

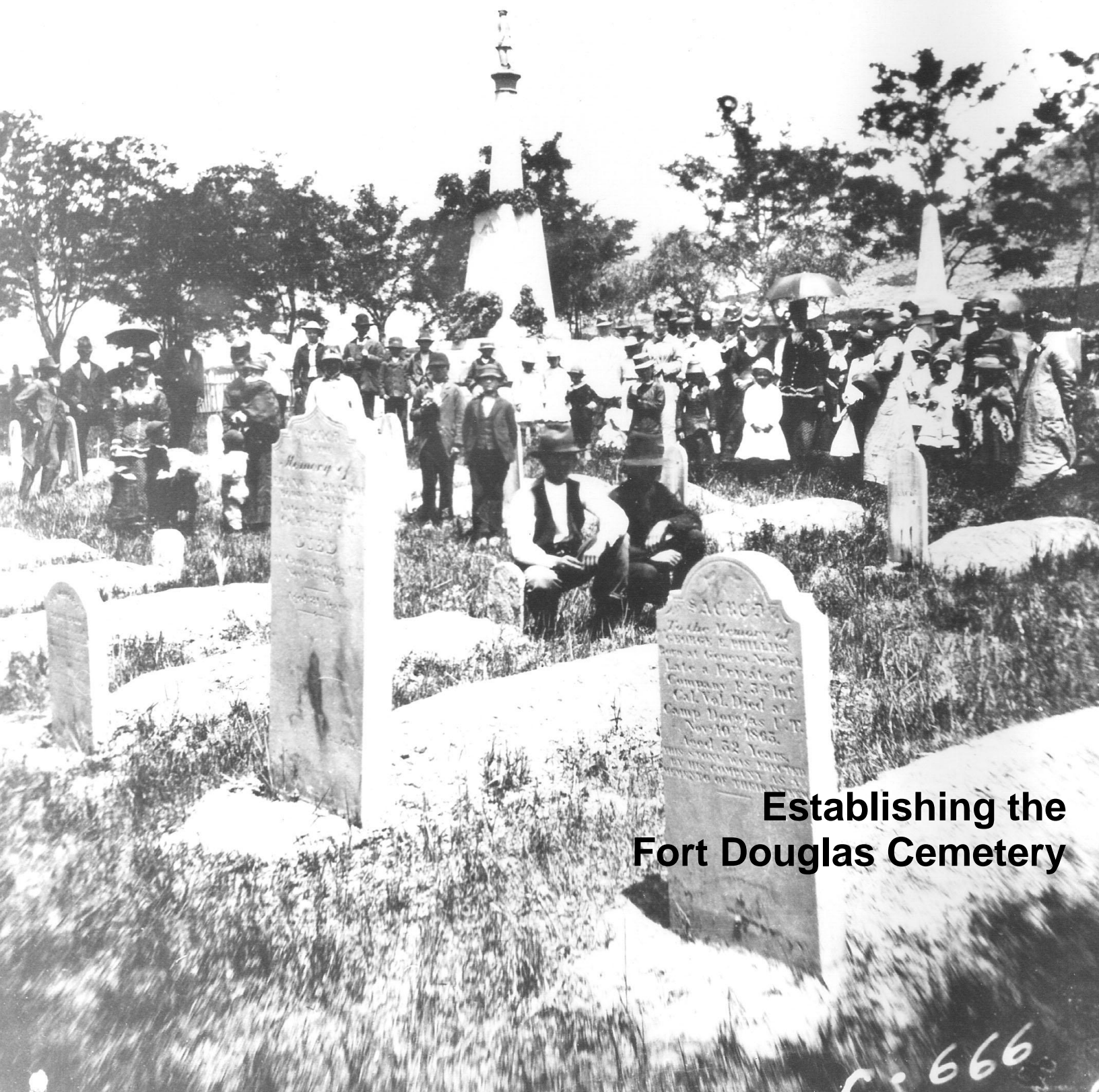
Fort Douglas Vedette

Newsletter of the Fort Douglas Museum Association

Vol. 34

Fall 2009

No. 3



**Establishing the
Fort Douglas Cemetery**

666



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**DIRECT FROM
THE DIRECTOR**

Our summer activity period is wrapping up. We have one more major event before we go into our review and planning process for next year. In October, we began developing our events and projects for 2010. I encourage anyone who has ideas for next year to please let one of the staff know. Next year will see further budget reductions from our state budget. This means that we will rely more on gifts, donations and grants than ever before.

One of the innovative ideas has come from one of our Board members, Stan Rosenzweig. He has developed an agreement with Supersonic Car Wash to sell car wash tickets. One-half of the ticket sales will be retained by the Museum to support Museum operations. Stan briefed the plan at our last annual BBQ and asked all in attendance to support the program. Additional information can be obtained from any member of the staff or board.

Over the summer we conducted three field trips, participated in four other events, and hosted two tours for the staff of the Utah Office of Tourism as part of a Foothill Cultural District awareness program of the cultural activities that are available within a two mile radius of the center of the University of Utah campus. This month we will host a similar tour for the staff of the Salt Lake Convention and Visitor's Bureau. Our field trips were to Fort Bridger, the Tooele Military Vehicle Museum, and the Bear River Battle Site. In addition we dedicated the Museum Library as part of the program during the annual BBQ. The future site of the Fort Douglas Museum Library Reading Room was named for Dr. Charles G. Hibbard in recognition of his long service to the Museum. Other events included a vendor's table at Hogle Zoo's Salute to the Military and a table at the Utah State Historical Society's (USHS) annual History Conference. Ephriam and I also presented a lecture on *Connor and Doty: the Struggle to Resolve the Indian Issue in Utah Territory During the Civil War*.

Finally, conducted our annual Fort Douglas Military History Symposium on 17 October. The theme was: *A New Century, A New World, 1898-1920*. Details of how the event went will be included in our next newsletter. As always, I close by expressing my appreciation for the support that so many of you give to the Museum. We are planning some exciting events and exhibits for next year, so keep your membership up and encourage others to join.

Robert S. Voyles
Director

CAMP FLOYD EXCAVATION



ON THE COVER

The Fort Douglas Cemetery, probably taken some time during the 1880s. Photo by Charles W. Carter. Courtesy Carter Collection, LDS Church Archives.

FORT DOUGLAS VEDETTE

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This past summer, the museum's curator Ephriam Dickson organized an archaeological dig at the site of old Camp Floyd in the Cedar Valley. Park staff had expressed concern that the development of an RV park by a local resident would destroy valuable information about the post's past. However, they were not able to find a state or university archaeologist interested in taking on the project. With construction on the RV camp scheduled to begin in June, Ephriam decided that the Fort Douglas Museum would take on the project to prevent the data from being lost. Shaun Nelson, archaeologist for the Utah National Guard, agreed to serve as the principal investigator for the project while Dr. Jane Stone and Dr. Scott Whitesides volunteered their time to supervise the excavation crews. Volunteers from the Utah State Archaeological Society, Fort Douglas Museum and the general public dedicated many hours in the hot sun to work at the site.

The area investigated had been the site of a number of enlisted men's barracks. "The Tenth Infantry barracks that we found were all long adobe structures, divided into squad rooms," Ephriam noted, "while the Seventh Infantry barracks were individual round structures with a Sibley tent on top." Each of the round structures had an adobe fireplace on one side. Ephriam noted that only a minimum number of artifacts were discovered, as the focus of the work had been to locate and identify the remains of Army buildings.

During the 1980s, Brigham Young University conducted their annual archaeological field school at Camp Floyd under the direction of Dr.

Dale Berge. In addition to excavating examples of several different types of buildings, including enlisted barracks, officer's quarters, a sutler store, and an ordnance workshop, he and his students spent considerable time recovering artifacts from a dump area. The resulting boxes of artifacts and bones had been stored in a garage at Camp Floyd, susceptible to damage from changes in temperature and rodents. Ephriam worked with the State for the temporary transfer of the artifacts for storage to the Fort Douglas Museum, the first items in the museum's new archaeological repository. The Friends of Camp Floyd have begun a fundraising campaign to construct a new building at Camp Floyd for additional displays as well as a climate-controlled area to house the artifacts. In the meantime, the collection is being safely housed at Fort Douglas.

With the excavations now wrapped up for the season, work has begun on the report to be submitted to the state. Ephriam Dickson, Jane Stone and Shaun Nelson have also been invited to give a talk about Camp Floyd at the upcoming annual conference of the Utah State Archaeological Society, to be held in June 2010 at the Fort Douglas Museum.





Photo by David Niebes,
Peachtree City, Georgia.

HONORING THE FALLEN: Establishment of the Fort Douglas Cemetery

By Ephriam D. Dickson III

On a crisp winter day in January 1864, the officers and men of Camp Douglas marched a mile and a half south to dedicate the new post cemetery. Winter had interrupted the construction of several improvements, including a low wall and a red sandstone monument in the center. Still, the post commander had purposely selected this day for the cemetery dedication – the first anniversary of the Army’s bloody fight with the Shoshone on the Bear River in which 22 soldiers and 1 officer had lost their lives. “We have assembled to do honor to the illustrious dead!” Captain Charles H. Hempstead emphasized in his speech at the ceremony. “Illustrious, for that is the highest honor which bequeaths man’s name to posterity for having fallen in the performance of duty, and in the service of his country.”¹

During the first half of the nineteenth century, cemeteries near military posts like Camp Douglas were still community endeavors, funded through the generosity of officers, enlisted men and civilian employees. While Army regulations specified that a report was to be submitted upon the death of a soldier and detailed how to properly dispose of his personal effects, the document was completely silent about the actual burial, leaving the details and the cost to friends and family.²

The Civil War however altered this Army tradition. The enormous number of men killed during the war meant that virtually no family escaped its impact. Grieving mothers, veterans groups and politicians persuaded the Army to reconsider its obligations to honor and

memorialize soldiers who had died in the line of duty. A series of new Army policies regarding cemeteries were issued in the years immediately following the war and their effect was soon felt at western forts like Camp Douglas.³

Death was not uncommon in the nineteenth century Army. Disease, accidents, and battles all took their toll on soldiers, officers, civilian employees and their families. Private Charles Logwood, for example, was one of some 2,500 troops in 1857 headed for Utah Territory as part of the so-called Utah War. While putting a loaded shotgun into a wagon, Logwood knocked the trigger and was fatally wounded by the accidental discharge. That evening, the men of his company dug a grave along the trail and held a short funeral. “The next morning we again take up the line of march westward,” one of his comrades noted in his diary, “with a last look at our friend’s newly made grave.” For soldiers like Private Logwood who died in the field or were killed in battle, their isolated graves were often placed near where they had died and were generally left unmarked.⁴

The Utah Expedition spent the cold winter of 1857-58 bivouacked near Fort Bridger. By the time the column departed for Salt Lake City in the spring, more than thirty graves marked a small cemetery at nearby Camp Scott and an additional cemetery had been established near Fort Bridger. Following the



Captain Charles H. Hempstead

construction of a new garrison at Camp Floyd in the Cedar Valley, another cemetery was started nearby. When these troops were withdrawn in 1861 to fight in the Civil War, all three cemeteries were abandoned. By the end of the war, most of the wooden headboards had deteriorated away and the names of the Utah War veterans and their family members were largely lost.⁵

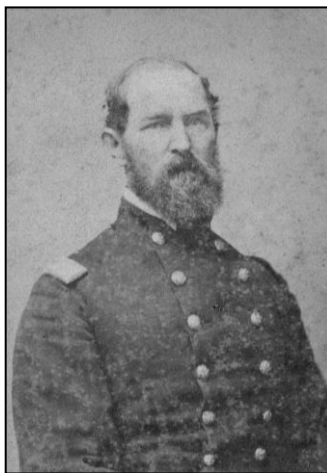
This same Army tradition was followed by Colonel P. Edward Connor and his column of California Volunteers during their march to Utah Territory in 1862. Sergeant William A. McQueen died while the column was at Camp Ruby and was buried there in the post cemetery.⁶ When the column arrived in the Rush Valley, Private Charles Cooper succumbed to typhoid fever. "At sunrise we placed his body in the bosom of this quiet valley," wrote the regimental chaplain. "May the good God have placed his spirit upon His own bosom."⁷ Several days after Connor's column arrived at the site of their new post near Salt Lake City, a teamster was killed when he was accidentally run over by a wagon. No mention was made of this man's burial, but he may have been the first official interment in what eventually became the Fort Douglas post cemetery.⁸

Colonel Connor's troops were actively engaged in patrolling and pursuing Shoshone bands raiding along the California-Oregon trail. In January 1863, Connor led five companies in an attack on a Shoshone village on the Bear River near Franklin, Idaho. "Midst the roar of guns and sharp report of Pistols could be heard [sic] the cry for quarters," recalled Sergeant William L. Beach, "but there was no quarters that day..." Indian casualties were the largest of any western Indian fight, numbering at least 250 people (or more by some estimates).⁹

Fourteen soldiers were killed during the battle and several more died of wounds in the days that followed. Instead of being buried on the frozen battlefield, the bodies of those killed were transported back to Camp Douglas where four separate funerals were held over as many days, the first military burials in the new post cemetery. On February 5, the entire command gathered for a large funeral for fifteen enlisted soldiers while a separate funeral was held the following day for the one commissioned officer killed, First Lieutenant Darwin Chase. On February 7, three additional soldiers who had succumbed to wounds were buried, and the next day two more were added to the cemetery.¹⁰

While later writers would denounce the Bear River fight as a massacre, the officers and soldiers at the time considered it to have been a hard-fought battle and the soldiers killed to have been patriotic heroes. The words carved on the gravestone of Private John K. Briggs, one of the soldiers killed at Bear River, sums up the military perspective at the time: "giving all he had and his life to his Country's service."¹¹

Several months after the funerals, the regimental drum major James Contell proposed an idea to create a permanent memorial to the fallen soldiers. He drew up a design for a monument to be erected in the center of the cemetery and



Colonel Robert Pollack served as the post commander at Camp Douglas from June 1863 to September 1864.

suggested that funds could be solicited from among the soldiers and officers of the command to pay for its construction. In June 1863, Colonel Robert Pollock assumed command of Camp Douglas and in a meeting with his officers soon afterward, he approved Contell's proposal. Within six months, over \$1600 had been collected for the project. During the fall of 1863, while also building most of the permanent structures at Camp Douglas, the soldiers began work on a stone wall to surround the cemetery. A local Mormon stone mason was hired to build the monument and to carve the headstones for each of the honored dead.¹²

On January 29, 1864, the cemetery was officially dedicated, though the work on its improvements was not yet complete. In recognition of the anniversary, General Connor issued a full pardon for all soldiers under arrest in the guardhouse (except those accused of desertion). The entire command marched out to the cemetery with the garrison band playing. The cemetery now included additional graves beyond just the Bear River casualties. Ten other soldiers and one officer had died of disease during the past year, as well as an unknown number of women and children. "There can be no doubt that when your terms of service have expired and you have returned to your peaceful homes," Col. Pollock told the soldiers during the dedication, "the recollection that through your efforts, the resting place of those who fell by your side, has been rendered sacred to their memory forever will be your truest and best reward."¹³

Improvements to the cemetery were continued during the spring and summer of 1864. The rock wall soon surrounded the entire plot, enclosing a little less than one acre. Locust trees were planted just inside the wall and watered by a ditch from the nearby spring. A steel gate was fabricated and hung at the entrance to the cemetery on the north side. In addition, the remains of seven other California Volunteer soldiers killed by Indians during the previous year were removed from the Canyon Station on the Overland Trail and brought to Camp Douglas for reburial, their names added to the Bear River Monument's list of honored men.¹⁴

"The soldiers employed on the Cemetery seem to take a personal pride in their work," an officer wrote in 1864, "and labor, not as mercenaries, but as having a heartfelt desire to see that the last resting place of their companions may look as neat and beautiful as possible. They have lately been re-covering the mounds over all the graves and when their work shall have been finished, there will be no Cemetery between California on the West, and St. Louis on the East, that can at all compare in beauty with the Camp Douglas Cemetery." The graveyard was soon described as a "beautiful burial ground" and "a credit to the volunteers at this post for time immemorial."¹⁵

Civilians not associated with the garrison were not normally allowed to be buried in the post cemetery, however, Utah Territory represented a unique set of circumstances. With local civilian cemeteries limited to Mormon burials only, non-Mormons (or Gentiles) lacked a burial ground of their own. To

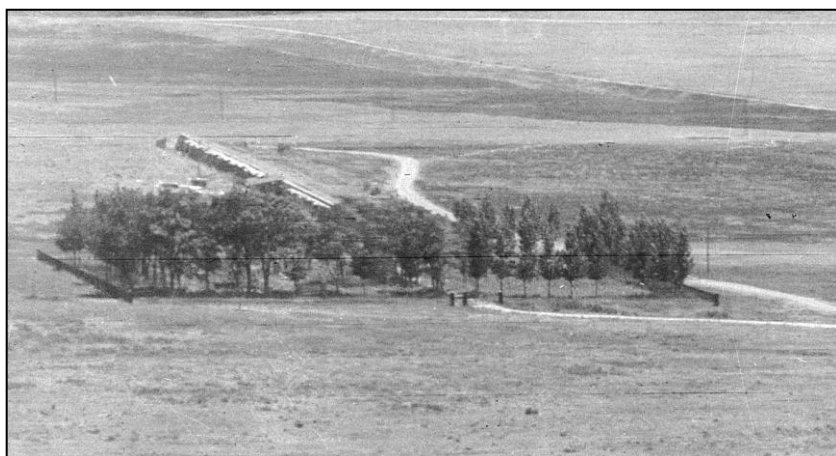
accommodate this need, the post commander authorized that a small area to the south of the post cemetery be protected by a picket fence and set aside for civilians. These graves were later incorporated within the post cemetery proper. In 1874, twenty acres on the edge of the military reservation were set aside as a nondenominational graveyard, known today as the Mount Olivet Cemetery.¹⁵

While the local military community developed and funded the post cemetery at Camp Douglas, national leaders were considering larger policies regarding military burials. At the beginning of the Civil War, the Quartermaster Department was charged with primary responsibility for burials, including providing wood for caskets, marking graves with wooden headstones and maintaining proper records. In 1862, Congress authorized the President to purchase private land for use as military cemeteries. At the end of the war, the Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs oversaw a large effort to gather Union dead from throughout the south and to rebury them in newly established national cemeteries. He also ordered a report be submitted by commanders on all burials from the war, ultimately published as a series of volumes called the *Roll of Honor*.¹⁶

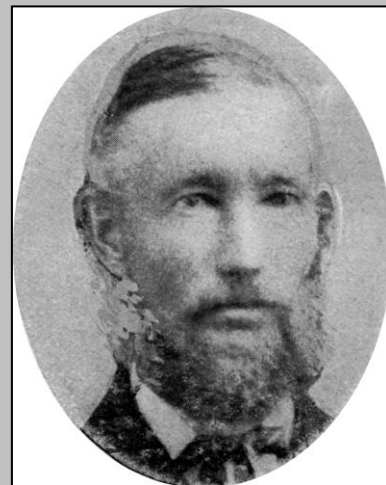
Meigs requests for reports of Civil War dead arrived on the desks of post quartermasters throughout the west. Captain Edward B. Grimes wrote in 1866 that the post cemetery at Camp Douglas (exclusive of the civilian graveyard) totaled 97 burials, of which 59 were soldiers and officers.¹⁷ In 1868, his successor Lieutenant Henry M. Benson submitted a brief review of the history of the cemetery and a list of burials with grave numbers. This document helped identify several graves currently marked as unknown. Benson noted that the cemetery included 102 graves in the main part of the cemetery. He wrote that 63 of these graves were of identified soldiers and officers but he suspected that there might be at least ten others whose identities had since been lost. The remainder were of wives and children from the post. He added that the Gentile part of the cemetery by this time contained an additional 44 graves.¹⁸

In 1867, Congress passed the National Cemeteries Act, formally establishing guidelines for the burial of soldiers and officers. The following year, the Army issued General Order #45 (which was then added to the 1868 Regulations) for the first time establishing guidelines and responsibilities for post cemeteries. In the coming decade, the ubiquitous white marble headstones now identified with military cemeteries became the standard.¹⁹

The Fort Douglas Cemetery illustrates the fundamental shift in Army policy, from private cemeteries on military posts to true military cemeteries, operated by and paid for by the Army. These changes reflect the development of a new relationship between the federal government and its citizens who volunteered to serve in the armed forces.



The Fort Douglas Cemetery, about 1918. Notice that a new section has been added on the west end of cemetery (to the right of this photograph).

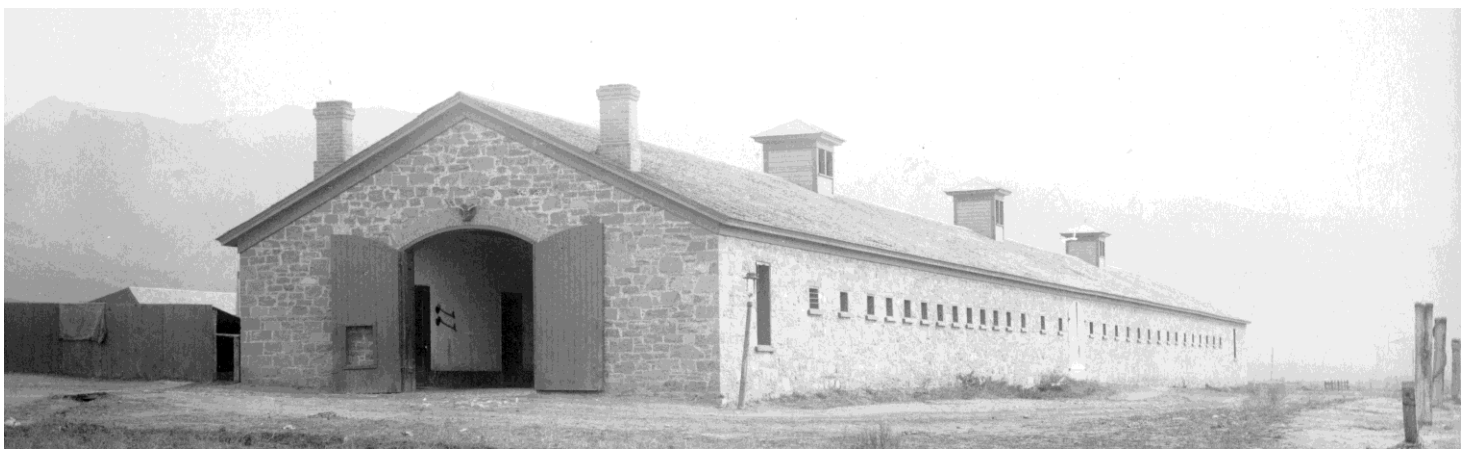


Samuel Lane Jones (1828-1891)

With the funds donated by the officers and men of the California Volunteers, a local Mormon stone mason named Samuel L. Jones was hired to build the Bear River Monument and to engrave the red sandstone headstones for the cemetery. Jones' name appears at the bottom of many of the headstones, including this one erected for Bugler Mathew Hyer who died at Camp Douglas in 1864.



S.L. JONES,



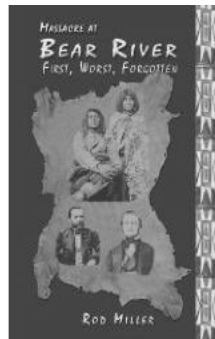
LIBRARY NOW OPEN

The library is now open for visitors to browse the collection as part of their museum visit. Following months of being closed for cataloging and reorganization, the library reopened its doors on the occasion of the dedication of the Charles G. Hibbard Reading Room on September 12. Volunteers assisted in the processing of over 2,500 books and video materials which are now cataloged and captured in the museum's database. Take a moment to walk through the library on your next museum visit and enjoy some historical gems, old and new.

New books of local interest - read these at the Fort Douglas Library (non-circulating) or check them out at your local public library:

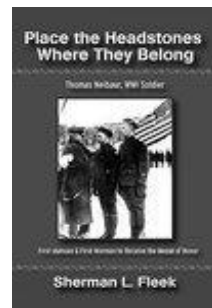
“Massacre at Bear River: First, Worst, Forgotten”, by Rod Miller. Caxton Press, 2008.

This short, readable volume retells the story of one of the West's worst Indian massacres. The author makes a case for the importance of this battle in the annals of Western Indian history, feeling that past writings have slighted the impact of Bear River. The author, Rod Miller, was born and raised in Utah and has lived around the Great Basin area.



“Place the Headstones Where They Belong”, by Sherman L. Fleek Utah State University Press, 2008.

An American soldier, Thomas Neibaur was the first native Idahoan and likely the first Mormon to receive the Medal of Honor. His story is chronicled here, full of triumph but ending in tragedy. Lt.



Col. U.S. Army (Ret.) Sherman L. Fleek, formerly chief historian for the National Guard Bureau in Washington DC, has written an unforgettable biography.

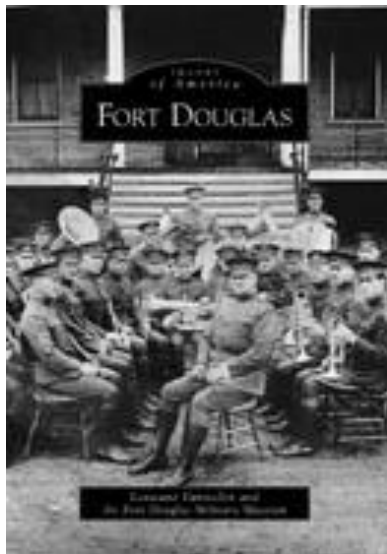
ENDNOTES FOR ARTICLE

1. *Union Vedette*, Jan. 30, 1864.
2. *Army Regulations*, 1857, pp. 145-150.
3. Drew Gilpin Faust, *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2008).
4. Diary of James Uhlig, U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center.
5. The markers currently at Camp Floyd Cemetery contain numerous errors. A ground penetrating radar survey of the cemetery completed this year has revealed that many of the surviving graves are actually outside the present cemetery fence. For information about the efforts to identify the dead at Camp Floyd, see Curtis Allen's blog at <http://campfloydceemetery.blogspot.com>.
6. Tuttle Diary. Orton, *Records of California Men in the War of the Rebellion*, p. 590.
7. John A. Anderson, Rush Valley, October 16, 1862, in *San Francisco Bulletin*, Oct. 30, 1862 (quoted in Rogers, *Soldiers of the Overland*, p. 41). Private Cooper's body was later removed to the Fort Douglas Cemetery.
8. Tuttle Diary.
9. Harold Schindler, "The Bear River Massacre: New Historical Evidence," *Utah Historical Quarterly*, v. 67 no. 4 (Fall 1999).
10. *Deseret News*, Feb. 11, 1862. *New York Times*, March 8, 1863. *Union Vedette*, Feb. 15, 1865.
11. Private Briggs was initially buried in the Fort Douglas Cemetery, however, in September 1864, his mother had the body exhumed and shipped in a chest overland to California and then by ship to New Bedford, Massachusetts for reburial in the family plot. While his body was removed, a marble headstone still marks his grave site at Fort Douglas.
12. *Union Vedette*, Jan. 30, 1864. Carol Edison, "Custom-made Gravestones in Early Salt Lake City: The Work of Four English Stonecarvers," *Utah Historical Quarterly*, v. 56 no. 4 (Fall 1988) pp. 325-329.
13. Special Orders #9, District of Utah, Jan. 29, 1864, *ibid*.
14. *Union Vedette*, April 28, June 17, Aug. 25 and Sept. 6, 1864; May 15, 1865.
15. *Ibid*.
16. Faust, *loc. cit*.
17. *Union Vedette*, Feb. 20, 1866, Mar. 6, Mar. 16 and Mar. 19, 1867. Post Returns, Fort Douglas.
18. Report relating to Cemetery at Camp Douglas by E. B. Grimes, June 1866. Grimes to Easton, July 20, 1866. Benson, History of Camp Douglas Cemetery, April 23, 1868, RG92, Records of the Quartermaster General, National Archives. Grimes' list of dead from Camp Douglas was published in *Roll of Honor*, no. 13 (1867) pp. 134-135 while Benson's list was published in no. 19 (1869) pp. 345-347.
19. *Army Regulations*, 1868. The regulations regarding post cemeteries remained virtually unchanged through the turn of the century.

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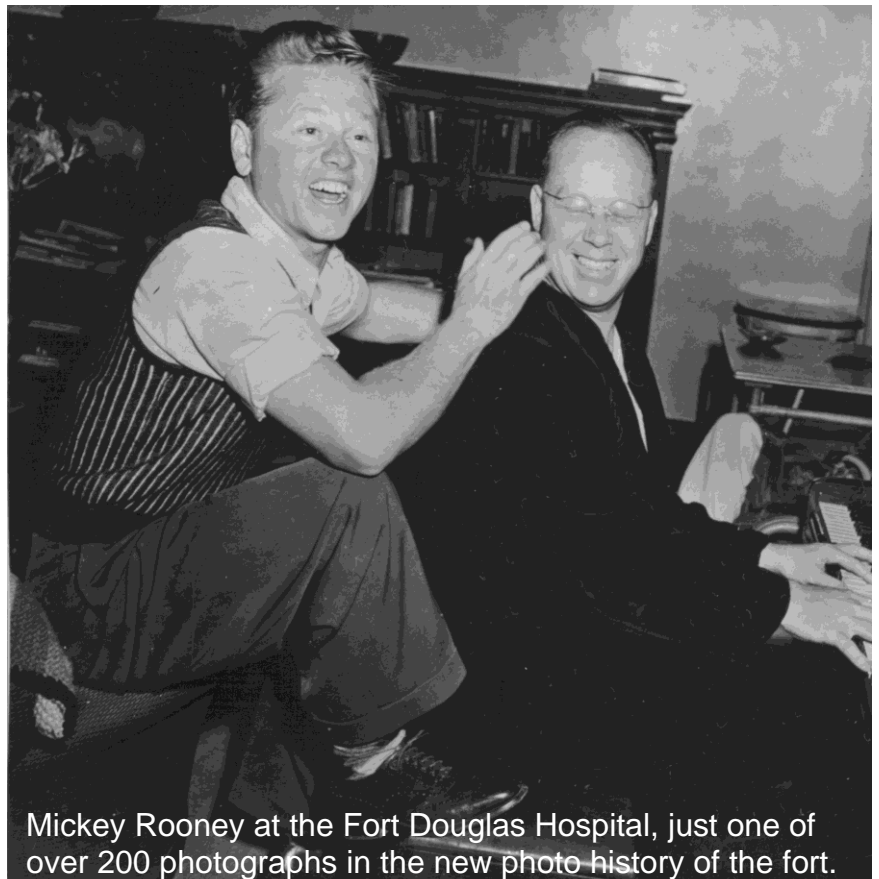
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Mickey Rooney at the Fort Douglas Hospital, just one of over 200 photographs in the new photo history of the fort.