

John and Marianna Surdinski

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Michael E. Byczek's 4x-great-grandparents were Rocco (Roch) Piotrowski and Agnes Surdinski (Agnieszka Surdinska). They were married in 1801 at the Catholic Church located in Brześć Kujawski. They raised their family and spent most, if not all, of their lives in Pikutkowo within the parish.

Agnes was the daughter of John (Jan) and Marianna Surdinski. A baptism record from Pikutkowo dated 1780 was found for Agnes Surdinski whose parents were John and Marianna. The Surdinski surname is relatively rare in the parish with a concentration of records in Pikutkowo. Marianna's maiden name is unknown. The surname Sieczkowski is a possibility because that name is the basis of multiple inconsistencies involving John Surdinski's subsequent marriage.

The Surdinski surname was also written with numerous variations, including some that are more than mere phonetic alternatives. These include Surdynski, Surdika, Surdikow, Sordcka, Sordyk, Surdyk, Surdik, and Surdyka. For genealogical purposes, the spelling of "Surdinski" is accurate. That was the spelling in a few of the most important documents (highest priority) regarding the family.

Church records during this period did not always include surnames, maiden names, ages, parents, or identity of a spouse. It is not possible to fully reconstruct the entire Surdinski family from these records. Furthermore, online access to digitized baptism records is not available for the Brześć Kujawski Parish between 1753 and 1787 or death records prior to 1753. As a result, there are multiple inconsistencies and uncertainties that cannot be resolved.

John Surdinski's parents and age were not listed in any known document. Since his daughter Agnes was born in 1780, John and his wife may have been approximately 30 years old at the time, although this is only a general estimate. A baptism record for a John born in 1741 is therefore somewhat earlier than expected, but the combination of his name, parents, location, and the apparent uniqueness of the John Surdinski family makes it the strongest candidate. The most likely death record for Marianna Surdinski's (John's wife) was in 1793 that showed an estimated year of birth as 1741. This is the same year as the strongest candidate baptism record for John Surdinski.

Among the available Brześć Kujawski Parish records, there appears to have been only one John Surdinski from the 1740s through the early 1800s. Furthermore, among the available records, there appears to have been only one Surdinski family in the parish that regularly appears in church records and that could be John's parents. This was the Balthazar (Baltazar) and Marianna Surdinski family who lived in Pikutkowo. Marianna's maiden name is unknown. There is only one known Balthazar and Marianna family from the parish, which suggests that records without a surname most likely refer to the correct family. The name Balthazar itself is rare. A baptism record was found for a baby named John, without a surname, who was born in Pikutkowo in 1741. His parents were Balthazar and Marianna. On the balance of probabilities, this is the correct baptism record for the father of Agnes (Surdinski) Piotrowski. The 1741 baptism is particularly compelling because the name, location, parents, and subsequent appearance of John Surdinski in Pikutkowo are consistent with the available evidence.

The maiden name of Marianna, wife of John and mother of Agnes, was not written in any known or verifiable document. Analysis of the available church records has not identified any children born to John Surdinski between 1793 and 1801. This suggests that he was not married during these years. John Surdinski became a widower prior to 1801 when he remarried. Therefore, on the balance of probabilities, the 1793 death record is the strongest candidate for the death of Marianna Surdinski, John's first wife.

John Surdinski, who lived in Pikutkowo, married Agnes Sieczkowski (Agnieszka Sieczkowska) in 1801. John was listed as a widower. The available evidence suggests that this particular John Surdinski died in 1803. The only two baptism records that identify the father as John Surdinski after 1793 was from 1801 and 1804. It is possible that the 1804 baptism corresponds to a posthumously born child. These collective baptism records suggest that the 1801 marriage record is correct. Therefore, Agnes

Surdinski and her father were both married in 1801 at the same church. There are, however, multiple inconsistencies about John Surdinski’s marriage to Agnes Sieczkowski. These inconsistencies raise the possibility that the maiden name of Marianna, John’s first wife’s, may also have been Sieczkowski. It is possible that the priest was confused about John’s two wives and consistently mistook one for the other. If so, the records may have incorrectly associated Agnes Sieczkowski with events involving John's first wife, Marianna. This raises a possibility, but speculative, that the two wives may have had the same maiden name.

Four children have been identified as the children of John and Marianna Surdinski who lived in Pikutkowo.

Child	Birth	Notes
John Thomas (Jan Tomasz)	About 1775	Died as an infant
Valentine (Walenty)	About 1778	Died as an infant
Agnes (Agnieszka)	1780	Baptism verified
Michael (Michał)	About 1785	Died in 1803

Their daughter Agnes Surdinski married Rocco (Roch) Piotrowski in 1801 in Brześć Kujawski. They are Michael E. Byczek’s 4x-great-grandparents.

Uncertainty of Marianna Surdinski’s maiden name

The 1801 marriage record of John Surdinski and Agnes Sieczkowski is the source of numerous inconsistencies that cannot be fully resolved without more information.

The two most likely explanations for these uncertainties are (1) John’s wife from the 1801 marriage informally went by the name of Agnes Sieczkowski, but her actual name was Marianna Sieczkowski; or (2) John’s first wife was Marianna Sieczkowski and his second wife was Agnes Sieczkowski, which caused persistence errors where the second wife, Agnes, was mistaken for Marianna Sieczkowski. The first explanation appears more likely based on events prior to the 1801 marriage.

It is reasonable to consider Sieczkowski as a strong candidate, but unverified, for Marianna’s maiden name.

Uncertainty #1: A married woman named Catherine Rybacki (Katarzyna Rybacka) was identified by two different maiden names. She was primarily associated with the maiden name of Surdinski but also by Sieczkowski. A baptism from Pikutkowo in 1797 shows that a woman named Marianna Sieczkowski had an illegitimate daughter named Catherine. It is possible that this Marianna Sieczkowski was the bride identified as Agnes Sieczkowski in the 1801 marriage to John Surdinski. The illegitimate daughter Catherine may have become John Surdinski's stepdaughter, or otherwise may have been identified as Catherine Surdinski after her mother's marriage to John. Multiple records that pertain to Catherine Rybacki’s children identified their mother as Catherine Sieczkowski, not Catherine Surdinski. There is one example of a baptism that listed the name Surdinski at birth while that same child’s marriage record later in life used the maiden name of Sieczkowski. Catherine Rybacki’s son Joseph (Józef) married Marianna Stasiak, who was the granddaughter of Agnes (Surdinski) Piotrowski. This suggests a close relationship between the families.

Uncertainty #2: A baptism record from 1802 in Pikutkowo for Anthony (Antoni) Surdinski identified his parents as John and Marianna Surdinski. His marriage record identified his parents as John Surdinski and Marianna Sieczkowski. Since John Surdinski is a rare name in the parish and Anthony was born shortly after the 1801 marriage, a reasonable conclusion is that Anthony was Agnes (Surdinski) Piotrowski’s half-brother. This would suggest that Agnes Sieczkowski (John’s 2nd wife) and Marianna Sieczkowski (Anthony’s mother) were the same woman. Otherwise, both of John’s wives may have had the maiden name of Sieczkowski resulting in confusion as to which particular wife was the mother of Anthony.

Uncertainty #3: A baptism record from 1804, a few months after the 1803 death record of John Surdinski was for a child named Valentine (Walenty) whose parents were John and Marianna Surdinski. The baptism record did not explicitly refer to the father as deceased. While it was biologically possible for John’s second wife to have been pregnant at the time of his death, the baptism record for the child does not appear to acknowledge such a situation. This baptism in 1804 was the last child born to a father whose name was John Surdinski during this period, suggesting that John may have been deceased.

Uncertainty #4: A woman named Agnes Sieczkowski, who was a widow, married Frank (Franciszek) Lopacki in 1803. She is presumed to have been John Surdinski's widow. It is, however, unclear why her maiden name was listed instead of her married name. Her death record listed the maiden name as Sieczkowski. One of the witnesses for Anthony (Antoni) Piotrowski's death in 1818 (son of Agnes Surdinski) was Frank Lopacki. This suggests a high probability that Frank Lopacki was the then-current husband of Agnes (Surdinski) Piotrowski's step-mother.

Uncertainty #5: The 1803 marriage creates another inconsistency regarding Valentine Surdinski's baptism that took place after this marriage. It is possible that Valentine Surdinski was actually the son of Frank Lopacki and the name John Surdinski was a mistake. Otherwise, Frank Lopacki married the pregnant widow of John Surdinski. This scenario could suggest there were multiple John Surdinski families in Pikutkowo at the same time. However, the rarity of the name and chronological sequence of church records would suggest there was only one individual with that name. These unresolved inconsistencies prevent a full reconstruction of John Surdinski's life in regard to his marriages and children.

Uncertainty #6: The name Anthony Sieczkowski appeared multiple times in records with a connection to John Surdinski. For instance, one of the witnesses at Ignatius (Ignacy) Piotrowski's baptism in 1821 (son of Agnes Surdinski) was Anthony Sieczkowski from Pikutkowo. It is unclear whether this was the same person or a coincidence. If he was the same person, this would further suggest a close relationship between the Piotrowski and Sieczkowski families.

To further complicate analysis, there are records for John and Marianna Surdyk in the Kaczewo Catholic Parish with children who were also born in the 1780s and 1790s.

The Surdinski Family of Pikutkowo

On the balance of probabilities, John Surdinski was the son of Balthazar and Marianna Surdinski. They were an established and respected family in the Brześć Kujawski Catholic Parish. Balthazar Surdinski was buried inside the physical church building in 1774, which indicates he held a prominent status in the community. The best candidate death record for his wife, Marianna, also shows that she was buried inside the church, the year before, in 1773.

The 1793 death record of a married woman named Marianna Surdinski from Pikutkowo is the best candidate for the wife of John Surdinski and daughter-in-law of Balthazar and Marianna Surdinski. She was also buried inside the church.

It appears that interior church burials ended in the 1790s. This means that Marianna Surdinski may have been amongst the last burials inside the church.

Multiple children of John and Marianna Surdinski, who passed away prior to the 1790s, were also buried inside the church.

The common factor of interior church burials, a practice apparently associated with higher-status members of the community, provides additional circumstantial support for the conclusion that these death records concern members of the same extended family of three generations.

The following analysis of church records preserves the surname variations used in the original documents.

Villa. Pikutkowo.
Adra mensis Juny 27 41 Ego
Egidius Piekostewicz Sacerdos
ordinis Prædicatorum Baptiza-
vi Filium nomine Joannem
Labovicki Baltasari et Consorti
ejus Marianna Legitimi or-
tus Patrimoniæ Honestus
Albertus Piegonski Molitor
de mola Lawa da et Labo-
vicka Lophia Caputana de
villa pikutkowo.
Villa Zaberek

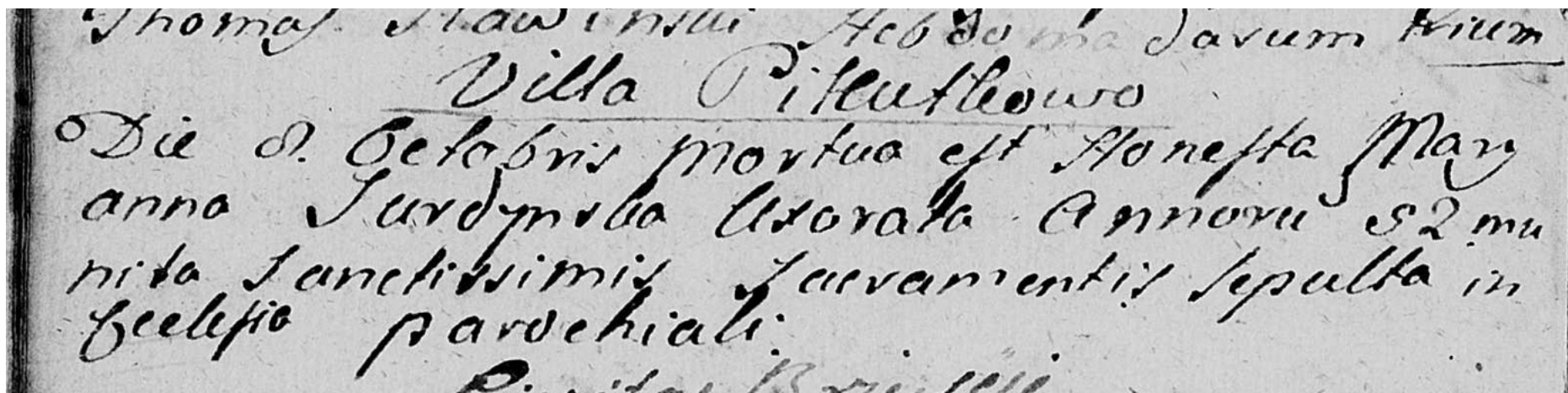
1741 Baptism of a child named John without a surname
Pikutkowo (Brześć Kujawski)

3. English Translation

"Village of Pikutkowo.

On the 15th day of the month of June 1741, I, Giles Piekoszewicz, priest of the Order of Preachers [Dominicans], baptized a son named **Joannes [Jan / John]**, [child] of the workingman **Baltazar** and his spouse **Marianna**, legitimate spouses. The godparents were: the honest **Wojciech [Adalbertus] Piegoński, Miller** from the Zawada mill, and the workingwoman **Zofia Kapuścina** from the village of Pikutkowo."

AI translation (Google Gemini)



Death record of Marianna Surdyńska
Died 10/8/1793
Pikutkowo (Brześć Kujawski)

Listed as 52 years old with an estimated year of birth as 1741

Below: AI translation (Google Gemini)

2. Latin Text

Villa Pikutkowo

Die 8. Octobris mortua est Honesta Marianna Surdyńska Uxorata Annoru[m] 52 munita Sanctissimis Sacramentis sepulta in Ecclesia parochiali.

3. English Translation

"Village of Pikutkowo.

On the 8th day of October, died the honest Marianna Surdyńska, married woman [wife], aged 52 years, fortified with the Most Holy Sacraments, buried inside the parish church."

Filius & 26 diebus obiit sacer in camera
na Piaskach. Villa Pikutkowo
Anno ut supra & 30 Augusti obiit labor Johannes Surdinski
sacer in omni Sacramento Monitus Sepultus in ce
meterio s. Spiritus & 1. Septembris na Piaskach.

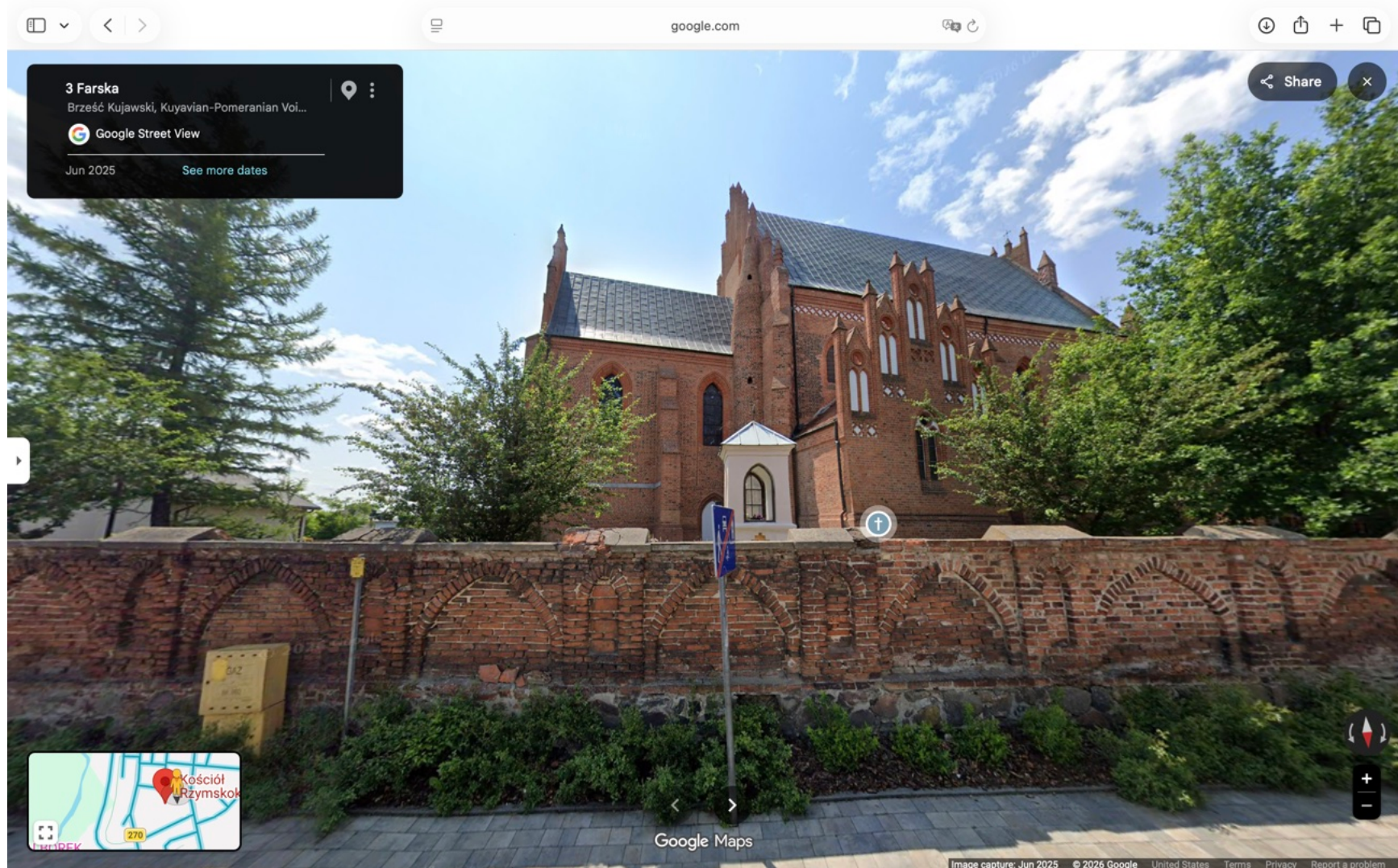
1803 Death record of John Surdinski
Pikutkowo (Brześć Kujawski)
Died on 8/30/1803 (age not listed)

Below: AI translation (Google Gemini)

3. English Translation

"Village of Pikutkowo.

In the same year as above, on the 30th day of August [1802], died the workingman Jan Surdyński, fortified with all the Sacraments of Salvation. He was buried in the Cemetery of the Holy Spirit on the 1st day of September at Piaski [na Piaskach]."



Present-day Catholic Church in Brześć Kujawski

Świętego Stanisława Biskupa i Męczennika
Source: Google Maps (Street View)

It would appear that Balthazar Surdinski, his wife Marianna, and daughter-in-law Marianna are buried inside this building.
Analysis of the possible interior burial locations, with AI-assistance from Google Gemini, is shown on the next page.

Does the Church Still Exist?

Yes, the church absolutely still stands!

The parish church for Pikutkowo is the **Church of St. Stanislaus the Bishop and Martyr** (*Kościół św. Stanisława Biskupa i Męczennika*) in Brześć Kujawski.

- **Its History:** The church's brick Gothic core was originally constructed in the **14th century** under King Casimir III the Great (and Prince Casimir I of Kuyavia before that).
- **Disasters & Rebuilds:** It suffered severe fires and war damage over the centuries—including during the Swedish Deluge in 1657.
- **The 19th-Century Collapse:** Not long after Marianna (1793), Baltazar (1774), and Marianna (1773) were buried inside, the church fell into structural ruin. In **1806**, just four years after Jan died in 1802, the roof/vaulting collapsed, and the building was closed (even serving as a military warehouse for Napoleon's French troops in 1812).
- **Renovations:** It underwent major renovations between **1819–1830** and a large neo-Gothic restoration in the early 20th century. Today, the restored 14th-century Gothic brick structure remains the active parish seat of Brześć Kujawski.

What Happened to the Remains Buried Inside?

During the 18th century, prominent parishioners like Baltazar and the two Mariannas were placed in brick-lined vaults or earthen crypt pits directly beneath the church floor—specifically near or in the choir/chancel (*in Choro Majori*).

When churches across Poland underwent major renovations in the 19th century—or suffered vault collapses like the 1806 ruin in Brześć Kujawski—interior interments were handled in one of a few ways:

1. Sealing in the Sub-Floor Crypts (Most Likely)

In most Polish brick Gothic churches that were renovated rather than completely demolished, the underground crypts and vault spaces beneath the nave and chancel were left intact. When new floorings (such as marble or tile) were laid over the older earth or brick sub-floors during the 1819–1830 repairs, the old graves remained in place under the floorboards/tiles. It is very likely their remains are **still resting beneath the floor of St. Stanislaus Church today**.

2. Consolidation into an Ossuary

If floor excavations or structural rebuilding required clearing out decaying earthen graves under the chancel floor, the parish priests typically gathered the disinterred bones and moved them into a collective **parish crypt/ossuary** (*krypta zbiorowa*) beneath the church floor or relocated them to a common plot in the newly established extramural graveyard (such as the *Holy Spirit / Piaski* cemetery where Jan was buried in 1802).

Visiting Today

If you ever travel to Brześć Kujawski, you can physically visit the **Church of St. Stanislaus**. While individual grave markers inside the church from the 1700s rarely survived the 1806 roof collapse and 19th-century repaving, standing in the chancel means standing in the exact sacred space where Baltazar and his family were interred!

1. Physical Building vs. Exterior Churchyard: Vocabulary Distinction

The register uses two entirely distinct technical Latin terms that completely rule out "interior" meaning the church grounds or an exterior yard:

- *In Coemeterio* (In the Cemetery / Churchyard):
 - Refers to outdoor ground burials.
 - Scribes meticulously note directional position and proximity to external structures, e.g., *in Coemeterio ad meridiem* ("in the cemetery to the south"), *ad aquilonem* ("to the north"), *ad orientem* ("to the east"), or *prope offarium* ("near the ossuary").
- *In Ecclesiâ* (Inside the Church):
 - Refers explicitly to subterranean crypt, vault, or floor burials **inside the physical church building**.
 - Scribes note internal architectural features, e.g., *in horo Majori* (in the main choir/chancel), *ad fores Ecclesiae Majores* (near the main church doors), *prope altare* (near the altar), or *in fornice* (in the crypt/vault).

When Baltazar Surdyka was buried on November 3, 1774, the entry reads:

"...sepultus est in Ecclesiâ Parochiali in horo Majori ad Fores Ecclesiae Majores..."

("...was buried **in the Parish Church**, in the main choir/chancel near the main church doors...")

This precise spatial detail explicitly places his grave **inside the physical interior of the church building**.

AI analysis (Google Gemini) of consecutive burial records that took place in 1774 for additional insight into Balthazar Surdinski's burial inside the church.

1. The Space Paradox: Grave Recycling & Crypt Rotations

Churches did not treat interior graves as permanent, undisturbed plots in the way modern cemeteries do. Instead, they relied on dynamic space management:

Under-Floor Earth Rotations (Dirt/Tile Floors)

- **Rapid Decomposition:** Earth floors inside churches allowed bodies wrapped in simple linen shrouds (or light wooden coffins) to decompose within 10 to 20 years.
- **Layering & Clearing:** Scribes and undertakers regularly reopened floor plots. Older bones (*ossua*) were cleared out and moved to a parish **ossuary** (*offarium* or *ossarium*, which appears several times in your register entries!), freeing up the floor space for new interments.
- **Multiple Depths:** Single pit locations held several family members stacked vertically over time.

Vaults and Crypts (*In Fornice*)

- **Coffin Stacking:** Brick crypts beneath chapels or main aisles were spacious rooms designed to stack dozens of coffins along wall niches or in central chambers.
- **Periodic Cleansing:** When a crypt filled up, bones were collected into stone ossuary chests or transferred to secondary crypts to clear room for fresh burials.

AI analysis (Google Gemini) of what happened to the remains of those buried inside the church

Children of John and Marianna Surdinski

Representative documents are shown below.

In Loreto, in Capella
 nita sacramentis. Villa Piekutkowo
 Eadem ie mense et Anno Mortuus e infans Joannes
 et Thomas duorum nominum Laboris Joannis et Ma
 rianne Surdinski sepultus e in Ecclesia Parochi
 ali in choro majori pene Columna prope altare S. Ma
 rie magdalene. Villa mukow.

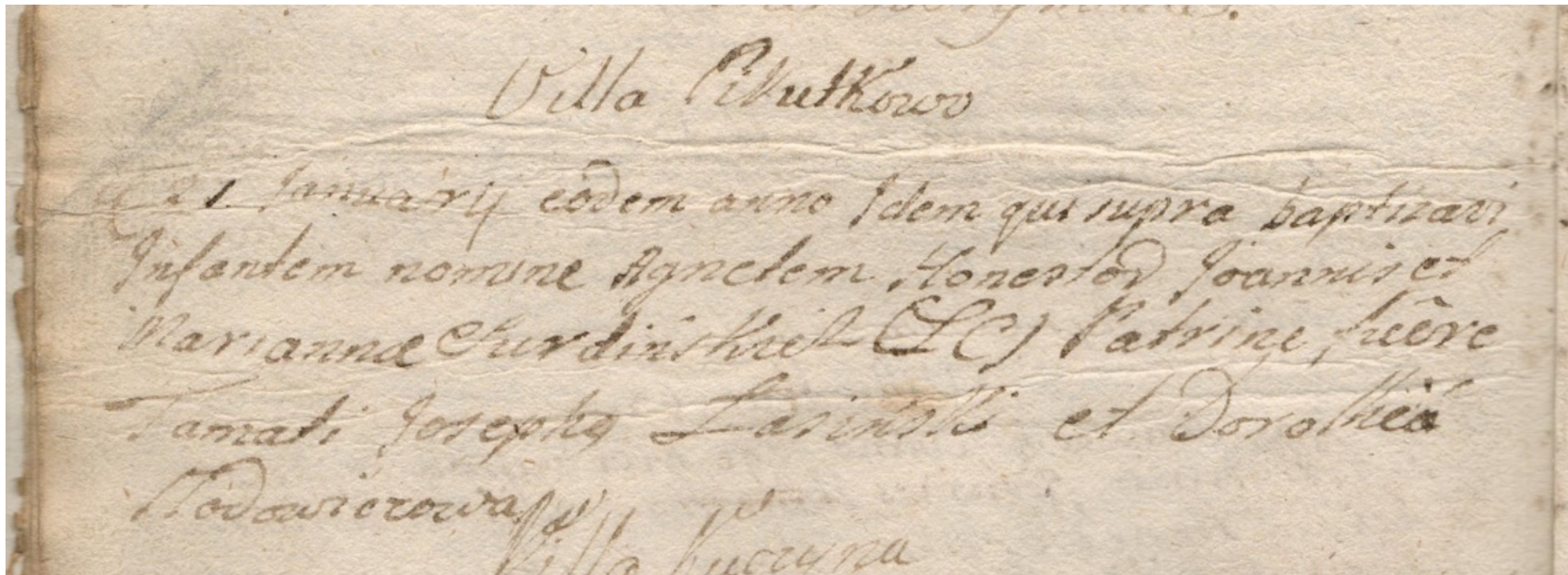
Death of John Thomas Surdinski
 The record appears to have been from August 1775.
 Pikutkowo (Brześć Kujawski)

Below: AI translation (Google Gemini)

3. English Translation

"Village of Pikutkowo.

In the same month and year [August 3, 1775], died the infant Jan Tomasz [John
 Thomas] of two names, [child] of the laboring Jan and Marianna Surdyński.
 He was buried in the Parish Church in the main choir near the column close to
 the altar of St. Mary Magdalene."



1780 Baptism of Agnes Surdinski
Pikutkowo (Brześć Kujawski)

Note: Michael E. Byczek acquired a copy of this baptism through direct correspondence with local diocese archives in Poland

3. English Translation

"Village of Pikutkowo.

On January 21st of the same year, I, the same as above, baptized an infant named Agnes [Agnieszka], daughter of the honest legitimate spouses Jan [John] and Marianna Surdyński. Godparents were the famed Józef Łasiński and Dorota Podawiorowa [Podawiorowska]."

AI translation (Google Gemini)

177
Villa Pikutkowie
Die 13. Maji Weneri supra praemij
in Favia Felice dicto Bapti
us etiam Populo ad Xivina audi
enda congregato huius Bannij praesio
Examine praesio sacramentali con
fessione, ac caratissima Bonna
pione, nulloq; reposito impedimento
tam Canonico quam civili, matuo
deniq; partu Consensu, Benedixi
matrimonium inter Robt, Froehum
Pietrowski, Juvenem ex supra di
cta Villa, et Agnettem Surdyn
ska, Testes Fide digni fuerunt Jo
hann Baptistus Brzezinski de
vici Brzezinski Civis Bannij ac alij:
Pikutkowie

Marriage Record of Rocco Piotrowski and Agnes Surdynska
Married on 9/13/1801
Pikutkowo (Brześć Kujawski)

3. English Translation

"Village of Pikutkowo.

*On the 13th day of September [or November], after three banns were announced in the face of the Church on feast days before the people gathered to hear Divine Service, following an examination, sacramental confession, and Holy Communion, and with no canonical or civil impediment having been found, and finally with the mutual consent of the parties, I blessed the marriage between the industrious **Roch Piotrowski**, a bachelor (juvenis) from the above-mentioned village, and **Agnes [Agnieszka] Surdyńska**. Trustworthy witnesses were Sebastian Raciński and Felix Śniewski, citizens of Brześć, and others."*

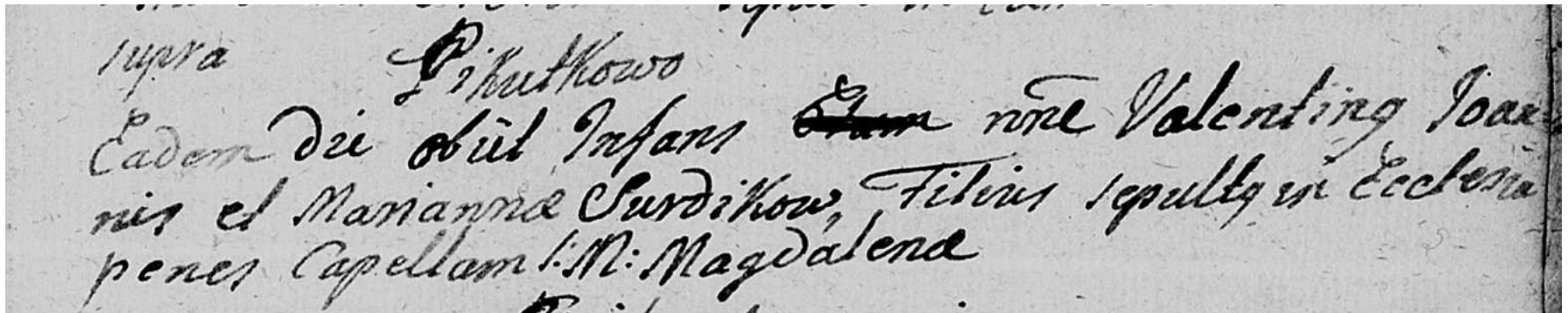
AI translation (Google Gemini)

3. English Translation

"81. Pikutkowo. Took place in Brześć on December 14 / 26, 1871, at one o'clock in the afternoon. There appeared Szymon Pińkowski, forty-six years of age, and Franciszek Bretos, forty-three years of age, both peasants residing in Pikutkowo, and declared that on December 12 / 24 of the current year [December 24, 1871] at nine o'clock in the morning, there died in Pikutkowo Agnieszka née Surdyńska Piotrowska (Agnieszka z Surdyńskich Piotrowska), a widow living on support, residing in Pikutkowo and born there to the late Jan [John] and Marianna, formerly the spouses Surdyński; ninety-one years of age. Upon eye-witness verification of the death of Agnieszka Piotrowska, this act was read aloud to the present non-literate parties, and signed by Us alone."

AI translation (Google Gemini)

Note: This particular translation explicitly identified the mother and father of Agnes, while a previous attempt indicated her parents were unknown.



1780 Death of an infant Valentine, son of John and Marianna Surdikow, from Pikutkowo
The date is illegible, but appears to be late 1780 (perhaps December)
Pikutkowo (Brześć Kujawski)

Agnes, the sister of Valentine, was born in January 1780.

This baptism might suggest an inconsistency that there were two John and Marianna Surdinski families in Pikutkowo at the same time.

The word "infant" did not necessarily imply a baby (i.e. few months old) as the term is used today.

The term may have historically meant the child was under four years of age

His baptism has not been found.

Below: AI translation (Google Gemini)

2. English Translation

"Pikutkowo.

On the same day died an infant named **Walenty**, son of **Jan** and **Marianna Surdyk [Surdyński]**, buried in the church near the Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene."

moneta Sepulta in Cameraco. Spring & ...
Causa mortis Parturitionis
Villa Pikutkowo
Pro ut supra d. 15 Augusti Obiit Michael Labori Janz
et Marianna Surdyński Filius Aetatis 18. Ann. Op. 6
Sacramentis munitus. Sepultus ad Ecclesiam S. Spiritus
Die 17. Ejusd. na Dyszel.
Vill. Pikutkowo

1803 Death of Michael Surdinski
Pikutkowo (Brześć Kujawski)

This death record was just four entries above John Surdinski's death record (about 15 days)
Michael was 18 years old (illegible)
Died on 8/15/1803

Below: AI translation (Google Gemini)

Village of Pikutkowo

In the year as above, on the 15th day of August [1803], died Michał, son of the laboring Jan and Marianna Surdyński, aged 18 years, fortified with the Most Holy Sacraments. Buried at the Church of the Holy Spirit on the 17th day of the same [month], at Dyszel."

John Surdinski's 2nd Marriage to Agnes Sieczkowski

Representative documents are shown below.

ac abj Villa Pikutkowo
 Die 11. Julij Quem qui supra premij
 sis in Fide fides Sieb Festiv
 coram Populo pro Divinis Andien
 gregato hiey Bonny praeu Exam
 nes praeia sacramentali Confessio
 ne ac Sacratissima Communione
 nullus reperto impedimento tam
 Canonico quam Civili, mutuo denig
 partium consensu Benedixi Matro
 monium inter Henr Joannem Sur
 dynski Viduum et Agnettem =
 Sieczkowska defloratam virgi
 nem fides Fide digni fuere testimi
 ny Gabronski Antoniy Sieczkow
 ski ac abj multi
 Villa Pradkowsko

1801 Marriage between John Surdynski and Agnes Sieczkowska.
 Pikutkowo (Brześć Kujawski)

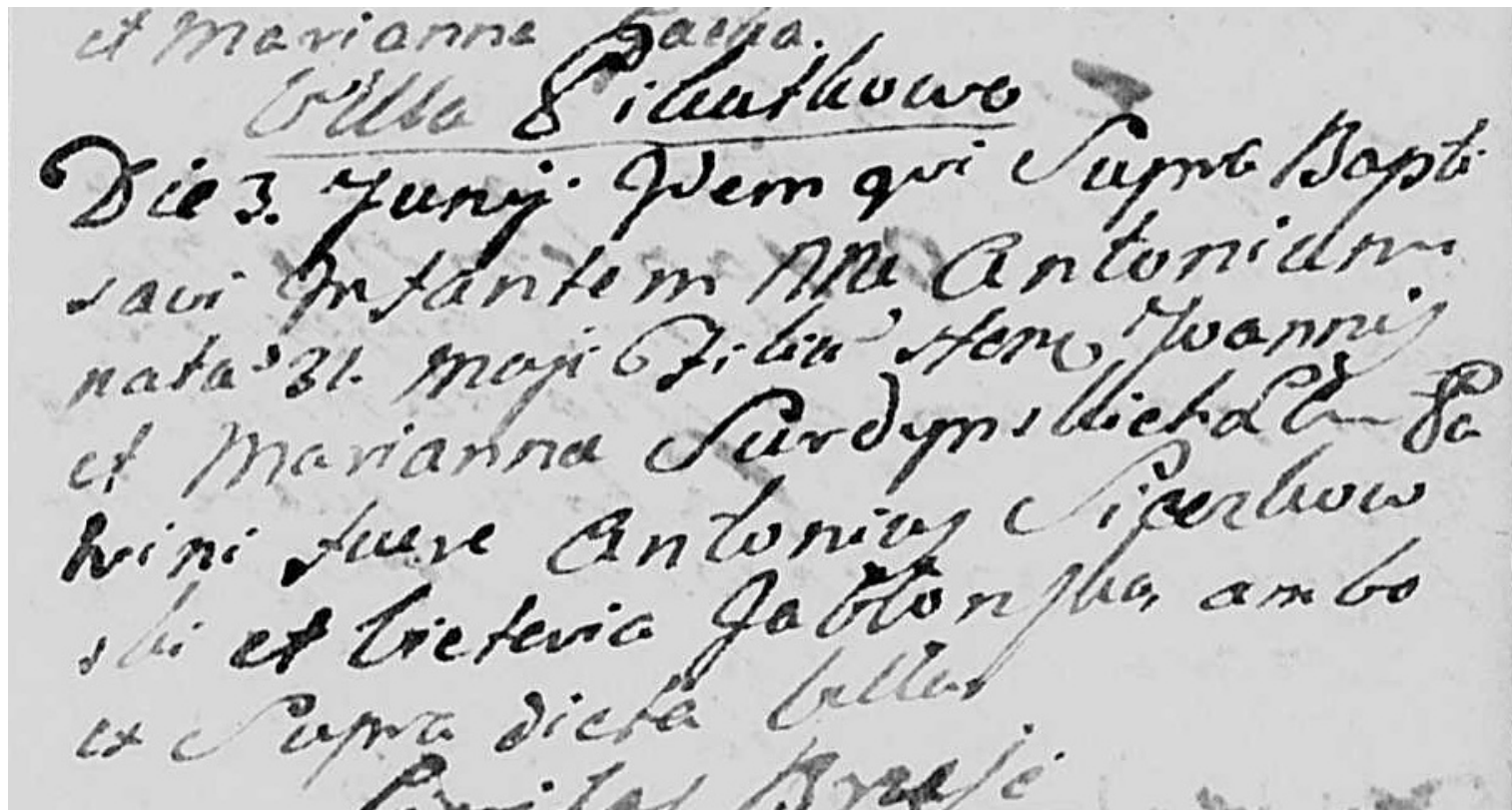
John Surdynski was listed as a widower.
 One of the witnesses was Anthony Sieczkowski

3. English Translation

"Village of Pikutkowo.

On the 11th day of November, the same [priest] as above, after three banns were announced in the face of the Church on Feast days before the people gathered to hear divine services, with prior examination, prior Sacramental Confession, and Most Holy Communion, and finding no canonical or civil impediment, with the mutual consent of the parties, I blessed the marriage between the honest **Jan Surdyński, widower**, and **Agnieszka Sieczkowska, maiden/virgin**. Trustworthy witnesses were **Kazimierz Jabłoński, Antoni Sieczkowski**, and many others."

AI translation (Google Gemini)



et Marianna Sarda.
Villa Piskutkowo
Die 3. Junij. Quem qui Supra Bapti-
savi Infantem M^{re} Antonium
nata 31. Maji Filium H^{on} Joannij
et Marianna Surdynskich & Pa-
trini suae Antonij Sierkow-
ski et Theresia Gablonzka, ambo
ex Supra dicta Villa
Piskutkowo Brześć

1802 Baptism of Anthony, son of John and Marianna Surdynskich
Pikutkowo (Brześć Kujawski)

This baptism contradicts the possibility that Marianna passed away in 1793

The name Marianna is presumed to be a mistake because the baptism took place about one year after the 1801 marriage to Agnes Sieczkowski

One of the godparents was Anthony Sieczkowski

It looks like the baptism date was 6/3/1802

3. English Translation

"Village of Pikutkowo.

On the 3rd day of June [1802], I the same as above baptized an infant named **Antoni**, born May 31st, son of **Jan** and **Marianna Surdyński**, legitimate spouses. The godparents were **Antoni Sijerbowski** and **Wiktoria Jabłońska**, both from the above-mentioned village."

AI translation (Google Gemini)

Eugeniusz Skarbko przedk. 136.

bracia i siostry, mam nadzieję, że ten list do wasz
 jest nola, jakim umiarkowany i imięni prowa. i dachoni Sardynia
 mto dach i Lusa Murakowakardawas, ser potężni do raby a mię
 kism mnt kienim - Czego opisany koszt odz, w przykumowiz
 audencio Siurkowickiego Gospodara lat muięgo skądziest
 Lubio, Pistrz Kwadkowickiego Gospodara lat muięgo skądziest
 wiat, Laxia Siurkowickiego lat muięgo kwydzeni, na koci
 Prokha Kwadkowickiego skądziest, na Purobka, wryskkies
 wmi Pithukawie komierkatyś - Pwimant, muięgo
 prucyphany i prucyphar, wmygł podpisany koszt, gdy
 muięgo pisai niemniis - D. Pwimant, muięgo
 Lpwięgo Guciny Pwimant -
 Prokha Kwadkowickiego skądziest, na Purobka, wryskkies

Part 2/2

3. English Translation

Summary of Page 1:

"No. 30. Pikutkowo.

In the year 1825, on the 24th day of October at 4:00 PM, before us, Civil Registrar of the Brześć Commune, appeared **Antoni Surdyński**, working as a farmhand, aged **23** according to the extract from the Brześć Church books, in the presence and assistance of his mother **Maryanna née Sieczkowska Surdyńska, widow of the late Jan Surdyński**.

There also appeared **Łucja née Baranowska, widowed Muraczewska**, producing the death certificate of her former husband Stanisław Muraczewski, aged **20**, born in the village of Kłokock, residing with her widowed mother Maryanna Baranowska..."

Summary of Page 2:

"...we declare in the name of the law that **Antoni Surdyński, bachelor**, and **Łucja Muraczewska, widow**, are joined in marriage.

The act was read in the presence of witnesses: **Antoni Sieczkowski, farmer, aged 63; Piotr Prządkowski, farmer, aged 60; Józef Sieczkowski, aged 30; and Protazy Prządkowski, farmhand**, all residing in the village of Pikutkowo."

AI translation (Google Gemini)

Sacerdos in Dorothaea Wiatro
wa.
Villa Pikutkowo.
Anno ut supra d. 5. Februarij Ego Anto
nius Grybyski Comendarius Bra
stensis baptizavit infantem Valen
tinum natū d. ejusdē laboris Joannis
et Mariannae Surdinskiū d. C. Patri
ni futurē laboris Bartholomaeus Lugo
shi in Agneda Pulchra.
Villa Stare Brzezie.

1804 Baptism of Valentine Surdinski
Pikutkowo (Brześć Kujawski)

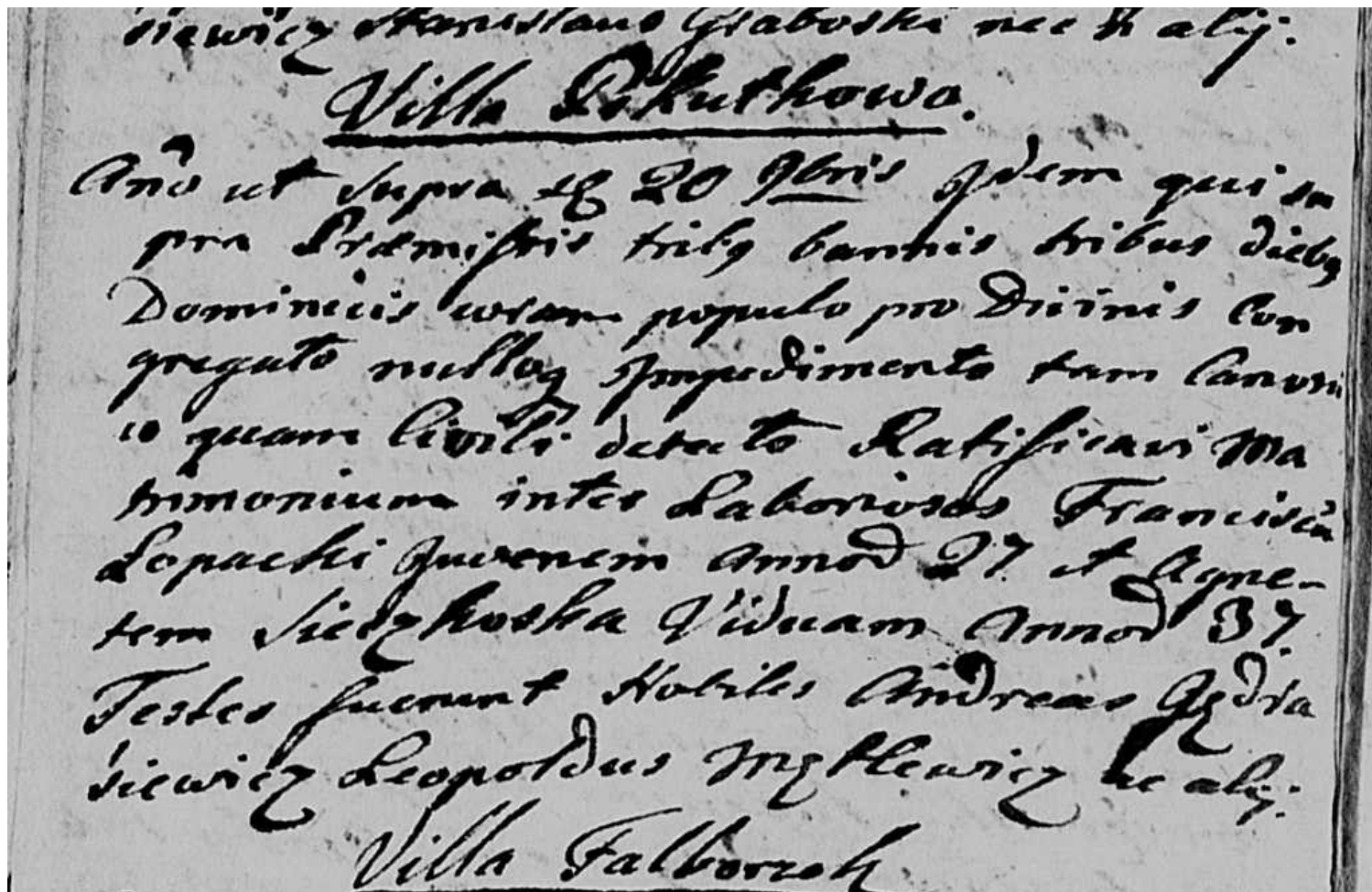
The 1804 baptism record identifies Valentine's parents as John and Marianna Surdinski, even though the apparent death record for John Surdinski occurred several months earlier. One possible explanation is that Valentine was born posthumously, but the record does not explicitly identify John as deceased. Another possibility is that the baptism record contains an error in identifying the father.

3. English Translation

"Village of Pikutkowo.

In the year as above, on the 5th day of February, I, Antoni Przybylski, Commendary [Priest] of Brześć, baptized an infant [named] **Walenty**, born on the 2nd day of the same [month], son of the laboring **Jan** and **Marianna Surdyński**, legitimate spouses. The godparents were the laboring **Bartłomiej Ługowski** with **Agnieszka Rutkowska**."

AI translation (Google Gemini)



1803 Marriage of Frank Lopacki and Agnes Sieczkoska in (date illegible)

Pikutkowo (Brześć Kujawski)

Agnes was described as a 37 year widow. Frank was 27 years old.

This creates another inconsistency regarding Valentine Surdinski's baptism that took place after this marriage.

It's possible that Valentine was the son of Frank Lopacki and the name John Surdinski was a mistake.

It appears that John Surdinski passed away on 8/30/1803

Although the date of the Lopacki-Sieczkoska marriage is illegible, it appears to have been the second-to-last marriage recorded in 1803.

3. English Translation

"Village of Pikutkowo.

In the same year as above, on the **20th day of November [1803]**, I the same as above, after three banns were announced on three Sundays before the people gathered for Divine services, and detecting no canonical or civil impediment, ratified the marriage between the workingfolk **Franciszek Łopacki, a young man [bachelor] aged 27**, and **Agnieszka Sieczkowska, widow, aged 37**. Witnesses were the noblemen **Andrzej Jędrasiewicz, Leopold Męklewicz**, and others."

AI translation (Google Gemini)

3. English Translation

"No. 66. Pikutkowo.

In the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty-three, on the 18th day of the month of June at twelve o'clock noon, before us [Civil Registrar of the Brześć commune], appeared **Franciszek Łopacki**, a farmer [householder], and **Piotr Prządkowski**, aged 30, also a farmer, both residing in the village of Pikutkowo, and declared to us that on the 17th day of the current month and year at two o'clock in the afternoon, died **Agnieszka**, [born of] father and mother of unknown surnames, **from her first marriage Zurdzińska [Surdyńska]**, and **from her second Łopacka**, having ended her life at the age of **about 50 [sięćdziesiąt / 50-60]**, in my place of residence at **house number 29** in the village of Pikutkowo—whose husband is the above-mentioned Franciszek Łopacki. Her parents are no longer living. Whereupon this act was read out and signed by us alone, as the declarants do not know how to write. — [Signed] Father Tomasz..."

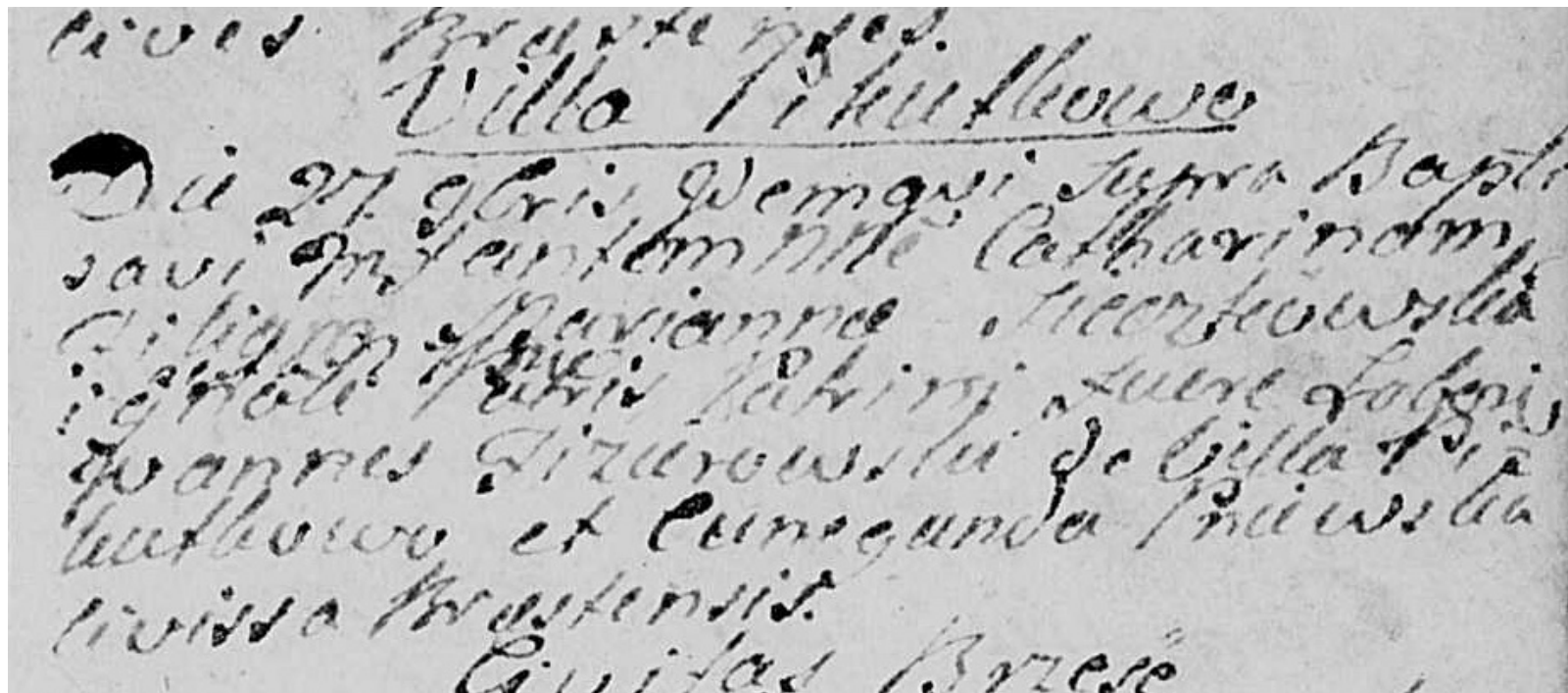
AI translation (Google Gemini)

There was a Peter and Catherine Rybacki family in Pikutkowo during the 1810s through 1850s. Catherine Rybacki's maiden name was written as both Surdinski and Sieczkowski in a variety of documents. She was primarily identified with the maiden name of Surdinski. However, records for her children usually identified their mother with the Sieczkowski maiden name.

A baptism record was found for the illegitimate daughter of Marianna Sieczkowski who was named Catherine born in 1797 in Pikutkowo. John Surdinski married a woman named Agnes Sieczkowski in 1801. It's possible that this was Catherine's mother. There is uncertainty as to whether John Surdinski's second wife was Agnes or Marianna Sieczkowski.

This raises the possibility that Catherine Sieczkowski was subsequently identified as Catherine Surdinski after her mother married John Surdinski in 1801. Even though John Surdinski appears to have died just two years later, his step-daughter Catherine may have continued to be identified by his surname, even though her mother remarried. This would explain why numerous records that pertain to Catherine identified her with the Surdinski surname. However, in later years, her children identified their mother with her original surname of Sieczkowski.

Peter Rybacki and Catherine Surdinski/Sieczkowski's son Joseph Rybacki married Marianna Stasiak. She was Agnes (Surdinski) Piotrowski's granddaughter.



1797 Baptism of Catherine Sieczkowski
Pikutkowo (Brześć Kujawski)

Below: AI translation (Google Gemini)

English Translation

"Village of Pikutkowo

On the 27th day of November [1797], the same [priest] as above baptized an infant named **Katarzyna**, daughter of **Marianna Sieczkowska**, of an **unknown father** (*ignoti Patris*). Godparents were the laboring **Jan Szurowski** [or **Surdyński / Szurawski**] from the village of Pikutkowo, and **Kunegunda Pniewska**, a female citizen of Brześć."

16
 go pomiędzy nami Obchodu Matzenetisa
 przystąpił. Ktorego zapowiedzi wyzety par
 wcz. dnia pierwszego drugo dnia osmego
 topa. o godzinie puz do Dwunastej przed Dwu-
 mi naszego domu Jmimnego. Jcy znowe tam-
 wanie przeciw rzeczom Matzenetisa nie
 zostało. A Rodzice niniejszym na Obchod zezwa-
 lają, przychylając się zatem dożądania stron-
 po porozumieniu, wszystkich wyżej wspomnianych
 Papieron. Dnia szóstego wstąpił Kodeks
 Napoleona, o Matzenetis, kuzyni takim się
 przystępnego Matzenetisa i przyszedł Matzen-
 etis czyli chcą potęczyć się z sobą wstąpił Mat-
 zenetis na co gdy każde z nich od siebie odpo-
 wiedzieli, iż tak ich jest wola, oglaszamy w Jm-
 mu prawa iż Piotr Dybański i Katarzyna z Wied-
 dyńskich są potęczyć z sobą wstąpił Matzen-
 etis. Czego Akt spisałismy w przytomności An-
 toniego Siemkowskiego lat mającego pięćdziesiąt
 i pięć i Tomasza Ziethowskiego lat mającego
 pięćdziesiąt i dwa i Franciszka Olszewskiego
 lat mającego pięćdziesiąt i trzy Owczarowa i Wi-
 staro Borewicza i Wójcicha Wielkopolskiego
 skiego wyrobnika lat mającego trzydzieści i
 dwa latami z Wsi staro Borewio Akt niniejszy
 po przeczytaniu onego obrozom i tawa-
 iumy poez nas samych gdyż świadkowie
 pisali nieumieia podpisanym został.

Maciejki Wójcicha Stanu Tywistego
 ++ Antoni Siemkowski
 ++ Tomasz Ziethowski
 ++ Franciszek Olszewski
 ++ Wójcich Wielkopolski
 Wiadkowie
 R. g. H. Tywist Oziemzet Oziemnaszty Dzi-
 m.

2. English Translation

Page 1:

"Marriage Act of Piotr Rybacki and Katarzyna Surdyńska from Guźlin

In the year 1818, on the 14th day of November, at 12:30 PM, before us as above appeared **Piotr Rybacki**, a youth [bachelor], aged 24 according to the baptismal extract presented to us from the registers of the Parish Church of Brześć, presently in service at the farm of Tomasz Figiel in Guźlin;

There also appeared **Katarzyna Surdyńska**, a maiden, proving by the baptismal extract presented to us from the Church of Brześć that she **has completed her 19th year of age** [born ~1798–1799], also remaining in the same service. Both appearing **in the assistance of their parents**, requesting that we proceed with the celebration of the marriage arranged between them..."

Page 2:

"...The banns were read on November 1st and November 8th at 11:30 AM before the doors of our Municipal Office. Since no impediment arose and the **parents present hereby grant their consent to the celebration**, we declare in the name of the law that Piotr Rybacki and Katarzyna Surdyńska are joined in the bond of matrimony.

Of which we drew up this Act in the presence of **Antoni Sieczkowski, aged 55**, Tomasz Ziółkowski, aged 52, Franciszek Olszewski, aged 53, shepherd from Stary Brześć, and Wojciech Wielkopolski, laborer, aged 32 from Stary Brześć. The act was signed by us alone as the witnesses do not know how to write."

AI translation (Google Gemini)

Po czerem alit urodzenia stawiającym precrzany i przez
 nas samych gdyz Oycie i Swiadkowia nie umieia pod-
 pisany zotat. J. Antoni Jablonski Urzadnik Stanu
 Cywilnego Gminy Brzeskiej.
 Roku Tyzycznego Osm setnego dwadziecatego pier-
 wszego dnia dwadziecatego drugiego miesiaca sty-
 bachnegorocznia o godzinie trzeciej po poludniu. Przed namy
 w Wsi Rydzem Antoninem Jablonskim Urzadnikiem Stanu
 Cywilnego Gminy Brzeskiej w Obwodzie Kujawskim w P-
 wiodztwie Mazowieckim w Kleritorie u Xl Dominika
 nowo ber numeru w Miesie Brzeskim zamieszkatym
 Stawil sy Piotr Rybacki Wyrobnik liczy lat dwadzie-
 sia Osm w Wsi Pikutkowie zamieszkaty i okaral nam
 dzieci pta Myzkiej, Ktore urodilo sy w domu jego pod nu-
 merem osiemnastem na dniu tymze miesiaca i roku
 biezacego o godzinie czwartey z rana. Oswiadczaigc iz
 iest sptodzone z niego i Katarzyny z Sordynskich
 dwadziecia piec lat maircey jego matronki, i ze ryere-
 niem jego iest nadac mu imie Wlodek. Po ucy-
 nienu powyższego oswiadczenia i okarania dziecięcia
 w przytomnosci Franciszka Rosienskiego Parocha
 biezacego lat dwadziecia ctery pod numerem Osmym
 Tudziez Antoniego Sierkowskiego Gospodara biezacego
 lat pyciorieciat pod numerem dwadziecetem czwartem
 Obydwóch Swiadkow w Wsi Pikutkowie zamieszkatych.
 Po czerem niniejszy alit urodzenia stawiającym precrz-
 any i przez nas samych gdyz Oycie i Swiadkowia

1821 Baptism of Vincent (Wincenty) Rybacki
 Pikutkowo (Brześć Kujawski)

Mother was identified as Catherine Sordynski

1. Birth Act of Wincenty Rybacki (January 22, 1821 — Act No. 7)

No. 7 / Birth Act of Wincenty Rybacki in the Village of Pikutkowo

In the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty-one, on the twenty-second day of the month of January at three o'clock in the afternoon, before Us, the Reverend Father Antonin Jabłoński, Civil Registrar of the Commune of Brześć in the Kujawy District, Mazovian Voivodeship, residing in the monastery of the Dominican Fathers without a house number in the town of Brześć.

There appeared **Piotr Rybacki**, a laborer, twenty-eight years of age, residing in the village of Pikutkowo, and presented to us a male child, who was born in his house at house number eighteen on this same day of the current month and year at four o'clock in the morning. Declaring that he was begotten of him and **Katarzyna née Surdyńska**, twenty-five years of age, his wife, and that his wish is to give him the name **Wincenty**.

After making the above declaration and presenting the child, in the presence of Franciszek Rozieński, a farmhand, twenty-four years of age, residing at house number eight, as well as **Antoni Sieczkowski**, a farmer, fifty years of age, residing at house number twenty-four, both witnesses residing in the village of Pikutkowo.

Thereupon, this Birth Act was read aloud to the declarant and the witnesses and was signed by us alone, as the father and witnesses do not know how to write.

Fr. Antonin Jabłoński, Civil Registrar of the Commune of Brześć

AI translation (Google Gemini)

27. Pikutkowo. Dnia 27. w Brześciu dnia dwadzie-
 stego dziewiątego listopada. Tytuł: Cmentarz
 tego drugiego roku i godzinie dwunastej upolnoceni-
 wiadomo ogłosiemy, że wpryncipalności świąt
 Pana Cesarzkiego majstra Mauryczego lat dwadzie-
 siątpięć i Jerzego Korniaka kawalerskiego lat pięć-
 dziesiąt siość mających, obodwaj z Brześcia, na dniu
 świątecznym, zawarli małżeństwo religijne, matrimoniu-
 m, między Wincentym Rybackim kawalerem, wprynci-
 palnością, Piotre i Katarzyną z sio-
 strami, przy rodzicach, Piotre i Katarzyną z sio-
 strami, samymi, tamże urodzonymi, lat
 dwadzieścia jeden mającymi, a panną, Maryanną,
 Tychlińską, córka Antoniego jowi, nie świątecznego
 i Jerzego Tychlińskiego w Pikutkowie, samymi, tam-
 że, siostrami, lat dwadzieścia mającymi, wprynci-
 palnością. Matrimoniu to poprzedziły trzy rąko-
 wiadzie, w dniach świątecznych, trzynastym i dwunastym
 świątecznym miesiąca i roku bieżącego, w Parafii
 Brzeskiej, jako też przewzięcie, rodziców nowo-
 żałubionego i matki, nowo żałubionej, odczytanych
 temu Aktowi, było świadczące. Tamowa-
 nie, matrimoniu miało, zawarto. Matrimoniu na-
 ziwi świadczające umowy, przedślubnej, za-
 wziętej, nie zawarli. Akt ten, stawiającym i
 świadkom, przysięgany został, który pisze
 nie umiemy.

K. Pannawski, 1842

Pomocnik Akta w dniu 27. Grudnia 1842 r. zamknął ten

K. Pannawski

1842 Marriage of Vincent Rybacki
 Pikutkowo (Brześć Kujawski)

Mother was identified as Catherine Sieczkowski

2. Marriage Act of Wincenty Rybacki & Maryanna Tychlewska (November 29, 1842 — Act No. 27)

27 Pikutkowo

It took place in Brześć on the twenty-ninth day of November in the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-two at twelve o'clock at noon.

We make it known that in the presence of witnesses: Mr. Ciesielski, master shoemaker, twenty-five years of age, and Korbel Worniak, church sexton, sixty-six years of age, both from Brześć, on this day a religious marriage was contracted between **Wincenty Rybacki**, a bachelor, residing in Pikutkowo with his parents Piotr and **Katarzyna née Sieczkowska**, born there, twenty-one years of age; and the maiden **Maryanna Tychlewska**, daughter of the late Antoni and Józefa Tychlewski, residing in Pikutkowo as a servant, twenty years of age, born in Świdno.

This marriage was preceded by three banns published on the sixth, thirteenth, and twentieth days of the current month and year in the Parish of Brześć, and the consent of the newlywed groom's parents and the newlywed bride's mother, present at this act, was declared.

No impediment to the marriage arose. The newlyweds declare that they have entered into no prenuptial agreement.

This act was read aloud to the appearing parties and witnesses, who do not know how to write.

Fr. Tarnawski, Administrator

(The above acts were closed on December 31, 1842 — Fr. Tarnawski)

AI translation (Google Gemini)

2. English Translation

8. Pikutkowo

It took place in Brześć on the twenty-seventh day of February in the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven at two o'clock in the afternoon. We make it known that in the presence of witnesses: Józef Banderski, a farmer residing in Pikutkowo, fifty years of age, and Wawrzyniec Janczewski, a farmer from Gużlin, thirty-three years of age, on this day a religious marriage was contracted between **Józef Rybacki**, a youth [bachelor], residing with his parents (farmers in Pikutkowo), born in Pikutkowo to the spouses Piotr and **Katarzyna née Sieczkowska** Rybacki, twenty years of age; and **Marianna Stasiak**, a maiden, daughter of the late Franciszek [Stasiak] and **Józefata née Piotrowska** [by her second marriage Spychalska], a farmer in Pikutkowo, seventeen years of age, born in Pikutkowo and residing there with her mother.

This marriage was preceded by three banns published on the thirteenth, twentieth, and twenty-seventh days of February of the current year in the Parish of Brześć, and the consent of the groom's parents and the bride's mother was given.

No impediment to the marriage arose. The newlyweds declare that they have entered into no prenuptial agreement.

This act was read aloud to the appearing parties and witnesses, who do not know how to write, and was signed by us alone.

Fr. Tarnawski, Civil Registrar

AI translation (Google Gemini)

106

23. Pikutkows. Dnia to się w Brześciu dnia otwartego
tego Marcin typias samset pięćdziesiątego pierwszego
roku ogodzinie dziesiątej z rana. Stawili się Jo-
sef Bacalcrski lat pięćdziesiąt, tudzież Jędrzej
Szabrawski lat także pięćdziesiąt mający, oba-
dwaj gospodarze w Pikutkowie kauniskalijsi s.
świadczyci. i z wodnią dwudziestym siódmym lat tego ro-
ku bieżącego ogodzinie ósmiej rano, umarła w Pikutka-
wie Katarzyna Rybacka lat pięćdziesiąt trzy kiego-
co, z domu Surdyniska, nieświadomego imienia rozi-
coiu, urodzona w Pikutkowie, tam zamieszkała i tamie
zastawiający Młoda rolnika: Piotra, i dwóch Wincenta-
go, Józefa, Mariannę i Euz. To przekonaniu się
naocznie ożejsciu Rybackiej. Aż ten stawiający ro-
zostat, przeżyty tacy prozwas podpisany, stawia-
jący piąć nie umieją.

Ksaw. Tarnowski

24. Rządka Wola. Dnia to się w Brześciu...

1851 Death of Catherine (Surdynski) Rybacki
Pikutkowo (Brześć Kujawski)

2. English Translation

23. Pikutkowo

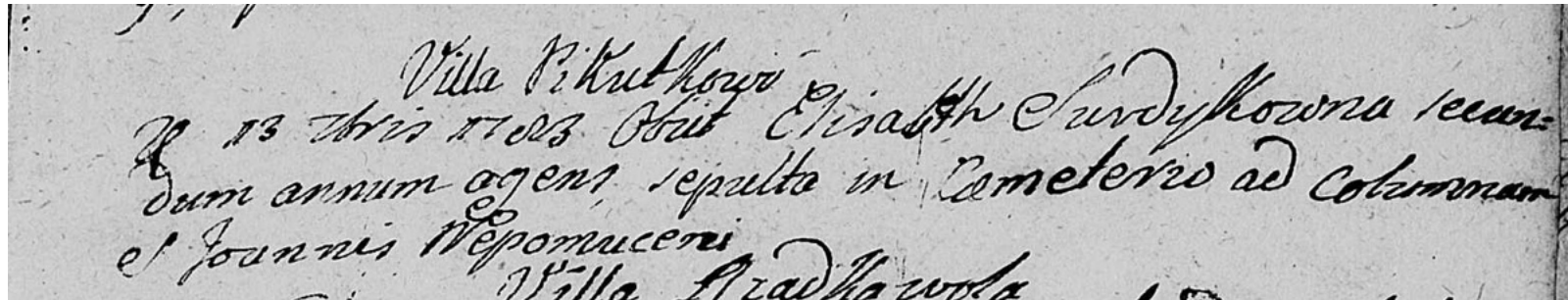
It took place in Brześć on the fourth day of March in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one at ten o'clock in the morning.

There appeared Józef Bazalerski, fifty years of age, and Jędrzej Szafrąński, also fifty years of age, both farmers residing in Pikutkowo, and declared: that on the twenty-seventh day of February of the current year at eight o'clock in the morning, **Katarzyna Rybacka** died in Pikutkowo, fifty-three years of age, **maiden name Surdyńska, of unknown parents' names**, born in Pikutkowo and residing there, leaving behind her husband Piotr, a farmer, and children: **Wincenty, Józef, Maryanna, and Ewa.**

Upon visually verifying the death of Rybacka, this Act was read aloud to the declarants and signed by us; the declarants do not know how to write.

Fr. Tarnawski, Civil Registrar

AI translation (Google Gemini)



1783 Death of Elizabeth (Elżbieta) Surdyk
Pikutkowo (Brześć Kujawski)

It appears that this death record is for a child whose parents were not identified.

She was buried in the cemetery instead of inside the church

Therefore, it is not possible to determine whether Elizabeth was the daughter of John and Marianna Surdinski

Below: AI translation (Google Gemini)

English Translation

"Village of Pikutkowo

On the 13th day of September 1783, died Elżbieta Surdykówna, in her second year of life [aged 1], buried in the cemetery at the column of St. John Nepomucen."

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.

John and Marianna Surdinski are Michael E. Byczek's 5x-great-grandparents. Their daughter Agnes Surdinski (4x-great-grandmother) married Rocco Piotrowski in 1801 in Brześć Kujawski. Their son Ignatius Piotrowski (3x-great-grandfather) married Marciana Zaparucha/Zaparuszewski in 1845 in Dabie. Their son Joseph Piotrowski (2x-great-grandfather) married Victoria Nowakowski in 1876 in Radziejow. 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)

- Pikutkowo is a village in the administrative district of Gmina Brześć Kujawski within Włocławek County
- Brześć Kujawski is a town in the administrative district of Gmina Brześć Kujawski within Włocławek County

Revision History:

8/21/2026

3/22/2025

michael@byczek.pro

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