

# Camp Fuller - Civil War Day



## A Family-Friendly Civil War Living History Day!

*Saturday, May 9, 10am – 2 pm*

The museum's historic village will be transformed into the Civil War Era, with visitors learning about Rockford's 1862 Civil War training camp for Illinois recruits.



- ★ **Meet famous people: President Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, General U. S. Grant and many others**
- ★ **Experience being a soldier, including marching and drilling**
- ★ **Visit the 1850s Barn to learn about the Underground Railroad**
- ★ **Experience period school lessons in a one room schoolhouse**
- ★ **Learn about Civil War doctors and medicine**
- ★ **Many other Living History stations throughout the village**

**Admission: Adults: \$15**

**Seniors (62+)/Children (5-12): \$12**

**Members: Free**

**Children (0-4): Free**



Midway Village Museum  
*Rockford's*  
HISTORY MUSEUM

6799 Guilford Rd., Rockford, IL  
midwayvillage.com • 815.397.9112

Information  
and tickets here:



# Rockford's Camp Fuller



Rockford was a bustling city during the 1860s, with several prominent figures who spent time in the region and played a significant role during the Civil War.

- Rev. Dr. Thomas Kerr, the pastor of Rockford's First Baptist Church, preached openly about his support for the Union and helped recruit thousands of Union soldiers.
- Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth was a "Rockford Greys" drillmaster who studied the French Zouave soldiers' techniques and implemented them into his training for his own troops. Ellsworth was also the first Union officer to die in the Civil War and a close acquaintance of President Abraham Lincoln.

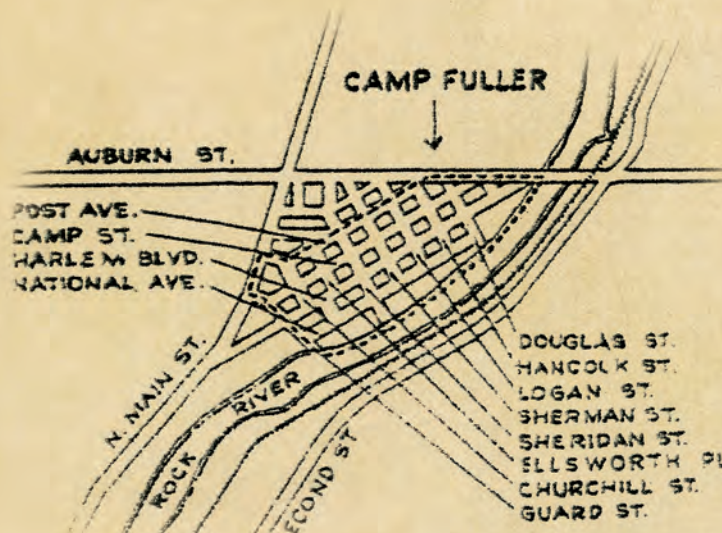
Rockford was also home to an infantry training camp that was established in the Churchill Grove neighborhood along the Rock River.

Camp Fuller was a Civil War training ground for Illinois soldiers, and was only open a few months in 1862. The site was chosen in July 1862 by the Illinois adjutant general, General Allen C. Fuller, of Belvidere. General Fuller named Col. Jason Marsh as commandant who then named the camp after General Fuller. It was officially established in August 1862 when the first Illinois troops arrived. Four regiments were formed at Camp Fuller: the 74th (composed of Winnebago County men), the 92nd (composed of Ogle, Stephenson, and Carroll County men), the 95th (composed of McHenry and Boone County men), and the 96th (composed of Jo Daviess and Lake County men). Rockford citizens often took trips to visit soldiers training at Camp Fuller and enjoy picnics together, demonstrating the depth of local support for the soldiers who trained there.

Beginning in September 1862, trained soldiers began leaving Camp Fuller for various outposts such as Stone River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and the Atlanta Campaign. By the end of November 1862, all trained troops had vacated and Camp Fuller was torn down by the beginning of 1863.



Today, there sits a stone and plaque commemorating Camp Fuller on the triangular plot at Boilvin Ave. and Ellsworth St. within the Churchill Grove neighborhood.



*Although short-lived, the legacy of Camp Fuller remains, and Rockford citizens continue to honor the memories of the local soldiers who gave their lives for the United States.*



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Midway Village Museum collects, preserves and interprets the diverse history of the Rockford region and is committed to educating and enriching our community by providing state-of-the art exhibits, programs and events.

