

38. GOLDSCHMIDT / GOLDSMITH

(Since we are dealing with the early part of Joseph Goldschmidt's life, we continued to use the Goldschmidt spelling, although the family has changed to Goldsmith.)

The Anabaptist Goldschmidt family originated in Richterswil, Canton Zurich, Switzerland. Richterswil is located at the southern end of the canton, on the southwesterly shore of Lake Zurich. During the persecutions, several brothers migrated to Ste. Marie-aux-Mines (Markirch in German) in Alsace. The Goldschmidt name is still found among the Mennonites in France and Switzerland today.(1) (See End Notes)

According to his family Bible, Joseph was born at the Thannzapfenmühle. This mill and the Muesbach farms were located west of Ribeauvillé (Rapperswyr in German) in the western foothills of the Vosges Mountains. Anabaptists, including the Wagler family who came to Canada, resided on the Tannzapfenmühl (pine cone mill) and the Muesbach farms for many years before abandoning them and coming to America. This area was reforested about a century ago.

Joseph was born in 1796 to Conrad Goldschmidt and Katherine Koenig. Conrad was born in Ste. Marie-aux-Mines and died in 1817. Katherine Koenig was born in Nimburg, district Emmendingen in Baden. She died in 1836.(2) In my research in the records of Ribeauvillé, I did not find Joseph's birth, but I did find a sister Madelaine, born in 1797, and a brother Benjamin, born in 1800. Madeleine was reported to be born at the Thannzapfenmühle, but when Benjamin was born, the parents were described as being "residents of the area of Ribeauville along the route to Ste. Marie-aux-Mines."



Richterswil on the Zurichsee, Switzerland

Credit: Wikipedia, Creative Commons – Roland zh, 2010

Joseph Goldschmidt, the fourth of six children, set out for America on borrowed money, sailing from Amsterdam on the *Montgomery* with an Augspurger family, arriving in Philadelphia on June 18, 1819. On January 4, 1824, he married "Elisabetha Schwartzentraub." She was born in Lich (southeast of Giessen) in the Wetterau in Hesse, Germany. Although the first edition of the Joseph Goldsmith family history indicated that Elizabeth and her mother came to America, it is now believed she was the daughter of Christian Schwartzentruber (born 1773-died after 1845), who also spent some time in Canada.

Joseph and Elizabeth packed their belongings in the spring of 1824 and headed for Upper Canada. According to family tradition, Elizabeth was an unwilling partner in the move. They made the trip in a two-wheeled covered wagon, drawn by a yoke of oxen. Since Joseph's first employment in Pennsylvania had been chopping wood, he was well practiced for what lay ahead of him on Lot 14, North Snyder's Road, in the newly surveyed German Block, west of the Mennonite settlement in Waterloo.

In the fall of 1823, Jacob Kropf, his wife Magdalena, and their five children had come to Upper Canada. Jacob had chosen Lot 13 on the same concession. Jacob Kropf's mother was Elizabeth Goldschmidt, and although we have no documentation to prove it, one suspects that Jacob Kropf and Joseph Goldschmidt were cousins -- either first or second. We have second-hand information which says that Elizabeth (Goldschmidt) Kropf was a half-sister to Joseph Goldschmidt's grandfather, Jacob Goldschmidt (1722-1771), which would make Jacob Kropf a first cousin to Conrad Goldschmidt, Joseph's father.

The year 1824 was a momentous year for the Goldschmidts. In January they married. In the spring they moved to the wilds of Upper Canada. In September, their first son was born. Joseph was ordained to the ministry at a relatively young age. Later in the year of 1824, Bishop John Stoltzfus and Minister Christian Konig/King of the congregation at Mill Creek, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, visited Wilmot Township and organized the first Amish Mennonite congregation in Upper Canada; they ordained Joseph Goldsmith (age 28) and Johannes/John Brenneman (age 58) as ministers. Jacob Kropf (age 40) was ordained deacon. These three were ordained to lead the fledging congregation.

On an 1829 survey, Joseph Goldschmidt was credited with a house, barn and mill, and on the 1830 official survey, he qualified for his patent for the front 50 acres of his lot. Although Jacob Kropf had laid claim to neighbouring Lot 13, he settled in Woolwich Township instead of making improvements on the one in Wilmot.

Early in 1829, two brothers, George and John Schmidt, immigrants from Alsace, left their family in Buffalo and walked to Waterloo. John hired himself to a farmer and George to Joseph Goldschmidt for three months at eight dollars per month. (3) George would later work for Bishop Benjamin Eby, join the Mennonite Church, and become an ordained minister -- serving what is now known as the Shantz Mennonite Church.

In spite of his seeming prosperity, Joseph Goldschmidt was evidently not entirely happy in Upper Canada. Perhaps it was the problems with the government and King's College, which, having been granted the German Block as an endowment, changed the terms on which the settlers could acquire their land. The settlers had voiced their dismay at the turn of events and had received some assurance from Governor Maitland that their grievances would be considered. However, when Maitland was replaced by John Colborne on November 4, 1828, the settlers were again uneasy. On the 16th of the same month, Goldschmidt co-signed a letter to John Goessman, asking him to represent their concerns to the new governor. The bargaining over the price of the land continued, and on June 17, 1829, Goldschmidt again signed a letter asking the Canada Company about the price of their land. (4)

Joseph Goldschmidt was the first of the Amish-Mennonite settlers in Wilmot to be issued a patent for the front fifty acres of his lot. It was dated May 7, 1831. On May 23, he sold it to Jacob Kropf, although this sale was not registered until 1851. On September 11, 1831, John S. Schwartztruber wrote a letter to his cousin "Johannes Güngerich." In it he stated that his brother-in-law Goldschmidt was moving to Cincinnati (Butler County) "next Thursday." (5) By this time the Goldschmidt family consisted of four children: John, Katherine, Lydia and Benjamin. The sojourn of Joseph Goldschmidt in Canada had been brief but significant.

In Butler County, Ohio, Joseph Goldschmidt was ordained to the office of bishop. In 1846, probably due to financial difficulties, Joseph moved his family to Iowa. They travelled to Iowa on a steamboat. Since the river began to freeze, they had to disembark at Hannibal, Missouri, and travel the rest of the way to Lee County, Iowa, by wagon.

Difficulties continued to stalk the Goldschmidt family. In 1852, their house and all their belongings burned. Neighbours helped them rebuild. In spite of this Joseph continued his ministry, organizing the first Amish

Mennonite congregation in Iowa -- in Lee County -- in 1855. He also established churches in Johnson and Henry Counties.

In 1855, Joseph and Elizabeth moved to Wayland, Henry County, Iowa, where Joseph died in 1876 at the age of 80 years, and Elizabeth in 1900 at the age of 93. They had raised a family of twelve children.

For more details on the Goldschmidt story, including connections to present Goldschmidts in France, see the photocopies of the first several pages of *Joseph Goldsmith, 1796-1876, and his Descendants* which are stored at the Conrad Grebel Archives at Waterloo, Ontario.

ANCESTRY OF JOSEPH GOLDSCHMIDT (1796-1876) (9)

Immigrated to America in 1819; to Canada in 1824

I. **Hans Heinrich Goldschmid**, baptized Feb. 23, 1621 at Richterswil, Canton Zurich, Switzerland
d. probably May 16, 1709 at Richterswil, Canton Zurich
m. Anneli Haüser, baptized Aug. 24, 1628 at Richterswil, Canton Zurich

II. **Jacob Goldschmidt**, baptized Nov. 5, 1661 at Richterswil. Jacob was a knife smith.
d. Apr 27, 1721
m. 1689

Barbara Hab/Haab, dau. of Jörg Haab and Elisabeth Huber.

b. Feb. 17, 1667 at Horgen
d. Apr 25, 1718 at Richterswil

Children:

1. **Heinrich Goldschmidt** (1691-1755) 1m. Elizabeth Schmitt; 2m. Barbara Hueser
2. Anna Goldschmidt (1694-1756) m. Nicholas Blanken, son of Hans Blank and Catharina Rüpp.
3. Barbara Goldschmidt (baptized 1698)
4. Jakob Goldschmidt (baptized 1698)
5. Anna Barbara Goldschmidt (baptized 1701)
6. Hans Kasper Goldschmidt (baptized 1707)
7. Hans Heinrich Goldschmidt (baptized 1709) m. Barbe Maurer
8. Conrad Goldschmidt (1713-1760) m. Anna Marie Huntzinger

III. Heinrich Goldschmidt

b. Jan 15, 1690/91 Richterswil, Zurich, Switzerland d. Feb 17, 1755 Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, Alsace,
Heinrich is thought to have arrived at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1712

1m. ca. 1717 to Elisabeth Schmitt, d. 1732

2m. ca. 1732 Barbara Hueser

b. 1691? d. Feb 19, 1742/43 Alsace, France

Children of Heinrich Goldschmidt and Elisabeth Schmitt:

1. Heinrich Goldschmidt, b. ca 1718. He died single Sept. 25, 1746, and was buried at Fertrupe.
2. **Jacob Goldschmidt** (1722-1771) m. Barbara Fretz/Frey
3. Elizabeth Goldschmidt (1726-1755) m. Christian Schantz (d. 1754)

IV. **Jacob Goldschmidt** (Jacob traveled to the Netherlands with other ministers to settle a dispute
between congregations in 1766.)

b. Feb 2, 1721/22 at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines; d. Mar 16, 1771 Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, Alsace, France
m. widow Barbara Fretz/Frey,
b. 1722; d. Nov. 7, 1797 at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines

Children:

1. Jacob Goldschmidt (1744-1803) m. Catherine Stucky,
dau. of Benedict Stucky and Anna Maria Neuhauser.
2. Heinrich Goldschmid (1746-1747)
3. Heinrich Goldschmidt (1748-1791) m. Barbara Gingerich,
dau. of Valentin Güngerich and Anna Nafziger.
4. **Conrad Goldschmidt** (1756-1817) m. Cathering Koenig
5. Elizabeth Goldschmidt, b. 1759, and may have died as an infant
6. Joseph Goldschmidt, b. 1761 m. Catherine Güngerich.
7. Catherine Goldschmidt (1762-1846) m. Christian Gerig [AAMG: Elizabeth Goldschmidt]
8. Jean Goldschmidt (1763-1795/1806) m. Barbara Bruchbuhler
9. Peter Goldschmidt (1766-1837) m. Marie Kauffman,
dau. of Valentin Kaufmann and Barbe Sommer.

V. **Conrad Goldschmidt** They lived in the Tannenzapfen Mühle (pine cone mill) southeast of Ribeauvillé, Alsace; and then at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, Alsace

b. June 30, 1756 at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Alsace, France

d. March 8, 1818 at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines

m. Catherine Koenig, dau. of Christian König and Elisabeth Stucki/Stucky.

b. ca.1760 at Oberrimbürg Baden, Germany

d. Jan 1, 1836 Alsace, France

The Protestant cemetery on the mountainside
in the village of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines.



Credit: Bruce W. Jantzi 1996

Children:

1. Catherine Goldschmidt (b. ca. 1790) m. Christian Gautsche, son of Christian Gautschi and Maria Stritt.
2. Jacob Goldschmidt (b. ca.1792) m. Catherine Schlatter (1791-1878)
dau. of Christian Schlatter and Christina Frey
3. child Goldschmidt (10)
4. **Joseph Goldschmidt** (1796-1876) m. Elizabeth Schwartzendruber (1807-1900)
5. Magdalena Goldschmidt (b. 1797)
6. **Benjamin Goldschmidt** (b. Aug. 9, 1800) m. Catherine ?Otto

JOSEPH GOLDSCHMIDT AND ELIZABETH SCHWARTZENTRUBER FAMILY

VI. **Joseph Goldschmidt**, son of Conrad Goldschmidt and Katherine Koenig

b. 19 May 1796, Tannzapfenmühl, Ribeauvillé, Bas-Rhin

d. 26 Apr 1876, near Wayland, Iowa

m. 4 Jan 1824, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

Elizabeth Schwartzendruber, dau. of Christian Schwartzendruber and Catherine Miller

b. 17 Feb 1807, Lich, District Wetterau, Hesse

d. 18 Aug 1900, near Wayland, Iowa

Joseph Goldschmidt sailed from Le Havre, France on the *Montgomery*, arriving at Philadelphia June 18 or 19,

1819. After his arrival he remained near Philadelphia, where he met 17-year-old Elizabeth Schwartzentruber. In the spring of 1824 Joseph and his new wife, migrated to Ontario. They settled on Lot 14 on the north side of Snyder's Road in the German Block of Wilmot Township, Ontario. Later that year minister and elder Johannes/John Stoltzfus and minister Christian Konig/King of the congregation at Mill Creek, Lancaster County, visited and organized the first Amish Mennonite congregation in Wilmot Township, Upper Canada; they ordained Joseph Goldsmith and Johannes/John Brenneman as ministers. The Goldsmiths moved to Butler County with the Ropps and others circa 1831.

(Adapted from Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois, by Joseph Peter Staker)

Children:

- 1) John Goldsmith, b. 28 Sept 1824, in Wilmot or Waterloo Twp., Upper Canada
d. 11 Apr 1914
1m. to Mary Linder
2m. 1874
Barbara Sloneker, b. 22 Apr 1841
d. 9 Mar 1922
resided in Henry and Lee counties, Iowa
- 2) Katherine Goldsmith, b. 30 May 1826, Wilmot Township, Ontario, Canada
d. 2 Mar 1886, Butler Co., Ohio
m. 9 Mar 1843
Joseph Augspurger (minister) b. Paris, France
d. Feb 17, 1896
- 3) Lydia Goldsmith, b. 12 Apr 1828, Wilmot Township
d. 15 Apr 1910, near Wayland, Iowa
- 4) Benjamin Goldsmith, b. 26 Oct 1830, Wilmot Township
d. 29 Jan 1920, Trenton, Iowa
m. Magdalena Hauter, b. 17 Oct 1831
d. 31 Mar 1918, Wayland Iowa
- 5) Joseph Goldsmith, b. 5 Oct 1832, Butler Co., Ohio
d. 1909, Butler Co.
m. 26 Nov 1857
Magdalena Kinsinger, b. 24 July 1838
d. 1911, Butler Co.
- 6) Peter Goldsmith, b. 28 Nov 1834, Butler Co.
d. 15 Nov 1904, near Wheatland, Wyo.
m. 10 Dec 1857
Eva Sommers, b. 23 Mar 1840
d. 4 July 1917, near Wheatland, Wyo.
- 7) Christian Goldsmith, b. 29 June 1837, Butler Co.
d. 21 May 1920, near Collinsville, Ohio
m. 20 Nov 1866
Barbara Sloneker, b. 27 Jan 1844
d. 23 Feb 1914

- 8) Elizabeth Goldsmith, b. 3 Nov 1838, Butler Co.
d. 25 Mar 1914
m. 31 Dec 1857
Christian Wenger, b. 8 Oct 1833
d. 1912
- 9) Jacob Goldsmith (twin), b. 5 Apr 1841, Butler Co.
d. 21 June 1930
m. Magdalena Shantz, b. 3 Dec 1853
d. 4 July 1936
resided in Lee and Henry counties, Iowa
- 10) Anna (Nancy) Goldsmith (twin), b. 5 Apr 1841, Butler Co.
d. 2 Jan 1926
m. 25 Mar 1856
Michael Roth, b. 18 Aug 1834
d. 17 Jan 1903
resided in Henry and Washington counties, Iowa
- 11) Veronica (Fanny) Goldsmith, b. 5 June 1843, Butler Co.
d. 12 Aug 1909
m. 29 Jan 1863
Joseph J. Gingerich (minister) b.18 Nov 1840
d. 1 July 1916
resided in Johnson County, Iowa
- 12) Magdalena Goldsmith, b. 22 Jan 1847, Lee County, Iowa
d. 8 Sept 1931, near Wayland, Iowa
m. 11 Sept 1864
Sebastian Gerig (minister/bishop) b. 27 May 1838
d. 3 Apr 1924
resided in Henry County, Iowa

BENJAMIN GOLDSCHMIDT

It has already been noted that Joseph Goldschmidt had a brother Benjamin, born in 1800 "in the area of Ribeaupillé, along the route to Ste. Marie-aux-Mines." A Benjamin Goldschmidt, age 26, was a passenger on the Ship *Nimrod*, which sailed from Amsterdam and landed in Philadelphia on August 18, 1826. (7) Since his age is a perfect match, it seems a good possibility that this Benjamin was the brother of Joseph. A number of other Amish Mennonite families who were on their way to Canada, were also on this ship. Since the latter were from Germany, one wonders whether Benjamin had connections with these families, or whether it was pure coincidence that he found himself on the same ship.

On an 1829 survey of Wilmot Township, "Benj. Goldsmith" was the claimant of Lot 22, South Snyder's Road, although he was reported to be in the United States. He had not cleared any of his land. By the time of the 1830 report, Goldschmidt was replaced by George Helmuth and a house had been built, although not sufficient land was cleared to qualify him for his patent.

Evidently Benjamin Goldschmidt did not consider settling in Canada very seriously, and as far as the Canadian records are concerned, he simply left. The 1840 census of Butler County, Ohio lists the household of Benjamin Goldschmidt. It is likely that Benjamin was married to Catherine in Ohio ca. 1835. She could not identify her beyond the census information that she was born in Hesse-Darmstadt in 1799. Benjamin and Catherine resettled in Tazewell County in 1843 or 1844.

Benjamin Goldschmidt b. Aug. 9, 1800 at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace.
m. ca. 1835 to Catherine ?Otto
b. 1799 in Hesse-Darmstadt
d. August 1880 at Metamora, Illinois.

Their children include:

1. Mary Goldschmidt, b. ca. 1835 at Lemon, Ohio
2. Catherine Goldschmidt, b. ca. 1837 at Lemon, Ohio
3. Daniel Goldschmidt, b. ca 1844 at Washington, Tazewell County, Illinois

NOTES:

1) *The Mennonite Encyclopedia*, Vol. II D-H, c1956 Mennonite Publishing House, Scottsdale, PA, 2nd Printing 1972. See "Joseph Goldsmith (1796-1876)," page 539 and *Joseph Goldsmith, 1796-1876, and his Descendants*, published by John W. Gingerich, Kalona, Iowa, 1955, pages 4, 5. (Photocopies of several pages are found in this file.)

2) The Joseph Goldschmidt family Bible is located in the Archives of the Mennonite Historical Society of Iowa at Kalona.

3) Information recorded in "*Familien=Register von Johannes und Catharine Schmidt (geb. Riehl)*." (copy obtained from Mennonite Archives, Goshen, Indiana)

4) This story is told in *The Amish and Their Neighbours, The German Block, Wilmot Township, 1822-1860*, by Lorraine Roth. Waterloo, Ontario: Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario, 1998.

The letters signed by Goldschmidt are both located in the National Archives of Canada, Ottawa, but are also available on microfilm. The one to John Goessman in 1828 is on Film #C-6866 (RG5, A1, Vol. 91, pp. 50557-60), the one to the Canada Company on Film #C-2032 (RG1, L3, Vol. 208(a), G/15, No. 42ttt). A copy of the latter film is located in the library at Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo, Ontario.

5) Letter of 11 September 1831, written by Johannes [S.] Schwartzentruber to Johannes Güngerich. This letter mentioned several of the Schwartzentruber connections, including Joseph Goldschmidt's wife. John's father Christian added a postscript. All were thinking of leaving Canada, and all did, but John S. returned after a sojourn of several years in Butler County. The original letter is located in the Archives of the Illinois Mennonite Historical and Genealogical Society, Metamora, Illinois. I have a copy of a translation and annotations by Joe Springer, librarian, Mennonite Historical Library, Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana.

6) In her *Transplanted GERMAN FARMER, the Life and Times of Christian Iutzi (1788 -1857), 1832 Immigrant to Butler County, Ohio, in His Own Words, c2009*, page 204, Neil Ann Stuckey Levine gives a brief summary of the life of Joseph Goldschmidt.

7) National Archives, Washington, D.C. Ship *Nimrod*, sailed from Amsterdam, arrived in Philadelphia on August 18, 1826.

8) Stuckey Levine's book (note #6) gives a brief summary of Benjamin, page 203.

9) The ancestry of Joseph Goldschmidt (1796-1876) is copied from an ancestral line list found on page 94 of *Mennonite Family History*, April 2015 issue, submitted by Mary Louise Bowers, 228 Paddock Circle, Iowa City, Iowa 52240-7209. Additional information was gleaned from *Amish and Amish Mennonite Genealogies*, 1986, by Gingerich and Krieder, from *Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois* by Joseph Peter Staker, and from correspondence in Feb. 2020 with researcher Helmut Gingerich of Bavaria.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE:

The files referred to in these notes are kept in Lorraine Roth's Collection in the Archives at Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo, Ontario. Digital copies of some of the transliterations and translations of records in Bibles or other old books can be obtained from Bruce W. Jantzi at bwjantzi@gmail.com

1. *History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio* by Rev. W. H. Grubb, Pastor of the Apostolic Mennonite Church, Trenton, Ohio, 1916. Republished with "Preface," "Introduction," and "Addendum" by the Board of Friends of Chrisholm, 2001. References to Joseph Goldsmith are found on pages 2-6, 21.
2. Documents in GOLDSCHMIDT/ GOLDSMITH file:
Goldschmidt Bible - title page and family record (photocopies)
3. Birth record of Madeleine Goldschmidt at Tannsapfenmühle, Ribeauvillé (photocopy)
4. Joseph Goldsmith, 1796-1876 and His Descendants, pages 4-15 (photocopy)

Lorraine Roth
Tavistock Ontario
May, 2011

~ Updated with new research and reformatted by Bruce W. Jantzi, 2015, 2020