

Chicago, Dec. 17th 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 Department 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 Government 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

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

Committee

Chas G. Wicker

Iver Lawson

Walter Kimball, Comptroller