Occupied Corinth:
The Contraband Camp
and
The First Alabama Regiment of African Descent
1862-1864

Prepared by

Joseph E. Brent

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OCCUPIED CORINTH:

THE CONTRABAND CAMP

AND

THE FIRST ALABAMA INFANTRY OF AFRICAN DESCENT

1862 - 1864

Prepared for

The City of Corinth, Mississippi
and
The Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission

By

Joseph E. Brent

February, 1995

Floor plan drawn
by
Maria Campbell Brent

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction....1

Methodology....5

The Contraband Camp....7

The First Alabama Infantry of African Descent....17

The Second Alabama Infantry of African Descent....24

The District of Corinth....27

Camp Davies....27

Camp Montgomery....31

Conclusion....36

Bibliography....38

Appendices....42

A. Annotated Bibliography....43

B. Captions of Photographs....57

C. Dodge Letter....61

D. Description of Maps....63

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Floor plan of the American Missionary Association School.....12

Figure 2. Map with probable location of the contraband camp.....16

Figure 3. Photograph of Camp Robinette.....28

Figure 4. Photograph of Camp Davies.....30

Figure 5. Line drawing of residence of Colonel John S. Wilcox.....32

Figure 6. Photograph of Camp Montgomery showing officers' houses.....34

Figure 7. Photograph of Camp Montgomery showing birdhouse.....35

INTRODUCTION

In 1994 a research project was undertaken by Joseph E. Brent to provide the City of Corinth and the Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission with the most comprehensive information available about the contraband camp located near Corinth, Mississippi between 1862 and 1864. The primary objective was to determine, if possible, the camp's exact location. In addition the project sought to provide information on the regiment of African-American troops recruited in Corinth during the same period, specifically the First Alabama Regiment of African Descent, later known as the 55th United States Colored Infantry.

As with most research projects the focus changed somewhat as the work proceeded. The unknown became the familiar but the trail of clues never led the detective to the one document stating that the contraband camp was three miles from X on the old turnpike. However, the investigation did turn up a wealth of useful information. It is unexpected, important and useful information that will allow those preserving Civil War sites in Corinth to better understand what happened there following the Battle of Corinth.

In the fall of 1862 the Confederate Armies of Generals Earl Van Dorn and Sterling Price united to take Corinth from the Yankee troops commanded by General William S. Rosecrans. The Confederate assault went into motion on the morning of October 3, 1862, attacking from north of the city. They followed the routes of the Memphis and Charleston and the Mobile and Ohio Railroads southward, pushing the Federals back from their outer line of defense. When darkness ended the first day's fighting the Union Army had been pushed back nearly a mile.[1]

At dawn on the morning of October 4, 1862, Southern artillery signalled the assault, but confusion among the Confederate command stalled the attack until mid-morning. When the Rebel troops finally attacked they initially made headway; capturing both Batteries Robinette and

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[1] Robert Johnson Underwood and Clarence Clough Buel, eds., Battles and Leaders of the Civil War Volume II, New York: Century Publishers, 1887; reprint eds., (New York: Thomas Yoseloff, 1956), pp. 737-748.

Powell. The most famous event in the battle occurred when Colonel William P. Rogers of the 2nd Texas led an attack that succeeded in taking Robinette. His success was short lived as Federal reinforcements retaliated, forcing the Southern troops to retreat from the Union forts. The ground around the battery was littered with dead Confederates, including Colonel Rogers. By two o'clock it was over, Van Dorn and Price withdrew, leaving Corinth securely in Union hands.[2]

Less than a month after the battle a little known brigadier general from Iowa earned a promotion and was given a new command. On the day before Halloween 1862, Major General Grenville Dodge took command of the Left Wing of the 16th Army Corps. Dodge chose Corinth as his headquarters. The small northeast Mississippi railroad town became a fortified bastion and a bustling Union Army depot. Corinth became the home to as many as 25,000 troops. From this base Union forces launched raids into Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee that were designed to destroy Confederate supplies and morale. An unexpected consequence of these raids were the hundreds and even thousands of slaves who followed the raiders back to Corinth. General Dodge understood what the defection of African-Americans would mean to the Confederate war effort. He realized they would be very valuable to the Union cause and enlisted the escaped slaves that came into his lines as teamsters, cooks and as laborers. Eventually, liberating slaves became a focus of the Union forays into the countryside.

On his own Dodge organized the Black men. He armed them and placed them in charge of security at the contraband camp he had set up for the refugees; yet, the Iowan wished to have his efforts officially sanctioned. He sought to allow these men to fight for their freedom. At the time and in later years Dodge found pride in his handling of the situation with the freedmen in Corinth.

Dodge's efforts led to the formation of the 1st Alabama Infantry Regiment of African Descent. Initially serving as guards for the contraband camp, the men recruited at Corinth would see combat as soldiers in the Union Army. Three companies of another regiment, the 2nd Alabama Infantry of African Descent, were recruited at Corinth. These soldiers would fight at Athens, Alabama and serve with Sherman on his march to the sea.

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[2] Ibid. pp. 747-757.

What is known about the contraband camp (also referred to as the contraband retreat and contraband corral in contemporary accounts) that was home to the families of the men who marched off to war? It began as a tent city in the fall of 1862 and when it was finally abandoned during the winter of 1863-64 it resembled a small town complete with a church, a commissary, a hospital, frame and log houses and a street grid. At the time of its demise it was home to 2,500 people, its streets were named and its houses numbered. An American Missionary Association school operated nearby and eager students of all ages sought knowledge there day and night.

According to the available information the camp was profitable. The freedmen grew vegetables that they sold to the soldiers in and around Corinth and those freedmen who worked for the government were paid for their efforts. The records indicate that the camp at Corinth was better administered and the treatment freedmen recieved surpassed that of any other camp in the area. Documents stating the location of the contraband camp proved to be elusive. The evidence from several sources, once pieced together, supports the conclusion that the camp was out the Farmington Road and in the general vicinity of Box's Chapel, east-northeast of the City of Corinth.

We now know a great deal more about the white Union soldiers who occupied Corinth. The soldiers who protected the railroad crossover at Corinth for the most part hailed from Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, Michigan, and Wisconsin. There was even a regiment of cavalry from Alabama. The Midwesterners grew comfortable in Corinth. They constructed elaborate buildings and established encampments complete with earth and wooden stockades around them. Some had themselves and their buildings immortalized in photographs. The officers brought their wives and families to northeast Mississippi to live with them. For the most part life was good and the active fighting remained far south of them near Vicksburg. They raided the surrounding area, liberating slaves, livestock, and furniture. When they left they burned everything they constructed and some things that they did not. Many of these men recorded their life in Corinth in diaries and letters home. Their experiences at Corinth were an important part of their memories of the Civil War.

This project brought those Midwestern soldiers back to life. It helped flesh out those camp sites that people in Corinth have known about for years. Photographs of Camps Montgomery, Davies and Robinette, as well as those of some of the men stationed at these encampments, were located.

These pictures reveal elaborate structures built in the latest Nineteenth Century style, reflecting the security enjoyed by the Union troops living in Corinth during this period of the war.

METHODOLOGY

This project was a research project, the stated goals being to find information on the 1st Alabama Infantry of African-Descent and the contraband camp that was established at Corinth. In order to accomplish these tasks standard historical research techniques were employed. In this particular instance the researcher began with the 1972 Cam Walker article: "Corinth: The Story of a Contraband Camp" from Civil War History (Vol. 20 No. 1). Corinth owes a great debt to Cam Walker, it was this short article that brought the story of the contraband camp and the First Alabama Infantry of African Descent to public attention.

Utilizing Walker's initial research and bibliography, the researcher sought out additional material which was requested on inter-library loan. These sources led in turn to yet more books and articles. In addition an on-line search of national library databases was conducted by the reference staff at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives in Frankfort, Kentucky. The primary databases searched include: American History and Life: A Guide to Periodical Literature, OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) and Dissertation Abstracts. The National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections was manually examined to locate any pertinent collections of papers of individuals who would have been in Corinth during the period under investigation.

Numerous archival repositories and special collections were contacted. The collections of Berea College Library Special Collections, in Berea, Kentucky; the Cincinnati Historical Society, Cincinnati, Ohio; Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield, Illinois; Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, Kentucky; Kentucky State University, Frankfort, Kentucky; the National Archives, Washington, D.C.; Southern Indiana University, Evansville, Indiana; University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky; and University of Tennessee Library Special Collections, Knoxville, Tennessee were personally visited by the author. Written inquiries were directed to Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama; American Missionary Association Archives, Amistad Research Center at Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana; Chicago Historical Society, Chicago, Illinois; Council Bluffs Public Library, Council Bluffs, Iowa; Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, Missouri; New York Public Library; Special Collections of the Denver Public Library, Denver, Colorado; and the U. S. Military History

Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Independent researchers, under the direction of the author, searched the collections at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi and the State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Monics, Iowa for relevant information.

Primary and secondary source materials were gathered. Pertinent information was copied and placed in file folders. These documents were delivered to the Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission. In order to make the data gathered as useful as possible an annotated bibliography was produced and is included with this report (Appendix A). Photographs and other images collected as a part of this research are also included with the material turned over to the Commission and described in Appendix B. All graphic material is identified as follows: a description of the image, which collection it is a part of and any citations that are necessary for the image to be used by the Commission in a publication or for interpretive purposes. Four period maps were located at the National Archives, these maps were copied and delivered to the Commission. The maps are described in Appendix D.

The following pages provide summaries of the information located on the contraband camp, and the First and Second Alabama Infantries of African Descent. It also provides other information of interest concerning Corinth during the Civil War which was located during the course of the research. A letter from Grenville Dodge's wife Julia, written to her father, was located and transcribed and is included with this report as Appendix C.

THE CONTRABAND CAMP

Following the Battle of Corinth northeast Mississippi was secured for the Union. The troops that remained in Corinth buried the dead and began the process of upgrading the fortifications and settling in to the dull routine of garrison life. The security offered by Corinth attracted African-Americans who were leaving the plantations seeking the freedom promised by the Emancipation Proclamation which had been issued by Abraham Lincoln eleven days before the battle. The Black men, women, and children who began coming within the Union lines at Corinth and elsewhere in the Mississippi Valley precipitated a change in Union Army policy that would profoundly change their lives and in the end help turn the tide of the war in the favor of the Union.

In the Mississippi Valley there were an estimated 700,000 slaves. By October of 1862 only Vicksburg stood in the way of total Union domination of this fertile and important portion of the Confederacy. The situation at either end of the valley was different. New Orleans was a major urban area surrounded by large plantations. General Benjamin Butler, who while in Virginia initiated a policy that freed slaves who came within his lines as contraband of war, realized that this policy would not work in New Orleans. In the Crescent City the Union Army had more than a toe hold, they controlled vast portions of an area dominated by plantations. In order to keep control of the situation Butler had to work with the slave owners. In the beginning his policy was to return escaped slaves to their masters.[3]

While the Union Army controlled a large part of the northeast Mississippi Valley, Corinth was neither the size of New Orleans, nor was the surrounding area the same. Plantations on the scale of those surrounding New Orleans simply did not exist. Nor did soldiers with the experience or the reputation of Ben Butler. The "policy" in the Corinth region was haphazard and driven by necessity. During his tenure as commander in the region General Henry W. Halleck tried to limit his subordinates to only those Blacks they could employ within their lines. Soon the situation became chaotic. Every foray into enemy territory brought more escaped slaves within

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[3] Louis S. Gerteis, From Contraband to Freedman: Federal Policy Toward Southern Blacks 1861-1865 (Westport, CN: Greenwood Press, 1973), pp. 11-15 & 65-73.

the Union lines.[4]

The disorder caused by the retreating Confederate Army in the fall of 1862 only added to the dilemma faced by Union officers. The Federal commanders in the Corinth region had been employing the contraband as laborers for the army, but by the fall of 1862 the escaped slave population exceeded the jobs available within the army. The promise of freedom brought Black people to the Union garrisons where a lack of policy confused and hampered military effectiveness. To alleviate the situation General Ulysses S. Grant appointed a superintendent to oversee the contraband and established a policy for their labor and welfare.[5]

On November 14, 1862, Grant ordered a contraband camp to be established at Grand Junction, Tennessee. He placed Chaplin John Eaton, Jr., of the 27th Ohio Infantry in charge. Eaton was given the rank of Colonel and the title of Superintendent of Contrabands. Grant's order and choice of a chaplin established policy and a precedent.
John Eaton was destined to live a long and active life. He was born in Sutton Township, Merrimack County, New Hampshire on December 5, 1829, the oldest of nine children. He was educated at Thetford Academy in Vermont and at Dartmouth College. After graduation he moved to Cleveland, Ohio where he became a high school principal. He later resigned this position to study theology at Andover Theological Seminary. With the advent of the Civil War he joined the 27th Ohio Infantry as a chaplin. He was captured, paroled and later rejoined his regiment in New Madrid, Missouri where he remained until he was appointment by General Grant as Superintendent of Contraband. Eaton would later become the United States Commissioner of Education, a post he held until 1886. Although ill-health forced him to resign from public life in 1899 he remained concerned with public education until his death in 1906.[6]

About the same time that the Ohio chaplin was setting up camp in Tennessee, Major General

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[4] Ibid., p. 120.

[5] Ira Berlin, gen. ed., Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation 1861-1867, 5 vols: Series I vol. III, The Wartime Genesis of Free Labor: The Lower South (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1992), pp. 625-626.

[6] John Eaton, Grant, Lincoln and the Freedmen: Reminiscences of the Civil War (New York, Longmans, Green & Co., 1907; reprint ed. New York, Negro Universities Press, 1969), pp. x-xix.

Grenville Dodge organized a camp at Corinth. Dodge's sanctioning of the camp at Corinth was an official recognition of a fait accompli.[7]

Grenville M. Dodge began his military career in July of 1861 when he was appointed Colonel of the 4th Iowa Infantry. He served in the Union Army in various capacities before being given command of the Right Wing, 16th Corps, Army of Tennessee in October 1862. In November he was assigned the command of the District of Corinth. He remained in Corinth until early November of 1863, at which time he transferred his headquarters to Pulaski, Tennessee. Dodge continued with the Army of Tennessee until he was wounded in August of 1864. Dodge was a civil engineer by trade and utilized his skills to keep the railroads repaired and Union supply lines open prior to his coming to Corinth. After the war he would be one of the prime movers in 19th century America's railroad boom. The Iowan took pride in the work he did in Corinth, and wrote proudly in his memoirs of his efforts in recruiting Black troops.[8]

Dodge's and other Union officers' involvement with the organization of the camps was little more than a recognition of their existence and the provision of rations and shelter; but Grant's policy gave the establishments an official status that brought regulation to what the contraband could and would do within the lines. Chaplains generally became camp superintendents and they were often aided by northern benevolent, mostly abolitionist, organizations. These numerous groups included: Cleveland Contraband Relief Commission, Educational Commission for Freedmen of Boston, Freedmen's Relief Association of Philadelphia, National Freedmen's Relief Association of New York, Northwestern Freedmen's Aid Commission of Chicago, United States Commission for the Relief of the National Freedmen, Western Freedmen's Aid Commission of Cincinnati, the Western Sanitary Commission, and the United States Sanitary Commission. But in Corinth the most active was the American Missionary Association.

The American Missionary Association (AMA) was established in New York in 1846 as an

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[7] Eaton, Freedmen, pp. 21-31.

[8] Stewart Sifakis, Who was Who in the Civil War (New York: Facts on File Publications, 1988), pp. 185 & 186 and Frank Welcher, The Union Army 1861-1865: Organization and Operations. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1993), vol. 2: The Western Theater, pp.297-301 and Typescript of Dodge's Memoir's, Grenville Dodge Collection, State Historical Society of Iowa, pp. 357-367. All references to Welcher are Volume II unless otherwise noted.

abolitionist society that carried on foreign and domestic missionary work. It sought to set the slaves free, to spread the word of God, and to educate. Once the Union Army began to occupy Southern territory this benevolent organization found a new field of labor and moved with vigor to establish missions among the southern African-American population.[9]

The AMA arrived in Corinth late in 1862 and found the camp there already in good order. In a letter probably written in early December of 1862 the Reverend W. Perkins described the people at the camp in Corinth as better cared for than in any of the camps he had visited. At the very least Perkins would have seen three other camps, those in Memphis, Tennessee, Columbus, Kentucky, and Cairo, Illinois. The camp Perkins saw when he arrived in Corinth was under the supervision of Chaplin James M. Alexander. Alexander had previously been the chaplin of the 66th Illinois Infantry Regiment.[10]

Alexander kept the people in the contraband camp at Corinth busy. He detailed 150 of the freedmen to pick cotton on the abandoned Whitfield plantation some 12 miles south of town. Besides cultivating cotton the former slaves worked a large vegetable garden, the products of which they sold to the Union soldiers in and around Corinth. The military authorities at Corinth allowed the camp superintendent to operate the camp pretty much as he saw fit.[11]

Members of the AMA heaped praise upon Chaplin Alexander's camp calling it ". . . the most thoroughly systematized, cleanest, and most healthy camp I have ever seen."[12] The compound at Corinth was hailed as a "model" camp. Corinth earned such high praise as much for the way that the freedmen were compensated for their work as for the physical condition of the camp. The situation in Corinth was due to the attitudes of the officer in command of the camp and his

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[9] Randy J. Sparks, " 'The White People's Arms are Longer than Ours': Blacks, Education, and the American Missionary Association in Reconstruction Mississippi," The Journal of Mississippi Vol. LIV No.1 (February 1992): 1-2.

[10] American Missionary Vol. 7 No. 1, p. 17.

[11] American Missionary Vol. 7 No. 5, p. 141; Tishomingo County Records (microfilm roll 312) Book V p. 370.

[12] Ibid.

superior, Grenville Dodge.[13]

Even with an established policy the treatment of the freedmen was uneven and varied from camp to camp. Chaplin Joel Grant who commanded the camp at Grand Junction chided the army for its uneven treatment of the contraband.

> "A large amount of labor is performed by them [the freedmen] in various ways. . . . [I]t is generally admitted that they do well; but through some defect in the workings of the law, they get no pay. This applies to this vicinity [Grand Junction]. At some places it is different. The model contraband establishment is at Corinth."[14]

Further south the situation at the camp in Helena, Arkansas was much worse. More than half of the residents of the camp died. The people lacked proper food, clothing and shelter. Diarrhea took the lives of hundreds of people and the inhabitants all suffered for lack of proper hygiene. Yet the conditions did not slow the tide of humanity who sought freedom.[15]

Due in no small part to the work of the AMA the conditions at the Corinth camp were never so bad. The men and women of the American Missionary Association busied themselves making the camp at Corinth a better place. They set up their operations about 40 rods (220 yards) from the contraband camp. Originally the AMA had only a two room school. As their numbers grew so did the compound. The AMA organization eventually included a four room school (figure 1) and a hospital. By the fall of 1863 each AMA teacher taught from 100 to 150 students. They also established a Sabbath school and a night school for the adults. The missionaries were

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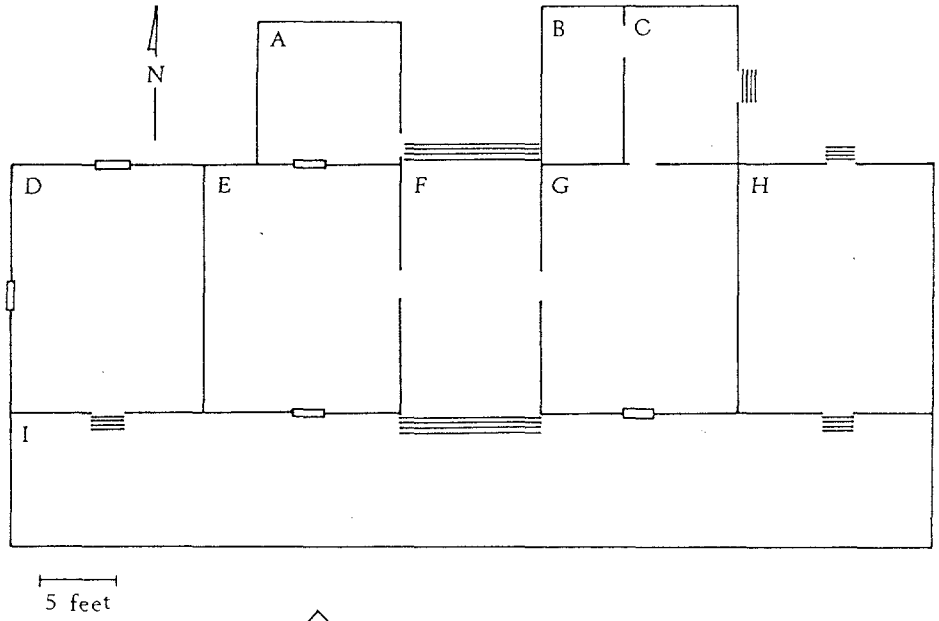
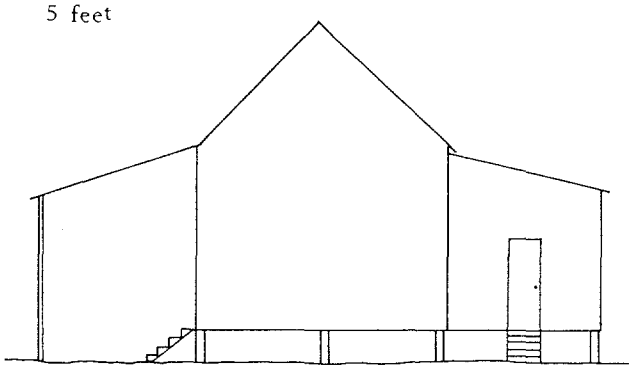
[13] Dodge to Prince March 15, 1863, Letters Sent - May 1862-September 1864, Record Group 393 - Records of the U. S. Army Continental Commands, 1821-1920, National Archives.

[14] American Missionary Vol. 7 No. 6, p. 127.

[15] Gerteis, Contraband, p. 121.





Reconstructed east elevation.

A. Cotton shed, was our kitchen.
B. Cook's family's room and sleeping room.
C. Kitchen and dining room.
D. Clothing room, 14x16 feet. Mrs. Olds sleeps here for the present.
E. Miss Hinman's School room, 14x16 feet.
F. Passage used for school room, 14x16 feet.
G. Mrs. Pierce's school room, 14x16 feet.
H. Residence. Mrs. Curtis, Miss Hinman Mrs. Pierce, 14x16 feet.
I. Shed covered with boughs. Not yet entirely completed. 12x54 feet and shall contain much of necessity. Sister Curtis is among the clothing and teaching alternately.

The shed and all the rooms are seated, some with rough boards and partly with slabs split from oak.

Figure 1. Floor plan of the American Missionary Association School. Adapted from American Missionary Association Archives, Mississippi, 1862-1864 microfilm edition, document number 71558.

impressed with their charges reporting,: "We can actually see a difference from day to day."[16]

The changes in the physical appearance of the contraband camp were as readily apparent as those of the AMA scholars. A reference to the camp written in December 1862 described it as a collection of ". . . tents, huts, hovels and shacks," located northeast of Fort College Hill, beyond the army shops, through a bottom and across a little creek [probably Bridge Creek] a few rods north of the shops.

The lot of the people in camp improved a great deal from those humble beginnings of December 1862. The most profound change came on January 1, 1863, when the Emancipation Proclamation took effect and the escaped slaves became free. The housing for the refugees at Corinth was improved when General Dodge ordered a detail of 50 men to build houses for the camp. Union soldiers were sent to Davenport Mills to bring back lumber to be used in the construction of shelter for the freedmen. By December of 1863 the camp was upgraded to the extent that it was laid out on a grid, the houses numbered, it had wards under ward-masters, morning reports, and a regular police force. The camp gave the appearance of a well-organized village of twenty-five hundred people.[17]

The camp not only had streets laid out, but they were named for Union officers. The streets on the flanks of the camp were named for General Benjamin Butler and General John C. Fremont. The streets that composed the inner grid of the camp were named for officers in Corinth: Colonel Thomas W. Sweeny, 52nd Illinois Infantry, Commander 1st Brigade, District of Corinth; General Richard J. Oglesby, District of Corinth, Commander of 2nd Brigade; Colonel Moses M. Bane, Colonel 50th Illinois Infantry, Commander 3rd Brigade, District of Corinth; and Chaplin

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[16] The American Missionary, Vol. 7 No. 6, p. 141, Vol. 7 No. 10 , p. 236, Vol. 7 No. 6, p. 141 and see American Missionary Association Archives, Mississippi, 1862-1864 microfilm edition, document number 71558.

[17] Colonel John A. Duckworth to Dr. William Rosser, December 22, 1862, Duckworth Collection, State Historical Society of Iowa; Map # 13-16, Civil War Maps File, Record Group-77, U. S. War Department Office of Engineering, National Archives; Dodge to Colonel Mersey June 3, 1863, Letters Sent May 1862-September 1864, Record Group 393; Charles F. Hubert, History of the Fiftieth Regiment Illinois Volunteers Infantry of the War of the Union (Kansas City: Western Veteran Publishing Company, 1894), p. 171 and The American Missionary, Vol. 8 No. 3, pp. 67-68.

Lovejoy of 7th Kansas Cavalry. To complete the small town appearance "The Union Christian Church of Corinth" was organized at the camp. [18]

The high praise the contraband camp at Corinth received was not limited to the American Missionary Association. On May 16, 1863 General Lorenzo Thomas, the Adjutant General of the Union Army, arrived in Corinth. Thomas had come south to recruit Black troops for the Union Army. He inspected the contraband camp, rode its streets, visited the school and the hospital and toured the gardens and the cotton fields. Thomas told the inhabitants of the camp that he would tell the President what he had seen and how well they were doing. His praise of the camp moved Chaplin Alexander. The camp superintendent told John Eaton, "I am now prepared to die."[19]

At the time of Thomas's visit John Eaton reported that 2,400 people resided at the camp. Official population figures for the camp are lost, but by the time the camp was ordered abandoned in late December or early January of 1863-64, the AMA claimed 2,500 people lived within the compound. The population seems to have fluctuated. At one time as many as 6,000 people were reported to have resided in the camp at Corinth. The Superintendent of Contrabands, John Eaton, reported in March of 1863 that there were 3,657 people in the camp. What became of the 1,000 or so people that were gone nine months later? During the course of the Union occupation some of the refugees were sent to Cairo, Illinois for reasons which are not clear. Many of the men joined the Union Army. Some 1,100 men volunteered for the two Alabama Regiments that were formed in Corinth. One thing is certain; between its inception and its evacuation there were more African-Americans at the contraband camp than there were permanent residents in Corinth.[20]

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[18] Cincinnati Daily Gazette, June 29, 1863.

[19] Cincinnati Daily Gazette, May 23, 1863 and Berlin, Freedom, pp. 704-706.

[20] Berlin, Freedom, p. 705, Levi Coffin, Reminiscences of Levi Coffin: The Reputed President of the Underground Railroad (Cincinnati: Western Tract Society, 1876; reprint eds., New York: Augustus M. Kelley, 1968), p.636, American Missionary, Vol. 8 No. 3, p. 67, Vol. 7 No. 8, p. 118, Vol. 7 No. 5, p. 112 and see General Orders 91, 92, 104, 107, and 111, Oct. 3, Nov. 3, 11, 17, 1863, Post Orders, Book 96/253, RG-393. The population of Corinth was 1,200 in 1862.

But where was the contraband camp? Colonel John A. Duckworth described the location of the camp as northeast from "Ft. College Hill," beyond the army shops which are through a bottom and across a little creek [probably Bridge Creek] a few rods north of the shops. The account also mentions a road that runs east paralleling the Memphis & Charleston Railroad. Another account puts the camp two miles out of town, in an unspecified direction. Yet another report states that the camp was east of Corinth. The Cincinnati Daily Gazette of July 16, 1863, describes a Confederate cavalry attack upon a Union Army animal corral near Corinth. This corral was out the Farmington Road, west of the last line of works that Pope threw up in the advance on Corinth. The account also mentions a family named Box who lived in the same area. In addition the article notes, "The black regiment was encamped nearest the place of the skirmish." In a letter to Major General Richard J. Oglesby Dodge notes that he has recruited 600 men for the Black regiment and has them constructing a barracks near the contraband camp. Both Duckworth's and the newspaper's accounts mention a thicket and swampy ground.[21]

If all of this information is put together some conclusions can be formed. The contraband camp was adjacent to the 1st Alabama barracks. These barracks were out the Farmington Road near the Box house. All of which was near the entrenchments constructed by General Pope's troops as part of the operations of the siege of 1862. Using this data and consulting maps, the conclusion has been reached that the contraband camp was located in Section 4 and/or 5 on the Kendrick, Mississippi U.S.G.S. Quadrangle (figure 2). It would be somewhere west of Bridge Creek prior to its channelization, and between the present day Kendrick and Farmington Roads in the Box's Chapel area. Granted this is a fairly large area, however, there were some 3,000 people living in a camp the size of a small town and therefore should be possible to locate using standard archaeological survey methods.[22]

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[21] Dodge to Captain Triderman, February 27, 1863, Letters Sent May 1862-September 1864, part 2 Vol. 32, RG-393; Duckworth to Rosser, December 22, 1862, Map # 13-16, RG-77, Leib D. Ambrose, History of the Seventh Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry, from its First Muster into the U. S. Service, April 25, 1861 to its Final Muster Out July 9, 1865, (Springfield, Illinois: Springfield Journal Publishing Co., 1868), p. 177, Cincinnati Daily Gazette, July 16, 1863 and Dodge to Oglesby May 19, 1863, Letters Sent May 1862 - September 1864, RG-393.

[22] Kendrick Quadrangle, Mississippi, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic), 1950, (photorevised 1969).

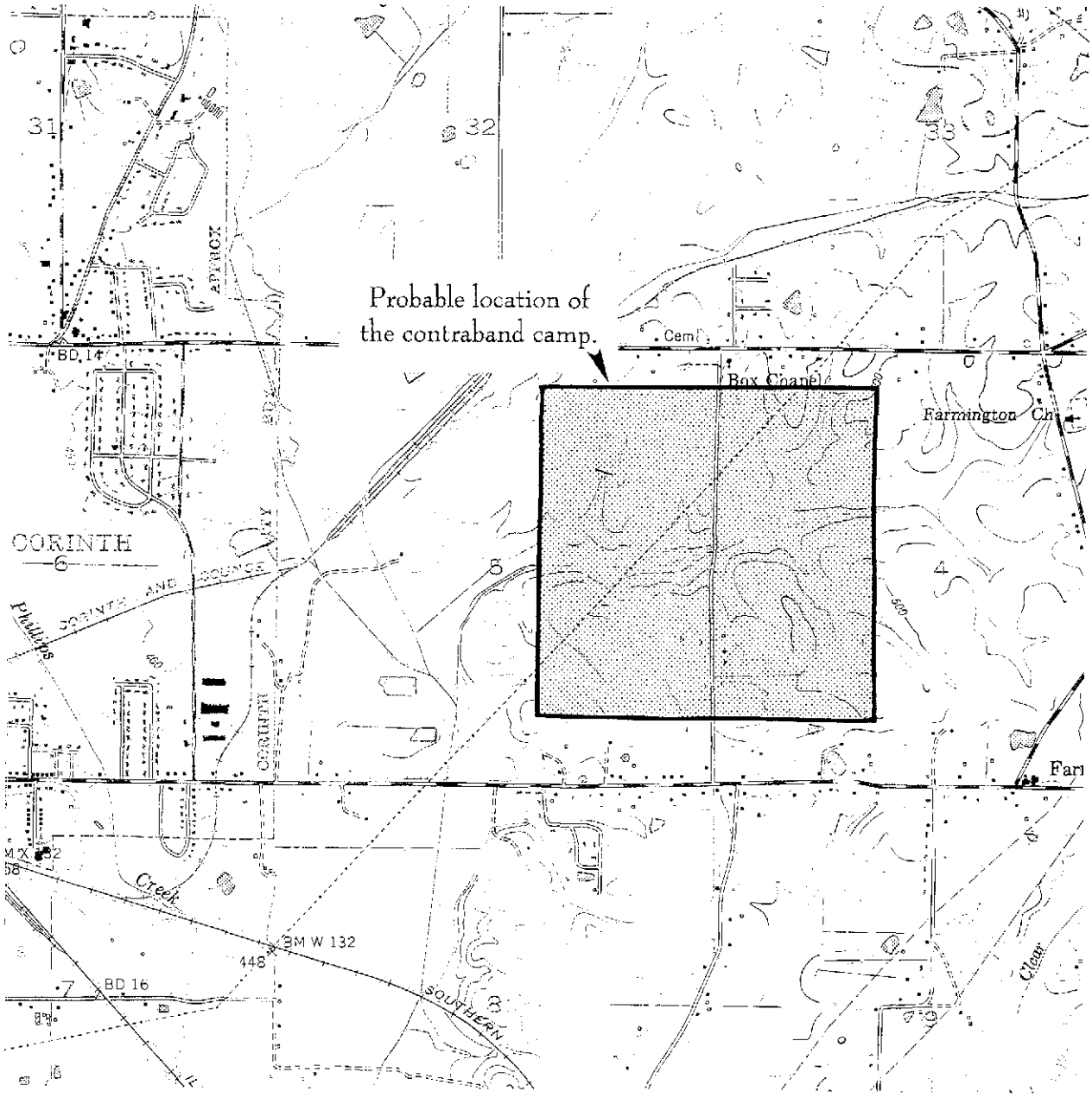

Figure 2. Probable location of the contraband camp. Adapted from the Kendrick, Mississippi 1950 (photorevised 1969) USGS 7.5" topographic quadrangle.

THE FIRST ALABAMA INFANTRY OF AFRICAN DESCENT

Prior to the Civil War African-Americans had fought in every war in our nation's history. Though they were never recognized as part of the regular armed forces, they served in times of crisis. After the emergency passed the men reverted back to the condition they had held before, be that slave or free. But free or slave, the armed forces were closed to him. The Civil War changed that.

The first official orders to raise a regiment of Black men was issued in August of 1862 to General Rufus Saxton in the South Carolina Sea Islands. By March of 1863 only five regiments had been raised. The War Department needed to bring more of the available Black manpower under Union arms. Rather than proceeding piecemeal and allowing individual commanders or governors to raise troops as they saw fit and within their schedule, Washington enacted a policy and appointed General Lorenzo Thomas with the responsibility of carrying out the task.[23]

Thomas was ordered by Secretary of War Edwin Stanton to go to the Mississippi Valley and recruit Black troops. Thomas went to work on April 1, 1863 and one week after his orders were cut he arrived in Cairo, Illinois. Thomas urged that the freedmen be employed with the army as teamsters and laborers. Once those positions were filled the remaining men should be recruited or conscripted as soldiers. He envisioned utilizing the African-American troops as guards for the freedmen working the abandoned plantations in the Mississippi Valley and to garrison various posts to allow the white troops to be sent to the front.[24]

Lorenzo Thomas was both prophet and tireless worker. By the time the war ended he was instrumental in the recruitment of 50 regiments. He gave Lincoln the 50,000 men he sought

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[23] Dudley Taylor Cornish, The Sable Arm: Black Troops in the Union Army, 1861-1865, (Pittsburg, KS: Dudley Taylor Corinsh, 1956; reprint eds. Lawrence, KS: University of Kansas Press, 1987), p. 113-114.

[24] Ibid., 114-115.

plus 26,000. The mainstay of garrison troops on the Mississippi River became the United States Colored Troops (USCT). Nearly two-thirds (18,000 of 28,000) of the troops serving along the Mississippi River were Black. By war's end some 180,000 Black men would wear Union blue. At least as many as 1,800 of that number were recruited at Corinth.[25]

The first regiment recruited at Corinth was the 1st Alabama Infantry Regiment of African Descent. It was organized at Corinth, Mississippi on May 21, 1863. The officers were appointed three days earlier. The regiment remained at Corinth from that time until the city was abandoned in January of 1864. From Corinth the regiment moved to Memphis, Tennessee where it formed part of the 1st Colored Brigade, District of Memphis, Tennessee, 5th Division, 16th Corps. The regiment's designation was changed to the 55th U. S. Colored Troops on March 11, 1864. They were mustered out from various posts in Louisiana on December 31, 1865.[26]

The Black men who would eventually form the 1st Alabama were initially organized to guard the contraband camp because some white soldiers objected to guarding the Black people. General Dodge provided Chaplin Alexander with arms and equipment enough to raise two companies (approximately 200 men). [27]

On May 3, 1863 Dodge requested permission to raise one or two regiments of Black soldiers. At the time of his request he already had at least two companies raised. Dodge also sought to have men from his command made officers in the African-American regiments. He and his men had taken up the cause of the contraband early on and he felt that they should be rewarded for

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[25] Ibid.,pp. 114-115 and 288-289.

[26] Frederick H. Dyer, A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion, 3 vols. (Des Moines, 1908; reprint eds. New York: Thomas Yoseloff, 1959) vol 3: Regimental Histories, pp. 997 & 1732 and Special Order 189, Miscellaneous Reports from Subordinates and Staff Officers, 1863-1864, Box 36, Record Group 105, Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, National Archives.

[27] Grenville M. Dodge, "An Iowa Emancipator," Annals of Iowa Vol. 30 No. 4 (April 1950): 303.

their actions. Two of Dodge's Colonels report providing officers to the regiments.[28]

Little time was wasted once the official organization of the regiments got underway. By May 19, 1863 Dodge had recruited 600 men and had them at work constructing their barracks. The Cincinnati Daily Gazette of June 20, 1863 reports that the soldiers were quartered in those barracks. In keeping with the original purpose of these recruits, the barracks were located near the contaband camp.[29]

On June 21, 1863 the 1st Alabama recieved the national colors. This occasion carried with it great ceremony. A speakers' stand was erected, a band played and children sang. This area was designated "Camp Dodge" and would retain that name for several months. The flag was presented to the 1st Alabama by Colonel Moses M. Bane of the 50th Illinois. Bane declared that the soldiers must carry the flag with honor and never desert it. Rufus Campbell, the color bearer who accepted the flag from Bane, made his intentions as a soldier abundantly clear in his brief address at the ceremony. Campbell proclaimed: "Why there's not much blood in a man anyhow, and if he is not willing to give it for the freedom of his children and friends, he does not deserve to be called a man." [30]

Once the speeches and the ceremonies concluded the men of the 1st Alabama returned to the drudgery of their usual duties. Those duties would have included the usual drilling and standing guard. In fact, the 1st Alabama manned the picket posts on the Hamburg, Glendale, Clear Creek and Danville Roads, which in effect had them protecting the eastern approaches to the city. The guards were under the direct supervision of Black non-commissioned officers.[31]

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[28] Dodge to Binmore, May 3, 1863, Letters Sent September 1862 - May 1864, RG-393; James F. Drish to Mrs. J. F. Drish, May 22, 1863, Drish Collection, Illinois State Historical Library and John S. Wilcox to Lottie [Mary Green] Wilcox, May 20, 1863, Wilcox Collection, Illinois State Historical Library.

[29] Dodge to Oglesby, May 19, 1863, Letters Sent September 1862 - May 1864, RG-393; William A. Gladstone, Men of Color (Gettysburg, PA: Thomas Publications, 1993), p. 215 and Cincinnati Daily Gazette, June 20, 1863.

[30] Cincinnati Daily Gazette, June 29, 1863.

[31] Company A, Company Muster Roll, July-August, 1863, Compiled Records Showing Service of Military Units in Volunteer Union Organizations. M594 Roll 211, Record Group-

Some companies of the regiment were sent outside of Corinth. Company A travelled to Pocahontas, Tennessee in October, 1863. There it stood guard at a bridge along the military railroad that ran from Memphis to Corinth. It returned to Corinth within the month. Six more companies: B, C, E, G, H, and K were also sent to Tennessee in October 1863. These troops went to Big Hill, Tennessee to guard a bridge along the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. The whole regiment was back in Corinth by November of 1863.[32]

In January 1864 the 1st Alabama left Corinth and travelled to Memphis, Tennessee where once again the men stood guard duty. While at Memphis in March of 1864 the regiment's designation was changed to the 55th U. S. Colored Troops. The regiment stood grand guard duty at Memphis until it was moved to Fort Pickering, Tennessee on April 1, 1864. There the regiment performed guard duty at Fort Pickering and in Memphis until June. Soldiers hated post duty, generally they were on duty one day and off the next. It was monotonous work, the men could only hope to have this broken up by the occasional battle. In June 1864 the 1st Alabama had such an opportunity.[33]

On June 1, 1864, the 55th USCT moved out of Memphis as part of Third Brigade of Sturgis' Mississippi Expedition. At this time the 55th was under the command of Major Edgar M. Lowe, and had 709 enlisted men and officers. The regiment, now armed with .58 calibre Springfield rifles, would move back into Mississippi. Sturgis had been ordered by General William T. Sherman to proceed to Corinth; capture any Confederate force that might be there and then proceed south and destroy the Mobile and Ohio Railroad between Tupelo and Okalona. He was to detach part of his force to continue the destruction in the direction of Macon and Meridian.

94, Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780-1917, National Archives.

[32] Regimental Returns, Company A, Company Muster Roll, November and December, 1863 and Company B, Company Muster Roll, October and November, 1863, RG-94. The dates on the company muster roll and the regimental returns differ slightly,

[33] Company A, Company Muster Rolls, January-June, 1864, RG-94. Grand guard duty meant that the regiment was the official guard for the headquarters. The unit would carry the duty out in full dress uniforms.

Sturgis would then move on Grenada and finally back to Memphis.[34]

For nine days the expedition proceeded almost without opposition. Sturgis' troops arrived at Stubbs Planation, about fourteen miles south of Ripley, Mississippi on June 9, 1864. It had rained on the expedition eight of the ten days it had been moving south. The roads were muddy and the going was slow. When General Sturgis got up on the morning of June 10, 1864, he must have thought his luck had turned, for the sun shone bright that day. What he did not know was that nine miles ahead General Nathan Bedford Forrest's Confederates waited.[35]

Forrest had about half as many men as Sturgis but the Confederate cavalryman had a good plan. Forrest's strategy was to first defeat Sturgis' cavalry which was well in advance, and then his infantry, which would be worn out from a forced march in the hot and humid Mississippi sun. The plan worked to perfection. The Yankee cavalry met, and engaged, a portion of the Confederate force. The grayclad soldiers pressed the Union troops who sent word to rush the infantry forward. The Federal infantry arrived on the field exhausted as Forrest had predicted. The Confederate General then attacked with his main force. He broke Sturgis' lines and forced him to retreat back through the Hatchie Bottom. The narrow causeway across the bottom became clogged with retreating men and wagons and the Union rout began. The Union Army that had taken ten days to get to Brice's Crossroads made the return trip in two.[36]

During the expedition the Third Brigade was charged with guarding the wagons, with the 55th acting as the lead regiment. The Alabamians were disposed four men to each of the 160 wagons that made up Strugis' train. The Black troops came up very late in the day. As they arrived in the Hatchie Swamp some two miles from Tishomingo Creek, they were ordered forward at the "double quick." Companies I and B of the 55th USCT were sent forward to reinforce the Union left which covered the road back to Ripley. At the same time Colonel Edward Bouton,

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[34] Gladstone, Men of Color, p. 215, War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. 129 vols. (Washington, D. C., 1880-1901), Series I vol. XXXIX, p. 125. Hereafter cited as OR: all references are to Series I vol XXXIX unless otherwise noted and Welcher, The Union Army, pp. 821-824.

[35] Welcher, The Union Army, p.824.

[36] Ibid., pp. 825-826 and Shelby Foote, 3 vols. The Civil War: A Narrative, (New York: Random House, 1958-1974), vol 3: Red River to Appomattox, pp. 364-371.

commander of the Third Brigade, took the remaining companies of the 55th and formed them on the north side of the Fulton-Ripley Road to cover the retreat of the Union troops. These troops bought Sturgis' column about half an hour. They then fell back 400 yards and took up another defensive position on high ground near a farm house (the Ames House). Here they reunited with the 59th USCT. This line was then pushed back to another defensive line. Finally the whole force retreated to Ripley where the 55th and the 59th again held the Confederate vanguard long enough for the main body of Union troops to make an escape.[37]

The Battle of Brice's Crossroads was a Union disaster. It is very difficult to put a good face on it. However, the action kept Forrest from cutting Sherman's supply lines and consequently was a strategic victory for Sherman. The 55th USCT fought as well, perhaps better, than many of the other Union troops involved. The company muster roll for Company K reports they were the last of the Union troops to leave the field of battle. Regardless, the USCT brought up the rear of the retreating Union force and attempted to keep the Confederates off of what was left of Sturgis' force.[38]

The regiment regrouped in Memphis following the retreat from Brice's Crossroads. Many of the men listed as missing returned and the regiment licked it wounds, waiting for another opportunity. That chance came on August 3, 1864. The 55th, now a part of the 1st Colored Brigade, District of Memphis commanded by Colonel Edward Bouton, joined General Andrew Jackson Smith's raid to Oxford, Mississippi.[39]

The 55th arrived at Holly Springs, Mississippi on August 5, 1864. From Holly Springs they proceeded south to Waterford. At Waterford on August 16th and 17th, the 55th and 61st fought a skirmish with a detachment of General James R. Chalmer's command before proceeding to Oxford. On August 22nd the Union raiders withdrew from Oxford to Memphis, but not before burning the courthouse and various other public buildings and residences. The Yankee

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[37] Robert Cowden, A Brief Sketch of the Organization and Services of the Fifty-Ninth Regiment of United States Colored Infantry, and Biographical Sketches (Dayton, Ohio: United Brethren Publishing House, 1883), pp. 67-99 and OR, p. 181.

[38] Company K, Company Muster Roll, May-June, 1864, Complied Service Records, roll 211, RG-94.

[39] Ibid., Company A, Company Muster Roll, July-August, 1864.

troops had been called back to their base in response to Forrest's bold dash into the Tennessee river port.[40]

Following Smith's Expedition the 55th would see no more fighting. It would serve as garrison troops at Memphis until February 1865. From Memphis they were then ordered to Morganza, Louisiana until April, 1865. The 55th finished out the war performing garrison duty and constructing fortifications. First at Port Hudson until August 8, 1865, and later at Vidalia, Louisiana where they were mustered out on December 31, 1865.[41]

The inscriptions on the company muster rolls complain that the assignments of the regiment to provost and fatigue duty had ". . . Depriv[ed] it of the ordinary advantages of drill and instruction . . . to the detriment of military appearance." This complaint was universal among the company commanders and almost verbatim.[42]

Had the 55th been abandoned to the backwater of the war to wait out the end? The answer is a qualified yes. By the end of April 1865 Robert E. Lee and Joseph E. Johnston had surrendered. On May 10, 1865 President Andrew Johnson declared the armed insurrection virtually at an end. The troops were not drilled because there was no real reason to drill them. There was no enemy to fight. When Confederate General Richard Taylor surrendered in Citronelle, Alabama on May 4, 1865 there was no longer any organized resistance within the department in which the 55th was stationed. The 55th lingered in service for eight months following the termination of hostilities. These troops had fought for the Union and for their freedom. While this regiment saw only limited action it did fight and it helped the Union war effort.

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[40] Company I, Company Muster Roll, July-August, 1864, Complied Service Records, roll 211, RG-94, Dyer, Vol. 2: Chronological Records of the Campaigns, Battles, Engagements Actions, Combats, Sieges, Skirmishes, etc., in the United States, 1861 to 1865, p. 788 and Foote, Vol. 3: Civil War, 518-159.

[41] Regimental Returns, September 1864-December 1865, Complied Service Records, roll 211, RG-94.

[42] Company, B, Company Muster Rolls, March-April 1865, RG-94.

THE SECOND ALABAMA INFANTRY OF AFRICAN DESCENT

The 2nd Alabama Regiment of African Descent was officially organized in Pulaski, Tennessee between November 20, 1863 and January 14, 1864. However, the first three companies of this regiment were recruited in Corinth. The designation of Pulaski is due, no doubt, to the fact that a majority of the companies were organized there. The base of the regiment was switched to Pulaski when General Dodge transferred his headquarters from Corinth to Pulaski in November of 1863.

There is a great deal of evidence to indicate that the regiment not only began at Corinth, but was recognized as the 2nd Alabama prior to November 20, 1863. On July 10, 1863, Dodge cautioned Colonel J. B. Cummings who had been using men from the 2nd Alabama inappropriately. The colonel had the Black troops policing the camp and working in the cotton fields. Dodge's orders were for the men to build a barracks. A little over a month later, 319 men of the 2nd Alabama were ordered transferred to Fort Pickering at Memphis, Tennessee.[43]

The most compelling evidence is found in the "Descriptive Book" of the 110th USCT. This document lists the names of the individual soldiers, their vital statistics (age, height, weight, hair color, etc.), place of birth, birth date, and place where they were recruited. The "Descriptive Roll" for Companies A, B, and C, indicate that the majority of these men were recruited in Corinth, Mississippi. In fact, many were recruited in April and May of 1863. Since the majority of the regiment was recruited outside of Corinth, it probably does not warrant the distinction of being a "Corinth" regiment. However, its foundation was definitely laid in Corinth, by the same people who organized the 1st Alabama.[44]

Portions of this regiment saw action. Some of the men were at Dallas, Georgia on May 31,

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[43] Dodge to Colonel J. B. Cummings, July 10, 1863, Letters Sent May 1862 - September 1864, RG-393 and Special Order 200, August 26, 1863, Regimental Letter and Endorsement Book, Regimental Book 55th USCT, RG-94.

[44] Descriptive Roll of 110th United States Colored Troops, Companies A-C, Regimental Volume - Descriptive Book, RG-94.

1864. This action was part of the Atlanta campaign. Six companies were involved in a fight at Athens, Alabama in September, 1864. Between September 23rd and 24th, 1864, a portion of the 110th was part of a force that consisted of the 106th, and the 111th USCT and the 3rd Tennessee Cavalry at Athens, Alabama. According to Lieutenant William A. Duckworth of the 110th, his company had quarters in a building on the public square in Athens. The main fortification protecting the city was about three quarters of a mile west of the square. It was the fort and the railroad at Athens that attracted the attention of the Confederate raiders.[45]

On September 23, 1864 a portion of Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest's forces began operations against the garrison at Athens. The company of troops in town fought Forrest from about noon until 8 or 9 o'clock that evening. During the fight the Confederates burned the railroad depot and the quartermaster stores. That night Lieutenant Duckworth's company joined the remainder of the garrison which had been ordered within the main fortification by Colonel Wallace Campbell, who commanded the post. The following day the Confederate forces shelled the fortification with their artillery and Wallace surrendered the fort. This included 233 men and 17 officers of the 110th USCT. Records indicate that the enlisted men were treated as prisoners of war. Most of the enlisted men were sent to the Confederate prison at Cahaba, Alabama though some of them ended up in Mobile.[46]

The remainder of the regiment spent the war as Pioneer Corps (troops that constructed roads and bridges ahead of the advancing army) in the Left Wing of the 16th Army Corps. The men also acted as teamsters and in other support capacities for the main Union Army in the west. They marched with Sherman's army as it made its famous march to the sea. Company returns indicate that portions of the regiment travelled with Sherman's forces to Savannah, through South Carolina and on to Raleigh, North Carolina. The regiment seems to have spent its last days in Huntsville, Alabama. The company rolls also report that, for reasons that are unclear, for four months the men were paid seven dollars per month rather than the $13 due Union soldiers. The

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[45] Gladstone, Men of Color, pp. 208-209, OR, Vol. XXXIX, Pt. I, pp. 521-522, W. A. Duckworth, "A Republic Within the Confederacy and Other Recollections of 1864," Annals of Iowa, Vol. VI No. 5 (April, 1914):342.

[46] Gladstone, Men of Color, pp. 208-209, OR, Vol. XXXIX, Pt. I, pp. 521-522, Duckworth, "A Republic," pp. 344-345, and Company F, Company Muster Roll, July 31-September 30, 1865, Company Muster Rolls 110 USCT, M594, roll 216, RG-94.

110th USCT mustered out of service on February 6, 1866.[47]

[47] See Company Muster Rolls 110th USCT, Roll 216, RG-94 and Gladstone, Men of Color, p. 218.

THE DISTRICT OF CORINTH

The District of Corinth was a military/political entity created on October 26, 1862. The District of Corinth was one of four divisions of the District of West Tennessee. Along with Corinth were the Districts of Columbus, Kentucky, Jackson and Memphis, Tennessee. Within the District of Corinth were five posts: Corinth, Glendale and Danville, Mississippi, Bethel, Tennessee and Tuscumbia, Alabama. The headquarters for this district was Corinth. The District of Corinth ceased to exist on January 24, 1864. The troops in this district were commanded by General Isaac F. Quinby until November 11, 1862, from that time until January 24, 1864, General Grenville M. Dodge would command the Union forces at Corinth.[48]

Within the District of Corinth were some 25,000 Union troops. These men, mostly Midwesterners, were scattered across northeast Mississippi, into Tennessee and Alabama. This study concentrated on the troops in and around the city of Corinth. Within the immediate Corinth area the Federal troops erected stockade camps. The names of at least four are known: Camps Robinette, Montgomery, Davis, and Macintosh. There are descriptions of several others and photographs of Camps Davies, Montgomery and Robinette (figure 3).

CAMP DAVIES

The locational description of Camp Davies is perhaps the best of any of the known Union encampments.

> "On November 26th [1862] the Company [D 66th Illinois] with the Regiment left Rianzi, marching through Danville, and camped on the Tuscumbia Hills, overlooking Tuscumbia River, where it established a stockade camp, with the Fifth Ohio Cavalry, enclosing 25 acres of ground, as an outpost to the garrison of Corinth."[49]

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[48] Welcher, The Union Army, pp. 146-147 and 255.

[49] Lorenzo Barker, Military History (Michigan Boys) Company "D" 66th Illinois Birge's Western Sharpshooters in the Civil War 1861-1865 (Reed City, MI, 1905), p. 10.

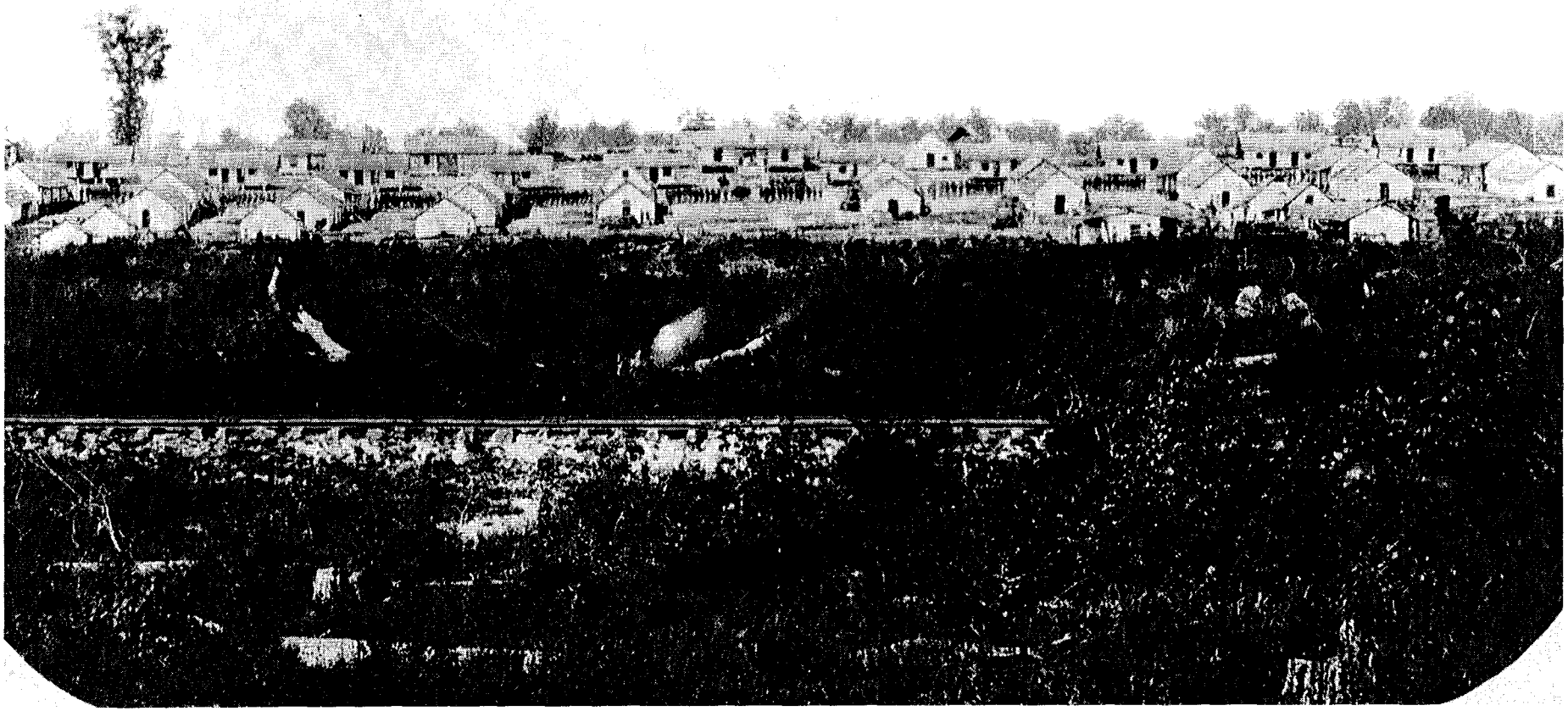

Figure 3. Photograph of Camp Robinette, courtesy of the Illinois State Historical Library.

This puts the camp south of Corinth. According to another account it was about a mile off the rail
line. This would have to be the Mobile and Ohio Railroad. "It is situated upon a high open field, the Tuscumbia River and swamp on one side, beyond which is high land covered with pines on the other the Rail Road."[50] Probably near present day Tuscumbia Cemetery.

The stockade enclosed approximately 10 acres (figure 4), with 13 foot high wooded walls. These were squared off logs approximately one foot in diameter, sharpened at the top. The entrance to the stockade had a massive wooden gate and within the enclosure were three artesian wells. The soldiers constructed 10 log houses each approximately 20 x 60 feet. These buildings were "partitioned off for squads," with a fire place for each division. The barracks were in rows with wide streets between them. The streets were named and the names of the streets posted. The street that ran between the barracks and the officers tents was called Grant Avenue. The men transplanted pine trees ten to fifteen feet tall around each building. In front of the officers' tents a double row of trees were planted with a sidewalk between them. The men at Camp Davies also constructed a Masonic Hall.[51]

An officer with the 1st Alabama Cavalry described the inside of his quarters at Camp Davies.

> "In my house I have my table with letters, books, papers, etc., always handy and ready to use. . . . In one corner is my wardrobe made out of an old dry goods box . . . . One side of the room is my bed, a good substantial concern of boards and hay mattress and blankets. Hanging on nails around the room are to be seen my various equipments belt, pistol, sabre, spurs, haversack, canteen, overcoat, hats, etc."[52]

On January 24, 1864 Camp Davies was burned as the Union Army abandoned Corinth.

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[50] John Wilcox to Lotie [Mary Green] Wilcox, February 24, 1863, Wilcox Collection, Illinois State historical Library.

[51] Ibid. Barker and Wilcox's accounts differ as to the number of acres enclosed within the stockade. Barker helped lay out the camp and lived there, so his estimate may be more accurate.

[52] Francis Wheeler Tupper to his mother, December 27, 1863, Francis Wheeler Tupper Papers, Illinois State Historical Library.

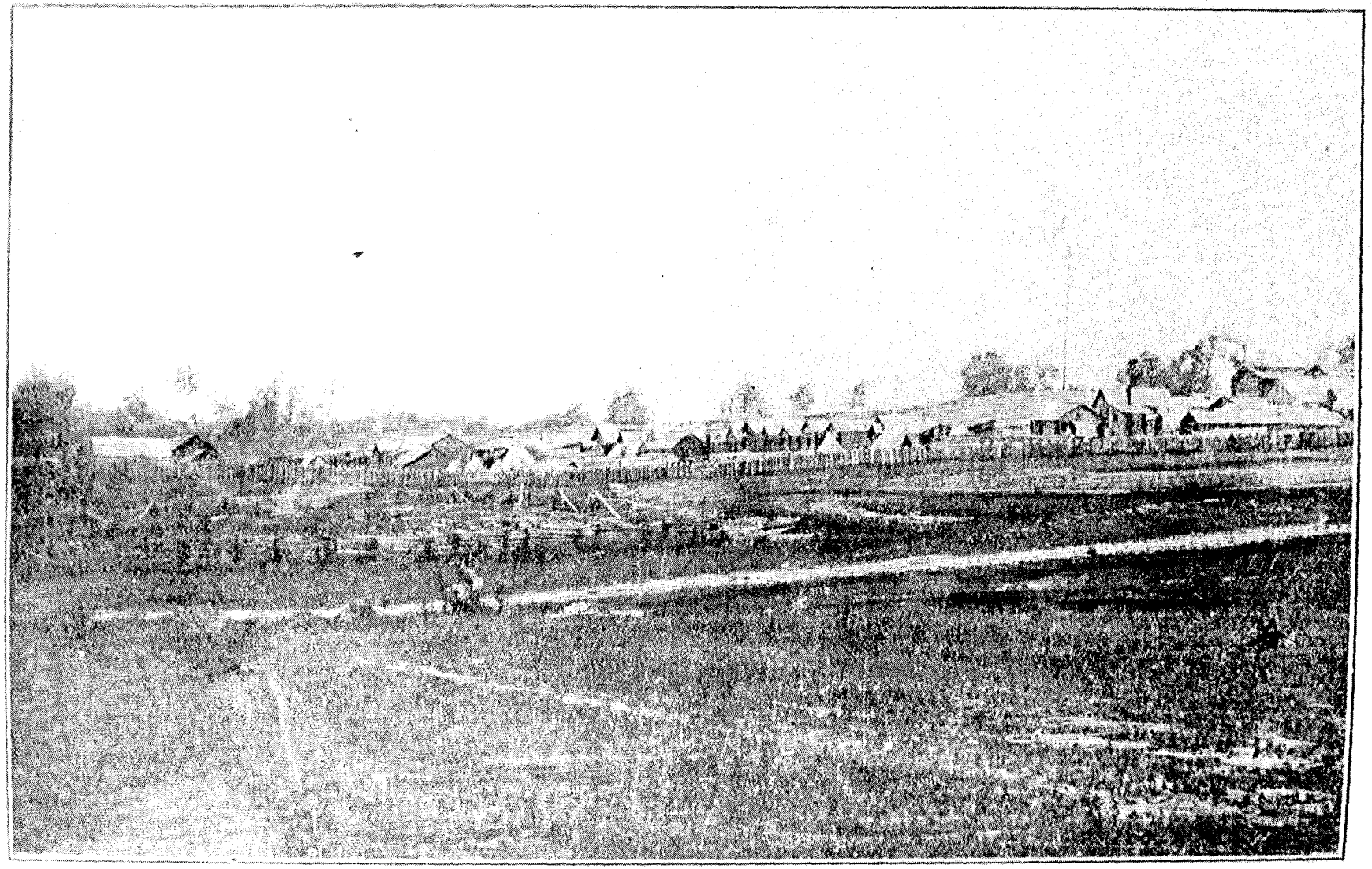

Figure 4. Photograph of Camp Davies.

CAMP MONTGOMERY

Many of the soldiers' accounts discuss going to Davenport Mills and other places to procure wood and lumber to build their barracks and stockades. They spoke of their cozy huts or rooms in their comfortable barracks, but nothing in Corinth could compare with the structures constructed by the 52nd Illinois Infantry at Camp Montgomery.

The field and staff officers of the 52nd built gothic cottages. Colonel John S. Wilcox commander of the 52nd had a detail of 20 men construct a 20 x 24 foot cottage for him. This structure had two 12 x 12 foot rooms, with a double fireplace. It had an 8 x 12 front room, surrounded by a piazza (porch) (figure 5). The house had three gables and shuttered windows. It was adorned with simple "gingerbread" and some turned wood moldings. The porch had a rail with twig supports, in a craftsman style. The building had a wooden shingle roof.[53]

The rest of the officers had smaller structures. Wilcox describes these cottages as being constructed "Southern style." These 12 x 26 foot buildings also had porches. The porches were six feet wide and the cottages had a six foot hall that ran through them dividing the structures into two 10 x 12 foot rooms.[54]

Captian Alphonso Barto of Company K 52nd Illinois also described some of the buildings at Camp Montgomery:

> ". . . we will soon be a city for my men are building houses[.] [T]hey have done two and will finish the rest this week[.] [W]e build them 12 x 18 and 10 feet high and intend to have one for every 16 men and then we have one 9 x 18 for the 5 sergeants and one 16 x 18 for cooking[.] [T]hey are 4 feet apart on the street and the streets are 30 feet wide[.] [W]e build them of shakes that we split ourselves which are as nice as any clapboard[.] [W]e make them 6 inches wide and 6 feet long and shave them

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[53] John Wilcox to Lotie [Mary Green] Wilcox, May, 20, 1863, and line drawing of Wilcox's Corinth House, Wilcox Collection.

[54] John Wilcox to Lotie [Mary Green] Wilcox, May 20, 1863 and The Wilcox Photograph Album.

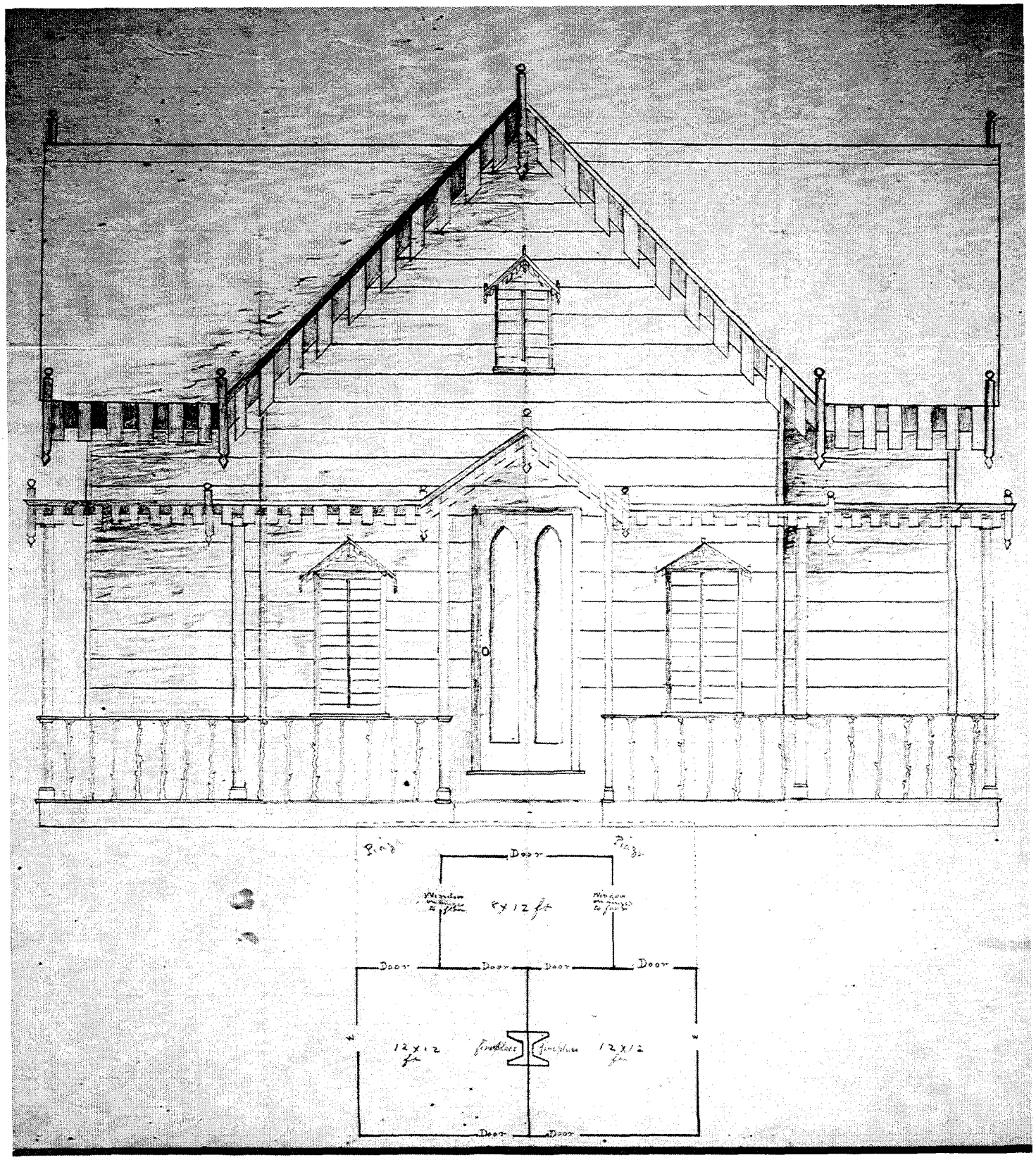

Figure 5. Line drawing of Colonel Wilcox's house, Wilcox Collection, courtesy of the Illinois State Historical Library.

smooth and they make a very neat little cottage[.][55]

Barto's and Wilcox's descriptions differ somewhat, but both indicate a very well constructed, cozy environment for the soldiers. Colonel Wilcox's photograph album offers proof. The pictures show houses laid out in rows very close together. They also reveal various types of "gingerbread" trim on some of the cottages and all of the buildings had wooden shingle roofs and horizonal clapboard. Finally, as Captain Barto suggests they are very neat cottages (figure 6).

The regiment also erected a 66 foot flag pole in the camp. Wilcox asked for two volunteers from each company to dig the hole needed to keep the pole and flag aloft. Later a gothic style bird house was placed on top of the flag pole. This can be seen in one of the photographs (figure 7). The enlisted men's quarters appear simpler, but sturdy and well constructed. The Illinois Colonel does not mention if Camp Montgomery was enclosed within a stockade.[56]

The elaborate nature and the extent of the construction in and around Corinth indicates that the Federal forces felt quite secure. The troops often made forays into the countryside to chase Confederate cavalry or destroy supplies that might aid the Southern cause, but there is never any mention of a real threat to them; or for that matter any fear of any real threat. They mention guerrillas and bushwhackers, but no organized Confederate force. Following the Battle of Corinth in early October of 1862, the Union Army held Corinth and when they left in January of 1864, they left because they wanted to, not because they were coerced.

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[55] Alphonso Barto to his father, March 31, 1863, Alphoso Barto Papers, Illinois State Historical Library.

[56] John Wilcox to Lotie [Mary Green] Wilcox, May 16, 1863, Wilcox Collection.

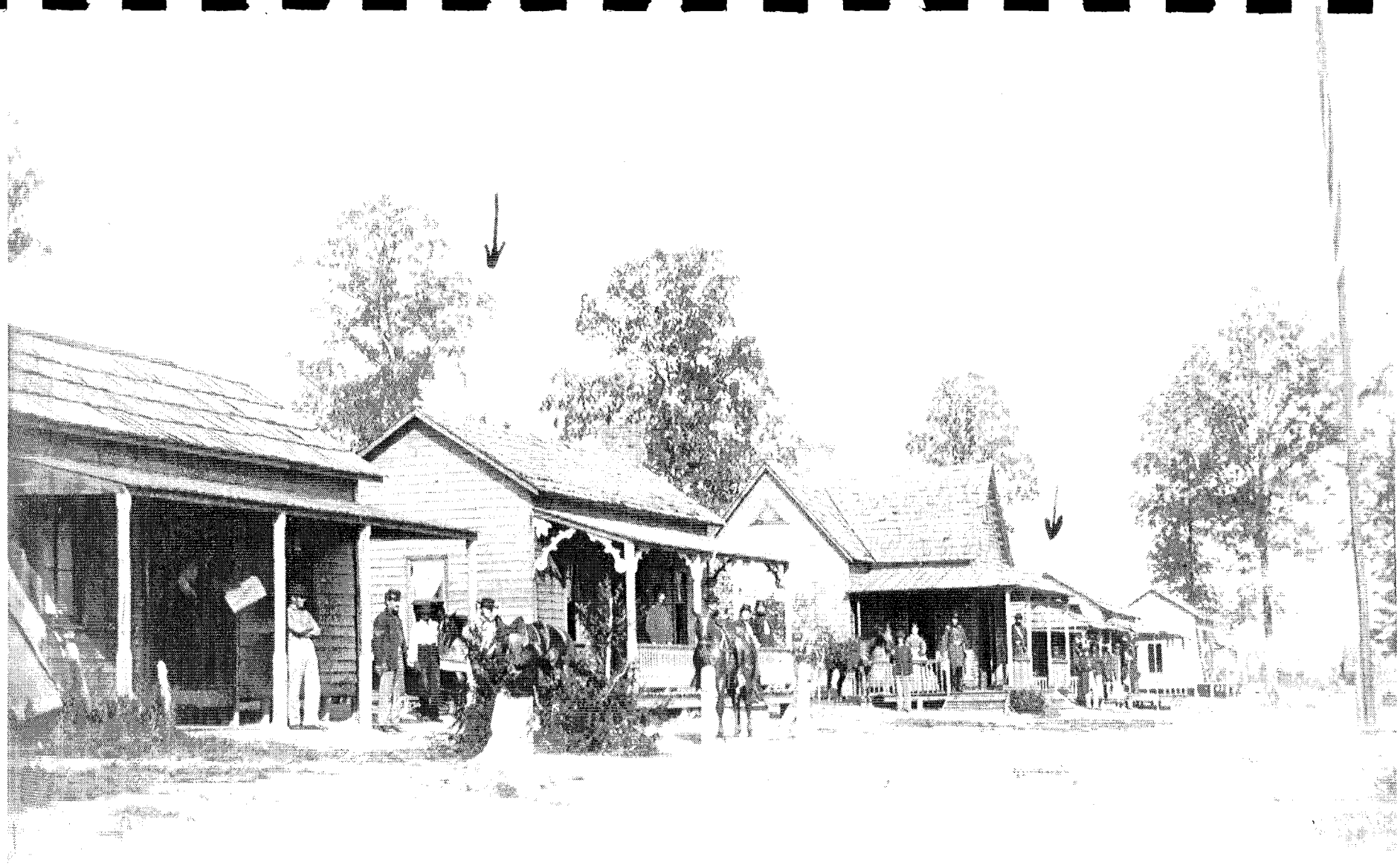

Figure 6. Photograph of Camp Montgomery showing officers' houses. The residence of Colonel Wilcox is third from the left, courtesy of the Illinois State Historical Library.

Figure 7. Photograph of Camp Montgomery with flagpole and birdhouse, courtesy of the Illinois State Historical Library.

CONCLUSION

Following the Battle of Corinth the vital railroad junction was securely in the hands of the Union Army. The troops that occupied Corinth for 14 months after the battle were never in any serious jeopardy from Confederate forces. Their supply lines were cut in late December of 1862 and the garrison was forced on half ration for about two weeks, but there was no real threat to the lives of the men.

The men at Corinth spent their time improving the defensive works of the garrison. Initially the soldiers did the work but eventually this work would become the responsibility of escaped slaves who made their way to Corinth. The soldiers at Corinth improved their camps so that they would be comfortable while they were there. They went to Davenport Mills and other places to secure wood and lumber for the construction of huts, barracks, and in the case of the 52nd Illinois, elaborate cottages.

At least one photographer set up shop in Corinth and did a booming business taking photographs of many of the Midwestern soldiers. As the photograph album of Colonel John Wilcox suggests they had their quarters photographed as well. The wives and families of many officers came to Corinth to stay with their husbands, including the wife of General Grenville Dodge. These are not the actions of men who are worried about an attack by the enemy.[57]

The command at Corinth utilized the labor of African-Americans to its best advantage. Grenville Dodge anticipated the orders from Washington and began to recruit Black men, at first only to guard other contraband, but later as soldiers. Eventually his raiding parties were instructed to liberate slaves and bring them back to Corinth, an action which added manpower to the Federal forces and consequently took it from the Confederacy. As the war progressed and became more intense depriving the Confederacy of anything that might aid its war effort became the norm.

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[57] Francis Trevelyan Miller, ed., 10 vols. The Photographic History of the Civil War (New York: Review of Reviews, 1910), Vol. 2., p. 151.

Black men, women, and children sought freedom at Corinth, both before and after the Emancipation Proclamation took effect on January 1, 1863. The freedmen were well treated in Corinth. Unlike others in some localities they were compensated for their work. Northern white men and women from abolitionist and benevolent organizations came to Corinth to spread the word of God, to teach, and to care for the freedmen. For most of these former slaves this was their first opportunity to obtain an education. The numbers of Black people who sought the knowledge offered by the American Missionary Association was often overwhelming, yet they continued to teach sometimes at a ratio of one teacher per 150 pupils. When the Union army abandoned Corinth in January 1864 the missionaries followed the freedmen to Memphis, their work in Corinth was done.

But this is not the whole story of Corinth during the Civil War. We know little of how the civilians who remained in Corinth felt about the many changes precipitated by the battle and subsequent Union occupation. It must have astonished them to see their town engulfed by an invading army. What was the role of the Confederate cavalry under Colonel Philip D. Roddy who harassed the Union troops at Corinth? These and other questions remain unexplored. This project has shed a great deal of light on post-battle Corinth, but it is biased. Most, though not all, of the information was gathered from Union sources. It was Federal soldiers who held the upper hand and the town and recorded their activities. Corinth's Civil War story did not end on October 4, 1862. This project has brought to light important information. Not all of it will be popular. Some of it will reinforce stereotypes, some of it will break them. In the end, as one historian said, you can not clean-up, or pretty-up history, you just have to lay it out like it is.

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Drish, Col. James F. Collection. Illinois State Historical Library.

Duckworth, Col. John A. Collection. State Historical Society of Iowa.

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Compiled Records Showing Service of Military Units in Volunteer Union Organizations. M594 Roll 211. Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780-1917. Record Group-94. National Archives.

Descriptive Roll of 110th United States Colored Troops. Companies A-C. Regimental Volume - Descriptive Book. Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780-1917. Record Group-94. National Archives.

Regimental Letter and Endorsement Book, Regimental Book 55th USCT. Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780-1917. Record Group-94. National Archives.

Miscellaneous Reports from Subordinates and Staff Officers, 1863-1864, Box 36. Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands. Record Group-105. National Archives.

Letters Sent May 1862-September 1864. Records of the U. S. Army Continental Commands, 1821-1920, Record Group-393. National Archives.

Tishomingo County Records. Microfilm. Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Tupper, Francis Wheeler Papers. Illinois State Historical Library.

Wilcox, Col. John S. Collection. Illinois State Historical Library.

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Ambrose, Leib D. History of the Seventh Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry, from its First Muster into the U. S. Service, April 25, 1861 to its Final Muster Out July 9, 1865. Springfield, Illinois: Springfield Journal Publishing Co., 1868.

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Cowden, Colonel Robert, A Brief Sketch of the Organization and Services of the Fifty-Ninth Regiment of United States Colored Infantry, and Biographical Sketches. Dayton, Ohio: United Brethren Publishing House, 1883.

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Sifakis, Stewart. Who was Who in the Civil War. New York: Facts on File Publications, 1988.

Welcher, Frank. The Union Army 1861-1865: Organization and Operations. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1993. Vol. 2: The Western Theater.

War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. 129 vols. Washington, D. C., 1880-1901.

Articles

Dodge, Grenville M. "An Iowa Emancipator." Annals of Iowa. Vol.30 No.4 (April 1950).

Duckworth, W. A. "A Republic Within the Confederacy and Other Recollections of 1864." Annals of Iowa. Vol. VI No. 5 (April 1914).

Sparks, Randy J. " 'The White People's Arms are Longer than Ours': Blacks, Education, and the American Missionary Association in Reconstruction Mississippi." The Journal of Mississippi. Vol. LIV No.1 (February 1992).

APPENDICES

A. Annotated Bibliography

B. Captions of Photographs

C. Dodge Letter

D. Descriptions of Maps

APPENDIX A
ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary Sources

Allen, William Anderson Papers. Illinois State Library.

Two letters dated August 27 and September 15, 1863. Allen was an Assistant Surgeon with the 9th Illinois Infantry. His letters deal rather briefly with events in camp. Mostly he is lonely for his wife and there is some information regarding his personal affairs.

The American Missionary 1862-1863.

This was a periodical published by the American Missionary Association, an abolitionist Christian organization from New York that worked for the spiritual and educational betterment of the freedmen. This organization operated a mission school at Corinth. The periodical contained reports from missionaries in the field regarding their activities. There were nine articles regarding Corinth. These offer some insights into the way the missionaries interacted with the freedmen, the Union Army and the southerners they encountered. They also offer some information regarding the appearance of the AMA school and the contraband camp.

The American Missionary Association Papers, Mississippi, 1862-1864, microfilm edition.

These are letters and other correspondence from the missionaries in Corinth, written to their superiors in New York. The missionaries were very zealous in their work and very devout, consequently the letters include many religious overtones and other philosophical statements that would be expected from abolitionists. However, they give a good account of the growth of the contraband camp and the effort to teach the freedmen. These papers also offer some clues as to the whereabouts of the camp.

Andrews, Austin S. The Andrews Family Papers. Illinois State Historic Library.

Austin S. Andrews was a member of the 12th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. This collection contains several letters that deal with life in Corinth, the soldier's view on African-Americans and, interestingly, how they changed.

Barto, Alphonso Papers. Illinois State Historical Library.

Barto was captain of Company K of the 52nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry. These papers contains several letters that describe a soldier's life in Corinth. They offer his opinion on slavery and mention the garden that the contraband tended. They also describe Camp Montgomery (52nd Illinois) and include a copy of his service record.

Bunn, David P. Diary. Illinois State Historical Library.

David P. Bunn was the Chaplin of the 56th Illinois. The diary dates from May 13-30, 1862, it is a good account of the siege and the hardships of being a soldier.

Corinth Herald 1903.

An interesting post-war account of some of the events that took place in and around Corinth during the course of the Civil War. The writer notes that F. E. Whitfield's house and various out-buildings were dismantled to construct Camp Davies. The account also notes that barracks, hospitals and other building were constructed where the National Cemetery is now located. Useful, if somewhat biased, information.

Cincinnati Daily Gazette 1863-1864.

Letters were written from Corinth to this newspaper by two corespondents "Dungannon" and "Ero." These were most likely soldiers in the 81st Ohio Infantry Regiment. This is extremely useful information that describes the 1st Alabama Infantry of African Descent, as well as life for the soldiers in Corinth. People and places are mentioned that help put the occupation of Corinth in perspective.

Clark, William H. Papers. Illinois State Historical Library.

William H. Clark was a sergeant with the 120th Illinois. His letters are generally very personal in nature and offer the reader little in the way of description of Corinth or the war. They do offer insight into how lonely a soldier could get when he was away from home.

Compiled Records Showing Service of Military Units in Volunteer Union Organizations. M594 Rolls 211 and 216. Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's-1917. Record Group 94, National Archives.

These microfilm records contain Field and Staff Muster Rolls, Detachment Muster Rolls, Regimental Returns, and Company Muster Rolls for the 55th and 110th U. S. Colored Infantry.

This information includes monthly data on where the regiment and each individual company was stationed. There is also data on any engagements involving the regiments. Copies were obtained for the Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission.

Dodge, Grenville M. Papers. Denver Public Library.

Major General Grenville M. Dodge was the commander of the District of Corinth from October of 1862 until November of 1863. One letter from Julia Dodge (Grenville's wife) dated April 19, 1863. In this letter she describes Corinth and she mentions the contraband camp (see typescript of letter in Appendix C).

Dodge, Grenville M. Collection. State Historical Society of Iowa.

Typescript of Dodge's Civil War records in a quasi-book format. Some information regarding the contraband camp. This information was gleaned from official records and Dodge's own correspondence in the post-war period.

Drish, James F. Papers. Illinois State Historical Library.

James F. Drish was a Lieutenant Colonel with the 122nd Illinois. His letters describe life in Corinth for the soldiers, i.e. how officers, lived. He mentions that there are "dozens" of ladies in Corinth, (Union officers wives). He also makes note of the contraband camp and the African-American regiments. These are good letters that tell a good deal about the author and Corinth.

Duckworth, John A. Papers. State Historical Society of Iowa.

John A. Duckworth was a captain with Company G of the 2nd Iowa Volunteer Infantry. One letter following the Battle of Corinth containing a good description of the battle and information on the town of Corinth. Also a short account of the contraband camp.

Ingersoll, Robert Green Papers. Illinois State Historical Library.

Robert Green Ingersoll was a Colonel of the 11th Illinois Cavalry. There are three letters dated May 2, 5 and September 26, 1862. They generally deal with either military matters under Ingersoll's charge or his regiment. The letters also offer his opinions on other officers and politics.

Memphis Daily Bulletin 1862-1864.

This newspaper, while Union in its leanings, was far from radical and it did not report much regarding the recruitment or use of Black troops. Copies of any important or useful articles are provided.

Minutes of the Convention of Freedmen's Commissions, Held at Indianapolis, Indiana, July 19 and 20, 1864

This document is the minutes from a convention of several abolitionist benevolent associations from Ohio, Indiana, and Missouri. It briefly reports what the various organizations had been doing to improve the life of the freedmen in the Mississippi Valley. It offers some specifics and statistics.

Mussey, R. D. Orders Relating to Colored Men and Colored Troops. (Nashville, 1863).

This is a series of orders dealing with the recruitment and employment of African-Americans by the United States Army.

Proceedings of the Reunions Held in 1900 by the Association of Survivors Seventh Regiment Illinois Veteran Volunteers Held at Chicago and Springfield, Illinois. Springfield, Illinois: Edward F. Hartmann Co., 1901.

This is information gathered for the reunions. It contains several photographs of individual soldiers. It also includes a group photo of officers taken at Corinth, Mississippi, and the photograph of Ada Johnson who was a nurse at Corinth.

Record Group 94. Descriptive Book, 55th U. S. Colored Infantry, Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's-1917. National Archives.

This is the 55th U. S. Colored Infantry's Regimental Roster Book. This document contains information regarding the individual soldiers who made up the regiment. It includes data on their place of birth, age and where they were recruited. It also lists deaths and desertions. This volume was microfilmed.

Record Group 94. Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's-1917. Descriptive Book. 110th U. S. Colored Infantry. National Archives.

This is the 110th U. S. Colored Infantry's Regimental Roster Book. This document contains information regarding the individual soldiers who made up the regiment. It includes

data on their place of birth, age and where they were recruited. It also lists deaths and desertions. Pages for companies A-C were microfilmed. Companies A-C were the only ones recruited in Corinth.

Record Group 105. Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands. Part 2 Volume 74. Letters Sent By John Eaton General Superintendent of Contraband February - December 1863. National Archives.

These records covered all of Eaton's activity in the Mississippi Valley. Transcripts of the relevant entries were made.

Record Group 393. Records of the U. S. Army Continental Commands, 1821-1920. National Archives.

These records were examined at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. This was very useful information that directly related to Major General Grenville Dodge's tenure in Corinth. Among the records were letters sent by Dodge or his adjutant to various officers under his command. These records offer insight into the contraband camp and the African-American troops recruited at Corinth. They also give information regarding the District of Corinth and to the military operation carried out from this command. Pages 92-300 of Part 2 Entry 6159 - Volume 32 Letters Sent May 1862-September 1864 were microfilmed for the Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission.

Report by the Committee of the Contrabands' Relief Commission of Cincinnati, Ohio. Proposing a Plan for the Occupation and Government of Vacated Territory in the Seceded States, 1863.

This is a very convoluted document which basically suggests that the Federal government confiscate the property of rebels and transfer it to loyal men who will employ freedmen on it for wages. It also suggests that a "Bureau of Emancipation" be set up to take charge of the freedmen and the subsequent government of the states that were in rebellion whose population have given up their right of self-rule by rebelling against the United States (or words to that effect).

Tishomingo County Record Books U & V. Microfilm rolls number 11 and 12. Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

This has the legal (township and range) description of some of the F. E. Whitfield property. It is reported that the former slaves who came to Corinth farmed some of Whitfield's

land. Note: in 1870 Alcorn County was created out of part of Tishomingo County.

Tupper, Francis Wheeler Papers. Illinois State Historical Library.

A Lieutenant in the 1st Alabama Cavalry, Tupper came into Corinth following the siege. He then left, spending most of 1862 in Columbus, Kentucky. The letters in this collection offer a good description of living conditions in a military camp during the war. He includes a description of the inside of his log hut at Camp Davies. He also mentions the evacuation of Corinth and the destruction of the fortifications, wooden structures and some civilian buildings.

Western Sanitation Commission Papers. Western Historical Society. St. Louis, Missouri.

These documents are from five different collections within the Western Historical Society at St. Louis. The collection pertains chiefly to the Western Sanitation Commission which aided Union soldiers and freedmen in the Mississippi Valley. Some members of this organization may have been in Corinth, but these papers are only specific regarding Vicksburg. There is also a good overview history of the Commission.

Wilcox, John S. Papers. Illinois State Historical Library.

John S. Wilcox was a Lieutenant Colonel in the 52nd Illinois at Camp Montgomery, near Corinth, perhaps near Corona College. Colonel Wilcox's collection is exceptional. He describes his feelings regarding total war, the recruitment and the use of freedmen by the Union Army, and the Emancipation Proclamation. He discusses how he and other officers brought their wives to the camp. He describes Camp Davies in great detail and he reveals details about Camp Montgomery, including the sizes of the houses and the flag pole. He also documented the camp in photographs, which are included.

Yeatman, James E. A Report of the Condition of the Freedmen of the Mississippi. St. Louis, Missouri, 1863.

This report is good as far as it goes. It gives some information on John Eaton, and some good details of contraband camps up and down the Mississippi River. It does not mention Corinth, but the information is useful for comparative purposes.

Books

Ambrose, D. Leib. History of the Seventh Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry, from its First Muster into the U. S. Service, April 25, 1861 to its Final Muster Out, July 9, 1865. Springfield, Illinois: Illinois Journal Company, 1868.

This very biased account is written as a diary, and is weighted heavily toward the Union side. It offers little information regarding the contraband camp or the 1st and 2nd Alabama, however, it offers a great deal of information regarding Union troop movements in northern Mississippi, Alabama and western Tennessee. It has a good description of the Siege of Corinth. It describes several of the places where this regiment camped in and around Corinth. The author notes that contraband were coming into Corinth as early as August 1862. There is also a good description of the Battle of Corinth. This work describes a soldier's life in detail. The author tells of the soldiers foraging off the land, stealing chickens and pigs and then notes that the Southern people seem half starved. The account is very descriptive and gives many place names that would help pinpoint the areas the author is writing about.

Ambrose, Stephen E. Halleck: Lincoln's Chief of Staff. Baton Rouge, Louisiana: Louisiana State University Press, 1962.

Good account of the Siege of Corinth and Halleck's military tactics.

Barker, Lorenzo, "Ren." Military History (Michigan Boys) Company "D" 66th Illinois: Birge's Western Sharpshooters in the Civil War, 1861-1865. Reed City, Michigan, 1905.

This work offers little insight into the whereabouts of the contraband camp or information regarding the 1st or 2nd Alabama. However, this book has useful information regarding Camp Davies which was a fortified encampment "on the Tuscumbia Hill" near Corinth. This book contains two photographs of Camp Davies. The Camp Davies experience was an important facet of the soldiers of the 66th Illinois Civil War experience. They occupied Camp Davies from November 26, 1862 until November 1, 1863.

Bell, John T. Tramps and Triumphs of the Second Iowa Infantry, Briefly Sketched. Omaha, Nebraska: Gibson, Miller & Richardson, Printers, Binders and Stationers, 1886, Des Moines, Iowa: reprint edition, Valley Bank & Trust Company, 1961.

This history of the 2nd Iowa has good descriptions of the Siege and Battle of Corinth. It also contains a few interesting details of camp life, including the execution of a deserter.

Berlin, Ira, gen. ed. Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation 1861-1867, Series I Vol. 3: The Wartime Genesis of Free Labor: The Lower South. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1992.

This is part of a five volume history of African-Americans in the Civil War. This is one of the best overall sources of information on the contraband camp and a good starting point for anyone researching any aspect of the involvement of African-Americans in the Civil War.

Chamberlain, W. H. History of the Eighty-First Ohio Infantry Volunteers During the War of the Rebellion. Cincinnati, Ohio: Gazette Steam Printing House, 1865.

Good account of the life of this infantry regiment in Corinth. Includes an account of the battle, as well as some fairly detailed information regarding the quarters of the men. It also offers some details on the freedmen.

Chetlein, Augustus L. Recollections of Seventy Years. Galena, Illinois: The Gazette Publishing Co., 1899.

This history of the 12th Illinois is the rambling memoir of Augustus L. Chetlein's career in the Union Army. He gives U. S. Grant credit for everything and insists that if Grant had been listened to sooner the war would have ended quicker and cost many fewer lives and much less money. Chetlein commanded the Post of Corinth and he takes credit for recruiting the first regiment of African-American troops in the west north of New Orleans. This aspect of the work is the most useful.

Cluett, William W. History of the 57th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry, From Muster in, Dec. 26, 1861, to Muster out, July 7, 1865. Princeton, Illinois: T. P. Streeter Printer, 1886.

This history written in a diary format, details the exploits of the 57th Illinois Infantry Regiment. The author describes three separate camps of the regiment in Corinth. There are good descriptions of the Siege and Battle of Corinth and Camp Robinette.

Cockrell, Monroe F. The Lost Account of the Battle of Corinth and Court-Marital of Gen. Earl Van Dorn. Jackson, Tennessee: McCowat-Mercer Press, 1955.

Good account of the Battle of Corinth from the Confederate point of view. This is perhaps the best known published account.

Coffin, Levi. Reminiscences of Levi Coffin: The Reputed President of the Underground Railroad. Cincinnati: Western Tract Society, 1876; reprint eds. New York: Augustus M. Kelley Publishers, 1968.

This autobiography offers a very brief account of the contraband camp at Corinth. There is some good information on camps at Memphis, Tennessee, Cairo, Illinois and LaGrange, Tennessee that would be useful for comparison.

Collins, Rev. N. G. The Prospect. On the National Day of Thanksgiving, August 3, 1863 to the Officers and Men of Col. Bane's Brigade. Chicago: Church, Goodman & Cushing, 1863.

This piece offers no information regarding the contraband camp or the Alabama regiments. It does give General Dodge credit for helping enforce the Emancipation Proclamation. It is an interesting speech/sermon on the evils of everything from secession to drinking.

Cowden, Colonel Robert. A Brief Sketch of the Organization and Services of the Fifty-Ninth Regiment of United States Colored Infantry, and Biographical Sketches. Dayton, Ohio: United Brethren Publishing House, 1883.

This is a good account of the 59th USCT. It also includes the best account of the 1st Alabama located to date. It traces the regiments after they leave Corinth and offers some details as to the behavior of the regiments at the Battle of Brice's Crossroads.

Dodge, Grenville, M. The Battle of Atlanta and Other Campaigns, Addresses, Etc.. Council Bluffs, Iowa: The Monarch Printing Company, 1911.

Dodge's account of some of his raids out of Corinth into the Tennessee valley and into north Alabama in the spring of 1863. He claims to have established the contraband camp following this raid and to have armed Black soldiers to guard it.

Donald, Henderson H. The Negro Freedman: Life Conditions of the American Negro in the Early Years After Emancipation. New York: Henry Schuman, 1952.

Account of the freedmen in the war years and the immediate post-war years. A very general work.

Dyer, Frederick, H. A Compendium of the War of the Rebellions. Des Moines, Iowa, 1908; reprint eds. New York: Thomas Yoseloff, 1959.

A reference book that offers a good deal of useful information on Union troops. It has brief regimental histories and lists of troops and their commanders in the various districts, and regions, including Corinth. Good basic material.

Eaton, John. Grant, Lincoln and the Freedmen: Reminiscences of the Civil War with special references to The Work for the Contrabands and Freedmen of the Mississippi Valley. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1907; reprint eds. New York: Negro Universities Press, 1969.

This post-war work traces the evolution of the treatment of the freedmen in the Mississippi Valley. It offers some insight into Eaton's character. A few good details on the camp at Corinth.

Force, M. F. The Army in the Civil War Volume II: From Fort Henry to Corinth. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1881.

Overview of the Siege of Corinth.

Gerteis, Louis S. From Contraband to Freedmen: Federal Policy Toward Southern Blacks - 1861-1865. Westport, CN: Greenwood Press, 1973.

General work on freedmen and federal policy. The book has a good bibliography.

Hirshson, Stanley P. Grenville M. Dodge: Soldier, Politician, Railroad Pioneer. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1967.

This biography of Dodge offers some additional information on the events in and around Corinth during the Iowan's tenure as commander. Good account of his raid into the Tennessee Valley.

Horn, Stanley, F. The Army of Tennessee: A Military History. New York: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1941.

Good description of Battles of Corinth and Iuka.

Hubert, Charles F. History of the Fiftieth Illinois Volunteer Infantry in the War of the Union. Kansas City, Missouri: Western Veteran Publishing Company, 1894.

A good account of a regiment that was in Corinth from May 1, 1862 to October 27,

1863. This is a biased account, but it does have some very useful information. It describes camp life and there is some information regarding the contraband camp. The 50th constructed their camp just north of Corinth between the Mobile and Ohio Railroad and the Purdy Road. There is a good description of this camp, its arrangement, the barracks, and even a church that they constructed. Also a good description of the battle and some illustrations.

Oates, James. A Gallant Regiment. And the Place it Holds in National History. Belleville, Illinois: Post and Zeitung Publishing Co., 1896.

Good account of the Battle of Shiloh.

Reid, Whitelaw. Ohio in the War: Her Statesmen, Her Generals and Soldiers. Vol. 1: History of the State During the War, and the Lives of Her Generals. Cincinnati, Ohio: Moore, Wilstach & Baldwin, 1868.

This post war account offers unit histories on each Ohio regiment and biographies of many of the high ranking officers.

Simon, John Y., ed. The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant. Vol. 4 :April 1- August 31, 1862. Carbondale and Edwardsville, Illinois, Southern Illinois University Press, 1973.

Grant's correspondence and orders sent from Corinth while he had his headquarters in the city.

Smith, Henry I. History of the Seventh Iowa Veteran Volunteer Infantry During the Civil War. Mason City, Iowa: E. Hitchcock, 1903.

Fairly sketchy account of the 7th Iowa in and around Corinth. Some detail regarding the construction of their camp.

Smith, William E. and Ophia D. Smith, editors. Colonel A. W. Gilbert: Citizen Soldier of Cincinnati. Cincinnati, Ohio: Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio, 1934.

Account in diary form of Colonel A. W. Gilbert of the 39th Ohio who was wounded at the Battle of Corinth. Decent account of the battle.

Wiley, Bell Irvin. Southern Negroes: 1861-1865. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1938.

This is a good account of the changing attitudes of the Union officials toward Blacks as soldiers. The account is chronological and allows the reader to place the events in Corinth into

a national context by utilizing the dates of events in other parts of the country.

Wright, Charles. A Corporal's Story: Experiences in the Ranks of Company C. 81st Ohio Vol. Infantry, During the Maintenance of the Union, 1861-1864. Philadelphia, By the Author, 1887.

A good account of the Battle of Corinth. It has some interesting accounts of the life of soldiers in and around Corinth after the battle.

Articles

Bigelow, Martha M. "Freedmen of the Mississippi Valley, 1862-1865," Civil War History. Vol. No. 1, 1962. 38-47.

A good general account of the role of freedmen in the Mississippi valley.

Bock, H. Riley, editor. "Confederate Col. A. C. Riley, His Reports and Letters Part I. Missouri Historical Review. April 1991, Vol. LXXXV No. 3. 158-181.

Letters of Confederate Col. A. C. Riley of the 1st Missouri Infantry. A good view from the Confederate perspective of Corinth, prior to the Union occupation. Also an account of the Battle of Corinth.

Bock, H. Riley, editor. "Confederate Col. A. C. Riley, His Reports and Letters Part II. Missouri Historical Review. August 1991. Vol. LXXXV No. 4. 264-287.

Letters of Confederate Col. A. C. Riley of the 1st Missouri Infantry. A good view from the Confederate perspective of Corinth, prior to the Union occupation. Also an account of the Battle of Corinth.

Carpenter, C. C. and George W. Crossley. "Seventh Iowa Volunteers in Civil War Gave Valiant Service." Annals of Iowa. Vol. XXIV No. 2. third series. October 1957. 100-111.

Brief account of the history of the 7th Iowa Infantry, including an account of the Battle of Corinth.

Carter, Harvey L. and Norma L. Peterson, editors. "William S. Stewart Letters January 13, 1861-December 4, 1862. Missouri Historical Review. October 1966 - July 1967. Vol. LXI. 463-488.

This is a collection of letters from Captain William S. Stewart of Company K 11th Missouri Volunteers (US). Again these offer a view of the Battle of Corinth and some detail of the Corinth area following the October conflict, from the Union perspective.

Dodge, Grenville, M. "An Iowa Emancipator." Annals of Iowa. Vol. XXX No. 1. Series 3. April 1950. 302-305.

A brief account of Dodge's work in Corinth at both liberating and recruiting African-Americans for service in the Union army. It also mentions Dodge's work with white loyalists.

Duckworth, W. A. "A Republic Within the Confederacy and Other Recollections of 1864." Annals of Iowa. Vol. XI No. 5. April, 1914. 342-351.

This is an account of Duckworth's adventures as a lieutenant in the 110th U. S. Colored Infantry. Several companies of this regiment were captured at Athens, Alabama by Forrest in 1864.

Geary, James W. "Blacks in Northern Blue: A Select Annotated Bibliography of Afro-Americans in the Union Army during the Civil War." Bulletin of Bibliography. Vol. 45 No. 3. 183-193.

This is an annotated bibliography of various books and articles on African-Americans in the Civil War.

Henry, James O. "The United States Christian Commission in the Civil War." Civil War History. Vol. 6 No. 4. 374-388.

This is an overview history of the United States Christian Commission.

Ibbetson, William H. H. "William H. H. Ibbetson, Co. D, 122nd Reg. Ill." In Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Society for the Year 1930. 236-73.

This is a very brief history of the 122nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry. It is written in diary form. Some useful information.

Lovett, Bobby L. "The Negro's Civil War in Tennessee, 1861-1865." The Journal of Negro History. Vol. XLI No. 1. January, 1976. 36-50.

A good overview article on the organization and participation of Black regiments from Tennessee. The only flaw in this piece is that it erroneously has the 55th US Colored Infantry being formed in Tennessee.

Mahon, John, K., editor. "The Civil War Letters of Samuel Mahon, Seventh Iowa Infantry." Iowa Journal of History. Vol. 51 No. 4. July 1953. 233-251.

Transcripts of letters written by Samuel Mahon to his sister over the course of the Civil War. Some interesting information on Corinth. In the correspondence Mahon points out that Camp Montgomery was three miles east of Corinth.

Mills, George, editor. "The Sharpe Family Civil War Letters." Annals of Iowa. Vol. XXIV No. 7. January, 1959. 481-532.

Letters from Private John Sharp of the 2nd Iowa Infantry. These are fairly interesting and show more of the human side of a person at war. Not a lot of information on the contraband camp.

Robertson, James J. "Iowa in the Civil War: A Reference Guide." Iowa Journal of History. Vol. 59 No. 2. 129-165.

This is a bibliography of articles written in the Iowa Journal of History. The articles are broken down into various categories.

Sparks, Randy J. " 'The White People's Arms are Longer than Ours': Blacks, Education, and the American Missionary Association in Reconstruction Mississippi." Journal of Mississippi History. Vol. LIV No. 1. February 1992. 1-28.

Good post-war account of the American Missionary Association's work in Mississippi.

Walker, Cam. "Corinth: The Story of a Contraband Camp." Civil War History. Vol. 20 No. 1. March 1974. 5-22.

This is the best single account written to date on the contraband camp in Corinth. While it is 20 years old it is the best place for anyone researching the activities of the Contraband Camp and the regiments of African-American soldiers to begin.

APPENDIX B
CAPTIONS OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Before any of these photographs are reporduced permission must be obtained from the repositories that hold them. If no repository is named they are in the public domain and no permission is required. The addresses and phone numbers of the repositories follow the list below.

Photo 1. Battery "H," First Missouri at the Battle of Corinth, where they lost their horses. Illinois State Historical Library.

Photo 2. Confederate charge on Fort Robintte, at Battle of Corinth, October 4, 1862. Illinois State Historical Library.

Photo 3. Camp Robinette of the 57th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, at Corinth, Mississippi, 1863. Illinois State Historical Library.

Photo 4. Company C. 81st Ohio Voluteer Infantry, at Corinth, Mississippi, December 13, 1862. Cincinnati Historical Society.

Photo 5. Stockade Camp of Company D, 66th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Camp Davies, near Corinth, Mississippi - from Lorenzo Barker, Military History (Michigan Boys) Company "D" 66th Illinois: Birge's Western Sharpshooters in the Civil War, Reed City: Michigan, 1905. Illinois State Historical Library.

Photo 6. Commissary building of the 66th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Camp Davies, near Corinth, Mississippi - from Lorenzo Barker, Military History (Michigan Boys) Company "D" 66th Illinois: Birge's Western Sharpshooters in the Civil War, Reed City: Michigan, 1905. Illinois State Historical Library.

Photo 7. Provost Marshall's Headquarters at Corinth, from Francis Trevelyan Miller, ed., A Photographic History of the Civil War in 10 vols., Volumes I & II, (New York: Review of Reviews, 1910).

Photo 8. A photography studio in Corinth during the Civil War, from Francis Trevelyan Miller, ed., A Photographic History of the Civil War in 10 vols., Volumes I & II, (New York: Review of Reviews, 1910).

Photo 9. Floorplan of the American Missionary Association School at Corinth, from the American Missionary Association Archives, Mississippi, 1862-1864, document number 71558, at the Amistad Research Center, Tulane University.

Photo 10. General Grenville M. Dodge and his staff (Dodge is seated on the left none of the other staff were identified), from the John S. Wilcox Collection. Illinois State Historical Library.

Photo 11. Camp Montgomery, Corinth, Mississippi, from the John S. Wilcox Collection. Illinois State Historical Library.

Photo 12. Camp Montgomery, Corinth, Mississippi (note flagpole with bird house on the top), from the John S. Wilcox Collection. Illinois State Historical Library.

Photo 13. Camp Montgomery, Corinth, Mississippi, from the John S. Wilcox Collection. Illinois State Historical Library.

Photo 14. Camp Montgomery, Corinth, Mississippi (note cottage under construction in center of the picture), from the John S. Wilcox Collection. Illinois State Historical Library.

Photo 15. Camp Montgomery, Corinth, Mississippi. Colonel Wilcox identified several elements of this photograph: the second house from the right is Lt. Colonel Edwin A. Bower's; the third house from the right is Colonel John S. Wilcox's house. He notes that Thomas E. Lawrence built an excellent fire place in the front room. He also indicates that he and his wife Mary Green Wilcox are standing on the front porch. His orderly Harvey E. Conger stands in front of them holding his horse Turk. The fourth house was the residence of Adjutant Edward S. Wilcox., from the Wilcox Collection. Illinois State Historical Library.

Photo 16. Camp Montgomery, Corinth, Mississippi. Colonel Wilcox identified the people in this photograph: L-R: setting on the porch rail Captain Don Carl Newton, standing in front of the porch Captain of E Company (no name given), Captain L. J. McGrath, on the steps Captain S. S. Dunn, the sergeant is not identified, on the porch behind the rail is Surgeon Rohr and Lieutenant Kinney at the far left, Wilcox Collection. Illinois State Historical Library.

Photo 17. Camp Montgomery, Corinth, Mississippi, Captain Don Carl Newton and Company D, 52nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Wilcox Collection. Illinois State Historical Library.

Photo 18. Line drawing of the headquarters house at Camp Montgomery, Corinth, Mississippi, home of Colonel John S. Wilcox, Wilcox Collection. Illinois State Historical Library.

Photo 19. Map of the Battle of Corinth, Wilcox Collection. Illinois State Historical Library.

Photo 20. Map of the Battle of Corinth, Wilcox Collection. Illinois State Historical Library.

Photo 21. Photo of Ada Johnson. Johnson was a nurse in Union military hospitals. She served at the general hospital at Corinth, Mississippi. From Proceedings of the Reunions Held in 1900 by the Association of Survivors Seventh Regiment Illinois Veteran Volunteers Held at Chicago and Springfield, Illinois. Illinois State Historical Library.

Photo 22. Commanding Officer and Staff 3rd Brigade, 3nd Division, 16th Army Corps: L-R Colonel M. M. Bane 50th Illinois, Captain George W. Hunter, 7th Illinois, Lieutenant Henry Ahern, 7th Illinois, Lieutenant T. W. Anderson, Chief of Outposts, Lieutentant T. W. Letton, 50th Illinois, from Proceedings of the Reunions Held in 1900 by the Association of Survivors Seventh Regiment Illinois Veteran Volunteers Held at Chicago and Springfield, Illinois. Illinois State Historical Library.

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APPENDIX C
JULIA DODGE TO HER FATHER - APRIL 19, 1863
GRENVILLE DODGE PAPERS - DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Corinth April 19, 1863

Dear Father,

I have been to church this morrow and as I have a little time to write before we go to ride will write you as I have been (round enough?) to give you something of a description of Corinth which I think is a delightful place.

It is a military looking place on every side are Fortifications and Camps. I have been here and to all the important points and have been upon the Old Battle Ground of Corinth seen and had a description of all the important points and places - lost and gained by our men at the time by Col. Cheltain who was in the Battle.

Here you can realize the sad realities of War to see the orchards farms and houses once beautiful now all gone to ruin. This house and G.M.'s [Grenville M. Dodge's] headquarters are good and both what are called fine looking houses and if they were well finished as would be . . but they lack a finish that we give our Northern houses. We have a fine flower garden. Roses and Honeysuckle besides numerous other flowers are now in full bloom and the woods are full of wild flowers. We have been out gathering bouquets several times.

Last Thursday Annie and [I]? went out to the Contraband Camp and Mr. Alexander the overseer took us over a farm they are cultivating under his direction. It is really a curiosity to see them at work both men & women they were singing and seemed perfectly happy. Mr. Alexander explained to us how everything was planted they are cultivating about a thousand acres are now putting in 40 acres of cotton if we are allowed to remain here he will realize considerable for the government the Negroes are paid for their work. They have a school.

G.M. received your letter the night before he started out with his Division was glad to hear from you and will answer on his return. He went out last Thursday with the old Division to meet with some troops under Gen. Rosecrans these move on toward Tuscumbia to have a fight with Gen. Wood. They prepared for a pretty hard fight and I guess they will have one to-day or to-morrow.

I left this to ride out to Gen. Grant's old Headquarters once a magnificent plantation now the house is occupied by Refugees and the garden has all gone to ruin Peach Pear Apple Cherry trees all in bloom. It was owned by Whitfield one of the greatest Rebels in the country on our return we rode round by the Famous 7th Kansas Jayhawkers once commanded by Col. [Jennison?] They are on their way to join G. M. they are the Terrors of the army and a pretty hard looking set too. Their chaplin preached for us this morn.

We have a splendid band here and they come and play for us every night. One of them leave to-morrow to get new German Silver Instruments then they are going to give Concerts . Col. Fuller of the Ohio Brigade is in Command here now.

A Messenger has just come in and brought news from G. M. they are within 11 miles of Tuscumbia has had a fight and the Rebels massing he has lost one piece of artillery and but a hundred men they are after them. G. M. is sick and does not find it very easy fighting. They have more fighting yet to do.

Ello is a great Pet here and a perfect little witch can sing like a bird he has a nice garden here Peas lettuce to eat Beans Radishes and all other vegetables up. Everything here looks Green and nice.

They call the Guard House here where the Rebels are "Dodge's Hotel". As I came by the other day several of the Butternuts put their heads out.

I meant to write a little note to mother and send it in this so I will have to close this to get it in to-nights mail. Please write me soon I see by the papers you have had a fire Anne sends her love [Lettie?] and Ello also.

Truly,

Jule

I forgot to tell you of my attempt to ride horseback. Had quite a time performed feats I did not bargain for.

G. M. is stronger a great deal of his is what ever he says they think may be relied upon.

APPENDIX D
MAPS OF CORINTH, MISSISSIPPI AND VICINITY

Copies of the maps described below were given to the Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission.

S-13 (12) Map of Corinth, Mississippi and vicinity, 15.5 x 9.5 inches, scale 2" = one mile. Map features terrain surrounding Corinth, some troop positions, defensive works, railroads, roads, streams, and some farm fields. The map is oriented so that the top is south., Civil War Maps, U. S. Department of War, Office of Engineering, Record Group-77, National Archives.

S-13-16 Map of Corinth, Mississippi and vicinity, 23.5 x 19.5 inches, map has no marked scale. Map shows roads, streams, railroads, dwellings, farm fields and the Tennessee state line. The map is oriented with the top being east. Civil War Maps, U. S. Department of War, Office of Engineering, Record Group-77, National Archives.

S-63-3 Map of Corinth, Mississippi and vicinity, 36 x 34 inches, scale 2" = one mile. Map features drainage, relief, wooded areas, towns, names and locations of residents, roads, railroads, some troop positions and fortifications. Civil War Maps, U. S. Department of War, Office of Engineering, Record Group-77, National Archives.

Z-190 Map of Tishomingo County, 21.5 x 23 inches, scale 1" = two miles. Map features, roads, streams, railroads and some dwellings within the county. Civil War Maps, U. S. Department of War, Office of Engineering, Record Group-77, National Archives.