

Brother Meinrad Schoenbaechler

February 15th is the anniversary of the death of Brother Meinrad Schoenbaechler. Aloysius Schoenbaechler was born in the town of Einsiedeln, Canton Schwyz, Switzerland, on June 3, 1864.

He came to the United States and to our community with the "Expedition" of 1889 from the abbey of Einsiedeln led by Father Pius Zwysig.

In this "Expedition" there were two priests, and six students of whom four were candidates for the priesthood, and two were candidates for the brotherhood. Of the candidates, four persevered, one being brother-candidate Aloysius Schoenbaechler who professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on Christmas Day, 1891, receiving the name Meinrad.

Brother Meinrad was an uncle of Father Bonaventure Maechler, also of Einsiedeln, who 25 years later joined his uncle here as a member of our community, arriving in 1914.

Brother Meinrad served our community for four decades, devoting many years in faithful custodial work in the academy.

Brother Meinrad died in the infirmary of the monastery on Monday, February 15, 1937.

At the time of his death, Brother Meinrad was 72 years old and in the 45th year of his monastic profession. He is buried in our cemetery.

