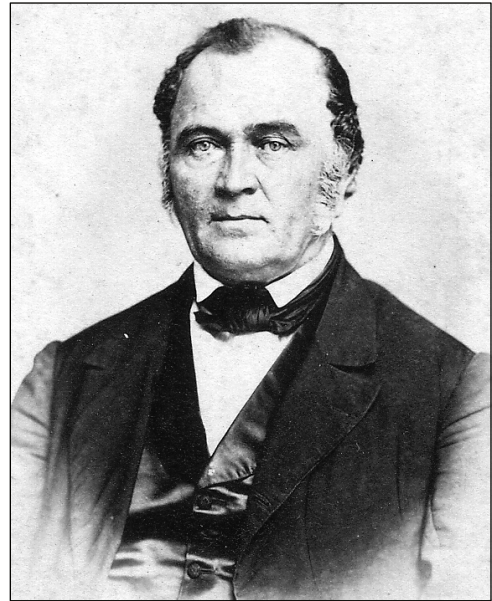# This Week in Eden History
February 20 | Louis Edward Nollau

The Rev. Louis Edward Nollau, a religious pioneer and key figure in the establishment of Eden Theological Seminary, died in St. Louis on **Feb. 20, 1869** (born July 1, 1810). After experiencing a religious conversion, he entered the Rhenish Mission Institute in Barmen, Germany. He was sent as a missionary to the U.S. in 1837 and stopped in St. Louis on his way to work among the Flathead tribe in Montana. Seeing the great need among the flood of German immigrants arriving in the area, Nollau eventually settled permanently in St. Louis. He pastored St. John's German Evangelical Church, Gravois Settlement (now St. John's Evangelical United Church of Christ. Mehlville), 1849–1852, and St. Peter's German Evangelical Church, St. Louis (now St. Peter's United Church of Christ, Ferguson), 1852–1860.

Louis Edward Nollau. Photo from the Eden Archives

Nollau was a skillful organizer and tireless worker. In October 1840, he organized the German Evangelical Church Society of the West (later known as the Evangelical Synod of North America) with seven other German Protestant pastors. He helped found the German Evangelical Preachers Seminary near Marthasville, Missouri in 1850—the predecessor of Eden Theological Seminary—and served on its Board of Directors until his death. In 1856, he established Good Samaritan Hospital, which admitted patients regardless of religion or race and in 1858 the German Protestant Orphan's Home (now called Every Child's Hope).