



































FRIEDRICH HECKER



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Ulysses S Grant Camp 68

Department of Missouri
Sons of Union Veterans
of the
Civil War

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REDEDICATION 9 SEPTEMBER 2025

Welcoming Remarks: James Martin

Guest Speakers:

Prof. Dr. Steven N. Fuller

Prof. Dr. Sabine Freitag

Mayor Frank Werner

Recognition of Artists

Monument Unveiling

Closing remarks: James Martin

Under the leadership and support of the German-American Heritage Society of St. Louis, in 2019 a group of organizations and individuals began a bi-state project with two goals:

In Illinois: To enhance the Summerfield Cemetery where Friedrich Hecker is buried and add signage, and

In St. Louis: To recreate missing elements of the Friedrich Hecker Monument and add signage.

Funding of The Hecker Project supported by:

German-American Heritage Society of St. Louis, James P. Martin, President
Col. Friedrich K. Hecker Camp #443, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Camp for Southern Illinois
Department of Illinois Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Department of Missouri Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
National Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
St. Louis Civil War Roundtable
Central Region Association, Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic
Descendants of Friedrich Hecker
Other generous donors

With the Cooperation of:

City of St. Louis Parks Department
City of St. Louis Board of Public Service
Illinois State Historical Society
Summerfield Cemetery Association

The Hecker Project Committee:

James P. Martin: President, German-American Heritage Society of St. Louis
Walter Busch: PDC - National Monuments Officer, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Dorris Keeven-Franke: Missouri Germans Consortium; former President, German American Committee of St. Louis
Adam Hecker: Friedrich Hecker descendant
Bill and Nancy Hecker: Friedrich Hecker descendant
Bruce and Nedra Hecker: Friedrich Hecker descendant
Joan Hecker: Treasurer, German-American Heritage Society of St. Louis
Lansing Hecker: Friedrich Hecker descendant; Honorary Consul Emeritus, St. Louis, for the Federal Republic of Germany; former President, German-American Heritage Society of St. Louis
Marjorie M. Ivey: Friedrich Hecker descendant
Paul Oberneufemann: Honorary Consul, St. Louis, for the Federal Republic of Germany; Vice-President, German-American Heritage Society of St. Louis
Richard Piper: Colonel Hecker Camp #443 SUVCW
Gerald Sonnenberg: Colonel Hecker Camp #443 SUVCW
David Wildermuth: Colonel Hecker Camp #443 SUVCW (deceased)
Gregory Wolk: Executive Director of U.S. Grant Trail Association



When the Friedrich Hecker Monument was dedicated on October 1, 1882, St. Louis' *The Republican* newspaper reported that the celebration began with a huge parade of dignitaries, organizations, and musical groups. It ended with a reported crowd of 15,000 gathering in the rain in Benton Park for speeches, music, and the unveiling. This monument was conceived not only to posthumously honor Friedrich Hecker, a charismatic and influential leader in both Germany and the United States, but also to honor the ideals of liberty, freedom, and citizenship that were the foundations of his beliefs. *The Republican* also reported that one of the speakers described the obelisk as follows:

It is an historical monument of universal liberty in memory of those two greatest struggles of our century — 1848 [the German Revolution] and 1861 [the American Civil War] — for universal freedom; in memory of that champion of liberty, Friedrich Hecker, who by the part he acted [as a German Revolutionary and a Union Army Colonel] has become a representative of them and their connection...[T]he great movements of 1848 and 1861 had the same character of struggles for union and freedom, for the extension of human rights and equal welfare to the whole of the people.

The graphic panel along the North path gives an overview of Hecker's life. As a political citizen, he lived in accordance with his beliefs: espousing the ideal of the republic and fighting for constitutional rights and for liberty and freedom in both his native and adopted countries. In November 2025, Friedrich Karl Franz Hecker will be inducted into the German-American Hall of Fame (<http://gamhof.org>).

Friedrich Hecker Monument History

1882 Dedication: 1 October 1882

Funded through aegis of: Hecker Monument Commission 1881-1882

Designed, funded, and constructed: in 18 months

Original Cost: \$5,000

Architect: Ernest C. Janssen

Original (bronze) sculptor: Charles Steubenraugh

Contractor: Hurricane Granite Company

Size: 7'6" square base with 30' obelisk

Significant design elements: a high relief portrait of Friedrich Hecker; a wreath of oak leaves with acorns, a symbol of German culture; two dates: East side (towards Europe) 1848, West side (America) 1861; four full relief flaming urns to signify life; four small obelisks with stars call on future generations to aspire to patriotic ideals

Unveiling by granddaughter: Estella J. Hecker

2025 Rededication post-restoration: 9 September 2025

Accomplished and funded through the leadership of: German-American Heritage Society of St. Louis

Sculpted high relief portrait cast in resin with bronze patina: Vlad Zhitomirsky of VMD Sculpting, Inc.

Sculpted high relief wreath cast in resin with bronze patina: Vlad Zhitomirsky of VMD Sculpting, Inc.

Stone repair and cleaning: Mark Weis, stone mason

Graphic Panel: Nedra F. Hecker and Marjorie M. Ivey, text; Cathy Wood, designer; Pannier Graphics, fabricator

Unveiling by great-great-granddaughters: Dr. Caroline B. Hecker and Caroline S. Hecker







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Vancouver
NORTH COASTAL CANADA
ESTABLISHED 1988



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Office of



the Mayor

City of Saint Louis

Proclamation



WHEREAS

the Friedrich Hecker Monument in Benton Park, dedicated by The Hecker Monument Commission in September 1882 with over 15,000 in attendance at the dedication, is a testament to the German desire for freedom and democracy in Germany and the United States of America, and the Heckerlied and Heckerhut are both remembrances of his battles for Liberty and Providence; and

WHEREAS, the Friedrich Hecker Monument commemorates the service and sacrifice made by the German population of the Saint Louis region during the Civil War and the pivotal part played by Saint Louis German during the Civil War in Missouri and Illinois, supporting President Abraham Lincoln, it also pays tribute to Friedrich Hecker as Commander of the 24th Illinois Infantry Regiment and 82nd Illinois Infantry, where he was wounded in the Battle of Chancellorsville; and

WHEREAS, Friedrich Hecker was a symbol of allegiance and furtherance of democracy and freedom in his newly adopted country, his fiery oratory against slavery and support for the Union became a rallying cry and resulted in successfully preventing slavery in Saint Louis and Missouri; and

WHEREAS, the supporters of the renovation of the Friedrich Hecker Monument in Benton Park, along with the City of St. Louis, proudly joined to honor the restoration and rededication of the Monument;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CARA SPENCER, Mayor of the City of St. Louis, do hereby proclaim September 9, 2025, as:

**"FRIEDRICH HECKER MONUMENT DAY"
IN THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS**

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the seal of the City of St. Louis, this 27th day of August, C.E., 2025.

Attest



Charles DeLoe
Register

Cara Spencer
Mayor of the City of Saint Louis

Office of the Mayor



City of Saint Louis

Proclamation



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the Friedrich Hecker Monument in Benton Park, dedicated by The Hecker Monument Commission in September 1882 with over 15,000 in attendance at the dedication, is a testament to the German desire for freedom and democracy in Germany and the United States of America, and the Heckerlied and Heckerhut are both remembrances of his battles for Liberty and Providence; and

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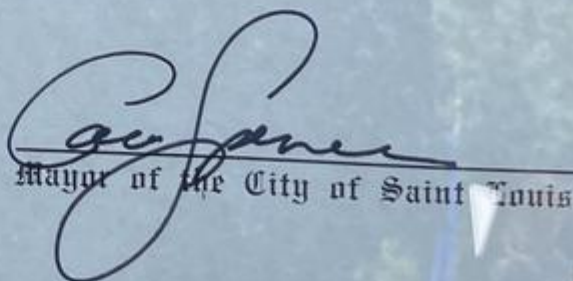
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Attest




Register


Mayor of the City of Saint Louis



ANGELBACHTAL

im Kraichgau









Friedrich Hecker



Sept. 7 - 14. 2025
Visit of the German
Hecker Delegation
to the USA

Fighter for Liberty

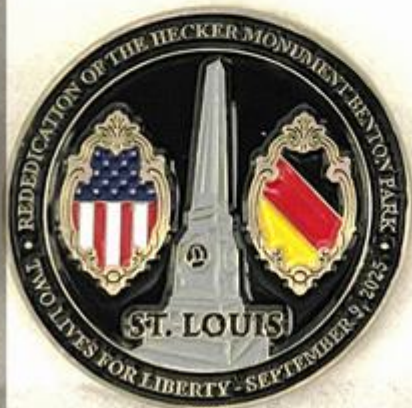


with best
wishes



ANGELBACHTAL

im Kraichgau





with best
wishes





Sep 9 2025

38.597262, -90.221850



Illustration of Friedrich Hecker in military uniform, standing with a rifle.

FRIEDRICH HECKER (1811-1881)

A Voice for Liberty

A man of principle, Friedrich Karl Franz Hecker fought for democracy and freedom in both Germany and America. Born in Ulm, Germany, Hecker studied law and became a lawyer. He was elected to the Baden State Assembly, where he made a name for himself as a charismatic and eloquent speaker.

Revering America's Constitution and Bill of Rights, Hecker sought the same ideals for Germany. In March 1848 he made a passionate speech calling for a democratic government, reducing the role of nobility. In April, he led a general armed rebellion against the Baden government.

When the revolt failed, Hecker fled to London, where a change of opinion. Thousands greeted his arrival in New York that October. Traveling west and loved by German-Americans along the way, he settled near St. Louis. In Sumnerfield, Illinois, and quickly won widespread fame for his speeches, writings, and political activity. As a natural leader of the German-American community, he helped form the emerging Republican Party. Like other German political refugees and leaders of the time, he was known as a Forty-Eighter.

During the Civil War, Hecker's opposition to slavery and commitment to democracy led him to enlist at age 50 in the Union Army. Initially serving in the 3rd Missouri Regiment, he saw action in the Camp Jackson Affair. Hecker subsequently rose to the rank of Colonel, commanding first the 1st and then the 2nd Illinois regiments.

While rallying his troops, Hecker was wounded at the Battle of Chancellorsville. He recovered in time to inspire his regiments at Gettysburg. Hecker later commanded the 1st and 2nd Regiments, VI Corps, which supported troops in the Chancellorsville Campaign.



Portrait of Friedrich Hecker in military uniform.

In post-war health, Colonel Hecker was honorably released from the Army in March 1865 and returned to his Illinois home. After the war, he remained an influential international figure, working and lecturing on peace and democracy. His audience especially loved his impassioned gift of July speeches.

"The Union [of] a giant race with broadly spreading branches, casting a shadow under whose protection human rights and human happiness flourish. These chains for the principle of unity and liberty for all on earth, for the stars and stripes, the symbol of the equality of mankind!"

—Friedrich Hecker
July 1875 Stuttgart, Germany

Hecker is remembered for his ardent defense of democracy and his patriotism to two countries: Germany in 1848 and the United States in 1861. These dates are inscribed on the sides of the Benton Park monument, erected by the German-American community the year after Hecker's death to honor his devotion to liberty and the ideals of the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights.



Portrait of Friedrich Hecker in civilian attire.



Photograph of the Benton Park monument.

VISITING HECKER:

Sumnerfield Park, Forest, Illinois. A historical stone monument to the Forty-Eighters (German-Americans) who fought in the Civil War. The 1848 Revolution Monument, Benton Park, St. Louis, MO. Located near the intersection of Manning and Missouri streets.

Hecker Monument at Graceland Cemetery, Chicago. The Hecker Monument is located at Graceland Cemetery, Chicago. The monument is a large stone structure with a statue of Hecker on top.

Hecker's grave is located in Graceland Cemetery, Chicago. The grave is a large stone structure with a statue of Hecker on top.

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FURTHER READING:

Hecker, Friedrich. *Hecker's Story: A Life of Liberty*. New York: The Century Company, 1881.

Hecker, Friedrich. *Hecker's Story: A Life of Liberty*. New York: The Century Company, 1881.

Hecker, Friedrich. *Hecker's Story: A Life of Liberty*. New York: The Century Company, 1881.

FRIEDRICH HECKER (1811-1881)

A Voice for Liberty



Hecker at the battle of Kandern, 20 Apr 1848
Friedrich Hecker Papers, Western Historical
Manuscripts, University of MO-STL

A man of principle, Friedrich Karl Franz Hecker fought for democracy and freedom in both Germany and America. Born in Eichtersheim, Germany to an educated and distinguished family, Hecker studied history and earned a law degree in his early twenties. In 1842 he was elected to the Baden State Assembly, where he made a name for himself as a charismatic and eloquent speaker.

Revering America's Constitution and Bill of Rights, Hecker sought the same ideals for Germany. In March 1848 he was a prominent leader calling for a democratic government, reducing the role of nobility. In April, he led a general armed rebellion against the Baden government.

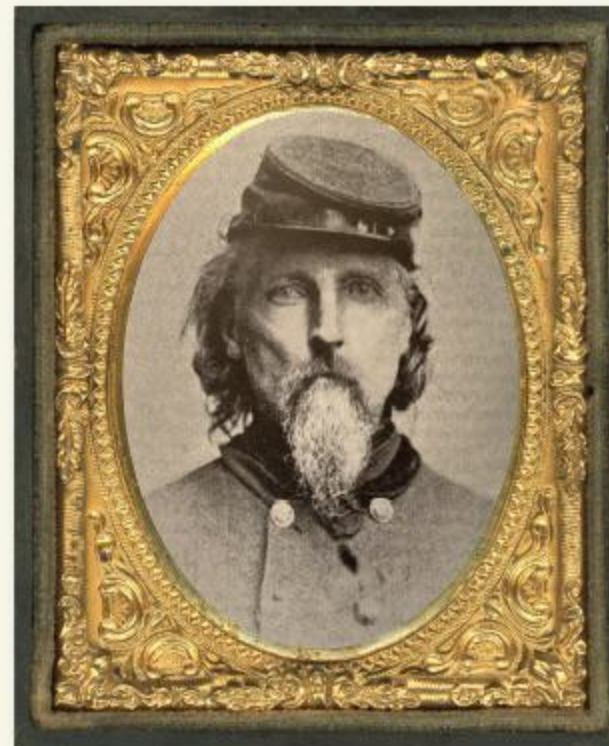
When this revolt failed, Hecker fled to America under a charge of treason. Thousands greeted his arrival in New York that October. Traveling west and feted by German-Americans along the way, he settled near St. Louis, in Summerfield, Illinois, and quickly won widespread fame for his speeches, writings, and political activity. As a national leader of the German-American community, he helped form the emerging Republican Party. Like other German political refugees and former revolutionaries of the time, he was known as a *Forty-Eighter*.

During the Civil War, Hecker's opposition to slavery and commitment to democracy led him to enlist at age 50 in the Union Army. Initially serving in the 3rd Missouri regiment, he saw action in the Camp Jackson Affair. Hecker subsequently rose to the rank of Colonel, commanding first the 24th and then the 82nd Illinois regiments.



Hecker, 1875

While rallying his troops, Hecker was wounded at the Battle of Chancellorsville. He recovered in time to rejoin his regiment at Gettysburg. Hecker later commanded the 3rd Brigade, XI Corps, which supported troops in the Chattanooga Campaign.



Hecker, as a Union Soldier, ca 1861
St. Louis Mercantile Library, University of MO-STL

In poor health, Colonel Hecker was honorably released from the Army in March 1864 and returned to his Illinois farm. After the war, he remained an influential international figure, writing and lecturing on politics and democracy. His audiences especially loved his impassioned 4th of July speeches.

"The Union [is] a giant tree with broadly spreading branches, casting a shadow under whose protection human rights and human happiness flourish. Three cheers for the principle of unity and liberty for all on earth, for the stars and stripes, the symbol of the equality of mankind!"

—Friedrich Hecker
4 July 1873 Stuttgart, Germany

Hecker is remembered for his ardent defense of democracy and his patriotism to two countries: Germany in 1848 and the United States in 1861. These dates are inscribed on the sides of the Benton Park monument, erected by the German-American community the year after Hecker's death to honor his devotion to liberty and the ideals of the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights.



Hecker speaking at the Second Chamber,
Grand Duchy of Baden, ca 1846
Friedrich Hecker Papers, Western Historical
Manuscripts, University of MO-STL



Hecker farmhouse, Summerfield, Illinois

VISITING HECKER:

Summerfield Park Plaque, Summerfield, IL: Mitchell Street entrance by the flag poles.
Summerfield Cemetery, Summerfield, IL: Summerfield South Road, St. Clair County.
Friedrich Hecker Monument, Benton Park, St. Louis, MO: Granite obelisk near intersection of Wyoming and Missouri Streets.
Illinois Monument at Orchard Knob, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, Orchard Knob Reservation, Chattanooga, TN: Plaque listing Hecker's Brigade inside the memorial, North Orchard Knob Avenue.

Washington Park Monument, Cincinnati, OH: Marble bust portrait, 1225 Elm Street.
Hecker's Dream, Sculpture, Angelbachtal, Germany: Front of the Friedrich Hecker House, Friedrich-Hecker-Straße 5, 74918.
Hecker Monument, Konstanz, Germany: Majolica relief commemorating Hecker's speeches for recruitment, east side of the Bürgersaal, Stephansplatz 17, Old Town.
For Freedom Monument, Sinsheim, Germany: Granite column celebrating the five most important Sinsheim fighters for democracy, Hauptstraße 92, 74889.

FURTHER READING

Freitag, Sabine. *Friedrich Hecker: Two Lives for Liberty*. St. Louis: St. Louis Mercantile Library, 2006.

This marker was funded through a partnership of local Civil War groups, German-American heritage groups, and members of the Hecker family. Copyright © 2023 by the German American Heritage Society of St. Louis.









**FRIEDRICH HECKER
AND HIS LIFE IN AMERICA**

**THE HECKER TOUR
For the City of Angelbachtal, Germany
7-14 September, 2025**

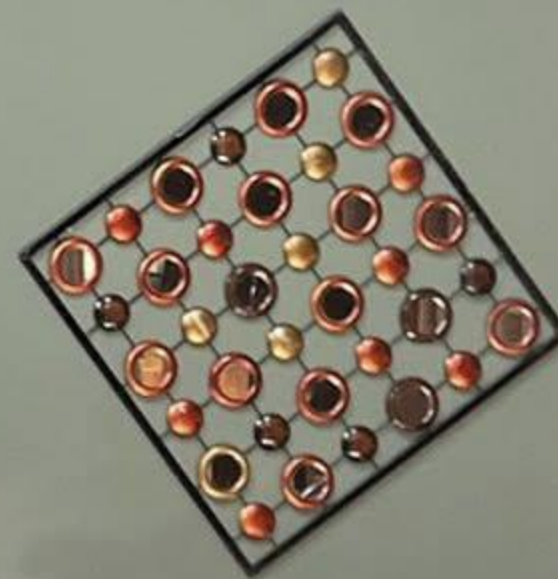
**HOSTED BY

THE GERMAN AMERICAN HERITAGE
SOCIETY OF ST. LOUIS
and
THE DESCENDANTS OF
FRIEDRICH HECKER**

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO
Honorary Consuls of the
Federal Republic of Germany
Paul Obernuefemann - Missouri/Illinois
Martin Wilhelmy - Cincinnati
and to
Jenny Meyer, Mayor of Belleville, Illinois
Saint Clair County Historical Society
Members of COL. Friedrich K. Hecker Camp 443
Members of the U. S. Grant Camp 68

AND TO OUR DISTINGUISHED HECKER HISTORIANS
Dr. Sabine Freitag, PhD
Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann, PhD
Dr. Robert Brunkow, PhD
Dr. William Shannon, PhD
Dr. Steven Fuller, PhD
David Braswell
German Professor/Historic Preservation

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GAMAY
BARBERA
PINOT NOIR
MALBEC
CABERNET FRANCO
BRUNELLO







Rededication of the Fetter
Monument Benton Park St. Louis

1848  1861

Friedrich Karl Fetter



