

# The Steuben Regiment: A German Regiment from New York in the Civil War

By Don Heinrich Tolzmann

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## Introduction

Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben (1730-94) occupies an honored place in the annals of American history as the Inspector General who organized the Continental Army during the American Revolution. At the urging of Benjamin Franklin he came to America in 1777 and went to work reorganizing the Continental Army's military structure, emphasizing German-style discipline, drill, and battlefield tactics and strategy. In a relatively short time, he succeeded in transforming the army into an effective fighting force that eventually defeated Great Britain, the major world power at the time. Due to his service in the American Revolution Steuben was honored in 1910 by the dedication of the Steuben Monument in Washington, D.C. in Lafayette Park directly in front of the White House. (1)

In 1919, the Steuben Society of America was founded in New York City as "a national patriotic organization that united American citizens of German, Swiss, and Austrian heritage in the cultivation and celebration of their heritage." (2) In 2010, the society sponsored a centennial celebration of the Steuben Monument, which "symbolizes not only Steuben's contributions to America, but in a broader sense it stands also for the contributions German-Americans have made to the country." (3)

Given the high regard for Steuben, it is not surprising that one of the many German regiments formed during the Civil War was named in his honor: the Seventh New York Infantry Regiment. The following article aims to tell its story.

## Archive of the Steuben Society of America

The Steuben Society maintains an archive of its records and files in Patchogue, New York, as well as items, objects and artifacts relating not only to the history of the society, but also to Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben. While recently going through its files, Ilse Hoffmann, National Secretary, came across an illustration of the Seventh Regiment, one of the German regiments from New York that served

in the Civil War. The illustration was a gift from Henry E. Hartung, a member of the erstwhile Christian Heurich Unit of the Society, in 1961. Ilse Hoffmann then sent it to me for examination as the Society's Historian. (4)

The illustration, which is in brittle condition, was from *Frank Leslie's Illustrated History of the Civil War: The Most Important Events in the Conflict between the States Graphically Pictured* (1896), a work which is still available as a reprint edition. The illustration caption reads: "The German Regiment, Steuben Volunteers, Col. John E. Bendix Commanding, receiving the American and Steuben Flags in front of the City Hall, New York, Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1861." Beneath the illustration is the following description:

The Seventh Regiment, commanded by Colonel Bendix, sailed for Fortress Monroe on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1861. Previous to their departure they received a beautiful banner, the gift of some patriotic German ladies, and which was presented by Miss Bertha Kapff, daughter of the Lieutenant Colonel. Afterward they had another flag presented to them at the City Hall by Judge Daly, who made a forcible, brilliant and patriotic speech, which was enthusiastically received. The regiment was composed of 850 men. It was one of the most efficient regiments in the service.

The illustration raised a number of questions worthy of further investigation. First, what was the history of the Seventh Regiment and how did it come to be known as the Steuben Volunteers? Second, what can we find out about the flags presented to the regiment? Answering these questions reveals the current state of research with regard to the role played by Germans in the Civil War in general and New York in particular.

## The Steuben Regiment

The best place to begin looking for information on anything dealing with Germans in the Civil War is

in Wilhelm Kaufmann's general history on the topic. (5) It indicates that the regiment was also known as the Steuben Rifles and the Steuben Guard. For the sake of convenience we refer to it here as the Steuben Regiment. Kaufmann also provides information on the other German regiments, which were formed in New York. (6)

The website for the 52<sup>nd</sup> New York State Volunteers, another New York German regiment, has several links to information on the Steuben Regiment. (7) Additional information can be found at the website of the New York State Military Museum, which has an entry on the Seventh Regiment. This includes an article from the *New York Daily Tribune*, which provides the following information:

This regiment is composed of Germans, among whom are a number of the veterans of 1848 and '49. Among the officers are several German noblemen who are exiles in this country, having been driven from their native land on account of their sympathy with and activity in the struggle for German independence in 1848. Many of them have also served in the revolutionary struggles of Hungary and Italy. (8)

### The Steuben Flag

This newspaper article is particularly interesting since it covers the event depicted in the illustration in Leslie's history. The article reports on the first flag as follows:

The first, which is the gift of Mrs. Kapff and Mrs. Francesca Klein, was presented by Mrs. Kapff, at the Steuben House, in the Bowery. One of the ladies assembled the material, while the other embroidered the tasteful devices upon it. It is a crimson silk flag, bordered with heavy yellow silk fringe. In the corners are flowers tastefully embroidered. On one side is a portrait of Baron Steuben in a medallion wreath, with the German and American flags beneath, and surrounded by the words, in German, "Where Liberty dwells, there is our country." On the reverse is a shield with stars and stripes and a wreath across, surrounded by the words, "Seventh Steuben Regiment. (9)

Given the fact that the flag was presented at the Steuben House, the regiment was most likely organized there and therefore called the Steuben Regiment in honor of Baron von Steuben. The Steuben House was established by Sixtus Ludwig Kapff (1817-1877) some time in the 1850s, and was

located at 291-293 Bowery. (9) It was one of the many German social halls in New York's *Kleindeutschland*, the German district on Manhattan's lower east side. Karl Theodor Griesinger, a German-American author, wrote of the district: "Life in Kleindeutschland is almost the same as in the Old Country. Bakers, butchers, druggists – all are German. There is not a single business which is not run by Germans...The resident of Kleindeutschland need not even know English in order to make a living, which is a considerable attraction to the immigrant." (10)

### The Kapff Brothers

Sixtus Ludwig Kapff was born in Güglingen in Württemberg and was studying law in Tübingen when the Revolution of 1848 broke out. (11) Like many he fled to America when the revolution was put down. We know that he opened a saloon in Hoboken, New Jersey, since there is a record of his arrest in 1853 for violating the Sunday prohibition law there. (12) Probably as a result of this, he moved to New York City, where he opened the Steuben House in the Bowery.

It would have made perfectly good sense for Kapff to name his social hall after Steuben, since the Baron at that time was the most famous German in the annals of American history. Steuben would also have appealed to Kapff as a Forty-Eighter, since he had fought for freedom and liberty during the 1848 Revolution and Steuben symbolized these very same ideals.

Since it was noted that the regiment had a number of Forty-Eighters in its ranks, it is likely that the Steuben House was one of the places in New York where they gathered. Both Kapff and his brother Eduard (1811-1869) joined the Seventh. Sixtus served as Captain of Company G and his brother joined at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. (13)

Born in Güglingen, Eduard Kapff had also studied law in Tübingen, but joined the army of Württemberg, aiming for a military career. Rather than getting involved in the 1848 Revolution in southwest Germany like his brother, he traveled north to participate in the uprising in Schleswig-Holstein against Danish rule, which was called the First Schleswig War (1848-1851). He joined the rebel army at the rank of captain, but after the Danish victory came to America. When the Civil War broke out, he enlisted in the Seventh Regiment with his brother. In August 1861, Kapff succeeded Colonel John E. Bendix, who transferred to another regiment, as commanding officer and was promoted to the

rank of Colonel. He served until February 1862, when he was released from service due to injuries incurred in battle. In 1864, he returned to Schleswig-Holstein to fight in the Second Schleswig War, but his services were declined, as Prussia and Austria took control of the conflict, winning it by the end of the year. He then moved to Stuttgart, where he died in 1869. (14)

### **The American Flag**

Returning to the newspaper article, we find further information on the second flag presented to the regiment. It reports that it:

...was presented by Judge Daly in the name of American ladies, descendants of Germans who came to New York previous to the Revolution. The colors consist of an American flag, with the following inscription, "7th Regiment," in silver script, and a guide color, the gift of the grand-daughter of Gen. Steuben. The guide color is rich, green silk, with a heavy, yellow silk fringe, and contains on one side the Cross of the German Order of Fidelity. (15)

Although the article provides a great deal of information on the regiment and the two flags it received, it contains two errors, the first of which is rather obvious, but the second is not. First, the newspaper article contains the curious reference to a granddaughter of Steuben, which could not have been the case, as Steuben never married and had no offspring. Second, the article reports that Mrs. Kapff presented the first flag, but Leslie's history says that Miss Bertha Kapff, the daughter of the Lieutenant Colonel (Eduard Kapff), presented it. Given the specificity in Leslie's history it likely contains the correct information, rather than the newspaper article. As to the purported granddaughter of Steuben, we can only hypothesize what might have led the reporter to refer to a granddaughter of Steuben. With all the emphasis on Steuben, it might have been the case that Bertha Kapff was taken to be a descendant, or that one of the "patriotic ladies" was taken to be one.

### **Judge Daly's Address at City Hall**

Aside from these apparent and rather confusing errors, the address of Judge Daly is significant for its references to the German heritage of the regiment and the person for whom it was named. Daly noted that the flags were "the gift of women members of some of our oldest families, whose ancestors came from Germany and settled in this country before the Revolution." He then goes on to praise German

contributions to the winning of the American Revolution in general and Steuben in particular:

You are not the first of the German race who have taken up arms in defense of this country. On that balcony before you, arrayed in the old continental uniform of a Major-General is the portrait of that noble German soldier whose honored name you bear.

The aide-de-camp of Frederick the Great, and profoundly skilled in the art of war, acquired under the leadership of his great commander Baron Steuben quitted a life of luxurious ease and came to this country at a critical period in our history to offer his services as a volunteer. He was the tactician of our Revolution. As Inspector-General of the American armies, he drilled our imperfectly disciplined troops and taught them the art of war. His name is, and ever will be associated with Monmouth, with Valley Forge and with the fights of Yorktown, and when the Revolution was over, he selected our country as his home and his body lies buried in its soil. At this time, when officers of the United States Army hold so highly to the obligation of their honor and their oath, it may be well to remember how Steuben regarded this class of traitors.

When, acting as Inspector General in Virginia he heard among the role of recruits the name of Arnold, he ordered the young man to step to the front, and said:

"I cannot, Sir, enlist you by the name of a traitor."

"It is not my fault," said the recruit. "What other name can I take?"

"Take mine" was the reply, and the soldier enlisted by the name of Steuben.

This detestation of traitors is an old, instinctive, German feeling. Tacitus tells us that the German tribes regarded as among the highest of crimes, and as a disgrace, which could never be wiped out, the voluntary abandonment by a soldier of his shield. What was true then is true now, for no soldiers have ever surpassed the Germans in fidelity. Steuben was pre-eminently distinguishable for this German virtue, and as a mark of this especial merit he had conferred upon him the cross of the Order of Fidelity. It was the only

one of his decorations that he ever valued, it was the one he always wore, and by his request it was buried with him. The ladies whom I represent thought that you could carry with you no worthier symbol than Steuben's Crest of Fidelity. They have accordingly had it copied from the portrait in the City Hall, and emblazoned on the small flag, which I now present to you. I commit also to your charge this flag of the United States with its clustered stars and its many memories. It now depends upon you and all arrayed like you for the defense of the Union whether a star shall be effaced or not from its blue field. You are American citizens; you are soldiers; you are Germans. You require no exhortation from me to stand faithfully by your colors; the history of your country for seventeen hundred years answers for you.

The report concludes as follows:

Col. Bendix returned thanks for the flag, and promised for himself and his regiment that the flag should never be disgraced, nor a star allowed to disappear. They would respect it, and be faithful to the Constitution and the Union.

A marching review then took place, while the Regimental Band performed patriotic airs. During the entire ceremony the portrait of Steuben, from the Governor's room, was displayed on the balcony, and was frequently cheered by the soldiers. The balcony was filled with ladies. After the review, the regiment marched through Broadway and Warren Street to the steamer Empire City. A large assemblage of friends of the soldiers accompanied the regiment during the march.

### Service Record in the Civil War

The Civil War caught the U.S. totally unprepared for the conflict. The U.S. Army consisted of only sixteen thousand soldiers and a good number of them followed Robert E. Lee into the Confederacy. The Union Army therefore was not only short-handed in terms of soldiers, but also lacked uniforms and weapons when Lincoln issued his call to arms. Additionally, many thought the war would last only a few months and be over by the end of the year. So when the war broke out, many had no other choice but to supply their own uniforms, weaponry and supplies, or obtain funding from state, local, or private sources.

At the outset of the war, the Seventh Regiment, which was organized on 23 April 1861, was one of many that was lacking in uniforms. A letter published in the *New York Times* (May 16, 1861) bitterly complained about this situation. (16)

As I go to and from my business I have, for the month past, been passing the rendezvous of the Seventh Regiment Volunteers. The first time I saw a battalion of this regiment marching together I was much struck with their appearance. I had seen no troops before, and I have seen none since, in which there was the same indescribable aspect of discipline. The men were not in uniform, but very poorly dressed, -- in many cases with flip-flap shoes. The business-like air with which they marched rapidly through the deep mud of the Third Avenue was the more remarkable. My curiosity was sufficiently excited to visit them at their quarters, and I gained this information.

The letter writer comments further about the regiment:

That the regiment was the first formed regiment of volunteers in the State: that, with one or two exceptions, every officer in the regiment (twenty-five at least) had been officers of European armies, in which their rank had been considerably higher than that they now held. A Captain had been an Austrian Lieutenant-Colonel, a Lieutenant had been a British Captain, and so on. And in the ranks, six out of eight of the men had seen service and been under fire, not a few of them as officers...There seems the best spirit in the Regiment. It is considered one of the hardships of war to be expected, after a long period of peace, that the patience of soldiers should be severely tried by the ignorance and incompetence of place keepers.

The letter writer takes more than a casual interest in the regiment, noting that the regiment had been visited more than once:

I visited the quarters of the regiment again today, and what was my surprise to find that it was not yet half uniformed, and was entirely unarmed. I was told that the uniforms were made by contract in the city for the regiment, but that after being made they were sent to Albany for inspection, after going through which ceremony, they were, in process of time, returned to some officer in New-York, and finally, within a few days, came to the

regimental officers. On the cases being opened, they were found, to be without buttons.

Buttons were then acquired and twenty tailors in the regiment were put to work sewing them onto the uniforms, causing the letter writer to protest:

But this sort of thing must not go on. Whatever discipline requires of soldiers, the public must make it known that contractors and officials are not safe who are responsible for abuses of this kind. Speaking of contractors, who will own to having made the clothing of the Scott Life Guard? It is no clothing; it is an assortment of bags which a convict chain-gang might rebel against wearing. Who accepts such clothing, or apology for clothing, in behalf of the State or the nation -- in behalf of the people and taxpayers? Whoever it is, they will have an account to settle one of these days, which will not be forgotten because an emergency at present demands haste. The emergency neither demands nor will it excuse incompetency, inefficiency and neglect of duty. Those who fight our battles must expect to bear much privation, but woe to those who deprive them needlessly of that which is necessary to their health, strength and spirit.

As to the lack of weaponry the letter writer provides the following information:

I am told that there are large quantities of arms in the arsenals of the city, not in use. Is this so? Why has this Seventh Volunteer Regiment been obliged to lose a month, in drilling its men in the new Hardee's manual for want of arms? The only arms they have as yet are a few old muskets bought by the officers themselves. The men have not yet been supplied with shoes, and still march flip-flop. Why? Whose business is all this, and why is it neglected or so carelessly attended to?

The letter published in the *New York Times* appears to have had an immediate impact, as four days after it was published (on 20 May), the regiment was provided with 720 U.S. percussion muskets, which were later replaced by Remington rifles. It also received a total of 124 tents, so that the troops could be properly housed. And by August 1861 the state of New York had raised \$44,887.82 in support of the regiment's needs, exclusive of rations, which were covered by the federal government. (17)

On 24 May 1861 the regiment left New York for Fort Monroe in Virginia and soon engaged in its first military action. This took place on 10 June at the Battle of Big Bethel in Virginia, which was also the first major land battle of the war. Although Union troops outnumbered the Confederates, they were poorly organized and forced into retreat. Union casualties (killed, wounded, or missing) numbered 76 and 8 for the CSA. (18)

This battle led to a series of twelve battles in Virginia for the next year, from 12 July 1861 to 1 July 1862. For the latter half of 1862, it was involved in five battles, the major one being the Battle of Antietam on 17 September 1862. Considered a Union victory, it was also the bloodiest one-day of battle in American history. Union casualties were 12,410 and 13,724 for the CSA. The Seventh Regiment suffered its heaviest losses at this battle, with fifteen killed and forty-nine wounded. (19)

The regiment fought next at the Battle of Fredericksburg in Virginia on 13 December 1862. It resulted in a great victory for the South, with the Union suffering more than twice the casualties than the Confederacy; Union casualties were 12,653, while those of the CSA were 5,377. (20)

The regiment's next major battle was at Chancellorsville in Virginia on 1-3 May 1863. This also resulted in a Confederate victory; Union casualties numbered 17,278 and 12,831 for the Confederacy. (21)

On 8 May 1863, the regiment was mustered out of service, as it had been organized for a two-year term, but was immediately reorganized for another two years of service.

After re-organization, the regiment took part in the bloody Battle of Gettysburg on 1-3 July 1863, which resulted in a Union victory, but with heavy casualties on both sides; Union casualties were 23,049 and those of the Confederacy 28,063. (22)

For the rest of the year, it continued on fighting several battles and skirmishes, and then joined Grant's Overland Campaign in Virginia, also known as the Wilderness Campaign, in May and June 1864. Both sides suffered greatly, but it was viewed as a Union victory, having dealt the CSA a heavy blow. (23)

The regiment then participated in the Siege of Petersburg in Virginia from June 1864 to March 1865, which brought another victory to the Union. Losses again were high (Union casualties were 42,000 and those of the CSA were 28,000), but they finally brought the war to a close, with Gen. Robert

E. Lee signing the surrender documents on behalf of the CSA on 9 April 1865. (24)

By the time the regiment mustered out two months later in June 1865, the regiment could register a final death toll of 149. Altogether it had fought in more than twenty battles, including some of the major ones of the war. It had proved its mettle and fought well, especially in consideration of the problems it first faced with a lack of supplies and uniforms.

### Conclusion

The fact that the Seventh Regiment was called the Steuben Regiment reflects the regard that Germans and Americans had for him at the time. This comes through loud and clear in Daly's speech at City Hall, as well as by the presentation of flags to the regiment. The regard for Steuben is further underscored by the fact that there was a Steuben House in New York, further evidencing the reputation he enjoyed in the German community there.

What happened to the Steuben House?

According to Ferrara, it was destroyed by fire in 1863, so that a new building had to be built. Kapff sold the place in in the 1870s and it was re-named the Germania Assembly Rooms, but continued to serve as a German social hall with meeting rooms, a saloon, bowling alleys, etc. (25)

What happened to the flags of the Steuben Regiment? They most likely were kept at the Steuben House after the Civil War, but what may have happened to them thereafter is unknown. Thus far, no images of them have been found other than the one shown in this article. Although there are a good number of images available for many Civil War regiments, the Seventh is unfortunately not one of them.

Wilhelm Kaufmann devotes a section of his history to a discussion of "The German Forty-Eighters in America," stressing their leadership in German community life. (26) This certainly rings true for the Steuben Regiment, as the article from the *New York Daily Tribune* emphasizes that many of its members were Forty-Eighters and the Kapff brothers certainly played an important role in its history.

The illustration of the Seventh Regiment was no doubt given to the Steuben Society because of the regiment's name. Thankfully it was preserved and eventually found its way to me, leading to an exploration of one of New York's many German regiments in the Civil War. In the recent past, there

has been an ever-increasing amount of research on the role of Germans in the Civil War, but the Steuben Regiment provides a good example of how much more research needs to be done. (27)

Although Wilhelm Kaufmann provides a basic general history on the topic of Germans in the Civil War, what is needed is a state-by-state history of German participation in the war. There are a number of regimental histories, biographies of officers, local historical studies, etc., but only the surface has been scratched in terms of local and regional history.

In the case of New York's many German regiments and units, there is a great deal of ground to cover in telling their story, but it is one that needs to be told for a complete picture of their military service on behalf of the Union during the Civil War. New York's Steuben Regiment provides a good example of what we can learn when we explore this topic and how rewarding the exploration can be. (28)

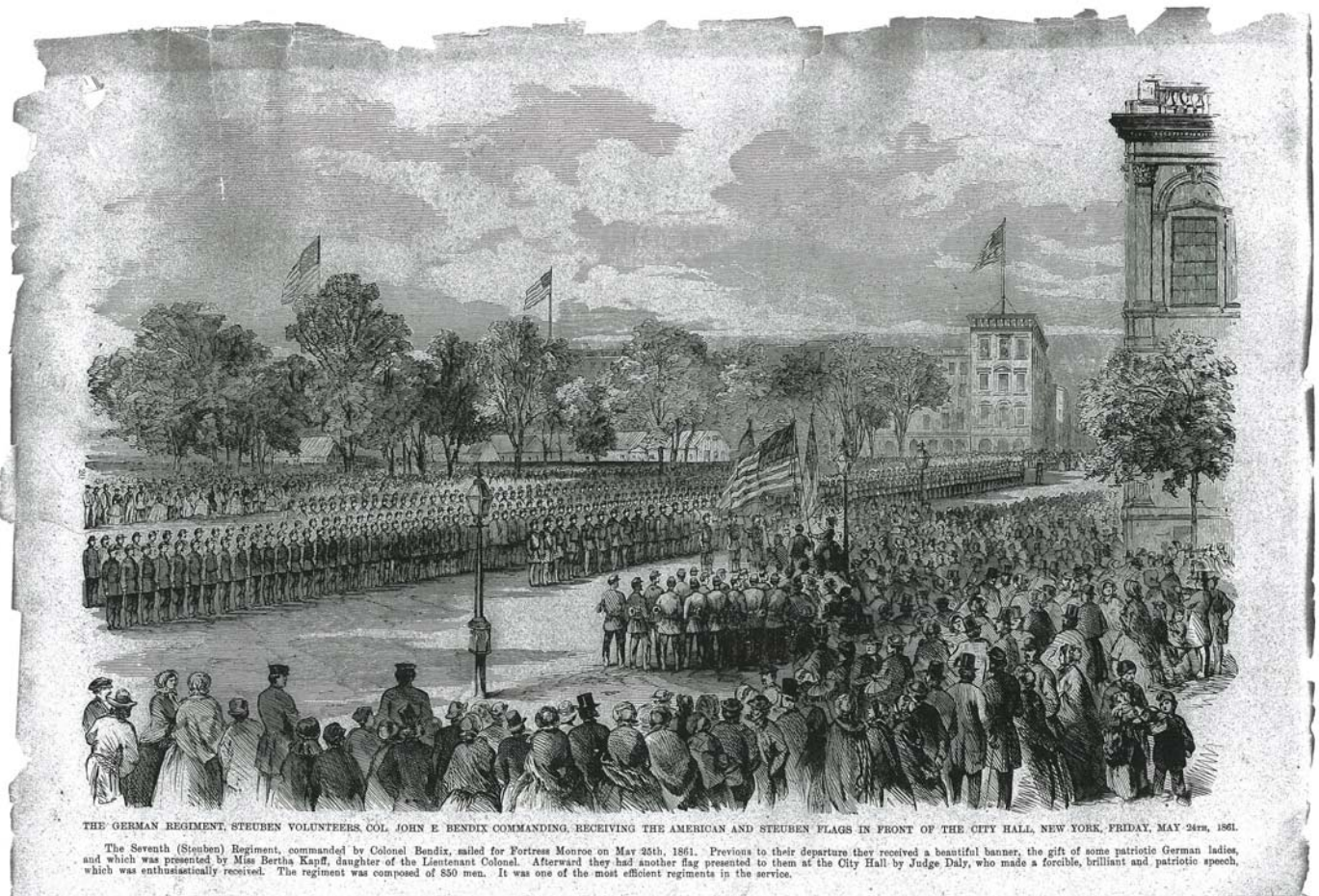
### Notes:

1. See: Rudolf Cronau, *The Army of the American Revolution and its Organizer: Rudolf Cronau's Biography of Baron von Steuben*. Edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann. (Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, Inc., 1998).
2. This is from the membership brochure of the Steuben Society of America. See also: *The Official History of the Steuben Society of America, 1919 to 2009*. (Patchogue, New York: Steuben Society of America, 2010).
3. See: Don Heinrich Tolzmann, "Baron von Steuben: From Prussian Soldier of Fortune to Inspector General," *The Palatine Immigrant*. 36:1 (2010): 26.
4. Thanks to Ilse Hoffmann, National Secretary of the Steuben Society of America, for sending me a copy of the illustration and also for a careful reading the manuscript.
5. See: Wilhelm Kaufmann, *Germans in the American Civil War*. Translated by Steven Rowan and edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann with Werner D. Mueller and Robert E. Ward. (Carlisle, PA: John Kallmann, Publishers, 1999). Kaufmann's work is the only general history available on the topic and provides a valuable source of information on German Civil War service, as well as a biographical directory of officers as well. It was for this reason that I organized an editorial team to bring out a translated edition of this work. Regarding this

- project, see my article: "Germans in the Civil War: Wilhelm Kaufmann's History," in my: *German-Americana: Selected Essays*. (Milford, Ohio: Little Miami Publishing Co., 2009), pp. 132-38.
6. Kaufmann, *Germans in the American Civil War*, p. 104.
  7. For the website of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, see: <http://52ndnysv.com>.
  8. See the website of New York State Military Museum. The following quotations from this article come from this site. See: <http://dmna.ny.gov/historic/reghist/civil/infantry/7thInf/7thInfMain.htm>.
  9. See: Eric Ferrara, *The Bowery: A History of Grit, Graft and Grandeur*. (Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2011), pp. 111ff.
  10. This is from my article on "Kleindeutschland: New York: Little Germany," where I discussed Griesinger's description of the district. See my *German-Americana: Selecteds Essays*, pp. 54-55. Also, see: Stanley Nadel, *Little Germany: Ethnicity, Religion, and Class in New York City, 1845-80*. (Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 1990), p. 104.
  11. For a brief biography of Kapff, see: "Vermischtes," *Der deutsche Pionier*. 8 (1877): 515.
  12. Regarding his arrest, see: Carl Wittke, *Refugees of Revolution: The German Forty-Eighters in America*. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1952), p. 64.
  13. Information on Kapff's military service can be found at the Soldiers & Sailors System website: [www.civilwar.nps.gov](http://www.civilwar.nps.gov). John E. Bendix (1818-1877), the original commanding officer, served at the rank of Colonel until August 1861 when he resigned to take on the command of the Tenth New York Regiment. Eduard Kapff (1811-1869) was then promoted to the rank of Colonel to take his place and he served as commanding officer until February 1862 when he resigned. George von Schack (1827-1909) succeeded him and was promoted from the rank of major to colonel.
  14. See: Alexander Schem, *Deutsch-Amerikanisches Conversations-Lexicon*. (New York: Ernst Steiger, 1872), vol. 6, p. 73.
  15. It is interesting that the flag displayed an image of the Order of Fidelity, as it indicates that its creators were well informed with the biography of Steuben. This was an order that was immensely important to Steuben, as it conferred on him the title of *Freiherr*, or Baron. The Order was presented to him in 1769 by the margrave of Baden-Durlach. According to Paul Lockhart: "Like the medal of fidelity, this title would become part of his permanent identity." See: Paul Lockhart, *The Drillmaster of Valley Forge: The Baron de Steuben and the Making of the American Army*. (New York: HarperCollins, 2008), p. 29. Also, see: Rudolf Cronau, *The Army of the American Revolution and its Organizer*, p. 2. For a survey of Steuben's life, see my article: "Baron von Steuben: From Prussian Soldier of Fortune to Inspector General," *The Palatine Immigrant*. 36:1(2010): 26-32.
  16. This and the following quotes are all from the same letter in the *New York Times*.
  17. See: <http://dmna.ny.gov/historic/reghist/civil/infantry/7thInf/7thInfMain.htm#photos>
  18. See: Mark Mayo Boatner III, *The Civil War Dictionary*. New York: Random House, 1991), p. 63.
  19. *Ibid*, p. 20.
  20. *Ibid*, p. 313.
  21. *Ibid*, p. 140.
  22. *Ibid*, p. 339.
  23. *Ibid*, p. 925.
  24. *Ibid*, p. 646.
  25. Ferrara, *The Bowery*, p. 111ff.
  26. See: Kaufmann, *The Germans in the American Civil War*, pp. 61-69. Regarding their importance in German community life, Joseph R. Reinhart notes: "Forty-Eighter editors and Forty-Eighter leaders played an influential role in raising ethnic consciousness of America's Germans, defining German American ethnicity, enunciating common concerns, and mobilizing them politically in defense of their common rights." See: Joseph R. Reinhart, ed., *Yankee Dutchmen under Fire: Civil War Letters from the 82<sup>nd</sup> Illinois Infantry*. (Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 2013), p. 4.
  27. Among recent works, see, for example: Constantin Grebner, *We Were the Ninth: A History of the Ninth Regiment, Ohio Voluntary Infantry, April 17, 1861 to June 7. 1864*. Translated and edited by Frederic Trautmann. (Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 1987); Joseph R. Reinhart, ed., *Two Germans in the Civil War: The Diary of John Daeuble and the Letters of Gottfried Rentschler, 6<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Volunteer Infantry*. (Knoxville, Tennessee: University of

Tennessee Press, , 2004); and David L. Valuska and Christian B. Keller, *Damn Dutch: Pennsylvania Germans at Gettysburg*. (Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 2004). Also, see my edition of Gustav Tafel, *The Cincinnati Germans in the Civil War, With Supplements on Germans from Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana in the Civil War*. Translated and edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann. (Milford, Ohio: Little Miami Publishing Co., 2010).

28. For a list of the many German regiments and units from New York, see the website listed in footnote no. 2. Also, see: Shirley J. Riemer, *The German Research Companion*. (Sacramento, CA: Lorelei Press, 2000), p. 221, and Kaufmann, *The Germans in the American Civil War*, pp. 104-05.



The Steuben Regiment as depicted in *Leslie's Illustrated History of the Civil War* (1896).