The Conversion of Father John Goldschmidt
by himself

The following was found in the scrapbook of Father John Priest of St. Teresa Parish, Cadiz (died 1967), recently donated to the Society. The piece was from a newspaper, probably the Catholic Columbian.

Among the papers left by good old Father Goldschmidt, the following interesting sketch of his life was found, written in his own neat handwriting. As he was greatly beloved and well-known by the people of the Diocese on account of his care of the Orphan Asylum, we feel sure its publication will be a matter of interest to all.

"I was born on September 17th, 1840, my parents being Johannes Goldschmidt and Katherine Elizabeth Bach, near Eisenach Sachzen Weimar, Germany. My parents professed the Lutheran faith and were devout in the practice of their religion. When about fifteen years of age I left my native home in April, 1856, for the seaport of Bremen, whence I embarked in a sailing vessel of the United States of America. After a voyage of about seven weeks, I arrived don June 26th, at Baltimore, Maryland. For about two weeks I was entertained there by old acquaintances of our family who were glad to see me and hear a little about their former old home.

Having enjoyed the hospitality of these friends, I left Baltimore for Newark, Ohio, and thence eleven miles to Thornville, to visit my brother John Valentine Goldschmidt.

His Life at Lancaster, Ohio

"I stayed with him for about two years, then I left for Lancaster, Ohio, going to Mr. Joseph Steck to learn the trade of shoemaking. While staying at the Steck family -- all its members good practical Catholics, well versed in their faith, and I a Lutheran -- ignorant of the Catholic religion -- besides being much prejudiced against everything Catholic -- so it often happened that Mr. Steck and I at times came to talk on religious matters. On such occasions, it was my sincere desire to convert him from his religious belief, as I then imagined and saw it. However, kind Mr. Steck good-naturedly and with much humor would answer all my disagreements and objections to his faith -- and as he was well posted in his belief -- explained to me the Catholic faith in such a way as to upset all my previous notions of the Catholic religion. Good Mr. Steck pointed out to me my own errors of the Lutheran belief, as also my false conceptions of the Catholic religion. We would sometimes get a little heated in our talk for I would not easily give up to him or readily accept his explanations.
However, I concluded I would read and study their Catholic books — of which there was a good number at hand in the house — and from these I thought I could prove to Mr. Steck the wrong and superstitious practices of Catholics as I imagined them — such as worshipping pictures — giving money to priests for the forgiveness of sins, and to get permission from them to commit sins, etc.

Beset with Doubts and Uncertainties

"Secretly I read the books I found in the house and to my great surprise I found therein things quite different from what I had expected. Instead of finding anything to prove my false notions and conceptions of the Catholic religion, I had to acknowledge that I was very wrong and that I had been badly informed. This set me thinking, but I could not persuade myself that I, or the Lutherans were wrong and that Catholics were right. On Sundays I regularly attended services at the Lutheran church — later on I changed about — going one Sunday to the Catholic church and the next Sunday to the Lutheran. My impressions now were that both the Lutherans and the Catholics were right in their religious belief. Considering however, and thinking the matter over for a while, it occurred to me that both could not be right and true, as there were many things which the Catholics believed as true faith, but which Lutherans denied to be such, so I concluded that one must be wrong.

"Sometimes however, I would think that the Lutheran religion was right, and again that it was false, whilst the Catholic faith appealed to me as the more true religion — the one instituted by Jesus Christ. Great doubts and uncertainty perplexed my mind — made me feel sad and gloomy — but in this state of doubt I had recourse to prayer — earnestly appealing to God, asking Him for light and grace that He would show me which religion was the true one — the Lutheran or the Catholic — as I wished to serve Him in the right way to obtain the salvation of my soul.

First Rays of Faith

"Having thus pondered over things for myself, one evening I started to see Rev. Father Lange, the Catholic priest, then at Lancaster, Ohio, to whom I wished to unburden my heart and ask his advice about receiving instructions in the Catholic faith. Father Lange kindly listened to me, asking for my motive in wishing to become a Catholic, telling me that the Catholic religion would require many sacrifices to be made on my part, reminding me too, that my change of religion would probably cause me considerable trouble from my relatives and others. My answer was that I felt convinced that the Catholic religion was the true faith, and that I wished to look to my own welfare, to serve God in the right way to save my soul. Father Lange approved my firmness, gave me a German prayer-book, a Catechism and a controversial work by Father Scheffmacher, S.J., telling me to carefully read them and come to see him again.

(To be concluded)
Abstracts from The Catholic Telegraph
(Continued, from Vol. XXI, No. 5)

August 15, 1839
Subscriptions: A. M. Anderson, Esq.,
Chillicothe, O.; Peter Dittoe, Somerset.

September 5, 1839
Subscription: Robert McDonald, Somerset, O.

September 26, 1839
Subscription: Michael Rigney, Chillicothe

October 10, 1839
Subscriptions: Timothy Collins, Bridgeport;
John Coyle, Washington, O.

October 24, 1839
EPISCOPAL VISITATION.
The Rt. Rev. Bishop Purcell departed from
Cincinnati on Friday, to visit some of the distant
points of his extensive diocese. He arrived in
Chillicothe on Saturday morning, and by request
of the presiding judge and several of the citizens
preached in the evening for nearly two hours, to a
very large audience in the courthouse. On
Sunday he preached in the morning and evening,
to an overflowing Church, and gave the
Pontifical Benediction. Forty four persons
received Confirmation, and from 90 to 100 were
admitted to the Holy Communion. We are happy
to hear that the prospects of the church in
Chillicothe are most flattering, and that much
good has been accomplished by the zealous
Pastor.

The following places will be visited by the
Bishop.
Lancaster, October 27
Somerset, Nov. 1
Marietta, Nov. 10
Canton, Nov. 17
Cleveland, Nov. 24

Norwalk, same week
Tiffin, Dec. 1
Mount Vernon, same week
Columbus, Dec. 8

Subscriptions: James Forster, Batesville; J. & J.
Mechan, Senecaville; Ter. McKune, Hoskins;
James Mercer, Barnesville; J. McCarthy,
Newark; C. McCarthy, Newark; James
Gallagher, Washington, Guernsey Co.; to Rev.
Mr. McAleer from M. Boyle, Mt. Vernon;
Richard Moffitt, Louisville.

November 21, 1839
Subscriptions: James Brown, Rehoboth; John
Callaghan, Meigs Ck.; John McCarthy,
Zanesville.

Agents: J. McCarty, Newark; Isaac Delong,
Rehoboth; H. Clark, Athens; J. McNally,
Frankfort, Ross Co.; C. Cross, Columbus; R. J.
Lilly, Lancaster; Henry Dittoe, Post Master,
Somerset.

December 5, 1839
Subscription: William Dunn, Newark, O.

January 4, 1840
Subscriptions: Christopher Ryan, Urbana;
Marshall Anderson, Chillicothe; Dennis
McConnell, same; Mrs. B. C. Taylor,
Zanesville; Anthony Beelbrey.

January 11, 1840
Subscriptions: Doet Gale, Marietta; Peter
Coyle, Sunday Creek; John Crane, Perry Co.;
Mr. Scott, Somerset.

February 1, 1840
Subscriptions: P. Gallagher, Somerset; S. Huit,
February 8, 1840
Subscription: H. Flowers, Somerset.

February 15, 1840
DIOCESE OF OHIO
It is a subject of no small gratification to the Western Catholic, to observe the sure and steady progress of the church throughout this extensive portion of our country. About twenty years ago, there was but one building in the State, on which the sacred cross was raised, to cheer the heart of the Emigrant, as he journeyed to some "promised land" in search of home and happiness. Our religion was then associated with a thousand evils in the minds of the inhabitants, truth had a mountain before it, towering to the clouds, which it had to move from the path, before it could make further progress on its holy errand. The laborers, however, were not disheartened; "courage says the poet, mounteth with occasion: and they commenced to toil in the good cause, calmly but resolutely, conscious that their duty was to be fulfilled and trusting in the Lord for a successful result. Already have many of their expectations been realized. Losing nothing, but always accumulating, having within itself a conservative power of unity [of] thought and action, the church has extended its land marks all around and set the stakes deeper in the soil, to form an adequate fold for the increasing multitude of the flock. During the last seven years the cause has been steadily advancing in this city and in the country, and though much is yet to be encountered, much will also be accomplished for the glory of the church of Jesus Christ. However disposed we may be to view the subject on the brightest side, the opposition we meet represses presumption in our expectations, and hence we must look on things as they really appear and not as we would wish them to exist.

We have reason, however, for congratulation, and as we justly entertain a preference for the immediate scene of our labors, we can often see through the parting gloom of the present, many bright and cheering vistas of future glory for our diocese. In six years the number of clergy has increased from nineteen to thirty five; in the Almanac for this year Ohio has credit for two charitable Institutions but we have now five in operation. It is also stated therein, that we have twenty-four churches in Ohio; now, the number is thirty-two, and before the ensuing Almanac is ready for the press, we hope to have still better news to impart to those who love to see the church flourishing and prosperous no matter where it may be planted. What we have said of this diocese, may be said of the others; the labor of the ministry is every where rewarded, nor can we omit alluding to the see of Vincennes, which has also made rapid progress in providing spiritual aid for the Catholics of Indiana.

These things we say not through boasting. Great changes must take place, indeed, before we could attempt, if under any circumstances we would be so disposed, to exult in what heaven alone is accomplishing. It is well, however, for the Catholic to know the exertions which are making, that he may co-operate in every manner he can, in the good work in which we are engaged.

Subscriptions: James Johnson, Somerset; P. Dittoe, same.

February 22, 1840
Subscriptions: John Elder, Somerset, for William Stine, J. B. Harholtzer, and Patrick M'Mullen, Rehoboth.

March 7, 1840
Married on the 27th ult., by the Rev. Mr. Clarkson, of Somerset, Mr. Thomas McShane, of Springfield, Clark county, Ohio, to Miss Alicia Mary Creighton, of Licking county, Ohio.
Subscriptions: E. Gallagher, Batesville; Rev. M. Wilson, Zanesville, for Osman Walke, P. Kennedy, James O'Neill, J. C. Cassily, Henry Orndorf, and D. Durbin; Tim Colopy, Mt. Vernon; Thomas McMullin, same.

March 14, 1840
Subscriptions: Rev. Mr. Shorb for P. Kelly; Rev. Mr. Conlan, Steubenville, for John Brady and James McGinness.

March 21, 1840
[Ordained last Sunday: to minor orders, Messrs. O'Laughlin and James Kearney; John M'Coy received the tonsure.]

March 18, 1840
Died on Sunday, 15th March at the residence of Mr. John McNally, of Frankfort, Ross county, Ohio, of Pulmonary Consumption, in his 27th year, Strawder Goldsberry, a highly intelligent and fervent convert to the Catholic faith.

Subscriptions: Rev. Mr. McCaffrey for F. McGuire; John Jeffres, Batesville

April 25, 1840
[An account of a visit by Bishop Miles; priests and seminarians for his diocese.]

DIED, at St. Mary's Convent, Somerset, Ohio, on the 1st inst. after an illness of six weeks, Sister Ann Hill, at the age of 34 years, 17 of which she had passed in religion. The deceased was of respectable parentage, of a family distinguished for intelligence and worth in Washington county, Ky., where she was born. She was one of the first to compose the community at its formation in Kentucky, where she passed ten years in the edifying practice of virtue, and about seven years since she came to found the convent of St. Mary's at Somerset. Over this she presided as mother superior, for one year, and at the time of her death, she held the office next inferior to it. During her brief illness she edified the community by her perfect resignation to the divine will, and most indomitable patience under the pangs of disease. This she learned from divine meditation on the Passion of Christ, to which she was much devoted; and she was often heard to exclaim, when she was not conscious she as listened to; "How is it possible, O Lord, that thou couldst have done so much for such an unworthy one as I!" She was never heard or seen to give any sign of impatience during the progress of her malady, and she heard its fatal termination announced with visible joy. -- This is the second severe loss which this community has suffered during the last half year. -- "O quam pulchra est casta generalio cum claritate: immortalis est enim memoria illius: apud Deum nota est."


May 2, 1840
Subscription: J. J. Stone, Hebron.

May 9, 1840

May 23, 1840
[Obituary of Father Gallitzin of Pennsylvania]

Subscription: Mr. McQuade, Steubenville.

June 6, 1840

June 13, 1840
Subscriptions: W. French, Wheeling; J. Delong, P.M., for D. Delong.

(To be continued)
Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Columbus
Cathedral Division Lot Records, 1867-1926
and Tombstone Inscriptions
(Continued, from Vol. XXI, No. 3)

page 329. John H. Crowley, 429 E. Spring St.; James Crowley, 517 E. Fulton St., Feb. 29, 1889, half lot 21 north [correctly west] side A. Graves: March 4, 1898; Sept. 7, 1899 (child); Oct. 23, 1908 (or 1902?) (child). (Father) John H. Crowley, died Mar. 3, 1890, aged 49 years (Mother) Mrs. John H. Crowley, died Feb. 8, 1898, aged 54 years Margaret E. Paul, 1898 - 1900 ) Infant son, 1902 ) Children of Harry T. & Margaret M. Paul )

page 335. Charles Bigler, 376 Bolivar St., June 27, 1889, half lot 63 [east side] A. Graves: June 27, 1889 (child); Aug. 6, 1892 (child); Sept. 1, 1892 (child). (no stones)


page 409. Michael Harrington, 185 E. First Ave., Oct. 20, 1896, half lot 67 A. Graves: Oct. 20, 1896 (child); Feb. 24, 1903 (child); Mar. 8, 1905; Oct. 1, ----; Jan. 11, 1910; May 22, 1930. [This lot is now called 46 1/2.] (Mamma) Margaret Harrington, died Mar. 7, 1905

page 422. Miss Dora Hubbard, 876 Summit St., June 11, 1901, quarter lot in half lot 18 [northwest] A. Grave: same date. (no stones)

page 424. Dennis Kinney, July 7, 1895 lot 50 [west half?] A. Graves: Aug 24(?), 1901 (child); [two additional dates are illegible]. Jane Kenney, 1848 + 1929 Donald, son of John & Clara Corbett, Apr. 26, 1913 Alden, son of same, 1899 - 1901

page 427. Mrs. Mary Burns, 941 Hunter St., Oct. 28,1901, one grave in half lot 18 north side A. (For the tombstone, see Bulletin page 213.)

page 460. Mrs. Francis R. Fagan, Grogan, O., Oct. 27, 1905, two graves in quarter lot 56 north side A. Graves: Oct. 27, 1905; Dec. 22,
1910; March 14, 1917 (child).

page 486. Mrs. Margarit Morris, 88 N. Grant, Jan. 17, 1910, 1/12 [i.e. one grave] of lot 11 [north]-west A. Grave: same date. [This grave had been returned to the cemetery from the Brophy lot in 1909, per note on ledger page 195.]
Edward J. Morris, 1870 - 1910 (Woodmen of the World memorial)

page 490. D. A. Donovan, 167 N. 18th St., May 15, 1911, half lot 57 west side A, bought from J. B. Fitzgerald. Graves: May 15, 1911; Feb. 4, 1913. [This lot is now designated number 66.]
Tim, Jan. 6, 1938
(Mother) Mary Teresa, 1852 + 1911
(Father) Denis, 1837 + 1913
Patrick Donovan, March 1, 1869 - Jan. 7, 1945

page 505. George Welker, April 19, 1917, quarter lot 33 south side A, transferred from Katherine McGarr. Grave: same date. (For tombstones, see Bulletin page 197.)

page 505. Miss Mary McCloskey, Apr. 19, 1917, quarter lot 33 south side A, transferred from Miss Cath. McGarr. Grave: June 6, 1919. (For tombstones, see Bulletin page 197.)

Single Graves

Spaces between the lots and the fence along Mt. Calvary Avenue were used for children's single graves. These are recorded not in the lot ledger, but in a single grave register that begins with the year 1898. On the east half of Lot 54 or, as designated on page 79 of the register, "Section A, from North end by Gate along fence", are buried the following:
1. Mary Schmidt, July 29, 1918
2. Geno Carmornti, Aug. 25, 1918
3. Paul Sapp, Aug. 28, 1918
4. Antonio Catalagno, Aug. 27, 1918
5. John A. Douglas, Sept. 30, 1918
6. Caroline Tomascello, Sept. 15, 1918
7. Frank Vonsille?, Nov. 6, 1918
8. Joseph Dalore, Nov. 1, 1918
9. Caroline Tomascello, Nov. 7, 1918
10. Rosie Tontello, Nov. 9, 1918
11. John Herder, Nov. 8, 1918
12. Alphonsa Copeblance, Dec. 14, 1918
13. Conseto Delfine, Jan. 1

Tombstones in this area are:
(Daughter) Marie F. Schmitt, born May 28, 1911, died July 25, 1918. R.I.P.
♀ qui riposo Gino Centofanti, nato il 14 Agosto 1917, morto il 24 Agosto 1918
Paul, son of F. & V. Sapp, Dec. 16, 1904 - Aug. 26, 1918
Josephine D’Aloia, nata il 18 Gennaio 1916, morta il 25 Ottobre 1918, figlia di Vincenzo D’Aloia e di Irena Tangi
Carolina Tomacelli, nata 18 Giugno 1918, morta 14. Ottobre 1918
Rosa Tantillo, Jan. 20, 1917 - Nov. 1, 1918
Filomena Cocco, nata 21 Marzo 1917, morta 2 Novembre 1918
Infant son, Concetto Delfino

The area between lots 47 and 48 and the fence is designated Lot 48A in the Internment Register, pages 1-2. The register begins in the year 1919, during which the following burials were recorded:
June 25, Alberto Madelin
Aug. 4, John B. Salomons, 6 months
Aug. 12, Michael Flesch
Aug. 12, Rose Mary Izzi
Aug. 13, Giovani Lanetta
Aug. 29, Louis Albert Lombard
Sept. 2, Marie Schorn
Tombstones:
Donald R. Lusignolo, Feb. 4, 1943 - Apr. 19, 1943
F. Louis Lombard, Apr. 26, 1915 - Aug. 27, 1919
Michael, son of I. & A. Flichia, born Nov. 24, 1918, died Aug. 11, 1919
Teresa Maggi, nata 11 Giugno 1913, morto 7 Febbraio 1914
Albert Nadalini, nato 13 Julio 1917, morto 24 Giugno 1919
Carmine Gastorini, nata 1890, mori 1918

The path space between lots 58 & 59 in the interment register (page 2) is called "Fraction Infant A, 4 Alley" and the listed graves are:
Oct. 6, 1919, Louis Lommano
Oct. 16, 1919, infant Baker
Tombstones in this area are:
(Husband) Pasquale Ludiciani, born Dec. 28, 1887, died Oct. 30, 1918. R.I.P.
Luigi Lommano, figlio di Nickola & Grace Lommano, nato 18 April 1919, morto 4 Ottobre 1919

The path space behind the small Fahey lot is designated "Single fraction 45 A" on page 2 of the interment register; the grave is listed as that of Infant Theoda Colage, Dec. 6, 1919.
Dora Colange, Dec. 20, 1917 - Dec. 5, 1919

Three graves are listed in the space called "Single Fraction A, 2 Alley" on page 3 of the interment register:
Dec. 30, 1919, Nicols Degeca
Jan. 8, 1920, Joseph Stewart
March 9, 1920, Pauline Collura
This tombstone is very close to those listed above, which are situated on Lot 54:
Baby Pauline Collura, Aug. 10, 1918 - Mar. 8, 1920

On page 9 of the interment register, the path space between lots 20 & 21 is designated "Single Section A, The last Alley" or "Entry Single Child A, last alley" and these two burials are listed:
Sept. 8, 1921, Clara Xoddi
Sept. 22, 1921, Infant Sicario
The tombstones are:
Qui riposa Livia Oddi, nata il 11 Ottobre 1919, morta il 7 Settembre 1921, figlia di Vincenzo Oddi & Margherita Costanzo Salvatori Sciagca, Nato Novembre 17, 1920, morto Settembre 20, 1921

Additional Tombstones
Path space between lots 19 & 62:
Giuseppe Tantillo (Woodmen of the World, Humbert Camp No. 10), June 7, 1884 - Apr. 28, 1920

Path space between lots 47 & 66:
Teresa A. Mogavero, Nata 6 Giugno, 1920, Morta 17 Giugno, 1920
Anthony Costello, 1881 + 1969

Lot 11, northeast quarter, one of two graves in the Brophy lot that were returned to the cemetery in 1907:
(Mother) Sarah Daugherty died Jan. 19, 1919, aged 90 years

(End of Cathedral Section A)