



UNIVERSITY OF INDIANA

Notes on Military-Carceral, and Military-Clinical Spaces of the American
Civil War

Autumn Keesbury

Fall 2025

Military-Carceral Spaces

During the Civil War, we see many instances of the intersection of the carceral and the military: of course in the form of the Prisoner-Of-War (POW) camp, but also in the less obvious forms of the internal disciplinary structures of the military, the observation and documentary knowledge of troops, and, more abstractly, in the panoptic geometries of both POW and military camps. I wish to explore these points of intersection, and in particular I wish to do this with reference to the particular convergences and divergences between the carceral spaces necessitated and developed by military means, and those more classical carceral spaces of the type Foucault investigated in *Discipline and Punish*.¹

Military-Clinical Spaces

The approach I am taking to the intersection of the military and the carceral during the Civil War has been studied in some depth by McNutt and several others.² McNutt makes frequent reference to Foucault's *Discipline and Punish* as a means of understanding the relations of power in Civil War military prisons, and indeed the Foucaultian analysis of spaces is somewhat commonplace in military-geographic studies on POW camps (see, for instance, Moran and Turner). The same cannot be said of the approach I wish to take in understanding the intersection of the military and the clinical.

Indeed, much of the literature on the medical aspects of the Civil War concerns the techniques of care, or otherwise the more individual aspects (Devine 2016). It is this gap, most of all, that I wish to fill.

1. Michel Foucault, *Discipline and punish: The birth of the prison*, Second Vintage Books edition, ed. Alan Sheridan, Description based on publisher supplied metadata and other sources. (New York, NY: Vintage Books, a division of Random House, Inc., 1995), ISBN: 9780307819291.

2. Ryan K. McNutt, "The Devil's outriders: a LiDAR and KOCOA investigation of the battle of Buckhead Creek, 1864," *Journal of Conflict Archaeology* 19, no. 3 (June 2024): 187–220, ISSN: 1574-0781, <https://doi.org/10.1080/15740773.2024.2365175>; Ryan K. McNutt, "Panopticonism, Pines and POWs: Applying Conflict Landscape Tools to the Archaeology of Internment," *Journal of Conflict Archaeology* 16, no. 1 (January 2021): 5–27, ISSN: 1574-0781, <https://doi.org/10.1080/15740773.2021.1978208>; Ryan K. McNutt, "The archaeology of military prisons from the American Civil War: globalization, resistance and masculinity," *World Archaeology* 51, no. 5 (October 20, 2019): 689–708, <https://doi.org/10.1080/00438243.2020.1739553>; Ryan K. McNutt and Emily Jones, "For want of a nail? Proxies for analysing POW and guard access to supplies at a Confederate prison camp," *Journal of Conflict Archaeology* 14, nos. 2–3 (September 2019): 181–211, ISSN: 1574-0781, <https://doi.org/10.1080/15740773.2019.1732062>.

References

- Abbott, Samuel W. *Notes on the health, ventilation, temperature, etc. on board Monitor "Catskill". An account of the epidemic of hospital gangrene at Chattanooga, Tenn. 1863-1864.*
- Andrew, G. S. *Letter to Dr. Elisha Harris regarding sanitary history.* 24 Feb. 1866. La Porte, IN.
- Andrews, E. *Report of no. of patients, etc. for Oct. 1862. U.S. General Hospital, Mound City, IL.*
- . *Tabular statement of medical and surgical cases for one month. Mower Hospital.*
- . *U.S. Marine Hospital. St. Louis, MO. Statistics for 1863.*
- Avery, G. W. *Report of sanitary management of the US forces at Ship Island, Miss. 1861-1862. Battlefield of Chattanooga.* Map.
- Bush, David. "Interpreting the latrines of the Johnson's Island Civil War Military Prison." *Historical Archaeology* 34, no. 1 (March 2000): 62–78. <https://doi.org/10.1007/bf03373631>.
- Canale, D. J. "Civil War Medicine From the Perspective of S. Weir Mitchell's "The Case of George Dedlow"." *Journal of the History of the Neurosciences* 11, no. 1 (March 2002): 11–18. ISSN: 0964-704X. <https://doi.org/10.1076/jhin.11.1.11.9108>.
- Clendenin, Dr. *Death rates; hospital records of St. Louis and other hospitals.* 4 Dec. 1865.
- Clendenin, W. C. *Hospital Statistics.*
- Consolidated morning report of the sanitary condition of General Peck's Brigade.* 11 June 1862.
- Cook, L. M. *Report upon the condition, removal, etc. of wounded from Chickamauga.* Surgeon in charge 1st Division Hospital (field).
- Crosby, A. B. *Report on ambulances and hospital tents.* Division Surgeon 1862.
- Cross, C. Wallace. "The Incarceration of a Regiment." *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* 56, no. 2 (1997): 80.
- De Vera, Samantha Quiambao. "A Dream Deferred: Reconstructing Families and Policing Black Refugees in Border States during the Civil War." *The Journal of African American History* (San Diego) 110, no. 2 (2022): 283–309. <https://doi.org/10.1086/734917>.
- Derbes, Brett. "Prison Productions: Textiles and Other Military Supplies from State Penitentiaries in the Trans-Mississippi Theater during the American Civil War." *Louisiana History: The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association* 55, no. 1 (2014): 40–64. <https://doi.org/10.12794/metadc84198>.
- Devine, Shauna. "'To Make Something Out of the Dying in This War': The Civil War and the Rise of American Medical Science." *The Journal of the Civil War Era* 6, no. 2 (2016): 149–163. ISSN: 2159-9807. <https://doi.org/10.1353/cwe.2016.0038>.
- Finley, Surgeon General. *Orders from surgeon General Finley relative to hospital inspections by members of the Sanitary Commission.*
- Flint, Amos S., and Dr. Anderson. *Report of 2nd Division field Hospital 15th A.C., Vicksburg; organized May 19, 1863.* By Asst. Surgeon Amos S. Flint, 8th MO.
- Foucault, Michel. *Discipline and punish: The birth of the prison.* Second Vintage Books edition. Edited by Alan Sheridan. Description based on publisher supplied metadata and other sources. New York, NY: Vintage Books, a division of Random House, Inc., 1995. ISBN: 9780307819291.
- . *The birth of the clinic: An archaeology of medical perception.* Translation of Naissance de la clinique - Originally published: New York, Pantheon, 1973. New York: Vintage Books, 1994. ISBN: 0679753346.
- Frost bite. Diet of prisoners in Richmond.*
- Hall, J. C. *Cholera Caution to the Public!* Broadside enclosure letter 19 Dec. 1865. Sketch illustrating procedure to guard against cholera.
- Hammond, General. *General Hammond's plans. Treatise on Hospitals.*

- Hawk, Alan. "An Ambulating Hospital: or, How the Hospital Train Transformed Army Medicine." *Civil War History* 48, no. 3 (September 2002): 197–219. ISSN: 1533-6271. <https://doi.org/10.1353/cwh.2002.0036>.
- Herschbach, Lisa. "'True clinical fictions': Medical and literary narratives from the Civil War hospital." *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry* 19, no. 2 (June 1995): 183–205. <https://doi.org/10.1007/bf01379410>.
- Hilgard, Col. *Coast survey maps and charts*. Letter from Col. Hilgard. 10 Nov. 1865.
- Holt, Harold Wright, and William E. S. Flory. *Prisoners of War: Archaeology, Memory, and Heritage of 19th- and 20th-Century Mass Internment*. Edited by Gillian Carr. 44:460. SpringerLink 3. Description based upon print version of record. New York, NY: Springer, 2013. ISBN: 9781461441663. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1117420>.
- Hospital Gangrene.*
- Hospital map. Battle of Gettysburg.*
- Howard, Benjamin. *A case of death during the administration of chloroform.*
- Hunt, S. B. *Hygienic history of the Alabama campaign of the spring of 1865, including the capture of Mobile.*
- . *Medical geography of the region east of the Mississippi.*
- . *Medical Topography of the region west of the Mississippi.*
- . *Report on convalescent camps.*
- . *The influence of scorbutic diatesis on surgical accidents.*
- Jones, J. *Investigation on Hospital Gangrene*. Prof. J. Jones.
- Justice, Benjamin. "Mass incarceration and the making of citizens." *History of Education* 43, no. 3 (May 4, 2014): 408–417. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0046760x.2014.884636>.
- Kutzler, E. A. "Captive Audiences: Sound, Silence, and Listening in Civil War Prisons." *Journal of Social History* 48, no. 2 (December 2014): 239–263. ISSN: 1527-1897. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jsh/shu130>.
- Leale, Charles A. *Gunshot wound of upper third of tibia; recovery without amputation.*
- Lyman, Dr. *Weather Record Jan.-Feb. 1863.*
- McDonald, A. Dr. A. *McDonald's notes upon sanitary experience in the field and at depot hospitals.*
- . *Massachusetts School for the Idiotic and Feeble-Minded Youth*. 26 Dec. 1865.
- McNutt, Ryan K. "Panopticonism, Pines and POWs: Applying Conflict Landscape Tools to the Archaeology of Internment." *Journal of Conflict Archaeology* 16, no. 1 (January 2021): 5–27. ISSN: 1574-0781. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15740773.2021.1978208>.
- . "The archaeology of military prisons from the American Civil War: globalization, resistance and masculinity." *World Archaeology* 51, no. 5 (October 20, 2019): 689–708. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00438243.2020.1739553>.
- . "The Devil's outriders: a LiDAR and KOCOIA investigation of the battle of Buckhead Creek, 1864." *Journal of Conflict Archaeology* 19, no. 3 (June 2024): 187–220. ISSN: 1574-0781. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15740773.2024.2365175>.
- McNutt, Ryan K., and Emily Jones. "For want of a nail? Proxies for analysing POW and guard access to supplies at a Confederate prison camp." *Journal of Conflict Archaeology* 14, nos. 2–3 (September 2019): 181–211. ISSN: 1574-0781. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15740773.2019.1732062>.
- Medical Dept.: Organization rules and regulations.*
- Meskill, Matthew. "An American Resolution: The History of Prisons in the United States from 1777 to 1877." *Stanford Law Review* 51, no. 4 (April 1999): 839. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1229442>.
- Miscellaneous regulations, etc. in the hospital at Richmond, VA.*

- Moran, Dominique, and Jennifer Turner. "Carceral and military geographies: Prisons, the military and war." *Progress in Human Geography* 46, no. 3 (March 2022): 829–848. ISSN: 1477-0288. <https://doi.org/10.1177/03091325221080247>.
- Notes on Water.*
- Opening remarks upon food as a hygienic element.*
- Pokorny, Marie. "An Historical Perspective Of Confederate Nursing During the Civil War, 1861-865." *Nursing Research* 41, no. 1 (January 1992): 28–32. ISSN: 0029-6562. <https://doi.org/10.1097/00006199-199201000-00006>.
- Read, A. N. *Memo of hospitals inspections 1865.*
- Reforms in the sanitary service of armies in the Prussian and German States.* Translated from "Our Times", Berlin 1866.
- Reilly, Robert F. "Medical and Surgical Care During the American Civil War, 1861-1865." *Baylor University Medical Center Proceedings* 29, no. 2 (April 2016): 138–142. ISSN: 1525-3252. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08998280.2016.11929390>.
- Report concerning the treatment and condition of the wounded who fell into the hands of the enemy at Chickamauga.* Table showing percentage of recoveries. 12 Jan. 1864.
- Report of General Field Hospital, Dept. of Tennessee organized at Chattanooga, TN 23 May 1864.*
- Report of no. of cases (medical and surgical) treated in Hospital, 55th Regt. Ills. Vol. Infantry 1 Jul. 1863 to 1 Apr. 1864.*
- Report on quarantine and hygiene regulations in New Orleans, Louisiana.* Subjects include yellow fever and sailing vessels. Commissioner of Health.
- Report on the mental condition of soldiers from the Newberg Lunatic Asylum.*
- Russell, Ira. *Dr. Russell's report. Hospital L'Overture.* Alexandria, VA.
- . *Report on Slough Hospital.* 9 Sept. 1865. Slough Hospital, Alexandria, VA.
- . *Reports by Dr. Ira Russell, esp. Nos. 1 & 2.*
- Rutherford, Blake S. "Prison Labor in America: History, Race, and State Power." *Tennessee Journal of Race, Gender, & Social Justice* 13, no. 2 (April 2024). ISSN: 2693-3225. <https://doi.org/10.70658/2693-3225.1237>.
- Smith, D. P. *Record of all men discharged from the service of the U.S. at Fairfax Seminary Hospital 1865.*
- Smith, Heber. *Meteorological Register.* 1 Nov. 1865.
- Spencer, F. Rush. *Consolidated morning report of sanitary condition of Smith's Division camp on Chickahominy 28 May 1862.* Medical Director.
- Springer, Paul J. *Transforming Civil War prisons: Lincoln, Lieber, and the politics of captivity.* 1. ed. Edited by Glenn Robins. Critical moments in American history. New York: Routledge, 2015. ISBN: 9780415833370.
- Tyler, D. M. *Michigan Asylum for the Insane.* 4 Sept. 1865. To Dr. G. R. Andrews. Concerns insanity in soldiers.
- U.S. General Hospital Lovell; Portsmouth Grove, Rhode Island.* History, organization, location, construction, etc.
- Union Prisoners.*
- Warden, H. *Consolidated statement of Mound City General Hospital from its foundation 1 Oct. 1861 to 31 Dec. 1863.*
- Weather records.* 1864.
- Weather Report.*

-
- Williams, Timothy. "The Intellectual Roots of the Lost Cause: Camaraderie and Confederate Memory in Civil War Prisons." *Journal of Southern History* 86, no. 2 (2020): 253–282. <https://doi.org/10.1353/soh.2020.0036>.
- Wilson, Benya. "The Civil War and the Transformation of American Medicine." *Journal of Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Research* 13, no. 2 (2021).
- Woodworth, Jno. M. *15th A.C. Tabular statement, showing the percentage taken sick from 1 Sept. 1863 to 1 Apr. 1864*. Act. Med. Inspector 15th A.C.