

Brother Luke Tschuemperlin

February 5th is the anniversary of the death of Brother Luke Tschuemperlin. Aloys Tschuemperlin was born in Switzerland on December 2, 1870. He and Charles Voneu came to the United States and to Subiaco in 1892. These two weary travelers arrived at our monastery as brother-candidates on the same day which witnessed the solemn blessing of Abbot Ignatius Conrad as the first abbot of Subiaco Abbey.

Aloys Tschuemperlin professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on October 16, 1893, receiving the name Luke.

Brother Luke served our community for 30 years as the infirmarian of the monastery and school. A man of great kindness and self-giving, no hour of the day or night was too inconvenient to command his services.

During the influenza epidemic of 1918-1919, he treated at least 100 patients, saving all of them. However, he himself became ill, and in February 1919, he was forced to leave his post of duty in order to seek medical and surgical help. He was determined to get well, and this determination sustained him for the next five years.

Brother Luke died at 7:45 p.m. on Monday, February 5, 1923, a victim of the flu and its aftereffects. At the time of his death, Brother Luke was 52 years old and in the 29th year of his monastic profession. He is buried in our cemetery.

