

## Brother Caspar Hildesheim

October 15th is the anniversary of the death of Brother Caspar Hildesheim. Henry Hildesheim was born on October 5, 1830, in Ankum, Germany. He professed his vows as a monk of St. Meinrad Abbey on February 2, 1869, receiving the name Caspar. He served his community of St. Meinrad for over a decade. He was then assigned to the mission project to be established by St. Meinrad in the state of Arkansas.

On Ash Wednesday, March 6, 1878, Brother Caspar, along with Father Wolfgang Schlumpf and Brother Hilary Benetz, began their 700-mile journey to Logan County, Arkansas, riding on the driver's seat of a farm wagon drawn by two mules. Two cows and two pigs were in the guarded wagon box. Along the way, however, the two pigs jumped from the wagon and ran to the woods with the three monks in hot pursuit. The pigs were soon retrieved and the trio continued the jolting ride southward toward Arkansas.

This humble party was the beginning of St. Benedict's monastery, which in 1891 became Subiaco Abbey. Brother Caspar served our community during the first two years of its founding. He was recalled to St. Meinrad Abbey in early 1880 where he continued to serve his community for the next 16 years. Brother Caspar died on Thursday, October 15, 1896, at St. Meinrad Abbey. At the time of his death, he was 66 years old and in the 27th year of his monastic profession. He is buried at St. Meinrad Archabbey in Indiana.

