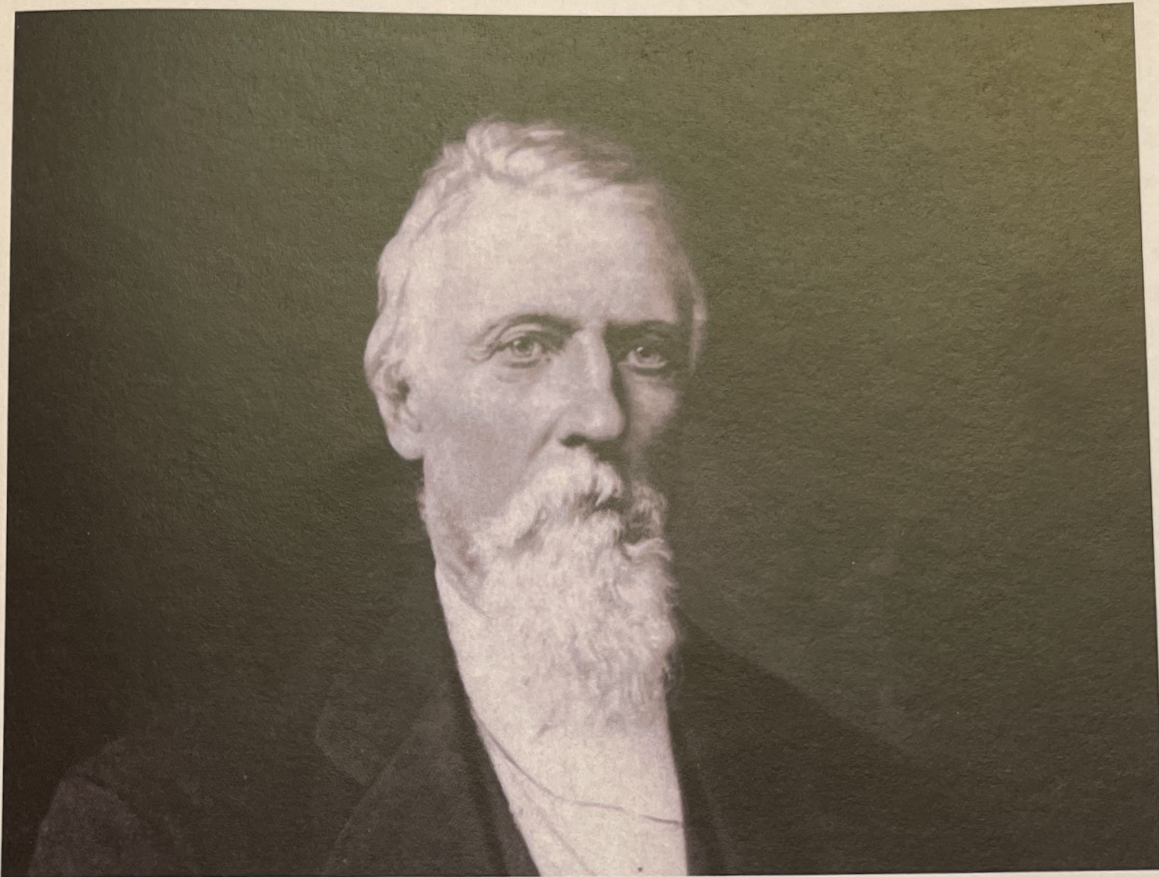


Friedrich Karl Franz Hecker



1875. Age 64. (Unknown photographer.)

Year of Birth: 1811

Year of Death: 1881

Areas of Achievement: Revolutionary, Soldier, Statesman, Author/Lecturer, Lawyer, and Farmer

German-American Hall of Fame: inducted in the Class of 2025, Nov 13, 2025

OVERVIEW

Friedrich Karl Franz Hecker has been described by both his contemporaries and historians as a “man of the people.” Educated in history and law, as a young man Hecker served in the Baden State Assembly where he made a name for himself as a charismatic and eloquent speaker. He believed that a republic is the ideal form of government and is defined by its constitution and the rights granted to the people. Because he admired the United States’ principles of government, he became a strong proponent of a representative republic, publicly lobbied against the existing German monarchies, and sought better educational opportunities and citizen participation in a new German republic.

In 1848, after proclaiming the first German republic and leading an unsuccessful revolution against the Baden monarchy, Hecker, under a charge of high treason, was forced to flee Germany to Switzerland. When capture would have led to his arrest or even death, he ultimately emigrated to America. Upon his arrival in New York Harbor, he was greeted by thousands of admirers. He traveled west to St. Louis, Missouri, making stops to speak in German-American communities along his route. He decided to purchase farmland across the Mississippi River in Illinois. In 1849 when a second German rebellion broke out, Hecker briefly returned to Europe, only to learn upon his arrival in Strasbourg that the second revolution had already been crushed. Joined by his wife and children, he returned to America and took up farming grains, cattle, and cultivating grapes.

Discouraged by the failure of revolutions in Europe, in 1854 Hecker became a United States citizen. By 1856, he was immersed in American politics and involved in the formation of the Illinois Republican Party. His support for Abraham Lincoln among German-Americans may have influenced the outcome of the 1860 presidential election.

Hecker's strong commitment to America's democratic principles and his opposition to slavery led him to volunteer for the Union Army during the American Civil War. In 1861 he enlisted as a private in a Missouri regiment, was soon promoted to colonel, and led two different Illinois regiments. In 1862, when a general amnesty was granted in Baden for the German revolutionists, Hecker, now fully invested in fighting for the Union had no interest in leaving his new country. During the 1863 Battle of Chancellorsville (VA), he was badly wounded in the thigh. In 1864, following the Tennessee campaigns around Chattanooga, Hecker, in poor health, requested and was granted an honorable release, which allowed him to return to his farm and family.

After the war, Hecker supplemented his income by continuing to write, tour, and lecture on contemporary issues and in support of the activities of the Turner Societies. Hecker already had a strong relationship with the Turners because when he stopped in Cincinnati on his 1848 journey from New York to St. Louis, he had encouraged the Ohio German-Americans to form the first Turner Society in the United States. He also helped write their by-laws.

In the summer of 1873, two years after Germany's unification, Hecker returned to Europe where he lectured to thousands in both Germany and Switzerland. This tour was on the 25th anniversary of the 1848 Baden Revolution, and although his activities were closely controlled by Bismarck's authorities, Hecker's popularity and legacy as a leader of the democratic movement in Germany were solidified. During this trip, Hecker also gathered information on how governmental civil services were organized in Germany and Switzerland. After returning to America, Hecker continued to receive information on the Swiss civil service and to pass it on to Carl Schurz who in turn was able to promote these governmental reforms as Secretary of the Interior.

Hecker's death in 1881 was widely reported both in the United States and Germany. In 1882, St. Louis German-Americans honored Hecker by erecting a monument to him in Benton Park. In 1883, Cincinnati German-Americans dedicated a marble bust of Hecker in their city's Washington Park. In 1895, the town of Freedom, IL was renamed Hecker, IL to pay homage to him. Today in Germany, three modern monuments also memorialize Hecker.

At the time of his death, Hecker was celebrated more in the United States than in Germany. In America, thousands attended his funeral and the dedications of his two monuments. At both dedications, speakers stressed the importance of liberty, which was the overarching

ideal German-Americans fought for in the 1848 Revolution and the Civil War. They saw those conflicts embodied and joined in Colonel Hecker, who fought for liberty in both. To explicitly emphasize and commemorate the connection of those events, two dates were inscribed on the St. Louis Hecker obelisk: 1848 for the German Revolution and 1861 for the American Civil War.

Hecker continued to be honored posthumously for his patriotism and citizenship as well as being a staunch supporter of German-American interests. Although not as well known today in the United States, Hecker's contributions are still actively honored and recognized in Germany and reach almost cult status. On both the 150th and the 175th anniversaries of the 1848 Baden Revolution, Hecker and his fellow revolutionaries were celebrated in exhibitions focused on that armed revolt and its relevance to current times.

As a political citizen, Hecker lived what he believed: owning and working the land, being frugal in his life choices, and fighting for constitutional rights. Hecker is remembered for his belief in the ideal of a republic and for his courage to fight for that ideal in both his native and his adopted countries.

GERMANY TO AMERICA

Early Years

Friedrich Hecker was born on September 28, 1811 in Eichtersheim, Baden (now Angelbachtal, Germany) to a family of distinction. His mother, Wilhelmine was the daughter of a baron and his father, Josef, was a court counsellor. Surrounded at home by political ideas, young Friedrich inherited his father's skill of denouncing social injustices. Hecker studied history and law at the Universities of Heidelberg and Munich, and by his early 20s, had earned his law degree. In his formative years, Hecker argued for a German government modeled after that of the United States; abolition of the death penalty; separation of church and state; and upgrades to public schools.

As a practicing lawyer, Hecker entered German political life in 1842 when he was elected to the Lower Chamber of the Baden State Assembly. He quickly became an assertive, free-thinking member, known for his speeches and theatrics. Collaborating with Gustav von Struve, Hecker took a lead in setting forth 13 democratic ideals in the radical document *Die Forderungen des Volkes in Baden* (*Demands of the People in the Grand Duchy of Baden*) which was adopted at the Democratic Assembly held in Offenburg on September 12, 1847. As a printed pamphlet it was widely distributed and well received by those embracing its ideals both in Germany and neighboring countries.



Half-length engraved portrait of FKFH at the podium c. 1846, as a member of the Baden Landtag. Published by H. Straub, Karlsruhe (Freitag, 2006, p. 58.)

Revolutionary: German Forty-Eighter

The years 1847-8 were a time of major political upheaval in much of Europe, and in March 1848, Hecker joined with others calling for a people's democratic German government that would reduce the role of the nobility and result in forming a republic based on the United States' Constitution and Bill of Rights. Their chief goals were to establish a free press, freedom of conscience, academic freedom, and trial by a jury of one's peers. Hecker was invited to Frankfurt am Main as a member of the pre-Parliament which was to deliberate on elections to the first all-German National Assembly. Hecker wanted the pre-Parliament to be declared a rallying point for the revolution until the National Assembly opened. Hecker walked out of this pre-Parliament when that goal was denied.

April 12, 1848 in Konstanz, Hecker proclaimed the establishment of the first German republic; he urged the people to join him and von Struve, march to Karlsruhe, and force Grand Duke Leopold to abdicate. Troops of the German Confederation were deployed and quickly extinguished what became known as the *Heckerzug* (Hecker's Uprising). Under a charge of high treason, Hecker was forced to flee to Switzerland. Although in exile, he was elected three times as a Deputy to the 1849 National Assembly to represent Tiengen constituency in the Schwarzwald (Black Forest). Each time a majority of deputies refused to recognize his election, which would have necessitated granting him political immunity.

Subject to life imprisonment and unable to return to Germany, Hecker emigrated to the United States. Upon his arrival in New York Harbor on October 5, 1848, the renowned revolutionary was greeted by thousands of supporters who knew of his reputation and exploits. Traveling west, he was feted by German-Americans in Newark, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Louisville, and Cincinnati, with the greatest crowds welcoming him in St. Louis. He purchased farmland across the Mississippi River in Illinois, becoming part of the Belleville area's German emigrant community of university-educated *Latin Farmers*. When German uprisings resurfaced in the spring of 1849, Hecker, desiring to take part, returned to Europe but reached Strasbourg just after Prussian troops crushed this revolt. Joined there by his wife, Josephine, and three children, he brought them to his new home in the United States.



Line drawing 1848 revolution. (https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/file:friedrich_hecker.png)

Life in America

Hecker devoted his first years in America to establishing a successful farm where he raised cattle, barley, oats, and used scientific methodology to cultivate grapes. Through letters he received and newspaper reports, he also followed events in Europe. Hecker was one of the European revolutionaries known as *Forty-Eighters* (48ers). Because he was famous in the United States and abroad, Hecker was visited by other European revolutionaries seeking support for continued activities in their homelands. Ultimately, after participating in meetings and public gatherings around these issues, Hecker came to believe that revolutions in Europe would not succeed. In 1854, he chose to become a citizen of the United States.

After eight years focusing on farming, Hecker was drawn back to the political arena by the upheaval in American politics of the 1850s, and he helped establish the emerging Republican Party in Illinois. At the May 1856 state convention in Bloomington, IL, Hecker was the only "free" (non-affiliated) delegate selected to be one of 11 presidential electors for Illinois. As an elector, he returned to a national stage where he utilized his oratorical skills in support of candidate John Charles Fremont. Hecker campaigned in Illinois and in numerous cities, including Philadelphia (speaking at Independence Hall), Erie, New York City and Buffalo. Hecker was reported to be the most active and influential 48er during the 1856 presidential campaign; Chicago's *Democratic Press* newspaper called him "perhaps the most influential German in America" (Freitag, 2006, p. 169). During the 1860 campaign, Hecker traveled less extensively stumping for Lincoln in Illinois and Missouri.



Carte de visite photograph of FKFH as a US army officer in the American Civil War.

(<https://www.alamy.com/colonel-friedrich-hecker-image259912952.html?Imageid=92B3DDE2-6B28-4330-8B30-33D5C9BD7871&p=850009&pn=1&searchid=7c42e028165a5c0cbb15b53fadf2936c&se archetype=0>)

American Civil War

At the start of the American Civil War in 1861, Hecker, age 50, and his oldest son crossed the Mississippi River in a rowboat from Illinois to enlist in the Union Army as privates in the 3rd Missouri Infantry – U.S. Reserve Corps. After participating in the "Camp Jackson Affair" in St. Louis, Hecker subsequently returned to Illinois where he took command as Colonel of the 24th Illinois Volunteer Infantry (1st Hecker Jaeger Regiment or the Old Hecker Regiment) made up primarily of fellow 48ers of German, Hungarian, Czech, and Slovak ancestry.

After the dissolution of that regiment, Colonel Hecker accepted the commission to lead the 82nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry (2nd Hecker Regiment), which included German, Norwegian, Swiss, and Jewish companies. In Virginia, Hecker's regiment

fought in the Battle of Chancellorsville (May 1863), where he was severely wounded in his thigh. Hecker recovered in Philadelphia and rejoined his regiment on the last day of the Battle of Gettysburg. After marching to Tennessee, the 82nd was then combined with three other regiments to form the 3rd Brigade which participated in the campaigns at Wauhatchie, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, and Knoxville. In March 1864, in poor health, Hecker requested and was granted an honorable release and returned to his Illinois farm.

Because Hecker was respected by his fellow Union soldiers, after the Civil War six Grand Army of the Republic Posts were founded bearing his name: Belleville, IL; Boston, MA; New Ulm, MN; Pacific, MO; Cincinnati, OH; and New York, NY. In 1895, the town of Freedom, Illinois was renamed Hecker, IL to pay homage to him. A modern-day Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Camp in Belleville, IL also bears his name: Col. Friedrich K. Hecker Camp #443.

Later Years

After recovering his health, Hecker stayed engaged in national and international issues. A prolific writer in both German and English, he was a regular contributor to local, national, and international newspapers. He was also recognized as a rousing and persuasive orator – his 1871 July 4th speech, spurred by the unification of Germany and given in Trenton, IL, was translated from German and published posthumously in Brewer's *The World's Best Orations: From the Earliest Period to the Present Time* (1899).

In 1871, Hecker began using his rhetorical skill to supplement his income through traveling and presenting lectures on current issues. Heinrich Metzner, who was prominent in the National Turner League, soon helped organize these tours. Hecker already had a strong relationship with the Turners because when he stopped in Cincinnati on his 1848 journey from New York to St. Louis, Hecker had encouraged German-Americans in that Ohio city to form the first Turner Society in the United States. He also helped write the by-laws for that group. The Turners provided a ready audience for Hecker's lectures because the ideals espoused by these societies – their motto "A Sound Mind in a Sound Body" – closely aligned with Hecker's belief in an educated and informed citizenry who would effectively support the republic.

In the summer of 1873, two years after Germany's unification, Hecker returned to Europe where he lectured to thousands in both Germany and Switzerland. This tour, on the 25th anniversary of the 1848 Baden Revolution, was his final visit abroad, and although his activities were closely controlled by Bismarck's authorities, Hecker's popularity and legacy as a leader of the democratic movement in Germany were solidified. In his July 4th speech in Stuttgart, Germany, he is quoted as saying about the United States:

[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! (Freitag, 2006, p. 336).

During this European trip, Hecker also gathered information on how governmental civil services were organized in Germany and especially in Switzerland. There, he visited Emil Frey, now a member of the Swiss National Council. Frey had served as a major under Hecker in the 82nd Illinois regiment. After returning to the United States, Hecker continued to correspond with Frey and to send civil service information and moral support to Carl Schurz who was then able to promote these governmental reforms as Secretary of the Interior under President Rutherford B. Hayes.

Hecker's health began to fail in 1878, and he spent his final years mainly on his beloved farm. Though he was no longer able to travel and lecture, he continued to write profusely on many subjects. In articles on politics, he continued to affirm his belief in the United States' Constitution and the balance of powers. In economic discussions, he wrote in support of foreign trade and new markets for agricultural overproduction. This led to advocating for the construction of the Panama Canal. His last major article, published three days after his death, argued for the need and importance of the canal and included tables and maps.

On March 24, 1881, at age 69, Hecker died on his farm, survived by his wife and seven children. Over 1,000 people attended his funeral on March 28, 1881 at the Summerfield Cemetery, two miles from his homestead. Over 400 mourners, including many representing Turner Societies, came by train from St. Louis. An additional 700 to 800 came from Illinois; these included Hecker's longtime friends and colleagues, Civil War veterans, and those representing foreign governments. Speeches were given in multiple languages, including German, English, French, and Italian. (Freitag, 2006, p. 442) Because so few in the crowd could hear those speaking, the full texts of the speeches were printed in newspapers. In keeping with his patriotic ideals, Hecker's grave marker is the simple standard U.S. Military headstone.



FKFH head stone. (Photo by Nedra F. Hecker.)

On hearing of his death, thousands in America sought to honor his memory; some of those who attended his funeral met later that day in St. Louis to make plans for a memorial to him. The outcome of their discussions was that the St. Louis German-American newspaper the *Westliche Post* and its editor Emil Preetorius would head the project and collect donations for a monument to be erected in St. Louis. Illinois German-American newspapers supported this plan, and German-American newspapers around the United States publicized the appeal for funds. Turner Societies, especially the one in Belleville, IL were also involved. Every donation was acknowledged in the *Westliche Post*.

In May of 1881, these initial efforts were augmented by the minting of a Hecker memorial medal. By June 1881, this medal was available for purchase at the 23rd Federal Turner Festival in St. Louis and sold out in just two days. The medal was reminted and sold both in the United States and Europe. Within six months, the money to fund the monument had been secured.



1881 Turner's Hecker Medal. (Photo by Nedra F. Hecker.)

Just over a year later, on a rainy October 1, 1882, a 30-foot-tall granite obelisk with a bronze relief portrait of Hecker was dedicated in Benton Park in St. Louis and unveiled by his granddaughter Estella J. Hecker. *The Republican*, a St. Louis English-language newspaper, reported that 15,000 people gathered in Benton Park for this ceremony. It was preceded by a parade of so many groups that the procession itself stretched for one half-mile and included Turners, marching bands, and dignitaries, plus Hecker's family and colleagues. People also lined the streets and watched from buildings along the parade route. German-Americans in Cincinnati, Ohio formed their own committee to install a bust of Hecker in their city's Washington Park. Dedication ceremonies there on June 24, 1883 started with a parade of over 5,000 people and included Hecker's four sons, Civil War veterans, Turners, bands, and choirs. At both dedications, speakers stressed the importance of liberty which was the overarching ideal German-Americans fought for in the 1848 German Revolution and the American Civil War. They saw those conflicts embodied and joined in Colonel Hecker, who fought for liberty in both. To explicitly emphasize and commemorate the connection of those two events, two dates were inscribed on the St. Louis Hecker Obelisk: 1848 for the German Revolution and 1861 for the American Civil War.

At the time of his death, Hecker was celebrated more in the United States than in Germany. In America, he was honored for his patriotism and citizenship as well as being a staunch supporter of German-American interests. Although not as well known today in the United States, Hecker's contributions are still actively honored and recognized in Germany and reach almost cult status. Today in Germany, three modern monuments memorialize Hecker; there are two schools that carry his name; German streets are named after him; *das Heckerlied*, originally a mocking song, over time has morphed into a folk song supporting Hecker's goals; there is even a *Heckerhut* (hat) fashioned after the hat he wore in 1848. On the 150th and the 175th anniversaries of the 1848 Baden Revolution, Hecker and his fellow revolutionaries were celebrated in exhibitions focused on that armed revolt and its relevance to current times.

A full-length illustration of a man in historical attire, possibly from the 16th or 17th century. He wears a wide-brimmed hat, a dark tunic with a belt, and breeches. He stands on a rocky path with a landscape background. The style is characteristic of 19th-century book illustrations. Below the illustration, there is a small caption in French: "MONTAGNE DE LA MONTAGNE".

MS-906 at the buffer of Kishinoue, 20 Apr 1987
Yoshida's nuclear reactor, Southern residential
Maruyama, University of WAO-STI.



A small, oval-framed portrait of a man with a beard and a military-style cap, likely a historical figure. The portrait is set within a decorative, ornate gold-colored frame. The man has a full, light-colored beard and mustache, and is wearing a dark cap with a band. The background of the portrait is a light, mottled grey.

Black, as a Union Soldier, ca 1861
St. Louis Mercantile Library, University of MO 47

A black and white portrait of a man with a full beard and mustache, wearing a dark suit and a bow tie. He is standing behind a podium or desk, with his right hand resting on it. The background is a plain, light color.

Recherches sur la vie de Louis Braille,
Grand Maître de France, en 1846.
Éditions de la Bibliothèque de la Ville de Paris.
Bibliothèque de la Ville de Paris, 1846.

"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

My 442 Synthesizer, Cambridge, MA, 1986.

[illegible]

Washington Park Museum, Cincinnati, OH: Florida Sand martin, 1825 Egg (Shed Jackson's Owl, sculpture, Angelbachi, Germany: Front of the President-Pepper Moyle, Michael Pepper-Straße 6, 74098)

Friday, October 17, 1997
 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

[illegible]

A bronze bust of a bearded man, likely a historical figure, mounted on a tall, dark stone pedestal. The pedestal has a plaque at the base that reads "H. H. H. H." and is surrounded by lush green foliage and trees.



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VISITING HECKER:

Hecker Monument, Benton Park, St Louis, MO: granite obelisk, near to the junction of Wyoming and Missouri Streets, N38.596846° W90.222429°

Hecker Monument, Washington Park, Cincinnati, OH: marble bust, 1225 Elm Street

Hecker's Dream in Angelbachtal, Germany: metal sculpture, in front of the Friedrich-Hecker-Birth-House, Straße 5, 74918

Hecker Monument, Konstanz, Germany: majolica relief commemorating Hecker's speeches for recruitment, east side of the Bürgersaal at Stephansplatz 17, Old Town

For Freedom Monument, Sinsheim, Germany: granite column celebrating the five most important Sinsheim fighters for democracy, Hauptstraße 92, 74889

Plaque, Orchard Hill Monument, Chattanooga, TN: his brigade is listed on a plaque inside the memorial at Orchard Hill

State historical marker, Summerfield Park, Summerfield, IL: placed by the flag poles, entering via Mitchell Street

Gravesite, Summerfield cemetery: Lebanon, IL: Summerfield South Road, n38.581547° w89.753145°

Several American streets named Hecker are found in: Belleville IL; Hecker, IL; New York City, and Staten Island, NY

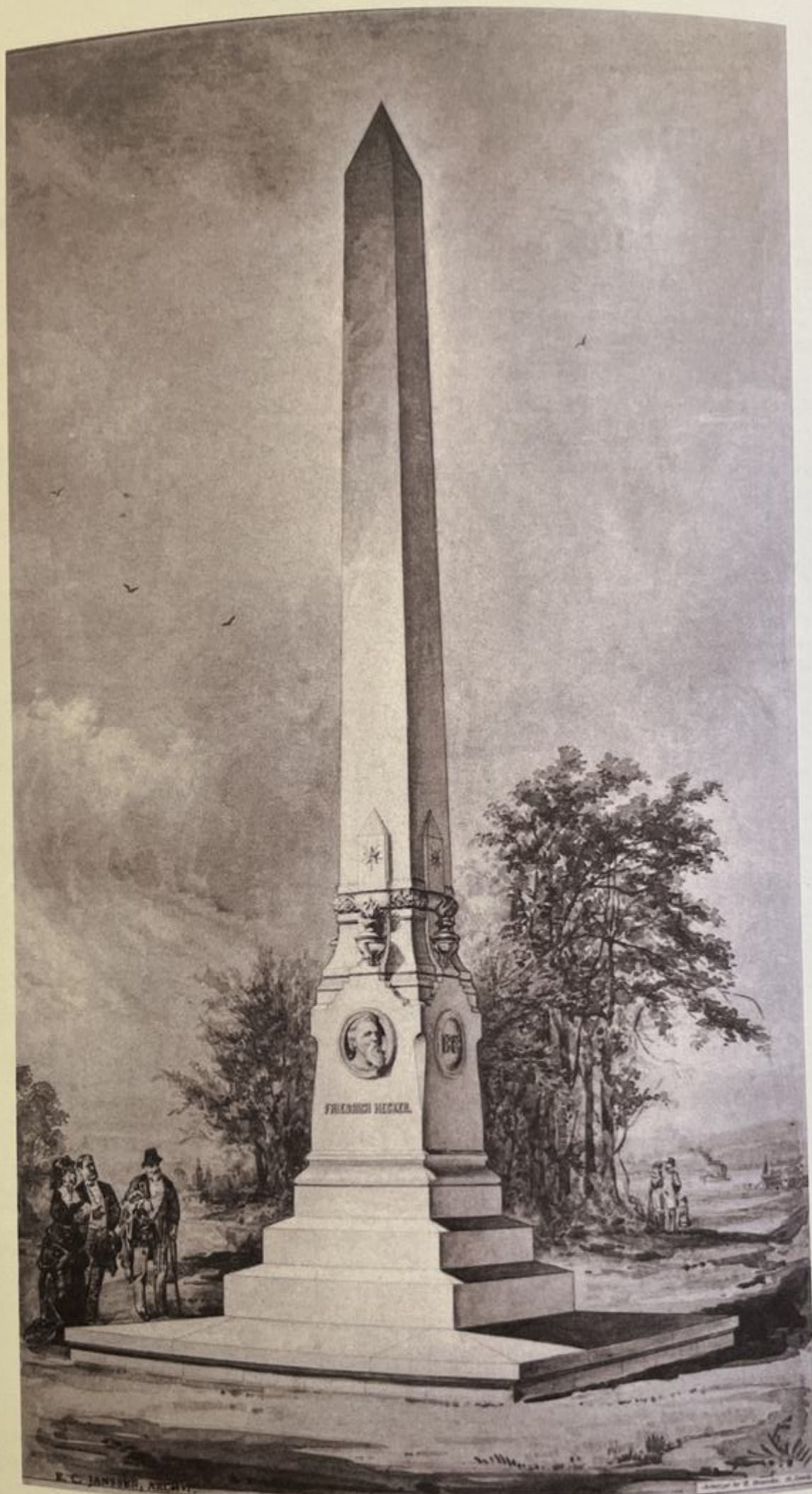
In Germany there exists a Hecker Hamlet, Waldburg; Friedrich Hecker streets can be found in Offenburg, Baden-Württemberg, Lörrach (Tumringen), Saarbrücken, Schopfheim, Sinsheim, Bersenbrück, and Angelbachtal; his natal house, the Friedrich Hecker house, faces Friedrich Hecker Platz in Angelbachtal; a high school, the Friedrich Hecker Gymnasium in Radolfzell; and a vocational school, the Friedrich Hecker Schule in Sinsheim

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Friedrich Karl Franz Hecker Life Highlights

- 1811, Sep 28, Eichersheim, Baden (now Angelbachtal, Germany), birth
- 1834, May 26, University of Heidelberg, Germany, graduated *Doctor Juris, summa cum laude*; studied history and law
- 1835, France, residency in law, developed overriding belief that a republic is the ideal form of government, defined by its constitution and the rights granted to the people
- 1837-42, Mannheim, Germany, practiced law for state
- 1842-8, Baden, Germany, elected to the Second (Lower) Chamber of the Baden State Assembly; argued for a German government modeled after that of the United States, abolition of the death penalty, separation of church and state, and upgrades to public schools
- 1847, Sep 12, Offenburg, Germany, developed with others 13 democratic ideals in a radical document *Die Forderungen des Volkes in Baden (Demands of the People in the Grand Duchy of Baden)*; adopted at Democratic Assembly; published and widely distributed in Germany and neighboring countries
- 1848, Mar 31-Apr 3, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, invited as a member of pre-Parliament to deliberate on elections to the first all-German National Assembly
- 1848, Apr 12, Konstanz, Germany, Hecker proclaimed the establishment of first German republic, urged people join him, march to Karlsruhe, and force Grand Duke Leopold to abdicate
- 1848, May 20, Kandern, Germany, German Confederation Troops quickly extinguished what became known as the *Heckerzug* (Hecker's Uprising)
- 1848, May, under a charge of high treason, Hecker fled to Switzerland
- 1848, Germany, elected *in absentia* as deputy to National Assembly representing Tiengen (near Switzerland border, in Black Forest); subsequently was elected more two times; each time the Assembly deputies voted not to grant political amnesty, refusing to seat him
- 1848, Oct 5, New York City, NY, arrived by steamship "Hermann"; welcomed by thousands
- 1848, Oct 22, Cincinnati, OH, encouraged establishment first Turner Society in America
- 1848, Oct 31, St. Louis, MO, having traveled west, feted by German-Americans in Newark, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Louisville, and Cincinnati, met by greatest crowds in St. Louis
- 1848, Nov, St. Clair County, IL, purchased 320 acres of farmland three miles south of Lebanon
- 1849, Jun 27, New York City, NY, departed by steamship "Cambria" to join a second German uprising
- 1849, Jul 15, France, reached Strasbourg just after Prussian troops crushed this revolt
- 1849, Sep 17, New York City, NY, returned to United States with wife, Josephine, and three children on steamship "Seine"
- 1854, Aug 22, Germany, *in absentia* tried for high treason; sentenced to life in prison
- 1854, Became a United States citizen
- 1856, Illinois, helped form the emerging Illinois Republican Party
- 1856, Multiple USA States, during the Presidential campaign reported to be the most active and influential 48er; Chicago's *Democratic Press* newspaper called him "perhaps the most influential German in America" (Freitag, 2006, p. 169.)
- 1861, Age 50, Hecker and oldest son crossed the Mississippi River in a rowboat from Illinois to enlist in Union Army as privates in the 3rd Missouri Infantry – U.S. Reserve Corps
- 1861, May 10, St. Louis, MO, participated in the "Camp Jackson Affair"
- 1861, Jun 6, Illinois, took command of the 24th Illinois Volunteer Infantry (1st Hecker Jaeger Regiment or the Old Hecker Regiment), made up primarily of fellow 48ers of German, Hungarian, Czech, and Slovak ancestry; regiment subsequently dissolved
- 1862, Oct 23, Illinois, Colonel Hecker leads the 82nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry (2nd Hecker Regiment), including German, Norwegian, Swiss, and Jewish companies
- 1863, May 5, Chancellorsville, VA, severely wounded in thigh during battle
- 1863, Jul 3, Gettysburg, PA, rejoined his regiment on last day of battle
- 1863, Tennessee, regiment attached to 3rd Brigade, 3rd Division, 11th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland; Colonel Hecker assumes brigade command
- 1863, Tennessee, 3rd Brigade participated in campaigns at Wauhatchie, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, and Knoxville
- 1864, Feb 12, Tennessee, due to poor health, requested honorable release from military service to return to his farm
- 1866, Post-Civil War, six Grand Army of the Republic Posts were founded bearing his name; (a modern-day Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Camp in Belleville, IL also bears his name)
- 1865-1881, Regular contributor to local, national, and international newspapers in both German and English
- 1868, Apr 14, St. Louis, MO, Humboldt Medical College, received honorary Doctorate of Medicine; cosigned by Dr. Adam Hammer (a former fellow Baden revolutionary and a leading Radical Republican) and all faculty members
- 1870s, To supplement income, with aid of Turners, Hecker conducted winter lecture tours in numerous states
- 1871, 14 Mar, Trenton, IL, Hecker was recognized as a rousing and persuasive orator; his translated speech, spurred by the unification of Germany, was published in Brewer's *The World's Best Orations: From the Earliest Period to the Present Time Vol 7 (1899) pp. 2457-64*
- 1873, May-Jul, Germany and Switzerland, returned to Europe two years after Germany's unification and on the 25th anniversary of the 1848 Baden Revolution; lectured to thousands in both countries; greeted by over 10,000 in Mannheim, Germany; told "you were in advance of your time, you are right today" (Freitag, 2006, p. 334.)
- 1873-1881, Collected information on governmental civil services in Switzerland and Germany; passed information to Carl Schurz who was able to promote these governmental reforms as U.S. Secretary of the Interior for Rutherford B. Hayes
- 1881, Mar 24, Summerfield, IL, age 69, died on farm; survived by wife, Josephine, and seven children
- 1881, Mar 28, Lebanon, IL, Summerfield Cemetery, over 1,000 people attended funeral
- 1882, Oct 6, St. Louis, MO, *The Republican*, a St. Louis English-language newspaper, reported that 15,000 people gathered in Benton Park for dedication of Hecker monument on 1 Oct; granddaughter unveiled monument
- 1883, Jun 24, Cincinnati, OH, Hecker bust dedication ceremonies included his four sons and a parade of over 5,000 people
- 1998 and 2023, Baden-Württemberg, Germany, 150th and 175th anniversaries of the 1848 Baden Revolution, Hecker and his fellow revolutionaries celebrated in exhibitions focused on that armed revolt and its relevance to current times
- 2025, Sep 8, Lebanon, IL, celebration at gravesite in Summerfield Cemetery with Col. F. Hecker Camp #443 (SUV) for installation of a graphic panel there and a state historical marker at Summerfield's Park; family and German dignitaries attend
- 2025, Sep 9, St. Louis, MO, rededication of Benton Park Hecker Monument with new resin bas-relief portrait and wreath; family, St. Louis and German (Angelbachtal) dignitaries, and public attend
- 2025, Nov 13, New York City, NY, FKFH inducted into the German-American Hall of Fame, Class of 2025; family attends



Benton Park Obelisk, dedicated 1 Oct 1882.
(Friedrich Hecker Archives, State Historical Society of Missouri, <https://files.shsmo.org/manuscripts/saint-louis/S0451.pdf>. 14 Dec 2021.)

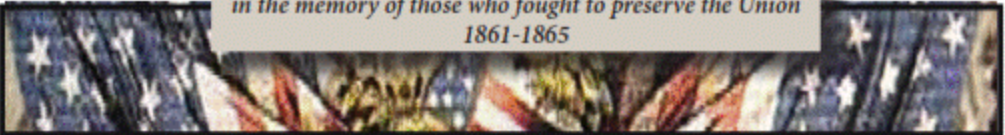
Created March 2025; Nedra F. Hecker and Marjorie Myles Ivey (g-g-granddaughter of FKFH).

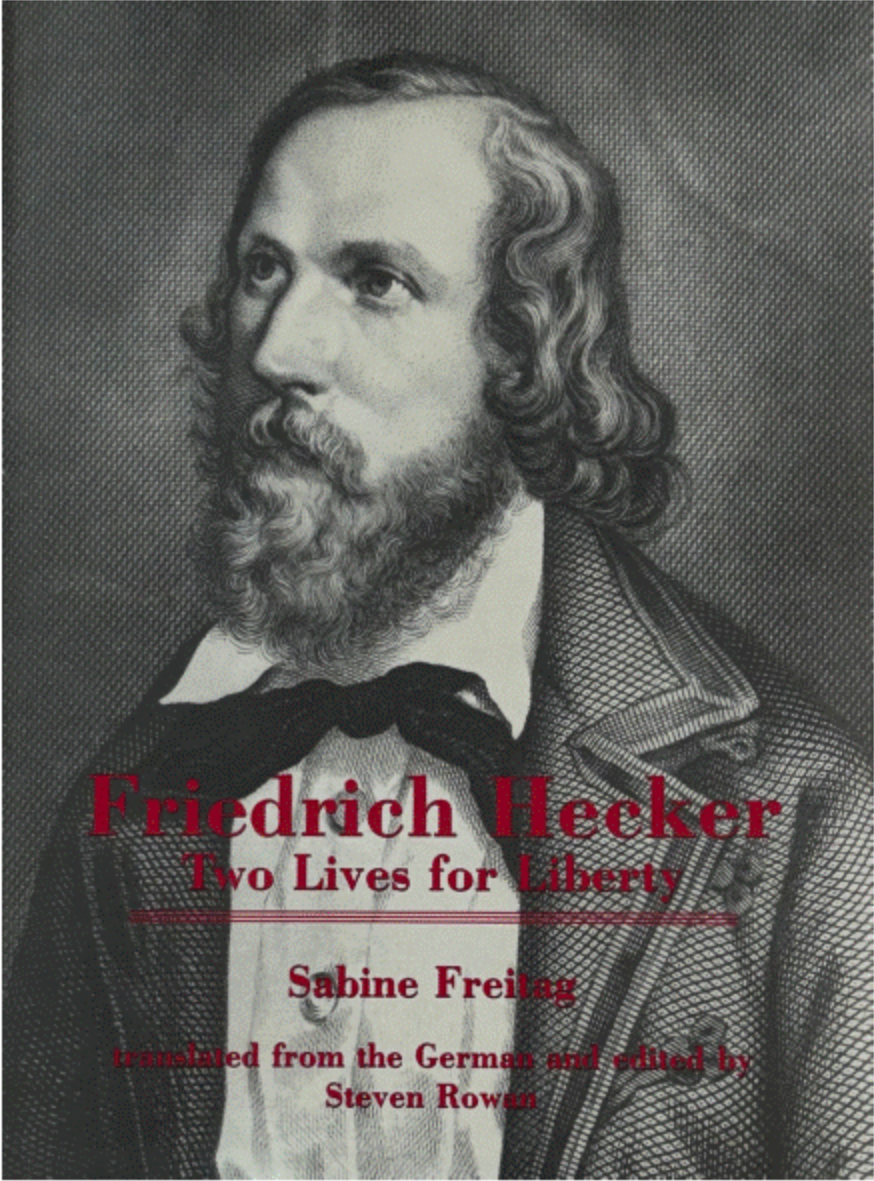
**FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF
FRIEDRICH HECKER IN THE USA**



THE HECKER TOUR
The City of Angelbachtal, Germany
Birth Town of Friedrich Hecker - 1811
September 7-14, 2025

*Col Friedrich K Hecker Camp #443
in the memory of those who fought to preserve the Union
1861-1865*



A detailed black and white engraving of Friedrich Hecker, a man with a full, curly beard and long, wavy hair. He is wearing a dark jacket over a white shirt and a dark bow tie. The background is a textured, dark grey.

Friedrich Hecker

Two Lives for Liberty

Sabine Freitag

**translated from the German and edited by
Steven Rowan**

**"FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF
FRIEDRICH HECKER IN THE USA"**

The Hecker Tour
City of Angelbachtal, Germany
September 7-14, 2025

Hosted by

**THE GERMAN AMERICAN HERITAGE
SOCIETY OF ST. LOUIS
AND
THE DESCENDENTS 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

and especially to historians and authors
Dr. Sabine Freitag, PhD
Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann, PhD
Dr. Robert Brunkow, PhD
David Braswell
The Hecker Camp 443
William Shannon, Curator
St Clair County Historical Society

THE HECKER TOUR: DAY ONE

**September 7, 2025 FRANKFURT GERMANY TO ST. LOUIS
Sunday**

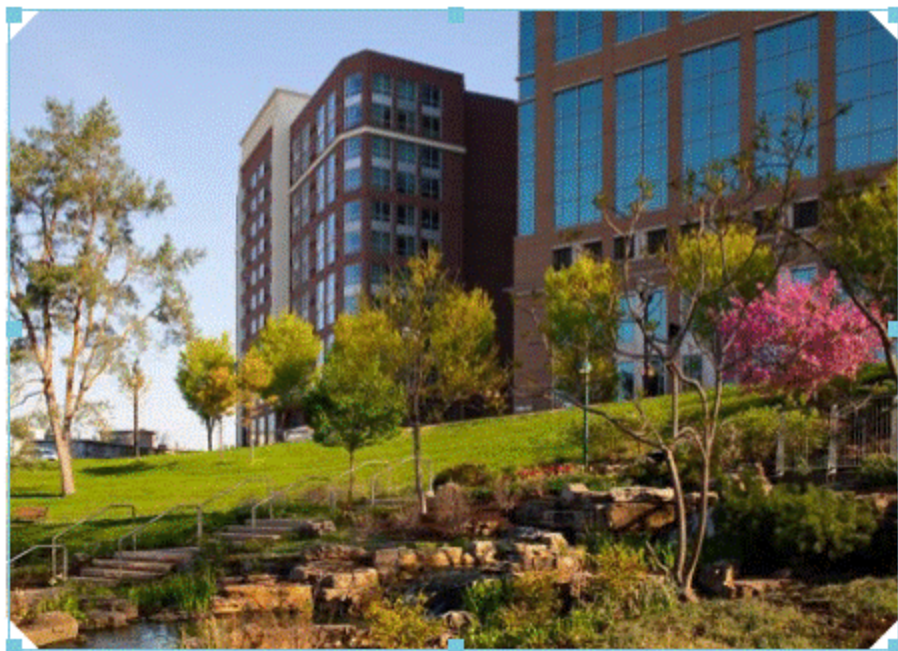
- 1:30 pm United/Lufthansa flight from Frankfurt arrives at the St. Louis Airport
Hecker descendants are there to greet the Mayor's delegation from Angelbachtal, then we depart by private motor coach for the Residence Inn, Clayton
- 3:00 pm Check in the Residence Inn, with time to freshen up and get ready for the casual "Welcome Reception"
- 5:00 pm "Welcome Reception" at the Residence Inn, located in the bar and on the veranda overlooking Shaw Park
Attendees will be our guests from Angelbachtal, Hecker descendants, and officers of the German American Heritage Society of St. Louis
- 7:00 pm Time to retire to your rooms for a good nights sleep so you are ready for all the exciting activities to come during the rest of the week!
See you in the morning! Breakfast included in the Residence Inn daily from 6:00 to 9:00 am



The Spirit of St. Louis - Charles Lindbergh
First solo transatlantic flight, May 20-21, 1927



Welcome to St. Louis
The Gateway Arch and Museum of Westward Expansion
The Old Court House, site of the Dred Scott Case
Home of the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team



The Residence Inn, Clayton, Missouri

THE HECKER TOUR: DAY TWO

September 8, 2025

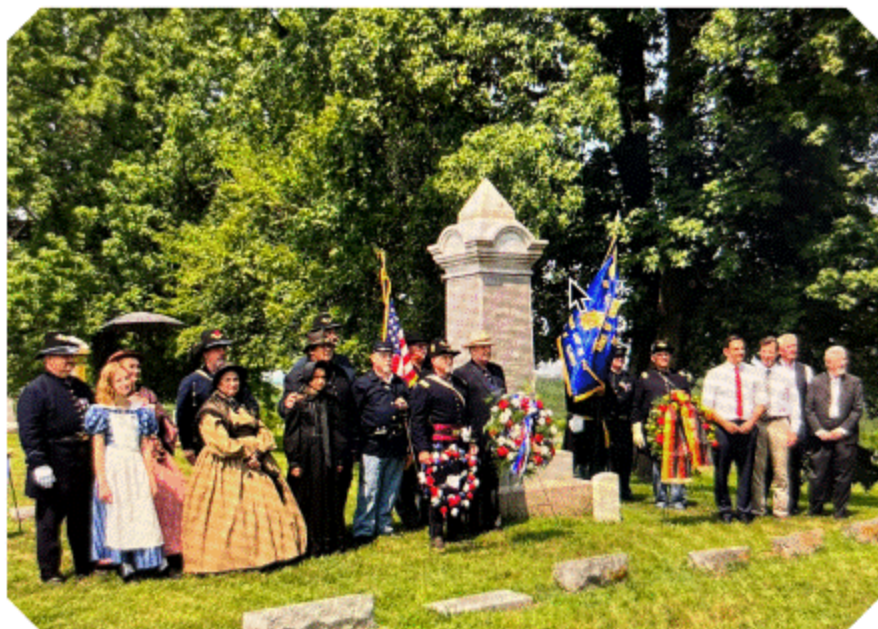
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Monday

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 6 to 9 am | Breakfast at the Residence Inn |
| 9:00 am | Meet in the lobby of the Residence Inn |
| | Depart on our motorcoach for Summerfield, Illinois |
| 10:15 am | Celebration at the Hecker Cemetery, with members of the Hecker Camp 443 in attendance, speech by David Braswell, and Wreath Laying by Mayor Frank Werner |
| 11:00 am | Depart for Belleville, Illinois |
| 11:35 am | Lunch at Tavern on Main with greeting by Jenny Meyer, Mayor of Belleville, |
| 1:00 pm | Tour of historic Belleville with historian and authors Bob Brunkow and David Braswell |
| | Learn about Hecker and the 1858 eighth annual gymnastics festival, Turnerbund von Nord America |
| 2:15 pm | Depart for St. Louis |
| 3:15 pm | Time for photos of the St. Louis Arch and visit to the Museum of Westward Expansion |
| 4:15 pm | Walk together to the Hilton Ballpark Hotel for drink and views from the 360 Lounge |
| 5:45 pm | Depart for return trip to Residence Inn in Clayton |
| 6:15 pm | Arrive back at Residence Inn. Dinner on your own |



Sketch of the old Hecker farmhouse in Summerfield



**Celebration at the Hecker Cemetery
with members of the Hecker Camp 443**



Historic sign honoring Hecker, state of Illinois

THE HECKER TOUR: DAY THREE

September 9, 2025

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Tuesday

- 6 to 9 am Breakfast at the Residence Inn
- 10:00 am Meet in the lobby of the Residence Inn
- 10:15 am Depart on our motorcoach for Benton Park
- 11:00 am The REDEDICATION OF THE HECKER MONUMENT
Guest Speakers: Mayor Werner and Sabine Freitag?
Unveiling of the monument by Nedra Hecker's daughter?
- 11:45 am Return to our motorcoach for short drive to Forest Park
- 12:00 pm Casual "Celebratory Lunch" under the tent at the Boathouse Restaurant
- 2:00 pm Tour of Forest Park, including visit to the 1904 World's Fair exhibit at the Missouri History Museum, drive by the St. Louis Art Museum, St. Louis Zoo, the Muni Opera, the Jewell Box, the Bird Cage, the Planetarium and more
- 4:00 pm Return to the Residence Inn
Leisure time to enjoy as you please. Shoppers may want to visit some of the stores in downtown Clayton which is walkable from the hotel, or take an Uber over to the nearby shopping mall, the St. Louis Galleria
Dinner on your own again this evening



The Grand Basin, Forest Park



Restoration of the Hecker Monument



Commemorative coin designed to celebrate the Rededication of the Hecker Monument and the historic journey of the Angelbachtal delegation to the USA

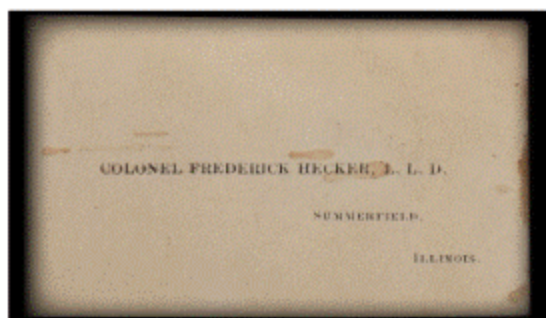
THE HECKER TOUR: DAY FOUR

September 10, 2025

ST. LOUIS TO CINCINNATI

Wednesday

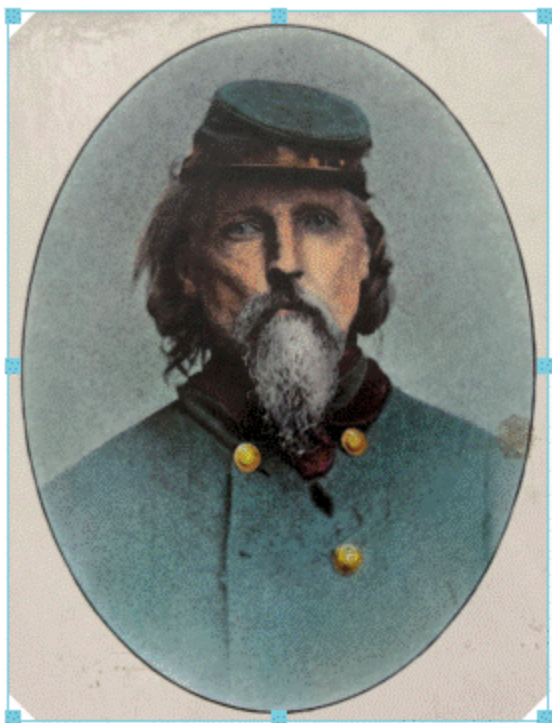
- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 6 to 8 am | Breakfast at the Residence Inn |
| 8:15 am | Bring your luggage to the lobby |
| 8:30 am | Depart on our motorcoach for Springfield, Illinois
Time for Sabine Freitag to talk about Friedrich Hecker's
relationship with President Lincoln, and his service in
our Civil War as we drive to Springfield |
| 10:15 am | Visit to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum
Download the "Lincoln Unlocked" app for German
translation in the different galleries
Please take the time to have lunch at the Lincoln Cafe
before we depart for Cincinnati |
| 1:00pm | Meet back at our motor coach |
| 1:15 pm | Depart for Cincinnati (driving time approximately 5 hours)
Note: Cincinnati is on Eastern Standard Time so the time changes
by one hour |
| 7:15 pm | Arrive at the Netherlands Hilton in Cincinnati
Check in for a three night stay |
| 8:00 pm | Late dinner on your own this evening |



Friedrich Hecker's calling card



The Lincoln Library in Springfield, Illinois



Colonel Friedrich Hecker

**Commanding first in the 24th and then the
82nd Illinois Regiment, consisting of mostly German immigrants**

THE HECKER TOUR: DAY FIVE

September 11, 2025

CINCINNATI, OHIO

Thursday

6 to 9 am

Breakfast at the Hilton Netherlands

9:30 am

Meet author and historian, Dr. Don Tolzmann, in the hotel lobby. Don will be our guide for a walking tour of Cincinnati's "Over the Rhine" district. Our first stop will be the Hecker Monument in Washington Park, where Hecker established the first Turner Society in the USA.

Please wear comfortable shoes today, as we will be doing a lot of walking

12:00 pm

Afternoon at leisure to have lunch on your own and explore the downtown area museums and shops

5:30 pm

Meet in the lobby of the Hilton Netherlands

Walk together to the Moerlein Lager House

6:00 pm

Casual and fun Farewell Dinner at the Moerlein Lager House, plus enjoy an after dinner walk in the Smale Riverfront Park and maybe take a ride on the *Oktoberfest Horse* on Carol Ann's Carousel there!



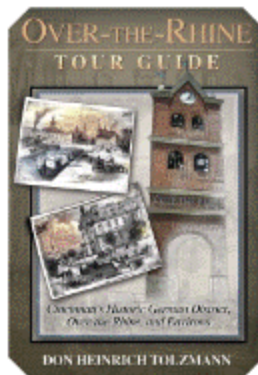
The Roebling Bridge
in Cincinnati



**The Hecker Monument in Cincinnati
On the 150th Anniversary of 1848 Revolution**



**The top of the
Hecker
Sculpture**



**Don Tolzmann's
Guide Book**



**The Hilton Netherlands
in Cincinnati**



**The Oktoberfest Horse
Carol Ann's Carousel**

THE HECKER TOUR: DAY SIX

September 12, 2025
Friday

CINCINNATI, OHIO

6 to 9 am Breakfast at the Hilton Netherlands
9:15 am Entire day free to enjoy as you please
Suggested places to visit:

THE HECKER TOUR: DAY SEVEN

September 13, 2025
Saturday

CINCINNATI, OHIO TO FRANKFURT

6 to 9 am Breakfast at the Hilton Netherlands
9:45 am Meet in lobby and check out of hotel
10:00 am Transfer via Airport Shuttle to Cincinnati Airport
10:35 am Check in for United/Lufthansa flight to Frankfurt, Germany
Group one departing with connection through JFK
Group two departing with connection through Dulles (IAD)

THE HECKER TOUR: DAY EIGHT

September 14, 2025
Sunday

FRANKFURT, GERMANY

7:20 am Arrive Frankfurt Airport
Clear Customs and return to Angelbachtal





Mayor Frank Werner
City of Angelbachtal, Germany

Hecker Tour Community Participants

Mayor Frank Werner
Dr. Petra Werner
Tamina Werner
Wolfgang Haas
Markus Haas
Heike Haas
Gisela Heitkamp
Daniel Oestirich
Jurgen Lutz
Diethelm Brecht
Nico Heinrich
Frank Dreher
Lukas Del Monego

Anna Del Monego
Jana Greidenweis
Anne Gmelin
Gunter Deja
Sabine Deja
Frank Reinbold
Annette Reinbold
Sarah Reinbold
Simon Reinbold
Elizabeth Olesch
Yvonne Vogt
Heimo Linse
Christoph Haag

and Professor Dr. Sabine Freitag
Author and Expert on the life of Friedrich Hecker



Hecker's birth house in Angelbachtal, Germany



GERMAN-AMERICAN HALL OF FAME

A Virtual Hall of Fame honoring German contributions to the creation of America.
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www.gamhof.org

Many thanks go to Hecker Descendants Bruce and Nedra Hecker and Marjorie Ivey who took on the job of preparing a nomination package to have Friedrich Hecker inducted into the German American Hall of Fame. The package was beautifully put together, and upon completion, was presented to Jim Martin, President of the German American Heritage Society in St. Louis. Jim proudly forwarded the nomination materials to the GAMHOF, along with four exceptional letters of endorsement. The endorsement letters came from Sabine Freitag (author of Friedrich Hecker, Two Lives for Liberty); Paul Obernuefemann (Honorary Konsul for Missouri and Southern Illinois) and Will Shannon (President of the Saint Clair Country Historical Society). Additionally, Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann added his very important endorsement. Dr. Tolzmann is a highly regarded scholar of German history and author of numerous books.

We may not know whether Friedrich Hecker will be accepted into the Hall of Fame until the end of this year. However we do feel that Friedrich Hecker definitely meets all the qualifications and would be a worthy addition. So we shall wait to hear from the decision makers at GAMHOF with eager anticipation. How appropriate it would be to see Friedrich Hecker in there next to fellow "48er" Carl Schurtz, who was actually considered a protoge of Hecker.

From the Hecker Descendant's visit to Angelbachtal in 2023 , we know first hand how proudly they honor their legendary hero all these many years later. As one visits their historic town hall and walks up the wide and impressive staircase, the walls are filled with Hecker memorabilia. How great it would be to add to their collection the recognition of Hecker's acceptance in to the Hall of Fame!

The 82nd Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry



The 82nd Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry, known as the “**2nd Hecker Regiment**,” was an infantry regiment that served in the Union Army during the American Civil War. It was one of the three “German” regiments furnished to the Union by Illinois. Approximately two-thirds of its members were German immigrants and most of the other third was composed of immigrants from various countries. Company C was almost entirely Jewish, and Company I all Scandinavians.

The 82nd Illinois Infantry was organized at Springfield, Illinois and mustered into Federal service on October 23, 1862, Colonel Friedrich Hecker commanding. Attached to the XI Corps of the Army of the Potomac, it lost 155 men at Chancellorsville. It was here where Colonel Hecker was badly wounded.



Christa Goetz in her art studio

**Working on her interpretation of Friedrich Hecker
in retirement on his farm in the USA**

*Jurgen and Christa are the residents of Friedrich Hecker's
birth house in Angelbachtal. It is beautifully maintained
and was a special treat for Hecker family members to see inside*

FRIEDRICH HECKER



Two Lives For Liberty

*A man of principle who fought
for freedom and democracy
in both Germany and America*



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 carrying 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 years, Colonel Hecker was frequently elected from the Army to March 1864 and remained in the Union Army. 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 noble 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 military uniform.



Photograph of the Benton Park monument.

VISITING HECKER:

Sumnerfield Park, Forest, Illinois: A historical stone monument to the Forty-Eighters, including Hecker, stands in the park. The Forty-Eighters Monument, Benton Park, St. Louis, MO: A large stone monument to the Forty-Eighters stands in the park.

Hecker Monument at Graceland Cemetery, Chicago: A large stone monument to Hecker stands in the cemetery. Hecker Monument at Graceland Cemetery, Chicago: A large stone monument to Hecker stands in the cemetery.

FURTHER READING:

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

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

Hecker, Friedrich. *Hecker's Story: A Life in 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



Hecker, 1875

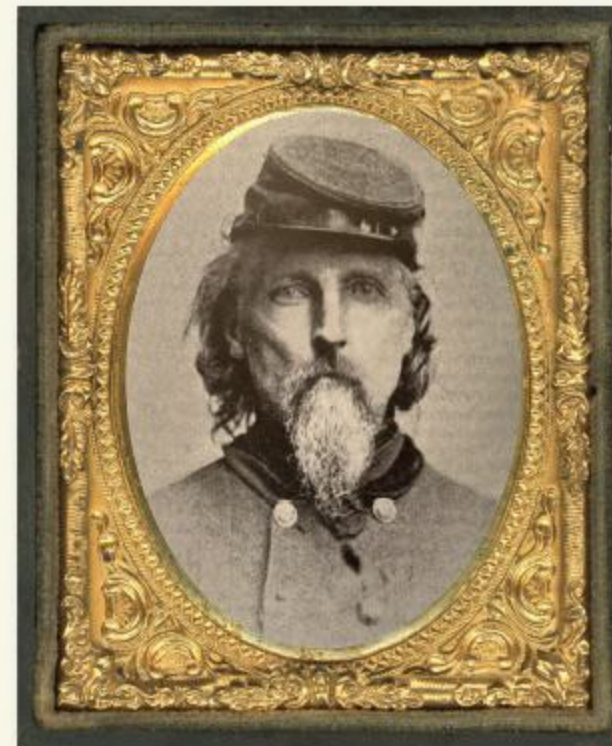
A man of principle, Friedrich Karl Franz Hecker fought for democracy and freedom in both Germany and America. Born in Eichtersheim, Germany to an educated and distinguished family, Hecker studied history and earned a law degree in his early twenties. In 1842 he was elected to the Baden State Assembly,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

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.

Sep 9 2025

Redeciation

Latitude 35: 49.63000000000044861
Longitude 90: 13: 19.41999999999836592
Altitude 158.212979351032459

Restored





SONS OF UNION VETERANS
OF THE CIVIL WAR

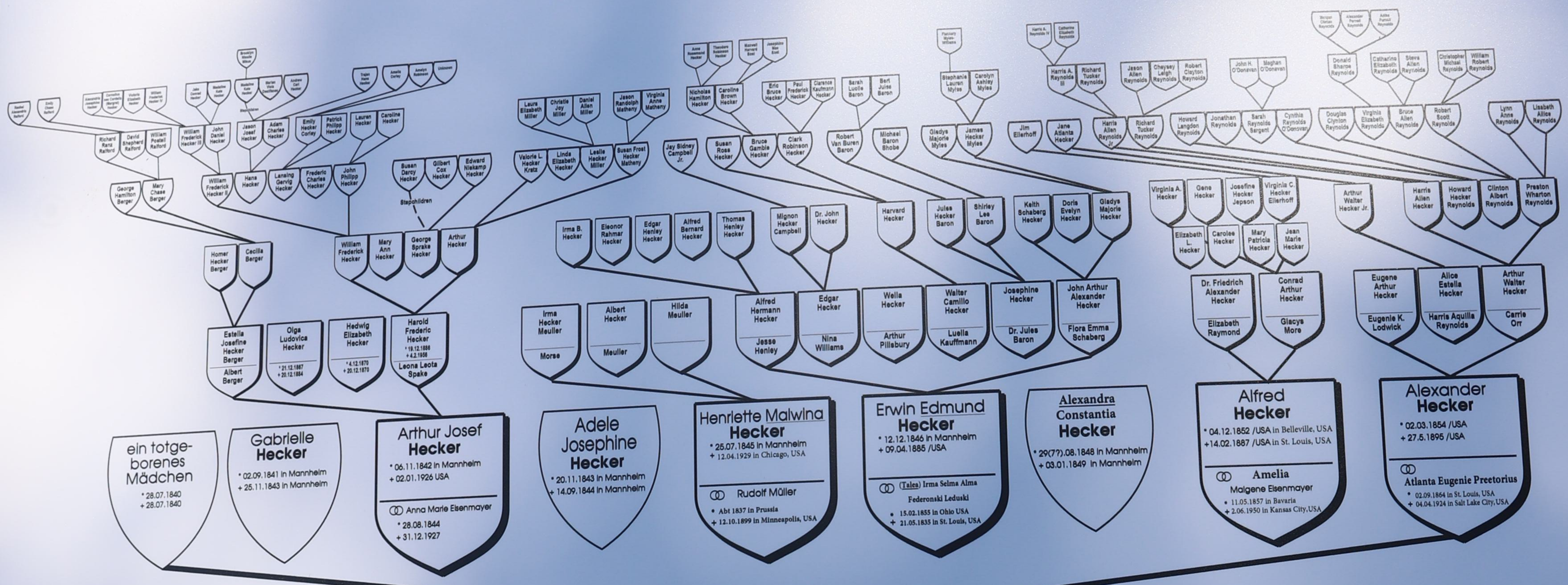


U.S. GRANT CAMP NO. 68
DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI

May 2023

1689 - 2023

Stammbaum von (Pedigree of) Friedrich Karl Franz Hecker



Karl Friedrich Hecker
* 06.11.1812 in Eichstheim
+ 28.10.1878 in Freiburg
Professor der Chirurgie in Freiburg
⊙ 09.04.1837 in Eichstheim
(11.03.1837 in Freiburg)
Josefa Amalia Pyhr
+ 14.11.1877 in Illenau

Henriette Josefine Cron geb. Hecker
* 02.03.1814 in Heidelberg
+
⊙ 04.09.1831 in Eichstheim
Friedrich Josef Cron
Partikulier in Mannheim

Friedrich Karl Franz Hecker
* 28.09.1811 in Eichstheim
+ 24.03.1881 in St. Louis/USA
Hofgerichtsrat in Mannheim;
Revolutionär, 1848; die Summerfield, IL/USA
⊙ 24.10.1839 in Mannheim
Marie Josefine Eisenhardt
* 07.05.1821 in Mannheim
+ 04.07.1916 in Summerfield/USA

Franz Ferdinand Hecker
* 12.08.1816 in Eichstheim
+ 27.08.1816 in Eichstheim

Charlotte Maria Anna Tiedemann geb. Hecker
* 24.07.1817 in Eichstheim
+ 05.03.1900 in Front Royal, Virginia, USA
um 1838
Dr. Heinrich Tiedemann in Philadelphia
* um 1811 in Landshut
+ 01.03.1895 in Philadelphia

Josef Philipp
+ 1804
Wenzel
* 11.11.1807
Franziska
* 11.06.1812
Henriette
* 20.12.1817
+ 30.8.1884
Genoveva
* 28.6.1814
+ 24.1.1859
Theresa
Elsbeth
* 13.12.1818

Karl Philipp Hecker
* 29.05.1781
+ 04.09.1820 in Eichstheim
Freiherrlich von Venning'scher
Hofgärtner in Eichstheim
⊙ 16.11.1806 in Eichstheim
Maria Josefa Stegmaler
⊙ Elisabeth Prächter

Georg Josef Hecker
* 11.05.1777 in Edingen
+ 09.06.1858 in Mannheim
Königlich Bayerischer Hofrat und
Rentamtmann in Eichstheim
⊙ 12.11.1809 in Eichstheim
Wilhelmine Johanna v. Luder
* 12.12.1784 in Kassel
+ 02.1835 in Heidelberg

Jakob Hecker
* 1768
+ 1769
(1 Jahr alt)

Maria Theresia (Godefrida?) Hecker
* 25.08.1769
+ 28.05.1781
(11 Jahre alt)

6 siblings in total:
Joannes Philippus Franciscus
(24 Sep 1772-04 Sept 1820)
Anna Susanna
(17 Aug 1775-?)
Carolus Philippus
(29 May 1781-?)

Johann Georg Hecker
* zw. 1730-34 in Mergentheim(?)
+ vor 1789
Freiherrlich von Venning'scher
Hofgärtner in Edingen und Freiherrlich von
Venning'scher Hofgärtner in Eichstheim
⊙ 01.03.1767 in Edingen
Maria Susanna Fischer
geb. Ruprecht
* 19.06.1738 in Weinheim
+ 01.12.1801 in Eichstheim

Sebastian Hecker
* um 1695
+ 12.05.1745 in Mergentheim
Hofgärtner des Deutsch-
ordens in Mergentheim
⊙ zw. 1730-34
Apollonia Margenth Greis
* 01.09.1702 in Mergentheim
+ 22.04.1773 in Mergentheim









FRIEDRICH HECKER



Ulysses S Grant Camp 68

Department of Missouri
Sons of Union Veterans
of the
Civil War

www.grantcamp.org





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



SONS OF UNION VETERANS

**Ulysses S Grant
Camp 68**

Department of Missouri
Sons of Union Veterans
of the
Civil War

www.grantcamp.org

OF THE
CIVIL WAR



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



Julius D. Spencer
Register

Cara Spencer
Mayor of the City of Saint Louis

Friedrich Hecker



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

Fighter for Liberty

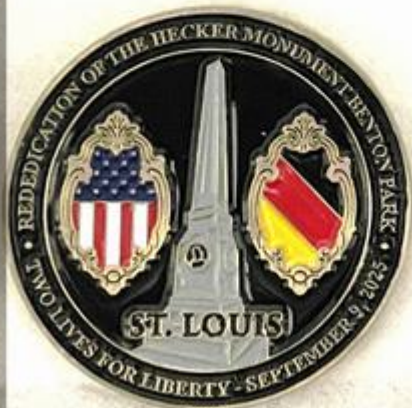


with best
wishes



ANGELBACHTAL

im Kraichgau





with best
wishes







**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

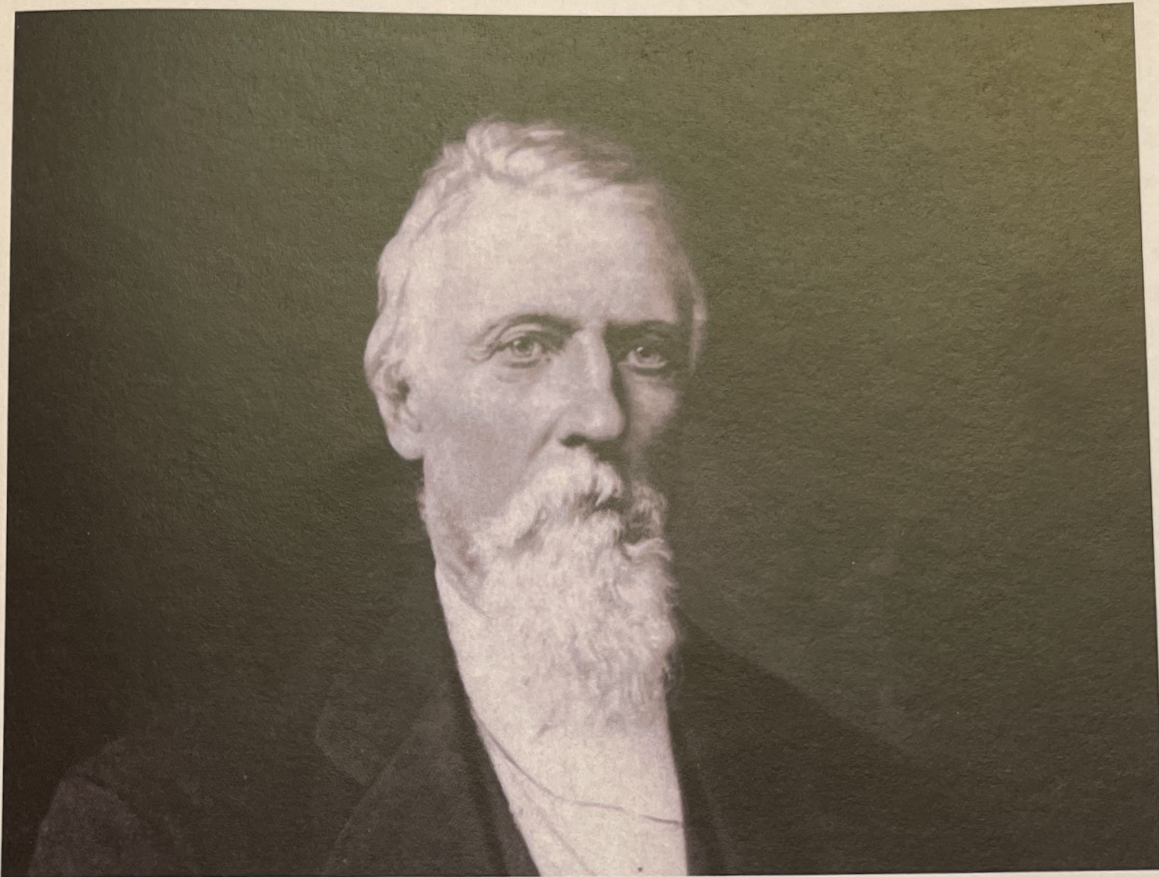
Honorary Consuls of the
Federal Republic of Germany
Paul Obernuefemann - Missouri/Illinois
Martin Wilhelmy - Cincinnati
and to

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

Friedrich Karl Franz Hecker



1875. Age 64. (Unknown photographer.)

Year of Birth: 1811

Year of Death: 1881

Areas of Achievement: Revolutionary, Soldier, Statesman, Author/Lecturer, Lawyer, and Farmer

German-American Hall of Fame: inducted in the Class of 2025, Nov 13, 2025

OVERVIEW

Friedrich Karl Franz Hecker has been described by both his contemporaries and historians as a “man of the people.” Educated in history and law, as a young man Hecker served in the Baden State Assembly where he made a name for himself as a charismatic and eloquent speaker. He believed that a republic is the ideal form of government and is defined by its constitution and the rights granted to the people. Because he admired the United States’ principles of government, he became a strong proponent of a representative republic, publicly lobbied against the existing German monarchies, and sought better educational opportunities and citizen participation in a new German republic.

In 1848, after proclaiming the first German republic and leading an unsuccessful revolution against the Baden monarchy, Hecker, under a charge of high treason, was forced to flee Germany to Switzerland. When capture would have led to his arrest or even death, he ultimately emigrated to America. Upon his arrival in New York Harbor, he was greeted by thousands of admirers. He traveled west to St. Louis, Missouri, making stops to speak in German-American communities along his route. He decided to purchase farmland across the Mississippi River in Illinois. In 1849 when a second German rebellion broke out, Hecker briefly returned to Europe, only to learn upon his arrival in Strasbourg that the second revolution had already been crushed. Joined by his wife and children, he returned to America and took up farming grains, cattle, and cultivating grapes.

Discouraged by the failure of revolutions in Europe, in 1854 Hecker became a United States citizen. By 1856, he was immersed in American politics and involved in the formation of the Illinois Republican Party. His support for Abraham Lincoln among German-Americans may have influenced the outcome of the 1860 presidential election.

Hecker's strong commitment to America's democratic principles and his opposition to slavery led him to volunteer for the Union Army during the American Civil War. In 1861 he enlisted as a private in a Missouri regiment, was soon promoted to colonel, and led two different Illinois regiments. In 1862, when a general amnesty was granted in Baden for the German revolutionists, Hecker, now fully invested in fighting for the Union had no interest in leaving his new country. During the 1863 Battle of Chancellorsville (VA), he was badly wounded in the thigh. In 1864, following the Tennessee campaigns around Chattanooga, Hecker, in poor health, requested and was granted an honorable release, which allowed him to return to his farm and family.

After the war, Hecker supplemented his income by continuing to write, tour, and lecture on contemporary issues and in support of the activities of the Turner Societies. Hecker already had a strong relationship with the Turners because when he stopped in Cincinnati on his 1848 journey from New York to St. Louis, he had encouraged the Ohio German-Americans to form the first Turner Society in the United States. He also helped write their by-laws.

In the summer of 1873, two years after Germany's unification, Hecker returned to Europe where he lectured to thousands in both Germany and Switzerland. This tour was on the 25th anniversary of the 1848 Baden Revolution, and although his activities were closely controlled by Bismarck's authorities, Hecker's popularity and legacy as a leader of the democratic movement in Germany were solidified. During this trip, Hecker also gathered information on how governmental civil services were organized in Germany and Switzerland. After returning to America, Hecker continued to receive information on the Swiss civil service and to pass it on to Carl Schurz who in turn was able to promote these governmental reforms as Secretary of the Interior.

Hecker's death in 1881 was widely reported both in the United States and Germany. In 1882, St. Louis German-Americans honored Hecker by erecting a monument to him in Benton Park. In 1883, Cincinnati German-Americans dedicated a marble bust of Hecker in their city's Washington Park. In 1895, the town of Freedom, IL was renamed Hecker, IL to pay homage to him. Today in Germany, three modern monuments also memorialize Hecker.

At the time of his death, Hecker was celebrated more in the United States than in Germany. In America, thousands attended his funeral and the dedications of his two monuments. At both dedications, speakers stressed the importance of liberty, which was the overarching

ideal German-Americans fought for in the 1848 Revolution and the Civil War. They saw those conflicts embodied and joined in Colonel Hecker, who fought for liberty in both. To explicitly emphasize and commemorate the connection of those events, two dates were inscribed on the St. Louis Hecker obelisk: 1848 for the German Revolution and 1861 for the American Civil War.

Hecker continued to be honored posthumously for his patriotism and citizenship as well as being a staunch supporter of German-American interests. Although not as well known today in the United States, Hecker's contributions are still actively honored and recognized in Germany and reach almost cult status. On both the 150th and the 175th anniversaries of the 1848 Baden Revolution, Hecker and his fellow revolutionaries were celebrated in exhibitions focused on that armed revolt and its relevance to current times.

As a political citizen, Hecker lived what he believed: owning and working the land, being frugal in his life choices, and fighting for constitutional rights. Hecker is remembered for his belief in the ideal of a republic and for his courage to fight for that ideal in both his native and his adopted countries.

GERMANY TO AMERICA

Early Years

Friedrich Hecker was born on September 28, 1811 in Eichtersheim, Baden (now Angelbachtal, Germany) to a family of distinction. His mother, Wilhelmine was the daughter of a baron and his father, Josef, was a court counsellor. Surrounded at home by political ideas, young Friedrich inherited his father's skill of denouncing social injustices. Hecker studied history and law at the Universities of Heidelberg and Munich, and by his early 20s, had earned his law degree. In his formative years, Hecker argued for a German government modeled after that of the United States; abolition of the death penalty; separation of church and state; and upgrades to public schools.

As a practicing lawyer, Hecker entered German political life in 1842 when he was elected to the Lower Chamber of the Baden State Assembly. He quickly became an assertive, free-thinking member, known for his speeches and theatrics. Collaborating with Gustav von Struve, Hecker took a lead in setting forth 13 democratic ideals in the radical document *Die Forderungen des Volkes in Baden* (*Demands of the People in the Grand Duchy of Baden*) which was adopted at the Democratic Assembly held in Offenburg on September 12, 1847. As a printed pamphlet it was widely distributed and well received by those embracing its ideals both in Germany and neighboring countries.



Half-length engraved portrait of FKFH at the podium c. 1846, as a member of the Baden Landtag. Published by H. Straub, Karlsruhe (Freitag, 2006, p. 58.)

Revolutionary: German Forty-Eighter

The years 1847-8 were a time of major political upheaval in much of Europe, and in March 1848, Hecker joined with others calling for a people's democratic German government that would reduce the role of the nobility and result in forming a republic based on the United States' Constitution and Bill of Rights. Their chief goals were to establish a free press, freedom of conscience, academic freedom, and trial by a jury of one's peers. Hecker was invited to Frankfurt am Main as a member of the pre-Parliament which was to deliberate on elections to the first all-German National Assembly. Hecker wanted the pre-Parliament to be declared a rallying point for the revolution until the National Assembly opened. Hecker walked out of this pre-Parliament when that goal was denied.

April 12, 1848 in Konstanz, Hecker proclaimed the establishment of the first German republic; he urged the people to join him and von Struve, march to Karlsruhe, and force Grand Duke Leopold to abdicate. Troops of the German Confederation were deployed and quickly extinguished what became known as the *Heckerzug* (Hecker's Uprising). Under a charge of high treason, Hecker was forced to flee to Switzerland. Although in exile, he was elected three times as a Deputy to the 1849 National Assembly to represent Tiengen constituency in the Schwarzwald (Black Forest). Each time a majority of deputies refused to recognize his election, which would have necessitated granting him political immunity.

Subject to life imprisonment and unable to return to Germany, Hecker emigrated to the United States. Upon his arrival in New York Harbor on October 5, 1848, the renowned revolutionary was greeted by thousands of supporters who knew of his reputation and exploits. Traveling west, he was feted by German-Americans in Newark, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Louisville, and Cincinnati, with the greatest crowds welcoming him in St. Louis. He purchased farmland across the Mississippi River in Illinois, becoming part of the Belleville area's German emigrant community of university-educated *Latin Farmers*. When German uprisings resurfaced in the spring of 1849, Hecker, desiring to take part, returned to Europe but reached Strasbourg just after Prussian troops crushed this revolt. Joined there by his wife, Josephine, and three children, he brought them to his new home in the United States.



Line drawing 1848 revolution. (https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/file:friedrich_hecker.png)

Life in America

Hecker devoted his first years in America to establishing a successful farm where he raised cattle, barley, oats, and used scientific methodology to cultivate grapes. Through letters he received and newspaper reports, he also followed events in Europe. Hecker was one of the European revolutionaries known as *Forty-Eighters* (48ers). Because he was famous in the United States and abroad, Hecker was visited by other European revolutionaries seeking support for continued activities in their homelands. Ultimately, after participating in meetings and public gatherings around these issues, Hecker came to believe that revolutions in Europe would not succeed. In 1854, he chose to become a citizen of the United States.

After eight years focusing on farming, Hecker was drawn back to the political arena by the upheaval in American politics of the 1850s, and he helped establish the emerging Republican Party in Illinois. At the May 1856 state convention in Bloomington, IL, Hecker was the only "free" (non-affiliated) delegate selected to be one of 11 presidential electors for Illinois. As an elector, he returned to a national stage where he utilized his oratorical skills in support of candidate John Charles Fremont. Hecker campaigned in Illinois and in numerous cities, including Philadelphia (speaking at Independence Hall), Erie, New York City and Buffalo. Hecker was reported to be the most active and influential 48er during the 1856 presidential campaign; Chicago's *Democratic Press* newspaper called him "perhaps the most influential German in America" (Freitag, 2006, p. 169). During the 1860 campaign, Hecker traveled less extensively stumping for Lincoln in Illinois and Missouri.



Carte de visite photograph of FKFH as a US army officer in the American Civil War.

(<https://www.alamy.com/colonel-friedrich-hecker-image259912952.html?Imageid=92B3DDE2-6B28-4330-8B30-33D5C9BD7871&p=850009&pn=1&searchid=7c42e028165a5c0cbb15b53fadf2936c&se archetype=0>)

American Civil War

At the start of the American Civil War in 1861, Hecker, age 50, and his oldest son crossed the Mississippi River in a rowboat from Illinois to enlist in the Union Army as privates in the 3rd Missouri Infantry – U.S. Reserve Corps. After participating in the "Camp Jackson Affair" in St. Louis, Hecker subsequently returned to Illinois where he took command as Colonel of the 24th Illinois Volunteer Infantry (1st Hecker Jaeger Regiment or the Old Hecker Regiment) made up primarily of fellow 48ers of German, Hungarian, Czech, and Slovak ancestry.

After the dissolution of that regiment, Colonel Hecker accepted the commission to lead the 82nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry (2nd Hecker Regiment), which included German, Norwegian, Swiss, and Jewish companies. In Virginia, Hecker's regiment

fought in the Battle of Chancellorsville (May 1863), where he was severely wounded in his thigh. Hecker recovered in Philadelphia and rejoined his regiment on the last day of the Battle of Gettysburg. After marching to Tennessee, the 82nd was then combined with three other regiments to form the 3rd Brigade which participated in the campaigns at Wauhatchie, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, and Knoxville. In March 1864, in poor health, Hecker requested and was granted an honorable release and returned to his Illinois farm.

Because Hecker was respected by his fellow Union soldiers, after the Civil War six Grand Army of the Republic Posts were founded bearing his name: Belleville, IL; Boston, MA; New Ulm, MN; Pacific, MO; Cincinnati, OH; and New York, NY. In 1895, the town of Freedom, Illinois was renamed Hecker, IL to pay homage to him. A modern-day Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Camp in Belleville, IL also bears his name: Col. Friedrich K. Hecker Camp #443.

Later Years

After recovering his health, Hecker stayed engaged in national and international issues. A prolific writer in both German and English, he was a regular contributor to local, national, and international newspapers. He was also recognized as a rousing and persuasive orator – his 1871 July 4th speech, spurred by the unification of Germany and given in Trenton, IL, was translated from German and published posthumously in Brewer's *The World's Best Orations: From the Earliest Period to the Present Time* (1899).

In 1871, Hecker began using his rhetorical skill to supplement his income through traveling and presenting lectures on current issues. Heinrich Metzner, who was prominent in the National Turner League, soon helped organize these tours. Hecker already had a strong relationship with the Turners because when he stopped in Cincinnati on his 1848 journey from New York to St. Louis, Hecker had encouraged German-Americans in that Ohio city to form the first Turner Society in the United States. He also helped write the by-laws for that group. The Turners provided a ready audience for Hecker's lectures because the ideals espoused by these societies – their motto "A Sound Mind in a Sound Body" – closely aligned with Hecker's belief in an educated and informed citizenry who would effectively support the republic.

In the summer of 1873, two years after Germany's unification, Hecker returned to Europe where he lectured to thousands in both Germany and Switzerland. This tour, on the 25th anniversary of the 1848 Baden Revolution, was his final visit abroad, and although his activities were closely controlled by Bismarck's authorities, Hecker's popularity and legacy as a leader of the democratic movement in Germany were solidified. In his July 4th speech in Stuttgart, Germany, he is quoted as saying about the United States:

[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! (Freitag, 2006, p. 336).

During this European trip, Hecker also gathered information on how governmental civil services were organized in Germany and especially in Switzerland. There, he visited Emil Frey, now a member of the Swiss National Council. Frey had served as a major under Hecker in the 82nd Illinois regiment. After returning to the United States, Hecker continued to correspond with Frey and to send civil service information and moral support to Carl Schurz who was then able to promote these governmental reforms as Secretary of the Interior under President Rutherford B. Hayes.

Hecker's health began to fail in 1878, and he spent his final years mainly on his beloved farm. Though he was no longer able to travel and lecture, he continued to write profusely on many subjects. In articles on politics, he continued to affirm his belief in the United States' Constitution and the balance of powers. In economic discussions, he wrote in support of foreign trade and new markets for agricultural overproduction. This led to advocating for the construction of the Panama Canal. His last major article, published three days after his death, argued for the need and importance of the canal and included tables and maps.

On March 24, 1881, at age 69, Hecker died on his farm, survived by his wife and seven children. Over 1,000 people attended his funeral on March 28, 1881 at the Summerfield Cemetery, two miles from his homestead. Over 400 mourners, including many representing Turner Societies, came by train from St. Louis. An additional 700 to 800 came from Illinois; these included Hecker's longtime friends and colleagues, Civil War veterans, and those representing foreign governments. Speeches were given in multiple languages, including German, English, French, and Italian. (Freitag, 2006, p. 442) Because so few in the crowd could hear those speaking, the full texts of the speeches were printed in newspapers. In keeping with his patriotic ideals, Hecker's grave marker is the simple standard U.S. Military headstone.



FKFH head stone. (Photo by Nedra F. Hecker.)

On hearing of his death, thousands in America sought to honor his memory; some of those who attended his funeral met later that day in St. Louis to make plans for a memorial to him. The outcome of their discussions was that the St. Louis German-American newspaper the *Westliche Post* and its editor Emil Preetorius would head the project and collect donations for a monument to be erected in St. Louis. Illinois German-American newspapers supported this plan, and German-American newspapers around the United States publicized the appeal for funds. Turner Societies, especially the one in Belleville, IL were also involved. Every donation was acknowledged in the *Westliche Post*.

In May of 1881, these initial efforts were augmented by the minting of a Hecker memorial medal. By June 1881, this medal was available for purchase at the 23rd Federal Turner Festival in St. Louis and sold out in just two days. The medal was reminted and sold both in the United States and Europe. Within six months, the money to fund the monument had been secured.



1881 Turner's Hecker Medal. (Photo by Nedra F. Hecker.)

Just over a year later, on a rainy October 1, 1882, a 30-foot-tall granite obelisk with a bronze relief portrait of Hecker was dedicated in Benton Park in St. Louis and unveiled by his granddaughter Estella J. Hecker. *The Republican*, a St. Louis English-language newspaper, reported that 15,000 people gathered in Benton Park for this ceremony. It was preceded by a parade of so many groups that the procession itself stretched for one half-mile and included Turners, marching bands, and dignitaries, plus Hecker's family and colleagues. People also lined the streets and watched from buildings along the parade route. German-Americans in Cincinnati, Ohio formed their own committee to install a bust of Hecker in their city's Washington Park. Dedication ceremonies there on June 24, 1883 started with a parade of over 5,000 people and included Hecker's four sons, Civil War veterans, Turners, bands, and choirs. At both dedications, speakers stressed the importance of liberty which was the overarching ideal German-Americans fought for in the 1848 German Revolution and the American Civil War. They saw those conflicts embodied and joined in Colonel Hecker, who fought for liberty in both. To explicitly emphasize and commemorate the connection of those two events, two dates were inscribed on the St. Louis Hecker Obelisk: 1848 for the German Revolution and 1861 for the American Civil War.

At the time of his death, Hecker was celebrated more in the United States than in Germany. In America, he was honored for his patriotism and citizenship as well as being a staunch supporter of German-American interests. Although not as well known today in the United States, Hecker's contributions are still actively honored and recognized in Germany and reach almost cult status. Today in Germany, three modern monuments memorialize Hecker; there are two schools that carry his name; German streets are named after him; *das Heckerlied*, originally a mocking song, over time has morphed into a folk song supporting Hecker's goals; there is even a *Heckerhut* (hat) fashioned after the hat he wore in 1848. On the 150th and the 175th anniversaries of the 1848 Baden Revolution, Hecker and his fellow revolutionaries were celebrated in exhibitions focused on that armed revolt and its relevance to current times.

A sepia-toned illustration of a man standing in a rocky, mountainous landscape. He is wearing a wide-brimmed hat, a long coat with a high collar, and breeches. He holds a long staff or rifle in his right hand. The background shows rugged terrain with some vegetation. Below the illustration, the text 'W. & A. G. & Co. London' is visible.

2002, at the behest of Kishore, 20 Apr 1980, *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, 75: 100-101.



A small, oval-framed portrait of a man with a beard and a military-style cap, likely a historical figure. The portrait is set within a decorative, ornate gold-colored frame. The man has a full, light-colored beard and mustache, and is wearing a dark cap with a band. The background of the portrait is a light, mottled grey.

Black, as a Union Soldier, ca 1861
St. Louis Mercantile Library, University of MO, ST

A black and white portrait of a man with a full beard and mustache, wearing a dark suit and a bow tie. He is standing behind a podium or desk, with his right hand resting on it. The background is a plain, light color.

Recherches sur la vie de Louis Braille,
Grand Maître de France, en 1846.
Éditions de la Bibliothèque de la Ville de Paris.
Bibliothèque de la Ville de Paris, 1846.

"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!"

A black and white photograph of a two-story house with a porch, identified as the home of the author's mother. The house has a gabled roof and several windows, some with shutters. There are bushes and trees in the foreground and to the right.

VISITING HSECKER

[illegible]

Washington Park Museum, Cincinnati, OH: Florida Sand martin, 1403 Elie (Shed Jackson) Ovals, sculpture, Angelbachi, Germany: Front of the President-Pepper Moyle, Michael Pepper-Strafe 6, 74000

FURTHER READING

Frederick, George. *Frederick Douglass: Two Lives for Liberty*. In: *Lives of Great Americans*. Library, 2014.

The review was funded through a partnership of awarded life grants. Correspondence to the corresponding author should be addressed to the author's name and address.

A bronze bust of a bearded man, likely a historical figure, mounted on a tall, dark stone pedestal. The pedestal has inscriptions, including the name 'HEINER' at the base. The monument is situated outdoors, surrounded by lush green trees and foliage.



Page 9

VISITING HECKER:

Hecker Monument, Benton Park, St Louis, MO: granite obelisk, near to the junction of Wyoming and Missouri Streets, N38.596846° W90.222429°

Hecker Monument, Washington Park, Cincinnati, OH: marble bust, 1225 Elm Street

Hecker's Dream in Angelbachtal, Germany: metal sculpture, in front of the Friedrich-Hecker-Birth-House, Straße 5, 74918

Hecker Monument, Konstanz, Germany: majolica relief commemorating Hecker's speeches for recruitment, east side of the Bürgersaal at Stephansplatz 17, Old Town

For Freedom Monument, Sinsheim, Germany: granite column celebrating the five most important Sinsheim fighters for democracy, Hauptstraße 92, 74889

Plaque, Orchard Hill Monument, Chattanooga, TN: his brigade is listed on a plaque inside the memorial at Orchard Hill

State historical marker, Summerfield Park, Summerfield, IL: placed by the flag poles, entering via Mitchell Street

Gravesite, Summerfield cemetery: Lebanon, IL: Summerfield South Road, n38.581547° w89.753145°

Several American streets named Hecker are found in: Belleville IL; Hecker, IL; New York City, and Staten Island, NY

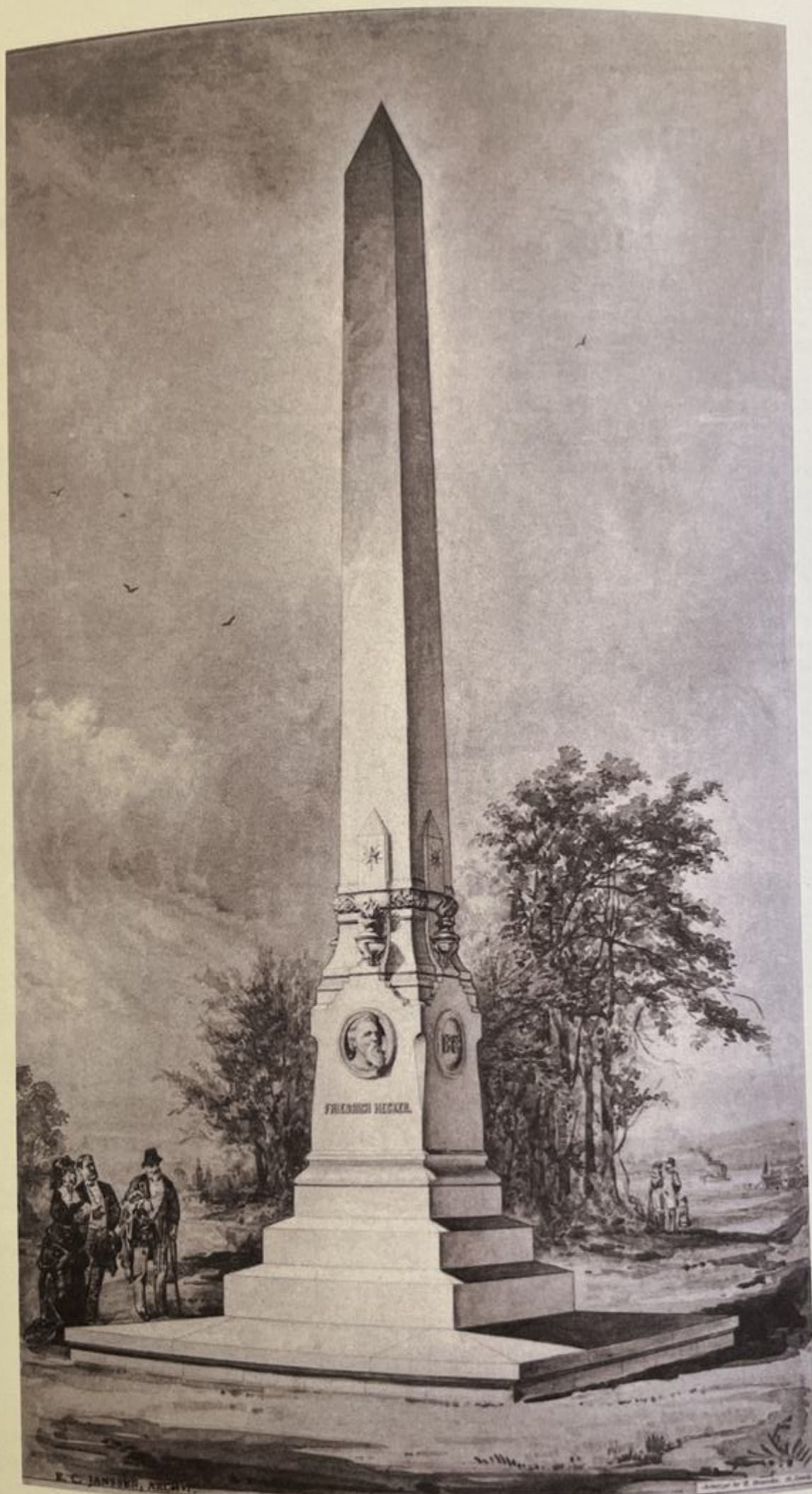
In Germany there exists a Hecker Hamlet, Waldburg; Friedrich Hecker streets can be found in Offenburg, Baden-Württemberg, Lörrach (Tumringen), Saarbrücken, Schopfheim, Sinsheim, Bersenbrück, and Angelbachtal; his natal house, the Friedrich Hecker house, faces Friedrich Hecker Platz in Angelbachtal; a high school, the Friedrich Hecker Gymnasium in Radolfzell; and a vocational school, the Friedrich Hecker Schule in Sinsheim

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Friedrich Karl Franz Hecker Life Highlights

- 1811, Sep 28, Eichersheim, Baden (now Angelbachtal, Germany), birth
- 1834, May 26, University of Heidelberg, Germany, graduated *Doctor Juris, summa cum laude*; studied history and law
- 1835, France, residency in law, developed overriding belief that a republic is the ideal form of government, defined by its constitution and the rights granted to the people
- 1837-42, Mannheim, Germany, practiced law for state
- 1842-8, Baden, Germany, elected to the Second (Lower) Chamber of the Baden State Assembly; argued for a German government modeled after that of the United States, abolition of the death penalty, separation of church and state, and upgrades to public schools
- 1847, Sep 12, Offenburg, Germany, developed with others 13 democratic ideals in a radical document *Die Forderungen des Volkes in Baden (Demands of the People in the Grand Duchy of Baden)*; adopted at Democratic Assembly; published and widely distributed in Germany and neighboring countries
- 1848, Mar 31-Apr 3, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, invited as a member of pre-Parliament to deliberate on elections to the first all-German National Assembly
- 1848, Apr 12, Konstanz, Germany, Hecker proclaimed the establishment of first German republic, urged people join him, march to Karlsruhe, and force Grand Duke Leopold to abdicate
- 1848, May 20, Kandern, Germany, German Confederation Troops quickly extinguished what became known as the *Heckerzug* (Hecker's Uprising)
- 1848, May, under a charge of high treason, Hecker fled to Switzerland
- 1848, Germany, elected *in absentia* as deputy to National Assembly representing Tiengen (near Switzerland border, in Black Forest); subsequently was elected more two times; each time the Assembly deputies voted not to grant political amnesty, refusing to seat him
- 1848, Oct 5, New York City, NY, arrived by steamship "Hermann"; welcomed by thousands
- 1848, Oct 22, Cincinnati, OH, encouraged establishment first Turner Society in America
- 1848, Oct 31, St. Louis, MO, having traveled west, feted by German-Americans in Newark, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Louisville, and Cincinnati, met by greatest crowds in St. Louis
- 1848, Nov, St. Clair County, IL, purchased 320 acres of farmland three miles south of Lebanon
- 1849, Jun 27, New York City, NY, departed by steamship "Cambria" to join a second German uprising
- 1849, Jul 15, France, reached Strasbourg just after Prussian troops crushed this revolt
- 1849, Sep 17, New York City, NY, returned to United States with wife, Josephine, and three children on steamship "Seine"
- 1854, Aug 22, Germany, *in absentia* tried for high treason; sentenced to life in prison
- 1854, Became a United States citizen
- 1856, Illinois, helped form the emerging Illinois Republican Party
- 1856, Multiple USA States, during the Presidential campaign reported to be the most active and influential 48er; Chicago's *Democratic Press* newspaper called him "perhaps the most influential German in America" (Freitag, 2006, p. 169.)
- 1861, Age 50, Hecker and oldest son crossed the Mississippi River in a rowboat from Illinois to enlist in Union Army as privates in the 3rd Missouri Infantry – U.S. Reserve Corps
- 1861, May 10, St. Louis, MO, participated in the "Camp Jackson Affair"
- 1861, Jun 6, Illinois, took command of the 24th Illinois Volunteer Infantry (1st Hecker Jaeger Regiment or the Old Hecker Regiment), made up primarily of fellow 48ers of German, Hungarian, Czech, and Slovak ancestry; regiment subsequently dissolved
- 1862, Oct 23, Illinois, Colonel Hecker leads the 82nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry (2nd Hecker Regiment), including German, Norwegian, Swiss, and Jewish companies
- 1863, May 5, Chancellorsville, VA, severely wounded in thigh during battle
- 1863, Jul 3, Gettysburg, PA, rejoined his regiment on last day of battle
- 1863, Tennessee, regiment attached to 3rd Brigade, 3rd Division, 11th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland; Colonel Hecker assumes brigade command
- 1863, Tennessee, 3rd Brigade participated in campaigns at Wauhatchie, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, and Knoxville
- 1864, Feb 12, Tennessee, due to poor health, requested honorable release from military service to return to his farm
- 1866, Post-Civil War, six Grand Army of the Republic Posts were founded bearing his name; (a modern-day Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Camp in Belleville, IL also bears his name)
- 1865-1881, Regular contributor to local, national, and international newspapers in both German and English
- 1868, Apr 14, St. Louis, MO, Humboldt Medical College, received honorary Doctorate of Medicine; cosigned by Dr. Adam Hammer (a former fellow Baden revolutionary and a leading Radical Republican) and all faculty members
- 1870s, To supplement income, with aid of Turners, Hecker conducted winter lecture tours in numerous states
- 1871, 14 Mar, Trenton, IL, Hecker was recognized as a rousing and persuasive orator; his translated speech, spurred by the unification of Germany, was published in Brewer's *The World's Best Orations: From the Earliest Period to the Present Time Vol 7 (1899) pp. 2457-64*
- 1873, May-Jul, Germany and Switzerland, returned to Europe two years after Germany's unification and on the 25th anniversary of the 1848 Baden Revolution; lectured to thousands in both countries; greeted by over 10,000 in Mannheim, Germany; told "you were in advance of your time, you are right today" (Freitag, 2006, p. 334.)
- 1873-1881, Collected information on governmental civil services in Switzerland and Germany; passed information to Carl Schurz who was able to promote these governmental reforms as U.S. Secretary of the Interior for Rutherford B. Hayes
- 1881, Mar 24, Summerfield, IL, age 69, died on farm; survived by wife, Josephine, and seven children
- 1881, Mar 28, Lebanon, IL, Summerfield Cemetery, over 1,000 people attended funeral
- 1882, Oct 6, St. Louis, MO, *The Republican*, a St. Louis English-language newspaper, reported that 15,000 people gathered in Benton Park for dedication of Hecker monument on 1 Oct; granddaughter unveiled monument
- 1883, Jun 24, Cincinnati, OH, Hecker bust dedication ceremonies included his four sons and a parade of over 5,000 people
- 1998 and 2023, Baden-Württemberg, Germany, 150th and 175th anniversaries of the 1848 Baden Revolution, Hecker and his fellow revolutionaries celebrated in exhibitions focused on that armed revolt and its relevance to current times
- 2025, Sep 8, Lebanon, IL, celebration at gravesite in Summerfield Cemetery with Col. F. Hecker Camp #443 (SUV) for installation of a graphic panel there and a state historical marker at Summerfield's Park; family and German dignitaries attend
- 2025, Sep 9, St. Louis, MO, rededication of Benton Park Hecker Monument with new resin bas-relief portrait and wreath; family, St. Louis and German (Angelbachtal) dignitaries, and public attend
- 2025, Nov 13, New York City, NY, FKFH inducted into the German-American Hall of Fame, Class of 2025; family attends



Benton Park Obelisk, dedicated 1 Oct 1882.
(Friedrich Hecker Archives, State Historical Society of Missouri, <https://files.shsmo.org/manuscripts/saint-louis/S0451.pdf>. 14 Dec 2021.)

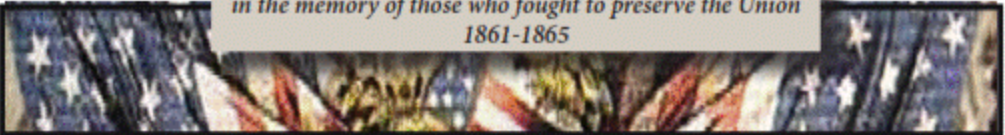
Created March 2025; Nedra F. Hecker and Marjorie Myles Ivey (g-g-granddaughter of FKFH).

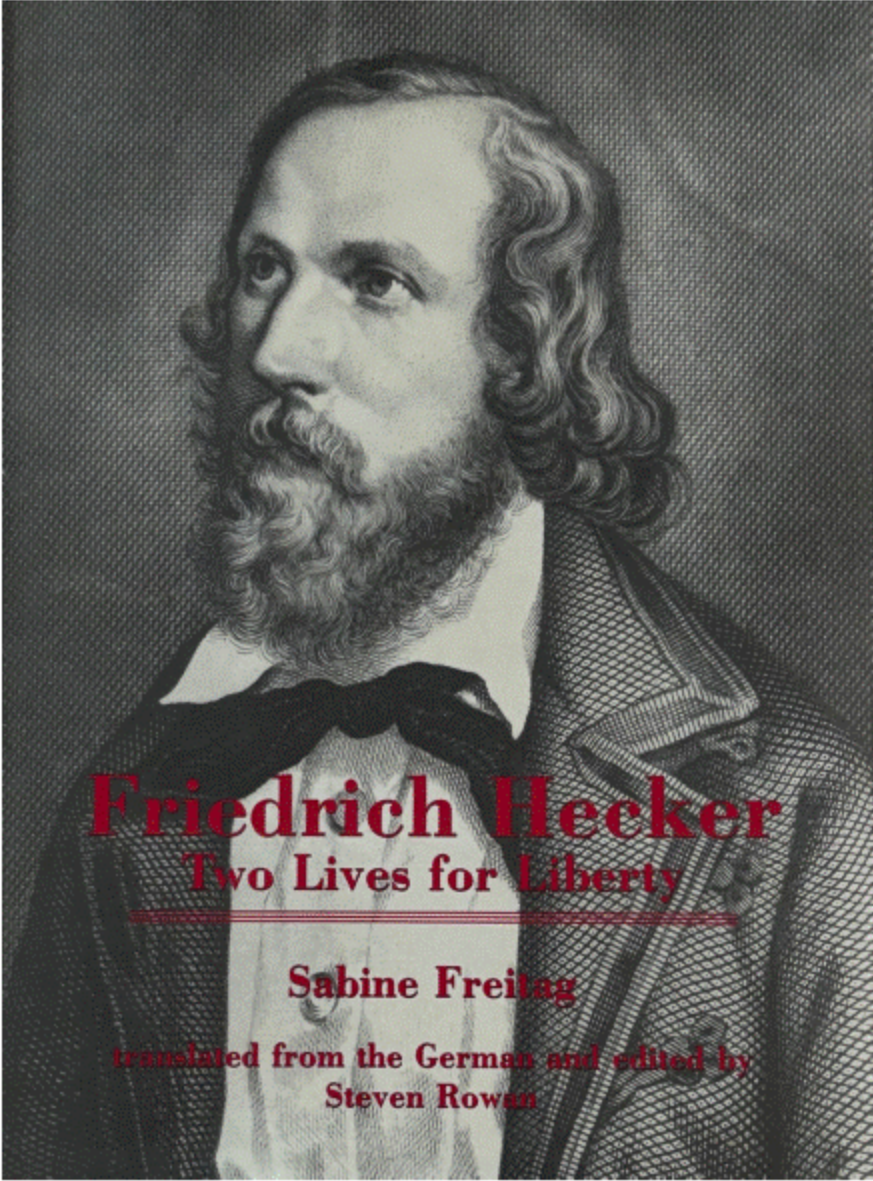
**FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF
FRIEDRICH HECKER IN THE USA**



THE HECKER TOUR
The City of Angelbachtal, Germany
Birth Town of Friedrich Hecker - 1811
September 7-14, 2025

*Col Friedrich K Hecker Camp #443
in the memory of those who fought to preserve the Union
1861-1865*



A detailed black and white engraving of Friedrich Hecker, a man with a full, curly beard and long, wavy hair. He is wearing a dark jacket over a white shirt and a dark bow tie. The background is a textured, dark grey.

Friedrich Hecker

Two Lives for Liberty

Sabine Freitag

**translated from the German and edited by
Steven Rowan**

**"FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF
FRIEDRICH HECKER IN THE USA"**

The Hecker Tour
City of Angelbachtal, Germany
September 7-14, 2025

Hosted by

**THE GERMAN AMERICAN HERITAGE
SOCIETY OF ST. LOUIS
AND
THE DESCENDENTS 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

and especially to historians and authors
Dr. Sabine Freitag, PhD
Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann, PhD
Dr. Robert Brunkow, PhD
David Braswell
The Hecker Camp 443
William Shannon, Curator
St Clair County Historical Society

THE HECKER TOUR: DAY ONE

September 7, 2025 FRANKFURT GERMANY TO ST. LOUIS
Sunday

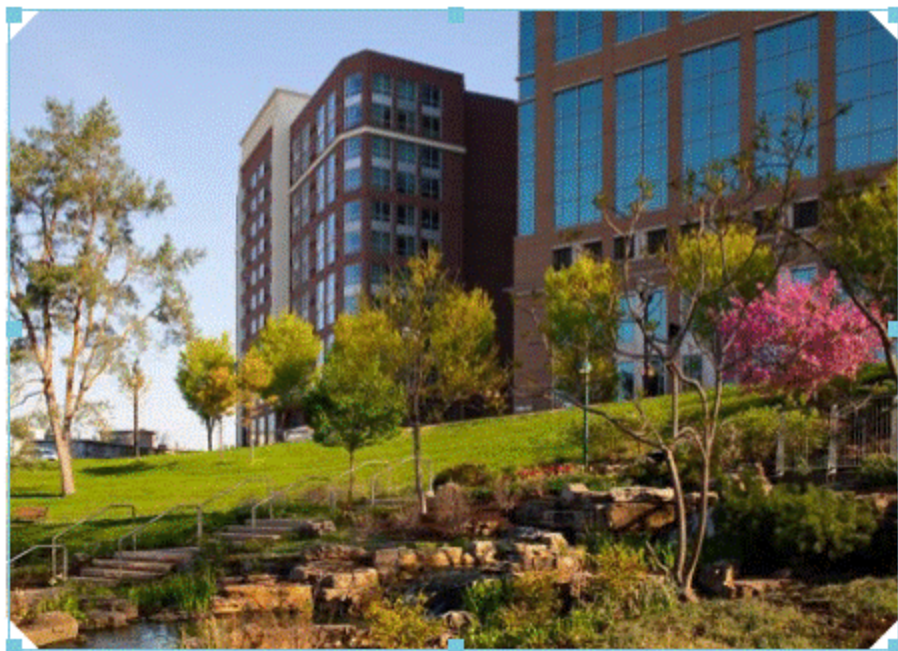
- 1:30 pm United/Lufthansa flight from Frankfurt arrives at the St. Louis Airport
Hecker descendants are there to greet the Mayor's delegation from Angelbachtal, then we depart by private motor coach for the Residence Inn, Clayton
- 3:00 pm Check in the Residence Inn, with time to freshen up and get ready for the casual "Welcome Reception"
- 5:00 pm "Welcome Reception" at the Residence Inn, located in the bar and on the veranda overlooking Shaw Park
Attendees will be our guests from Angelbachtal, Hecker descendants, and officers of the German American Heritage Society of St. Louis
- 7:00 pm Time to retire to your rooms for a good nights sleep so you are ready for all the exciting activities to come during the rest of the week!
See you in the morning! Breakfast included in the Residence Inn daily from 6:00 to 9:00 am



The Spirit of St. Louis - Charles Lindbergh
First solo transatlantic flight, May 20-21, 1927



Welcome to St. Louis
The Gateway Arch and Museum of Westward Expansion
The Old Court House, site of the Dred Scott Case
Home of the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team



The Residence Inn, Clayton, Missouri

THE HECKER TOUR: DAY TWO

September 8, 2025

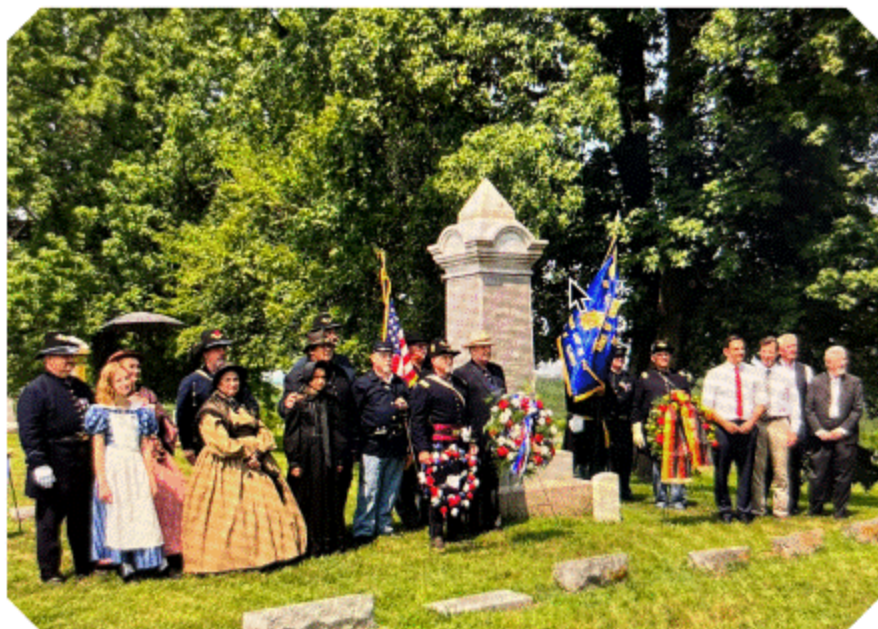
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Monday

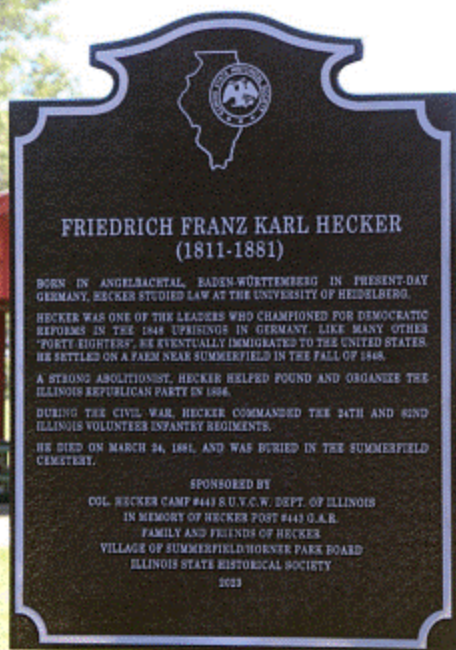
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| 6 to 9 am | Breakfast at the Residence Inn |
| 9:00 am | Meet in the lobby of the Residence Inn |
| | Depart on our motorcoach for Summerfield, Illinois |
| 10:15 am | Celebration at the Hecker Cemetery, with members of the Hecker Camp 443 in attendance, speech by David Braswell, and Wreath Laying by Mayor Frank Werner |
| 11:00 am | Depart for Belleville, Illinois |
| 11:35 am | Lunch at Tavern on Main with greeting by Jenny Meyer, Mayor of Belleville, |
| 1:00 pm | Tour of historic Belleville with historian and authors Bob Brunkow and David Braswell |
| | Learn about Hecker and the 1858 eighth annual gymnastics festival, Turnerbund von Nord America |
| 2:15 pm | Depart for St. Louis |
| 3:15 pm | Time for photos of the St. Louis Arch and visit to the Museum of Westward Expansion |
| 4:15 pm | Walk together to the Hilton Ballpark Hotel for drink and views from the 360 Lounge |
| 5:45 pm | Depart for return trip to Residence Inn in Clayton |
| 6:15 pm | Arrive back at Residence Inn. Dinner on your own |



Sketch of the old Hecker farmhouse in Summerfield



**Celebration at the Hecker Cemetery
with members of the Hecker Camp 443**



Historic sign honoring Hecker, state of Illinois

THE HECKER TOUR: DAY THREE

September 9, 2025

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Tuesday

- 6 to 9 am Breakfast at the Residence Inn
- 10:00 am Meet in the lobby of the Residence Inn
- 10:15 am Depart on our motorcoach for Benton Park
- 11:00 am The REDEDICATION OF THE HECKER MONUMENT
Guest Speakers: Mayor Werner and Sabine Freitag?
Unveiling of the monument by Nedra Hecker's daughter?
- 11:45 am Return to our motorcoach for short drive to Forest Park
- 12:00 pm Casual "Celebratory Lunch" under the tent at the Boathouse Restaurant
- 2:00 pm Tour of Forest Park, including visit to the 1904 World's Fair exhibit at the Missouri History Museum, drive by the St. Louis Art Museum, St. Louis Zoo, the Muni Opera, the Jewell Box, the Bird Cage, the Planetarium and more
- 4:00 pm Return to the Residence Inn
Leisure time to enjoy as you please. Shoppers may want to visit some of the stores in downtown Clayton which is walkable from the hotel, or take an Uber over to the nearby shopping mall, the St. Louis Galleria
Dinner on your own again this evening



The Grand Basin, Forest Park



Restoration of the Hecker Monument



Commemorative coin designed to celebrate the Rededication of the Hecker Monument and the historic journey of the Angelbachtal delegation to the USA

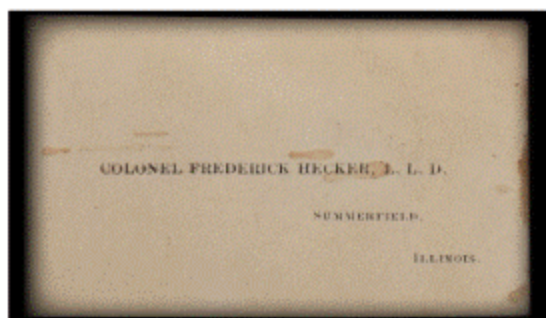
THE HECKER TOUR: DAY FOUR

September 10, 2025

ST. LOUIS TO CINCINNATI

Wednesday

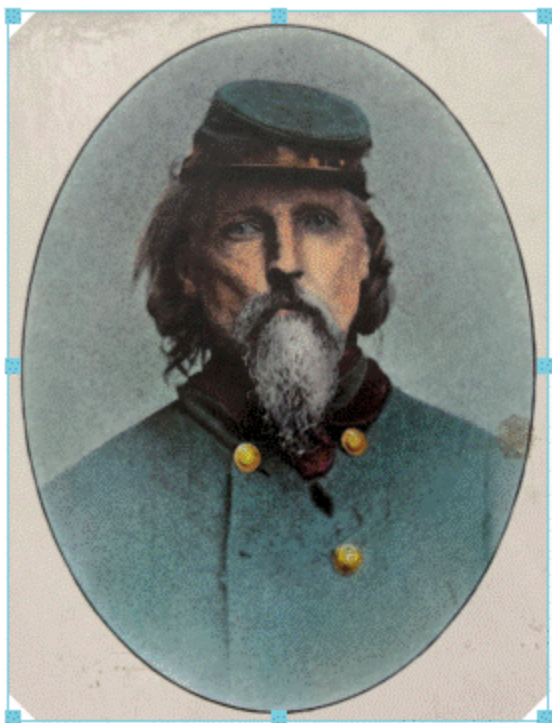
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| 6 to 8 am | Breakfast at the Residence Inn |
| 8:15 am | Bring your luggage to the lobby |
| 8:30 am | Depart on our motorcoach for Springfield, Illinois
Time for Sabine Freitag to talk about Friedrich Hecker's
relationship with President Lincoln, and his service in
our Civil War as we drive to Springfield |
| 10:15 am | Visit to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum
Download the "Lincoln Unlocked" app for German
translation in the different galleries
Please take the time to have lunch at the Lincoln Cafe
before we depart for Cincinnati |
| 1:00pm | Meet back at our motor coach |
| 1:15 pm | Depart for Cincinnati (driving time approximately 5 hours)
Note: Cincinnati is on Eastern Standard Time so the time changes
by one hour |
| 7:15 pm | Arrive at the Netherlands Hilton in Cincinnati
Check in for a three night stay |
| 8:00 pm | Late dinner on your own this evening |



Friedrich Hecker's calling card



The Lincoln Library in Springfield, Illinois



Colonel Friedrich Hecker
Commanding first in the 24th and then the
82nd Illinois Regiment, consisting of mostly German immigrants

THE HECKER TOUR: DAY FIVE

September 11, 2025

CINCINNATI, OHIO

Thursday

6 to 9 am

Breakfast at the Hilton Netherlands

9:30 am

Meet author and historian, Dr. Don Tolzmann, in the hotel lobby. Don will be our guide for a walking tour of Cincinnati's "Over the Rhine" district. Our first stop will be the Hecker Monument in Washington Park, where Hecker established the first Turner Society in the USA.

Please wear comfortable shoes today, as we will be doing a lot of walking

12:00 pm

Afternoon at leisure to have lunch on your own and explore the downtown area museums and shops

5:30 pm

Meet in the lobby of the Hilton Netherlands

Walk together to the Moerlein Lager House

6:00 pm

Casual and fun Farewell Dinner at the Moerlein Lager House, plus enjoy an after dinner walk in the Smale Riverfront Park and maybe take a ride on the *Oktoberfest Horse* on Carol Ann's Carousel there!



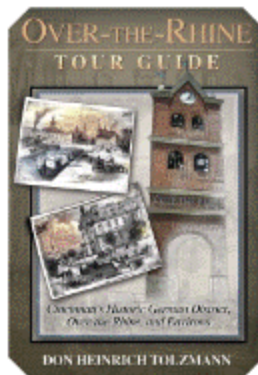
The Roebling Bridge
in Cincinnati



**The Hecker Monument in Cincinnati
On the 150th Anniversary of 1848 Revolution**



**The top of the
Hecker
Sculpture**



**Don Tolzmann's
Guide Book**



**The Hilton Netherlands
in Cincinnati**



**The Oktoberfest Horse
Carol Ann's Carousel**

THE HECKER TOUR: DAY SIX

September 12, 2025
Friday

CINCINNATI, OHIO

6 to 9 am Breakfast at the Hilton Netherlands
9:15 am Entire day free to enjoy as you please
Suggested places to visit:

THE HECKER TOUR: DAY SEVEN

September 13, 2025
Saturday

CINCINNATI, OHIO TO FRANKFURT

6 to 9 am Breakfast at the Hilton Netherlands
9:45 am Meet in lobby and check out of hotel
10:00 am Transfer via Airport Shuttle to Cincinnati Airport
10:35 am Check in for United/Lufthansa flight to Frankfurt, Germany
Group one departing with connection through JFK
Group two departing with connection through Dulles (IAD)

THE HECKER TOUR: DAY EIGHT

September 14, 2025
Sunday

FRANKFURT, GERMANY

7:20 am Arrive Frankfurt Airport
Clear Customs and return to Angelbachtal





Mayor Frank Werner
City of Angelbachtal, Germany

Hecker Tour Community Participants

Mayor Frank Werner
Dr. Petra Werner
Tamina Werner
Wolfgang Haas
Markus Haas
Heike Haas
Gisela Heitkamp
Daniel Oestirich
Jurgen Lutz
Diethelm Brecht
Nico Heinrich
Frank Dreher
Lukas Del Monego

Anna Del Monego
Jana Greidenweis
Anne Gmelin
Gunter Deja
Sabine Deja
Frank Reinbold
Annette Reinbold
Sarah Reinbold
Simon Reinbold
Elizabeth Olesch
Yvonne Vogt
Heimo Linse
Christoph Haag

and Professor Dr. Sabine Freitag
Author and Expert on the life of Friedrich Hecker



Hecker's birth house in Angelbachtal, Germany



GERMAN-AMERICAN HALL OF FAME

A Virtual Hall of Fame honoring German contributions to the creation of America.
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www.gamhof.org

Many thanks go to Hecker Descendants Bruce and Nedra Hecker and Marjorie Ivey who took on the job of preparing a nomination package to have Friedrich Hecker inducted into the German American Hall of Fame. The package was beautifully put together, and upon completion, was presented to Jim Martin, President of the German American Heritage Society in St. Louis. Jim proudly forwarded the nomination materials to the GAMHOF, along with four exceptional letters of endorsement. The endorsement letters came from Sabine Freitag (author of Friedrich Hecker, Two Lives for Liberty); Paul Obernuefemann (Honorary Konsul for Missouri and Southern Illinois) and Will Shannon (President of the Saint Clair Country Historical Society). Additionally, Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann added his very important endorsement. Dr. Tolzmann is a highly regarded scholar of German history and author of numerous books.

We may not know whether Friedrich Hecker will be accepted into the Hall of Fame until the end of this year. However we do feel that Friedrich Hecker definitely meets all the qualifications and would be a worthy addition. So we shall wait to hear from the decision makers at GAMHOF with eager anticipation. How appropriate it would be to see Friedrich Hecker in there next to fellow "48er" Carl Schurtz, who was actually considered a protoge of Hecker.

From the Hecker Descendant's visit to Angelbachtal in 2023, we know first hand how proudly they honor their legendary hero all these many years later. As one visits their historic town hall and walks up the wide and impressive staircase, the walls are filled with Hecker memorabilia. How great it would be to add to their collection the recognition of Hecker's acceptance in to the Hall of Fame!

The 82nd Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry



The 82nd Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry, known as the “**2nd Hecker Regiment**,” was an infantry regiment that served in the Union Army during the American Civil War. It was one of the three “German” regiments furnished to the Union by Illinois. Approximately two-thirds of its members were German immigrants and most of the other third was composed of immigrants from various countries. Company C was almost entirely Jewish, and Company I all Scandinavians.

The 82nd Illinois Infantry was organized at Springfield, Illinois and mustered into Federal service on October 23, 1862, Colonel Friedrich Hecker commanding. Attached to the XI Corps of the Army of the Potomac, it lost 155 men at Chancellorsville. It was here where Colonel Hecker was badly wounded.



Christa Goetz in her art studio

**Working on her interpretation of Friedrich Hecker
in retirement on his farm in the USA**

*Jurgen and Christa are the residents of Friedrich Hecker's
birth house in Angelbachtal. It is beautifully maintained
and was a special treat for Hecker family members to see inside*

FRIEDRICH HECKER



Two Lives For Liberty

*A man of principle who fought
for freedom and democracy
in both Germany and America*

