Frank and Rosalie Nowakowski

Compiled by Michael E. Byczek
6x-great-grandson

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Frank (Franciszek) and Rosalie (Rozalia) Nowakowski raised their family in Opatowice within the Radziejów Catholic Parish. Rosalie's maiden name is unknown. The best estimate for Frank's birth is 1722 and Rosalie is 1736. The locations of their birth are also unknown.

Frank and Rosalie Nowakowski had at least four children. It is unknown whether they were all born in Opatowice and whether there were more children.

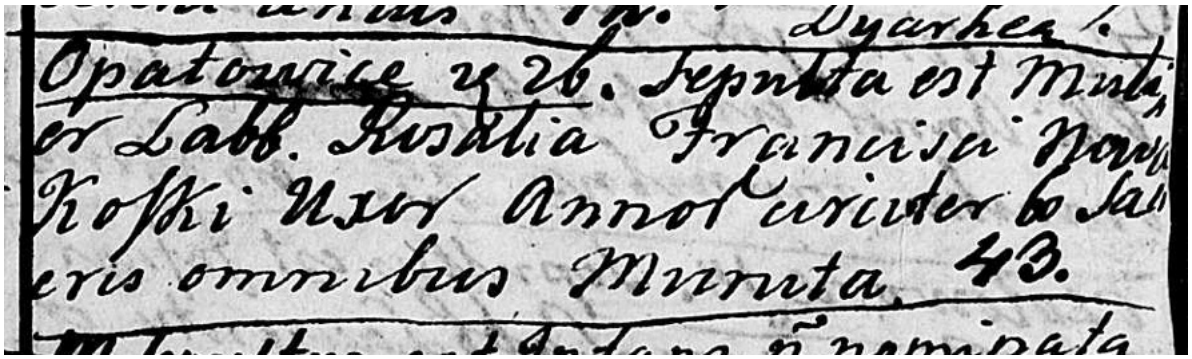
Child	Birth	Notes
Nicholas (Mikołaj)	1767	
Matthias (Maciej)	About 1768	Died in 1768 as an "infant" (baptism not found)
John Cantius (Jan Kanty)	1770	Baptized as "Cantius", but presumed to have been "John Cantius"
Casimir (Kazimierz)	1773	Died in 1773

Their son John Nowakowski married Bridget (Brygida) Mętlewicz in 1793 in Radziejów. They are Michael E. Byczek's 5x-great-grandparents. It is presumed, but not verified, that the 1770 baptism of "Cantius Nowakowski" was shorthand for "John Cantius Nowakowski". The 1770 baptism listed above is for "Cantius". It is possible that there was another son who was specifically named "John" and whose baptism record has not been found.

John Nowakowski appears to have had a nephew Adalbert (Wojciech) Nowakowski who was born about 1785. The best candidate baptism record suggests that Adalbert was the son of Joseph and Hedwig Nowakowski. This would imply that Frank and Rosalie Nowakowski also had a son Joseph whose baptism record has not been found.

Therefore, it is possible that Frank and Rosalie Nowakowski had at least one (Joseph) or two (Joseph and John) more children. Refer to the John Nowakowski and Bridget Mętlewicz Documentary for more information about the "Cantius" baptism record and representative documents for Joseph Nowakowski.

Rosalie Nowakowski passed away in 1796 and Frank Nowakowski in 1802, both while living in Opatowice. There appears to have been only one Frank and Rosalie Nowakowski family in the entire Radziejów Parish during this period.

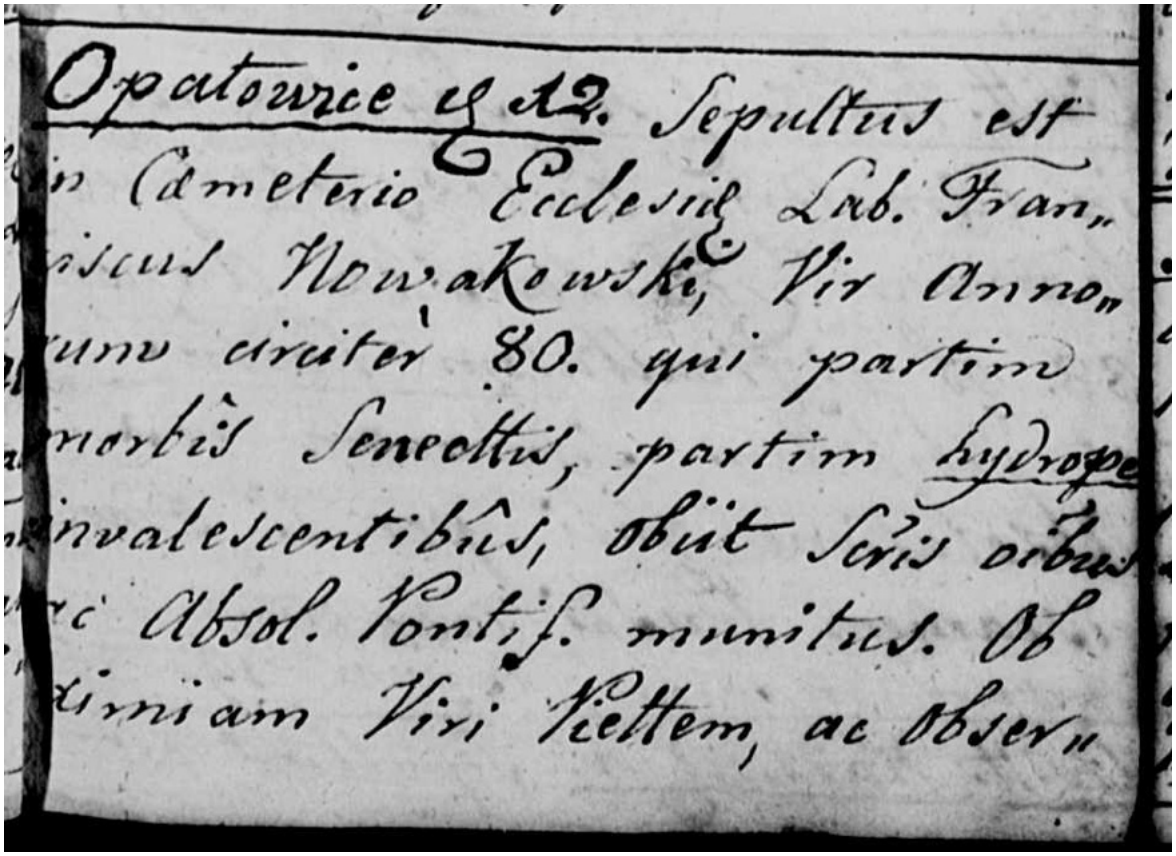

Opatowice z 26. Sepulta est Mulier Labb. Rosalia Francisci Nowakowski Uxor Annor circiter 60 Saluteris omnibus Munita. 43.

1796 Death of Rosalie Nowakowski (Rozalia Nowakowska)
Opatowice (Radziejów)

2. English Translation

Opatowice, [date] 1796. Buried is the woman, the laboring **Rozalia, wife of Franciszek Nowakowski**, about **60 years of age** [born ~1736], fortified with all the Sacraments. 43.

AI translation (Google Gemini)


Opatowice q. 12. Sepultus est
in Cœmeterio Ecclesiæ Lab. Fran„
cisc. Nowakowski, Vir Anno„
rum circiter 80. qui partim
morbis Senectis, partim hydrope
invalescentibus, obiit Sacris orbus
rc Absol. Pontif. munitus. Ob
ejusdem Viri pietatem, ac obser„

1802 Death of Frank Nowakowski
Opatowice (Radziejów)

2. English Translation

Opatowice No. 12. — Buried in the church cemetery is the laboring **Franciszek Nowakowski**, a man of **about 80 years of age** [born ~1722], who, succumbing partly to the diseases of old age and partly to worsening dropsy (*hydrope*), passed away fortified with all the Holy Sacraments. Due to the piety and observance of this man...

AI translation (Google Gemini)

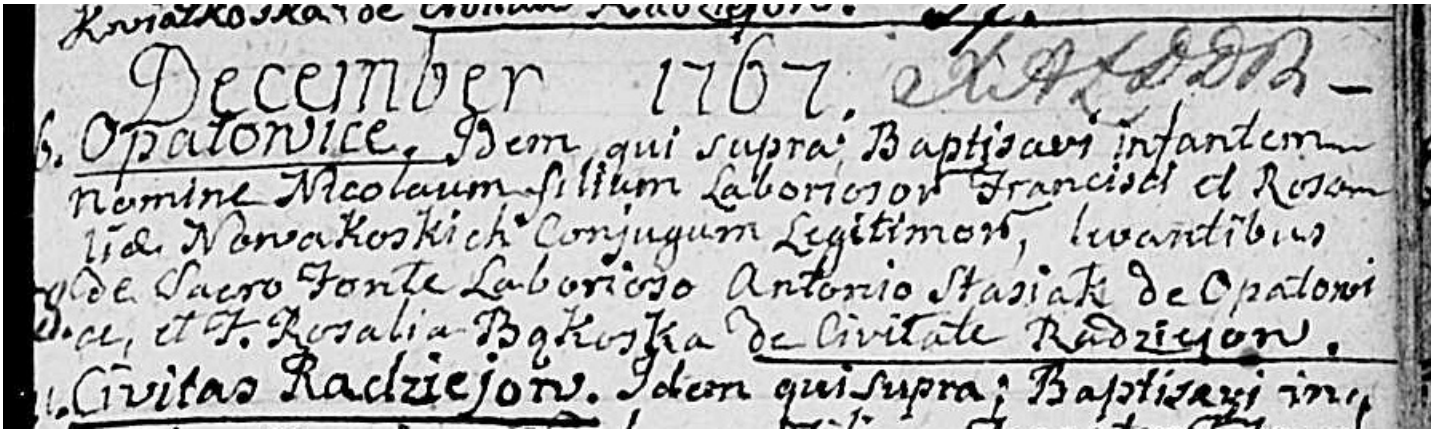


Present-day Catholic Church in Radziejów

Wniebowzięcia Najświętszej Maryi Panny
Source: Google Maps (Street View)

Children of Frank and Rosalie Nowakowski

Representative documents are shown below:


December 1767.
6. Opatowice. Idem qui supra: Baptizavi infantem
nomine Nicolaum filium Laboriosor Francisci et Rosan
lia Nowakoskich Conjugum Legitimor, levantibus
de Sacro Fonte Laborioso Antonio Stasiak de Opatowi
ce, et D. Rosalia Bąkoska de Civitate Radziejow.
Civitas Radziejow. Idem qui supra: Baptizavi in

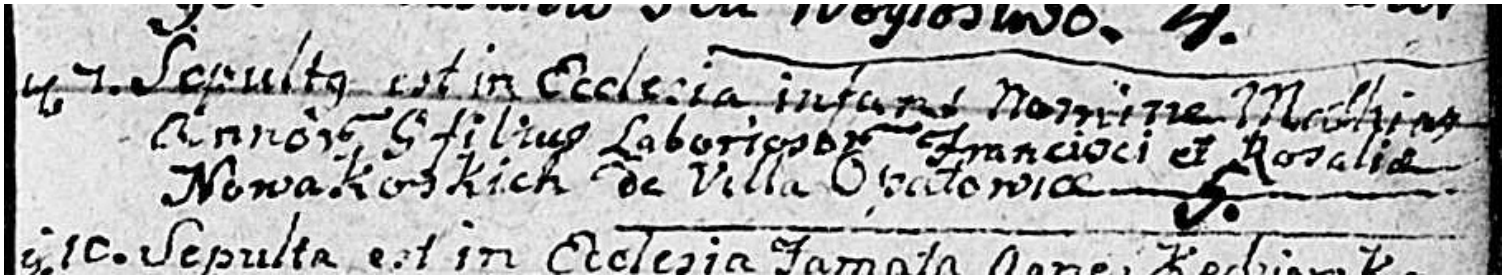
1767 Baptism of Nicholas Nowakowski
Opatowice (Radziejów)

2. English Translation

December 1767.

6. Opatowice. The same [priest] as above: I baptized an infant named **Mikołaj (Nicholas)**, son of the laboring **Franciszek and Rozalia Nowakowski**, lawful spouses. Sponsors from the Sacred Font were the laboring **Antoni Stasiak** from Opatowice, and the woman **Rozalia Bąkowska** from the town of Radziejów.

AI translation (Google Gemini)

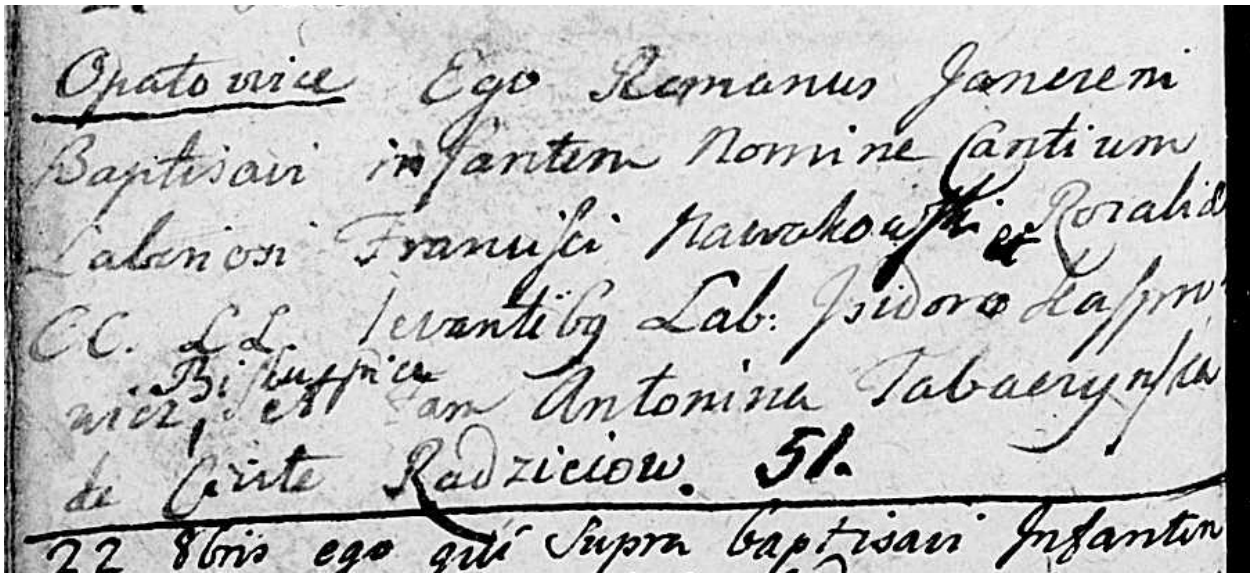


1768 Death of Matthias Nowakowski
Opatowice (Radziejów)

2. English Translation

47. Buried in the church [cemetery] is an infant named **Mateusz (Matthias)**, about 1 [or more] year(s) old, son of the laboring **Franciszek and Rozalia Nowakowski** from the village of Opatowice. 4 copy.jpg + 1

AI translation (Google Gemini)


Opatowice Ego Romanus Janerem
Baptisari infantem Nomine Cantium
Labor: Franciszki Nowakowskie Rosalie
CC. LL.
Izydora Kasprz
Bi Stuppa
wicz et Pan Antonina Tabaczyńska
de Civit Radziciow. 51.
22 Hoc ego qui Supra baptizari Infantem

1770 Baptism of John Cantius Nowakowski
Opatowice (Radziejów)

It is presumed, but not verified, that this baptism record for “Cantius” was actually “John Cantius”.
This conclusion is based on Polish-Catholic naming traditions.

2. English Translation

Opatowice. I, Roman [?], baptized an infant named **Canty (Cantium)**, [child] of the laboring **Franciszek Nowakowski and Rozalia**, lawful spouses. Sponsors were the laboring **Izydor [Kasprzykowicz]** and the woman **Antonina Tabaczyńska** from the town of Radziejów. 51.

AI translation (Google Gemini)

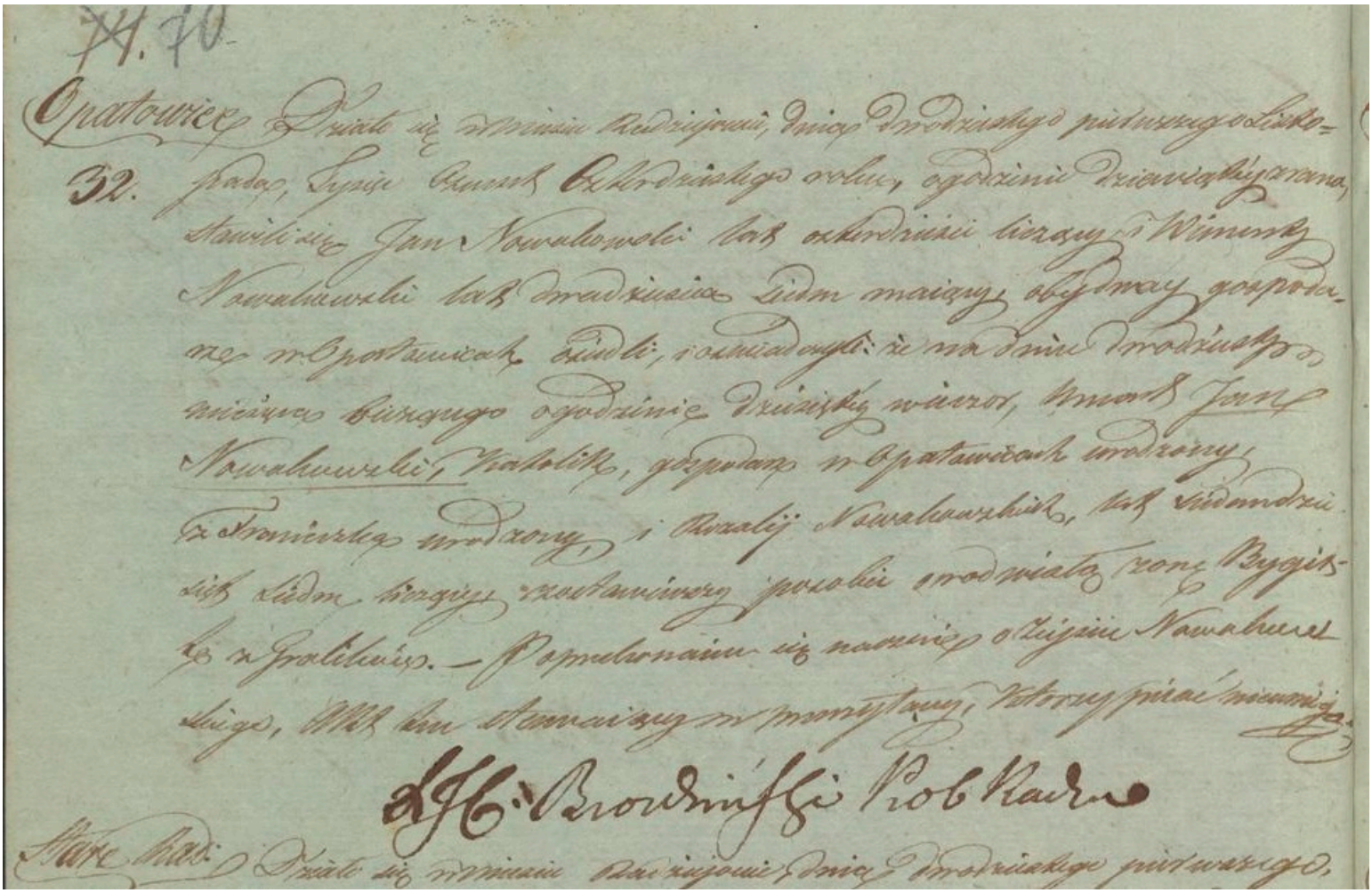
In an 18th-century Polish Catholic baptism record, it is **overwhelmingly likely that the baby's full given name was meant to be Jan Kanty**, even if the priest only physically scribbled down "Kanty."

Historical context and church records of this exact era point to a few major reasons for this:

- **The Canonization of 1767:** Saint John Cantius was formally canonized by Pope Clement XIII in 1767. Following this, his cult exploded in Poland. In the late 1760s and 1770s, there was a massive surge of Polish parents naming their newborn sons *Jan Kanty* to celebrate the newly minted Polish saint. Nashville Catholic
- **Shorthand by Parish Priests:** 18th-century Latin or Polish parish records were frequently recorded using verbal shorthand. Because "Jan" was the most common name in Poland, priests regularly left it out when paired with a highly distinctive secondary name like Kanty (written as *Cantius* or *Cantium* in Latin records). To the priest and the community, writing "Kanty" was simply an explicit identifier that the child was named after *that specific* Saint John.
- **Grammatical Cues:** If the record is written in Latin, take a close look at the exact phrasing. If the text says something akin to **"Joannem Cantium"** or **"Joannes Kanty"**, both names are explicitly there. However, if it just says **"Cantium"** (in the accusative case, meaning "[I baptized] Cantius"), it still implies the full namesake of the saint.

Unless the child was intentionally named after a different saint whose feast day happened to align with the name-day calendar (such as a highly unusual pairing like *Tomasz Kanty*), you can safely assume this child went through life as **Jan Kanty**.

AI-assisted analysis (Google Gemini) that a baptism from 1770 with the name "Cantius" was most likely "John Cantius". However, the conclusion that this particular baptism was actually "John Cantius" remains speculative.



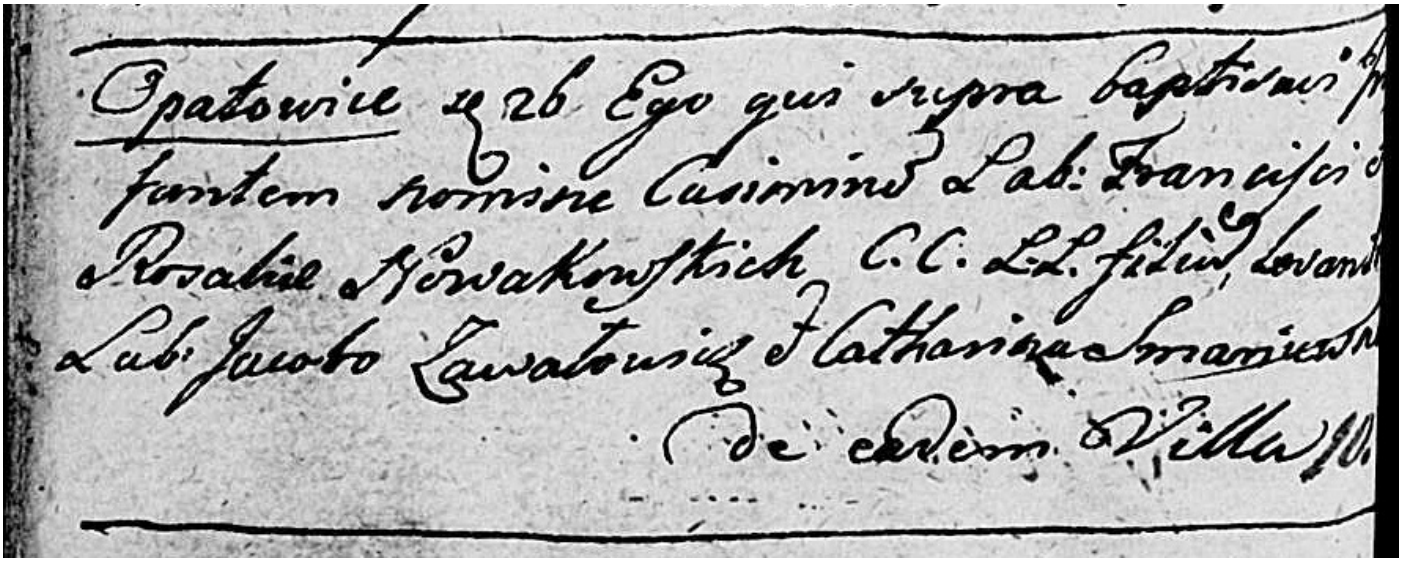
1840 Death of John Nowakowski
Opatowice (Radziejów)

2. English Translation

Opatowice No. 32 — This happened in the town of Radziejów on the **25th day of October in the year 1840** [note: the text reads 1848/40 in a standard clerical cross-out style for 1840, confirmed by sequence], at 9:00 in the morning. There appeared **Jan Nowakowski**, 40 years of age, and **Wincenty Nowakowski**, 37 years of age, both farmers residing in Opatowice, and they declared that on the **23rd day of the current month [October 23, 1840]** at 9:00 in the evening, **Jan Nowakowski** passed away. He was a Catholic, a farmer born in Opatowice, son of the late Franciszek and Rozalia Nowakowski, **77 years of age** [born ~1763], leaving behind his surviving wife, **Brygitta née Golińska**. Having visually verified the death of Jan Nowakowski, this act was read aloud to the declarants, who do not know how to write. — JPG + 1

[Signed] **Rev. J. Borowiński, Pastor of Radziejów** JPG

AI translation (Google Gemini)



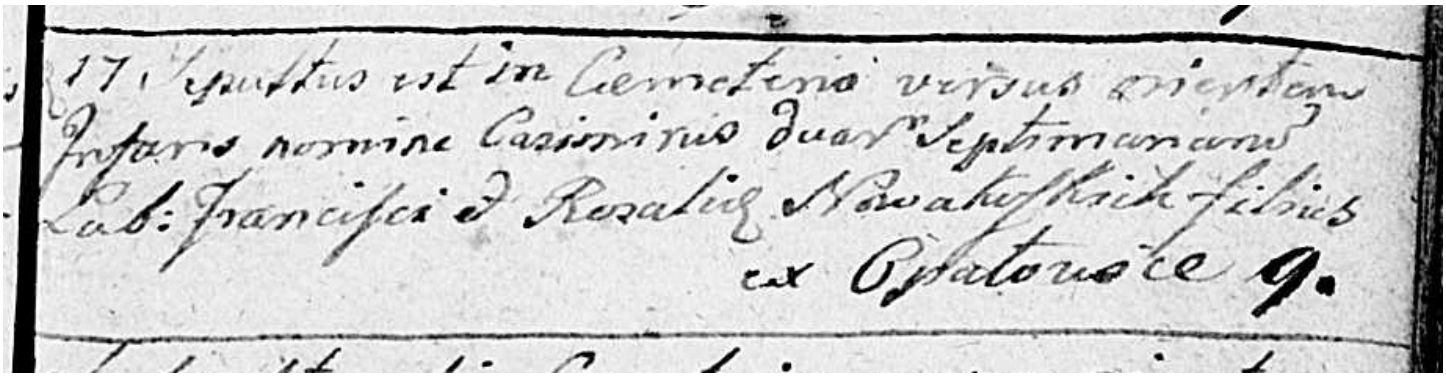
1773 Baptism of Casimir Nowakowski
Opatowice (Radziejów)

2. English Translation

[Image 1: Baptism]

Opatowice, 26 [1773]. I, who [signed] above, baptized an infant named **Kazimierz (Casimir)**, son of the laboring **Franciszek and Rozalia Nowakowski**, lawful spouses. Sponsors were the laboring **Jakub Lawatowicz** and Katarzyna Smaniewska from the same village. 90.

AI translation (Google Gemini)



17. Sepultus est in Cemeteria versus orientem
Infans nomine Casimirus duar. Septimanarum
Lab: Francisci & Rosaliæ Nowakowskich filius
ex Opatowice 9.

1773 Death of Casimir Nowakowski
Opatowice (Radziejów)

[Image 2: Burial]

17. Buried in the cemetery toward the east [is] an infant named **Kazimierz, two weeks old,** son of the laboring **Franciszek and Rozalia Nowakowski**, from Opatowice. 9.

AI translation (Google Gemini)

Additional Information

Michael E. Byczek, an Illinois attorney and managing real estate broker, has compiled original records for genealogy since 1992. Research and analysis have been published on family websites for over 30 years. A project to compile comprehensive digital, print, and video documentaries for every direct blood ancestor began in September 2024 for accurate online genealogy.

Frank and Rosalie Nowakowski are Michael E. Byczek's 6x-great-grandparents. Their son John Nowakowski (5x-great-grandfather) married Bridget Mętlewicz in 1793 in Radziejów. Their son Vincent Nowakowski (4x-great-grandfather) married Hedwig Mordel in 1827, also in Radziejów. Their son John Nowakowski (3x-great-grandfather) married Catherine Kocinski in 1857, also in Radziejów. Their daughter Victoria Nowakowski (2x-great-grandmother) married Joseph Piotrowski in 1876, also in Radziejów. Their daughter Margaret Piotrowski (great-grandmother) married Joseph Bykowski in 1907 in Witowo prior to settling in Chicago, IL. Their son Roman Bykowski (grandfather) arrived in the United States when he was three years old. The family lived in the Bucktown neighborhood of Chicago. Roman married Antoinette Murzynowicz/Marynowski in 1936 at St. Stanislaus Kostka in the Pulaski Park neighborhood. Their daughter Betty A. Bykowski (mother) married Michael M. Byczek in 1974 at St. Helen's on Augusta and Oakley in Chicago. They have two children. Michael E. Byczek is the eldest and was born in the Bridgeport neighborhood.

Google Maps

Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship in north central Poland:

- Radziejów is a town and capital of Radziejów County
- Opatowice is a village in the administrative district of Gmina Radziejów within Radziejów County

Revision History:

11/5/2026
4/3/2026
9/20/2025

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