

Brother Robert Fritz

June 27th is the anniversary of the death of Brother Robert Fritz. Stephen Fritz was born on October 21, 1893, in Paris, Arkansas, where he grew up on his parents' farm. He attended grammar school in Paris. Later, he worked in his hometown as a carpenter, blacksmith, and miner. He also took care of his elderly widowed mother until her death in 1946.

For a number of years Stephen Fritz had been considering a religious vocation. After the death of his mother, his family obligations permitted him to enter religious life.

Stephen Fritz came to Subiaco as a candidate on April 10, 1950. He professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on November 11, 1951, receiving the name Robert. Brother Robert served our community as blacksmith and gardener until his health no longer permitted manual labor.

In the early 1960s, Brother Robert's health forced his retirement and in time he was admitted to the infirmary where he remained until his death on Friday, June 27, 1969. Death came quietly for Brother Robert, prepared by holy anointing, after a lengthy illness and physical disability had left him bedfast for several years.

At the time of his death, Brother Robert was 75 years old and in the 17th year of his monastic profession. He is buried in our cemetery.

