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# More On Charles Cullmann

by

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In my article on Cullmann, AOLRC newsletter Vo.VIII No.1, I stated that his name was Carl Charles Cullmann. According to his great grandson, S.L. Cullman, his name was Charles W. Cullmann. He was the son of Charles and Phillepena Cullmann and was born on December 2, 1829 in Zweibruchen, Bavaria. Zweibruchen was a town in the Rinedomain on the Schwarzbuck River, 54 miles southwest of Mannheim. His father was a city clerk.

Charles had a younger brother, Fredrick A. Cullmann who was born February 6, 1832. Their father died when Charles was still a young boy. His mother then married his stepfather, Joseph Sommers, who was a cabinetmaker.

He received his schooling as was required and enforced in Bavaria. After this, he was apprenticed to a gunmaker. After serving his apprenticeship, he moved about the country as a journeyman to perfect his trade. This was the custom of the country at that time.

He was not satisfied with life in Bavaria. He had read his Uncle George Cullmann's letters of the wonderful opportunities in America and was anxious to go to this new country. He was doing very well financially and was saving for the day he could leave for the United States.

The family was finally able to leave their native country. They arrived in New York City in 1847. Charles's stepfather had friends in New York, so he settled there with Charles's mother and brother Fredrick. His stepfather's trade was in great demand and he opened a cabinet shop.

Charles was too close to fulfilling his life-long dream of joining his Uncle George, so he moved on to Columbus, Ohio. All did not go as he had planned. The war with Mexico had broken out and his Uncle George Cullman was appointed First Lieutenant in Company B, 4th Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry. When Charles arrived in Columbus, his Uncle was preparing to leave the next day for Cincinnati, Ohio where he was to be put on active duty (May 27, 1847). He was in Columbus with no family or friends. Although he could speak German and French, he could not understand the language of his new country. The German people of Columbus were very friendly to him and the family where his Uncle had boarded, let him board with them. Their daughter, Wilhelmine Kampmann, taught him to speak English. He must have been a bright and attentive student. His grandson, George Cullman, said he spoke perfect English with no accent. Charles

was looking forward to his Uncle's return, but this was not to be. His Uncle suffered a stroke while in pursuit of guerrillas near Vera Cruz, Mexico and died on September 20, 1847.



Charles Cullmann

Charles did not appear in the Columbus City Directories until 1850. This was due to not being the head of a household or 21 years of age.

On December 19, 1853 he married Louisa Barth. Their marriage produced six children - four sons and two daughters: Charles, George, Fredrick, Phillip, Hellena and Minnie. Hellena died when she was three years old.

In 1853 he took part in the first "German Shooting Fest" held in Columbus, Ohio. He was an excellent marksman and won second prize, which was \$30.00. First prize was won by Christian Siebert, another Columbus gunsmith.

After the Civil War, the economy in New York took a down turn. Joseph Sommers and Fredrick Cullmann were some of the people whose business was hurt most. Fredrick had married and had two daughters. The letters from Charles had told them how great Columbus was, so in 1866 the family moved to Columbus. When they arrived, Charles helped them get settled in a home and his brother in the restaurant business. It must have been a happy time for all of them to be together again.



Christian Siebert

Charles was active in the first "German Target Club: which was incorporated December 29, 1854. He held the office of first shooting master in 1873 and in 1874 was appointed superintendent of the shooting grounds on the north side of Nursery Lane East. A home was provided on the grounds for him and his family. He resided there for five years. In addition to caring for the grounds and buildings, he continued to do gunsmith work. In 1879 he moved from the shooting grounds into Columbus, where he devoted full time to his trade.

The 1893 Columbus City Directory lists him in business for himself at 405 South High Street. He shared this room with Gus Hessenauer, a jeweler and son of his good friend, George Hessenauer. He spelled his name with two N's for years and hated to do as many German immigrants did, but finally gave into the new country's way and dropped one of the N's. It is interesting to note in the picture taken about 1893, it is spelled both ways on the store front.

His claim checks for work brought in for repair were made in duplicate and of brass. The one he gave to the customer

was stamped C. Cullmann. Possibly the same stamp with which he stamped his rifles.

In 1893 he moved his residence to 375 South Front Street. As he was getting up in years and less active, he moved his business to the front room of his home. He operated his business from there until his death on June 1, 1903. Charles is buried in Greenlawn Cemetery, Columbus, Ohio.

Reference -

Muzzle Blasts - Vol XIV, No. 5  
Charles Cullman, Ohio Gunsmith  
S.L. Cullman



Charles Cullman, Gunsmith on the left, and Gus Hessenauer, Jeweler, on the right, standing in front of their shop at 405 South High Street.