

Geologist but remained as a consultant after his return to Basel and the Natural History Museum. Kugler's 1961 1:100,000 Geological map of Trinidad earned him the nickname "Father of Trinidad geology." Kugler volunteered at the museum where he continued his work where his interest in geology had first sparked until his death in 1987. Hans Kugler's scientific contributions were instrumental to the development of planktonic stratigraphy and correlation.

John Baverstock Saunders (b. 1928) studied geology at University College London, graduating with honours in 1951, and departed for Trinidad the same year. He worked with Hans Kugler at the Geological Laboratory at Pointe-À-Pierre, and later at the Natural History Museum in Basel. After Kugler's retirement in 1959, Saunders became a respected mentor to many junior geologists and micropaleontologists, especially during his time as supervisor of the Geological Lab at Pointe-À-Pierre. After retiring from Texaco in 1975, Saunders became Curator of Micropalaeontology at the Natural History Museum of Basel. He also updated the "Kugler Map" (revision published in 1998) and co-established the Micropalaeontological Reference Collection. He continued his research, leading expeditions into the Dominican Republic (1978-80) and contributing to Plankton Stratigraphy (1985) and Benthic Foraminiferal Biostratigraphy of the South Caribbean Region (1994) – both international landmark works. It was the Initiative of John Saunders to establish The Micropaleontological Reference Centers of the DSDP and ODP, several centers around the world hosting identical samples.

**DR. ABRAHAM GESNER, FGS- HORSE TRADER,
GOVERNMENT AGENT, PHYSICIAN, SCHOLAR,
GEOLOGIST AND FATHER OF THE PETROLEUM
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KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Dr. Abraham Gesner (1797-1864), Fellow of the Geological Society of London (FGS) did not receive his doctoral designation for advanced study in geology, but for medicine. Gesner was a remarkable man. The son of Royalist officers who left the new United States for New Brunswick and Nova Scotia after the revolution, he traded horses from Nova Scotia to the Caribbean, gained his medical degree in London while attending courses in Natural History. He returned to the Maritimes to practice medicine but conveniently in areas of pristine geological beauty. He wrote the treatise of geology of Nova Scotia, also of Prince Edward Island. He was the Provincial Geologist for New Brunswick and his collections became the Provincial Natural History Museum. He also served the Mi'kmaq as Government Agent. He discovered Albertite, in Alberta County, south of Moncton. He discovered the process for distilling kerosene, often from Albertite. This discovery helped lead to the rapid demise of the whaling industry, when the abundant supplies of relatively inexpensive kerosene allowed not only cities such as Boston, Massachusetts and Port of Spain, Trinidad to be illuminated, but also homes of the common folk. In 1863 he was appointed Professor of Natural History at Dalhousie University, but died not long after in 1864 and was buried, strangely, in a pauper's grave in Halifax.



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