

Drum Barracks Civil War Museum

January / February 2019

Reveille

Director's Chair

Tara Fansler

The operation of Drum Barracks as a Civil War museum and historic site takes an army of people in front of and behind the scenes. Our combination of staff and volunteers are the true heartbeat of Drum Barracks. They create displays, care for collections, perform building maintenance, raise funds, give tours, teach school programs, manage social media, and a host of other tasks. Of course, every once in a while, there are changes in the people on our team.

As we enter a new year, I am sad to inform you about some much-loved champions of history who left us in 2018, but happy to introduce some new people who have joined us.

In October 2018, the passing of Board Member Michael Sorenson came as a shock to his friends and colleagues at Drum Barracks and we are still grieving his loss. Mike was an all-around great guy who loved Civil War history and exemplified service and leadership in his role on the Drum Barracks Garrison & Society Board of Directors. Please read more about Mike's contributions to Drum Barracks in a memorial article later in this issue.

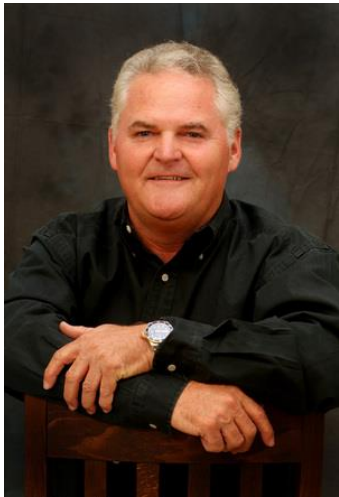
We also had to say good-bye to Susan Sweet who retired from her longtime volunteer duties with the library and book club at the end of last year. We will miss her weekly presence at Drum Barracks and the passion with which she organized and catalogued the books in our research library. However, we are thrilled that Susan will be back occasionally to help us out with special events.

We gladly welcomed Tennessee Mills as a new museum guide in fall of 2018. Tennessee joins us from the Point Fermin Lighthouse Museum, where she has been a guide since 2017. She is currently completing her Master's Degree in Heritage Conservation at USC. She did her undergraduate work at the University of Kentucky, and while there she worked at Ashland, the Henry Clay estate. We are very lucky to have Tennessee join our exceptional team of museum guides.

We are also very happy that longtime volunteer James Henkel is the new leader of the Richard Rollins Civil War Book Club. The club meets on the second Tuesday of every month, except during July and August. I'm sure James would love to have you join the group to take part in the lively discussions and learn more about the Civil War. Book lists can be found online at <http://www.drumbarracks.org/index.php/en/events/civil-war-book-club>.

Stay tuned for some exciting programs coming in 2019. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram to get updates about events, historical information, and behind the scenes glimpses of what is happening at the museum.

Drum Barracks Loses a Long Time Supporter and Board Member



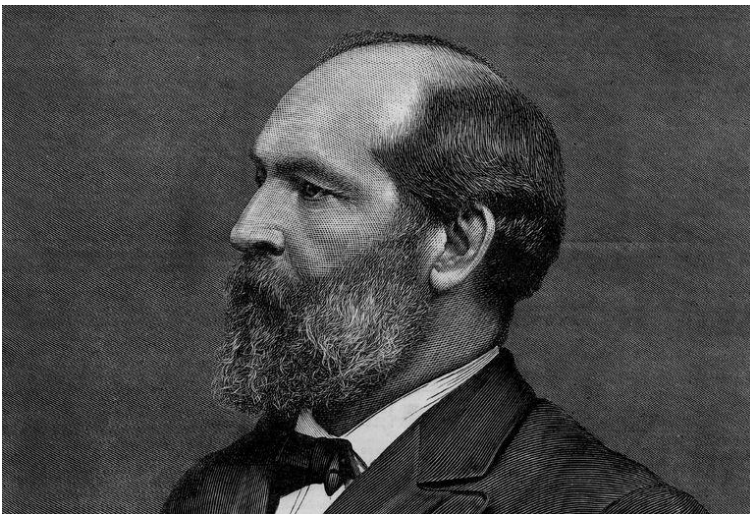
We lost a dear friend and fellow enthusiast last October when Mike Sorenson, a well-respected member of the Drum Barracks' Board of Directors unexpectedly passed away. Mike was a serious Civil War collector since the 1980's. His emphasis originally centered on fine condition Civil War firearms then gradually broadened to include virtually all items used by the Civil War soldier. He especially enjoyed the study of the Cal Hundred and Cal Battalion, California volunteers who traveled east to fight in the Civil War under the flag of the 2nd Massachusetts Cavalry. Mike's holdings from this group of Californians have been exhibited in a variety of venues in Southern California. Many of you will remember his beautiful exhibits of period uniforms from his wonderful Civil War collection and his stunning contributions to the California Hundred and Battalion exhibit event at the Drum. Mike will always be remembered for his generosity in sharing, his unbounded passion for the period, and his world-class dedication to collecting and furthering our knowledge of Civil War artifacts. We will miss Mike's enthusiasm and dedication to the Drum.

Presidents who were Civil War Veterans

The Civil War was the defining event of the 19th century, and some presidents got a political boost from their wartime service. Veterans organizations such as the Grand Army of the Republic were ostensibly non-political, but there's no denying that wartime exploits translated to the ballot box.

James Garfield

<https://www.thoughtco.com/presidents-who-were-civil-war-veterans-1773443>



James Garfield volunteered and helped raise troops for a volunteer regiment from Ohio. He essentially taught himself military tactics, and participated in fighting in Kentucky and in the very bloody Shiloh campaign.

His military experience propelled him into politics, and he was elected to Congress in 1862. He resigned his military commission in 1863 and served in Congress. He was often involved in decisions regarding military matters and issues pertaining to veterans.

James Garfield. Hulton Archive/Getty Images

Born: November 19, 1831, Orange Township, Ohio.

Died: At the age of 49, September 19, 1881, in Elberon, New Jersey. President Garfield had been shot by an assassin on July 2, 1881, and never recovered from his wounds.

Presidential term: March 4, 1881 - September 19, 1881. Garfield's term as president only spanned six months, and for half of that he was incapacitated from his wounds. His term as president was the second shortest in history; only William Henry Harrison, who served a single month, spent less time as president.

Accomplishments: It is difficult to point to any presidential accomplishments of Garfield's, as he spent so little time as president. He did, however, set an agenda which was followed by his successor, Chester Alan Arthur. One particular goal of Garfield's which Arthur accomplished was reform of the civil service, which was still influenced by the Spoils System dating back to the time of Andrew Jackson.

Supported by: Garfield joined the Republican Party in the late 1850s, and remained a Republican for the rest of his life. His popularity within the party led to him being considered a candidate for the party's presidential candidate in 1880, though Garfield did not actively pursue the nomination.

Opposed by: Throughout his political career Garfield would have been opposed by members of the Democratic Party.

Presidential campaigns: Garfield's one presidential campaign was in 1880, against the Democratic nominee Winfield Scott Hancock. Though Garfield barely won the popular vote, he easily won the electoral vote. Both candidates had served in the Civil War, and Garfield supporters were not inclined to attack Hancock as he had been an acknowledged hero at the Battle of Gettysburg. Hancock supporters tried to tie Garfield to corruption in the Republican Party going back to the administration of Ulysses S. Grant, but were not successful. The campaign was not particularly lively, and Garfield essentially won based on his reputation for honesty and hard work, and his own distinguished record in the Civil War.

Spouse and family: Garfield married Lucretia Rudolph on November 11, 1858. They had five sons and two daughters.

Education: Garfield received a basic education in a village school as a child. In his teens he flirted with the idea of becoming a sailor, and left home briefly but soon returned. He entered a seminary in Ohio, working odd jobs to support his education. Garfield turned into a very good student, and entered college, where he took up the challenging subjects of Latin and Greek. By the mid-1850s he had become the instructor of classical languages at the Western Reserve Eclectic Institute in Ohio (which became Hiram College).

Early career: While teaching in the late 1850s Garfield became interested in politics and joined the new Republican Party. He campaigned for the party, giving stump speeches and speaking out against the spread of slavery. The Ohio Republican Party nominated him to run for state senate, and he won the election in November 1859. He continued to speak out against slavery, and when the Civil War broke out following the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860, Garfield enthusiastically supported the Union cause in the war.

Military career: Garfield helped to raise troops for volunteer regiments in Ohio, and he became a colonel in command of a regiment. With the discipline he had shown as a student, he studied military tactics and became proficient in commanding troops. Early in the war Garfield served in Kentucky, and he participated in the critical and very bloody Battle of Shiloh.

Congressional career: While serving in the Army in 1862, Garfield's supporters back in Ohio nominated him to run for a seat in the House of Representatives. Though he did not campaign for it, he was easily elected, and thereby began a 18-year career as a Congressman. Garfield was actually absent from the Capitol for much of his first term in Congress, as he was serving at various military postings. He resigned his military commission at the end of 1863, and began to concentrate on his political career. Late in the Civil War, Garfield was affiliated for a time with the Radical Republicans in Congress, but he gradually became more moderate in his views toward Reconstruction.

During his long congressional career, Garfield held a number of important committee posts, and he took a particular interest in the nation's finances. It was only reluctantly that Garfield accepted the nomination to run for president in 1880.

Later career: Having died while president, Garfield had no post-presidential career.

Unusual facts: Beginning with elections for student government while at college, Garfield never lost any election in which he was a candidate.

Death and funeral: In the spring of 1881, Charles Guiteau, who had been a Republican Party supporter, became embittered after being refused a government job. He decided to assassinate President Garfield, and began tracking his movements.

On July 2, 1881, Garfield was at a railroad station in Washington, D.C., planning to board a train to travel to a speaking engagement. Guiteau, armed with a large caliber revolver, came up behind Garfield and shot him twice, once in the arm and once in the back. Garfield was taken to the White House, where he remained confined to bed. An infection spread in his body, perhaps aggravated by doctors probing for the bullet in his abdomen not using sterile procedure which would be common modern times.

In early September, in hopes that fresh air would help him recuperate, Garfield was moved to a resort on the New Jersey shore. The change did not help, and he died on September 19, 1881. Garfield's body was taken back to Washington. After observances at the U.S. Capitol, his body was taken to Ohio for burial.

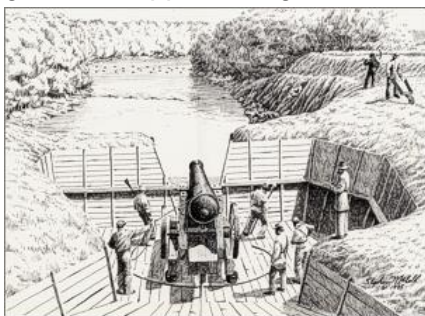
Legacy: As Garfield spent so little time in office, he did not leave a strong legacy. However, he was admired by the presidents who followed him, and some of his ideas, such as civil service reform, were enacted following his death.

Civil War Forts

<http://fortbranchcivilwarsite.com>

Fort Branch Confederate Earthen Fort Civil War Site

... is located two miles below Hamilton, North Carolina and 60 miles upriver of the town of Plymouth. Sitting 70 feet above a bend in the Roanoke River, this Confederate earthen fort provided a safe and clear view of Union gunboats approaching from down river. Eleven cannon offered significant protection for the railway bridge over the river at Weldon, a weak link in the "Lifeline of the Confederacy" between Wilmington, NC and Richmond, VA. The fort also protected the nearby construction site of the ironclad ram C.S.S. Albemarle which later helped regain control of the lower Roanoke River and Albemarle Sound by sinking wooden Union ships. Citizens of the entire Upper Roanoke Valley benefited from the fort, as well



Construction of Fort Branch

Fort Branch went through two construction periods. The first was in February of 1862 after the Federals took control of the northeastern North Carolina coast including the mouth of the Roanoke River. Federals captured Elizabeth City, destroying the Confederate fleet there. The next day they captured Edenton. Winton was burned. Word spread that Union troops were raiding homes. Panic set in. Confederate troops were quickly moved to Weldon to protect the railway bridge over the Roanoke, a weak spot in the Confederate supply line from Wilmington to Richmond. More troops were sent to Hamilton.

Meade's Battery

February 24, 1862.....A Confederate engineer, Captain Richard Kidder Meade, was sent to Hamilton to construct "scientific defenses" on the river. He requisitioned slaves and provisions from area planters and bought lumber locally, immediately beginning construction. Meade's construction consisted of a lower battery for two guns and an upper battery for three with a magazine between the sections.

March 14, 1862..... Colonel Collett Leventhorpe's 34th Regiment with approximately 450 men was reported "on the Lower Roanoke, to prevent the boats of the enemy ascending that stream." The 34th was reinforced by about seventy cavalry troopers and Nichol's Virginia light battery of artillery. This group assisted Capt. Meade in constructing a defense at Rainbow Banks but was ordered away by General Robert E. Lee before it was completed.



July, 1862..... Three ships of the Federal fresh water navy left Plymouth and headed upriver—mostly, it is believed to, "show the flag" and encourage allegiance. The ships were the Commodore Perry, the Shawsheen and the Ceres. Near Poplar Point, the ships came under fire from the riverbank above. The ships returned fire from small arms and big guns and proceeded upriver past the deserted battery at Rainbow Bend. The Union gunboats successfully landed in Hamilton, sending about 100 men ashore with one field howitzer. They were there only briefly but the trip's success alarmed locals and Confederate officials and it was decided that better defenses were needed.

Need for Better Defenses Addressed

Confederate officials determined they needed a fort capable of preventing or at least slowing down any further raids.

September, 1862..... Lt. J. Innis Randolph, an engineer officer appointed by the District of Columbia, was sent to find a suitable site on the Roanoke. In his report to superiors, Randolph had this to say about Meade's defenses: "There are several points which might be fortified to resist the passage of gunboats, but none, in my judgment, so suitable as Rainbow Bend. This is an excellent point....There is a battery already constructed there, located, I understand, by Capt. Kidder Meade (R.K. Meade), C.S. engineer. The battery is well located and arranged for five pieces. It is not, however, well-constructed. The parapet is not more than 14 feet thick; not enough, in my judgment, to stand heavy artillery at a half-mile range. The soles of the embrasures have not slope enough to admit a sufficient depression of the guns and the magazine, while it is the most conspicuous point in the work as viewed from the river, is very weak both on top and at the sides. The flooring of one of the platforms is gone, and the hillside should be cut away farther, as it limits the fire of one of the guns...."

October 9, 1862.....The Confederate Engineer Bureau in Richmond assigned Colonel Walter Gwynn to examine navigable waters in eastern North Carolina for defense against a naval or land attack. Strong obstructions in the channels and batteries on the banks were planned to block the Neuse River as low as Kinston, the Tar River as low as Greenville and the Roanoke River as low as Hamilton.

October 14, 1862.....Lt. Walter G. Bender is ordered to assist Colonel Gwynn. Materials were made ready. Laborers are to arrive on Nov. 3rd. Gwynn is advised that 100 hands have been ordered to assemble at Hamilton for work and Gwynn has called on local planters for 500 slaves with two weeks provisions to start work on the 3rd. A joint raid by Federal Army and Navy troops (Foster's Raid) caused a hasty evacuation of Hamilton. Some of Lt. Bender's papers regarding construction of the fort were discovered by Union forces and the U.S. Navy vessel I.N. Seymour was dispatched to demolish the battery. Efforts stopped short when a badly handled explosion killed one and injured another of its crew. The magazine was blown up and the western end of the battery burned as well as damage done to the timbers in the embrasure.



February 9, 1863.....Construction was completed and guns were installed.

May 13, 1863.....Brigadier-General J.G. Martin inspected the fort and reported satisfaction with his findings. "...if properly garrisoned and provisioned, it can repel any attack of the enemy by land or water less than a regular siege. The supply of ammunition is good, and provisions for 1,000 men for thirty days are being placed in as rapidly as present circumstances permit. Coniho Creek, of which the general spoke to me, will be a very serious obstacle to a land attack on Fort Branch."

Why Rainbow Banks

Rainbow Banks (also called Rainbow Bend and Rainbow Bluff) near Hamilton, N.C. was an ideal location for a Confederate earthen fortification. The bluff— about 70 feet above a bend in the Roanoke River two miles below Hamilton and about 60 miles from the mouth of the Roanoke near Plymouth—provided a clear view in both directions. Its height protected Confederates from the fire of approaching Union gunboats as well as offering an exceptional position of attack.



The earthworks at Rainbow Banks would become the cornerstone of the entire Roanoke Valley's defense and serve several important purposes:

- It would deter Union advances on a weak point in the vital "lifeline of the Confederacy", the rail link between the port at Wilmington and Richmond. That weak spot was the railway bridge over the Roanoke River near Weldon.
- It would protect the construction site of an ironclad ship at Edward's Ferry above Hamilton. Once completed, the ram C.S.S. Albemarle would help regain control of the lower Roanoke River and Albemarle Sound by sinking the wooden vessels of the U.S. Navy in the battle of Plymouth.
- It offered protection for the lives and property of the upper Roanoke Valley's citizens.

Civil War Prisons

Civil War Prison Camps were operated by both the Union and the Confederacy to handle the 409,000 soldiers captured during the war from 1861 to 1865. The Record and Pension Office in 1901 counted 211,000 Northerners who were captured. In 1861-63 most were immediately paroled; after the parole exchange system broke down in 1863, about 195,000 went to prison camps. Some tried to escape but few succeeded. By contrast 464,000 Confederates were captured (many in the final days) and 215,000 imprisoned. Over 30,000 Union and nearly 26,000 Confederate prisoners died in captivity. Just over 12% of the captives in Northern prisons died, compared to 15.5% for Southern prisons.

Parole

Lacking means for dealing with large numbers of captured troops early in the American Civil War, the Union and Confederate governments both relied on the traditional European system of parole and exchange of prisoners. A prisoner who was on parole promised not to fight again until his name was "exchanged" for a similar man on the other side. Then both of them could rejoin their units. While awaiting exchange, prisoners were briefly confined to permanent camps. The exchange system broke down in mid-1863 when the Confederacy refused to treat captured black prisoners as equal to white prisoners. The prison populations on both sides then soared. There were 32 major Confederate prisons, 16 of them in the Deep South states of Georgia, Alabama, and South Carolina.^[2] Training camps were often turned into prisons, and new prisons also had to be made. The North had a much larger population than the South, and Gen. Ulysses S. Grant was well aware that keeping its soldiers in Northern prisons hurt the Southern economy and war effort.

Prisoner exchanges

At the outbreak of the War the Federal government avoided any action, including prisoner exchanges that might be viewed as official recognition of the Confederate government in Richmond. Public opinion forced a change after the First Battle of Bull Run, when the Confederates captured over one thousand Union soldiers. Union and Confederate forces exchanged prisoners sporadically, often as an act of humanity between opposing commanders. Support for prisoner exchanges grew throughout the initial months of the war, as the

North saw increasing numbers of its soldiers captured. Petitions from prisoners in the South and editorials in Northern newspapers brought pressure on the Lincoln administration. On December 11, 1861, the US Congress passed a joint resolution calling on President Lincoln to "inaugurate systematic measures for the exchange of prisoners in the present rebellion." In two meetings on February 23 and March 1, 1862, Union Major Gen. John E. Wool and Confederate Brig. Gen. Howell Cobb met to reach an agreement on prisoner exchanges. They discussed many of the provisions later adopted in the Dix-Hill agreement. However, differences over which side would cover expenses for prisoner transportation stymied the negotiations.

Dix-Hill Cartel of 1862

Prison camps were largely empty in mid-1862, thanks to the informal exchanges. Both sides agreed to formalize the system. Negotiations resumed in July 1862, when Union Maj. Gen. John A. Dix and Confederate Maj. Gen. D. H. Hill were assigned the task. The agreement established a scale of equivalents for the exchange of military officers and enlisted men. Thus a navy captain or an army colonel was worth fifteen privates or ordinary seamen, while personnel of equal ranks were exchanged man for man. Each government appointed an agent to handle the exchange and parole of prisoners. The agreement also allowed the exchange of non-combatants, such as citizens accused of "disloyalty", and civilian employees of the military, and allowed the informal exchange or parole of captives between the commanders of the opposing forces. Authorities were to parole any prisoners not formally exchanged within ten days following their capture. The terms of the cartel prohibited paroled prisoners from returning to the military in any capacity including "the performance of field, garrison, police, or guard, or constabulary duty."

End of exchanges

The exchange system collapsed in 1863 because the Confederacy refused to treat black prisoners the same as whites. They said they were probably ex-slaves and belonged to their masters, not to the Union Army. The South needed the exchanges much more than the North did, because of the severe manpower shortage in the Confederacy. In 1864 Ulysses Grant, noting the "prisoner gap" (Union camps held far more prisoners than Confederate camps), decided that the growing prisoner gap gave him a decided military advantage. He therefore opposed wholesale exchanges until the end was in sight. Around 5600 Confederates were allowed to join the Union Army. Known as "Galvanized Yankees" these troops were stationed in the West facing Native Americans. Around 1600 former Union troops joined the Confederate army.

Prisoner exchanges resumed early in 1865, just before the war's end, with the Confederates sending 17,000 prisoners North while receiving 24,000 men. On April 23, after the war ended, the riverboat *Sultana* was taking 1900 ex-prisoners North on the Mississippi River when it exploded, killing about 1500 of them.

Death rates

The overall mortality rates in prisons on both sides were similar, and quite high. Many Southern prisons were located in regions with high disease rates, and were routinely short of medicine, doctors, food and ice. Northerners often believed their men were being deliberately weakened and killed in Confederate prisons, and demanded that conditions in Northern prisons be equally harsh, even though shortages were not a problem in the North.

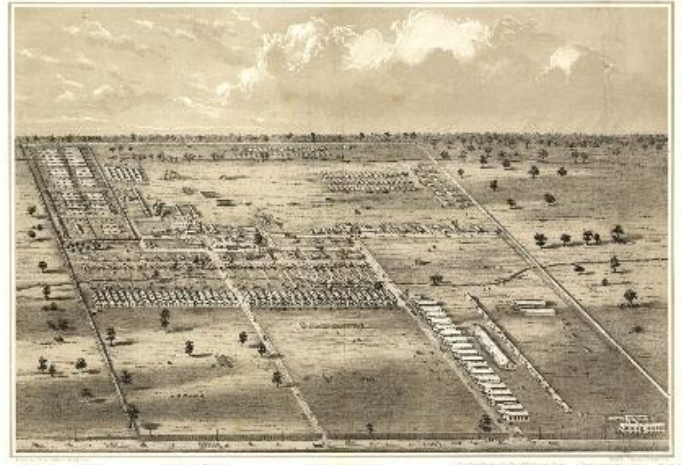
About 56,000 soldiers died in prisons during the war, accounting for almost 10% of all Civil War fatalities. During a period of 14 months in Camp Sumter, located near Andersonville, Georgia, 13,000 (28%) of the 45,000 Union soldiers confined there died. At Camp Douglas in Chicago, Illinois, 10% of its Confederate prisoners died during one cold winter month; and Elmira Prison in New York state, with a death rate of 25%, very nearly equaled that of Andersonville.

Camp Chase

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camp_Chase

Camp Chase was a military staging and training camp established in Columbus, Ohio in May 1861, after the start of the Civil War. It also included a large Union-operated prison camp for Confederate prisoners during the American Civil War.

The camp was closed and dismantled after the war and the site has been redeveloped for residential and commercial use, except for the Camp Chase Confederate Cemetery, which contains 2,260 graves of Confederates who died in captivity both in Camp Chase and in Camp Dennison near Cincinnati. Camp Chase was located in what is now the Hilltop neighborhood of Columbus, Ohio. Camp Chase is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Bird's eye view of Camp Chase, Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division, digital ID g4084c.pm006831

History

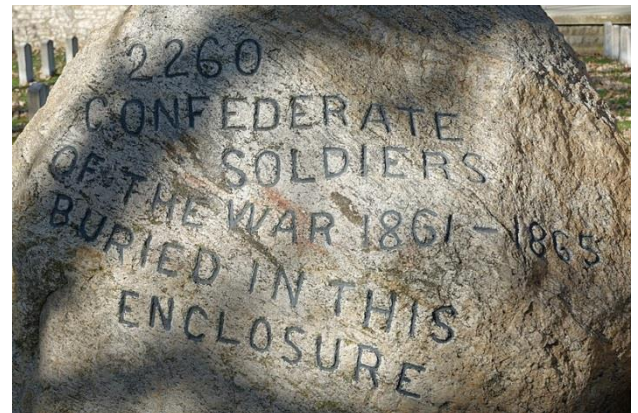


Gravestones and the main memorial

Camp Chase was an American Civil War training and prison camp established in May 1861, on land leased by the U.S. Government. It replaced the much smaller Camp Jackson which was established by Ohio Governor William Dennison Jr as a place for Ohio's union volunteers to meet. It originally operated from a city park. The main entrance was on the National Road 4 miles (6.4 km) west of Downtown Columbus, Ohio. Boundaries of the camp were present-day Broad Street (north), Hague Avenue (east), Sullivant Avenue (south), and near Westgate Avenue (west). Named for former Ohio Governor, Salmon P. Chase, who was Lincoln's Secretary of the Treasury; it was a training camp for Ohio volunteer army soldiers, a parole camp, a muster outpost, and later a prisoner-of-war camp.

The nearby Camp Thomas served as a similar base for the Regular Army. As many as 150,000 Union soldiers and 25,000 Confederate prisoners passed through its gates from 1861–1865. By February 1865, over 9,400 men were held at the prison. More than 2,200 Confederates are buried in the Camp Chase Cemetery. Western Virginia and Kentucky civilians suspected of actively supporting secession, including former three-term United States Congressman Richard Henry Stanton were held at the facility.^[4] The prison camp also held Confederates captured during Morgan's Raid in 1863, including Col. Basil W. Duke.

The camp was closed in 1865, and by September 1867, dismantled buildings, usable items, and 450 patients from Tripler Military Hospital (also in Columbus) were transferred to the National Soldier's Home in Dayton. In 1895, former Union soldier William H. Knauss organized the first memorial service at the cemetery. In 1906 he published a history of the camp.



Text of the carved stone

The Confederate Soldier Memorial was dedicated in 1902. From 1912 to 1994, the United Daughters of the Confederacy held annual services to commemorate Confederate soldiers who had been held and died there. The Hilltop Historical Society now sponsors the event on the second Sunday in June.

Prison conditions

The living conditions at Camp Chase were inadequate for a number of reasons. The prisoners were never intentionally starved, but because the Union army focused on feeding its own soldiers first it often left the prisoners with little to no food. The largest number of soldiers and officers held at Camp Chase at a single time was in 1863 when the prison camp held around 8,000 men. Because of the large number of prisoners crowded in a relatively small area, there was also a large outbreak of smallpox and other deadly diseases. This resulted in the death of hundreds of prisoners in the winter of 1863-1864. Many POW camps had the same conditions on both sides of the war. Because of this, the Union and the CSA agreed to exchange prisoners to stop the suffering of men on both sides. Ultimately around 10,000 soldiers were exchanged between both sides.

The Lady in Gray

The Lady in Gray is purportedly an apparition that haunts Camp Chase Cemetery. The story goes that the ghost is looking for her lost love, and cannot find him in the cemetery. The woman is described as young, in her late teens or early twenties, dressed entirely in gray, and carrying a clean white handkerchief. The legend of the Lady in Gray dates back to just after the Civil War, when visitors to Camp Chase spotted the woman walking through the cemetery, trying to read the carved names on the marked grave markers. She was seen quite often for several years, before disappearing completely.

Camp Chase today

Aside from the two-acre Camp Chase Confederate Cemetery, the land that formerly housed Camp Chase has been redeveloped as a residential and commercial area known as Westgate. A corner stone to the camp is located in front of the Westgate #623 Masonic Temple, in a community in the Hilltop section of west Columbus. This development was built in the late 1920s and early 1930s. Camp Chase is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Vandalism

In August 2017 the statue of a Confederate soldier on top of the camp memorial was pushed off the arch and in the process had its head broken off. The vandals never were found. They stole the head of the Confederate statue but not the hat.



The Confederate Soldier Memorial before vandals



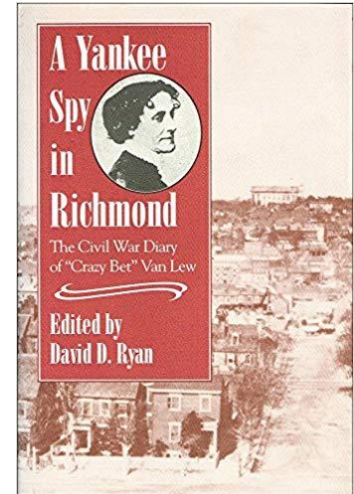
The memorial after vandals broke off the statue in 2017

Book Review, by Don Haven

A Yankee Spy in Richmond: The Civil War Diary of "Crazy Bet" Van Lew,
 edited by David D. Ryan

What is your idea of serenity? For me it is curling up with a good book on a quiet Sunday afternoon, lounging in my favorite winged chair next to the fire; the lamp on the end table casting a mellow light on that newest read. Ahhhh! But, what to read?

Fortunately, we at Drum Barracks have, seemingly, an inexhaustible supply of the best reading around – in our Library. So how many books are there, do you think, a hundred, a thousand, perhaps ten-thousand? After all, isn't this one of the largest dedicated Civil War collections west of the Mississippi? Indeed. Whether it is a casual day of serene entertainment or a serious day of dedicated research, you can probably find the perfect reading material right here at the Drum.



Battles. Biographies. Bread lines. What shall it be? Let's meander down a little different path today. From the "Orange Section*" let's check-in on a rather unusual domestic story – *A Yankee Spy in Richmond*. This book, edited by David D. Ryan, contains the transcribed "occasional diary", as she called it, of Elizabeth Van Lew. Miss Van Lew, forty-three years old at the war's beginning, was the daughter of a wealthy hardware store magnate. This most unlikely conspirator provided vital information to Generals Grant and Butler throughout the war from inside the Confederate States of America's capital city.

Editor Ryan presents a lengthy and detailed introduction into Elizabeth's background. What follows is her diary, which was literally buried for a period of time due to her concern for her personal safety. It is arranged in yearly segments relating her pointed and decidedly Unionist observations and opinions. Originally over 700 pages in length, the diary covered all four years of the War of the Rebellion. Due to lost, damaged, and indecipherable sections, however, what remained was approximately 400 pages. Still, this is an "as it happened" diary not a recollection or late reminiscences.

Elizabeth Van Lew was a well-educated Richmond native who could not fathom secession nor disloyalty to her country. The flaunting of "secession flags" from roof tops and windows she found deplorable. When war broke out she knew she must act. Richmond eventually became the Confederate capital and a repository for captured Union soldiers. Often disguised as a deranged ragamuffin to go unnoticed she provided many captured soldiers with food, reading material, and even the opportunity for escape. She invented a cipher for communications with the North. The intense pressure to evade detection is palpable in her writing as "Crazy Bet" describes her activities uncovering Confederate Government information and forwarding it to Union authorities. Later Miss Van Lew became aware that she was under the watchful eye of Confederate detectives. But that did not stop her. Over the course of the war Elizabeth Van Lew spent all of her sizable inheritance assisting Union prisoners of war and effecting her spying efforts.

In addition to the "cloak and dagger" the diary relates changing attitudes, daily life habits, and the eventual deprivations of the people of Richmond, a close look into the capital city. In the final pages we learn what her dedication to the Union cause cost her.

Only 134 pages, this book is a quick but very entertaining read from a little different perspective from the norm.

**The Orange Section refers to the fact that the staff has organized our Library for easy access by subject. The Orange Section is the Civilian Section, and includes topics related to women, children, fashion, the home and social practices.*

2019 Event Schedule

Civil War Book Club Meetings

Meetings of the Richard Rollins Civil War Book Club are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 pm in the Library. All are welcome to attend, even if they have not read the book, as they can participate in or listen to a lively discussion of that monthly book selection. There are no meetings held in July and August. Check the Book Club entry under "Events" for a list of the books that will be discussed in 2019.

Park Service Day

Saturday, March 30, 9- 11 a.m.

Join us Saturday, March 30, 2019 from 9:00 am - 11:00 am as the Drum Barracks Garrison & Society joins with the American Battlefield Trust and Clean Wilmington for Park Service Day; a national day dedicated to preserving America's historic sites. Lend us a helping hand as we clean and landscape the grounds around Drum Barracks' Powder Magazine. Meet at the Powder Magazine at 9:00 am (intersection of Opp Street & Eubank Avenue in Wilmington, 90744). Participants will receive an American Battlefield Trust t-shirt (while supplies last) and snacks and drinks will be provided by the Drum Barracks Garrison & Society. For additional information call (310) 548-7509 or visit drumbarracks.org.

Volunteer Training Classes

April 6 – April 27, 2019

Become a volunteer at the greatest Civil War site in Los Angeles! Attend four classes Saturday, April 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2019 from 9:30 am - 11:30 am. Volunteers must attend all four classes (or make-up classes) to graduate. Enjoy lectures on historic preservation and California's role in the Civil War, get a behind the scenes peak at artifacts and exhibitions, and learn to share your Civil War knowledge with visitors. These sessions are free and are only offered once per year, so don't delay. Call (310) 548-7509 or email drumbarracks@gmail.com for additional information, or to reserve your place in our 2019 class.

Civil War Technology Fair

Saturday, June 22, 2019 / Free / 11 am - 4 pm

Enjoy special exhibitions, lectures and demonstrations on Civil War technology, such as the telegraph, railroad, balloon corps and printing presses. Speak to Civil War reenactors about the life of a soldier, watch a blacksmith at work, and feel the boom from a cannon during our artillery demonstration. Free self-guided tours of the Barracks and children's passport activity, with prizes.

Come March to the Beat of the Drum

Join the Drum Barracks Garrison & Society and help preserve this unique piece of California's History

Private (Individual)	\$20	Colonel	\$200	Please make checks payable to: Drum Barracks Garrison & Society 1052 Banning Boulevard Wilmington, CA 90744
Corporal (Family)	\$30	Brigadier General	\$300	
First Lieutenant	\$50	Major General	\$400	
Captain	\$75	Lt. General	\$500	
Major	\$100	General	\$1000	
Lt. Colonel	\$150			

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer in one of these areas? Docent _____ Special Events _____

Museum Shop _____ Library _____ Living History School Program _____