTLER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Historical Contribution As Military Training Camp</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Importance of Prison Camp</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Importance of Cemetery</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Contribution to the Community</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Present Status As a Historical Point of Interest</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI. APPENDIX</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Map of Camp Butler National Cemetery</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Illustrations</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Letters</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Camp Butler's Daily Program</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Commanding Officers</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Consolidated Morning Report of Troops</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Stories and Anecdotes</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Bibliography</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ILLUSTRATIONS

CHAPTER I

Union Graves, Camp Butler . . . . . . . . . . . . Frontispiece

Page

William D. Colby Military Picture . . . . . . . . . . . . 65
The Nurses at Camp Butler . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 66
Hospital Corps, Camp Butler During the Civil War . . . . 67
View from the Main Entrance, Camp Butler
National Cemetery . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 68
The Flagpole, Camp Butler National Cemetery . . . . 69
The Rostrum, Camp Butler National Cemetery . . . . 70
Entrance, Camp Butler . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 71
State Marker . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 71
Superintendent's Home . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 71
Union Markers . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 72
Confederate Markers . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 72
General View . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 72
Alberta Baxter, Owner of Scissors . . . . . . . . . . . . 73
Scissors Used in Cutting Pay Checks . . . . . . . . . . . 73

iv
HISTORY OF CAMP BUTLER

CHAPTER I
ESTABLISHMENT OF CAMP BUTLER

No doubt only a few of the hundreds of people who motor past Camp Butler each day realize that this beautiful national cemetery, with its stately forest trees and many rows of white tombstones, was once a part of a seething concentration camp and a northern prison during the Civil War.

During the early days of the Civil War the general feeling in the community, as well as in many other communities in Illinois, was that the struggle between the North and the South would last only a short time. But in July 1861, after the disastrous battle of Bull Run, people very definitely realized that the war was a matter of years instead of months.

Immediately temporary plans were discarded and long term measures were quickly adopted. Camp Yates, the old military camp west of the city, was to be abandoned and a new encampment established. For a long time the farmers west of the city had complained that fruit, vegetables and fowls had disappeared on many occasions. Also the citizens of the community felt the associations of the soldiers in barracks was a detriment rather than a benefit. The streets were often crowded with drunken recruits, who frequently caused riotous brawls involving the inhabitants while occasionally bullies in uniform accosted...
the civilians. The saloons and the prostitutes, with their demoralizing effects, appeared to be the only groups that were anxious to continue Camp Yates.¹ This caused the community to unite in a movement to have the soldiers transferred to Clear Lake a "safe distance" east of the city limits.²

The Clear Lake encampment was named Camp Butler, in honor of William Butler, the state treasurer, who had befriended Abraham Lincoln when the latter was a struggling young lawyer. Long before Abraham Lincoln became a leader in the political life of either the state or the nation, William Butler was his loyal friend, "recognized his ability, believed in his power and had firm faith in his future."³ In fact, the Butler residence was Lincoln's home from the time he came to Springfield to practice law until the day of his marriage. So it was quite natural when the selection for a new mobilization camp at Springfield became necessary that Lincoln, then President of the United States, should suggest to Edwin Stanton, his Secretary of War, that he consult William Butler, as to a desirable place for its location.

After Stanton and Butler had spent several days in riding over the country around Springfield, they decided that the land in the vicinity of Clear Lake was the most desirable site for the new mobilization camp. At this time Stanton informed

¹. Angle, Paul M., Here I Have Lived, 268.
². Illinois State Register, June 28, 1936.
³. Wallace, Joseph, Editor, Past and Present of the City of Springfield and Sangamon County Illinois, II, 1077.
Butler that the new military camp was to be called Camp Butler,
in his honor.\(^1\) By August 2, 1861, the camp was ready for use
and the city, quite satisfied with the location, breathed a
sigh of relief.

At first the camp was located east of Springfield, on the
banks of Clear Lake, but after a few months' existence it was
removed to higher ground near Jamestown, or "Jintown", which
today is called Riverton. The second location was a short dis­
tance north of Clear Lake, and six miles east of the State
Capitol,\(^2\) where the Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific Railroad
crossed the Sangamon River.

How the government legally acquired the right to use the
land upon which Camp Butler was located is not definitely known,
for today only a few available records relating to Camp Butler
are to be found in the files of the United States War Depart­
ment. However, among the available material there were the
accounts of Colonel Pitcairn Morrison,\(^3\) which showed that the
amount he paid, on October 7, 1862, "was for rent on 252 acres
of land in Sangamon County, part of Section 27, Township 16, on
which Clear Lake is situated, from August 1, 1861 to February 1,
1862 for use of 26, 27, 28, 30, 34, 38, 40, 43, 48, and 49th

---

1. Major William Butler, Springfield, Illinois, is the grandson
   of both Honorable William Butler and General John A. McClernard.
2. Since 1876 this building has been the Court House of Sangamon
   County, Illinois.
3. Reports of Colonel Pitcairn Morrison, Superintendent Volunteers
   Recruiting Service, Springfield, Illinois, 1862, are now in #2
   Auditor's Office, Washington, D.C.
Infantry, 2 Arty and Yates Sharp Shooters, Illinois Vols. and for rent and use of buildings for commissary and Q.M.C. Dept. and Headquarters and for the use of the water of Clear Lake for horses of 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, & 10 Illinois Cavalry Regiments.¹

In Governor Richard Yates' letter of March 24, 1862, he certified a "camp called 'Camp Butler' was located on the banks of Clear Lake in Sangamon County, Illinois on August 1, 1861, for collecting, drilling and organizing the volunteers under the Acts Authorizing The President of the United States to accept the services of five hundred thousand men and that it was necessary for the Public Service."²

In another letter written by Governor Yates, on April 4, 1862, pertaining to Camp Butler, he stated "the papers relating to the tenure of the United States to the grounds occupied by Camp Butler were not in the possession of the state."³

A few years later a secretary in the War Department wrote to the Governor of Illinois, on July 14, 1874, requesting him to furnish that office with a full history connected with the occupation of the farm known as Camp Butler and used as a camp of rendezvous for Illinois volunteers. The letter was answered by the Adjutant General of Illinois who stated he was not able

¹ A copy of Colonel Morrison's account was sent to the Adjutant General of Illinois, April 28, 1938, and is now filed in the Illinois State Historical Library, Centennial Building, Springfield, Illinois.
² Yates, Richard, Letters, March 24, 1862. Filed in the War Department of the United States.
to give the information requested.¹

But whether the land containing Camp Butler was leased or rented by the United States Government during this period, nevertheless, it provided a rendezvous for nearly eighty thousand soldiers between August 2, 1861 – February 22, 1862.²

The picturesque spot first chosen for the location of Camp Butler was on the margin of a pond called Clear Lake. The lake was a small narrow sheet of water three-quarters of a mile in length and a quarter of a mile in width and was fed by springs. The site contained many beautiful forest trees, which furnished a cool shady place for a military instruction camp. Not far from the camp was the Sangamon River, which provided a means for cleanliness and recreation.

From 1861-1866, Camp Butler occupied a large area in the vicinity of Clear Lake.³ For then it consisted, not only of its present site of six and two-hundredths acres on Route 10, but also of fifteen acres across the road to the west, of a large tract of land to the south, where Roselawn Memorial Park

¹ The answer was written in pencil on the back of 12-P-11874-Brief. Dated July 11, 1874, and initialed by J.W. September 22, 1874. It is presumed that was a clerk in the Old Records Division. The original letter is in the War Department, Washington, D.C. A copy was received by the Adjutant General’s Office, Springfield, Illinois, April 30, 1938, and was placed in the Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield, Illinois, May 3, 1938. Appendix p. 77.
is now located, of several acres north of this section, besides
the broad area surrounding Clear Lake.¹

Many things had to be considered in the establishing of
Camp Butler, as a military rendezvous on the shores of Clear
Lake. One of the first matters to be considered was the as­
signment of each regiment to its appropriate location. In or­
der to do this Camp Butler was divided into three main portions:
the principal infantry encampment on the shores of Clear Lake,
the supplementary infantry encampment a short distance north of
the road, and the cavalry encampment nearly three-quarters of a
mile northeast of the lake.²

The main infantry encampment, was divided into two divi­
sions: the east and the west sections. Both sections were
laid out for four regiments; but the eastern one was more im­
portant because it contained the officers' quarters, located
immediately east of the lake, twenty-nine companies of infantry,
and three companies of artillery. The western section was oc­
cupied by some unattached companies. East of the officers'
quarters and at a distance of some thirty or forty yards, were
located the tents of the soldiers under their command.³ The
principal infantry encampment consisted of eight companies of

¹ Blankmeyer, Helen Van Cleve, The History of the Sangamon
Country, 46.
² Illinois State Journal, September 6, 1861.
³ Illinois State Register, September 9, 1861.
Colonel Kirk's regiment, the Thirty-fourth; eight companies of Colonel Raith's, the Forty-third; four companies of Colonel Adams', the Forty-fifth; three companies of Colonel Davis', the Forty-sixth; four companies of Colonel Morrison's, the Forty-ninth; two companies of Lieutenant-Colonel Williams' sharpshooters and Captains Strolbrand's and Kolker's companies of artillery.

The supplementary infantry encampment north of the road was laid out and first occupied by Colonel Charles Hovey and his famous Normal Regiment, but was later occupied by seventeen companies of infantry. These consisted of eight companies of the Forty-eighth regiment under the command of Colonel Haynie and nine companies of the Thirty-second, under the command of Colonel John Logan.

To the northeast was the cavalry encampment, where Colonel Kellogg's full regiment, the Seventh; Colonel Updegraff's full regiment, the Fifth; and several companies of Colonel Cavanaugh's, the Sixth, were stationed. There were also several unattached companies of cavalry, besides a part of Colonel Barret's Frontier Cavalry, assigned to this location.¹

Each regiment was provided with its own commissariat, while the quartermaster's and commissary departments were centrally situated. The sutler's department, under the management of H. C. Myers, was supplied with all the delicacies.

¹ Illinois State Journal, October 3, 1861.
and luxuries which the season and climate permitted. Here the soldier could purchase most anything his heart desired, except strong drink, which was forbidden to be sold in a military encampment.

The parade grounds were west of the main encampment, occupying what is now Roselawn Memorial Park. This space was an elliptical plain, whose long axis was a half mile and short one, a quarter mile, giving ample room for brigade and division maneuvers. The whole was skirted by a tract of luxuriant woodland. The grounds were poorly policed, partly due to the scarcity of wagons and teams, which prevented the soldiers from keeping them in proper condition.

Across the road and to the west of the present site of Camp Butler was the prison stockade, which was surrounded by a twelve foot board fence, inclosing some fifteen acres of land. The inclosure contained rows of hurriedly constructed barracks, built to accommodate from 4,000 to 5,000 men. Later these barracks were used to shelter the Confederate prisoners.

The matter to receive first consideration should have been the location, careful planning, and construction of the barracks. Either because of the lack of foresight or political and financial reasons the barracks, built to accommodate two regiments,

1. Illinois State Register, October 24, 1861.
were mere shells of buildings constructed under contract by the men of the Forty-sixth Regiment. The contract was let, late in the fall of 1861, to Merriam and Dorman of Quincy, to furnish fifty loads of lumber for the building of the barracks. The contract for erecting the new barracks was given to Captain Gringle who surveyed the land this side of "Jimtown", on November 22, 1861. The work of erecting the barracks for winter quarters was energetically executed, because from five to six hundred men were employed. By the last of December the barracks were completed and their christening dinner occurred December 30, 1861.

The barracks were one hundred twenty feet in length, about fifteen feet in width, and eight feet in height. Single boards formed the floor, the sides, and the roof; the sides were very low, and the roofs were covered with tarred paper, which afforded little protection from heat or storm. During the summer time the thermometer often registered 102° for hours in these poorly ventilated, miserably constructed barracks. The exterior of the building appeared cheerless, gloomy, and forbidding; while the interiors were scarcely less repulsive.

Each barrack, with three-tier bunks, stoves, table on which to serve meals, and benches, was to house one company of soldiers.

1. Illinois State Journal, November 27, 1861.
Even though these barracks were inconvenient, inadequate, and poorly constructed, the soldiers, who had been living in a tent colony on the shores of Clear Lake, were delighted with these new barracks, and only regretted that the quarters were not sufficiently extensive to accommodate all. It was soon found that there were not enough barracks and many of the men were housed in canvas tents.

As the barracks did not provide sufficient quarters for the recruits two hundred tents were added to Camp Butler's equipment. Many soldiers preferred the tents to the barracks as the tents were better ventilated, generally provided with board floors, and some possessed camp bedsteads.¹

By this time, Camp Butler had become an extensive military depot and had established a well-earned reputation, as a most thorough military encampment,² and was the second largest mobilization camp in Illinois during the Civil War. Camp Douglas, at Chicago, was larger.³

---

¹ War of the Rebellion Official Records, Series 2, IV, 263.
² Illinois State Journal, November 25, 1861.
³ Davidson and Stuve, A Complete History of Illinois from 1873 to 1894, 740.
When Camp Butler was first selected as a military rendezvous the original idea was to make it an ideal camp of instruction. So the United States Government sent expert instructors to the camp to train the raw recruits. Colonel McChesney came from Fort Monroe to drill the infantry; while Major Hugo Hollan, who had served in Hungary under Kossuth, was the instructor in the cavalry maneuvers. It was soon discovered that the officers were unskilled in the use of the sword and bayonet. Therefore, Captain DePew, an excellent instructor of fencing and bayonet practice, was ordered to Camp Butler to give instructions to the soldiers. 1

With hundreds of volunteers arriving daily en route for Camp Butler, Governor Yates and his associates soon realized that the original idea of making Camp Butler a military rendezvous would have to be abandoned, as the need for a concentration camp was too apparent.

Camp Butler was ready for occupancy on August 2, 1861, and on August fifth, the first troops arrived. The artillery company which had been stationed for the two months previous

---

at Camp Yates, west of Springfield, was now removed to Camp Butler.¹ On the sixth, the Egyptian regiment under the command of Colonel Samuel G. Hicks arrived, and he was made the first commandant of Camp Butler. By the seventh the following troops had encamped: "Madison County Cavalry, Capt. Frank Moore; Piatt County Cavalry, Capt. Fullerton; Pike County Cavalry, Capt. Athey; Capt. Ritter's infantry from Mason County and Capt. Madison's company of artillery, lately of Camp Yates."² Thus it appeared that Camp Butler was rapidly being occupied.

On August 21, 1861, nineteen days after the camp had been opened, Camp Butler contained nearly five thousand men, with hundreds arriving daily.³ These raw recruits represented all trades and professions: athletes, barbers, clerks, clowns, lumbermen, preachers, tailors, teachers, teamsters, etc. They also represented many of the best families in the State; a surprisingly few were addicted to drink.

The encampment had to extend its borders rapidly to accommodate the seventy companies of volunteers now stationed there. Of these seventy companies, forty-six were infantry and twenty-four were cavalry. These impatient, but enthusiastic soldiers were anxious for regiments to be organized,

¹. Illinois State Journal, August 5, 1861.
². Illinois State Register, August 7, 1861.
so that they would soon be ordered to the front. They had taken up arms not for mercenary motives, but for the cause of the Union and humanity. Their vows were to sustain and perpetuate the American ideals handed down from the patriots of '76.¹

Among the troops were a number of outstanding regiments, but in many respects the Thirty-third or "Normal Regiment", the Forty-sixth Regiment and the Seventy-third or "Preachers' Regiment" were unique in character.

The Thirty-third of "Normal Regiment" was organized by Charles E. Hovey, President of the State Normal School, Normal, Illinois, who had been given the full power by the Governor of Illinois to raise a regiment. President Hovey issued a call in the newspaper for recruits and the response was immediate. "Over two-thirds of the sixty young men in the infant Normal volunteered, together with several of the professors, then called teachers, and two or three members of the State Board of Education."² The Normal Regiment was called in military circles the "Brain Regiment",³ for in passing through this regiment the intellectual superiority of this group over the less cultured recruits was noticed. The Normal soldiers were always engaged in reading, setting their equipage in order,

¹. Illinois State Journal, August 28, 1861
³. Illinois State Register, August 31, 1861.
or entertaining one another with innocent recitals of their past lives, and indulging in baseless conjecture on the future. ¹

The Forty-sixth Regiment, while at Camp Butler, received a tent from the people of Freeport, Illinois. The tent was capable of holding 1200 to 1500 men, weighed 1560 pounds and cost $350.00. The regiment called it the chapel tent and the dedication sermon was delivered by Bishop Simpson. Later many religious meetings were held in it. ²

The Seventy-third Regiment was called the "Preachers' Regiment", but the One Hundred Twenty-fourth Regiment boasted it had nine ministers in its ranks. The Forty-third Regiment under command of Colonel Raith was composed entirely of Germans. It was one of the best disciplined and drilled regiments stationed at Camp Butler. ³

The total number of regiments mustered into the United States service at Camp Butler during the Civil War was thirty-eight regiments of Illinois Volunteer infantry, four regiments of Illinois Volunteer cavalry, and five batteries of artillery. ⁴

A regiment included the following: one Colonel, one Lieutenant-Colonel, one Major, one Adjutant, one Sergeant Major,
two Principal Musicians, and ten companies. The enrollment of a company consisted of one Captain, first and second Lieutenant, four Sergeants, four Corporals, two Musicians and eighty men.¹

The soldiers' general camp life consisted of many interesting and amusing experiences as well as serious and difficult problems. One of the chief difficulties was the problem of food. All food supplies were bought under contract, the contracts usually going to the lowest bidder. The supplies for Camp Butler were to be delivered and issued in suitable packages, or in bulk, according to the option of the government.

Dr. Edwin Fowler of Sangamon County signed two different contracts with Ninian W. Edwards, United States commissary, to supply the necessary rations for Camp Butler. The first contract covered the period from September 30, 1861 to November 30, 1861, while the second lasted from June 21, 1862 to December 30, 1862. The rations were to consist of all necessary articles used by the United States troops, prisoners of war or others entitled to draw rations from the national government. The contract called for fourteen and seven-eighths cents per ration. If there was a deficiency in either the quality or quantity of any article issued, the commissary in charge was to purchase the required article and the difference of cost was to be charged to Dr. Fowler.²

Other contracts for supplies were let at various times to R. E. Goodel of Joliet, Henry Miller, W. H. Stewart, James D. Brown, William Steiger, John and George Lutz, and William Metzgar of Springfield, Illinois.¹

The variations in the number of rations issued each day depended entirely upon the arrival of recruits and the departure of the troops. The food was generally abundant, well-cooked, and wholesome, although at times there were severe complaints.

Another great problem that caused Camp Butler's commandant a great deal of worry was the constant demand for clothing, especially uniforms and under-garments. One reason for the shortage of under-garments was the lack of proper laundry facilities, while the call for uniforms depended upon the number of men mustered into service. The uniforms, at first, consisted of grey jackets and pantaloons, but as the Confederate army adopted grey, the Federal army changed its color to blue.²

There was considerable merriment attached to the distribution of clothing and the donning of uniforms. When a man selected a uniform that was too large or too small, the inquiry would be, "Where's the man that will fit this suit?" or "Have we got a man that will meet the requirements of these 'breeches'?

¹ Illinois State Journal, August 3, 1861.
and leave nothing to spare?" "Here's a suit made for Walter Scott or David McDonald," as an extra small suit was required for Scott, while an extra large one was needed for "Mac".  

The monotony of camp life was often relieved by the picnics held at Camp Butler during the early days of its existence. Friends and relatives fed the boys such rich food, together with barrels of sweet cider that such excessive eating was almost their undoing. After the feast the picnickers would stroll along the margin of the lake. The promenaders' fashionable attire presented a decided contrast to the rough habiliments of the soldiers.  

Another popular form of entertainment, which the soldiers greatly enjoyed, was having their pictures taken in the portable daguerrean galleries which reaped a rich harvest for the photographer. Friends, relatives, sweethearts and buddies - each was desirous of having a portrait of his beloved taken in various positions and situations. These pictures were greatly admired and valued especially, if the object of devotion had fallen for his country's glory.  

The soldiers were a jovial lot of fellows, who freely indulged in jokes and pranks. One of the best jokes was played

3. Illinois State Register, September 9, 1861.  
4. Ibid. September 7, 1861.  
5. See illustration, Appendix, p.65.
on H. C. Myers, the sutler at Camp Butler, who had enjoyed a very profitable trade by exchanging his commodities with the soldiers for their surplus rations of coffee, sugar and tea. One day a recruit offered to give Mr. Myers a pint of coffee every day for two of the St. Louis daily papers; this exchange was gladly agreed to as a pint of coffee was worth about twenty-five cents. The papers were delivered, but when the soldier came to deliver his coffee, he brought a boiled concoction, instead of the coffee berries, as Myers expected. Mr. Myers acknowledged the corn, treated the boys and said that he guessed he did not care about trading any more papers on such terms.¹

The soldiers pranks and stratagems to get liquor were amusing to the men and annoying to the officers. One scamp made shoulder straps out of orange peel, pinned them on his coat and strode out of the guard house, past the innocent sentry with the air of a Major General, only to turn up in camp later roaring drunk.²

Often the soldiers of the One Hundred Seventeenth regiment had much fun at the expense of a colored man in their ranks. The negro was afraid he would be deprived of his pay unless he was "mustered in" to the service. So a huge mustard

---

¹ Illinois State Journal, September 4, 1861.
² Jones, Thomas B., Complete History of the 46th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry, 9.
plaster was applied to his back about a foot below where the buttons on his coat were placed, and under the belief that all soldiers were served this way, he wore it until the pain became unendurable. Then they declared the negro had been "mustered in", according to law. If that darky did not get his wages it was not because he was not "mustered in".¹

In any military camp, where thousands of men are confined, tragedies will occur, and Camp Butler was no exception. One of the worst tragedies that befell this camp took place on November 4, 1862, when Thomas Vines, a teamster in the employ of the United States Quartermaster's Department was killed. He had been detailed with other teamsters to assist in the rem­oval of the baggage belonging to Colonel Hecker's regiment, which was under marching orders. While engaged in this duty, the officer of the day, on some pretext, ordered his arrest.

Vines' team, becoming frightened, ran through the camp; to stop the team an order was given by some one to fire. Some fifteen or twenty shots were fired, one taking effect in Vines' neck, killing him instantly.²

Other tragedies took place at Camp Butler, but the one that caused the most critical comment in the Springfield newspapers was the drowning of a soldier named Johnson. He be-

longed to the Normal Regiment and when it left for St. Louis he had to remain behind in the hospital. Sick as he was, he dressed himself and left the hospital without being observed. Later his clothes were found on the bank of the lake.\(^1\) People generally believed this tragedy was the result of loose discipline.

Some of the tragedies and pranks might be attributed to the discipline, at Camp Butler, which was at first slack, duties being performed in a loose manner. The general public, as well as the newspapers, criticized the officers for allowing the men to be absent so often from camp. Recruits could be found around the hotels and on the city streets any time of day or night. There was a decided lack of force and energy among the officers and the distinction between them and the enlisted men was too slight for good discipline. Indolence and want of energy also seemed to prevail among the troops. Investigation proved the instructions given to the commanding officer by the United States War Department had been only partially carried out.\(^2\) One of the chief reasons for this laxity was the constant changing of the commandant.\(^3\)

Since friends and relatives had become indifferent to the rules regarding visitors, the commandant, Colonel Morrison on March 23, 1862, issued a stringent order pertaining to visit-

---

1. Illinois State Journal, September 23, 1861.
3. Appendix p. 82.
The general order No. 44 stated the following rules: No person was to be permitted to visit the hospitals except by permission of the senior surgeon, Dr. Higgins; no person whatever was to be permitted to visit the prisoners, except by special permission of the commanding officer; the sentinels were not to talk to any one at or near their post; anything brought for the prisoners must be inspected at the commander’s office; and no letters or packages were to be delivered without the commander’s sanction.1

In addition to military training, hospitalization and recreation, the government tried to provide for the spiritual welfare of the soldier. Each Sunday services were held at the camp by clergymen representing different denominations. On September 9, 1861, Reverend McMasters was appointed chaplain of Colonel N. B. Buford’s regiment. September 21, 1861, was a national fast day. Orders were issued that it be observed, so all squad and company drills were omitted at Camp Butler. The sutler’s store was closed at 11:30 A.M., and no passes were issued to Springfield. At three o’clock religious services were held and all companies and regiments without chaplains were ordered to attend.2

The daily instruction and drill in military maneuvers com-

---

1. Illinois State Register, March 24, 1862.
menced each morning at seven-thirty with the squad drill. For an hour squads of men, marched, filed, faced, turned, double-quicked, and soon became familiar with the simple movements of military warfare. At nine o'clock the pretentious ceremony of the guard mount occurred in which the Sergeant-Major and Adjutant figured as great high officials. Then at eleven A.M. and again at two P.M. the battalion drilled. They used Hardee's tactics, then thought to be the perfection of simple direct maneuvers. They formed lines, advanced and retreated, charged front forward and to the rear, marched in close column, formed squares, changed at double-quick, and retreated slowly as if yielding the field. But the grand ceremonial of the day, was the dress parade, which took place at five o'clock in the afternoon. One of the recruits called it a "hard job o' standing still".

The review of the troops at Camp Butler by Governor Yates on October 23, 1861, proved to be a brilliant affair. The troops formed in line on the west side of the parade grounds in the following order: on the extreme right, five squadrons of cavalry, comprising the Seventh Regiment of nearly twelve hundred men, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Prince; in the center, a battalion of flying artillery commanded by Major Strolbrand; on Major Strolbrand's left was Colonel Williams'...
battalion of sharpshooters; while stretching to the extreme left was Colonel Haynie's (48th), Colonel Davis' (46th), Colonel Logan's (32nd), and Colonel Adams' (45th), regiments. The line of parade was formed with surprising accuracy and the soldiers received praise for their splendid appearance and precision of drill. 1 Colonel Haynie's regimental band won praises also. 2

Five days after the review of the troops at Camp Butler, Colonel Pitcher decided to exercise the soldiers by a march of considerable distance, so orders were given for the troops in camp to be prepared with one day's cooked rations. At an early hour the various commands, which had been properly clothed and equipped, took up the long line of march to Springfield.

About 10:30 A.M. the troops arrived in the city and passed in review before Governor Yates and his staff in the following order: Seventh regiment, cavalry, 1,100 men, Lieutenant Colonel Prince commanding; Colonel Haynie's Forty-eighth regiment, infantry, 800 men; Colonel John Logan's Thirty-second regiment, infantry, 500 men; Colonel Davis' Forty-sixth regiment, infantry, 300 men; the Yates Sharpshooters, a battalion of 200 men, Major Williams commanding; Major Strolbran's battalion of

1. Illinois State Register, October 24, 1861.
artillery, 150 men; Fifth regiment, cavalry, 500 men, Lieutenant-Colonel Wiley commanding.

The grand review of the day took place at one o'clock P.M. on the prairie east of the college (site of what is now Concordia College). As it was a beautiful day and the place chosen for the maneuvers close to the city, many of the inhabitants went to see and admire the gallant citizen soldiers.

The troops were drawn up in line as above named, when the firing of a major-general's salute by the artillery announced the arrival of Governor Yates, and his aides, Colonel Sol. Wilson, Colonel John S. Loomis, and Colonel Mather. In the governor's party were the Honorable Jesse K. Dubois, auditor of public accounts; Honorable O.M. Hatch, secretary of state; Honorable William Butler, treasurer; Judge Thomas, of the board of army auditors; Honorable E. L. Baker, editor of the State Journal and other distinguished gentlemen.

Most of these men, in brilliant uniforms, were mounted on splendid steeds. The Governor's party escorted by Colonel Pitcher, rode along the extended line of troops, carefully inspecting each command. After the inspection the entire force was put into motion, marched and counter-marched in a manner to display fully the excellent drill and discipline existing among the troops under Colonel Pitcher's command.

Although nearly 4,000 troops were reviewed, they, by no means, comprised the whole command at Camp Butler. The lack
of equipment prevented Colonel Barret's and Colonel Cavanaugh's cavalry regiments, from taking part in the grand march.¹

Camp Butler was scarcely established before troops began leaving for the front. In answer to General Hurburt's message for some artillery, Captain Madison's artillery company was ordered (from Camp Butler) to Missouri. The company left the night of August 6, 1861, taking two six pound guns, a plentiful supply of ammunition, including 400 rounds of cannister.²

A few days later Colonel Samuel G. Hicks' Egyptian regiment started for St. Louis, while early in September, 1861, the Twenty-ninth Regiment under Colonel James S. Rearden,³ and the Thirtieth Regiment, Colonel Philip B. Foulke commanding, left for Cairo, Illinois.⁴ On September 19, 1861, the Thirty-third or "Normal Regiment" of 1,000 men departed for St. Louis, after the officers had spent the night telegraphing to Washington to have their destination changed from the Potomac to the Western Department, where General Fremont was the military idol.⁵

The continual departure of troops for the front made it appear that the depletion of Camp Butler had commenced in earnest. Between January 23, 1862 to Feb. 21, 1862, the following troops departed for the Southern battle fields: Colonel Barret's

¹ Illinois State Register, October 29, 1861.
² Illinois State Journal, August 7, 1861.
⁴ Ibid. 537-538.
(10th Illinois) Cavalry for Quincy; the Thirty-second Illinois Volunteer Regiment, under Colonel Logan's command, and Colonel William R. Morrison's regiment were ordered to Cairo, while the Forty-sixth Regiment had received marching orders, but lack of transportation facilities prevented their leaving camp for a few days. The Sixth Illinois Cavalry was the only regiment that remained without marching orders. By this time nearly eighty thousand men had passed through Camp Butler for the front, coming from all parts of the State. No regiment of Illinois troops moved to the front without at least one of its members giving Sangamon County as his home.

The military life at Camp Butler might well be summarized in the following interesting acrostic:

"Camp Butler, what a busy hive
A nest of humans all alive;
Men of all minds make up the nest,
Posted in science the best;
Boys here are found that are not wise,
Until they are they will not rise;
The bulk exceed the rural masses,
Let none deny we have all classes,
Evil and good, foolish and wise,
Rebellion though they all Despise."

1. Illinois State Register, January 23, February 1, 3, 4, 11, 20, 1862.
2. Illinois State Journal, October 18, 1862.
CHAPTER III

CAMP BUTLER: A CIVIL WAR PRISON

As the result of the battle of Fort Donelson on February 16, 1862, the Union army received fifteen thousand Confederate prisoners. Now the problem of disposing of the prisoners arose, and almost immediately General Halleck decided to send them to northern camps, in order to relieve his army of the necessity of guarding them.

Soon Camp Butler was changed from a military rendezvous to a northern prison. The United States Government had chosen this camp as one of the four new prison camps for the confinement of Confederate prisoners. On February 22, 1862, Camp Butler received its first prisoners, who numbered over two thousand, while hundreds more were received during its existence as a northern prison from February 22, 1862, to May 19, 1863. The prisoners, natives of Tennessee, Alabama and Arkansas, were transferred here from St. Louis under a guard of about four hundred men of the Fifty-second Regiment.


(27)
Some of these prisoners were clothed in a variety of colored garments, mostly rags, while others were wrapped in old white blankets and pieces of carpets. 1 A few of them had rough gray homespun uniforms, with no two coats made from the same pattern; while their hats showed much hard wear. Their grotesque appearance left a decidedly unfortunate impression on the northern recruits concerning the resources of the Quartermaster's Department of the Southern Confederacy.

These prisoners were considered, by the officers at Camp Butler, to be the "hardest looking set of men ever brought together." 2 As a group, the prisoners were quite wild, reckless, ignorant and disposed to be insubordinate. They were devoted to their cause and would have resorted to any means to obtain their ends. They were used to outdoor life and chafed under confinement. 3

Because there were so many prisoners in the northern camps, the office of the Commissary-General of Prisoners at Detroit, Michigan, issued, July 7, 1862, a circular which definitely stated the duties of the commanding officer at all the camps where prisoners of war were held.

The commanding officer was held responsible for the discipline of his camp and for the security of the prisoners.

---

When the prisoners arrived at the camp the commanding officer was to make careful comparison of them with the rolls that accompanied them and all errors, pertaining to names, transfers, and deaths, were to be corrected. The rebels were to be divided into companies and reports were to be made to the commanding officer each morning, showing all the changes that had occurred in the prisoner's condition during the previous twenty-four hours. These reports were to be written in full detail. At the end of each month the commanding officer was to submit a complete report to the commissary-general of prisoners, concerning all prisoners who had been confined at his camp.

The senior surgeon was responsible to the commanding officer for the supervision of the hospital and the administration of the hospital fund. This fund was obtained from the sale of property belonging to deceased prisoners who had no relatives or whose relatives did not appear to claim his belongings. The hospital fund was to be kept separate from the prisoners' fund and was to be used for the sole benefit of the sick prisoners. With this fund could be purchased such articles as: undergarments for the sick, kitchen utensils, articles for policing the camp and all articles necessary to promote the sanitary conditions of the hospital. The administration of the prisoners' fund was one of the duties of the commissary, under the direc-

tion of the commanding officer. The fund was made by with­
holding all the rations that could be spared without inconve­
nience to the prisoners and then selling the non-issued portion
of the commissary. With the fund could be purchased all essen­
tial articles for the health and comfort of the prisoners, such
as table furniture, cooking utensils, bedticks and straw, tobacco,
amps and stationery. It could also be used for the improvement
of the barracks and for extra pay for the clerks, who had charge
of the camp post-office.

The hospital fund at Camp Butler rapidly accumulated, as the
mortality of the camp was quite high.\footnote{War of the Rebel­lion Official Records, Series 2, IV, 38.} After providing the neces­
ary articles for the sick here, the rest was used to build an
addition to the city hospital in Indianapolis, Indiana.

There was to be a careful distribution of all articles con­
tributed to the prisoners by their friends. The prisoners were
not permitted to have or receive any large amount of money. It
was the duty of the commanding officer to take charge of the
prisoner's money, and give the owner a receipt. The commanding
officer had charge of the regulations concerning all visitations
as well as the censorship of all letters. Only persons having
legitimate business, except close and loyal relatives of the
sick, were allowed. Only letters of a strictly private nature,
limited to one page of common letter paper, were permitted;

\footnote{Hesseltine, William Best, \textit{Civil War Prisons: A Study in War
Psychology}, 53.}
otherwise the letters must be destroyed. The parole or release of the prisoners depended entirely upon the authority of the War Department or by the direction of the commissary-general of prisoners.

The regulations, stating the duties of the commanding officer, were only partially carried out at Camp Butler. The instructions to create a prisoners' fund were neglected until Colonel William Hoffman's assistant, Captain H. W. Freedley, inspected the camp in July, 1862. One of the reasons for not enforcing the orders of Colonel Hoffman, as defined in the circular, was the constant changing of the guard. The regiment on duty consisted of three months men, while the commandant belonged to a different regiment and did not know his officers well enough to detail them for such important service. Another reason for the lack of enforcing the regulations was the presence of temporary troops, which impaired the good order of the camp and hindered the security of the prisoner. The constant desire of the new recruits to communicate and barter with the rebels contributed much to the laxity of discipline and to the inspiring of jealousy and revenge between the prisoners and the guard. When a permanent guard of the prisoners was established, and no more temporary troops were sent to Camp Butler for instruction, then the regulations were satisfactorily enforced.

2. Ibid. 130-131; 216-217.

In addition to providing for the security of the prisoners...
In addition to providing for the security of the prisoners the United States Government had to protect them against exposure due to insufficient clothing, as their garments were made for a milder climate than that encountered in the northern prisons. 1 Although the prisoners at Camp Butler were allowed to receive gifts of clothing from their friends and from the citizens of Springfield, 2 yet it was apparent this method would not serve to keep any large portion of them well-clad. So the quartermaster at the camp issued clothing to the prisoners from the condemned supply and from the stock of materials not of the standard regulation style and color. 3

Ordinarily the food issued to the prisoners was of good quality, in ample amount, and wholesome. Nevertheless, the prisoners complained that the "bacon was all fat and the beef all bone; the bread was generally sour to the prisoner’s palate". 4 Of course, the inspectors found the food of the proper quality. 5

After the rebels had been imprisoned at Camp Butler for several months, they were inspected by Captain H. W. Freedley, who reported that they appeared cheerful and contented with their treatment. In fact, their good treatment had made them so indolent that they were satisfied to remain in filth and vermin.

1. Harpers Weekly, April 5, 1862, 223.
2. Miss Virginia Dresser, Springfield, Illinois, daughter of the late Reverend Charles Dresser who performed the wedding ceremony for Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd, knows many interesting facts about Camp Butler. Appendix p. 103.
4. Barbiere, Joe, Scraps from the Prison Table, 105-106.
showing a decided want of energy.

In general the policing of the camp was very poor. No attention, whatever, seemed to have been paid to it. Great quantities of filth and offal had been allowed to accumulate around the prisoners' quarters until they became almost too filthy and squalid to visit. This condition was partly due to the long continued rainy weather, which caused the roads to become almost impassable and required all the wagons of the camp to be used in hauling wood for fuel. However, if proper attention had been paid to drainage in the beginning, the camp would never have fallen into this wretched situation.

Another condition that caused a great deal of worry was the inadequate supply of water. A number of wells had been dug and water thus obtained, but they failed to furnish the necessary amount. The wells seemed to depend upon each other for their supply. Later additional wells were dug to a considerable depth, but their water contained an alkaline content, which produced a digestive derangement. Water could be procured from the Sangamon River, which was a half a mile from the camp, but its water was not suitable for drinking purposes.

During all the time the Southern prisoners were confined at Camp Butler every now and then there was an escape

3. Ibid. IV, 155; VI, 377.
from prison. But after April 13, 1862, when Camp Butler received over one thousand Confederate prisoners captured by General Pope at Island No. 10, there were as many as six escapes a day.  

By July 15, 1862, so many escapes had occurred that Colonel Fonda, commandant at Camp Butler, had the fence around the prisoners' quarters extended to include the hospitals, the commissary and quartermaster's departments. He hoped that would prevent any more prison escapes, but two days later six more prisoners escaped. These, however, were recaptured at Cairo and returned to their old quarters. In the early part of August, 1862, four prisoners attempted to escape from Camp Butler by bribing the guard. By arrangement the guard received the money but a picket outside captured the southern gentlemen and brought them back to camp. The guard was allowed to keep the money for his loyalty. During the last week of August, 1862, six prisoners, who were under arrest for political and other offenses at Camp Butler, succeeded in making their escape. They cut their way out of the guard house and then by means of a plank, easily scaled the fence and escaped.

1. Illinois State Journal, April 14, 1862.
2. Ibid. July 15, 1862.
3. Ibid. July 17, 1862.
4. Ibid. August 9, 1862.
5. Ibid. August 30, 1862.
Some of the prisoners were aided in escaping by disloyal citizens, one of whom was Samuel D. Crane. After three prisoners had made their escape on the afternoon of July 19, 1862, two being recaptured before night, Colonel Fonda, detailed two squads of men to watch certain houses in the neighborhood. During the night some of these suspected places were raided and a prisoner, who had escaped more than a month ago, was found in Crane's home. So Crane was arrested for sheltering a confederate prisoner and placed in confinement at Camp Butler.¹

The history of the camp would not be complete without including an account of the fires. The proximity of the wooden building created a fire hazard, which kept the soldiers continually on the watch. Camp Butler had four fires: January 30, 1863; April 10, 1863; January 17, 1864; and May 29, 1865. The first fire burned an old shanty, that had formerly been used as a hospital building, but was then being used by a woman nurse. Little loss was sustained.²

The second fire, caused from coals which dropped from a stove while it was being moved, occurred at three o'clock on the afternoon of April 10, 1863, when barrack No. 10 was discovered to be on fire. A strong east wind drove the flames upon the adjoining barracks; and the fire spread very rapidly, because the

buildings were wooden. The soldiers did not get the fire under control until it had reached barracks No. 20, next to headquarters. Barrack No. 9, on the east side of the fire, was also burned, making twelve that were destroyed. The barracks were estimated at $500.00 each. 1

The third fire caused loss of life as well as great property damage. The fire started about five o'clock, Sunday morning, January 18, 1864, in the officers' barracks just east of the Post Headquarters. 2 The fire spread rapidly because the roofs were covered with tarred paper, and soon the entire wing was ablaze. To prevent the spread of the flames, a part of the barracks nearest the Post Headquarters was torn down, so the flames could not spread any farther. Captain Weldon Dillon of Benton and Lieutenant Emery Bennett of the Thirteenth Illinois cavalry, were burned to a crisp. They had been sleeping in the end apartment occupied by the commissary. Lieutenant Bennett returned to the burning building in order to rescue Captain Dillon, and in the dense smoke entered the wrong room and perished.

Lieutenant G. W. Davis, acting Quartermaster, nearly lost his life. He fell suffocated with the smoke when Lieutenant Gordon of Duquoin burst open the door, and succeeded in getting him out of the building alive, although his hands were badly

1. Illinois State Journal, April 11, 1863.
2. Illinois State Register, January 18, 1864.
burned. The fire seemed to have originated from a defective flue in the major guard's quarters. Besides the loss of life, the damage was great. About four thousand dollars worth of blankets and coats were destroyed, besides the pay and muster rolls of the regiments. ¹

The fourth fire broke out at four o'clock on the morning of May 29, 1865 and was not put out until eight barracks with large portions of the commissary and camp store, were destroyed. This fire was supposed to have been the work of incendiaries. ²

Another important feature of Camp Butler was the hospital which soon became a beehive of activity, and was a constant reminder of the furiously raging Civil War. In the beginning the hospital building consisted of six barracks, four in the main group and two allotted to convalescents, a short distance away on account of the shade.

When J. Cooper McKee, assistant surgeon in the United States Army, inspected Camp Butler on July 21, 1862, he found the hospital in a miserable sanitary conditions. The floors of the barracks were filthy; no deodorizing agents were used; while the slops and filth were thrown carelessly around. No attention, whatever, was paid to ventilation; therefore it was exceedingly poor. No thought was given to the drainage which was in a horri-

¹ Moore, Frank, The Rebellion Record: A Diary of American Events, 35. Also consult Illinois State Register, January 18, 1864, for a splendid account of the fire.
² Illinois State Register, May 29, 1865.
ble condition. The stench of the wards was offensive and sick­
ening.

Soon the hospital was crowded with hundreds of patients, their sickness, disease, and death being the direct result of exposure, mental depression, and improper physical surround­nings. The principal causes that made the prisoners easy vic­tims to disease were: exposure in transportation to Camp Butler, long confinement on transports without sufficient clothing to protect themselves from the weather, and exhaustion from their service in the Southern Army prior to their capture. Improper physical conditions encountered after they arrived at Camp But­ler also contributed to their ill-health. The over crowded bar­racks, with patients using the floor for beds; the great need for blankets and fresh straw; the lack of proper medical care; and insufficient medicinal supplies were contributing causes to this wide-spread illness. Then the stewards were ignorant and negligent of their duties; the nurses and cooks, at times, were insubordinate and inattentive to the needs of their patients.

At this time the general public believed only plain look­ning women over thirty years of age should be accepted as army nurses. Their costumes were queer and made them appear like

walking spindles in regulation dresses, for their uniforms consisted of: "Bright, brown dress, half-way down the leg; pantaloons same color, tight around the ankle; black hat with plumes the same color; feet in morocco boots." Then women nurses connected with the army were to receive forty cents per day and one ration.

Far more deaths resulted at Camp Butler from disease than from accident. In the spring of 1863, death seemed to have gone on a rampage in the hospital barracks, for a number of cases of smallpox broke out. The disease spread very rapidly and soon caused many deaths among the prisoners, before the epidemic could be stopped. During the week of February 20, 1863, fifty deaths occurred among the rebels, while the total number of deaths for the month was one hundred and three. At that time fifteen hundred Confederates were confined at Camp Butler. It has been stated that two out of every fifteen Confederate prisoners died, in Northern prisons, while two out of every twenty-three Yankee prisoners died in Southern prisons.

The prisoners who died at Camp Butler were given a respectable burial, while their personal belongings were disposed of according to camp regulations. No doubt the lonely graves

in a cornfield near the northeast corner of the camp, gave a hint of the mortality attending military life, and produced many serious thoughts in the minds of the soldiers. 1

But the unsanitary conditions at Camp Butler, which had lead to so much disease and death, were greatly improved under the supervision of Dr. J. Cooper McKee. He saw that the floors were scrubbed and that lime was applied to walls and floors, that ventilation of the barracks was improved, while the drainage received his special attention. A fever hospital was established, this making seven barracks in the hospital group. One of these was used for pneumonia, while another was used for erysipelas; each was under the charge of its own physician, but responsible to Dr. McKee. 2 By these improvements both disease and death were reduced, as was well shown in Captain Freedley's report to Colonel Hoffman, in which he stated: that out of twenty-four cases of typhus (camp fever) only four died, out of fourteen cases of typhoid two died, and out of the thirty-three cases of common fever only two died. 3

The attitude of the stewards and nurses also improved under Dr. McKee's supervision, and as time went on there was still greater improvement, especially after March, 1863, 4 when

3. Ibid. Series 2, IV, 255-256.
4. See illustrations in appendix, p. 66.
Mrs. Sarah Gregg, of LaSalle, Illinois, became matron of the General hospital. Her skillful, careful, and motherly help was a blessing to the sick and wounded soldiers. The soldiers affectionately called her "Mother Gregg", for she was always willing to administer to their slightest wants.

Another outstanding character, who not only cared for the sick soldiers but helped in their final release, was Jesse Macy, a Quaker private of Company K, Tenth Regiment of Iowa Infantry Volunteers. He was transferred from the Marshall House Hospital to the hospital at Camp Butler in the spring of 1865, arriving penniless, but asking for the privilege of caring for the sick soldiers. He was assigned to one of the numerous wards and installed as medical nurse. The so-called doctor required everyone to take something; for those not confined to their beds he prescribed tincture of iron. Macy had to give this twice a day, so he would stand beside the medicine box and say in a commanding voice, "Walk up, gentlemen, and take your hardware."

After some time a trained physician, who believed in rigid discipline and thorough inspection of the place each day, was assigned to Macy's ward.

As medical nurse, Macy had to watch very carefully for erysipelas, measles, and other contagious diseases. In the ward they had a boy by the name of David White. He was tall, ill-proportioned and had a very long nose which was red as blood at the end. One day the doctor caught sight of David's nose and thought the lad had a dreadful disease. The doctor scolded Macy, for being so careless, and told him to bring the iodine immediately and apply it. Macy felt sure David was all right, but seeing a chance for a good joke, did as directed. After the doctor had gone David tried to wash off the iodine, sputtering all the time about the over-cautious physician. The sick soldiers were allowed a good laugh at David's expense.

When the doctor came the next morning, he made a thorough examination, twisting the nose in every direction, while Macy stood near holding the bottle of iodine, ready for a second application. The doctor merely remarked with a grim smile, "You did a pretty good job on that", 1 and the ward had another laugh.

When the end of the war came, Jesse Macy helped the soldiers at Camp Butler to get their final discharges, after weeks and weeks of waiting. He could not leave his sick men imprisoned at Camp Butler for no apparent reason, and take his discharge without first trying to rescue them, when he knew some

of them were dying not of disease, but of homesickness. At last he finally succeeded. 1

The general equipment of the hospital was also improved under Dr. McKee's guidance. The kitchen was supplied with its necessary furniture, barrels were provided for the slop, plenty of water was supplied, while the wards were limited to thirty patients. The hospital fund furnished many necessary articles, such as ice. The medical commissariat at Chicago sent enough supplies for six months, while a drug store was established under an excellent druggist. A sufficient quantity of clothing and bed linen was obtained from the quartermaster to have a change of shirts, drawers, and sheets, while fresh straw and bed-sacks were also provided. These improved physical conditions helped raise the standard of living at Camp Butler and at the same time lowered the death rate. 2

The hospital at Camp Butler was materially benefited by the Soldiers Aid Society, which was organized, August 30, 1861, for the purpose of providing the soldiers with the common necessities for winter. Their charities consisted of food, underclothing, medicine, hospital supplies, and reading material. The following list of articles was sent almost immediately to Camp Butler: fifteen pillows, sixty-two pillow cases, thirty-

1. Thomas, Charles C., Editor, Jesse Macy: An Autobiography, edited and arranged by his daughter Katherine Macy Hoyes, 72.
five towels, fifty-two pairs of drawers, twenty-two handkerchiefs, one hundred and twenty-eight shirts, twenty-four combs, one hundred and thirty-five pounds of dried fruit, sixteen gallons of pickles, besides jellies, jams, and apples.

Another organization that was of great value during that period was the Ladies' Loyal League, of Springfield, organized May 13, 1863. Two hundred and sixteen joined at its first meeting and by the end of the first year it had five hundred and twenty-nine members. The members of the League pledged themselves to an "unconditional support to the National Government in its present struggle against rebellion, and to do whatever may lie in their power for the maintenance of our Government and the Union."

By June 1, 1864, the report of the treasurer showed the League had received $817.90, of which $794.35 had been spent by the organization in caring for seventy-five needy families. This did not include several hundred dollars worth of groceries, shoes and clothing, which had been contributed from various sources during the year.

In the week ending August 27, 1863, the following supplies were received at the general hospital at Camp Butler: twelve and one half dozen of onions and eight bushels of potatoes from the Ladies' Soldiers' Aid Society and the Ladies' Loyal League;

---

2. Ibid, 317.
twenty-four rocking chairs, six skeins of yarn, and one barrel of vegetables from the Fairbury Ladies' Loyal League; four gallons of blackberry cordial, a half bushel of tomatoes, twelve chickens, two hundred and seventy-five towels, and a pair of socks from the Ladies' Loyal League of Loami; also contributions from the Dwight Soldiers' Society, the Ladies' Loyal League of Canton and the ladies of Wolf Creek.

Many Springfield women became greatly interested in Camp Butler, one of whom was Elinor Mary Chenery, the young wife of John William Chenery, the proprietor of the Chenery House. Mrs. Chenery requested permission to be admitted to Camp Butler each day, when circumstances permitted, with baskets of dainties left over from the noontide dinners for sick soldiers in camp. It was the period of "Family Carriages", and the hotel bus driver escorted Mrs. Chenery to the camp, assisting with the loading of the well filled baskets.

The permit for admission to Camp Butler, issued from the Adjutant General's office, of the State of Illinois, on August 23, 1861, to John William Chenery, proprietor of the Chenery House, Northwest corner of Washington and Fourth Streets, Springfield, was thus worded:

Pass The Chenery and Family, with Carriage, in and out of Camp

__
2. William Dodd Chenery, son of John William and Elinor Chenery, Springfield, Illinois has the original permit.
During the Civil War days, Madames Dresser, Bradford, Pope, and Brown, all southern women by birth, often went to Camp Butler, and took delicacies for the Confederate prisoners, especially at holiday times.\(^1\) Mrs. Bradford and her son, John, usually, took five gallons of milk at least three times a week to the hospital for the sick soldiers.\(^2\)

In the summer of 1862, negotiations were begun with the enemy for the exchange of prisoners, but no definite orders, for their removal, were received at Camp Butler until April 3, 1863. At this time seventeen hundred Confederates were imprisoned here. On April 7, 1863, the first detachment, numbering about six hundred, left for City Point, Virginia, for the purpose of being exchanged. They were a sorry looking set of fellows as far as their clothing was concerned, but seemed happy in the thought of going to Dixie. Just before starting, a quantity of hats, drawers, and shoes were distributed by the Quartermaster. The articles were furnished by the friends of the prisoners in Kentucky. Captain Healy, Provost Marshal, left with the first division, and would superintend the arrival of the prisoners at City Point.\(^3\) By April 13, 1863, all the rebel

---

3. Illinois State Journal, April 7, 9, 1863.
prisoners were on their way to City Point, Virginia, with the exception of one hundred and thirty-four who were sick in the hospital. On May 19, 1863, the last prisoners confined at Camp Butler were sent away, thus leaving Camp Butler no longer a Civil War prison.¹

---

¹ War of the Rebellion Official Records, Series 2, VI, 377.


Many changes have taken place at Camp Butler since the Civil War period: then it was an active concentration camp and a typical northern prison, but now, a beautiful quiet national cemetery. Then it contained hundreds of soldiers and prisoners of war, while today it is filled with hundreds of well-marked graves of veterans from the Civil War, the Spanish-American War and the World War.

Any person, who has been in the service of the United States and has received an honorable discharge from the United States Government is eligible for burial in Camp Butler national cemetery. ¹

Today Camp Butler occupies only a small part of the original land used as a mobilization camp in 1861-1866, by the Illinois volunteers. It now consists of six and two one-hundredths acres, comprising nearly a square plot. The actual description is as follows: "Beginning at the cut limestone in the southwest corner of Section Sixteen (16) township Sixteen (16) north of Range Four (4) west of third principal meridian and running thence north ten (10) chains and seventeen (17) links, thence east five (5) chains and ninety-one and one-half (91½) links to a post, thence south ten (10) chains and seventeen (17) links to a post, and thence west five (5) chains and ninety-one

¹ National Cemetery Regulations, Revised ed., 4.
and one-half (91½) links to the place of beginning, containing six and two hundredths (6.02) acres.¹

The piece of land, which contains the present site of Camp Butler, was purchased by the United States Government, on September 6, 1865, from the George Miller estate, paying four hundred and fifty dollars ($450.00) for it. The deed is recorded in the Recorder's office in the Sangamon County Courthouse, Springfield, Illinois. The number of the deed is 1020; date of instrument, September 6, 1865; filed 5:05 P.M. September 16, 1865; and delivered to G. T. Hayden, November 11, 1865.²

The main entrance to Camp Butler, located in the center of the south side of the cemetery, is protected by iron gates, which remain open each day from sunrise until sunset. The entrance formerly faced a country road, but today opens on to the splendidly paved highway known as Route 10. On the front of each of the brick pillars, which support the gate, is a cast iron tablet with the inscription:

U. S.
NATIONAL
CEMETERY
CAMP
BUTLER

1. Deed Record No. 25, Sangamon County, 327-328, in the County Recorder's office in the Sangamon County Courthouse, Springfield, Illinois.
2. General Index to Deed, No. 5, December 4, 1864 to June 5, 1869, in Sangamon County Courthouse, Springfield, Illinois.
3. Appendix p. 71.
To the left of the entrance is a cast iron marker, which contains the following inscription:  

CAMP BUTLER

Camp Butler, Civil War Concentration

Camp for Illinois volunteers, occupied

a large area in this vicinity from 1861 to 1866. It was also a prison camp for

captured Confederates. Now a National

Cemetery. It contains the graves of

1642 union and confederate soldiers.

Erected by the State of Illinois.

1934

The outstanding features of the grounds today are

the residence, the brick wall, the splendid flagstaff in an appropriate setting, and the stately forest trees. The residence, a modern, two story, red brick structure, was erected in 1909. It faces the west and is just east of the main entrance, located nearly upon the site of the old lodge. The house has eight rooms, one of which is a medium sized office used as the depository for public records and for receiving visitors, while the rest constitute the pleasant living quarters for the superintendent and his immediate family. This administration building is far superior to the old lodge which was only a one story brick

1. The inscriptions were copied from the original tablet and marker at Camp Butler, Illinois, September 27, 1937.
building consisting of three rooms, and a piazza on each side.\(^1\)

Just east of the superintendent’s home is a red brick wall, five feet high, a remnant of what formerly enclosed the whole site. The wall today, extends along the entire east side of the cemetery, besides forming three-fourths of the northern boundary line. The rest of the cemetery is enclosed by an iron fence five feet high. Originally the cemetery was enclosed by a picket fence which was replaced in 1876 by the brick wall. This lasted until the arrival of S. E. Sharp, a Spanish-American war veteran, who assumed his duties on August 7, 1930. Mr. Sharp had most of the brick fence torn down and an iron fence erected in its place.\(^2\)

About a hundred feet straight north of the main entrance is a seventy-five foot iron flagstaff, erected on April 23, 1932, at the cost of $672.00. From the flagstaff floats a beautiful American flag. During pleasant weather the post flag is used, while in stormy or windy weather the storm flag is flown. Both flags are made of wool, but the storm flag is a much smaller one, being only 9 by 14 feet, while the post flag is 14 by 29 feet.\(^3\)

The flagstaff is surrounded by a small plot of ground, with a large black cannon in each corner.\(^4\) These cannons are

---

4. Appendix p. 158.
erected upright and are tipped with a silver cannonball. At the base of each are eighteen black cannonballs forming a pyramid of shot.

Just northwest of the flagstaff is the rostrum, located in the center of the west side of the cemetery. The foundation is made of brick covered with white stucco, the floor is concrete, while the sides and top are iron. The railing and steps are also made of iron. On each Memorial Day, appropriate services are held in the rostrum. Many prominent men have taken part in these celebrations, one of whom was the late Mr. C. J. Doyle, a former Secretary of State. On this date all the graves are decorated with small flags, while the cemetery flag is displayed at half-staff from sunrise until noon and at full staff from noon until sunset.

In the extreme northeast corner of this beautiful cemetery is a small red brick building. In it is housed the electric pump and pressure tank used in sprinkling the lawn during the summer months. A deep well near by furnishes the water supply.

The far northwest corner no longer contains the compost pile, for early this spring it was changed into a nursery which contains one hundred young trees, most of them being evergreen, ash, elm, and weeping birch.

The stately forest trees found in Camp Butler national cemetery add not only beauty but also dignity to the grounds. The lovely old trees of walnut, elm, soft and hard maple, oak

1. Appendix p. 70.
2. Ibid. p. 73.
and hickory stand like trusty sentinels guarding the white headstones under their branches.

All but two of the hundreds of headstones in Camp Butler national cemetery have been donated by the United States Government, these two black granite monuments were privately purchased by the members of the decedent's family. Most of the markers are uniform and present an awe-inspiring spectacle with their chaste and simple design.

The markers are white marble headstones twenty inches high and twelve inches wide. The Union markers are round on top and have shields on the front of them, on which are inscribed a number, the name of the dead and the native state. The Confederate markers, practically the same size as the Union ones, have a pointed top. Upon the face of these are inscribed a number, the name of the dead, the army division, the native state, and the initials C.S.A. standing for the Confederate States of America. The Spanish American markers have a shield on the front of them like the Union markers, upon which is chiseled a number, the name of the dead, the state, and War with Spain. The World War markers have the Latin cross insignia and give the name of the dead, the state, the army division, and the date of death. The number is on the back of the marker.¹

¹"Centennial Issue", Illinois State Register, June 28, 1936. Also recorded from personal visits to Camp Butler, 1937-1938.
Among the Confederate soldiers there is buried one Confederate civilian. He was captured at Fort Donelson when the Confederate soldiers were taken prisoners. His grave is marked by a larger white stone erected by the Union Masons as he was a Free Mason.  

Early in September 1865, improvement in the burial ground was commenced at Camp Butler, under the direction of Colonel Prevost, commandant of the post. In 1907, the United States Government removed the wooden slabs that had marked the Confederate graves and erected white marble headstones. The greatest change since 1907 occurred this spring, on April 25, 1938, when the United States Government had all the little square white marble markers with a number on the top of each replaced by white marble headstones like the other markers, making the cemetery uniform in appearance. One hundred and thirty-seven old tombstones were removed. Thus improvement has continued down through the years to the present time, making Camp Butler one of the best-kept, and most attractive national cemeteries in all the Mid-West.

Camp Butler contains ten memorial tablets made of cast iron and set in concrete posts. They have aluminum lettering on a black background. Three of these tablets are located near

---

2. Illinois State Register, September 16, 1865.
the main entrance, while the other seven are placed at various places throughout the cemetery. The first one at the gate contains a warning to visitors, while the next two are United States Government orders for the general protection of national cemeteries.

The remaining seven memorial tablets each contain four lines of the poem, "The Bivouac of the Dead", written by Theodore O'Hara, a gifted Irish-Kentuckian soldier and scholar. A movement was started soon after the Mexican War to return to American soil the bodies of all the American soldiers who had died in Old Mexico.

One night as this topic was being discussed at a dinner party in Louisville, Kentucky, a guest, named Theodore O'Hara, recited this original poem. It so stirred the imagination of the Americans that it resulted not only in bringing the soldier boys' bodies home, but also caused the War Department to declare this poem was to be placed in every national cemetery in the United States.

"The Bivouac of the Dead"

Theodore O'Hara

"The muffled drum's sad roll has beat
The soldier's last tattoo;
No more on life's parade shall meet
That brave and fallen few.

On fame's eternal camping ground
Their silent tents are spread,
And glory guards, with solemn round,
The bivouac of the dead.

No rumor of the foe's advance
Now swells upon the wind;
No troubled thought at midnight haunts
Of loved ones left behind;

No vision of the morrow's strife
The warrior's dream alarms;
No braying horn nor screaming fife
At dawn shall call to arms.
The neighing troop, the flashing blade,
The bugle's stirring blast,
The charge, the dreadful cannonade
The din and shout are past;

Your own proud land's heroic soil
Shall be your fitter grave —
She claims from war his richest spoil —
The ashes of her brave.

Rest on, embalmed and sainted dead,
Dear as the blood ye gave;
No impious footstep here shall tread
The herbage of your grave.

Camp Butler has been fortunate in the type of superintendents it has had during all these years. A number of duties must be performed in connection with being custodian of Camp Butler. Some of the more important rules are as follows: the superintendent is responsible for the enforcement of the laws regulating a national cemetery; for the appearance, condition, and proper care of the cemetery; for the preservation and use of public property; for the keeping of the burial register and other records; for the daily inspection of the entire cemetery; for his presence at funerals; and for the performance of manual labor whenever necessary in connection with the care and maintenance of the cemetery.\(^1\)

The present superintendent is not confronted with some of the problems of the early management; such as, those of the severe winter of 1863. The ground froze so deep that all grave digging had to be eliminated until spring. The bodies of the victims of smallpox, measles and other diseases had to be piled in rows, wrapped in blankets and covered with canvas until the spring thaws, when they were given the proper burial.\(^2\)

The graves of the Union soldiers are not arranged according to any regular plan, but dug as most convenient; however,

---

1. National Cemetery Regulations, 42.
there is a semblance of parallelism in the rows. Now that the graves are leveled, this irregularity is not so apparent. In the southern half of the cemetery, the Union soldiers are buried, while the northern portion contains the graves of the Confederate prisoners of war, who died while confined at Camp Butler.¹ They were natives of Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas.² At one time a picket fence separated the Union graves from the Confederate graves, but this was removed years ago.

One day last week a Southern family visited Camp Butler, and one of the daughters asked to be shown the Confederate graves. When they were pointed out by one of the workmen she said, "That is just like you Northerners to put our boys just as far away from us as you could."³

The United States Government regulates the preparation of graves, in all the national cemeteries, by very definitely defined rules. These regulations are well carried out at Camp Butler, where the average interment is one per month. An unmarried enlisted man is entitled to one grave space dug five feet deep, while a married veteran is entitled to a seven foot grave. In the case of an officer, if he is single he is given

² Record taken from the tombstones, on September 30, 1937 at Camp Butler national cemetery.
³ This incident occurred at Camp Butler the last week in April, 1938.
one grave space five feet deep, while a married man is assigned
two grave sites five feet deep, one for himself and the other
for his wife. The wife of an officer or an enlisted man may be
buried with her husband in a national cemetery. The wife of an
officer may be interred prior to his burial while the regula-
tions regarding the burial of the wife of an enlisted man are
quite rigid. The wife of an ordinary soldier may be buried in
the same grave with her husband in a national cemetery, but only
after the death and interment therein of the veteran concerned.
However, if the veteran is seventy years old or more, then the
wife may be buried before his death in a national cemetery,
provided he promises that he will be buried in the same grave.¹

At present only four wives are buried at Camp Butler.²

There are 1706 veterans buried at Camp Butler national
cemetery. Of this number 746 are Union soldiers, 590 of whom
are known and 156 unknown. Originally there were 875 Confed­
erate graves, including the one civilian, but later nine bodies
were disinterred and taken to their native homes. There are
twenty-six Spanish American War veterans and sixty-eight World
War soldiers buried in Camp Butler national cemetery.

2. Date, May 6, 1938.
In the early days of the Civil War, Camp Butler played an important role in the military affairs of Illinois, as it was the second largest mobilization camp in the state. During the first six months nearly 80,000 soldiers, a part of that splendid and mighty voluntary army that went forth in 1861 with flying colors and high hopes of adventure and patriotism, marched through its gates on their way to the front.

After a little while Camp Butler was changed from a military rendezvous to a concentration camp consisting of thousands of soldiers, making it have the appearance of a human bee-hive. The rapidity with which raw recruits were changed into orderly soldiers, soon caused Camp Butler to earn the reputation of being one of Illinois' most important military camps.

From February 22, 1862 until May 19, 1863, Camp Butler was the second largest rebel prison in Illinois, and its sight constantly reminded people of the furiously raging rebellion. During these months it was a typical northern prison, where sickness, disease, death, accidents, escapes, and tragedies, all, played their part in making up the life of a military prison. On May 19, 1863, the last of the Confederate prisoners were sent away from Camp Butler to be exchanged for Union prisoners, thus leaving Camp Butler no longer a Civil War prison.
In the fall of 1862, Camp Butler became a national cemetery although not legally acquired until September, 1865. Since 1862, however, United States war veterans have been buried in Camp Butler, until today it contains 1706 graves. In the five years between July 1, 1932, and July 1, 1937, sixty-five bodies were interred at Camp Butler. Although the present maintenance of this beautiful national cemetery may far exceed its present value as a burial grounds for enlisted men, yet such historic spots must be preserved at national expense, "Lest we forget", the value of liberty to all mankind.

The contribution Camp Butler has made to the community has varied with the years. In the beginning its existence definitely contributed to this locality, by increasing the local volume of business. Judging its contribution from a historical viewpoint, it brought Springfield directly into contact with the Civil War each time a regiment left the camp. By being a concentration camp, a military prison and finally a national cemetery, the people of Springfield saw some of the results caused by horrible warfare, which probably the average citizen would never have realized. If such lessons can cause people to hate war, then its contribution was far greater than can be estimated.

The present status of Camp Butler as a historical point of interest is eclipsed by the Lincoln shrines and Springfieldians' interest in the great humanitarian. Of the thousands who visit Lincoln's home and tomb, only a very small per cent of
them know anything about Camp Butler, or visit it. When
strangers visit Camp Butler, either by accident or through curiosity they are impressed with the beauty and simplicity of the
place. They leave with the feeling that it has been a privilege
to stand beside the silent mounds of our nation's soldier dead,
and that they must labor to make themselves worthy of those gone
on before. When the present generation shall have answered the
last roll call, may they rest secure that those who follow after,
will hold their memory dear for what they did in peace as for
what the nation's soldiers did in war.
HOSPITAL CORPS, CAMP BUTLER DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

Upper row, left to right: W. D. Forbes, Clerk; Charles Hutchinson, Clerk; A. G. Kincaid, Surgeon in Charge; John J. Cook, Clerk; W. J. Kincaid, Asst. Hospital Steward.

Lower row, left to right: Allen Bradley, Clerk; Henry Hayes, Clerk; Charles F. Mills, Hospital Steward; H. D. Hill, Hospital Steward; Gym Allen, Clerk.
The Adjutant General,
State of Illinois,
Springfield, Illinois.

Dear Sir:

In compliance with request contained in your letter of April 19, 1938, the following information is furnished.

There is no record of a history ever having been written pertaining to the establishment of Camp Butler, Springfield, Illinois, however, there are enclosed copies of available reports and statements relating to that camp, which might be of help to you.

The returns and morning reports of Camp Butler are incomplete, and no reports for the period prior to February, 1862 have been found. However, I have copied the names of such officers shown on the returns and morning reports available.

There is on file a map showing the location of Camp Butler and if you desire a photostat copy made, advise me and such a copy can be obtained from the Quartermaster General's Office for 25 cents.

April 28, 1938.

Mrs. Goldie P. Opitz,
7610 Blair Road,
Takoma Park, Md.

April 28, 1938.
For your information I wish to advise you that the Civil War Records are not filed in the World War Division, but are filed in the Old Records Division, and are in another building. Permission was given me by the Adjutant General's Office to go to this building and search their records for the information requested and the time required to do this searching and typing took me off my regular work 3 days.

Very truly yours,

(Sio)

Inols.

31 statements and reports.

COPY

[Signature] Richard Yates, Governor.

[Signature] Richard Yates, Governor.
State of Illinois Executive Department  
Springfield March 24, 1862

I, Richard Yates, Governor of Illinois do certify that a camp called "Camp Butler" was fixed on the Banks of Clear Lake in Sangamon County, Illinois on the first day of August 1861 for collecting, drilling and organizing the Volunteers under the Acts Authorizing The President of the United States to accept the services of five hundred thousand men and that it was necessary for the Public Service.

(Signed) Richard Yates, Governor.
A letter was written to the Governor of Illinois on July 14, 1874, requesting him to furnish this office with a full history connected with the occupation of the farm known as Camp Butler, Illinois and used as a camp of rendezvous for Illinois Vols.

The Adjutant General of Illinois to whom the letter to the Governor was referred for reply, replies that he is not able to give the information requested.

The above is written in pencil on the back of "12-P-11874--Brief-Dated July 11, 1874." and initialed by J.M.H. September 26, 1874.

Respectfully Your Friend,
Jesse X. Debois
William Butler
O. M. Hatch.
Mr. Lincoln
President
Dear Sir:-

As we predicted, Joel A. Matteesm, under a contract made between Ninian W. Edwards commissary, on the one part and Dr. Fowler and Mr. Gooddell of the other part, is now in person furnishing subsistence to the troops at Camp Butler, and claims the right to do so at the other encampments in this state. We again insist that this outrage against common decency be corrected. We protest that Mr. Edwards is not, or ought not to be permitted to make such contracts, and we respectfully ask that he be assigned to duty elsewhere and be required to contract directly with honest men and not indirectly with thieves and scoundrels.

Respectfully Your Friends,

Jesse K. Dubois
William Butler
O. M. Hatch.

COPY.
Colonel John R. Woods:

Dear Sir: Your favor of November 3d, I am glad to answer. The report that officers consume the sanitary supplies here I know to be almost entirely false. All canned fruits, butter or eggs, as supplied by sanitary societies, are brought into my store room and they get none of them. Vegetables and dried apples I have not room to store, and they are consequently put in the commissary's room, whether supplied by Government or sanitary, and are dealt out to the low-diet, convalescent's and steward's kitchens. Four doctors and two stewards board at the steward's table. They are all the officers that get their board in any of the hospital departments, except the chaplain, who boards with us. They do eat some vegetables and dried apples supplied by sanitary charity. They have not eaten or tasted of half a dozen cans of fruit since I came here, last winter, and as for chickens, there has not been one, or the leg or wing of one eaten by a well man or woman in this hospital since I have been here, except those supplied for a general dinner last 4th of July.

All the officers here, except the stewards, pay their board in money, which purchases more than they can consume if they live well. They are entitled to something better than hard bread and salt meat sometimes, but they do not always get it.
Knowing that I have written facts. I know your correspondent has heard a false report. It is impossible to avoid these reports. Dissatisfied men (and no crowd of men brought together here can be satisfied) will start them. Some who board at our table, and know that the fare there is not as good as it should be, may honestly believe what they are saying when they repeat them. "We see what we look for in the world." and thus people see evil because they have it in their eyes. We can't help it. If the doctors here lived on bread and water, these same reports would be. We cannot prevent it.

Yours truly

Sarah Gregg

1. This letter was included in the report made to the General Assembly of Illinois at its twenty-fourth session, which convened January 2, 1865. A copy of the letter is in the Illinois State Historical Library, Centennial Building, Springfield, Illinois.
History of Camp Butler

Camp Butler's Daily Program

1861-1865

5:00 A. M. Reveille
5:30 A. M. Roll Call
6:00 A. M. "Policing" camp
6:30 A. M. Breakfast
7:30 A. M. Squad drill
9:00 A. M. Guard drill
11:00 A. M. Battalion drill
12:00 P. M. Dinner and rest period
2:00 P. M. Battalion drill
5:00 P. M. Dress parade
6:00 P. M. Supper and recreation
9:00 P. M. Evening roll call

1. Record furnished by the United States War Department, April 22, 1938 in Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield, Illinois.
History of Camp Butler

Commanding Officers

1861-1865

Col. S. G. Hicks, Aug. 9, 1861 - Aug. 12, 1861.
Capt. T. G. Pitcher, Aug. 12, 1861 - Oct. 21, 1861.
Col. C. E. Watson, Oct. 21, 1861 - Dec. 12, 1861.
Col. Thaddeus Phillips, April -, 1864 - June 29, 1864.
Capt. John P. Lamb, June 29, 1864 - Aug. 31, 1864.
Major James J. Heffernan, Oct. 25, 1864 - Nov. 9, 1864.
Major H. Holt, Nov. 9, 1864 - Dec. 10, 1864.

1. Record furnished by the United States War Department, April 23, 1938 in Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield, Illinois.
History of Camp Butler

The following troops were mustered into service at Camp Butler:

Infantry

26th. Col. John Mason Loomis - - - - - - Aug. 31, 1861
27th. Col. Napoleon B. Euford - - - - - - Aug. 10, 1861
28th. Col. Amory K. Johnson - - - - - - Aug. 15, 1861
29th. Col. James S. Rearden - - - - - - Aug. 19, 1861
30th. Col. Philip B. Fouke - - - - - - Aug. 28, 1861
32nd. Col. John Logan - - - - - - Dec. 31, 1861
33rd. Col. Charles E. Hovey - - - - - - Sept. 7, 1861
34th. Col. Edward N. Kirk - - - - - - Sept. 7, 1861
38th. Col. Wm. P. Carlin - - - - - - Sept. 7, 1861
43rd. Col. Julius Raith - - - - - - Oct. 12, 1861
46th. Col. John A. Davis - - - - - - Dec. 28, 1861
48th. Col. Isham N. Haynie - - - - - - Nov. 11, 1861
64th. Col. David E. Williams - - - - - - Dec. 16, 1861
66th. Col. Elias Stewart - - - - - - June 9, 1862
70th. Col. Owen T. Reeves - - - - - - July 4, 1862
73rd. Col. James F. Jacquess - - - - - - Aug. 21, 1862
82nd. Col. Frederick Hecker - - - - - - Oct. 23, 1862
91st. Col. Henry M. Day - - - - - - Sept. 8, 1862
97th. Col. Friend S. Rutherford - - - - - - Sept. 16, 1862
107th. Col. Thomas Snell - - - - - - Sept. 4, 1862
114th. Col. James W. Judy - - - - - - Sept. 16, 1862
115th. Col. Jesse H. Moore - - - - - - - Sept. 13, 1862
117th. Col. Risdon M. Moore - - - - - - - Sept. 19, 1862
118th. Col. John G. Fonda - - - - - - - - Nov. 7, 1862
120th. Col. George W. McKeag - - - - - - - Oct. 22, 1862
124th. Col. Robert M. Hundley - - - - - - - Sept. 10, 1862
130th. Col. Nathan Niles - - - - - - - Oct. 25, 1862
133rd. Col. Thaddeus Phillips - - - - - - - May 3, 1862
140th. Col. Lorenzo H. Whitney - - - - - - - June 18, 1864
142nd. Col. Stephen Bronson - - - - - - - June 16, 1864
145th. Col. George W. Lackey - - - - - - - June 9, 1864
146th. Col. Henry H. Dean - - - - - - - Sept. 18, 1864
148th. Col. Horace H. Willies - - - - - - - Feb. 21, 1865
149th. Col. William C. Kueffner - - - - - - Feb. 11, 1865
150th. Col. George W. Keener - - - - - - Feb. 14, 1865
152nd. Col. Ferdinand D. Stephenson - - - Feb. 16, 1865
154th. Col. McLean F. Wood - - - - - - Feb. 21, 1865
155th. Col. Gustavus A. Smith - - - - - - Feb. 26, 1865

Cavalry

6th. Col. Thomas H. Cavanaugh - - - - - - Nov. 19, 1861
7th. Col. Wm. Pitt Kellogg - - - - - - Oct. 13, 1861
10th. Col. James A. Barrett - - - - - - Nov. 25, 1861
12th. Col. Arno Voss - - - - - - - Feb. 25, 1862

Artillery the State of Illinois

First Regular Illinois Light Artillery

F. Capt. John T. Cheney - - - - - - Feb. 25, 1862
Second Regular Illinois Light Artillery

Battery H. Capt. Andrew Stenbeck - - - - - - Dec. 31, 1861
Battery I. Capt. Charles W. Keith - - - - - - Dec. 31, 1861
Battery K. Capt. Benjamin Rodgers - - - - - - Dec. 31, 1861
"Springfield" Capt. Thomas F. Vaughan - - - - - Aug. 21, 1862

CONSOLIDATED MORNING REPORT OF TROOPS
CAMP BUTLER, ILLINOIS
May 1862 to June 1866

P. Morrison, Col. 8 Inf.
John Cooper McKee, Asst. Surg. U.S.A.
N. Smith, 2nd Lt. 2 Art.
John H. Barret, 2nd Lt. 16 Cav.
D. G. Hillier, 1st Lt. 2 Art.
Hassbrook Davis, Lt. Col. 12 Cav.
L. F. Sherman, 1st Major 12 Cav.
J. G. Fonda, 2nd Major, 12 Cav.
J. Stade Stewart, 12 Cav.
L. J. J. Niesse, 1st Lt. 12 Cav.
Wm. Grovernor, Capt. 12 Cav.
T. E. Fisher, 1st Lt. 12 Cav.
Wm. A. Luff, 2nd Lt. 12 Cav.
A. H. Langholz, Capt. 12 Cav.
Henry Jansen, 1st Lt. 12 Cav.
Charles Grimm, 2nd Lt. 12 Cav.
Stephen Bronson, Capt. 12 Cav.
W. J. Steele, 1st Lt. 12 Cav.
Geo. F. Ward, 1st Lt. 12 Cav.
Richard Haydon, Capt. 12 Cav.
C. Rohden, 1st Lt. 12 Cav.
N. Kidder, 2nd Lt. 12 Cav.
C. Hrung, Capt. 12 Cav.
L. J. J. Niesen, 1st Lt. 12 Cav.
E. Vepa, 2nd Lt. 12 Cav.
E. H. Gilmore, Capt. 12 Cav.
H. Fains, 1st Lt. 12 Cav.
Dennis Palmer, 2nd Lt. 12 Cav.
Thomas Logan, Capt. 12 Cav.
I. H. Clyborn, 1st Lt. 12 Cav.
Joseph Logan, 2nd Lt. 12 Cav.
C. Philips, Capt. 2 Arty.
D. G. Hillier, 1st Lt. 2 Arty.
C. J. L. Stephenson, 1st Lt. 2 Arty.
Geo. W. Reed, 2nd Lt. 39 Regt.


1. The material pertaining to the Consolidated Morning Reports of Troops, Camp Butler, Illinois 1862 - 1865 was directly obtained from the United States War Department, Washington, D.C. An official copy of this material was placed in the Illinois State Historical Library, Centennial Building, Springfield, May 3, 1938.
February 1862

Major Stolbrand, 2 Regt.
Capt. Carlos John Cheeney, Arty.
Col. Hall Wilson, Cav.
Col. Z. A. Davis, Inf.

August 1862

Major John G. Fonda, Comdg.
Col. C. T. Reeves, 70 Regt.
Col. Jaques, 70 Regt.
Col. Friend Smith Rutherford, 97 Regt.
Col. Hecker, 82 Regt.
Col. Sangamon.
Col. Jesse Hale Moore, 117 Regt.
Col. Thomas Snell, 107 Regt.
Col. R. M. Moore, 117 Regt.
Col. Mallory, 114 Regt.
Col. Sloans, 124 Regt.
Capt. Vaughn, Arty.
Capt. Steele, Unasgd.
September 1862

Major John G. Fonda, 116 Regt.
Col. F. A. Rutherford, 97 Regt.
Col. F. J. Sloan, 124 Regt.
Col. J. H. Moore, 115 Regt.
Col. Fred Hecker, 82 Regt.
Col. J. W. Judy, 114 Regt.
Capt. F. F. Vaughn, Springfield Arty.

November 1862

Col. Rieser, 17 Cav.
Lt. De Russy, Arty.

December 1862

Assumed command Dec. 1, 1862.
Capt. John Reiser, 17 Ill. Cav.
Capt. B. Weniger, Shambek's Cav.
Capt. H. Stupp, Shambek's Cav.
Lt. De Russy, Arty.
Capt. Seibel, Arty.
January 1863

Col. W. F. Lynch
Capt. E. M. Seibel, 17 Cav.
Lt. De Russy, Arty.

March 1863

1st Lt. John H. Barret, 10 Cav.
Major Thomas Newlan, 58 Regt. Ill. Vols.

April 1863

1st Lt. John H. Barret, 10 Cav.
Major Thomas Newlan, 58 Regt. Ill. Vols.
April 1864

Capt. Samuel Hymer, 115 Regt.

May 1864

Col. Thaddeus Philips, (100 day men).
Col. George W. Lackey, (100 day men).

June 1864

Capt. Alfred A. North.
Col. L. H. Whitney, 100 day men.
Col. Rollin V. Ankeney 100 day men.
Col. Thadeus Philips, 100 day men.
Col. Geo. W. Lackey, 100 day men.
June 1864 (Con)

Col. L. J. Stookey, Alton Bn. 100 day men.
Remarks: Capt. John P. Lamb, assumed com-
mand of Camp Butler, Ill. June 29, 1864.

November 1865.

Col. A. J. Johnson, 4 Regt. V.R.C.
Capt. Joel A. Fife, 15 Regt. V.R.C.
Major Dudley Wickersham, 3 U.S.V.V.
Capt. A. J. Diegnan, 3 U.S.V.V.
Capt. George Schuler, 3 U.S.V.V.
Capt. E. V. Ruby, 3 U.S.V.V.
1st Lt. J. J. McCormick, Adj. 3 U.S.V.V.
1st Lt. James Casey, 3 U.S.V.V.
1st Lt. Thomas C. Godfrey, 3 U.S.V.V.
1st Lt. John McHugh, 3 U.S.V.V.
1st Lt. Patrick O'Kane, 3 U.S.V.V.
2nd Lt. Patrick H. Taylor, 3 U.S.V.V.
2nd Lt. Denis S. Webbs, 3 U.S.V.V.
Surg. Gideon Wonsetler, 3 U.S.V.V.
Capt. Henry L. Ryeo, 3 U.S.V.V.
Remarks: Col. A. J. Johnson, assumed com-
mand of Camp Butler, Illinois, November 15, 1865.
Several years ago a man came from Texas to take back the remains of a brother, who had been a Confederate prisoner, and when he saw the beautiful little cemetery, he returned home saying that he would rather have his brother's body resting in Camp Butler Cemetery than in the little 'God's acre' in the southland.  

SYLVESTER

Sylvestor, a negro lad, who was captured with some Confederate soldiers, became a great favorite with the recruits. They nicknamed him "Sil", and the officers provided him with a new suit of clothes, much to his grinning delight. The lad proved deserving so he was made an orderly, and worked about the camp with great dignity. Soon he became the personal lackey of an official, who taught him to carry messages.

Everything ran smoothly until one morning a soldier missed his shoes. A thorough search was made and they were found in Sil's room. Later in the day Sil was sent to the guard house bearing an official document, "Wait for an answer", was the official order. Whistling, Sil went to the guard house and must have delivered the message for he did not return until ten days had elapsed. The day Sil was released from the guard house, most of the men were waiting for him near the office. When Sil reached the office door, the officer exploded, "Well, thunder and lightning, Sil, how long does it take you to get an answer?"

Soon after Sil's guard house experience, he was offered eight hundred dollars to be a substitute. He accepted the money, which slipped through his fingers like water, and by the time he left your author he had spent practically all of it.
time he left Camp Butler he had spent practically all of it.  

The price paid for substitutes varied from three hundred dollars to nine hundred dollars, all depending upon the demand for volunteers. In January 1865, out of the 771 recruits received at Camp Butler, 120 of them were white substitutes and 62 were colored substitutes.  

2. Illinois State Register, September 25, 1864; March 6, 28, 1865.  
THE APPLE STORY

One day Coleman Smoot, a wealthy farmer who liked to peddle things, brought a load of apples and a barrel of cider to Camp Butler to be peddled to the recruits. The soldiers thought a rich man like Smoot should have given them the apples free of charge, so when he was driving up a hill in the camp, they pulled out his end gate and his apples all ran down the hill. He did not stop to pick them up but drove home with his barrel of cider.¹

¹ Onstott, T. G., Pioneers of Menard and Mason Counties, 227.
HISTORY OF CAMP BUTLER

BIBLIOGRAPHY

I. Books


Barbiere, Joe. Scraps from the Prison Table. Doylestown, Pennsylvania, 1868.


Hesseltine, William Best. Civil War Prisons, A Study in War Psychology, Columbus, Ohio, 1930.


History of the Seventy Third Regiment of Illinois Infantry Volunteers. Published by the authority of the Regimental Reunion Association of Survivors of the 73d Illinois Infantry Volunteers. 1890.


National Cemetery Regulations. War Department, approved and published by the authority of the Secretary of War, Washington, D. C. 1932.

Onstott, T. G. *Pioneers of Menard and Mason Counties*. Peoria, Illinois, 1902.


II. Publications


"Contractor's List", August 7, 1861.
"Movement of Artillery Company", August 5, 1861.
"Movement of Troops", August 7, 1861.
"Arrival of Troops", August 21, 1861.
III. Manuscripts


IV. Official Records


General Index to Deed No. 5. Dec. 4, 1864 to June 5, 1869, Sangamon County. In the Recorder's Office in the Sangamon County Court House, Springfield, Illinois.

Official Copies from the Records in the United States War Department, Washington, D. C. These official copies were placed in the Illinois State Historical Library, Centennial Building, Springfield, Illinois, May 3, 1938. 31 Typed pages.

V. Newspapers


"Naming of Camp Butler", August 2, 1861.

"Contracts Let", August 3, 1861.

"Movement of Artillery Company", August 5, 1861.

"Movement of Troops", August 7, 1861.

"Arrival of Troops", August 21, 1861.
"Camp Butler Receives Clothing", August 22, 1861.
"Good Joke", September 4, 1861.
"Camp Butler", September 6, 1861.
"Soldier Drowns in Clear Lake", September 23, 1861.
"Camp Butler", October 3, 1861.
"Camp Butler", October 24, 1861.
"Camp Butler Barracks", November 25, 1861.
"Barracks at Camp Butler", November 27, 1861.
"Arrival of Prisoners", February 24, 1862.
"Arrival of Prisoners at Camp Butler", April 14, 1862.
"Extension of Camp Butler", July 15, 1862.
"Escape of Prisoners", July 17, 1862.
"More Prisoners Try to Escape", August 9, 1862.
"Escape of Prisoners", August 30, 1862.
"Acrostic", October 18, 1862.
"Fire at Camp Butler", January 31, 1863.
"Mustered in", March 28, 1863.
"Removal of Prisoners", April 7, 1863.
"Rebels Leaving", April 9, 1863.
"Fire at Camp Butler", April 11, 1863.

**Illinois State Register, 1861-1865.**

"Camp Butler", August 7, 1861.
"Normal Regiment", August 31, 1861.
"Daguerrean Galleries", September 7, 1861.
"Camp Jottings", September 9, 1861.
"German Regiment", October 15, 1861.

"Military Show", October 24, 1861.


"Christening Dinner of the New Barracks", December 30, 1861.

"Depletion of Camp Butler", January 23, 1862.

"Ordered to the Field", February 1, 1862.

"Military Affairs", February 3, 1862.

"Forty Ninth Regiment Ordered to the Front", February 4, 1862.

"Military Affairs", February 11, 1862.

"Fifth Illinois Cavalry", February 20, 1862.


"Death of Rebel Prisoners", February 27, 1863.

"Mustered In", March 28, 1863.

"Disastrous Fire at Camp Butler", January 13, 1864.

"Value of Substitutes", September 25, 1864.

"Colored Substitutes", February 6, 1865.

"Extensive Fire at Camp Butler", May 29, 1865.

"Soldiers' Burying Grounds", September 16, 1865.

"Centennial Issue", June 28, 1936.

_New York Times_, February 24, 1862.


_Healy, R. W., "Acrostic", Illinois State Journal, October 18, 1862._
VII. Personal Interviews

Bradford, John, 807 West Edwards Street, Springfield, Illinois.
His father was connected with the Commissary Department at
Camp Butler during the Civil War.

Butler, William J., 912 South Fourth Street, Springfield, Illi-
ois. His paternal grandfather was Honorable William
Butler, and maternal grandfather, General John A. McClernard.

Chenery, William Dodd, 401 West Lawrence Street, Springfield,
Illinois. His grandfather owned the famous Chenery House at
Fourth and Washington Streets, during the Civil War. Today
the Illinois Hotel occupies this site.

Dresser, Virginia, 821 South Second Street, Springfield, Illinois.
Her father was the Reverend Charles Dresser, who performed
the wedding ceremony for Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd.
Later Lincoln bought the Reverend Dresser home on Eighth and
Jackson Streets, known today as the Lincoln Home.

Ford, George W., (colored) 1525 South Eleventh Street, Springfield,
Illinois. He was superintendent of Camp Butler, 1906-1930.

Pratt, Harry E. Doctor. The First National Bank Building, Spring-
field, Illinois. Secretary of the Abraham Lincoln Association.

Schwar, Joseph, Camp Butler, Illinois. R.F.D. No. 1. Major in
Quartermaster Reserve Corps and present superintendent of
Camp Butler national cemetery.