



Prison Stockade, Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio, 1862

Camp Chase

Shortly after the Confederates fired on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, thousands of Ohio men headed to Columbus to volunteer to fight for the Union. The first Union camp in the city was Camp Jackson, located where Goodale Park is today. Due to the large numbers of new recruits coming to Columbus, it was decided to move the camp four miles west of the city.

The new camp was established on May 27, 1861 and named for former Ohio Governor Salmon P. Chase. General W. S. Rosecrans laid out the camp on 160 acres of countryside originally belonging to Lucas Sullivant. Sullivant was one of the founding fathers of Franklinton and Columbus. The ground was plowed, harrowed (to break up and smooth soil with a harrow, a disked cultivating tool), and rolled smooth to make a good place for drilling. General George B. McClellan was the camp's first commander.

Camp Chase was a "liberally-sized" town containing 160 dwellings. It served four purposes

during the war. First it was used as a training camp for Union troops who were located south of the Western Reserve (near Cleveland) and north of Hamilton County. It was a prison camp for Confederate captives. It later served as a detention camp for Union soldiers paroled from Southern prisons. And finally, it was a place to receive mustering-out (discharge) pay for Northern regiments at the termination of their enlistment.

The Confederate prison was located in the southeast corner of the camp where the block of Wicklow and Fremont Streets intersect with Hague Avenue today. It was reported to be 700 feet long and 300 feet wide. Six hundred and fifty guards took turns walking the catwalk around and above the 12-foot high wooden fence surrounding the prison compound. Today the Confederate cemetery is the only remaining portion of the camp. Located at 2900 Sullivant Avenue, the Confederate prison contains the graves of 2260 Confederate soldiers.

Camp Chase Confederate Cemetery Open This Weekend

Confederate reenactors will interpret the life of Civil War prisoners at the Confederate cemetery this weekend from 10 a. m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, September 22 and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, September 23. To get to Camp Chase Confederate Cemetery, take COTA Bus #6 from Broad and High, which runs along Sullivant Avenue all the way to Westland Shopping Center. Get off at the stop after Hague. The cemetery is directly across from Chestershire Road. Buses leave every 30 minutes. It costs \$2.20 round trip for adults and \$1.10 for children aged 7-12. One can also drive by taking West Broad to Hague Ave. Turn left on Hague. Proceed five blocks to Sullivant Avenue and turn right on Sullivant. The cemetery will be on your right just a few feet down the street. Park on one of the side streets across from the cemetery