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DRUM BARRACKS



WILMINGTON-History-Drum Barracks

Tour Guide

CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

1052 Banning Boulevard, Wilmington, California 90744 • Telephone: (310) 548-7509

MARGE O'BRIEN
Director



DRUM BARRACKS CIVIL WAR MUSEUM
AND
RESEARCH LIBRARY

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WELCOME

Welcome to Drum Barracks, our next tour will begin at XXX. We ask a donation of \$3.00 we request that you pay in the museum shop. We also ask that you sign our register since we are proud of our guests. I will join you at XXX under the entry arch to the patio.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Drum Barracks, which was named for adjutant General Richard Coulter Drum. The building is the last remaining building of Camp Drum, later renamed Drum Barracks, which was headquarters for the Army in the Southwest during the years of 1862 to 1871. With the large southern population here and their sympathies for the Confederacy, the camp was definitely needed to protect the harbor. At it's height, there were between two and eight thousand men stationed and passing through here.

The camp occupied sixty acres of land here and an additional 35 acres at the Quartermaster Depot near the harbor. The land was donated by Phineas Banning, the father of the Los Angeles Harbor and B.D. Wilson who was the first Mayor of Los Angeles and the grand father to General George S. Patton. Each received a dollar for the land which reverted to them after the camp was closed. Both became wealthy during and after the camp's existence.

Camp Drum was a thriving military facility from 1862 to 1871. The camp itself was closed in 1871. After the camp closed, the hospital remained open for two more years. When it was closed in 1873, it still had 13 patients. It was written in the San Francisco paper that this was one of the best equipped Army hospitals west of the Mississippi.

With the closing of the hospital the land reverted back to phineas Banning and B.D. Wilson and the buildings were sold at an auction. B.D. Wilson bought this building and at least four others and opened Wilson College in them. The college was the first coed college west of the Mississippi and was connected with the Southern Methodist Episcopal Church and operated here in 1884.

In 1900, this building became a high school for Wilmington Township. In 1910, Wilmington became part of the City of Los Angeles and this building became a residence. In the 1960's the building was to be razed, but a group of people here in Wilmington saved it. Drum Barracks was purchased by the State in 1967. Los Angeles agreed to adminster it in 1974. It has been an historic national monument since 1927. With the appointment of the first Director, Marge O'Brien in 1986, it opened as a museum on July 4th, 1987.

So if you'll please follow me, we will explore more of this fascinating place.

SOME RULES FOR TOUR GUIDES

1. Be sure to tell tours that the stairs are steep and that hand rail should be used. This must be done, both going up and coming down.
2. No photography is allowed anywhere inside the museum itself.
3. No smoking is allowed anywhere in the museum. Cigarettes must not be extinguished on the bricks. Please use containers provided.
4. We ask for a \$3.00 donation for the tour. Have the tour pay in the Museum Shop before beginning the tour.
5. Start the tour in the Museum Shop. Please go out the door to the map room to begin.
6. You may refuse to guide any person who seems to be drunk, high, or is belligerent. If the Director is here, refer to the director.
7. Please ask tour guests not to touch anything. Repeat this request in each room.
8. Always ask if there are any questions. Don't worry about answering all of them---tell the truth.
9. When you leave a display room, make sure that the door is locked behind you. The last person leaving the room can be asked to close the door.
10. Do not be afraid to ask for help if a tour is large, rowdy, noisy, or out of control. This happens to all tour guides at one time or another.
11. When collecting the donation, ask visitors to sign our registration sheet.
12. Ask them to sign register at the end of the tour.
13. End tour in Museum shop.

DRESS CODE

1. Male tour guides should wear a shirt with a collar and closed shoes. Please do not wear torn or spotted shirts. Shorts are not permitted.
2. Female tour guides may wear neat pant suits, skirts or dresses. Halter tops or shorts are not permitted. Stiletto heels are also not permitted since they may damage the floors. Comfortable shoes will be an asset.
3. Leather soled shoes may cause slipping.

MAP ROOM

Please stand around the display case as we learn more about the camp. As you can see, the camp was very large (about 60 acres). You are in this building here (indicate with pointer). Looking out from the front of this building in the 1860's, you would have seen the 30 acre parade ground. Around the parade ground you would have seen the hospital, enlisted men's barracks, and (the laundress' quarters). By the way, here at Drum as with many other camps, the laundresses were widows with small children who did the laundry for the soldiers stationed here.

You may also wish to mention some of the other buildings such as the commander's quarters, etc.

On the wall is a map of the entire camp with the modern streets shown. You are here at the Drum. Over here at Opp and Eubank is the only other surviving structure, the powder magazine. It is privately owned.

This is a map of the entire facility. Here is the upper reservation where this building stands and down here is the additional 35 acres of the Quartermaster's Depot.

The Wilmington Depot was an extremely important part of this complex. It was here all the supplies arrived for 126 camps. Here was where the heavy machinery, food, fodder, mules, horses & camels were located.

Yes, we had camels, but by 1863, the camel corps was deemed a failure and they were phased out. Actually they were turned loose in the Mojave Desert.

LIBRARY

This is our research library. Some of our visitors believe that the building is haunted. If you will take seats around the table, we'll show you a brief tape about our spirits.

NOTE: Show "Unsolved Mysteries" tape (it runs about 10 minutes). We have one of the best research libraries in Los Angeles in the Civil War. we have a complete set of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion and many other source books as well. The book cases are 1890 cherry wood. The one across from the fireplace is 1858 rose wood.

Now, if you will follow me up the stairs. Please take care as they are steep and long. Since our ceilings are 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, the stairs are just as high.

Please notice the wood on the banisters. It is mahogany. Restoration of these stair ways is a major project.

BEDROOM

The bed, the dresser were donated by the Cerritos family who lived in California. The bed is made of dark walnut, stands nine feet tall and has a beautiful relief applied decorative pieces. the coverlet on the bed has a federal design and was made in 1857, we know that because it is dated in the corner.

The dresser is made of black walnut with white Italian a marble top. It includes a mirror top, rounded pediment crown, three drawers in the base, two small gloves drawers on the dresser top, and lamps shelves on both sides with a drop finial above. It stands nine feet tall.

Over there is the washstand from the 1860's. Made of black walnut with a marble top and back splash, and has a single drawer above the two doors.

The night table has a marble base, cabriolet legs flaring at top and bottom, and a rectangular marble top.

The wardrobe closet is, also black walnut, stands nine feet tall.

The dressing screen over there was a must for the lady of the period. No lady would dare to undress in front of her husband. Let alone 7,000 men without a screen.

Believe it or not, the brown dress on the bed is a wedding dress. Brown was a popular color in the 19th Century for a bride to wear.

Now, if you will follow me, we shall continue on our tour of the Drum.

HALLWAY

These are telegraph insulators known as Confederate Eggs. When the Union moved South, they disrupted communication lines by burning the telegraph poles. They became "eggs" when the poles were burned.

This is an Indian War period uniform of the 1870's. It is here because men from this camp fought Indian skirmishes while here at the camp.

Please mention briefly the Davis Display going into the other hallway.

THE CALIFORNIA COLUMN ROOM

The California Column was a group of men 2,000 strong that marched from here to fight western most battle of the civil war at Picacho Pass, Arizona. Over there is a recreational of the battle.

Here we have some of the things the men had to carry on their back as they marched through the desert to Arizona. The tack box is an essential part of the trek. In it were all the tools needed to keep the leather in tip top shape.

ARMORY

Here is a room we'd like you to examine at your ease. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

The weapon case holds rifles, muskets and carbines from the Civil War period including rare conversions of a musket to a breech loader. The case over there has many artifacts which accompany the weapons.

This case over here has a decorated drum from a New York Regiment, Union Calvary uniform parts and a post Civil War Calvary Carbine.

As you can see, the main artifact in this room is our Gatling Gun. Dr. Richard Gatling patented his design in 1861. This one is a model 1872 Naval Gatling. These guns, the first machine guns could fire up to 350 rounds a minute (with a good gun crew that is). Across from the Gatling is our display of Spencers. The Spencer Carbines and Rifles are examples of the first repeating weapons bought by the US Army.

In the case by the window, among with other things, is a Henry rifle. These appeared late in the Civil War. Please feel free to inspect our other displays.

Please be careful going down the stairs.

THE PARLOR

This room was first opened to the public by Thomas Keaveney in 1923. Today, we have tried to recreate the appearance of the room when it was a sitting room for the officers of the camp. There was no other room used for that purpose at Camp Drum.

The piano is a square, or boxed, grand piano, manufactured by Nimms and Clark of New York in 1838.

The rug is from 1871. The curtains are reproductions, but are probably very similar to the ones which hung in this room.

The table was made in England in 1855. It is oak inlaid with ebony. On the table is a card game called Monte. This was played suits, not numbers. The stereoptican was very popular in those days as well. Brady actually did his pictures of Antitem in stereoptican.

This is also the room where most of the "spirits" have been seen. The portrait of the Lt. Colonel you see over the Mantle is James Freeman Curtis. He was one of the Barracks Commanding Officers. Colonel Curtis had caught frostbite in his left ankle while fighting Indians up in Washington. As a result of his injury he was plagued with poor circulation in that ankle for much of his life. This impaired his ability to walk to some extent, so the Colonel would wear a boot a size smaller that would allow him to have more control over the foot. It is interesting that one of our "spirits" has a gimp foot. Since he appears to be an officer, it might well be Colonel Curtis back to command.

Here we must state that all the artifacts here in this museum have been donated by generous people who are willing to share their lives and family history with others.

MUSEUM SHOP
(NOT A GIFT SHOP)

This concludes the formal tour of the museum. I want to thank you for coming and hope you have learned something today. Please feel free to take any material from our information table in the hall.

I will be happy to give you more information on this.