

Aerdinand Lindheimer

#istory

Ferdinand Lindheimer was born in Frankfurt, Germany, on May 21, 1801 and later came to America in 1834. Lindheimer arrived in Texas one day after the Battle of San Jacinto was fought and continued to serve in the Army of Texas until his honorable discharge in December 1837. He resumed his botanical skills and several years later, Lindheimer made an agreement with fellow botanist George Engelmann to collect and send Texas plant samples for categorization. The agreement included shipments to Asa Gray at Harvard College. For each sample he collected, Lindheimer recorded the date, location, habitat, and general characteristics. He also pressed and dried the plants before sending them to Engelmann and Gray.

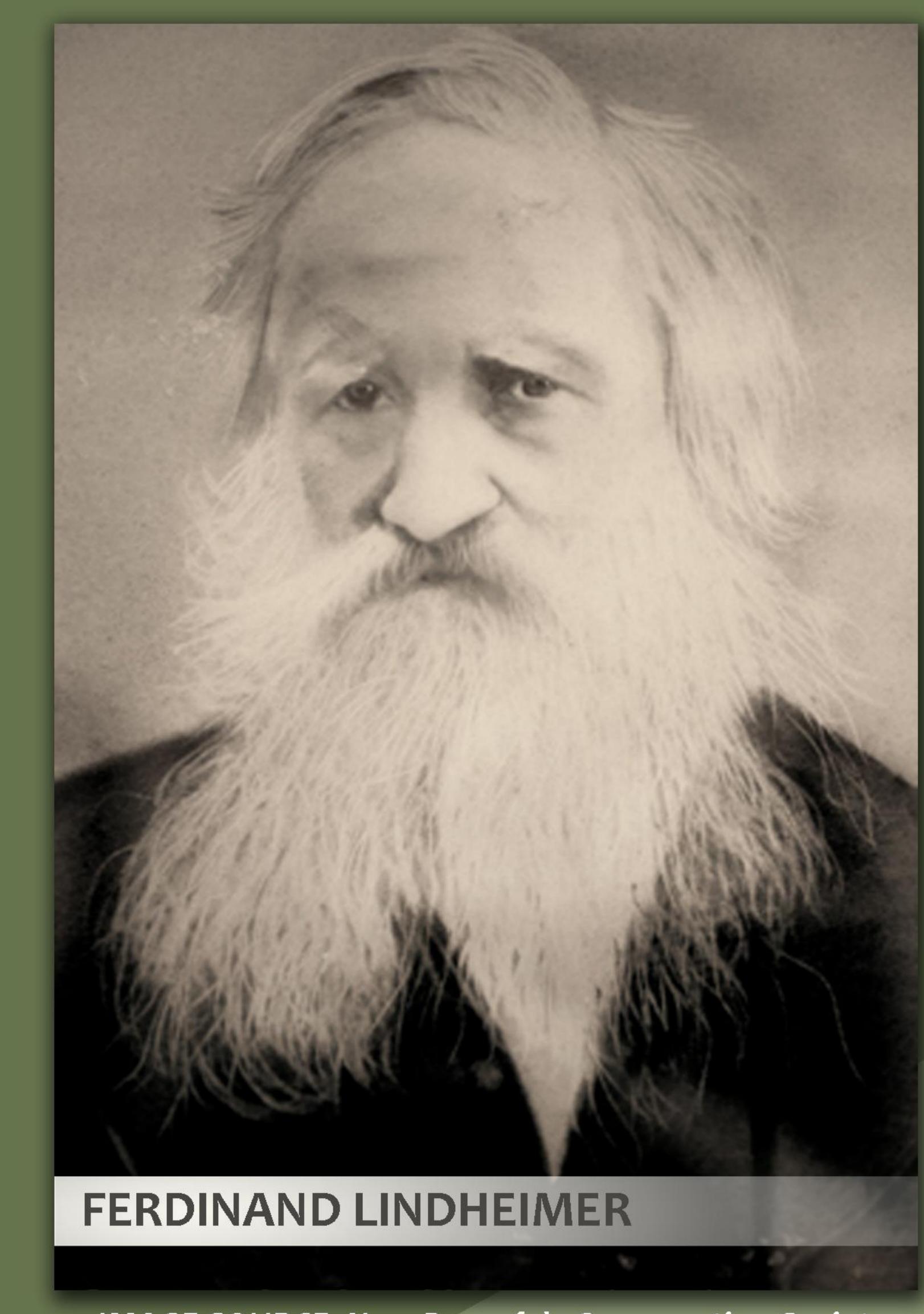


IMAGE SOURCE: New Braunfels Conservation Society

L'indheimer in New Braunfels

Lindheimer was one of the early settlers of New Braunfels. He even met the first group of emigrants on the Texas coast in 1844, and traveled with them to New Braunfels as their guide. A year later, the Adelsverein gave him a parcel of land on the banks of the Comal River. Here, he was able to continue practicing his love of plant collecting and also established a botanical garden.

Lindheimer was a highly regarded citizen in the New Braunfels community, serving 20 years as the first editor of what is now the New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung. He was also involved in local education, running a private school for gifted children, and even served as Comal County's first Justice of the Peace.

Today the Lindheimer Home, located on Comal Avenue, is a museum maintained by the New Braunfels Conservation Society. Ferdinand Lindheimer and his wife, Eleonore, are buried in New Braunfels at the Comal Cemetery.

Father of Texas Botany

Lindheimer is credited with the discovery of hundreds of plant species and it is estimated that he collected as many as 100,000 plant specimens during his lifetime. These plant specimens can be seen at the Smithsonian and at the Missouri Botanical Garden, among others. Many plant species today use Lindheimer's name as a designation in their scientific name.





