

**The Germans in the American Civil War, Wilhelm Kaufmann; translated from German by Steven Rowan, edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann with Werner D. Mueller and Robert E. Ward, Heritage Books, 2021.**

Originally published in German in 1911, this book has long been the standard on the topic – indeed the first half of the book could be used as a detailed history of the slavery issue and sequence that led to the war. Wilhelm Kaufmann knew or interviewed many German-American veterans and published his work serialized in the German-American press, finally bringing out his work published as a book.

In the 1990s, Don Tolzmann organized an editorial team to get Kaufmann's work translated and edited and it was published in 1999. Long out of print, it is now brought back in this paperback edition with maps

and index.

This translation is in polished English and contains items not often discussed, such as the unfortunate result of Buchanan becoming president at the crucial mid-1850s, the processes of session deliberation in the several slave states. He gives data (such as was available) about numbers of Germans in the Union as well as Confederacy, with special attention to those in Texas.

The editor's introduction describes also how Kaufmann was treated during WW I. Being an American citizen, he was attending to business in Dresden and was banned from returning to the U.S. because his son had enlisted in the German Army and his daughters were married to Germans. Federal authorities confiscated his property in Cleveland where he had lived for more than 25 years. After recuperating from a heart attack in Dresden, he died in despair in 1920, not being allowed to return to America.

His work is the only major book about the Civil War and the German-Americans fighting in it. This is an important book about the Civil War in general and should be part of every teacher's library on the subject.

Reviewed by Karl Lietzenmayer

