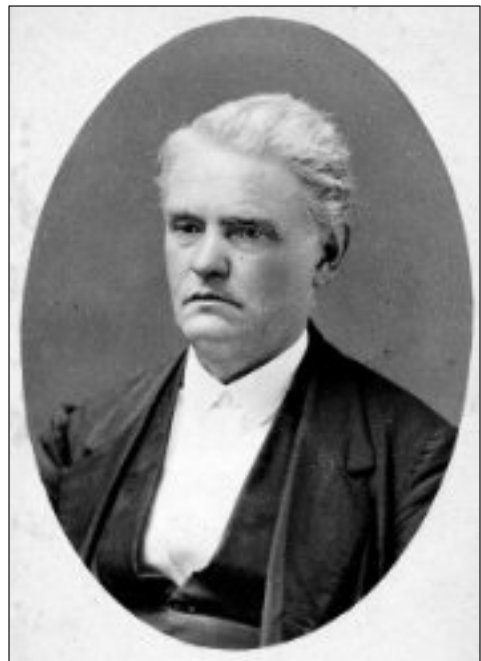


## This Week in Eden History

### May 16 | Adolph Baltzer

**Hermann Franz Adolph Baltzer** was born **May 16, 1817** in Berlin. Orphaned at a young age, he did well in school, began studies at the University of Berlin in 1835, and completed theological training at the University of Halle. Tired of waiting to qualify for a pastorate in Germany, he immigrated to the United States, where German-speaking pastors were in demand. Upon his arrival in 1845, he began serving churches in Southern Illinois followed by congregations in St. Louis and St. Charles.

Baltzer joined the German Evangelical Church Society of the West, precursor to the Evangelical Synod of North America, in 1846 and was elected corresponding secretary. He was very active in other denominational work, serving on the committee drafting the denomination's first catechism, the seminary's original board of directors, as associate editor of the new denominational newspaper, *Der Friedensbote*, and as president of the denomination from 1855 to 1859.



*Adolph Baltzer | Photo: Eden Archives*

Baltzer was appointed Inspektor (president) of the Evangelical Missouri College, which the denomination established next to the seminary near Marthasville. Although he and his wife worked hard to make the institution successful, the additional hardships of the Civil War forced its closure in 1862. He was immediately appointed superintendent and faculty member at the seminary. He continued in this position until 1866, when he was chosen to be the denomination's first full-time president.

His heavy responsibilities as president gradually effected his health. He died in office on January 28, 1880 in St. Charles, Missouri. His son, John Baltzer, served as president of the Evangelical Synod from 1914 to 1929.