

RZEPPA

WIFE'S MAIDEN NAME: **DOSTRASCH / DOSTERCHIL**

HUSBAND'S NAME	Johann / Jan (John) Rzeppa
BIRTH DATE	4 February 1803
BIRTH PLACE	Toszek, Poland
BAPTISM DATE	5 February 1803
BAPTISM PLACE	Św. Katarzyny Aleksandryjskiej (St. Catherine of Alexandria), Toszek, Poland
MARRIAGE DATE	18 November 1823
MARRIAGE PLACE	Św. Marcina Biskupa (St. Martin the Bishop), Stare Tarnowice, Poland
OCCUPATIONS	Poland: shoemaker and mistrz piekarski (master baker); Texas: farmer
RESIDENCES	Toszek and Stare Tarnowice, Poland; Panna Maria, Texas
DEATH DATE	10 November 1885
DEATH PLACE	Panna Maria, Karnes County, Texas
BURIAL PLACE	Immaculate Conception of the BVM Cemetery, Panna Maria, Texas

WIFE'S MAIDEN NAME	Tekla (Tecla) Dostrasch / Dosterchil
BIRTH DATE	16 September 1802
BIRTH PLACE	Stare Tarnowice, Poland
BAPTISM DATE	16 September 1802
BAPTISM PLACE	Św. Marcina Biskupa (St. Martin the Bishop), Stare Tarnowice, Poland
RESIDENCES	Stare Tarnowice and Toszek, Poland; Panna Maria, Texas
DEATH DATE	21 January 1880
DEATH PLACE	Panna Maria, Karnes County, Texas
BURIAL PLACE	Immaculate Conception of the BVM Cemetery, Panna Maria, Texas

Sources and Additional Information

BAPTISMS	Husband: Św. Katarzyny Aleksandryjskiej, Toszek, Poland, p. 236, entry #20 Wife: Św. Marcina Biskupa, Stare Tarnowice, Poland, p. 290, entry #53
MARRIAGE	Św. Marcina Biskupa, Stare Tarnowice, Poland, Record #18/23
SHIP AND PORT	<i>Schüler Agency List</i> shows departure from Bremen on 1 October 1855.
TAX ROLLS	Texas: 1859, 1862, and 1865-1867 Karnes County
LAND RECORD	Karnes County Deeds, Volume C, p. 435, date of instrument: 4 August 1873 (Tekla sold 25 acres in Panna Maria to Matilda Rzeppa for \$100.)
CITIZENSHIP	Naturalization: 29 January 1868, Karnes County; Voter Registration: 1868 Karnes County (Naturalization referenced in this record)
FEDERAL CENSUS	Texas: 1860 and 1870 Karnes County; husband in 1880 Karnes County; wife in 1880 Karnes County Mortality Schedule
BURIAL RECORDS	Immaculate Conception of the BVM Catholic Church, Panna Maria, Texas (LDS Microfilm #0025335) Husband: p. 15 Wife: p. 11, entry #54
TOMBSTONES	Both in Immaculate Conception of the BVM Cemetery, Panna Maria, Texas

Submitted by: Cheryl Lynn Highley, San Antonio, Texas
Mary Ann Fowler Fitzgerald, Smithville, Texas



Johann, the son of Anton Rzeppa and Marianna Marondel, married Tekla, the daughter of Sylwestra Dostrasch and Johanna Werner, in 1823. Johann, a master baker, contracted with the Schüler Agency in 1855 to immigrate to Texas with his large family. They brought a Christ figure from Silesia for the new parish at Panna Maria (see next page of this profile). Soon after arriving in Panna Maria, they built a "...strong little block house..." (Dworaczyk, 1936, p. 21). They ordered a church bell from Poland which arrived in 1858 (see photograph of bell in this profile).

During the Civil War, John Kuhnel, the owner of a local store, was attacked by ruffians and almost hanged. Johann, a well-known marksman, came to his aid with his rifle and announced that Kuhnel's feet would stay on the ground or there would be a few less outlaws in Texas (*Karnes City Citation*, 24 September 1931, p. 1; Didear, 1969, p. 77). The ruffians quickly departed.

In the late 1860s, Father Felix Zwiardowski travelled to Panna Maria to celebrate his first Mass. A cannon was needed for a salute, and Johann fashioned one from an old oak tree and strengthened it with iron hoops. With cannon loaded, he waited for the signal—the ringing of the church bell. Celebrants hid behind trees and the church cornerstone. Johann, "...an eighty year old man with a long grey beard...with a long, white-hot tinder, his eye fastened on the church spire, awaiting the signal..." hid behind a stack of cotton bales. The canon was lit and a loud blast followed. The parishioners found only tiny fragments of the tree and the iron hoops. The bales behind which Johann had hidden were shredded. No one was hurt, and the celebration continued (Coleman, 1971, pp 13-15).

Baptism Records of Rzeppa Children

26 September 1824	Tecla Johanna	entry #60	Św. Marcina Biskupa,
4 May 1826	Femia Albertina	p. 905	Stare Tarnowice, Poland
11 January 1829	Emanuel Johann	entry #4	(LDS Microfilm #877390)
1 August 1830	Roberth Ignatz	p. 38, entry #90	Św. Katarzyny
12 August 1832	Ignatz Robert	p. 96, entry #75	Aleksandryjskiej, Toszek,
26 September 1834	Julius Mathes	p. 176, entry #104	Poland
5 March 1837	Matilde Eleonore	p. 282, entry #44	(see attached baptism
27 December 1838	Julia Ewa	p. 42, entry #180	records in this profile)
25 October 1840	Johann Carl	p. 107, entry #154	
16 May 1842	Johanna Monika	p. 57, entry #72	
7 October 1844	Maria	p. 132, entry #141	
25 April 1847	Joseph Albert	pp. 36-37, entry #51	

Notes: Robert Ignatz died in 1832, Julius Mathes died in 1836, and Joseph died in 1851 (p. 72, entry #13; p. 75, entry #32; and pp. 309-310, entry #81, LDS Microfilm #2160608). Tecla, a Benedictine nun, remained in Hamburg, Germany.

Emanuel came to Texas with his wife, Matilde Heinrich. They were married on May 10, 1853, in Toszek, Poland (Św. Katarzyny Aleksandryjskiej Marriage Records, pp. 292-293). They and their nine-month-old daughter Anna are on the 1855 *Schüler Agency List*.

The Christ Figure

“...a reminder of home...”



In 1855 Johann and Tekla Rzeppa brought a Christ figure from Silesia to Panna Maria where it was placed upon a cross made by Johann and fellow parishioner Francis Cebula. The crucifix was erected in front of the not yet completed church and was blessed by Father Leopold Moczygemba on the Friday of Easter Week in 1856 (Dworaczyk, 1936, p. 13; Baker, 1975a, p. 21; 1979, p. 60). The devotion to this symbol of faith was described by Father Adolf Bakanowski:

Everyone who entered the church would generally pause to say a prayer before it, in memory of the homeland. For each and every one it was a reminder of home, and more than one parishioner here poured out his yearning for the old country in a flood of tears. Or would fortify himself here to endure the strangeness of the new country, so different in spirit from the old. Here everyone felt himself a brother or sister of all, bound together by the common tie of suffering in a foreign country. One woman...noticed that, like herself, the figure of Christ also had his head bowed in the direction of the faraway land from which she had come, and she cried aloud, “Oh, Lord Jesus! I see that you too long for the old country. You too have your poor head turned toward Europe!” (Coleman, 1971, p. 16).

To this day, the Christ figure, now mounted on a modern cross, remains in front of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM Catholic Church at Panna Maria.

Photograph courtesy of: Cheryl Lynn Highley, San Antonio, Texas

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The Church Bell

“...the walls shook when it was rung...”

After arriving in Panna Maria and observing the construction of the first church, the Rzeppas ordered a bell for the tower from their Silesian homeland. The new bell was brought to Texas by Silesian immigrants in 1858 and placed in the tower of the church. Dworaczyk (1936, p. 22) writes, “Though the bell was small and the tower strongly built, the walls shook when it was rung; so it had to be taken out and placed on a platform built outside of the church.” In 1875 the church was struck by lightening, and a cornerstone for a new church was blessed in 1877. The bell has hung in the tower of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM Catholic Church since that time.



The inscription reads:

GESCHENK DER
JOHANN UND THECLA RZEPPASCHEN
EHELEUTE AUS TOST
GEWIDMET DER KATHOLISCHEN KIRCHE
ZU PANNA MARIA IM IAHR
1858
GEFERTIGT VON H.P. LIEBOLD ZU GNADENFELD

Translated into English as:

Gift from
Johann and Tekla Rzeppa
a married couple from Toszek
to the Catholic Church
in Panna Maria in year
1858

Work done by H.P. Liebold of Gnadenfeld

Gnadenfeld was the German name for present-day Pawłowiczki, a Silesian village south of Opole.

Photograph courtesy of: Reverend Wojciech Reisch, Panna Maria, Texas

Translation courtesy of: Reverend Adrian Adamik, Karnes City, Texas

Baptism Record of Roberth Ignatz Rzeppa

Der Tag, an welchem die Taufe verrichtet worden.	Iste Rubrique. Wesentliche Anmerkungen bei vorkommenden Taufen. Aus §. 2. des Reglements.
1830	
Tost am 1 ^{ten} August	<p>Transport</p> <p>Ich hab Eva von Lissa getauft Johann Rzeppa von Lissa Consortin Tecla geb. Dosterschil in off. Vorn Roberth Ignatz am 21^{ten} Juli um 6 Uhr Abend geb. und am 1^{ten} Aug. in der hiesigen Pfarre getauft in Lissa am 1. d. d. H. berth Fischer, Kirchenmeister von Piasetna, Bartholomeus Garck, Organist von Naklau, Petronela Müller, Aushilfs- weibl. Prediger, vom Hofe, Litzmannsdorf Carl Dronke, Kantor. Kottlischowitz Ich hab Eva von Lissa getauft Johann Rzeppa von Lissa</p>

The above baptism record provides the birthplace of Roberth Ignatz as Tost (Toszek). He was baptized on 1 August 1830. The names of the infant's parents were noted as Johann Rzeppa and Tecla Dosterschil. The father's occupation as a shoemaker was also provided. The priest recorded the baptism in German which was the official language of the time (Św. Katarzyny Aleksandryjskiej, Toszek, Poland, p. 38, entry #90).

Baptism Record of Ignatz Robert Rzeppa

Der Tag, an welchem die Taufe verrichtet worden.	Ite Rubrique. Wesentliche Anmerkungen bei vorkommenden Taufen. Aus §. 2. des Reglements.
1832.	
Ciechowitz 3. August	Transport Ist der Mays Sibanna geb. Deptaninowicz. Tauf- mutter Marianna Afra geb. Kujumowicz. Tauf- mutter aus der S. 2. in der fünfzigsten Pfarre. in Ciechowitz L. Z. Johann Olsch Jüngling aus Ciechowitz und Josepha Reischer Jüngling aus Tost zum H. Capelan Bergmann zugeführt.
Tost am 10. August	Ist der Leinwandmacher Ignatz Bartela aus Ciechowitz. Taufmutter Marianna geb. Nowatzeu aus der S. 2. Tauf- mutter Ignatz geb. Kujumowicz am 2. Ufm. m. geb. und ist 10. eju. in der fünfzigsten Pfarre in Ciechowitz L. Z. Johann Niklas Jüngling Marianna Boylha Jüngling und Francisca Lyoka Jüngling und Johanna Miosga Jüngling aus Tost. zum H. Capelan Fronke zugeführt.
Tost am 12. August	Ist der Schuhmacher Johann Rzeppa aus Ciechowitz. Taufmutter Tecla geb. Dosterschill aus der S. 2. Tauf- mutter Ignatz Robert geb. am 31. Juli am 10. Ufm. m. geb. und ist 12. August in der fünfzigsten Pfarre in Ciechowitz L. Z. Bartholomeus Gasch Jüngling aus Naklau Alberth Fischer Jüngling aus Piasek und Petronela Müller Jüngling aus Rybna zum H. Capelan Fronke zugeführt.
Orasche am 12.	Ist der Schuhmacher Andreas Budak aus der S. 2. Tauf- mutter Ignatz Robert geb. am 31. Juli am 10. Ufm. m. geb. und ist 12. August in der fünfzigsten Pfarre in Ciechowitz L. Z. Bartholomeus Gasch Jüngling aus Naklau Alberth Fischer Jüngling aus Piasek und Petronela Müller Jüngling aus Rybna zum H. Capelan Fronke zugeführt.

The above baptism record provides the birthplace of Ignatz Robert as Tost (Toszek). He was baptized on 12 August 1832. The names of the infant's parents were noted as Johann Rzeppa and Tecla Dosterschill. The father's occupation as a shoemaker was also provided. The priest recorded the baptism in German which was the official language of the time (Św. Katarzyny Aleksandryjskiej, Toszek, Poland, p. 96, entry #75).

Baptism Record of Julius Mathes Rzeppa

<p>176</p> <p>Der Tag, an welchem die Taufe verrichtet worden.</p>	<p>Ite Rubrique.</p> <p>Wesentliche Anmerkungen bei vorkommenden Taufen. Aus §. 2. des Reglements.</p>
<p>Tost 26^{te} Septbr:</p>	<p>Transport.</p> <p>In der evangelischen Pfarrei zu Sankt Johann Rzeppa von seiner Frau Tekla geb. Dosterschell in off. Tost Julius Mathes 2^{te} 20^{te} huj aus Gölz & Knud geb. am 26^{te} 26^{te} Sept in der hiesigen Pfarrei in Sankt Johann 3. Johann Nikolaus Jungmann aus Sankt George Golen Clara Schaleker beide aus hiesigem Hospital und zugehörig Hr. Caplan Martin Dergman zu wendern</p>

The above baptism record provides the birthplace of Julius Mathes as Tost (Toszek). He was baptized on 26 September 1834. The names of the infant's parents were noted as Johann Rzepa and Tekla Dosterschell. The father's occupations as shoemaker and baker were also provided. The priest recorded the baptism in German which was the official language of the time (Św. Katarzyny Aleksandryjskiej, Toszek, Poland, p. 176, entry #104).

Baptism Record of Mathilde Eleonore Rzeppa

<p>1837</p> <p>Der Tag, an welchem die Taufe verrichtet worden.</p>	<p>282</p> <p>Die Rubrique.</p> <p>Wesentliche Anmerkungen bei vorkommenden Taufen. Aus §. 2. des Reglements.</p>	<p>Transport.</p>
<p>Test 8^{ten} März.</p>	<p>Altes Luth. und Johann Kreppa neu parr. Conf. Tecta geb. Dosterschil eine selige Tochter Mathilde, Eleonore d. 28^{ten} Februar im 12^{ten} J. m. geb. und d. 3^{ten} J. in der hiesigen Pfarr- Kirche in Lissim, der Tauffeuge: Albert Fischer Triffmari, Herr und Proseccna, Bartholomeus Schach Kriger aus Noh- lau, Petronella Müller O. A. A. und Prybna, Francischa Giller, Millron, und Niewiascha, neu zutrigen Derru Capel, Jan Martin Bergmann getauft worden.</p>	

Baptism Record of Julia Ewa Rzeppa

Pag:	Der Ort, wo die Eltern sich aufhalten, der Vor- und Nachname des Vaters und der Mutter, der Geschlechts- und Taufname des Kindes, der Tag der Geburt, und der Name, Stand, Gewerbe und der Ort des Aufenthaltes der Taufzeugen.
Der Tag, an welchem die Taufe verrichtet: <u>1838.</u> Fest d. 27. December.	<p>Die Eltern waren Ludwig Heinrich v. Johann Meppel aus seiner Wohnort in Teltow, dessen Tochter Schullin, geborene Tochter Julia Eise, 22 Tage am 6. dieses Monats Morgens um 9 Uhr geboren wurde. Singsing im Pfarramt in Teltow, d. v. g. Joseph Chmiel als Catharina Prichytkin Helene Ryschkin Zippelin aus Großziethen von Herrn Leysele als Martin Bergmann zu Hr. Hofmeister.</p>

The above baptism records provide the birthplace of Mathilde Eleonore and Julia Ewa as Tost (Toszek). They were baptized on 5 March 1837 and 27 December 1838, respectively. The names of the infants' parents were noted as Johann Rzeppa and Tecla Dosterschil/Tekla Dosterschüll. The father's occupation as a baker was also provided. The priest recorded the baptisms in German which was the official language of the time (Św. Katarzyny Aleksandryjskiej, Toszek, Poland, p. 282, entry #44 and p. 42, entry #180).

Baptism Record of Johann Carl Rzeppa

107

Ite Rubrique.

Der Tag,
an welchem die Taufe
verrichtet worden.

Wesentliche Anmerkungen bei vorkommenden Taufen.
Aus §. 2. des Reglements.

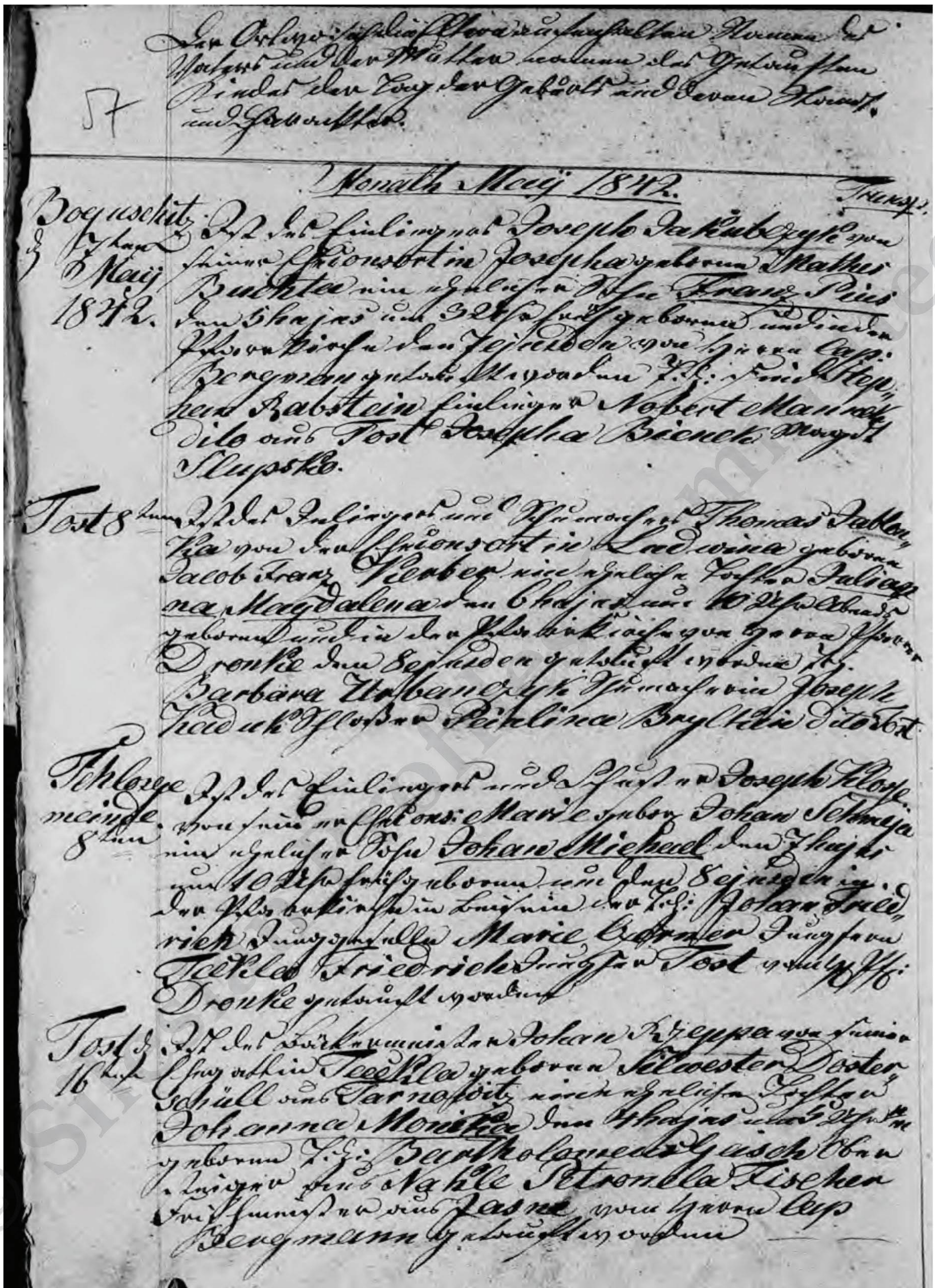
1840.

25. October.

Johann Carl Rzeppa
Dosterschilde
geboren am 25. October
in der Pfarre von St. Albert
Fischer
Rosalie Gasse
geboren am 25. October
in der Pfarre von St. Albert

The above baptism record provides the birthplace of Johann Carl as Tost (Toszek). He was baptized on 25 October 1840. The names of the infant's parents were noted as Johann Rzeppa and Teckla Dosterschild. The father's occupation as baker was also provided. The priest recorded the baptism in German which was the official language of the time (Św. Katarzyny Aleksandryjskiej, Toszek, Poland, p. 107, entry #154).

Baptism Record of Johanna Monika Rzeppa



The above baptism record provides the birthplace of Johanna Monika as Tost (Toszek). She was baptized on 16 May 1842. The names of the infant's parents were noted as Johan Rzeppa and Teckla Dosterschüll. The father's occupation as baker was also provided. The priest recorded the baptism in German which was the official language of the time (Św. Katarzyny Aleksandryjskiej, Toszek, Poland, p. 57, entry #72).

Baptism Record of Maria Rzeppa

[illegible]

The above baptism record provides the birthplace of Maria as Tost (Toszek). She was baptized on 7 October 1844. The names of the infant's parents were noted as Johan Rzeppa and Thekla Dosterschüll. The priest recorded the baptism in German which was the official language of the time (Św. Katarzyny Aleksandryjskiej, Toszek, Poland, p. 132, entry #141).

Baptism Record of Joseph Albert Rzeppa

36. April 1847.

Nr.	Jahr und Tag der Taufe.	Tag der Geburt.	Stunde der Geburt.	Name des Ortes, woher.	Vor- und Zunamen des Vaters.	Zunamen der Mutter.	Stand.	Name des Geistlichen.
	1 Monat April 1847.				Transport			
44.	den 15 ^{ten} April	vierzehnten	Pisarzowice	Joseph Hol	Joachim	Kate	Czysnik	Don He
45.	den 18 ^{ten} April	zwölften	10 Orzeze	Adolph To	Josefa Jarzema	Müllers	Grzeska	
46.	den 18 ^{ten} April	dreizehnten	Tost	Emund Kir	Johanna	g. Fuchman	dito	
47.	den 22 ^{ten} April	neunzehnten	Schlasse	Gregor Mleezko	Agatha	Czysnik	Bergman	
48.	den 23 ^{ten} April	zwei und zwanzigsten	Pisarzowice	Franz St	Joseph	Gärlung	Don He.	
49.	den 23 ^{ten} April	drei und zwanzigsten	Boguchit	Paul St	Susanna	g. Fuchman	Grzeska	
50.	den 24 ^{ten} April	vier und zwanzigsten	Boguchit	Matthaus	Joseph	g. Fuchman	Don He.	
51.	den 25 ^{ten} April	zwölften	Tost	Johann	Thecla	g. Fuchman	Grzeska	
52.	den 27 ^{ten} April	26 ^{ten}	Don He.					

The above baptism record provides the birthplace of Joseph Albert as Tost (Toszek). He was baptized on 25 April 1847. The names of the infant's parents were noted as Johan Rzepa and Thecla Dosterschüll. The priest recorded the baptism in German which was the official language of the time (Św. Katarzyny Aleksandryjskiej, Toszek, Poland, pp. 36-37, entry #51).