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# The Green Banner

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## ANNUAL CAMP BUSINESS MEETING

A very important camp business meeting is being held soon and all camp brothers are highly encouraged to participate. New officers for the next year will need to be elected and a program of events considered for 2026. We will be conducting this event online via Google Zoom on Thursday, 13 November. More details on meeting time and dial-in to follow, but please be sure to join us!

## RECENT CAMP ACTIVITIES

The camp has continued to remain active with several new events over the past few months. Here are some of the highlights.

On 23 August, several camp members attended a monument dedication at the Charles City County Courthouse for the 119th USCT Civil War Soldiers and Sailors, which was followed by a lecture and luncheon.



On 20 September, Camp Junior Vice Commander Phil Russell, attended the 2025 Chesapeake Leadership Program (CLP) at the Antietam Battlefield in Maryland. The CLP events are sponsored by the Department as a way to broaden the experience of camp leadership and share ideas on activities across multiple camps in the region. The program consists of an ongoing series of events.



On Saturday, 27 September, an enthusiastic group of 15 all enjoyed a historic walking tour led by Mr. Zach Ferguson, a guide from the Fort Monroe Authority. A luncheon at the nearby *Deadrise* seafood restaurant followed the tour. Five members of the Brady Camp were joined by ten SUVCW members from other camps in the Department of the Chesapeake, including the Irish Brigade Camp #4 and the Lincoln-Cushing Camp #2.



*Honoring Union Veterans in  
Southeastern Virginia since 2003*



## SUVCW SPONSORED EVENTS

The following are upcoming events of note.

- 15 November 2025, Remembrance Day, Gettysburg, PA  
More info on this upcoming event at the following:  
<https://sites.google.com/site/remembrancedayparade>
- 14 December 2025, Irish Brigade Monument Dedication, Fredericksburg, VA
- 30 July-2 August 2026, National Encampment, Gettysburg, PA  
More info on this 145th annual encampment at the following:  
<https://suvchw.org/national-encampment>

## OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

- U.S. Navy and U.S Marine Corps 250th Anniversaries, multiple events across Virginia in mid-October thru mid-November. Some are linked in site below.  
<https://va250.org/localevents/>

**THIS QUARTER IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY***160 years ago*

On 10 November 1865, Henry Wirz, the commandant of the infamous prison camp at Andersonville, Georgia, was hanged in Washington D.C. following his conviction by a military tribunal. Over 13,000 Union prisoners of war (POWs) died at the camp during Wirz's tenure. The former prison site is now a National Park and home to the National POW Museum.

On 18 December 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolishing slavery was declared in effect by Secretary of State William Seward after approval by twenty-seven states.

*165 years ago*

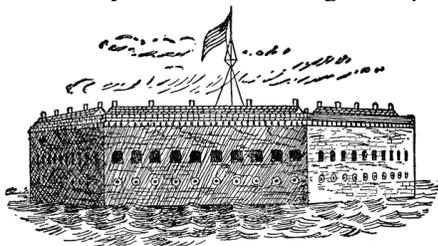
On 6 November 1860, Abraham Lincoln of Illinois was elected the sixteenth President of the United States with Hannibal Hamlin of Maine as his Vice President.

On 15 November 1860, Major Robert Anderson, a Regular Army officer serving with the Artillery School at Fort Monroe, received special orders from the War Department to proceed to Fort Moultrie in Charleston, South Carolina to assume command of federal military installations there. Concerns over mounting anti-Union agitation prompted the outgoing Buchanan administration to take preliminary steps to secure fortifications in southern states. On the same day, U.S. Navy Lieutenant T. A. Craven informed the Navy Department that he was taking measures to secure forts near Key West, Florida.

On 20 December 1860, South Carolina declared it was seceding from the Union. Decades of controversy over slavery in the United States had reached a crisis point, and the nation was in turmoil as other southern states were aggressively considering similar actions to break away.

On 26 December 1860, Major Anderson completed the transfer of his garrison from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter. The move was made because Anderson and others felt Sumter, which was positioned in Charleston's harbor, could be more easily defended in the event the secessionist government of South Carolina attempted to seize it by force. Local and state militia troops occupied Moultrie and other landward installations the next day.

On 31 December 1860, President James Buchanan ordered the War and Navy Departments to dispatch troops, supplies, and ships to Fort Sumter. He did so after receiving requests from U.S. Army General Winfield Scott to sustain the fort in the face of increasing demands by South Carolina to give it up.

**THIS QUARTER IN CAMP HISTORY***20 years ago*

On 26 December 2005, the camp's second website went live as Camp Secretary/Treasurer Bill Rose, who had been the website designer and manager since the camp's inception in 2003, handed his webmaster duties to Brother John Moscoe. John subsequently unveiled the new site under a revised web address, but Brother Rose's original site remained on-line for many years afterward to preserve the camp's original public-facing history.

*15 years ago*

On 11 November 2010, brothers of the Brady Camp and members of the National Park Service joined to observe Veterans Day at Poplar Grove National Cemetery. This was the first time since 2007 that the camp observed the holiday at Poplar Grove. There were five brothers present for the observance, along with the cemetery superintendent, Park Ranger Betsy Dinger, and two other members of the National Park Service. Following the ceremony, Commander Tom Grund performed an initiation ceremony for a new brother, Paul Battenfeld, of Portsmouth.

**ANCESTOR CORNER**

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed 6 October as German-American Day to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the founding of Germantown, Pennsylvania, and to celebrate German culture in the United States. Since that time, the month of October is often an occasion to celebrate German-American heritage. Several camp members have ancestors whose family names and origins hail from Germany. In this spirit, the section below devoted to ancestors features some of the unique history of Germans who served in the ranks of Union Army during the war.

**SALUTATION.** Thank you for supporting the Brady Camp and continuing to give a voice and a presence to Union veterans.

Warmest regards in Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,

*Bill Butler, PCC*

Senior Vice Commander and Camp Historian



### ***Forty-Eighters to the Fight!***

By Bill Butler, Camp SVC and Historian

This past spring marked the 160th anniversary of the end of the American Civil War, and the 165th anniversary of its beginnings are just around the corner. The legacies of that monumental conflict still clearly resonate today. It remains the bloodiest war in American history with over 600,000 soldiers and sailors lost: more casualties than the rest of America's conflicts combined. With the very future of the nation in question, the call to arms touched almost every American household, whether those families were long established or newly immigrated to the young nation. More than 180,000 German-born soldiers and sailors ultimately served in the United States Army and Navy during the war, even though many had only recently arrived on American shores. Of those, several Civil War notables originally hailed from communities around Stuttgart, in today's German state of Baden-Württemberg.

The most famous Badener to serve the Union Army during the war was Major General Franz Sigel. Born in 1824 just north of Stuttgart in Sinsheim, Sigel graduated from the Karlsruhe Military Academy in 1843 and served in the army of the Grand Duchy of Baden. He and several of his peers later became involved with revolutionary uprisings sweeping across many European countries. Collectively, these revolutionaries would be known as the "Forty-Eighters," named after their barely yearlong revolution that lasted from 1848-1849. Sigel took an early leading role by organizing and leading a Badener free corps during the period of revolt. After the revolutionaries lost their struggle, many of them, including Sigel, chose to emigrate to the United States.

Initially settling in New York City, Sigel taught in public schools while also contributing his military expertise to the state militia. Later, he moved with his family to Saint Louis, Missouri, where he became a leading figure in the German immigrant community. Following the secession crisis in early 1861, he was appointed as the Colonel of a Missouri infantry regiment and served in opening campaigns of the western theater. Given Sigel's standing as a strong pro-Unionist figure in that region, President Abraham Lincoln subsequently promoted Sigel to the rank of Major General which he held throughout campaigns in both the western and eastern regions of the country. After the war, he returned to New York City where he worked in the news industry and held several governmental posts. General Sigel is commemorated today by two public park statues, one in Manhattan and another in Saint Louis, as well as lending his name to small towns in Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Minnesota.



***Major General Franz Sigel***

General Sigel was not the only notable from Baden to serve during the war. Other graduates of the Karlsruhe Military Academy who rose to prominence include Brigadier General Max Weber and Captain Hubert Dilger. Born in the Black Forest town of Achern, Weber served under Sigel during the 1848 Revolution and emigrated to New York City with other "Forty Eighters" in the years after. He served as the commander of the 20th New York Volunteer Infantry in early Civil War actions along the Atlantic coast, such as the August 1861 amphibious campaign to capture rebel forts near the Outer Banks and Cape Hatteras in North Carolina. In April 1862, after being promoted

to Brigadier General, Weber commanded troops in the Hampton Roads region of Virginia, and during some of the fiercest battles in the eastern theater: Antietam in 1862 and the 1864 campaigns in the Shenandoah Valley.

A decade younger than both Sigel and Weber, Hubert Anton Dilger, who hailed from Eugen near the Bodensee, served in the Grand Duke's horse artillery during the 1850s. He made an early name for himself by developing innovative theories on artillery tactics and drill. Upon the outbreak of fighting in America, Dilger asked for and received a leave of absence to offer his services to the United States Army as a foreign volunteer. He continued to build on his reputation as a skilled artilleryman while serving as a battery commander in the Army of the Potomac's "German Division" commanded by General Louis Blenker, another "Forty Eighter" émigré from Worms. In this role, Dilger fought in many of the largest Eastern Theater battles. Thirty years after the war, he was awarded the Medal of Honor for his timely actions during the May 1863 Battle of Chancellorsville. The skillful deployment of his battery during a critical period likely saved his army corps from disaster. Like many German-born soldiers serving the Union Army, both Weber and Dilger chose to stay in their newly adopted American home after the war.



*“Encampment of Colonel Max Weber’s German Turner Rifle Regiment, Twentieth New York Volunteers, at Hampton Creek, Va.”*

Other Medal of Honor recipients who originally came from Baden-Württemberg also made significant contributions on the battlefield. Sergeant Georg Uhrig and Musician Richard Enderlin, both from Baden, and First Sergeant Frederick Fügler, a Württemberger from Göppingen, all received the nation's highest recognition for their actions during the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863. Chief Bugler Ferdinand Rohm, a Württemberger from Esslingen, received the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during one of the largest cavalry battles of the war when he shielded and aided a wounded regimental commander amid a fierce enemy attack. Other Württembergers receiving the medal for their actions included Privates George Grueb and Henry Klein, and First Sergeant Conrad Schmidt. Notable among Medal of Honor recipients during the war was U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Richard Binder, also from Württemberg and originally named Richard Bingle, who was recognized for his gallant actions during the amphibious assault on Fort Fisher, North Carolina in early 1865, one of the last major battles of the war. In addition to these brave men, over 30 other German-born soldiers from states such as Hesse, Prussia, and Mecklenburg received their newly adopted nation's highest honor for their actions and sacrifices on the battlefield.