

# Barquilla de la Santa Maria

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Diocese of Columbus

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Dec. 27: St. John the Evangelist

December, 1998

## John Fink of Somerset: American Patriot

Research by Charles A. Fink

John Fink (1757-1833), who came to Ohio from near the Conewago Chapel in Adams County, Pennsylvania, was co-founder of the town of Somerset and patriarch of Holy Trinity Parish. It has been recognized here for some time that he was a veteran of the U.S. military service, for the *Somerset Press* of June 1, 1882 lists him as one of the veterans who were honored that Memorial Day.

John and his wife Mary (Sneeringer) had at least eleven children. The youngest of these was David P. Fink, who was born in Somerset on October 22, 1808. David married Elizabeth Gangloff in Somerset before Rev. N. D. Young, O.P. on September 23, 1834. According to their granddaughter Bertha Fink, David's family did not approve of this marriage. In the 1840s David and Elizabeth moved to a farm in Washington Township, near Piqua, Ohio. David suffered from diabetes and the couple eventually moved into Piqua, where David died on September 15, 1880. Elizabeth died in Piqua on July 27, 1893. David and Elizabeth are buried in St. Mary's section of Forest Hill Cemetery, Piqua. Their children were Joseph, August, and Nicholas and daughter Angela Reisenbeck of Piqua, Ohio; daughters Philomena Peffer of Casstown, O. and Cornelia Matern of Bradford, O.; and sons Pius and Henry of Kansas.

It was in David and Elizabeth's family that a tradition survived that John Fink had served

under George Washington at the battle of Trenton, the critical American victory on December 26, 1776.

In the summer of 1776 the British Army and Navy had taken Long Island and New York from the Americans. In the fall Washington retreated into New Jersey, followed by the British under General Cornwallis. On December 8, Washington again retreated, crossing the Delaware River into Pennsylvania, but secured all the boats along the river to impede the British pursuit. Meanwhile, the Congress fled Philadelphia for Baltimore. The British followed Washington to the shores of the Delaware, then decided to go into winter quarters for a time, planning to cross the Delaware and advance on Philadelphia if the river would freeze.

At this low point for the American cause, Washington decided to take the offensive and strike a blow to boost public sentiment and to retake some of the ground that had been lost. The chosen objective was Trenton, where three regiments of Hessian mercenaries had been quartered by Cornwallis. On Christmas night Washington and some 2,400 men assembled nine miles above Trenton and crossed the river in small boats amid falling snow and floating ice. In the morning they advanced on the town. Meanwhile, the Pennsylvania militia had crossed the river a mile below the town to cut off the retreat of the Hessians. The Americans drove the

Hessian pickets into the town during a blowing snow storm and then captured the cannon that had been placed in the streets to oppose them. After a stout resistance the Hessians were routed and forced to surrender. This was a great achievement for the Americans and lifted the flagging spirits of the infant nation.

Charles A. Fink of Falls Church, Va., a descendant of David Fink, has found some evidence that supports the tradition of his ancestor's participation in this battle.

The *Pennsylvania Archives*, Series 5, Volume VIII, pages 99-106 contains muster rolls of the Northampton County Militia. The earliest of these that survives is dated May 14, 1778. It lists John Finck as a member of George Knappenberger's Company (Second Company), Second Battalion, Northampton County Militia. From the same source we know that George Knappenberger's company existed at least as early as May of 1777, six months after the battle at Trenton. (There is nothing beyond the family tradition to identify this man as the John Fink whose family lived in Windsor Township, Berks County, Pa., later in Adams County, Pa., and later still in Ohio. However, until the erection of Lehigh County in 1812, Northampton County was only some six miles away from Windsor Township in Berks County. John Fink, like many young men of that era, probably had left the parental home and had taken a job on some nearby farm, across the county line.)

The *Pennsylvania Archives* (first series), Volume V contains on page 115 this Resolution extracted from the Minutes of the Pennsylvania Council of Safety, Philadelphia, December 17, 1776:

Resolved, That it be recommended to General Washington to issue orders immediately for the Militia of Bucks and Northampton Counties forthwith to join his army, and to send out parties to disarm every person who

does not obey the summons, & to seize and treat as Enemies all such as shall attempt to oppose the execution of this measure, and likewise every person in the s<sup>d</sup> Counties who are known or suspected to be Enemies to the United States.

Thus, the Northampton County Militia, of which John Fink was a member, seems indeed to have been ordered to join Washington for the attack on Trenton. The co-founder of Somerset and patriarch of Holy Trinity took part in a critical battle for the survival of the new republic, the republic that established political and religious freedom for his people.

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We append the obituary of David's son Nicholas from *The Edina Sentinel* of Edina, Knox Co., Missouri, December 13, 1923, which mentions this family tradition:

#### CIVIL WAR VETERAN DEAD

N.J. Fink of Near Baring, Age 88, Died Saturday--Although an Old Soldier, Never Drew a Pension.

N.J. Fink, 88 years old, a veteran of the Civil War and a direct descendant of a soldier of the Revolutionary War, his grandfather having been in Washington's army in the campaign in New Jersey and in crossing the Delaware River, died about 6 o'clock Saturday evening at his home about seven miles northwest of Baring. He had been ill two weeks of the flu and old age.

Funeral services were held at 10 o'clock Monday morning at St. Aloysius Church in Baring by Rev. A. Mercer. Burial was in the Catholic cemetery there.

His wife survives with seven children, who are: Mrs. Katie GeSelle of Port Arthur, Tex.; John A. Fink of west of Baring and D. W. and Joe F. Fink and Misses Bertha and Clara Fink at home. Mr.

Fink also leaves a number of grandchildren and four brothers and two sisters: P.M. Fink of Miami, Okla.; Henry Fink, of Spokane, Wash.; Joe Fink and Gustave Fink and Mrs. Cornelia Pfeffer and Mrs. Apalona Reisenbeck of Piqua, Ohio.

Nicholas John Fink was born July 9, 1835, at Somerset, Perry County, Ohio. His mother was a French lady, who was born in Alsace Loraine, and his father an American. In early childhood Mr. Fink moved with his parents to Miami County, Ohio, where he grew to manhood, soon afterward going to the state of Washington by way of New York and Cape Horn, and later returning the same way.

When the Civil War broke out he joined the Ohio Minute Men or the "Squirrel Hunters," as they were called. He received an honorable discharge from the army, but never drew a pension. Coming to Knox County with his wife and children about 1880, Mr. Fink lived the first winter in Edina and in the spring moved to the

farm, which has since been his home and where death came.

Mr. Fink was married twice, the first time, about sixty years ago to Miss Lena Catsonberger of Piqua, Ohio, who is dead and who was the mother of Mrs. GeSelle and John Fink. After the death of his first wife Mr. Fink was married forty-nine years ago to Miss Catherine Rotchford, also in Piqua, and they were the parents of five children, the last named of those who survive.

In addition to being a traveler and a former soldier, Mr. Fink was a great reader and kept well informed on current events, and was an interesting conversationalist on the pioneer days of America. He was a Republican in politics and a Catholic in religion, and was not radical, but respected other people's views.

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Nicholas's daughter Bertha (1880-1961) was the collector of family data and supplied the information in Nicholas's obituary concerning John Fink's service in the Revolutionary War.



### Abstracts from *The Catholic Telegraph*

(Continued, from Vol. XXIII, No. 11)

August 6, 1846

The Bishop administered the sacrament of Confirmation in Zanesville on Sunday the 26th of July. Forty persons were confirmed in the church of St. Thomas in the forenoon and thirty in the German church in the afternoon. -- The new church of Zanesville is yet unfinished, though it is confidently hoped, that it will be completed before the next Episcopal visitation. The choir of the German Catholic church of St. Nicholas very agreeably surprised us with a serenade just as we were retiring to rest on the night of our arrival. It was such delightful music as would banish at once all feeling of fatigue and the desire to sleep. We wish we could do justice to the exquisite sweetness with which two small children, of

German parents, sang at the commencement and at the close a few very appropriate verses.

Before the blessing of the new German Catholic church, a little girl accompanied by her young companions clad in white, met the Bishop at the door of the church and presented him a beautiful boquet with the following address:

Rt. Rev. Father!

We cannot express the feelings of joy which your presence gives us. Our hearts are filled with sentiments of profound respect, and we humbly pray that God may add length to your days, that we may often enjoy the pleasure and happiness which your presence inspires.

This little tribute of our respect we trust you will be pleased to accept: It is emblematic of youthful innocence and hope; and we most cheerfully present it to you,

"Accept, dear Father, this small gift of love,  
Tho' humble yet with gladness is it given,  
Its hues so radiant speak of things above,  
Of hope triumphant and the bliss of heaven."

On Tuesday the 28th, the Bishop confirmed sixty-three persons in the church of St. Louis, Rehoboth, Perry county.

Subscriptions:

Thomas McShane, Springfield, O.

Edward Lourie[Lawn?], Washington, O.

August 13, 1846

(For the Catholic Telegraph.

The death of Pope Gregory XVI. has been a source of the deepest regret, and of much lamenting, throughout the Christian Universe. Blended with a series of signal events, his life in the Pontificate, had drawn upon him admiration from every quarter of the Globe: and his illustrious deeds have left his name conspicuous, on the catalogue of his immortal predecessors.... Full of years he has gone to render an account to heaven, of the sublime charge entrusted to him. That a course so marked with merit, has been closed to the eternal gain of the departed Pontiff, is the confident hope of all the members of his faithful flock. Should religions succour still avail him, who will not feel happy, in tendering this salutary tribute to his memory?

As an act of gratitude and duty to this great and useful personage, a funeral service was performed, for his repose, in the Dominican church of St. Joseph's, Perry Co. Every attention was used to render these obsequies impressive, and duly commemorative of the *one* they were intended to represent. The entire church was hung in black -- at the lower extremity of the

sanctuary, stood a temporary monument, raised about fourteen feet above the level of the aisles, and the emblems of the Roman Pontiff -- the triple crown -- and Cross, were placed on it's [sic] summit: though faint, it was a likeness of the rich catafalque of Rome. The sight was novel, but highly interesting to the Catholics of Perry Co. Though the weather was unfavourable, a respectable congregation was in attendance, solemn-high Mass was sung; the sepulchral rites were gone through, and a discourse, commenting briefly, on the just deserts of the Pope, was delivered.

Seldom was our virtuous flock observed to have been more moved, or more penetrated with the responsible conviction of a future state; each individual seemed to feel that a father was lost to him, and few there were, that did not drop a tear around the little pile they beheld before them.

The following lines were inscribed beneath.

To the memory of

Gregory XVI.

Chief Pastor of the Catholic Church

Great in life.

His heroic deeds have made him the admiration  
of nations.

In death.

Wept by the Christian World.

Immortal Father!

The vows of thy numberless Children follow  
thee.

To the throne of thy rest.

A DOMINICAN.

August 20, 1846

[Death of Bishop Benedict Fenwick in Boston.]

ST. JOSEPH'S, PERRY CO. OHIO. -- We were much gratified at the evidences of zeal and prosperity afforded by the condition of the missions attended by the fathers of the Dominican Order, whose convent is situated at St. Joseph's, two miles from Somerset, Perry Co., Ohio. -- The number of priests and novices

is now larger than it was at any former period and the prospects of a still greater increase are as well founded as they are consolatory. On the occasion of the bishop's last visitation to this interesting part of the diocese an ordination was held at which, the brothers, Albert Bokel and Vincent Daly received tonsure and minor orders; Peter Walker was made subdeacon and James Whelan was ordained priest. On the feast of St. Dominick, Solemn High Mass was sung by the new priest and the panegyric of the Saint was preached by the bishop.

It is the intention of the Very Rev. Provincial, E. A. Wilson, to commence the erection of a new convent, which is much wanted, at St. Joseph's, this Fall, and to convert the present convent into a college where the youth of the neighborhood will have the advantage of acquiring sound religious, literary and scientific instruction.

The Sisterhood and school of St. Mary's, Somerset are also flourishing. A beautiful Gothic Chapel has lately been erected by those pious Ladies, for their own and their pupils accommodation, as well as that of the devout people of the vicinity -- and the zealous father O'Brien is building a noble church, some hundred by sixty feet, at St. Patrick's, seven miles from Somerset, to commence a similar building a Rehoboth, soon as this labor of love is completed.

It was by mistake that in our last paper we said that fifty-five persons were confirmed at St. Patrick's, Fayetteville. It should have been St. Patrick's, Perry Co. There were forty-three confirmed at Fayetteville.

**Subscriptions:**

Mrs. E. Harper, Lancaster, O.

Levi Anderson, do

Henry Blair, do

John Cuningham, Londonderry, O.

Ed. Farrell, Duncan's Falls, O.

William Edwards, Chauncey, O.

September 24, 1846

[Visitation Schedule -- Confirmation at Dayton... Minster... in the church of St. Remigius, Columbus, on the 3d Sunday; and in St. Peter's, Chillicothe on the 4th Sunday...Dark Co....Mercer...Hamilton]

October 1, 1849

For the Catholic Telegraph.  
GRAND TEMPERANCE CELEBRATION AT SOMERSET, PERRY CO., OHIO. -- Wednesday, the ninth of September, was a proud day for the friends of the Temperance cause, in this portion of the state. The annual celebration of the institution of the Temperance society in the various congregations, under the direction of the Dominican Fathers of St. Joseph's took place on that day. At an early hour, the members of each congregation assembled at their respective churches, whence, (each under the guidance of its own Pastor,) they proceeded to the church of Holy Trinity, Somerset, and assisted at a solemn High Mass, celebrated by the Rev. F. Sadoc Vilarrasa, Prior of St. Joseph's. -- There was something peculiarly worthy of admiration, in the beautiful order in which the congregation of St. Patrick's advanced through the town of Somerset; its lively band cheered the heart of every Irishman present, and filled their bosoms with pleasant reminiscences of the land they love, by their able performance of the time honored tune of "St. Patrick's day in the morning." After divine service, all the congregations formed in procession, and advanced with banners waving, and two bands of music alternately performing, through the principal street of Somerset; thence to a pleasant grove, a short distance from the town, where a plat form had been erected for the speaker, and there the Rev. Father N. R. Young, the orator of the day, for a considerable time engaged the attention of a delighted audience, depicting in glowing terms the evil effects of intemperance, and the numberless advantages accruing to many, even then present, from the establishment of the Temperance society. The

Rev. orator then briefly explained the obligations those incur, who take the pledge and finally exhorted all who valued the peace of society, and their own happiness, utterly to discountenance, and avoid those pests of society, which under the delusive denomination of Beershops, are calculated to seduce the unwary.

After the Oration, all partook of a plentiful repast provided for the occasion; and the order and decorum there preserved, was such, as to reflect the highest credit on those gentlemen, to whose management and care, the arrangements of the table were confided. It was, indeed, truly delightful to behold, and it must have been consoling to the hearts of the good Fathers, who were instrumental in the formation of the Society, to contemplate the assembled concourse of youth and beauty, of old age and innocence, there collected, for the holy purpose of bidding defiance to the foul demon of intemperance. The day was charming, which contributed not a little to render the proceedings more pleasant. ...

AN OBSERVER.

October 22, 1846

EPISCOPAL VISITATION -- The sacrament of confirmation will be administered in the church of St. Peter, Chillicothe on the 4th Sunday of October.

Subscriptions:

Joseph Mattingly, Zanesville  
Wm. Kane, Dresden, O.

October 29, 1846

A correspondent at Somerset, Ohio, has sent us an interesting description of a procession in honor of the Blessed Virgin on the 1st Sunday of October, the Feast of the Rosary. Great numbers of people, with banners and music, marched from the Dominican Convent to the town of Somerset, and thence to the Church, repeating the Rosary in English and German, or singing the "Ave Maris

Stella." The very Rev. Provincial, Father Wilson, addressed the large concourse of people at the conclusion of the service, and vindicated, in eloquent and forcible language, the honors which they had paid to her whom the Angel called "full of grace." A beautiful statue of the Virgin and infant Saviour were borne in the procession.

EPISCOPAL VISITATION -- [...Minster; St. Henry's; Darke Co.; St. John's...] The new church of the Holy Cross, at Columbus, is slowly, but steadily, advancing towards completion. It will be among the best in the diocese, and, like that of Piqua, affords the most edifying evidence of what zeal and piety can accomplish, notwithstanding paucity of numbers and resources. There were twenty-eight persons, five or six being converts, confirmed in the old chapel.

The new church of Circleville, Pickaway Co. was blessed on Friday, 23d inst. It is called the church of St. John the Baptist, and is also very creditable to the piety of the pastors and the flock by whom it was commenced and completed. Rev. Mr. Young of Lancaster and Rev. Mr. Schonat of Columbus assisted at the dedication.

There were seventy-one confirmed in the new church of St. Peter, Chillicothe, on the 4th Sunday of Oct. This church has cost between ten and eleven thousand dollars, and is worth what it cost, being solid, spacious and beautiful. The debt is about 4000 dollars, which, we trust, the balance still due on the subscription paper, and probably, other, at least, equally sure resources, will be sufficient to liquidate. -- The church music at Columbus and Chillicothe is not only truly edifying, but as good, we think, as can be heard out of the cathedral churches. We shall never forget the pious and delightful singing which added so much to the solemnity of the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at Columbus; or the admirable effect of the "late confessor" as sung at Vespers, at St. Peter's, Chillicothe.

(To be continued)

**St. Mary's at the Furnaces, Pine Grove, Lawrence County, Parish Census of 1888**  
(Concluded, from Vol. XXIII, No. 11)

<b>Mount Vernon</b> (continued)	Edward A.	2	Anna Theresia	
160. Daniel Burke 48	Joseph P.	1 mo.	Beinert	20 Ch
Mary Burke 42	166. Fred Mickebier 45		William Jacob	19 Ch
Anna Burke 23 Ch	Christina Mickebier 37		John Beinert	18 Ch
Jane 21 Ch	John 16 Ch		Frank Kleineman	17 Ch
James Burke 19 Ch	Joseph 14 Ch		Anna	17 Ch
Catharine 17 Ch	Mary 12 C		Josephine	15 Ch
Clara 13 C	Henry 9		Mary Beinert	13 Ch
John Burke 11	William 7		August Kleineman	4
Lawrence 10	August 4		Catharine Kleineman	2 mo
Margareth 8	Therese 1		widow & widower married,	
Charles 5	167. Peter Assmann 36		therefore the diff. names.	
William 2	Magdalene Assman 35		175. Mr. John Dinkel	53
161. James Gallagher 34	Lucinda 10 C		Mrs. Johanna Dinkel	39
Charles 10	168. Ferdinand Haucke 38		Elizabeth	20 Ch
George 8	Theresa Haucke 36		Catharine	25 Ch
Margareth 4	Ferdinand Haucke 13 C		176. Helena Gross	37 Ch
Caecilia 1	Anna 10		husb. prot.	
162. John Young 52	Mary 8		William	16 Ch
Barbara Young 46	John 4		Mary	8
John 25	169. Joseph Holch 30		Christian	5
Frank 23	Sarah Holch 27		Frederic	3
Margareth 19	Elizabeth 2		Paul Levi	1
Albert 14	170. August Muck 30		177. Henry Fox	47
Rosa 10	Catharina Muck 26		Mary Fox	45
Clara 6	Mary 4		Minna	9 C
163. Ellen Burke 74 Ch	James 2		Paulina	8
Edward Burke 34 Ch	Georges 1 mo.		Flora	5
164. John Brannagan 60 Ch	171. William McGonnaghe 32		178. Frank Schonasky	37
Mary Brannagan 50 Ch	Mary McGonnaghe 24		Gertrude Schonasky	41
John Brannagan 26 Ch	Mary 3		Frank	17 Ch
Michel 20 C	Elizabeth 4 mos.		Mary	14 Ch
Margareth 16 C	172. Philip McGee 34		Anna	6
	Anna McGee 32		179. Edward Manz	24
	Patrick 6		Clara Manz	25
	James 3		Anton Zahner	63
	Mary 1		Theresia Zahner	67
<b>New Castle</b>	173. John McGowan 30		180. Jacob McGowan	23
165. Ferdinand Holzapple 45	Mary McGowan 28		Rose McGowan	22
Catharina Holzapple 36	Mary 4		181. Joseph Utz	37
Magdalena P. 16 Ch	Rose 2		Catharina Utz	38
Frank 14 Ch	174. August Kleineman 54		Frank	11 C
John J. 11 C	Mary Anne Kleineman 37		Mary Anne	10 C
Catharina M. 9				
Mary L. 7				
Andrew L. 4				

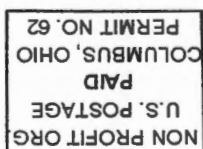
John J.	8	Catharina	9	194. John McGowan	66
Clara F.	6	Isidor	6	Elizabeth McGowan	50
Anna C.	4	Erwin	3	James	20 Ch
Charles K.	2	189. John Mickebier	37	Elizabeth	18 Ch
George A.	4 mos.	Anna Mickebier	36	Henry	15 Ch
182. Lawrence Farley	65	Henry	14 Ch	Bernard	12 C
Winnifred Farley	50	Charles	12 C	195. Frank Mehle	36
Michael	23 Ch	Frank	11	Philomena	33
John	21 Ch	Bertha	8	Edward	12 Ch
Mary Anne	15 Ch	Leonard	6	Sophia	9
Thomas	13 C	Elizabeth	2	Mary	7
183. John Mehle	73	Edward	2 mos.	Elizabeth	5
Therese Mehle	66	190. Henry Holzapple	22	Susan	3
184. Jacob Heer	46	Helena Holzapple	18	Andrew	1
Barbara	41	Barbara the mother	57	196. Anna Maria Holch	42
Joseph	19 Ch	Rosa	18 Ch	John	14 Ch
Therese	16 Ch	Alice	13 Ch	Frank	12 Ch
John	11 C	191. Caspar Abele	38	Michael	11 C
Jacob	8	Margareth	34	Henry	10 C
Mathildis	3	Sarah	17 Ch	Rosa	3
Anna	7 mos.	Edward	14 Ch	Katharina	1
185. August Link	41	John	12 C	Barbara Kleinham (?)	
Regina Link	43	Frank	8	grandm	63
186. Michael Holch	75	Oscar	6	197. Frank Schwab	45
Theresia Holch	48	Adeline	3	Margaretha Schwab	45
Michael	20 Ch	Martin	3 mos.	Peter	21 Ch
John	25 Ch	192. Michael Lawless	65	William	20 Ch
Christ	18 Ch	Jane	52	Anna Mary	15 Ch
Theresia	15 Ch	Rachel	21 Ch	Leonard	5
Frank	12 C	Martha	16 Ch	198. John Laubener	30
Clara	9	John	16 Ch	Anna Laubner	29
Walburgis old mother	75 Ch	Georges	14 Ch	Margaretha	7
187. Jacob Assman	31	193. Mary Finerty	54	Ellen	4
Salome Assman	29	Richard Finerty	25 Ch	Fred	1
Emma	5	Rose	19 Ch	199. Leonard Laubener	65
Leonard	3	Dennis	17 Ch	Margaretha Laubener	49
188. Henry Mehle	38	John	15 Ch	Andrew Laubener	21 Ch
Barbara Mehle	36	Margareth	12 C	George	18 Ch
Henry	14 Ch	William	10	Frank	12 Ch
Minna	11 C				

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