

Researching Black Sea Germans Who Lived in Kulm, West Prussia

By Carolyn Schott (January 2025)

I found my Neu Elft Greul/Greil/Kreil family in these records and I saw other Black Sea German names (e.g., Knodel, Hintz, Haeberle, etc.), so you might find your families too!

I found these records in Archion, which requires a paid subscription. However, you can buy a pass for just a month to access what you need. (And you aren't forced into automatic renewals like some online systems.) You can search for records without a subscription, but to actually see the records I'll describe, you need the subscription.

These records are fabulous because they have indexes (roughly alphabetic) to the records that are written in pretty good handwriting, making it easier to find your ancestor's entry.

Step 1: Log into Archion <https://www.archion.de/en/search>

Step 2: Search on "Kulm", and click on "Kreis Kulm (Provinz Westpreußen)"

This will take you to all the records available for Kulm, West Prussia.

Step3: Search for entries called "Namenverzeichnisse" (name lists aka indexes) OR just use these links

- Namensverzeichnisse Taufen [Baptisms] 1772-1855
<https://www.archion.de/en/viewer/churchRegister/21491?cHash=d2809b90a1836097bdb213c0032f9c00>
- Namensverzeichnisse Trauungen [Marriages] 1772-1878
<https://www.archion.de/en/viewer/churchRegister/21614?cHash=a04cba320d28a3ee735bfe6e251eec7a>
- Namensverzeichnisse Bestattungen [Burials] 1810-1865
<https://www.archion.de/en/viewer/churchRegister/21665?cHash=a696be648036e0ec23229e9a4f9fe3f8>

Note that there are also separate indexes for the towns of Gross Lunau, Kokotzko, Kulm, Ostrometzko, and Villissass, but these are for later years when our Black Sea Germans had likely left the area.

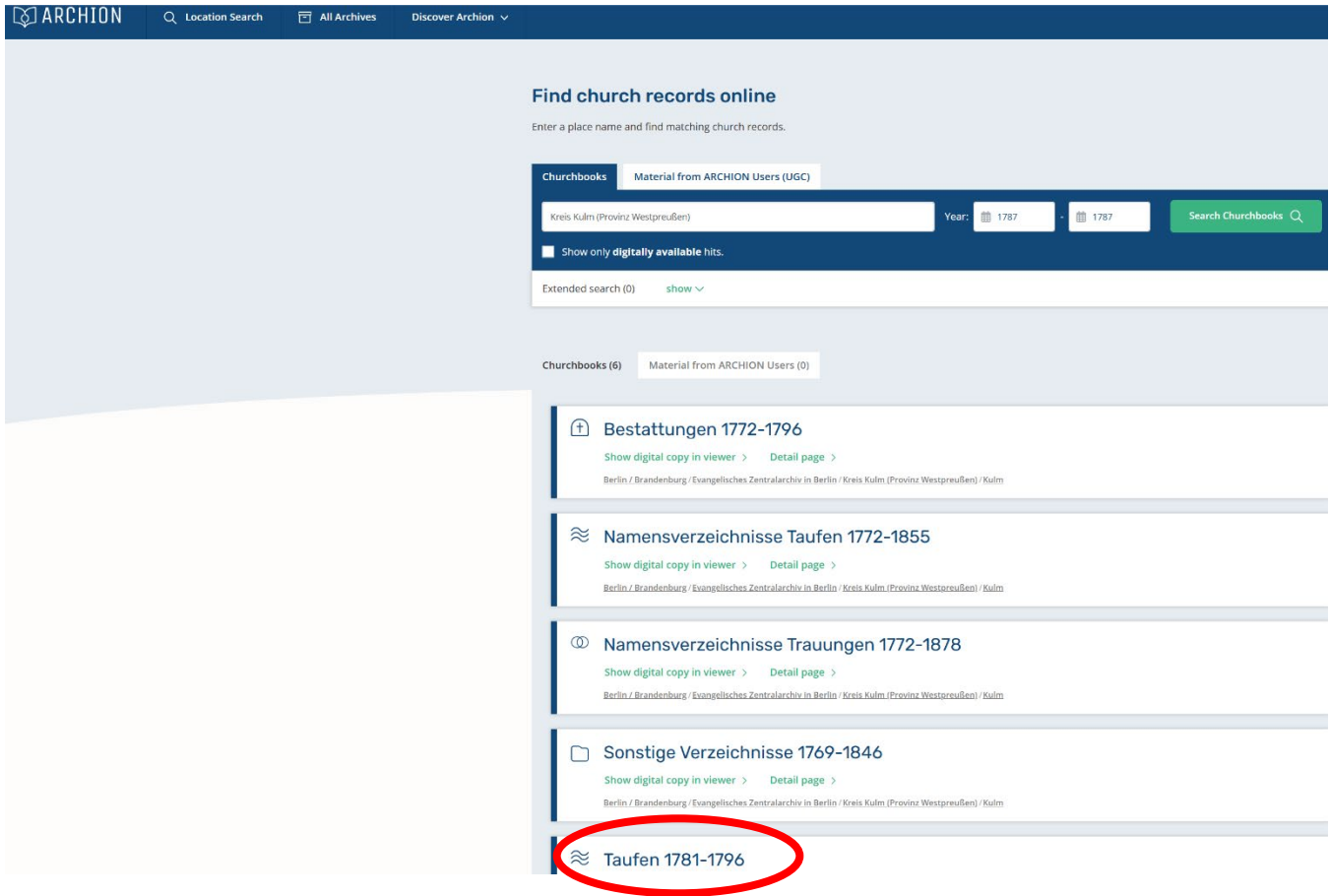
These indexes are roughly alphabetic with a section for each letter.

The image shows a handwritten church register index from Kulm, West Prussia. The index is organized into two columns, each with a section for each letter. The left column is headed 'Namen der Gebornen' and the right column is headed 'Namen der Gebornen'. The entries are listed with their corresponding page numbers. The left column includes entries for 'Christine Dahler', 'Joh: George Jacob Friedrich Desfauer', 'Martin Friedrich Dexer', 'Johann Damerau', 'Christine Profine Dieterle', 'Christine Domke', 'Johann Dam', and 'Ana Louise Dehn'. The right column includes entries for 'Ana Elisabeth Dorschau', 'George Conrad Dieterle', 'Sabina Clif. Döfe', 'Gustav Heinrich Dreist', 'Peter Duwe', 'Dorothea Domke', 'Caroline Louise Dirrs', 'Gottfried Dexer', and 'Friedrich Wilhelm Dehn'. The page numbers range from 69 to 240.

Namen der Gebornen	Seite	Namen der Gebornen	Seite
Christine Dahler	69.	Ana Elisabeth Dorschau	192.
Joh: George Jacob Friedrich Desfauer	70.	George Conrad Dieterle	209.
Martin Friedrich Dexer	78.	Sabina Clif. Döfe	212.
Johann Damerau	94.	Gustav Heinrich Dreist	218.
Christine Profine Dieterle	99.	Peter Duwe	250.
Christine Domke	100.	Dorothea Domke	251.
Johann Dam	100.	Caroline Louise Dirrs	251.
Ana Louise Dehn	101.	Gottfried Dexer	232.
		Friedrich Wilhelm Dehn	240.

Step 4: Scan through the index to find your ancestor, then note the year and page number. For example, if we're looking for Christine Rosina Dieterle, her birth record will be found in 1787 on page 99.

Step 5: Go to the original search list and find the records for the correct year; click on "Show digital copy in viewer"



Step 6: Go to the page shown in the index. Note this is the page written in the records, NOT the image number.

Step 7: Voila! (The name of the village where she was born is to the far left. Her birth is in the section for October, but you have to read the entry to find the date of birth.)

