

Brother Stephen Krucker

May 22nd is the anniversary of the death of Brother Stephen Krucker. Johann Krucker was born on November 6, 1846, in Canton St. Gall, Switzerland.

Johann professed his vows as a monk of the abbey of Einsiedeln on September 4, 1872, receiving the name Stephen. In 1882 three professed monks from Einsiedeln were sent to the United States. The newly-ordained Father Vincent Wehrle was sent to St. Meinrad, and Father Ludwig Stutzer and Brother Stephen Krucker were sent to St. Benedict's monastery.

Brother Stephen, the first professed brother to be sent here after the departure of the original brothers, became the doorkeeper of our monastery.

He also served as infirmarian, caring for the sick of the community.

For many months, as a hobby, Brother Stephen worked building a two-story frame house that became the kitchen-dining room. It was located east of the priory and, in true southern style, was detached from the main house but connected by a covered walk.

In 1892, after 10 years of work at St. Benedict's monastery, Brother Stephen was sent to the abbey's new foundation in Nevada, Missouri.

When the small group of monks left Nevada, leaving only one man as local pastor and convent chaplain, Brother Stephen, a member of the original Nevada community, remained with the monk-pastor and served as maintenance man at the convent until 1901. Brother Stephen then returned to Switzerland, arriving home at Einsiedeln on June 21, 1901, after having spent almost 20 years as a missionary in Arkansas and Missouri.

The last years of his life, Brother Stephen helped with household duties in the monastery. He died at Einsiedeln on Monday, May 22, 1911. At the time of his death, Brother Stephen was 64 years old and in the 38th year of his monastic profession. He is buried at the Abbey of Maria Einsiedeln in Switzerland.

No picture is
available
of
Brother
Stephen Krucker