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# JOHN G. CULLMANN AND CULLMAN, ALABAMA

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**Johann Gottfried Cullmann** (later John Cullmann) was a German businessman with an educational background in civil engineering. Alongside his initially successful business ventures, Cullman was also a supporter of the revolutionary movements for democracy in Germany during the mid-1800s. The Prussian military, however, successfully quelled these movements and shortly thereafter started the Dano-Prussian War, during which Cullmann lost his investments in Denmark. The successive timing of these events left Cullmann bankrupt, a setback which, combined with his notoriety gained from his involvement in the revolution, hindered him from restoring his business. Cullman subsequently came to the United States in 1866 to find a fresh start.

Cullmann's travels eventually brought him to North Alabama, where he believed he had found the perfect place to execute his idea of founding a new colony for German and European immigrants. After striking a deal with the South-North Railroad good for 349,000 acres of northern Alabama land, Cullmann began to bring German and American colonists into the area. In 1874 the colony was incorporated as the city of "Cullman," and in 1877 the area was large enough to be formed into its own county. Cullman and Cullman County saw rapid growth under the development of Johann Cullmann, who used the money acquired from land sales to bring more German settlers into the area. More than 100,000 European and American settlers moved to Cullman between 1871 and 1895.

Today, Cullman is a site of many local attractions and Frankweiler, Johann Cullmann's birthplace, is its sister city.

Sources: <https://cullmanal.gov/>  
<http://cullmancountymuseum.com/>



“AFTER TRAVELING AROUND THE COUNTRY AND ARRIVING IN NORTH ALABAMA, THE IMPRESSION WAS MADE UPON MY MIND THAT IF THIS COUNTRY WAS FILLED UP WITH GOOD FARMERS IT WOULD BE THE GARDEN SPOT OF AMERICA. I FOUND HERE ALL THAT I HAD BEEN LOOKING FOR, ALL THAT I REGARDED AS NECESSARY TO MAKE GOOD HOMES: THERE WAS HERE COMBINED THESE THINGS TO AN EXTENT NOT EQUALED BY ANY OTHER PLACE I HAD SEEN.” – COLONEL JOHN G. CULLMANN, 1877

(PICTURE CREDIT: CULLMAN.GOV)