

APRIL 2017

# DAUGHTERS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR, 1861- 1865

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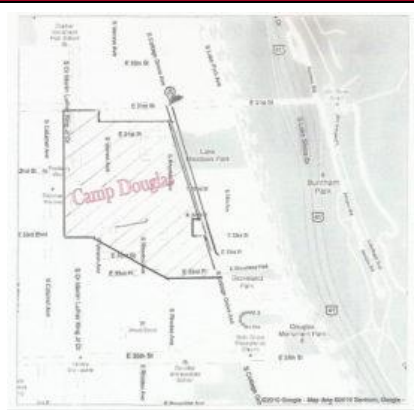
## MARY CHESEBRO LEE DETACHED TENT #23

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DAVID KELLER



CAMP DOUGLAS



### THE NORTH'S ANDERSONVILLE!

Most have heard of Andersonville, the Civil War prison camp in GA.

Few are aware that the largest mass grave in our own hemisphere is located near Chicago, Illinois at the Civil War site known as Camp Douglas. Camp Douglas was known as the northern prison camp with the highest mortality rate of all Union Civil War prisons. With 4,200 known dead and 1,800 unknown dead, the story must be told.

Guest speaker and noted author, DAVID KELLER will present a program on Camp Douglas at our April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. Keller will share his knowledge and research regarding the largest military installation in Illinois. While Camp Douglas trained more than 40,000 Union soldiers, it also served as a horrendous prison camp for Confederate soldiers.

Conditions at the prison were horrible. Guards' punishments were unusually cruel. Soldiers starved to death and often died from exposure in the winter months. Prisoners were deprived of clothing to prevent escapes and it was reported that 1 in 5 died within the prison walls.

"What remains of Camp Douglas, the prison camp story that was swept under the rug?" A monument containing bronze tablets was erected at Oak Woods Cemetery to commemorate the memory of 6,000 Southern soldiers who died in the Camp Douglas Prison between 1862-1865.

Keller has been instrumental in establishing a foundation for the restoration of Camp Douglas. The mission of the foundation is to provide information regarding Illinois, Chicago and the Upper Midwest during the Civil War. The foundation has planned for the construction of a prison barracks on the former site of Camp Douglas which will be used as a visitor center and gallery to present the history of Camp Douglas and other Civil War prison camps.

The Tent has opened this fascinating presentation to the public. We look forward to our membership attending and bringing along friends that are interested in our country's unique history.

## FRATERNITY, CHARITY, LOYALTY

The next meeting of Tent #23 will held at  
The Delavan Community Centre  
on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 6:30pm



### VIVANDIERES: WOMEN IN THE CIVIL WAR

Tent #23 President, Susan Fallon shared her knowledge of Civil War Heroines, known as “vivandieres” who followed the Union and Confederate armies to provide support for the troops. Ideally, these women would have been young daughters or wives of a non-commissioned officer. They would have worn a uniform and cared for the wounded soldiers on the battlefield. While these women did not actually fight in battles, they often carried arms, were accorded honors and captured as prisoners. Their most important contribution was offering the medical care they provided as field nurses.

For her presentation, Fallon portrayed Eliza Wilson who was a field nurse with the 5<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, Co. K. Wilson volunteered her services for the entire duration of the Civil War and was associated with the Dunn County Pinery Rifles. Eliza Wilson’s father, a wealthy Wisconsin lumberman and State Senator served as a Captain during the war. He provided Eliza with her uniform, a tent, wagon, horse and a servant to accompany her during her volunteer service as a field nurse.

Vivandieres personal accounts and deeds have been recorded in post-war regimental histories. Other women who acted as field nurses included Annie Etheridge, Ella Gibson, Kady Brownell and Bridget Divers. Etheridge was born in Michigan. In 1861 she went off to war with her husband, James who later deserted after the First Battle of Bull Run. Annie remained with the Second and Third Michigan which eventually became incorporated into the Fifth Infantry. She was involved in 28 battles as a field nurse and wounded at the battle of Chancellorsville.

It is indeed noteworthy, that these valiant women who distinguished themselves during the Civil War were all volunteers!



Susan Fallon as Eliza Wilson



Eliza Wilson



Annie Etheridge

REFRESHMENTS FOR THE APRIL MEETING WILL BE PROVIDED BY JUDY MANNING,  
PAM WANAZEK AND ZOE WOELKY





#### WHAT HAPPENED IN APRIL DURING THE CIVIL WAR?

On April 12, 1861 the first battle of the Civil War occurred when the Confederate States Army bombarded, Fort Sumter, a man-made island in Charleston harbor, South Carolina. Major Robert Anderson had a small garrison stationed at the unfinished fort which began construction in 1829 and was still unfinished in 1861. The Confederates had reduced the fort to rubble during the attack.



On April 9, 1865 General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of North Virginia to Union General U.S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, VA. The two generals met in the parlor of the Wilmer McLean home at 1:00 p.m. Lee asked that his officers and men be pardoned and sent home with their personal property and horses. Lee also asked that his starving men would be given Union rations. With the surrender of Lee's 28,000 troops to General Grant, the Civil War was effectively ended.



On April 15, 1865 President Abraham Lincoln died of wounds incurred when assassin, John Wilkes Booth shot him. Booth, a famous actor and Confederate sympathizer learned that Lincoln would attend a performance of "Our American Cousin" at the Ford Theater. Booth entered Lincoln's private box and shot the President in the back of the head with a .44 caliber single shot derringer. Soldiers carried Lincoln to a boarding house across the street. When the surgeon general arrived he determined that Lincoln could not be saved. The President died the following morning at 7:22 a.m.



Each year since 1956, the Allied Orders have commemorated the death of Abraham Lincoln, by placing wreaths at his tomb located at Oak Hill Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois. This year will celebrate the 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary of this event.

**TENT #23 PROUDLY HONORS CADET ETHAN CHRISTENSON WITH  
THE DUCVW "ROTC" AWARD ON Thursday, April 25 at the University of  
Wisconsin-Whitewater at 7:30 pm**