

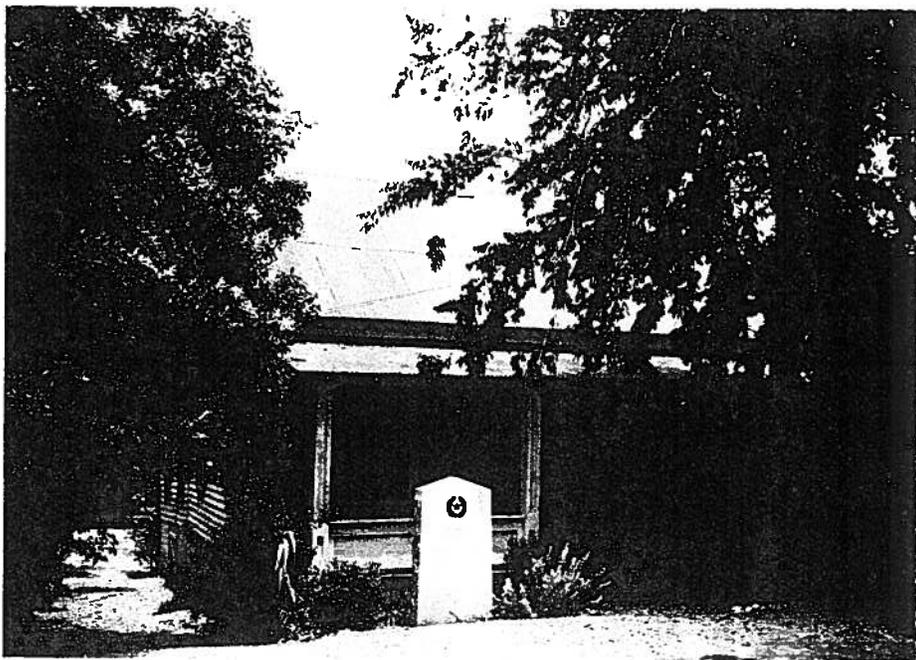
Comal

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HOME OF
FERDINAND
LINDHEIMER
1801-1879

SOLDIER IN THE TEXAS REVOLUTION ▽
FATHER OF TEXAS BOTANY ▽ EDITOR
OF THE NEU BRAUNFELSER ZEITUNG,
1852-1872

[Comal Av., New Braunfels]



HOME OF FERDINAND LINDHEIMER

Comal ave.
New Braunfels
12/11/64

Herald and Zeitung
New Braunfels, Texas

MAY 23 1968



Comel Co.



UNVEILING — Mrs. Sida Simon Martin unveils a historical marker on the home of her grandfather, Ferdinand J. Lindheimer, internationally noted botanist and first publisher of the New Braunfels Zeitung. The 1852 home was given by Mrs. Martin to the New Braunfels Conservation Society who restored it. Edward Dedeke, president of the society, assists Mrs. Martin.

Over 400

About 400 attended one or both of the events marking the dedication of the Ferdinand Lindheimer Home Sunday.

At the restored house built by the scientist-editor about 1852, a tour and unveiling of historical markers took place early in the afternoon. Over 250 attended.

A program, preceded by a Kaffee Klasch Klatsch, were held at Eagles' Hall from 3 to 6 p.m. Approximately 300 were present.

Four generations of descendants attended from Houston, Corpus Christi, Austin, and San Antonio. They ranged from grandchildren, to great - great - great - grand-



GREAT - GRANDSONS — Among over 20 Lindheimer descendants who attended the dedication ceremonies Sunday were three of Lindheimer's great - grandsons. Seated with their

wives, l to r, the Rev. Albert Loudon, Cecil Loudon, and Eugene Loudon. Behind the Loudons are Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Lindheimer. He is a great-grandnephew.



PROGRAM — At the program main speaker, Dr. B. L. Turner between Walter Faust, who was with Barron Schlameus, and M Oheim. Oheim read some of the

United States, about 1854, no track
ed on the east coast and visited
all the old and well-known uni-
versities.

Glass Broken

Containing six rooms, the house
has two front doors, each of
which contained glass beautifully
etched with hunting scenes. How-
ever, vandals destroyed one door
which had to be replaced with
plain glass.

Milder Climate

Mrs. Martin notes: "At Prince-
ton he was offered the chair of
botany and natural history. With
thanks but apologies, he declined
the offer, saying, 'I came from a
climate much like this, and I am
seeking a milder climate such as
Texas.'

"Lindheimer's next stop was St.
Louis, Mo., where he made more
contacts and then looked up the
Bunsen family in Belleville, Ill.
Here he and five other student
adventurers rented a blockhouse

LINDHEIMER HOME OFFERED TO ANY GROUP FOR RESTORATION

New Braunfels structure already declared historical site.
and boarded with a charming family who lived across the creek.
The couple had five lovely daughters, so life was not too dreary
for the newcomers in a strange land.

"Then came winter. The birds drifted south. And the holes in the roof of the old blockhouse became so large the young adventurers could study the stars from their beds at night.
"I took three pens to write a letter home. Lindheimer would write with one pen, until the ink froze, and keep two other pens warming by the fireplace. This convinced him he was still a long way from Texas."

Taking a riverboat down the Mississippi to New Orleans, he inquired about a guide and the necessary provisions and equipment for a trip to Texas.

Convinced, Lindheimer set sail for the port of Veracruz, and became so enthralled with the beauty of Mexico and abundance of flora that he and his two companions decided to settle there.
They bought land near Orizaba and started a coffee plantation, Mrs. Martin recalls, but this venture did not last long. Reports of the Texans' unrest against Mexican oppression reached Lindheimer and he decided to go to Texas to join Sam Houston and his men. He shipped out of Veracruz with an Irish sea captain.

Mrs. Martin relates:
"Along the way he taught the ship was off course, but could not convince the captain. For three days and nights they were caught in a storm and all their belongings were thrown overboard. With

By the light of the sunrise, Lindheimer could see a coastline and estimated it was about two miles away. He decided to swim

He was amazed to learn that he was at Mobile, Ala., and when he said he "wanted to go to Texas to help fight the Mexi-

He decided to swim

Proved Theory

He was amazed to learn that he was at Mobile, Ala., and when he said he "wanted to go to Texas to help fight the Mexi-

He decided to swim



Part II

Granddaughter Recalls Lindheimer

Texas' Earliest German Newspaper

By JOYCE BACON

(Last of Two Articles)

At her home at 500 E. Ashby, Mrs. Sida S. Martin, granddaughter of the father of Texas botany and early day newspaperman, Ferdinand J. Lindheimer, recalls how he came to Texas from Germany and made his way to New Braunfels, where he finally settled.

By 1845, she notes, Texas had attained statehood and Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels had made preparations for his first trip to Texas with his colonists. Lindheimer, in Galveston, was asked by the U.S. government to meet the German colonists at Indianola and act as a guide for them.

At what is now Landa Park, New Braunfels, Lindheimer is said to have shown the colonists the clear springs with the remark, "I could lead you to more fertile soil, but not to purer water."

In this new settlement on the

banks of the Comal River, Lindheimer built his first log cabin. The house which Mrs. Martin now offers to any organization which will restore and maintain it as a historical site, came later.

Wed in 1846

In 1846, Lindheimer married one of the colonist's daughters, Eleanore Reinarz, who came from Aix la Chappelle with her father and several brothers and sisters.

He brought a printing press from England in 1852 and started his weekly paper, "Die Neu Braunfeler Zeitung," which he owned and edited until 1872.

Mrs. Martin points out, "With this German-language paper he helped explain the political and economical questions of the country to the newly arrived German colonists, who were as yet unfamiliar with our language.

"When Texas seceded, Lind-

heimer worked on his newspaper in the daytime. And by night he rode on horseback to the outlying districts of these new German settlers and explained why it was necessary to remain with Texas instead of the federal government.

"These people had recently sworn allegiance to the United States and all needed to be informed on many points. As a result of this work, five or six companies were organized to help the Confederacy.

Asks Relief

"When after four years his newsprint was used up, Lindheimer wrote to Richmond, capital of the Confederacy, asking to be relieved of the duty of printing the war news.

"From Richmond came an order to this effect: 'Even though you have no paper on which to print the war news and even though all of your helpers have joined the Confederate forces, you must continue to print the paper and deliver it at night.'"

Mrs. Martin says Lindheimer's wife learned to set type and worked in the office at night after putting the children to bed.

The paper was printed on one sheet of brown, tissue-like paper which Lindheimer had on hand for pressing his botanical specimens. He then delivered the paper at night on horseback.

Mrs. Martin continued her story of her grandfather:

"At long last the war ended and peace was declared. Even though the colonists were depressed and sad, a parade with bands was formed. Adding to these troubled times were the bushwhackers, who hid in the brush and pilfered the homes.

Fired Blanks

"Even though they had not fought with either side, they claimed to be victorious Union soldiers. These bushwhackers



MRS. SIDA MARTIN, GRANDDAUGHTER OF FERDINAND J. LINDHEIMER, RECALLS HOW HE WORKED ON THE EARLIEST GERMAN NEWSPAPER IN TEXAS.

joined the parade and frightened the women and children by firing blank cartridges over the roofs of the homes of the Confederate patriots' families.

"My grandmother dressed her two little daughters in their Sunday best and told them to stand at the front gate. But the girls were afraid, what with all the shooting going on.

"Grandmother, however, told her daughters, 'You must stand there. They can't hurt you. No one in this house is afraid.'

"When this the bushwhackers the thugs and claiming that set out to Ferdinand