

**“IN DESSEN” ON A FRAKTUR IS A FORMAL TERM OF SPEECH IN LEGAL AND CHURCH DOCUMENTS WHICH MEANS “IN THIS CASE” AND IS NOT A LOCATION OF BIRTH**



Anna Maria Strauß Müllerin Ist Gebore  
en Von Christlichen und Thülichen Eltern in Dwi  
Amstford baunischir Northampton County in Penn  
sylvanien den 7<sup>ten</sup> Sechtober Anno 1787 und ist zu  
Beiligen Saust Geyracht und dem Herren Jesu Einver  
traut von Herren Pfarren, Jacob Wan Top Kirch als den 18. den November  
Anno 1787 Seine Taufzeigen sind Johannes Schaub und seine Ehliche Gatt  
frau Anna Barbara des hinders Vaters ist Jacob Senckenmiller ein Sohn des  
Pastors Drachen mitter Jesu hinders Mutter ist Anna Maria Kerchner eine  
Tochter des Johan Adam Kerchner in Dessen

Per the above document a suggestion for the birth home town/village for the immigrant Adam Kerchner was brought to my attention by another Kerchner researcher via a Fraktur for a granddaughter of Adam Kerchner. The Fraktur has the phrase "Adam

Kerchner in Dessen" written at the end. If this means "of Dessen" then it could be a reference to a village or town of origin in Germany. I searched for a village named Dessen but found none. But I did find a small village named Deesen, in [Westerwald](#), Rheinland-Palatinate (Rheinland-Pfalz), Germany. With the help of some individuals in Westerwald, Germany, who I found via the Internet, I pursued this "in Dessen" lead.

No records of any Kerchner or Kirchner families were found in or near the village of Deesen, Westerwald, Germany, showing any connection to our Adam Kerchner.

I then emailed a scan of the Fraktur image to several German genealogy researchers who live in Germany. After examining the Fraktur image they said that in their opinion the "in Dessen" absolutely does not refer to a village or place but that it is an early lowland Dutch, i.e., Holland Dutch, language formal grammatical and legal type phrase meaning "in this case". According to these correspondents, one of whom was an expert in early Dutch writing and language, the "in Dessen" is not referring to a village but is a formal, legal grammatical phrase being used in this formal Fraktur baptism document.

The official who prepared this Fraktur in Pennsylvania was probably Dutch, i.e., Holland Dutch, or was from the low Deutsch areas of Germany near Holland. Several early ministers in Pennsylvania were from the Dutch Reformed Church of Holland which was sending ministers to Pennsylvania to minister to their German Reformed brethen.

Thus the "in Dessen" lead turned into another dead end as to finding a village of origin in Germany for our immigrant ancestor, Adam Kerchner.

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