

## Brother Gabriel Riegert

October 24th is the anniversary of the death of Brother Gabriel Riegert. Joseph Riegert was born in Gersau, Canton Schwyz, Switzerland, in 1869. Subiaco Abbey received four of its members from Gersau, one of these being Joseph Riegert.

In Switzerland, when Joseph approached the superiors of Einsiedeln about his religious calling, they suggested that he apply for admittance to Subiaco Abbey. Another young man, Julius Steinberg, who had been influenced by letters from his two friends who were already monks at Subiaco; namely, Brother Thaddeus Eberle and Brother Matthew Duffner, also had plans to join the monastery in Arkansas.

On a visit to Einsiedeln, Julius met our first abbot, Ignatius Conrad, who was visiting there at the time. After a long talk with Abbot Ignatius, Julius decided to join his two friends in Arkansas.

Joseph Riegert, at 25 years of age, along with his companion, Julius Steinberg, who later became Brother Raphael Steinberg, sailed for the United States, arriving on October 27, 1894. Three days later, October 30, they reached their destination of Subiaco Abbey.

Joseph Riegert professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on August 15, 1896, receiving the name Gabriel.

This hefty man, with a great red beard, served our community as blacksmith. He was subject to attacks of epilepsy, and it was from this affliction that he died in his monastery cell on Monday night, October 24, 1910.

At the time of his death, Brother Gabriel was 41 years old and in the 14th year of his monastic profession. He is buried in our cemetery.

