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2012

## Saint John's Prep Headmasters, Part 1

Peggy L. Roske

College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University, proske@csbsju.edu

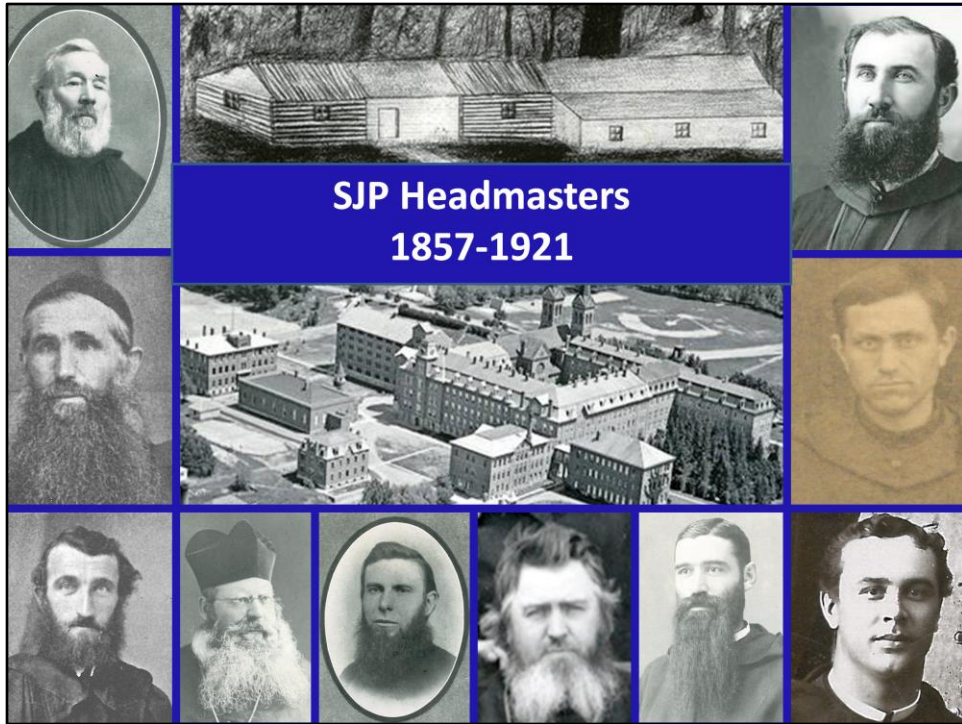
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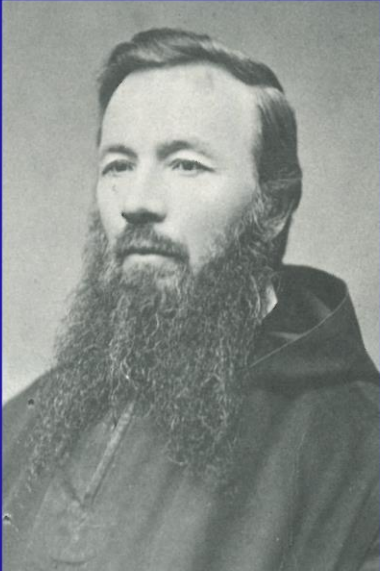
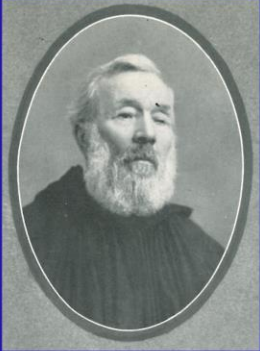
SJP Headmasters 1857-1921

## SJP's First Headmasters

1857-1858	Father Cornelius Wittmann
1858-1862	Father Benedict Haindl
1862-1865	Father Othmar Wirtz
1865-1867	Father Benedict Haindl
1867-1869	Abbot Rupert Seidenbusch
1869-1872	Father Wolfgang Northman
1872-1875	Father Alexius Edelbrock
1875-1884	Abbot Alexius Edelbrock
1884-1885	Father Chrysostom Schreiner
1885-1890	Father Oswald Baran
1890-1896	Father Herman Bergmann
1896-1921	Abbot Peter Engel

List of First Headmasters

1857-1858



Cornelius Wittmann  
1828-1921

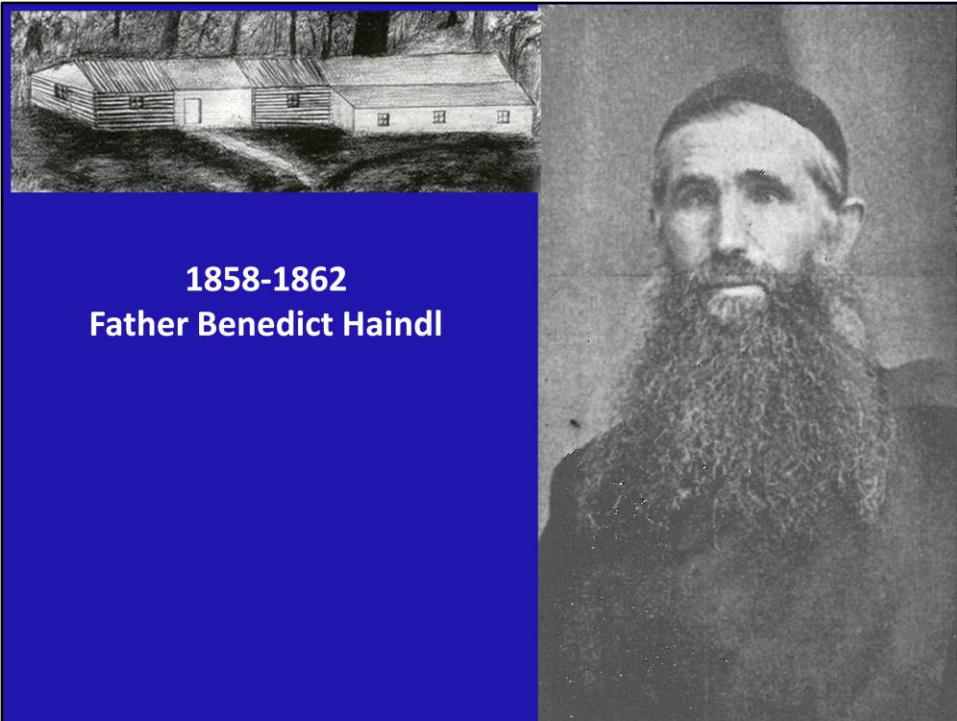
1857-1858 Father Cornelius Wittmann, OSB  
LP096

## Cornelius Wittmann, Head 1857-1858

- Born in Bavaria in 1828; died in 1921
- Went to St. Vincent's in Pennsylvania in 1852
- One of the five founders: Came to Minnesota in 1856
- Was ordained in St. Paul, before the group reached St. Cloud
- Served many Minnesota pioneer parishes in the 1800s
- Had "that missionary enthusiasm which helped him to overlook hardships and primitive conditions"
- An assiduous reader and a man of "set opinions"
- Hobby was carving statues; his crucifix graced the Chapel walk

About Cornelius Wittmann

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u/?SJUArchives,26122>



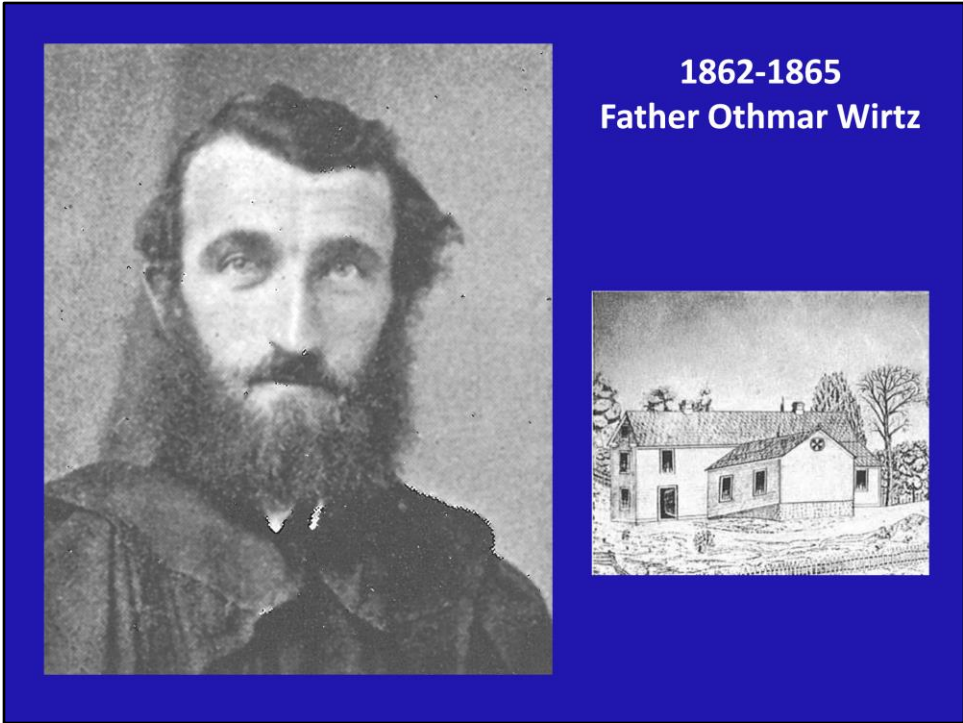
1858-1862 Father Benedict Haidl, OSB  
LP096

## Benedict Haindl, Head 1858-1862

- Born in Bavaria in 1815; died in 1887
- Prior at St. Vincent's until coming to Minnesota in 1857, where he served settlers in Shakopee and elsewhere before coming to St. John's in 1858
- Prior and missionary to central Minnesota settlers while SJP Headmaster, 1858-1862
- Back to Shakopee, then St. Joe, then back to St. John's
- While in Shakopee, the St. Ben's sisters founded a community there

About Benedict Haindl

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u?/SJUArchives,26118> About



**1862-1865**  
**Father Othmar Wirtz**

1862-1865 Father Othmar Wirtz, OSB  
Old Frame House completed (in Indianbush) in 1864; moved to campus in 1867

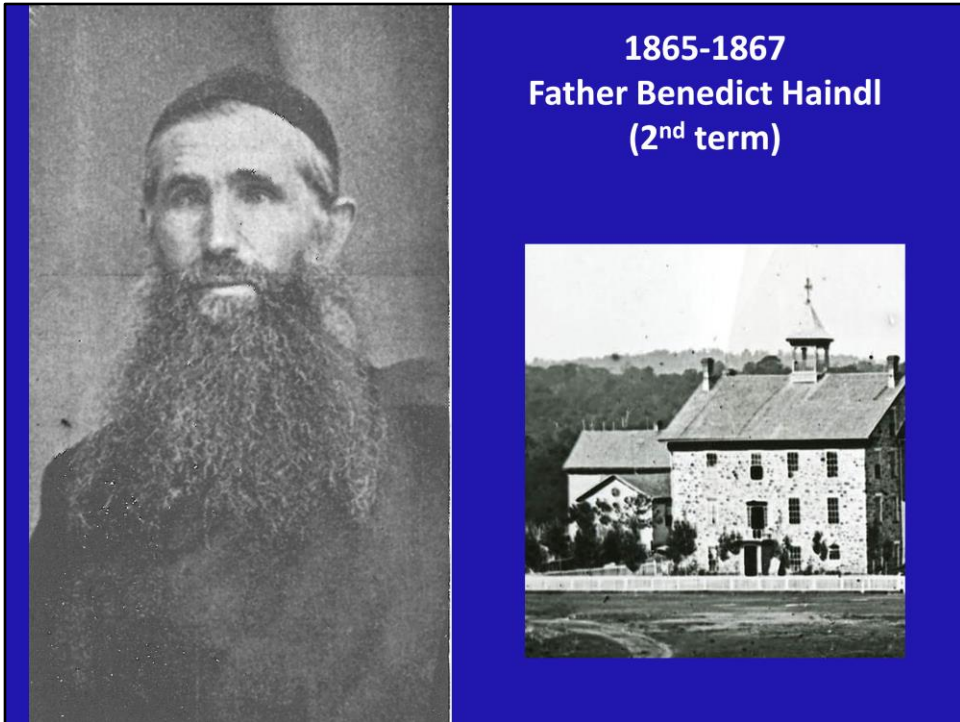


## Othmar Wirtz, Head 1862-1865

- Born in Zurich in 1831; died in 1874
- Converted in Catholicism in 1853
- Prior at St. Vincent's in Pennsylvania, 1859
- Prior at St. John's from 1862-1865
- moved the monastery from St. Cloud to Collegeville
- settled the Benedictine Sisters at St. Joseph
- "Was of serious and retiring disposition and did not care to appear in public"
- Was "a doctor of body and soul"

About Othmar Wirtz

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u/?SJUArchives,26130>



1865-1867 Father Benedict Haindl, OSB; Old Stone House built in 1866  
LP066

## Benedict Haindl, Head 1865-1867

- Returned to St. John's in 1865; again ministered to central Minnesota settlers
- In 1867 was again Prior
- Served in St. Cloud, New Munich, St. Augusta, St. Martin, Cold Spring, Luxembourg

About Benedict Haindl

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u?/SJUArchives,26118>



1867-1869 Abbot Rupert Seidenbusch, OSB  
East/west central wing added to Quadrangle, LP066

## Rupert Seidenbusch, Head 1867-1869

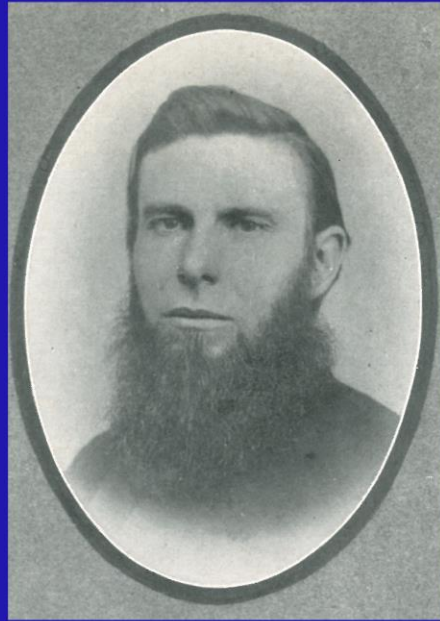
- Born in Munich in 1830; died in 1895
- Director of St. Vincent's College & missionary to Pennsylvania settlers
- St. John's first Abbot 1867-1875
- See previous PowerPoint!

About Rupert Seidenbusch

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u?SJUArchives,26120>



**1869-1872**  
**Father Wolfgang Northman**



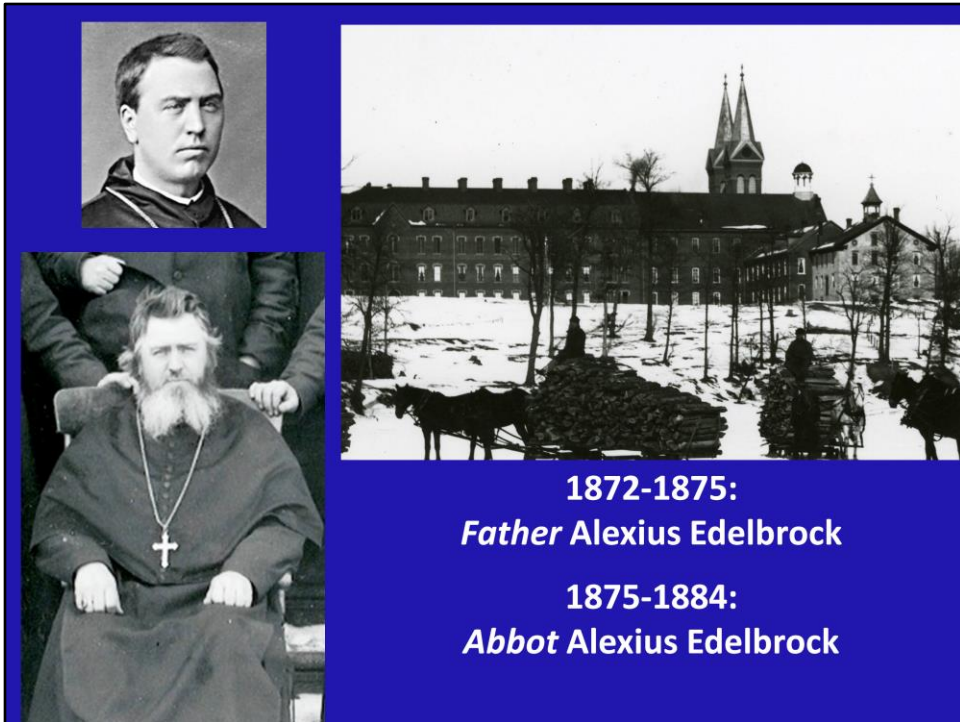
1869-1872 Father Wolfgang Northman, OSB  
1<sup>st</sup> Chapel built 1872  
LP 092

## Wolfgang Northman, Head 1869-1872

- 1<sup>st</sup> American-born monk, born in St. Louis in 1842; died 1876
- Joined novitiate at St. Vincent's
- Came to St. John's in 1862 to finish his studies and serve as "one man music department"
- Ordained in St. Joe in 1867
- "Vice-president of SJU" and SJP headmaster until 1872
- Professor of music and missionary to nearby English-speaking parishes
- Conducted the choir and "the famed St. John's band"
- Poor health; died at age 33 of apoplexy

About Wolfgang Northman

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u/?SJUArchives,26135>



1872-1875 Father Alexis Edelbrock, OSB; 1974  
Ascherman Collection, LP172 (date unknown) and LP244, 1866 (cropped)  
east-west wing added to (south) Quad, LP012



*Father Alexius Edelbrock, Head 1872-1875*  
*Abbot Alexius Edelbrock, Head 1875-1884*

- Born in Westphalia, Germany in 1843; died in 1908
- As a boy, welcomed the monks to St. Cloud and his father's establishment (hotel/store?)
- Was one of the first five students, in St. Cloud
- Went to St. Vincent's for study, returning in 1867
- St. John's began offering a commercial course in 1872
- Elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Abbot of St. John's in 1875
- During his term as Headmaster, he was elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Abbot of St. John's in 1875
- Continued his role as Headmaster during most of his term as Abbot, but relinquished it as construction of the church (Great Hall) and Quad continued

About Alexius Edelbrock

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u/?SJUArchives,25180>



As the visitor approaches St. John's from the East, he sees the three brick sections built by Abbot Rupert; the church and other buildings comprising the main group were built by Abbot Alexius between 1879 and 1885. It will be impossible to do full justice to Abbot Alexius' work in this sketch. After fourteen years of unparalleled energetic activity he resigned, founded the parish of St. Anselm in New York City, and died as the honored pastor of that church on May 18, 1908.

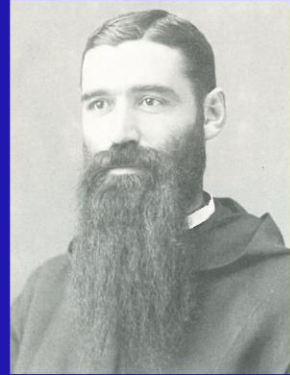
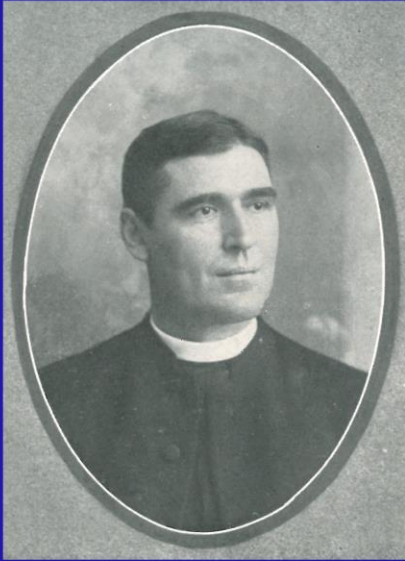
1875-1884 **Abbot** Alexius Edelbrock, OSB

Quad completion from 1883-1886; LP030

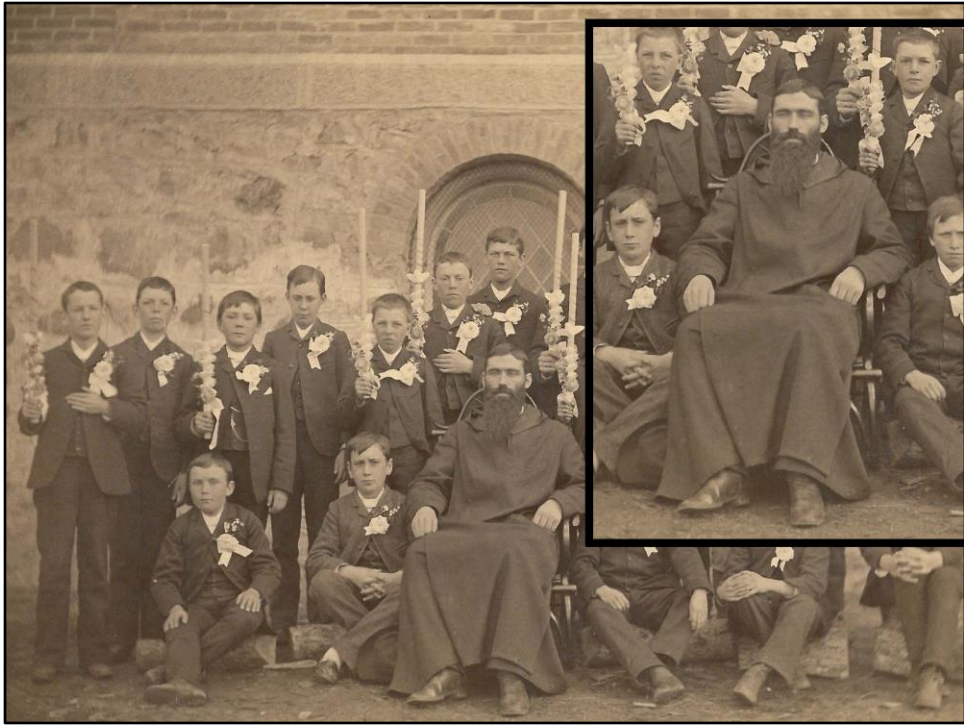
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/17469/show/17390> 1925

*Sagatagan*, p. 19

**1884-1885**  
**Father Chrysostom Schreiner**



1884-1885 Father Chrysostom Schreiner, OSB



1884-1885 Father Chrysostom Schreiner, OSB

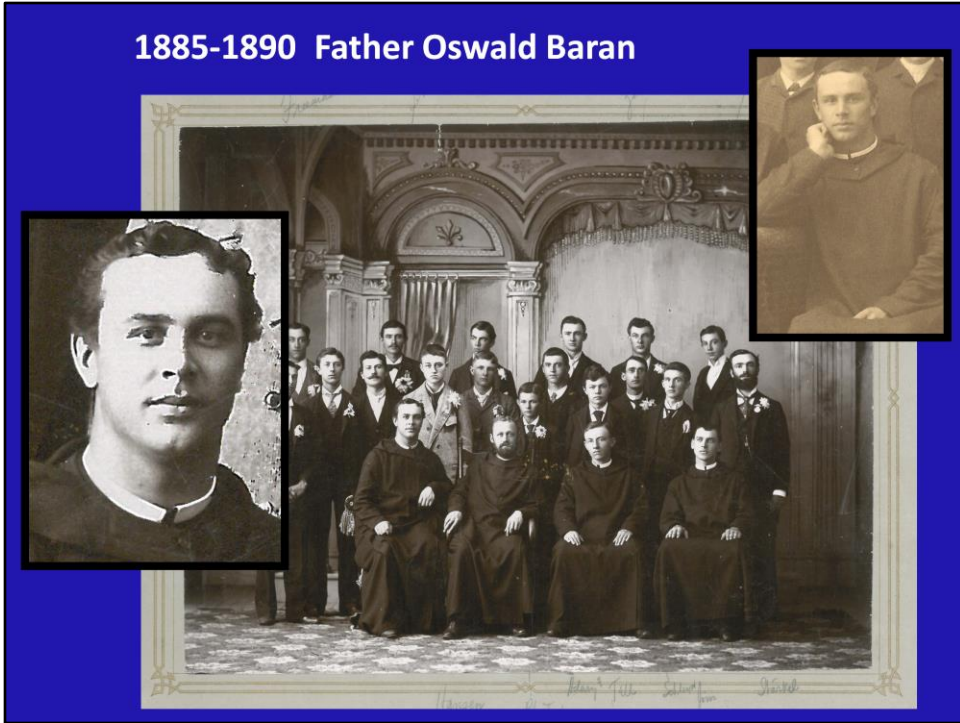
## Chrysostom Schreiner, Head 1884-1885

- Born in 1859 in Jordan, MN; died in 1928
- Professed and became Headmaster the same year, 1884, and served for 1 year until he was appointed vice-president of the college
- Was infirmarian before and after his ordination
- A brilliant young priest, authoritarian, exact and demanding
- Students respected him as a strict disciplinarian
- Replaced the benches with chairs and introduced glasses and napkins, thus refining the table manners of the students
- Was one of the prime movers to start a student paper
- Left St. John's to join Abbot Alexius at St. Anselm's in NYC
- Established Benedictine presence in the Bahamas
- Determined the spot where Columbus had landed and had the island renamed San Salvador

About Chrysostom Schreiner

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u?/SJUArchives,26211>

1885-1890 Father Oswald Baran



1885-1890 Father Oswald Baran, OSB

## Oswald Baran, Head 1885-1890

- Born in Prussia in 1866 ; died in 1928
- Was ordained during his time as Headmaster
- Left in 1895 to be prior and director of the college at St. Martin's in Olympia, Washington
- Later became its first Abbot

About Oswald Baran

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u?/SJUArchives,26188>



1890-1896 Father Herman Bergmann, OSB  
1894: pine trees are planted near Observatory, future site of SJP

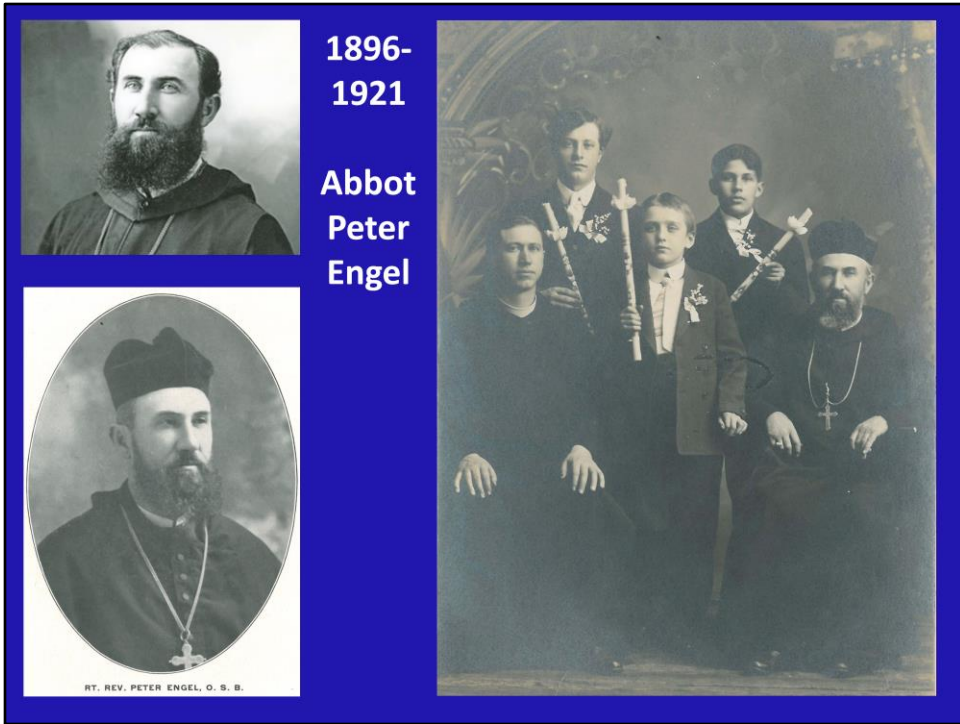


## Herman Bergmann, Head 1890-1896

- Born in Germany in 1861 ; died in 1936
- Lived on a farm in Freeport with his parents
- Headmaster after his ordination and into 1896, a year when he was professor, subprior/prior, *and* procurator
- “Worked ceaselessly, relieving Abbot Peter of many burdens”
- An efficient hard worker who demanded hard work from the other monks
- When procurator, was noted for his skill in finding a good horse

About Herman Bergmann

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u?/SJUArchives,26193>



1896-1921 Abbot Peter Engel, OSB  
LP171

## Abbot Peter Engel, Head 1896-1921

- Born in Belgium in 1856 ; died in 1921
- Elected abbot in 1894
- All built during his term as Abbot:  
Wimmer Hall, the Old Gym, Frank House, Greg House, the football field, the science building (now Simons Hall), and Luke Hall
- Started the St. John's photo studio
- Advanced the causes of science and technology
- First distinct high school program appeared in 1899, the "Academic Department"
- 1921-22 marked some major changes for the high school: more about that another day!

About Abbot Peter Engel

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u?/SJUArchives,26161>

St. John's ca. 1920

Abbot Peter Engel  
and a class of well  
dressed Johnnies



Compiled in October 2012  
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Peggy Landwehr Roske,  
CSB/SJU Archivist.

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campus LP186