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World War I & Saint John's

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Vol. XXX JULY 1917 Number 6

Thoughts on War

By an American Catholic Young Man

WAR is an evil, they say. His senior speaks thus, and the young man accepts the statement from one who has had more experience. He himself would have barely imagined war possible; but now he is awestruck at its existence. Men kill men? And legally? He had heard of wars, but they appeared as mere tales of the past or events that would never return. They seemed barbaric. But now he beholds the world at war.

St. John's & World War I

- The U.S. declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917.
- On December 7, 1917 (later, Pearl Harbor Day), the U.S. declared war on Austria-Hungary.
- There is little in *Worship & Work* about WWI.
- There was no yearbook until 1919.

1917-07-01, The Record

p.385 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20538/rec/10>



Vol. XXX

JULY 1917

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The Record has some pieces, although relatively few, concerning the war.

To the young American of to-day war is unknown. He is not ignorant of our Revolutionary and Civil war, for he is too patriotic not to know and value the price our forefathers paid for this nation and paid for its union; but he has not seen war face to face; he has not felt the thrills of battle array nor heard the roll of quickening drum.

Joseph Mulvey.

1917-07-01, The Record

p.385 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20538/rec/10>

Farm Work for Students

The Record July 1917

There is a strong movement on foot this year, urging students under military age to accept positions as farm hands during the month of vacation. If students followed this suggestion, they undoubtedly would do much to prevent the great scarcity of laborers during the harvesting season. But another view of the subject must be considered; namely, does this labor impair the students' capabilities of doing justice to his studies during the following year?

By going into the country, the student avoids the occasions of dissipation so common in the city. If he does some work on the farm every day he will always enjoy a good night's rest, and will not be tempted to join a theatre party or a band of evil companions. We should always remember that the body is the workshop of the mind, and, unless we keep that in good condition, the mind will not be able to perform the duties expected of it.

1917-07-01, The Record

p.411 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20564/rec/10>

p.412 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20565/rec/10>

Back to the Farm

WHILE the flower of American manhood is preparing to sacrifice its life, if necessary, for the cause of universal freedom and democracy, the call is going out to the rest of loyal and patriotic America to assist the country in this critical time. How many are responding? Surely the inability to support the flag upon the field of honor gives us no excuse to remain idle. There are other fields for which we are eligible. Prominent among them is the farm. Indeed, we have the assurance of the president himself that the man behind the plow is doing as patriotic and important a work as the man behind the gun. This assurance of our chief executive, strengthened by the numerous urgent requests of our leading statesmen and high officials to increase our production to a maximum, has given a new impetus to the "the farm" movement—a movement designed to counter the strong cityward tide of the last twenty-

In view, therefore, of the changed social and educational conditions on the farm, the improved methods of agriculture, and the prosperity that awaits the thrifty husbandman, as well as the special military exemptions in favor of farm labor, many a farmer will hesitate "to pull up stakes" for the city and many a prodigal farm lad will repent that he left his father's house.

In the next issue of *The Record*,
October 1917

1917-10-01, The Record

p.455 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20746/rec/11>

p.458 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20749/rec/11>

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Joseph J. Habiger.

The Record October 1917

1917-10-01, The Record

p.455 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20746/rec/11>

p.458 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20749/rec/11>

The Conscripts

MUCH is written these days about "our boys in khaki" and about our boys who will soon be in khaki. They are of vital interest. It is only a few months ago that we numbered the same ones among our friends or fellow-students who now are in the mighty mass of young men summoned by our government to prepare for the defense of our country and the struggle for her rights. Appalling is the thought that millions of young men must soon join the ranks of stern duty and death; yet grand is the sight of this inspiring spectacle arrayed to defend our country, and noble, the sacrifice many a home and many a youth offers for the rights of our land.

The Record
October 1917

1917-10-01, The Record

p.464 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20755/rec/11>

We, as students, and future leaders of the people, owe it to our country to prepare well for acting our part in the reconstruction period that will follow the war; we, as young Americans left behind will stand ready at the bidding of our country to follow our brothers and friends to the battlefield; we as Americans in general must stand ready to support morally and materially those who are offering their lives,, that we may enjoy the blessings of peace and prosperity.
"God keep and guide our conscripts!"

A purse of seventy-five dollars was raised here toward the Library Fund in the interest of our soldier boys. If we cannot fight, we will be none the less Americans to the full extent of our opportunities.



The Record
October 1917

1917-10-01, The Record

p.465 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20756/rec/11>

and p.471 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20762/rec/11>

United States Civil Service Examinations

*Stenographers and
Typewriters Wanted*

Men and Women

The United States Government is in urgent need of thousands of typewriter operators and stenographers and typewriters. All who pass examinations for the departments and offices at Washington, D. C., are assured of certification for appointment. It is the manifest duty of citizens with this special knowledge to use it at this time where it will be of most value to the Government. Women especially are urged to undertake this office work. Those who have not the required training are encouraged to undergo instruction at once.

Examinations for the Departmental Service, for both men and women, are held every Tuesday, in 450 of the principal cities of the United States, and applications may be filed with the Commission at Washington, D. C., at any time.

The entrance salary ranges from \$1,000 to \$1,200 a year. Advancement of capable employees to higher salaries is reasonably rapid.

The Record October 1917 p.488

1917-10-01, The Record

p.488 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20782/rec/11>



The bronze Service Roll memorial to Saint John's WWI soldiers – now in the Quad's "Gallery of Honor" hallway



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memorials\War Memorial WWI\
WWI plaque in Hall of Honor 2016 10 18 plr.jpg

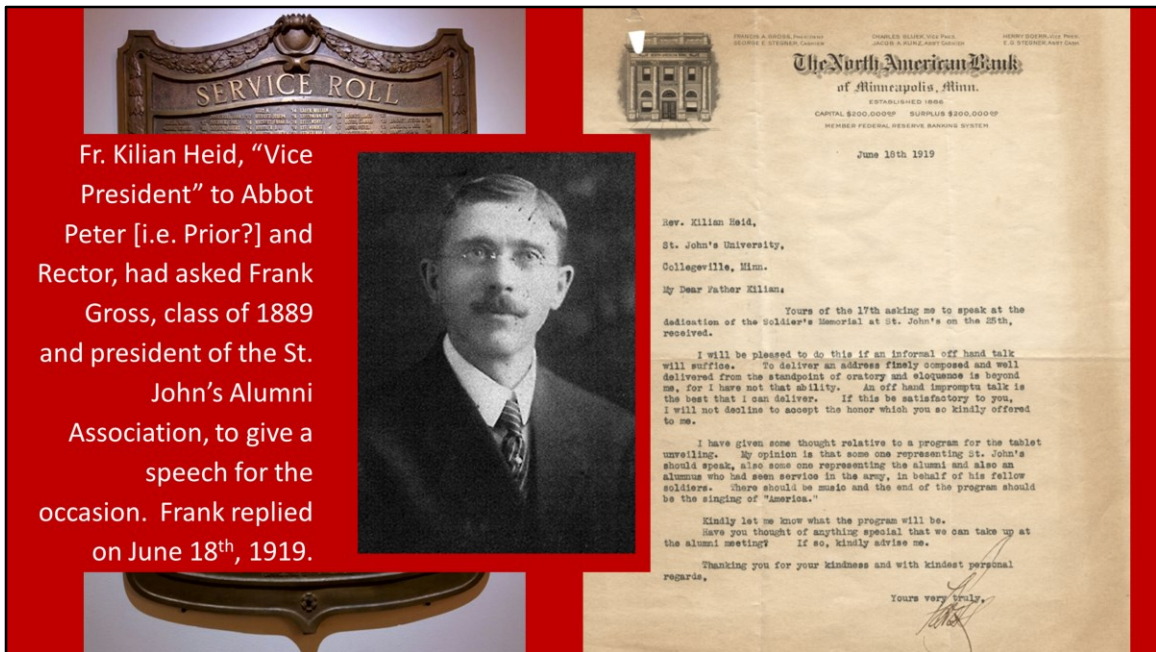


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WWI plaque in Hall of Honor 2016 10 18 plr.jpg

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Dedication of WWI Alumni Memorial Park, Events 54-1.jpg



Fr. Kilian Heid, "Vice President" to Abbot Peter [i.e. Prior?] and Rector, had asked Frank Gross, class of 1889 and president of the St. John's Alumni Association, to give a speech for the occasion. Frank replied on June 18th, 1919.



Rev. Kilian Heid,
St. John's University,
Collegeville, Minn.

My Dear Father Kilian:

Yours of the 17th asking me to speak at the dedication of the Soldier's Memorial at St. John's on the 25th, received.

I will be pleased to do this if an informal off hand talk will suffice. To deliver an address finely composed and well delivered from the standpoint of oratory and eloquence is beyond me, for I have not that ability. An off hand impromptu talk is the best that I can deliver. If this be satisfactory to you, I will not decline to accept the honor which you so kindly offered to me.

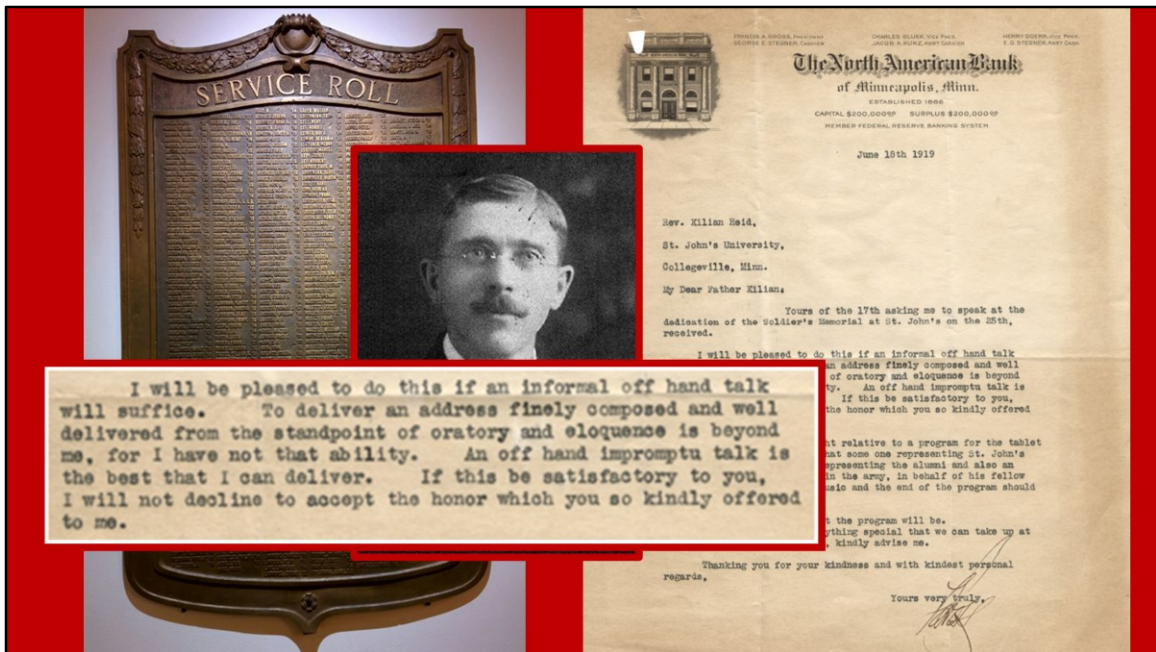
I have given some thought relative to a program for the tablet unveiling. My opinion is that some one representing St. John's should speak, also some one representing the alumni and also an alumnus who had seen service in the army, in behalf of his fellow soldiers. There should be music and the end of the program should be the singing of "America."

Kindly let me know what the program will be. Have you thought of anything special that we can take up at the alumni meeting? If so, kindly advise me.

Thanking you for your kindness and with kindest personal regards,

Yours very truly,
[Signature]

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 WWI plaque in Hall of Honor 2016 10 18 plr.jpg
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 WWI plaque dedication Gross letter Box1837f3.pdf

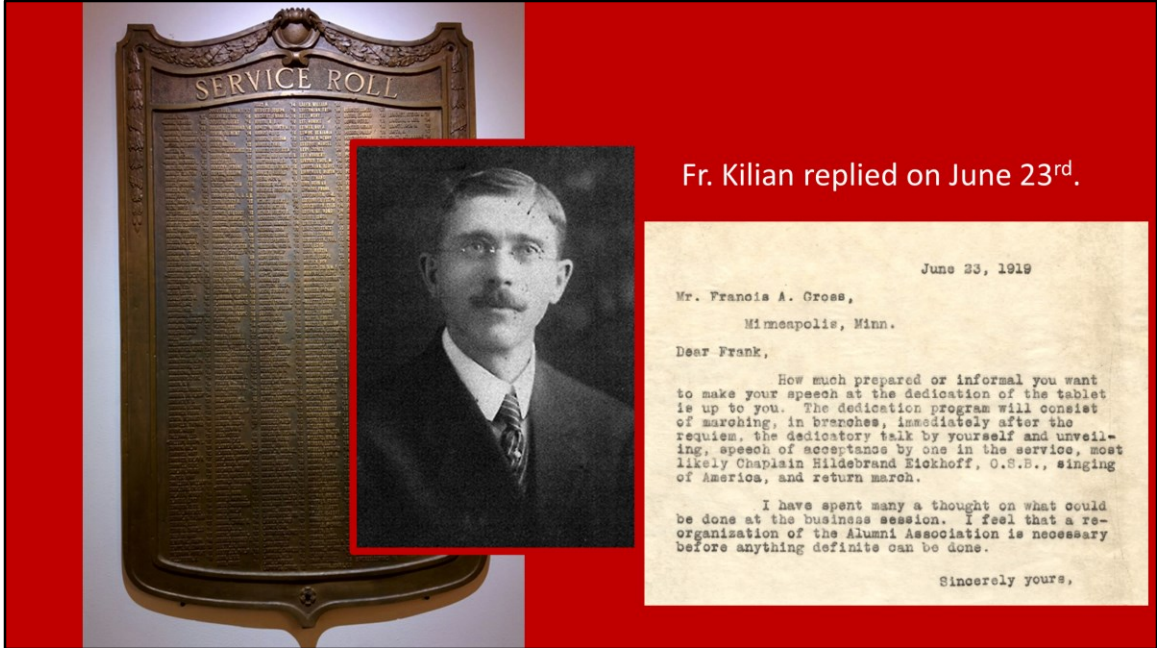


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WWI plaque in Hall of Honor 2016 10 18 plr.jpg

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WWI plaque dedication Gross letter Box1837f3.pdf

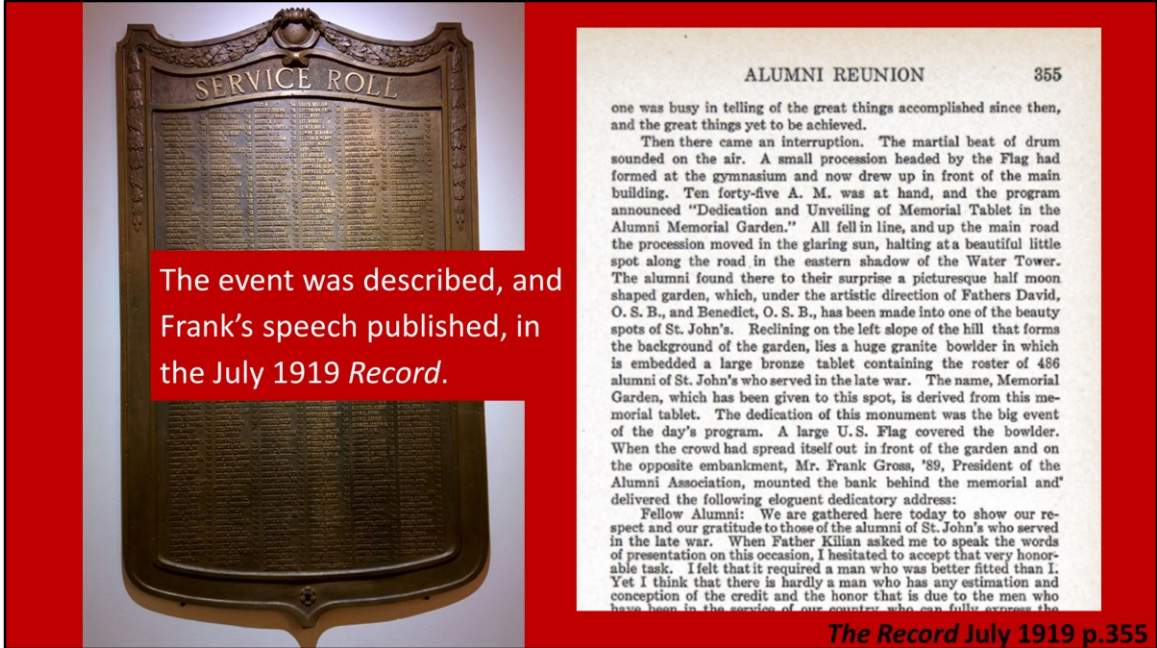


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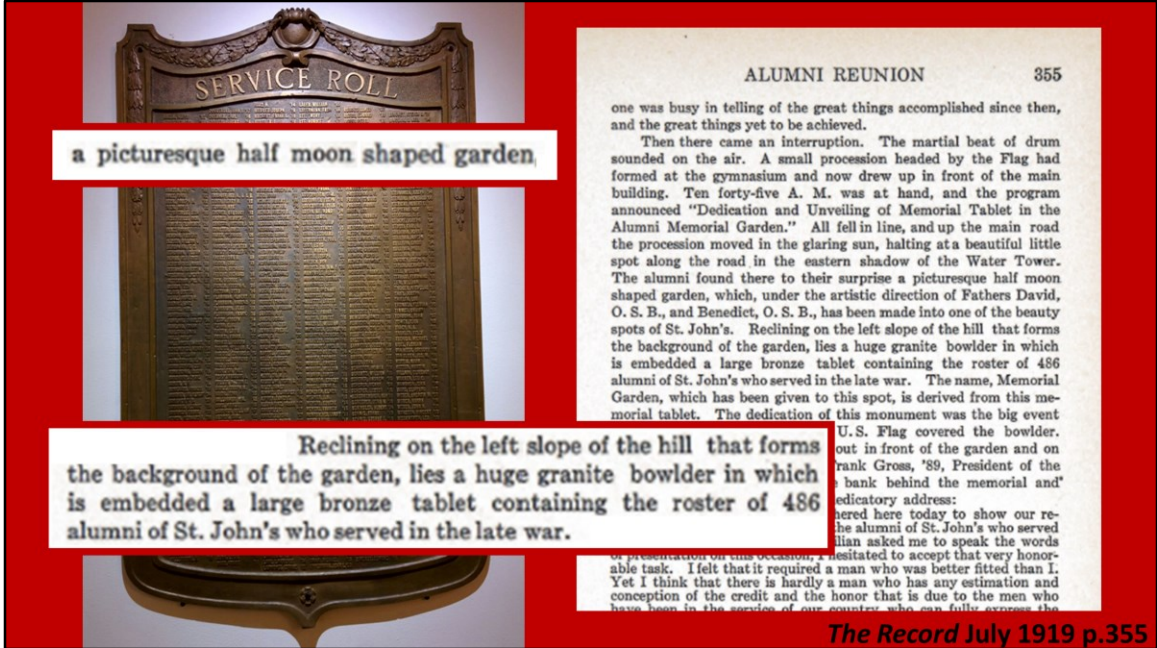
WWI plaque dedication Heid letter Box1837f3.pdf



The event was described, and Frank's speech published, in the July 1919 Record.

The Record July 1919 p.355

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 WWI plaque in Hall of Honor 2016 10 18 plr.jpg
The Record July 1919 p.355
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/19663/rec/11>



a picturesque half moon shaped garden,

Reclining on the left slope of the hill that forms the background of the garden, lies a huge granite boulder in which is embedded a large bronze tablet containing the roster of 486 alumni of St. John's who served in the late war.

The Record July 1919 p.355

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 memorials\War Memorial WWI\
 WWI plaque in Hall of Honor 2016 10 18 plr.jpg
 The Record July 1919 p.355
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/19663/rec/11>



We have an old photograph of the event.

Unveiling of memorial tablet to St. John's soldier boys

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WWI plaque in Hall of Honor 2016 10 18 plr.jpg

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Unveiling of Memorial Tablet 1919, Events 54-2.jpg

OUR COLLEGE HOME

I. SEEING ST. JOHN'S

By Douglas Ormond

'Far to the north where Minnesota breaks
Upon the view her many sparkling lakes,
Amid the forest's ever-waving plumes,
Where breathing flowers shake their sweet perfumes
And murmuring waters roll their sportive tide
'Mong rocky coasts or by the green hill side,
The College stands.' *



It is best to approach St. John's afoot. To come swiftly in the auto-bus gives one but a superficial, consequently fleeting impression. The road from the station winds its way through thick woods, only here and there touched by the hand of man.

We pause on seeing the delightful close-cropped turf of the terrace indenting the roadside wood, then ascend the masonry steps on each side of which are graceful terracotta urns mounted upon pedestals and filled with geraniums and trailing vinca. Before us, parting the little walk, is a large, partly sunken bowl with a fountain, surrounded by hedge plants and border flowers. The walk proceeds to the elm and linden embowered rubble grotto of St. John Berchmans, and then invites us to enter the cool, fragrant wood. Adjoining the terrace is the Alumni Memorial Garden, a dainty nook slightly above the level of the road, with walks, flower beds and shrubbery. But the *pièce de résistance* in this garden, mounted upon a huge boulder, is the bronze Service Roll in which the names of the hundreds of St. John's alumni who have answered our country's call during the World War are permanently engraved.

Apparently forming the gateway to the campus, to the right of the road on a knoll stands the battlemented brick water tower, while on the left, on a hill crested with young conifers, is the astronomical observatory.

A slight turn in the road brings to view, against a background of distant low blue hills, the main building of St. John's. It is a plain yet dignified five-story red brick building flanked on the right by the Abbey Church with its two steeples. The two hundred foot facade is broken, in the center by a slightly projecting

* From the poem, 'St. John's,' by Father Alexan, O.S.B.

...and an account of the garden from *The Record* in May 1921:

“It is best to approach St. John's afoot...

We pause on seeing the delightful...terrace indenting the roadside wood, then ascend the masonry steps on each side of which are graceful terracotta urns mounted upon pedestals and filled with geraniums and trailing vinca.

The Record May 1921 p.206

The Record May 1921 p.206

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/21910/rec/8>
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THE WATER TOWER, ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY,
COLLEGEVILLE, MINN.

*We have a
colorized
photo, ca.
1920,
showing this
garden.*

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Shrines\Berchmans shrine
Berchmans flowers Postcard PC11.0154.jpg



THE WATER TOWER, ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY,
COLLEGEVILLE, MINN.

“Before us, parting the little walk, is a large, partly sunken bowl with a fountain, surrounded by hedge plants and border flowers.

The walk proceeds to the elm and linden embowered rubble grotto of St. John Berchmans...

Adjoining the terraze is the Alumni Memorial Garden...with walks, flower beds and shrubbery.

But the piece de resistance in this garden, mounted upon a huge boulder, is the bronze Service Roll in which the names of the hundreds of St. John's alumni ...are permanently engraved.”

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Berchmans flowers Postcard PC11.0154.jpg

The Record May 1921 p.206

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/21910/rec/8>

We also have another photo, *one that shows the monument.*



Unveiling of memorial tablet to St. John's soldier boys

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WWI plaque in Hall of Honor 2016 10 18 plr.jpg

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Unveiling of Memorial Tablet 1919, Events 54-2.jpg

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WWI plaque in Hall of Honor 2016 10 18 plr.jpg

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Unveiling of Memorial Tablet 1919, Events 54-2.jpg

So...we know the
bronze tablet was on
a granite boulder in
this garden across
from the
Observatory, below
the water tower...



...and we know the
tablet is now
enshrined in the
Quad, behind the
Great Hall...

...but what became of the garden, and what became of the boulder??

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memorials\War Memorial WWI\

WWI plaque in Hall of Honor 2016 10 18 plr.jpg

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memorials\War Memorial WWI\

Unveiling of Memorial Tablet 1919, Events 54-2.jpg



Photo of SJP construction with heavy moving equipment

If you have, or have had, kids at the Prep School, you may be familiar with the *boulder between the Weber Center and the dorm*, north of the Middle School addition...onto which each year's Melk students paint their names before leaving.



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taken 2016 11 28.jpg



***That's not the
WWI boulder.***

The shape is
wrong, it's not
large enough,
etc.

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Melk\IMG_1613.jpg
taken 2016 11 28.jpg

BUT, down
the hill, in
the ravine,
there's
another
boulder...



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Melk\IMG_1615.jpg - taken 2016 11 28

And it'll
take some
heavy
equipment
to flip it
over to
find out...
someday!



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THE WATER TOWER, ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY,
COLLEGEVILLE, MINN.

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Shrines\Berchmans shrine
Berchmans flowers Postcard PC11.0154.jpg