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*Fremontodendron*

*Malvaceae*

[*Bombacaceae/Sterculiaceae*]

*Fremontodendron* commemorates an American explorer, topographer, soldier and politician, John Charles Frémont (1813-1890) who ran twice (unsuccessfully) for the presidency of the United States. He explored and surveyed the American West, first the upper reaches of the region between the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers in 1838 and 1839, and then parts of the Des Moines River in 1841. From then until 1846 he was involved in exploring what would become the Oregon Trail and also parts of the Sierra Nevada. In his journals he made numerous topographical notes (which included observations on flora and fauna) during his explorations as well as maps, collected many notable shrubs and trees that were subsequently studied and named by eminent botanists and for many historians became the Pathfinder. At the end of that period took part in the Mexican-American War (1846-1848). He became one of the first Senators for the newly formed Californian state after he had settled there in 1849 and his anti-slavery views recommended him as a Republican candidate for the presidency in 1856 (when he was defeated). During the American Civil War (1861-1865) he served only from 1861-1862 as he resigned to avoid serving under General John Pope (1822-1892). Again in 1864 Frémont was a Republican presidential candidate but this time he stood down in favour of Abraham Lincoln. Then from 1878- 1881 he was Governor of Arizona Territory and in 1890 was appointed Major-General on the retired list. Ultimately he died in New York from peritonitis.