

## Brother Bruno Koch

August 30th is the anniversary of the death of Brother Bruno Koch. Bernard Koch was born on June 22, 1868, in Freiburg, Germany. When he was 25 years old he came to the United States and to Subiaco, arriving at New York on August 6, 1893, and reaching his destination of Subiaco on August 14, 1893. He professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on March 21, 1895, receiving the name Bruno.

Shortly after his profession, Brother Bruno was stricken with a life-threatening illness; he was at death's door. Another monk who had made profession with him, Brother Francis, was also deathly ill at this time. The doctor had given up all hope for either of them, and the abbey carpenter was given orders to make two coffins. However, to the joy of all, both brothers proved the experts wrong and recovered.

In his avocation, Brother Bruno was a successful grower of tobacco and he loved to smoke his pipe.

All his life Brother Bruno had been a bookbinder. He served our community for half a century in this capacity.

Thousands of volumes came into being or were reclaimed by this master of his trade. As a young man he had served as an apprentice and journeyman in Germany.

At 5:30 p.m. on Monday, August 30, 1943, Brother Bruno died in the infirmary of our monastery as a result of cancer and old age. After gathering around his bedside and reciting the prayers for the dying, his confreres had just departed to recite Matins in the chapel when death came quietly and peacefully, with Brother Bruno conscious to the very end.

At the time of his death, Brother Bruno was 75 years old and in the 48th year of his monastic profession. He is buried in our cemetery.

