

WILLKOMMEN!

German-American CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM

In 1755, when the Acadians, better known as "Cajuns," arrived in Louisiana ... Germans were here to greet them with "Willkommen!"

Learn about those German settlers at the German-American Cultural Center and museum, located in historic downtown Gretna across the Mississippi River from downtown New Orleans, just 15 minutes from the French Quarter.

THE STORY BEGINS

Germans, primarily from the Rhine River valley in southwestern Germany, were lured to the French colony of Louisiana during the 1720s by officials promising fertile land to farm, a healthy climate, and an abundance of gold and silver to mine.



Believing these wondrous tales of life in Louisiana, approximately 1,600 Germans boarded ships and set sail from the French port of L'Orient. Only 300 survived the journey and their first year in Louisiana.



Two later waves of German immigrants followed, and by 1860, of 168,675 residents of New Orleans, nearly 20,000 were German.

