

Confederate Prisoners at Camp Randall

See a lesson plan related to this material on the [Wisconsin Historical Society website](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org).



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Newspaper Clipping "Wisconsin Weekly Patriot"

"Camp Randall -Arrival of Prisoners, April 26, 1862."



BY CARPENTER & HYER.

MADISON, WIS., SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 1862.

VOLUME 9---NUMBER 6.

Camp Randall.

ARRIVAL OF PRISONERS.—Last evening 881 prisoners of war, captured at Island No. 10, arrived at Camp Randall. They were guarded by a company from Colonel Mulligan's regiment, commanded by Capt. Fitzgerald. Capt. Potter, the U. S. Quartermaster also came along with them to make arrangements for their rations &c. They were received in excellent style by Lt. Col. Whipple, and the four companies under his command. Capt. Potter was highly gratified at finding such excellent arrangements at the camp, and complimented Col. Whipple on the prompt and soldierly order in which he found the guards and everything pertaining to his command.

Most of the prisoners were in good spirits, although their dress was not uniform nor its quality calculated to make the wearers jubilant.

Besides the guard, a large crowd of bystanders received them, and several good jokes were cracked between the latter and the prisoners. Several of the prisoners claim to be loyal men and say they were impressed to take up arms against their will.—*Monday, April 21*

PRETTY CUTE FOR SESESH.—Last evening as 700 of the Island No. 10-ers came in "on a train," they were met at the Depot by a large crowd of boys and big boys, who wanted to get a glimpse at Sir Butternut, though it was as dark as the ace of spades. Some of the sesesh seemed to enjoy the fun of the joke with a gusto that must make their situation more agreeable than being set up like ten pins, to be knocked down by Old Abe's balls. One of this class held an interesting *tele-a-tele* with a bystander, which shows that the fellow loves fun and means to enjoy it, whether "here or there," as follows:

Sesesh.—I say, old fellow, I've got a likeness of Beauregard—perhaps you'd like to see it?

Bystander.—Yes, I would, but it is too dark now.

Sesesh.—Well, come up to the camp to-morrow, and I will show it to you.

Bystander.—Ah, they'll not let me in.

Sesesh.—(In huge astonishment).—What, won't let you in! why, they let us all in!

After a sharp "explosion" in the crowd, Mr. Sesesh passed on, no doubt thinking it remarkably strange that in the free North, seseshes are allowed privileges in camp, that are denied to our own loyal people!

A VISIT TO THE CAMP.—We visited Camp Randall this morning, and circulated for a time amongst the prisoners. We found some of the men of the Washington Artillery company sitting over a fire and chatting of old times. They were organized in Memphis, Tennessee as a home guard, and were marched to Island No. 10, without having been sworn into the service of the Confederate Government. Under the circumstances they are in hopes of being released before long. One of them was the "funny fellow," who we alluded to in our last, as showing Beauregard's likeness when he arrived at the Depot. He tells us that we were slightly "sold," and that instead of being a likeness of Beauregard, it is a likeness of General Banks, which was given to him by a little boy at Chicago. We acknowledge the "corn," and confess that we have been out General. There are 38 men of this company, and those we spoke with were civil and pleasant mannered. Some of the men and boys, of the 55th Tennessee regiment were amusing themselves with playing ball. Some were thinly clad in Butternut cloth attire, and others in gray cloth of a light texture. Some of the boys looked barely 16 years old, and they appeared woe-begone in a beggarly dress that ill-protected them from the keen wind. One of these told us "that he could fight as well as a man, and that when he left, the old codgers were beginning to come out right sharp."

We passed group after group sitting round fires in listless attitudes. In some, one or two were reading light literature, and we saw two of the prisoners in different groups reading in a small print testament.

One of these was pointing out to a companion some particular verse that was evidently under discussion or deliberation. One group had cards in their hands, and the players were looking anxiously out for "Jack." Two invalids going to the hospital were borne past us on stretchers. Considering the cold wind and the light clothing of many of the prisoners, we shall not be surprised at the proportion of sick being large. One prisoner told us that there was only one man killed on Island No. 10 during the siege, and that his officers estimated that the Federals expended \$35,000 worth of shell in about nine hours. We gathered from his remarks that what the war was costing us was almost as much considered as our progress.

The prisoners get the regular army rations, and seem to be made as comfortable, with the exception of clothing, as the men of our own regiments.—*Tuesday, April 22.*

WARM HEARTED.—We learn that several young men of this city, hearing that the prisoners at Camp Randall were suffering for the want of postage stamps, went to work and shortly collected \$10, which they invested in stamps for the use of the prisoners having families. This is commendable conduct which carries out to the letter the christian doctrine of "doing to others as you would be done by." We also hear that certain philanthropic officers hearing that the prisoners were suffering for the want of tobacco, presented them with a barrel. Such cheering instances of the virtue of civilized humanity are refreshing and gratifying. We understand that some human citizens are interesting themselves in getting a supply of substantial reading matter for the prisoners. This is as it should be, for surely lightening the heavy hours of misguided and unfortunate men is a godly act, and one that mutually blesses.

See more classroom materials and lesson plans on the [Wisconsin Historical Society website](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org).