

This Week in Eden History

February 6 | Jacob Gass, Missionary



Jacob Gass (seated) with his wife, Elizabeth Laengle and son Herbert, photographed at the mission in Raipur, India about 1915.

Jacob Gass, born **Feb. 6, 1866** in Liestal, Switzerland (died June 25, 1940), was the founder of the Evangelical Synod of North American's Theological Seminary in Raipur, India (the same denomination that founded Eden). He was also the manager of the mission's Raipur Leper Hospital and Asylum, 1893–1920. His work was honored by the British government in then colonial India and by Eden Theological Seminary with a Doctor of Divinity degree in 1921.

Several Eden graduates served in the Evangelical Synod's (and later Evangelical and Reformed Church's) mission field in the Chhattisgarh area of the Central Provinces, India. They included Martin P. Davis (Class of 1907), Herman Feierabend (1912), Theophil Twente (1913), Theodore Seybold (1913), William Baur (1925), Emil Menzel (1926), and others. As was customary at the time, most men went to the mission field with a spouse as a co-worker, many

of whom developed important programs for Indian women and children's health and education. The leadership of the Indian mission was assumed by the Indian churches and their leaders over the middle and later years of the 20th century.

Photograph: Eden Theological Seminary Archives