



# Were the Wright Brothers the first flyers?



## The Wright Brothers



water tanks & stacks

1884 1885 (325)

1948 (460)

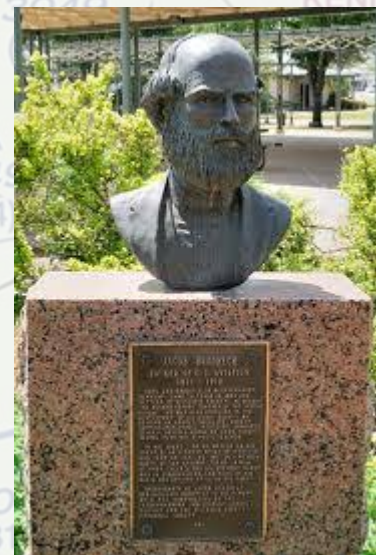
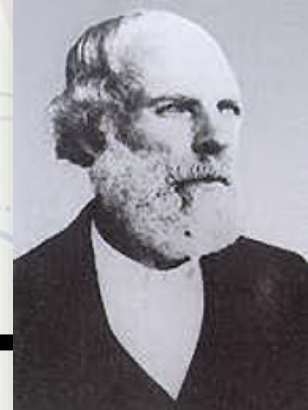
1926 (350)

2050 (310)

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# JACOB BRODBECK (1821–1910)



- Born in Germany, Arrived in Fredericksburg in 1847
  - Teacher, Surveyor, Commissioner
- First man to fly in an airplane (40 years before the Wright Brothers)
  - Conflicting reports
    - 1865 (3 miles east of Luckenbach)
    - 1868 (San Pedro Park, San Antonio)
  - Airship
    - Powered by coiled springs
    - Featured an enclosed space for the "aeronaut," a water propeller in case of accidental landings on water, a compass, and a barometer.
    - Flight – Height reached (12') and traveled 100'