

## Brother Thaddaeus Eberle

March 26th is the anniversary of the death of Brother Thaddaeus Eberle. Otto Eberle was born in Haeggswyl, Canton St. Gall, Switzerland, on June 2, 1869. He came to the United States and to Subiaco with the "Expedition" of 1891 from the abbey of Einsiedeln led by Father Gall D'Aujourd'hui.

In this "Expedition" there were four candidates for the priesthood and eight candidates for the brotherhood. Three in each group persevered, one being brother-candidate Otto Eberle. He professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on February 4, 1894, receiving the name Thaddaeus.

Brother "Toddy," as he was called, served our community for many years as night watchman. He was noted for his impersonations of great men of history—Alexander the Great, Napoleon, and Frederick the Great—which were always amusing, unique, and unforgettable.

In appearance, he was white-bearded and stoop-shouldered with paralyzed clenched fists. His hands had been frost-bitten in the Swiss Alps. He used his nerveless, maimed hands to dexterously make rosaries. When one had a rosary made by Brother "Toddy," he had a sturdy and long-lasting one.

It is said that during his last illness, he offered his sufferings to God so that no monk of the abbey would ever be killed in an automobile accident.

His long expected, yet sudden death, came in the early morning hours of Wednesday, March 26, 1941.

At the time of his death, Brother Thaddaeus was 71 years old and in the 47th year of his monastic profession. He is buried in our cemetery.

