



**The story of Our Lady of Einsiedeln (Hermitage) begins in Switzerland in the days of St. Meinrad (861 AD). He lived in seclusion in the deep Swiss forests near a lake where he built a hut and a chapel. In the chapel he placed his precious statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a gift from Abbess Hildegard. After his martyr's death, his hermitage gradually developed into the monastery of Einsiedeln.**

**The church and monastery over the course of the centuries have been burned down five times reducing the church to ashes, only the holy chapel with the miraculous statue escaped injury. Miracles of every sort have happened through Our Lady of Einsiedeln. The shrine claims as most striking those graces which have invigorated faith and devotion. It still serves as one of the most famous shrines to the Virgin Mary.**

**The founding monks of Subiaco all came from the Abbey of Maria Einsiedeln. The monastery became a center of Marian devotion revolving around the Our Lady of Einsiedeln. The Mary monks brought with them to Subiaco and to Arkansas a pronounced devotion to the Blessed Mother under the title of Our Lady of Einsiedeln. They built a chapel in her honor in 1888 near the monastery started in 1878 (see the picture above). The rough Arkansas weather brought down the chapel after about ten years and the monks moved and the chapel lay in ruins. So now after over a hundred years a new chapel has risen in the shadow of St. Benedict's Church and at the threshold of the Abbey Cemetery. A fitting location since the Chapel will also house a Columbarium.**