

Prisoners of War and Their Treatment During the American Civil War



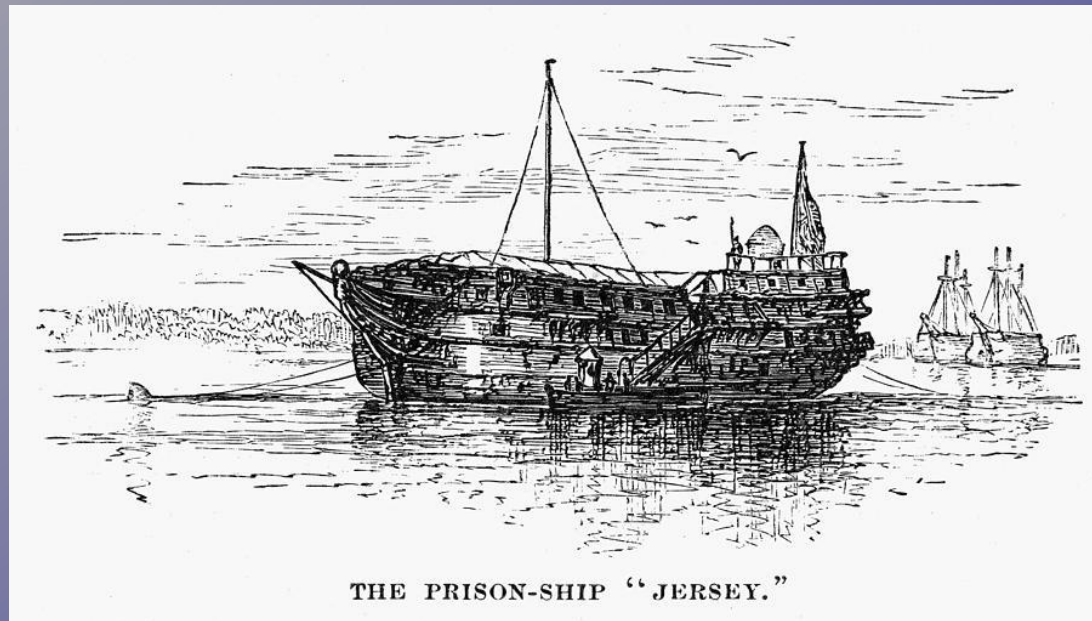
**Raphael Semmes Camp 11
Mobile, Alabama
January 25, 2021**

**Wayne E. Sirmon, M.A., M.A.Ed.
Adjunct Assistant Professor of History
University of Mobile**

Prisoners During the American Revolution

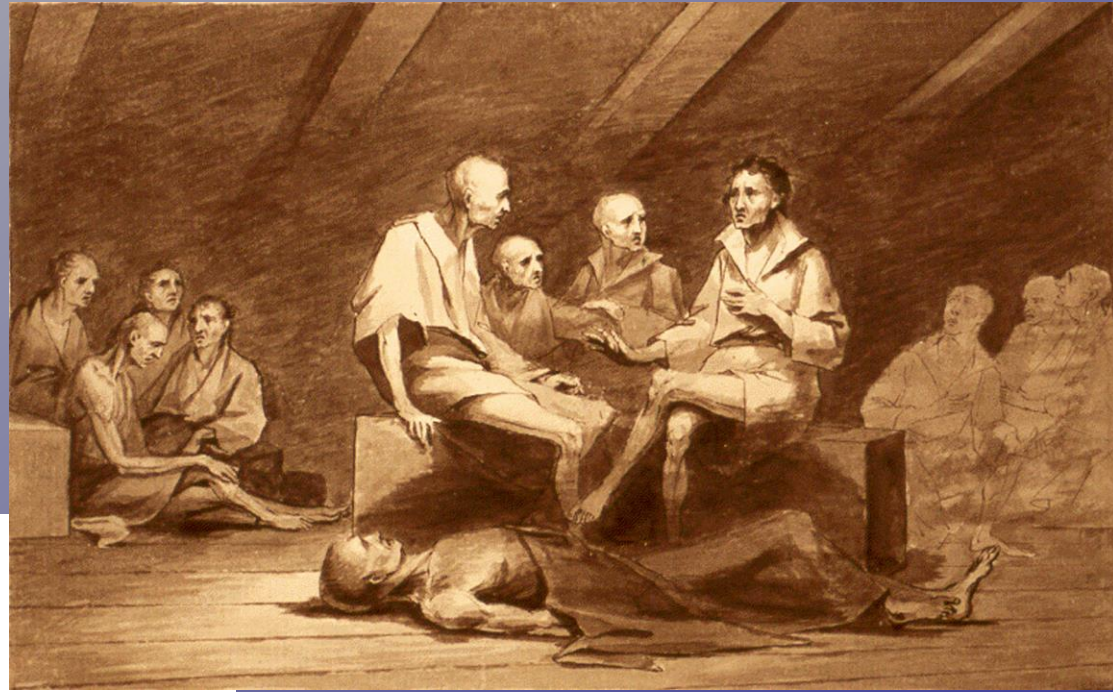
At war's end, there were only 1,400 survivors among the inmates of the entire prison ship fleet, and at least 11,000 men and boys died aboard the ships from 1776 to 1783.

Estimated 80% of American deaths during war occurred on prison ships.



THE PRISON-SHIP "JERSEY."

Prisoners During the American Revolution



Americans Deaths

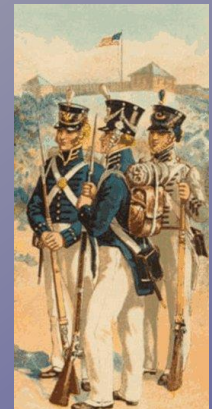
KIA 6,800

Disease 17,000

11,000 of the 17,000 deaths due to disease
were POW on prison ships



Prisoners During the War of 1812



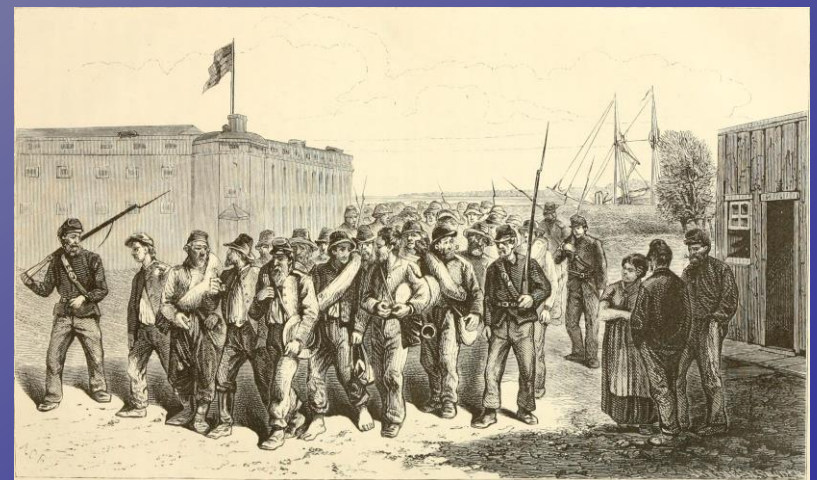
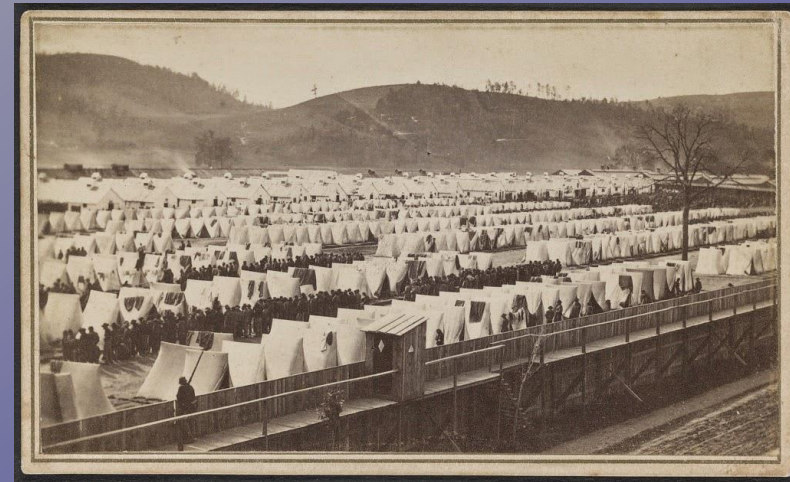
Cartel of 12 May 1813

Negotiated by
American Commissary General of Prisons
and Prisoners Jon Mason,
and
Colonel Thomas Barclay, British agent for
prisoners of war.

Cartel for the exchange of prisoners of war
between Great Britain and the United
States of America," 12 May 1813, Doct. #
190, Box 10, Entry 127, RG 94.

Rank	Cartel score
Private	1
SGT	2
1LT	4
CPT	6
MAJ	8
LTC	10
COL	15
BG	20
MG	40
GEN	46

Prisoners During the War of 1861-65



Exchange vs. Parole



Exchange vs. Parole

A

Confederate States of America.

Wicksburg, Miss., Decr 31 1862.

This is to Certify, That in accordance with a Cartel, in regard to an exchange of Prisoners, entered into between the Governments of the United States of America and the Confederate States of America, on the 22d day of July, 1862,

*Chas W Oldroyd Sgt Co C
16 Ohio*

who was captured on or about the 28 day of December at *Aubrey*,

and has since been held as a Prisoner of War by the Military authorities of the said Confederate States, is hereby Paroled with full leave to return to his country on the following conditions, viz: that he will not take up arms again, nor serve as Military Police or Constabulary force in any Fort, Garrison or Field work held by either of said parties, nor as Guard of Prisoners, Depots or Stores, nor discharge any duty usually performed by soldiers until exchanged under the provisions of the Cartel referred to. The aforesaid

Chas W. Oldroyd, signifying his full and free consent to said conditions by his signature hereto, thereby solemnly pledging his word and honor to a due observance of the same.

Chas W. Oldroyd



W G Watt

Major U. S. Army and Agent
for exchange of Prisoners.

Paroled with full leave to return to his country on the following conditions, viz: that he will not take up arms again, nor serve as Military Police ... nor as Guard of Prisoners ... until exchanged

Exchange vs. Parole

I, the undersigned, V C O Brock Prisoner
of War, captured near Rockhill Belmont Co Ohio
by John Morgan's Command, hereby give my
Parole of Honor, not to bear arms against the Confederate States, or to
perform any military or garrison duty whatever, until regularly exchanged;
and further, that I will not divulge anything relative to the position or con-
dition of any of the forces of the Confederate States.

This 15th day of July, 1863.

V. C. O. Brock
Witness, Capt Jones

... give my Parole
of Honor not to
bear arms against
the Confederate
States, or to
perform any
military or garrison
duty whatever,
until regularly
exchanged

has given his
solemn obligation
not to take up arms
against the
Government of the
United States until
properly released
from this obligation

Greeneboro
GREENEBORO, NORTH CAROLINA,
May _____, 1865.

In accordance with the terms of the Military Convention, entered into on the twenty sixth
day of April, 1865, between General Joseph E. Johnston, Commanding the Confederate Army,
and Major-General W. T. Sherman, Commanding the United States Army in North Carolina,
Mr. [Name]
has given his solemn obligation not to take up arms against the Government of the United States
until properly released from this obligation; and is permitted to return to his home, not to be
disturbed by the United States authorities so long as he observe this obligation and obey the
laws in force where he may reside.

[Signature]
Major G. A. U. S. A.
Special Commissioner.

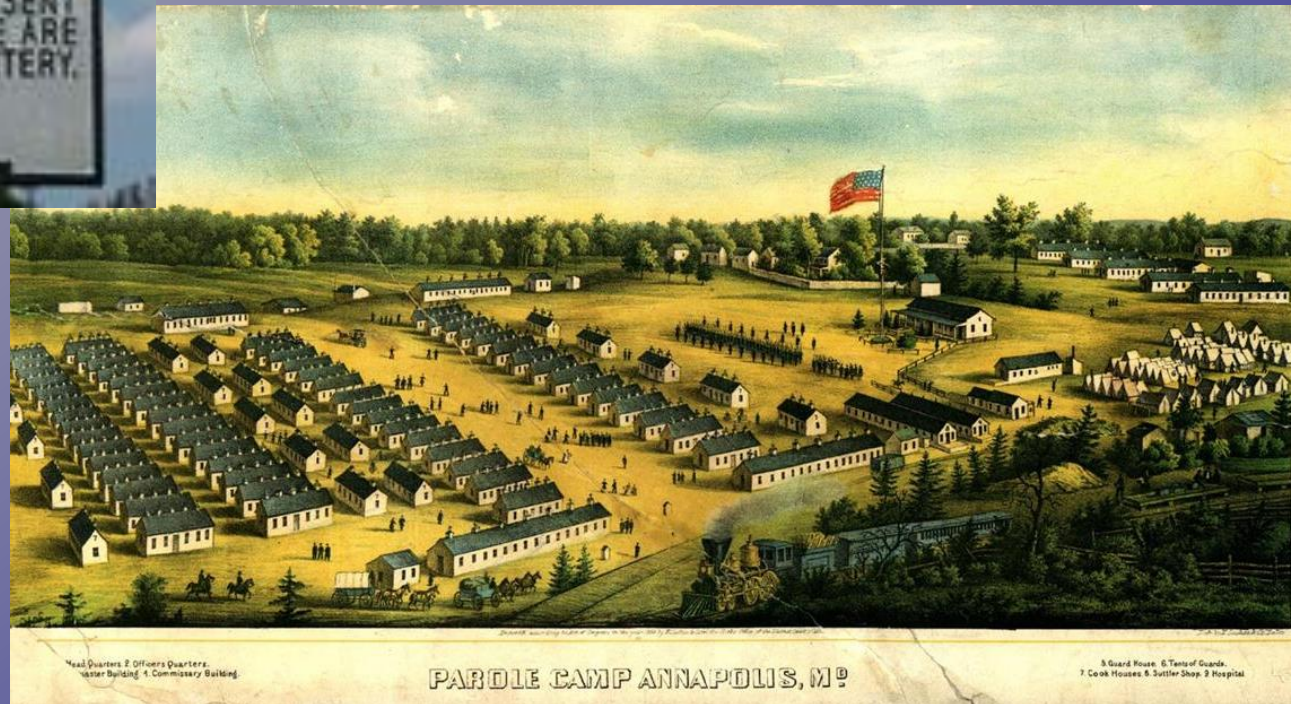
[Signature]
Lieut. Genl. C. S. A.
Commanding.

Exchange vs. Parole



On June 28, 1862, the US War Department issued General Orders No. 72. It announced that furloughs would not be granted to paroled prisoners.

Parolees were to report to one of three parole camps established for their reception: a facility near Annapolis soon to be christened Camp Parole; Camp Chase near Columbus, Ohio and Benton Barracks, located near St. Louis



The Confederates did not set up permanent parole camps; they often let their men go home and expected them to return to duty once officially

Exchange vs. Parole

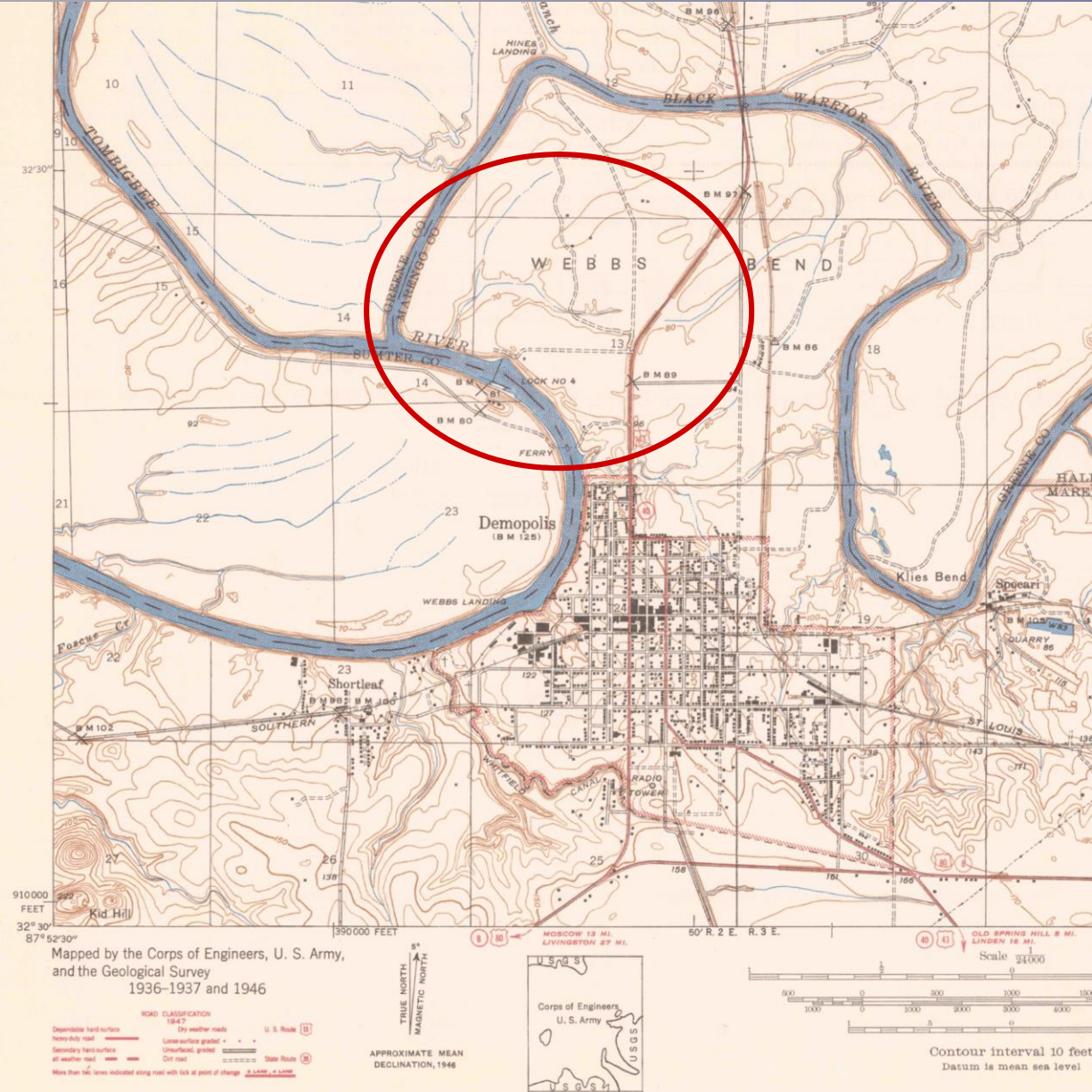
One Confederate parole camp was located “on the north east side of the City, amidst magnolia and some other forest trees, on rolling ground carpeted with blue grass, and bounded on the south, by the beautiful Tombigby river” this camp was for soldiers paroled after the fall of Vicksburg. It appears to have been occupied from July-September, 1863.

MEMOIRS OF THE CIVIL WAR

by

W. L. TRUMAN

Served as an artilleryman with the Missouri Brigade, under the command of Gen. John S. Bowen



Prisoners of War

	Union Soldiers	Confederate Soldiers
Exchanged/ Paroled	152,015	329,963
POW	210,000	220,000
Deaths	22,600	26,500

Dix-Hill Cartel

22 July 1862

MG John A. Dix (USA) MG D. H. Hill (CSA)

Sporadic – “acts of humanity”

11 Dec 1861 – US Congress resolution - “systematic measure for exchange of prisoners”

War of 1812 arrangement used as model

Dec 1862 - 1st problems – Pres. Davis suspends parole of Union officers after Gen Benjamin Butler orders execution of N. O. citizen.

Apr 1864 – Gen Grant halts all exchanges

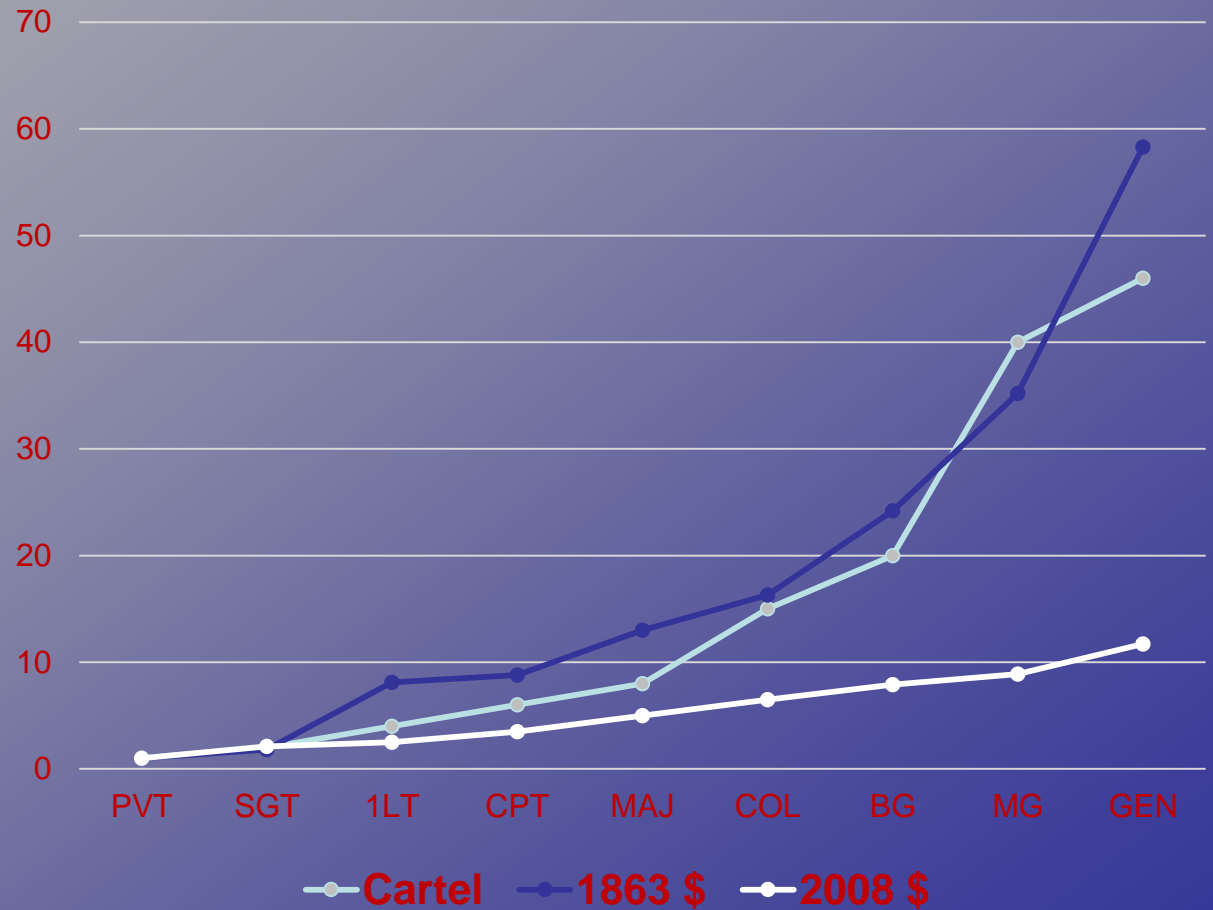
Feb 1865 – Grant recommends exchanging 3,000/week with preference to disabled troops since few “will be got in the ranks again.”

Dix-Hill Cartel

Rank	Cartel score	1863 army	2008 pay
Private	1	1	1
SGT	2	1.8	2.1
1LT	4	8.1	2.5
CPT	6	8.8	3.5
MAJ	8	13.0	5.0
LTC	10	14.0	5.4
COL	15	16.3	6.5
BG	20	24.2	7.9
MG	40	35.2	8.9
GEN	46	58.3	11.7

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Alton Prison

Camp Chase

Camp Douglas

Camp Randall

Elmira

Fort Delaware

Fort Jefferson

Fort McHenry

Old Capitol Prison

Point Lookout

Rock Island



Andersonville

Camp Sumter

Belle Isle

Cahaba Prison

Castle Morgan

Camp Ford

Castle Pinckney

Charleston harbor

Castle Thunder

Richmond

Danville Prison

Libby Prison

Salisbury Prison

Prison Types

Coastal fortifications

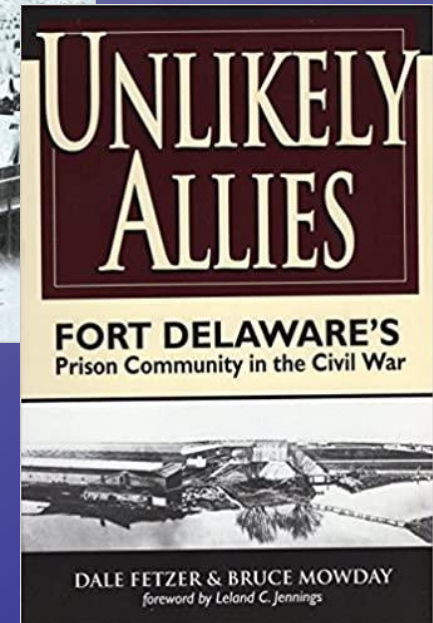
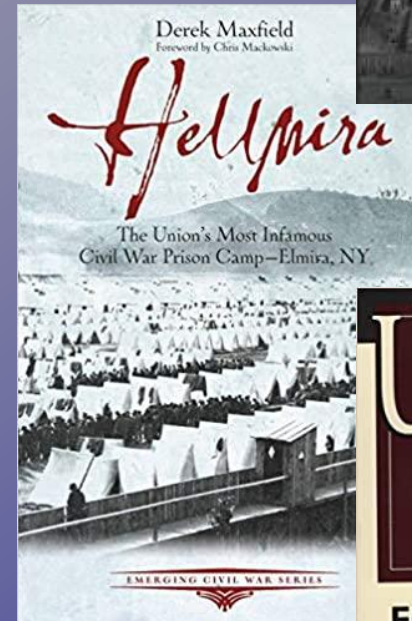
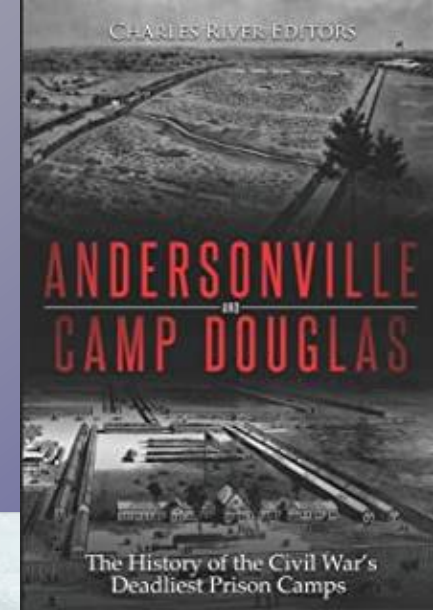
Existing jails

Old buildings

Barracks enclosed by high fences

Tent cities enclosed by high fences

Simple stockades



Prison Types

Coastal fortifications



Ft. Delaware
Ft. McHenry & Ft. Jefferson



Prison Types

Existing jails



Prison Types

Old buildings



Old Capitol

Libby Prison

Prison Types



Johnson's Island, OH

Barracks enclosed by high fences

Tent cities enclosed by high fences

Elmira NY



Point Lookout, MD

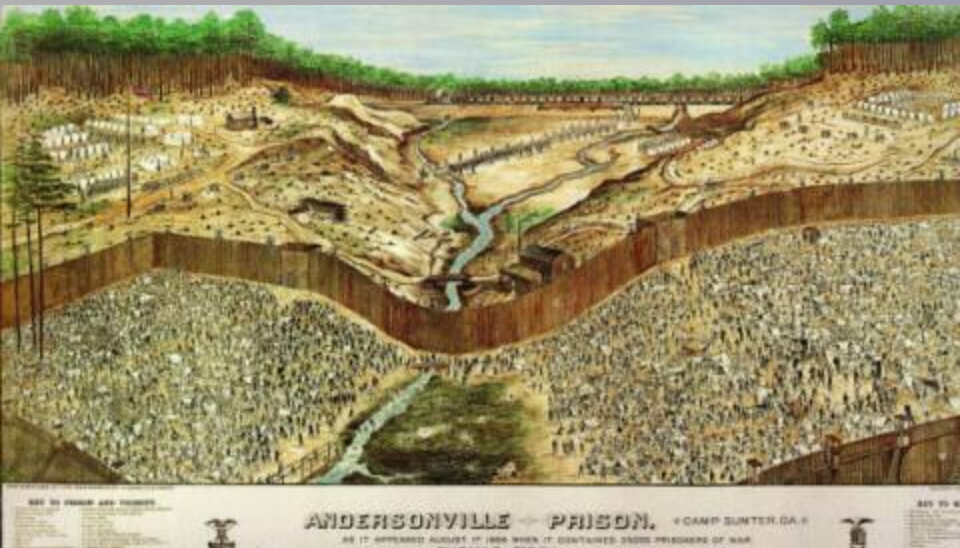


THIS IS A RECONSTRUCTION OF THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE CIVIL WAR PRISON PEN. THE ORIGINAL WALL ENCLOSED APPROXIMATELY 20 ACRES. THE CONFEDERATE PRISONERS LIVED IN TENTS AND SHACKS LOCATED ON THE INSIDE OF THE PRISON PEN. THE UNION PRISON GUARDS WATCHED OVER THE CONFEDERATE PRISONERS BY WALKING AROUND THE RAISED WALKWAY LOCATED ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE FENCE.

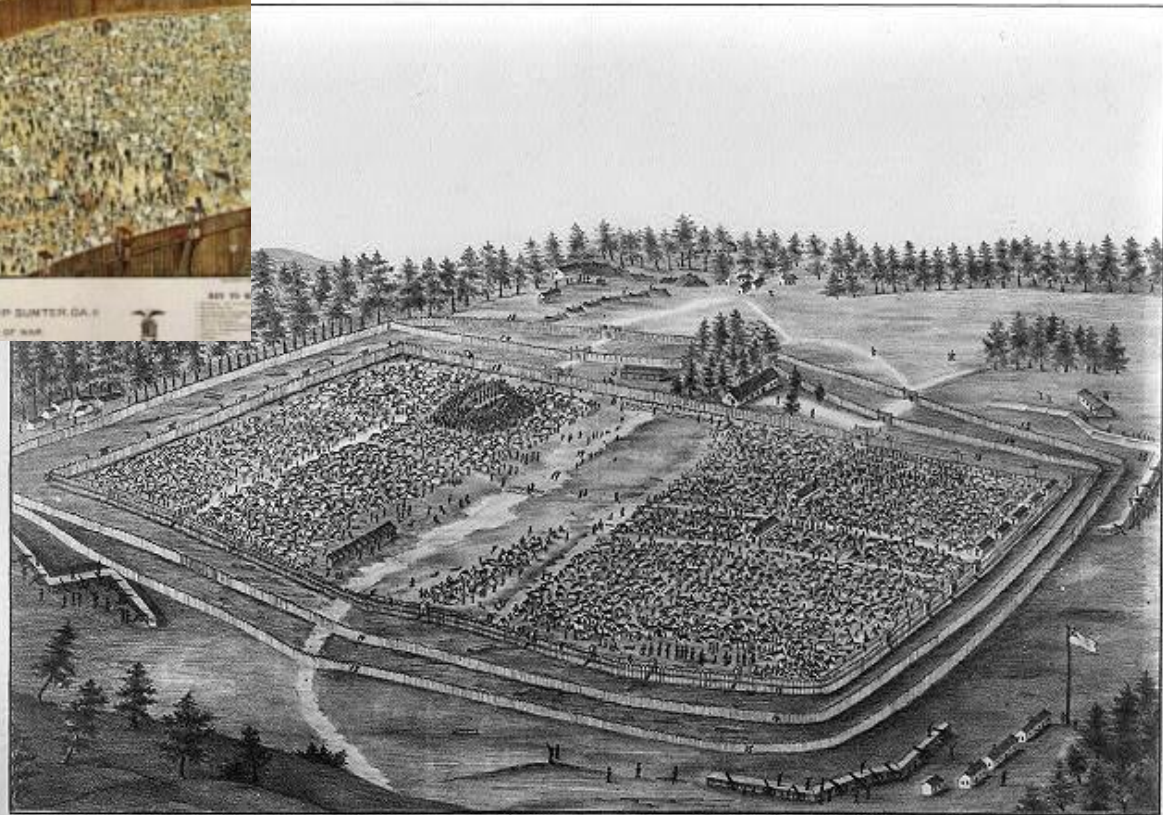
MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT THE VISITOR CENTER AND CIVIL WAR MUSEUM, LOCATED IN THE CAMPING AREA OF THE PARK.

RECONSTRUCTED BY: FREDERICK COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND MARYLAND FOREST, PARK AND WILDLIFE SERVICE.

Prison Types



Simple stockades



ANDERSONVILLE PRISON
AS SEEN BY
JOHN L. RANSOM,
AUTHOR AND PUBLISHER OF "ANDERSONVILLE DIARY, ESCAPE AND LIST OF THE DEAD,"
WASHINGTON, D. C.

- 1. Head Quarters.
- 2. Rebel Camp.
- 3. Hospital.
- 4. Cook House.
- 5. Death House.
- 6. Death Line.
- 7. The Island.
- 8. Soldier's Camp.
- 9. Police Quarters.
- 10. Hospital along the Death Line.
- 11. Market Street.
- 12. Broad Street.
- 13. Middle Stockade.
- 14. Second Line Stockade.
- 15. Third Line Stockade.
- 16. Lines Head Quarters.
- 17. Washing Place.
- 18. Side Pen.
- 19. Army House Mess.

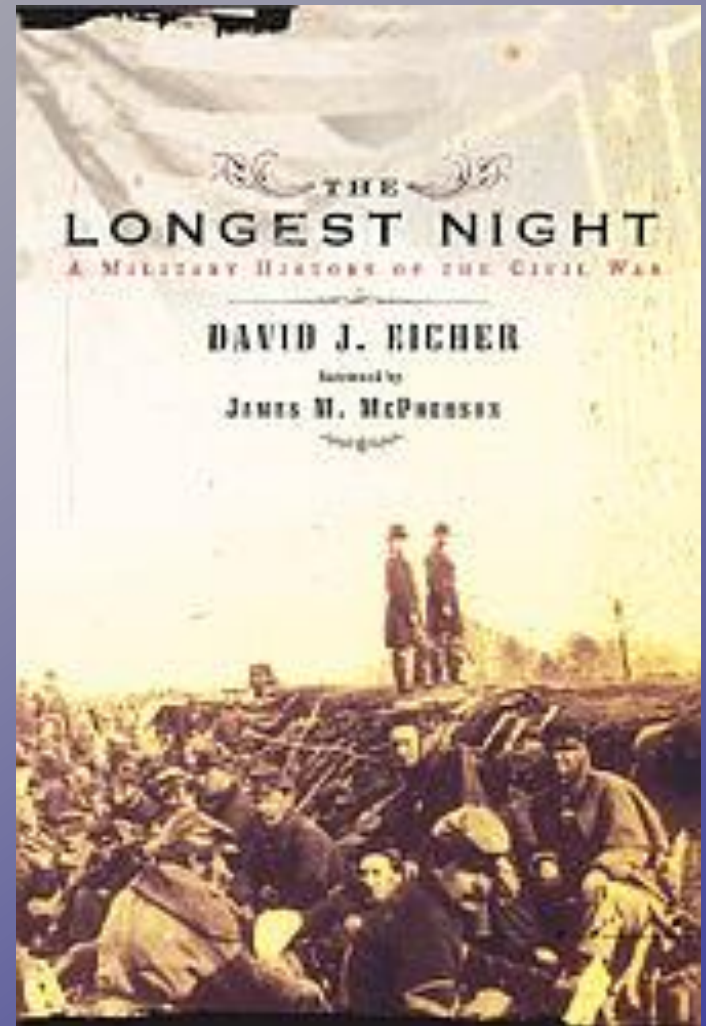
6 Pages (628-632, 733)

Mentions: Andersonville, GA
Belle Isle, VA
Salisbury, NC
Danville, VA
Libby, VA
10 others

Camp Chase, OH
Johnson's Island, OH
Point Lookout, MD
Elmira, NY
6 others

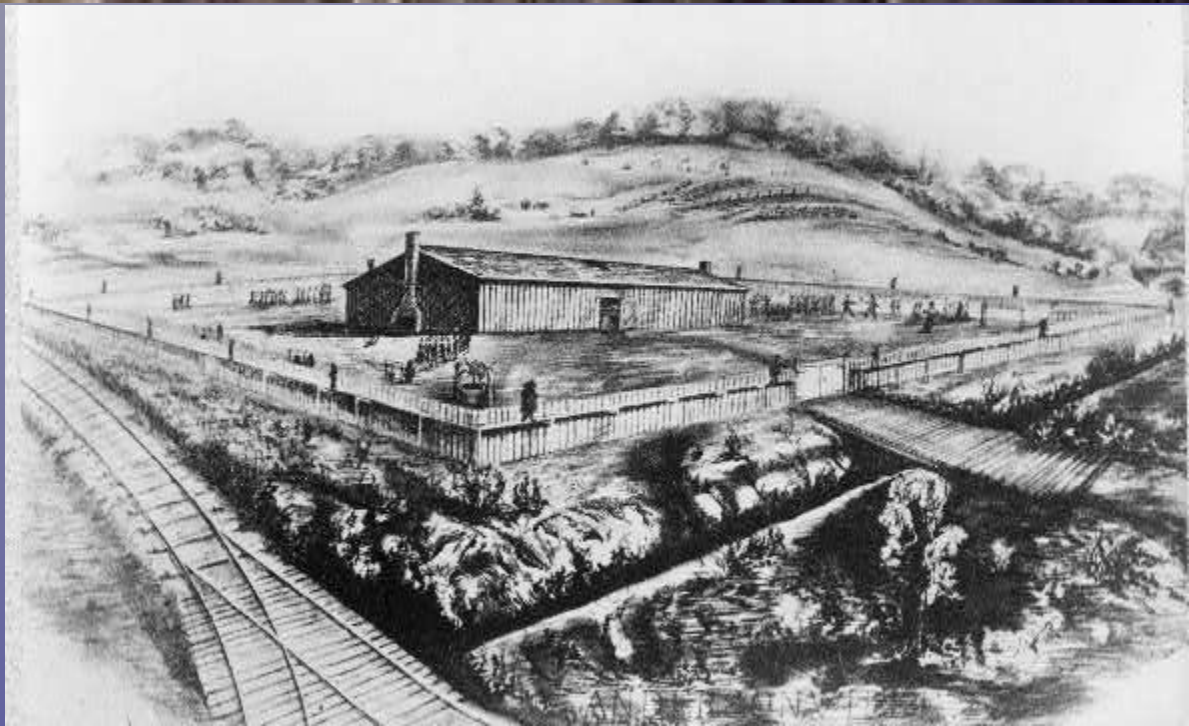
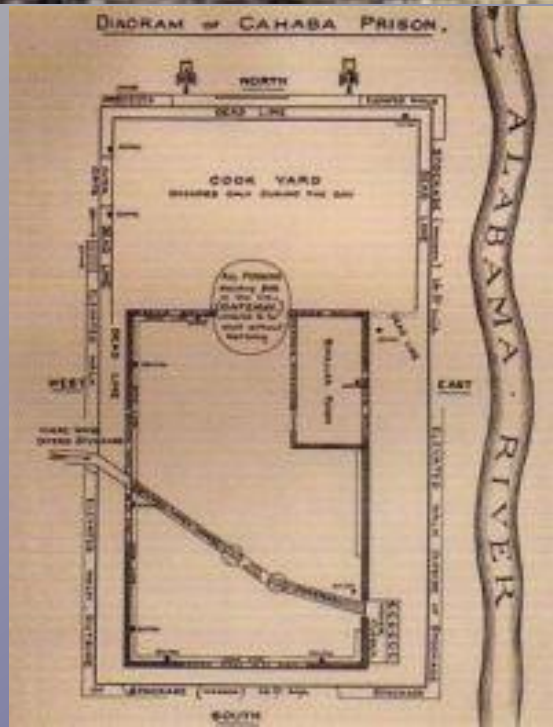
2 1/2 times as much space on southern prisons

“polluted water from only source, the trickling flow of Providence Spring”
(INCORRECT)



On Aug 9, 1864, a spring burst forth during a heavy summer rainstorm - an occurrence attributed to Divine Providence

Cahaba Prison, Alabama "Castle Morgan"



Cahaba Prison, Alabama

“Castle Morgan”

Cahaba was the capital of Alabama (1820-25)

Lafayette's visit (3 days) Vine & Olive Colony

Castle Morgan

(John H. Morgan had recently escaped from Ohio State Penitentiary)

15,000 sq. ft.

Bunks for 432

Population 3,000 (max)

6 sq. ft. at night / 12 sq ft. in day
(Andersonville ~ 35 sq. ft./prisoner)

5% death rate (147 of 5,000)

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Near 2:00 a.m. on April 27, 1865, 7 miles north of Memphis, the *Sultana's* boilers exploded. As many as 1,800 died, including approx. 800 from Cahaba..

CPT Henry Wirz

Swiss Physician / Private / Wounded

Wirz was one of only two men tried, convicted, and executed for war crimes during the Civil War, the other being Confederate guerrilla Champ Ferguson.

The Wirz trial was one of the nation's significant early war crimes tribunals.



We cherish his memory here.

***We commend his spirit to God
who gave it.***

***And consign his body to the
earth whence it came.***



*Confederate Monument, Columbus, Ohio
2260 Confederate soldiers of the war of 1861-1865
buried in this enclosure*



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**Questions
And
Comments**

