

May 24

## **Br MARTIN (or MAURICE) MEYRINGER**

2 November 1833 – 24 May 1915

Born in Eltheim, Bavaria, Germany, Maurice (my guess) Meyringer trained as a carpenter though he was introduced to Lobengula as a blacksmith. He entered the Society in 1877 (aged 44) and was in St Aidan's in 1881. There was some talk of his going to Quelimane but, Fr Lea reported to Fr Weld, 'he wasn't wanted'. By way of explanation Lea continued, 'I am told he gets lights from heaven and that he wishes to make improvements in the German province. I am also advised to get him back to the Germans as soon as I can. I thought he might join the next party going to GuBulawayo – a more settled mission than Quelimane.'

In 1882, he did leave for Bulawayo and was one of those who nursed Depelchin when he broke his leg after a wagon toppled and a sack of salt fell on him. On arrival at Bulawayo he was introduced to the king and on August 21<sup>st</sup> he mended Lobengula's wagon wheels.

He was a carpenter at Old Tati for a while but in 1888 he returned to Europe where he seems to have spent the rest of his life in a 'mental asylum', as they were called then, in Diest, Belgium and he died there in 1915. (The picture



shows the State Lunatic Asylum in New York possibly around the same time. Other pictures on the internet show

crude treatments of inmates. Heaven knows what Br Meyringer went through.)