

# They changed the countess's will because the church looked "like a hermit in a bad habit"

WE DISCOVER THE ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKIE REGION 05/01/2025, 08:05



Janusz Kedracki

24 PHOTOS

• Discovering the Świętokrzyskie. Tarnawa (Sędziszów commune), St. Martin's Church (Photo: Wojciech Habdas / Agencj



HISTORY

WORLD WAR II

CHURCH

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JĘDRZEJÓW DISTRICT

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**W**e discover the Świętokrzyskie region. Countess Joanna Ledóchowska left a significant sum of money for the construction of a chapel in Czekaj. However, it was used to build the church of St. Martin in Tarnawa.

Tarnawa is a village located west of Sędziszów, on the road to Szczekociny. It has medieval origins, as at the beginning of the 15th century there was a wooden church dedicated to the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Together with the surrounding villages, Tarnawa belonged at that time to the knightly Skrzelowski family of the Topór coat of arms.

**We discover the Świętokrzyskie region. The Hunchback plundered and desecrated**

In the 16th century it was the property of the Stadnicki family of the Szreniawa coat of arms, including Stanisław called the Garbaty, who - as we read in the "Historical description of churches, cities, monuments and mementos in Jędrzejowskie" by priest Jan Wiśniewski - around 1555 the church in Tarnawa "was profaned and plundered", and in the following years it served the followers of Calvinism.

REKLAMA

REKLAMA

"The church stood empty, its doors were open like to a stable with great sorrow of Catholics" - lamented Father Wiśniewski in this monograph published in 1930. We learn from it that in 1589 the son of Garbaty - Andrzej Stadnicki gave the church in Tarnawa to Catholics, but it was destroyed during the rebellion of Jerzy Lubomirski after the Swedish Deluge.

### The priest coughed up money for the church and died

"In 1665, after the church and buildings had been burned down during the wars, Father Suchodolski, the parish priest in T., went on foot to Radom, where he coughed up two thousand złoty from the Commission for the construction of a new church. He sent this money *per Rostram* , and died on the way. His executors built a new church for this and the sold equipment (*supelectili divendita*)" - we read in Father Wiśniewski's article.

REKLAMA

The bishop ordered it to be built "for the convenience of the people and the salvation of souls". The patron saint is St. Andrew

 SAVE FOR LATER



The patron of the church, consecrated on November 10, 1750 by Bishop Michał Kunicki, suffragan of Kraków, was Saint Martin. It did not survive long, only until the middle of the next century. The current church was erected in a new place in 1856.

Countess Joanna Ledóchowska, owner of the Krzelow estate, with its seat in nearby Krzelów, of which Tarnawa had been a part since the 17th century, played a major role in its construction. She died in 1831 and left "a considerable sum of money" to build a chapel in the village of Czekaj, which was neighbouring Krzelow.

### The countess's will was overturned, a new church was built

This goal was later changed, as Father Wiśniewski explained it thus: "however, when the old church in Tarnawa began to fall into

disrepair and looked "like a hermit in a bad habit whose hips are visible", the executors of the will presented this matter to the Spiritual Authority and the bequest was changed to the construction of a church in Tarnawa, with the then heirs Wincenty and Paulina Radzimiński contributing greatly to this construction".

R E K L A M A

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Joanna, née Wielowieyska, Countess Ledóchowska, and Wincenty Radzimiński, commander of a squadron of uhlans during the Napoleonic Wars and later lieutenant colonel in the army of the Kingdom of Poland (the so-called Congress Poland), are commemorated on a plaque located in the church.

The temple in Tarnawa, like others from the period of the Russian partition, is not an architectural gem. It did not impress Father Wiśniewski either, who described it as follows:



• We discover the Świętokrzyskie region. Tarnawa (Sędziszów commune), St. Martin's Church Photo. Wojciech Habdas / Agencja Wyborcza.pl

"The church is of the type built at the time when the Russian government itself imposed plans. The windows are rounded at the top, with pilasters between the windows outside. A tower rises above the porch at the main entrance, but without bells. The presbytery is low and vaulted, with a ceiling in the nave, a floor in the presbytery, and a floor of ashlar in the nave..."

### Church. Saint Martin on a white horse on the wall in the nave

The main altar contains a painting of Our Lady of Częstochowa in a gilded dress, and on either side of it are sculptures of the holy apostles Peter and Paul. On the wall of the nave hangs, among other things, a painting of St. Martin of Tours, from the previous church. It depicts the patron of the temple and parish in a legionnaire's garb on a white horse, giving part of his cloak to a stripped poor man.

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• Discovering the Świętokrzyskie. Tarnawa (Sędziszów commune), St. Martin's Church, the image of the patron. Photo: Wojciech Habdas / Agencja Wyborcza.pl

On the church square there is a brick chapel from the second half of the 19th century. The fence and the rectory with a porch on the other side of the road, somewhat reminiscent of a manor house, also date from that period. In front of the church there is also a statue of the Immaculate Virgin Mary from 1904.

## In memory of parishioners who died in wars

On the southern wall of the church, two plaques draw attention. The first was embedded in October 1930 "on the 10th anniversary of repelling the invasion of Soviet Russia" and commemorates Michał Rokicki, Franciszek Grabek, Jan Grabek and Józef Siemiński who died in battles with the Bolsheviks. The second plaque, dedicated to the residents of the Tarnawa parish who died during World War II, contains over 30 names.

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They are also commemorated on a plaque placed on the base of the figure of the Sacred Heart near the intersection with the road to Gródek. It was erected in 1958 by engineer Marian Brzosko, and stands on the grounds belonging to the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth. The Elizabethans have a religious house in Tarnawa and run a family home for women.

*Edited by Małgorzata Szlachetka*

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Łukasz Grzymisławski recommends

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