

**DOCUMENT 46 – COMMUNICATION CONCERNING CONFEDERATE DEAD**

**December 17, 1866**

**TRANSCRIPTION**

Chicago, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> 1866.

C. H. Hoyt

Chief Quartermaster, Department  
of the Lakes  
Brevet Brigadier General.

Dear Sir:

The  
undersigned, a Committee of the Common Council of  
the City of Chicago, were appointed, by said Council, to  
confer with you, and through you, with the War Depart-  
ment of the Government, in relation to the removal of  
the bodies of prisoners interred in our City Cemetery,  
during the rebellion.

We would remark that when  
Camp Douglas was first used as a prison, no place  
was provided by the United States for the burial  
of those who died therein, and that the City Gov-  
ernment consented to their interment in said  
Cemetery.

We would further state, that in  
consequence of the rapid extension of the population  
of our City, in the direction of said Cemetery it  
has been deemed necessary, as a sanitary measure,  
to prohibit burials therein.

There is a growing feeling among our citizens that  
it is no longer a fit and appropriate resting place

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for the dead. Many bodies have been removed during the present year by the City, and by friends and relatives, and many more removals are contemplated the coming year.

It is quite probable that the Legislature of Illinois, which assembles in January next, will empower the City Council to provide for the extinguishment of the titles of lot owners and the vacation of the grounds.

In view of these facts, we respectfully ask the Government to remove said bodies, at an early day, and proffer any assistance in our power in aid thereof.

We are Sir, very respectfully, your obedient servants.

W. Woodard

J. B. Rice, Mayor

Chas G. Wicker

Iver Lawson

Walter Kimball, Comptroller

Committee