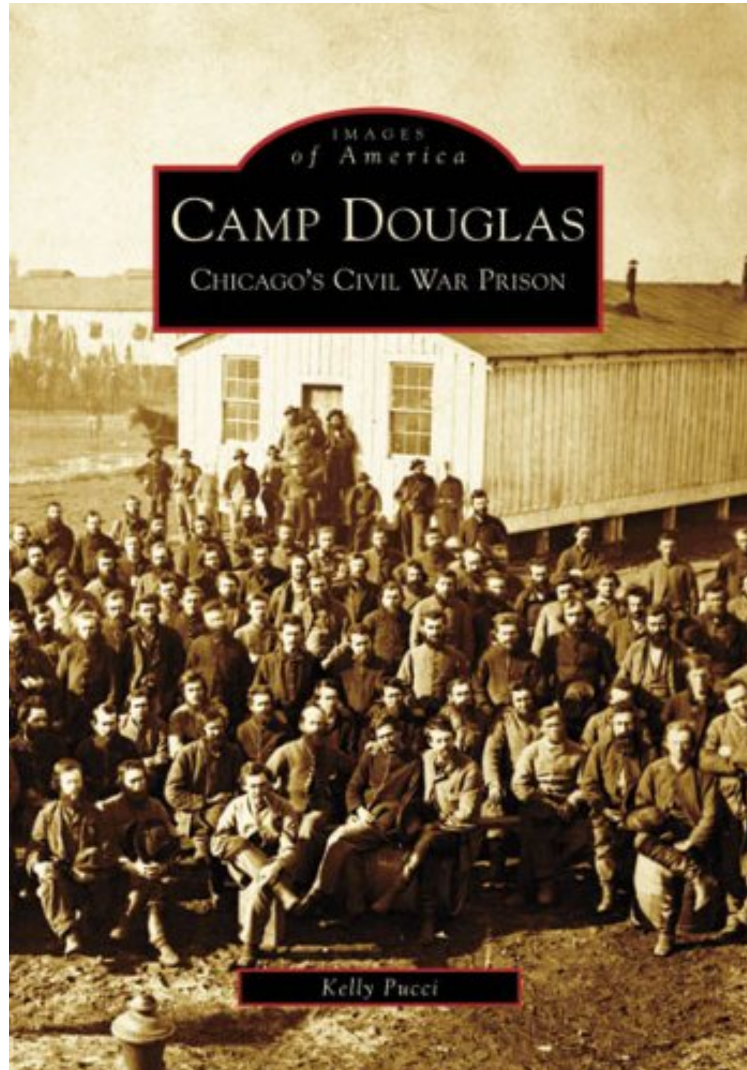


(Free) Camp Douglas: Chicago's Civil War Prison (Images of America: Illinois)

Camp Douglas: Chicago's Civil War Prison (Images of America: Illinois)

Kelly Pucci

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Kelly Pucci : Camp Douglas: Chicago's Civil War Prison (Images of America: Illinois) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Camp Douglas: Chicago's Civil War Prison (Images of America: Illinois):

Thousands of Confederate soldiers died in Chicago during the Civil War, not from battle wounds, but from disease, starvation, and torture as POWs in a military prison three miles from the Chicago Loop. Initially treated as a curiosity,

attitudes changed when newspapers reported the deaths of Union soldiers on southern battlefields. As the prison population swelled, deadly diseasesmallpox, dysentery, and pneumoniaquickly spread through Camp Douglas. Starving prisoners caught stealing from garbage dumps were tortured or shot. Fearing a prisoner revolt, a military official declared martial law in Chicago, and civilians, including a Chicago mayor and his family, were arrested, tried, and sentenced by a military court. At the end of the Civil War, Camp Douglas closed, its buildings were demolished, and records were lost or destroyed. The exact number of dead is unknown; however, 6,000 Confederate soldiers incarcerated at Camp Douglas are buried among mayors and gangsters in a South Side cemetery. Camp Douglas: Chicagos Civil War Prison explores a long-forgotten chapter of American history, clouded in mystery and largely forgotten.