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**University of Memphis Libraries**  
**Preservation and Special Collections Department**

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## Carl Bernhardt diary

**Title:** Carl Bernhardt diary  
**Collection No:** MSS.172  
**Creator:** Carl W. Bernhardt  
**Extent:** 0.25 cubic feet  
**Inclusive Dates:** 1865

**Abstract:** The collection contains photocopies of the diary—and its translation—of Private Carl W. Bernhardt, a German-American soldier in the Union army while serving at Mobile, Alabama, in 1865.

**Donor:** Emma L. Bernhardt, Collierville, Tennessee, 1986.  
**Processed by:** Delanie M. Ross, June 1986; Gerald Chaudron, February 2014.  
**Access:** Open to all researchers.  
**Language:** German, English  
**Preferred Citation:** Carl Bernhardt diary, Preservation and Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

**Publication date:** February 2014

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## **Biographical information**

Carl William Bernhardt was born in Minden, Prussia, circa 1821 and died circa 1899. Family lore states that he was a builder and/or architect and may have emigrated to the United States after the failed revolution of 1848, possibly in 1853. He was living in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, when he enlisted. He served as a private with the 1st Wisconsin Regiment, April 18-August 21, 1861, and fought in Virginia. When he re-enlisted in the 35th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment in Milwaukee in February 1864, he was described as a mason. Bernhardt fought at Mobile, Alabama, March-April 1865, and then in June the regiment was sent to Texas, where he was hospitalized at Brazos Santiago from June to December. Mustered out in March 1866 at Brownsville, he returned to Milwaukee. He had two sons, Carl William and Maximillian Ferdinand (1848-1925), who also served in the war.

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## **Scope and contents**

The collection contains photocopies of the diary—and its translation—of Private Carl Bernhardt, a German-American soldier in the U.S. Army, covering the period March 16-April 12, 1865. Bernhardt was involved in the battle at Mobile, Alabama, and his eyewitness account accompanied by detailed sketches of people, places and events were evidently written during the time period or very shortly thereafter. Some biographical notes compiled by Emma Bernhardt are also included.

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## **Provenance**

The original two-volume diary was deposited with the United States Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania (Bernhardt-Campbell family papers, 1853-1898), by Emma L. Bernhardt, the great-granddaughter of Carl Bernhardt. A translation was made by the staff of the Institute and copies of the diary and translation were sent to Miss Bernhardt who gave one to the Special Collections Department via Dr. Skeen of the History Department.

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## **Subject terms**

### **SUBJECTS:**

United States. Army. Wisconsin Infantry Regiment, 35<sup>th</sup> (1864-1866)

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--German Americans.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Personal narratives--Union.

### **NAMES:**

Bernhardt, Carl William.

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## **Inventory**

### Folder

- 1 Biographical notes by Emma. L. Bernhardt.
- 2 Translation of diary (photocopy).
- 3 Diary (photocopy), 1865.