

January 10, 1901

Prior Oswald Moosemueller, OSB



Prior Oswald was born Feb. 26, 1832, at Aidling in the Bavarian Alps. He went to St. Vincent Abbey near Latrobe, Pa., in 1852. He was ordained in 1856.

He was rector of the major seminary at St. Vincent and then spent a year in Canada administering Assumption College in the Diocese of London. Later he was sent to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to organize agricultural and trade schools. His remaining assignments were: prior at St. Mary's Priory, Newark, N.J.; procurator and director of a house of studies in Rome; prior of St. Vincent Abbey; Prior of St. Benedict's in Atchison; superior of the Negro mission in Georgia; and prior of Cluny at Wetaug, Ill.

Prior Oswald arrived at Atchison in 1875. At this same time Bishop Fink, also a Benedictine, was proposing the establishment of "Christian Forts" to care for the immigrants in western Kansas. Prior Oswald favored this idea.

During the golden jubilee of the episcopal consecration of Pope Pius IX, Prior Oswald was invited to preach the jubilee to the Catholic officers and soldiers in the southwest military posts. When he returned to Atchison, he was convinced that the country along Bear Creek, in what is now Clark County, was the spot for a Christian Fort.

The foundation, which Prior Oswald grandly called Monte Cassino, got under way in 1876. However, Brothers Andrew Allermann and Fridolin Rosenfelder labored there only six months before they were called back to Atchison.

Prior Oswald died at Wetaug, Ill., on Jan. 10, 1901. He is buried in the cemetery at St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster, Saskatchewan, Canada.