27" x 37" marker Comal County

*COMAL COUNTY,**C.S.A.

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**1/4" lettering
*3/4" lettering
Text has 1/2" lettering.

RECEIVED
JUL 23 1962
TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE

Refer to: GWH JTD BK CW CC
Return to:
Answer
File:

New Braunfels, Texas.
July 20, 1962

Site of Cotton & Woolen Mill of Texas Paper Manufacturing Company

Dear Dr. Duncan:

Thank you for your message of 19th and for the name of "third man in our Civil War party" the other day.

In answer to your question - "Could a granite marker be placed at the site of the Civil War factory without detracting too much of the landscape?"

My mind immediately pictured that your question referred to the Torrey Mill site foot of Mill Street here.(See picture of the mill enclosed clipping of New Braunfels Herald July 4 1961.)

The State of Texas in 1936 did place a marker there. Took a snapshot of the marker at noon and shall send you a picture soon as film is developed. Copy on marker reads:

Site of
an early mill and factory
established in 1850 by
John F. Torrey
1821-1893
Pioneer promotor of Texas Industry,
He operated a flour, grist and saw mill, a sash
and blind factory (1850), a cotton factory (1863)
and the firat woolen factory in Texas, with indomi-
table spirit he rebuilt the plant, after partial destruction by
tornado and floods until all was swept away
Erected by the State of Texas 1936

According to the John F. Torrey biography brought by New Braunfelser Zeitung Thursday January 27 1887, Torrey was born April 14 1817 in Nashfield, Conn., where he learned the watchmaker & goldsmith trade came to Republic of Texas 1838 and with his brothers who arrived soon after in Houston established a general business. John F. in 1843 introduced to President Sam Houston wh desired to make peace treaties with Texas Indians got Torrey with Indian Agents Jos.C.Eldridge Hamilton P.Bee and 3 Indian chieftains went out among the Indians of Texas to invite their chi tains to a meeting at Birds Fort west of Dallas. . . In 1844 the Torreys agreed with PrinceCa of Solms-Braunfels to furnish rifles and swords and wagons and provissions for Prince Carl's p ject bringing first settlers for New Braunfels inland Spring 1845. (Jno.F. himself was in New Braunfels in 1846. See chapter 15 page 182 ROEMERS TEXAS - "On July 24, I again took a trip o several weeks' duration, into the interior. The Trading Post of Torrey Brothers on the upper r ches of the Brazos was my destination. This is the only place authorized by the government whe trading with the different Indian tribes of Texas may be carried on. My companion was no other than one of the owners of the trading post, Mr. John Torrey of Houston. . . ")
Continuing with the biography in Zeitung - In 1847 built a store on Mrs. Hunter's property now t Simon corner (on plaza) after he first conducted a trading post on the Blessing's lot now Hugo W zel's in which George Pfeuffer was clerk. (Pfeuffer later as member of the Senate of Texas was a member of board of directors in 1870s the A&M College. Pfeuffer Hall was named for him.) Torrey sold his wagons and teams to the Verein. On a horse power mill ground the first corn crop at 10 bushel for the settlers. 1848 leased Lot#300 on the Comal owned by the German Emigration Company

with agreement to build a grist mill poweredby water. Added a saw mill, rented the mills to Andross&Abel and left for California. Returning in 1850 added a sash factory. These buildings were consumed by fire 1861. Rebuilt in 1862. April 1863 entered into contract with Runge Brothers of Indianola (see deed records volume G-575) limited partnership under charter from State of Texas as Comal Manufacturing Company to manufacture cotton and woolen goods of either solely or mixed in New Braunfels. Torrey to furnish water power and building valued $10,000 and the Runges a capital $10,000 in specie."

Dr. Duncan, get a student to write a thesis on Torrey. There's enough to write a book. Not an easy job by any means, and, knowledge of German almost necessary, of great help indeed.

I too made a snapshot of marker in Landa Park placed there by Frank P. Seekatz, 1938, with following inscription.

> This monument marks the location where in 1863 Captain Wilhelm Seekatz one of the founders and oldest settler and later captain of the first boys scout troop of New Braunfels,Texas*, Ed. Braden, Joe Ney, Jack Marshall and Ed Dreiss associates manufactured saltpetre from guano brought from a cave 3 miles west of this park for the Confederate Government by order of Major Reed and Captain Harrison of the Nitro and Mining Department Western District of Texas.**

*Not Boy Scouts of America. He did train boys under conscription age in the handling of fire arms.

Then there was D.Richardson publishing Texas Almanac in Austin having been chased out of Galveston?, came with Samuel Mather owner of San Gabriel Mills in Williamson County jointly with Dr. Theodore Koester, industrialist of New Braunfels secured an Act from State of Texas March 5,1863 for Texas Paper Manufacturing Company, secured the Thomae Mill on the Comal. See deeds volume G-556.

This mill site now site of a tourist cottages establishment of which the management I believe would cooperate for placing a marker there.

-0-

Just back from City Hall to ask whether Mill Street runs to the bank of Comal River the answer is yes, (and) for once there would exist a good reason for us here to petition the city council to do a cleanup job down at the Torrey Mill site - for a Civil War centennial observance in 1963, plus the other two places mentioned????????

Sincerely

Oscar Haas

**Zeitung of April 29 1864 (in the Archives) "Our saltpetre factory now in operation. A hundred pounds of guano yields 4 pounds saltpetre. Furnishes 100 pounds daily of purest crystalbars half a foot in length."

Weather

Water Watch

Comal River ..... **242 (down .12)**
Canyon Lake outflow ..... **360 (up .04)**
Canyon Lake inflow ..... **335 (down .01)**
Canyon Lake level ..... **905.73 (down .04)**
Edwards Aquifer ..... **624.35 (down .01)**

South Texas forecasts

TODAY-WEDNESDAY: Fair to partly cloudy west and partly to mostly cloudy east through Wednesday. Scattered mainly afternoon and evening showers and thunderstorms southeast and isolated to widely scattered south central and deep south. Highs in the 90s except upper 80s immediate coast and near 100 southwest. Lows in the 70s with near 70 Hill Country and near 80 along the coast.

Rebate

Continued from Page 1

13,213 and in 1988-89 the net gain was 4,014.

"We're not quite sure why this concentrated surge in new applications occurred," Sharp said. "It very well may be primarily due to the renewed vitality in the state economy. But whatever caused the increase, those new businesses reflect increased economic activity in Texas."

Sharp issued local sales tax rebates for June totaling $88.6 million to 908 Texas towns and cities, a hike of 18.2 percent over last June's payments. This brings the 1991 city government rebate total to $617.2 million, 11.7 percent more than last year's total at this time.

New Braunfels' total payments to date are still down slightly from last year. So far the city has paid in $1,215,432.85 this year compared to $1,235,419.45 at this time last year, a 1.65 percent decrease. Their total payments to date this year are $11,343.24 compared with $6,736.41 at this time last year.

Checks to 105 county governments totaled $9.8 million, up 16.2 percent from last June's payments. This months checks to counties bring their total to $67.6 million, or 20.5 percent higher than last year at this time.

Comal County's sales tax figures were up with a nine percent increase over last June and nearly a six percent increase over last year's total to date.

"The Texas economy is no longer stalled but has shifted into drive," Sharp said.

Merchants collect the state's 6.25 percent sales tax and all local taxes and send them to the Comptroller's Office with their tax returns. Businesses file returns monthly, quarterly or annually, depending on the amount of sales tax they collect. The state then

Many plant varieties fit area xeriscape guidelines

Many plants that survive the South Texas summer and winter qualify as xeriscape plants if used appropriately.

Plants of similar water requirements should be grouped together, and turf and ornamental plantings should be shaped to allow efficient watering.

Xeriscape ground covers include: Asiatic jasmine, creeping grape, dwarf coyote bush, fringed sagebrush, gregg dalea, juniper "blue carpet," lantana, liriope, mondo grass/monkey grass, trailing rosemary, santolina and sedum.

Suitable vines are: Carolina jasmine, catclaw vine, Confederate jasmine, mustang grape, passion flower, queen's wreath, red honeysuckle, trumpet creeper and Virginia creeper.

Evergreen shrubs are: agarita, beargrass, California rosewood, Texas sage, cotoneaster, dwarf bayberry, eleagnus, evergreen sumac, Indian hawthorn, Japanese barberry, Lindheimer silktassle, majestic beauty hawthorn, Mexican oregano, nandina, oleander, pittosporum, red yucca, sago palm, St. John's wort, sotol, Texas mountain laurel, Texas pistache, yaupon holly, dwarf yaupon holly and yucca.

Deciduous shrubs in a xeriscape could include: althea, Apache plume, autumn sage, beautyberry, bush boneset, Carolina buckthorn, coral bean, coral berry, crepe myrtle, desert elder, Frikarti aster, golden lead tree, gaujillo, heartleaf hibiscus, hummingbird bush, kidneywood, lantana, Mexican bird of paradise, Mexican elderberry, orchid tree, pavonia, pomegranate, dwarf pomegranate and saltbush.

Trees include Afghan pine, anacua, Arizona cypress, bur oak, cedar elm, Chinese pistache, chinkapin oak, desert willow, huisache, hybrid crepe myrtle, Italian stone pine, lacey oak, live oak, Mediterranean fan palm, Mexican buckeye, Mexican plum, palmetto, desert fan palm, pecan, sage tree, Texas persimmon, Texas redbud, Texas red oak, Uvalde maple, western soapberry and windmill palm.

Bunch grasses include Eastern gamagrass, fountain grass, Indiangrass and Lindheimer muhly.

Suitable turf grasses include bermuda (hybrid and common), buffalo grass, St. Augustine varieties, and zoysia (emerald).

Herbaceous perennials are blackeyed Susan, blue sage, gay feather, hardy verbena, Indian blanket and purple coneflower.

Garden

Continued from Page 1

will help reduce the difference in temperature.

New Braunfels Utilities provided the mulch free, and the rocks came from NBU's [illegible]

Reducing the amount of grass around the parks office resulted in major water savings, he said.

Design and construction of the garden by outside contractors, without [illegible]

Civil War reur

Evaristo Landin of the New
ment installs a historical mar
ment in and contributions to
the Civil War statue there. Tl
Sophienburg Museum grou
site. (Photo by Mark Warnke

TEXAS PRESS SERVICE
AUSTIN, TEXAS 1716 SAN ANTONIO STREET GR 7-2813

New Braunfels Herald
New Braunfels, Texas

NOV 19 1963

Sites for Civil War Markers Selected by Historical Group

The Comal County Historical Survey Committee has submitted to the state committee, at its suggestion, recommendations for memorial markers which the latter organization will provide for erection in the community.

The project is in conjunction with centennial observance of the Civil War.

At a meeting of the local committee Saturday at the courthouse, suggested legends for the markers were composed and sites selected.

Two mill sites and local citizens who served the Confederacy during the Civil War were selected for commemoration. City Hall was selected as the site for a marker memorializing the Comal Manufacturing Co., a mill which stood at the end of Mill St. on the Comal River and produced cotton and woolen fabric during the Civil War.

Camp Landa, site of the Texas Paper Manufacturing Co., was designated as the location of a marker for the mill which operated during the time of severe paper shortage.

Sophienburg Museum was suggested as the site for a memorial to the three Comal County captains who enrolled here two cavalry and one infantry company of all-German volunteers for the Confederate Army.

A tribute to Texas Germans in the Civil War, citing the pro-Confederacy editorials of New Braunfelser Zeitung publisher Ferdinand Lindheimer, was recommended to be erected at Lindheimer Plaza on Comal Ave. at Jahn St.

William Hovestadt, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Tourist and Advertising Committee, informed the historical committee that ten or more Texas State Historical Survey Committee directional markers can be erected to show tourists the way to memorial markers.

Historical site medallions provided by the state historical committee may be erected at business route approaches to New Braunfels from state controlled highways, according to the Texas Highway Department. The medallions inform travellers of the existence of historic sites in the city.

Early New Braunfels — LXIV

Story Local Mill Made CSA Uniform Wool Proved False

By Oscar Haas

A story about the New Braunfels Woolen Manufacturing Company written by Editor Anselm Eiband appeared in the Neu-Braunfelser Zeitung, Friday, July 21, 1882.

"'Unsere Wollfabrik' (our woolen-cloth factory) already has purchased and stored a full year's supply of raw wool. The factory contributes greatly to prosperity of New Braunfels.

"The wool is of the 12-months-shearing, the best on the market, mostly from Comal County, Yorks Creek, and San Marcos sheep-breeders. The average price for the more than 114,000 pounds stock-pile, comes to 26½ cents per pound.

"The following fabrics are supplied by the factory: 8 varieties knitting yarn; white, red, green, and blue blankets; the excellent "Casimirstoffe' (cashmere materials) command not only their well earned place in the market because of high quality and reasonable price but from all over the Union come testimonials that the elegant modern patterns of the cashmeres boldly stand in competition with the best renowned fabrics of the woolen industry.

"The popular demand, in respect to the materials made here, is demonstrated by a recent shipment of 1,223 yards to the Agricultural & Mechanical College of Texas, at Bryan, of their cadet-gray woolen cloth for the college's uniforms." The A&M College of Texas, at Bryant, according to THE HANDBOOK OF TEXAS, ". . . was created by a legislative act April 17, 1871 . . ."

Johann Jacob Groos of New Braunfels, agent of the Aetna Insurance Company of Cincinnati, wrote to J. B. Bennet, the general agent, under date of April 28, 1867:

"We have organized a stock company for a woolen factory here, for which a three-story frame building on the bank of the Comal has already been purchased and machinery ordered . . . I think the stockholders will like to effect insurance on the property. Will you send me application forms for such establishments and also inform me on the probable rates."

Hermann Seele, in his chronological history of New Braunfels in Schütze's Jahrbuch für Texas, 1882, Austin, refers to the organization of a stock company organized 1866, and acquiring the Koester factory building, to establish a woolen mill.

The mill, he wrote, gave employment to many, and the wares, because of quality, found a ready sale everywhere.

In 1870, the Zeitung said:

"A diploma was awarded the New Braunfels mill at Mechanics and Agricultural Fair Association of the State of Louisiana for the best woolen cloth manufactured in the southern states."

The Zeitung of Friday, October 24, 1873, under local news, said:

"The wool factory, after a two-years shutdown, is soon to start operations again."

Seele noted in his chronological history: "On December 13, 1873, the Messrs. Moureau, Perryman, Groos (of the Groos Nat'l. Bank, San Antonio) and Giesecke brothers, purchasers of the woolen mill, started an uninterrupted operation of the mill, and its wares have constantly won first prize, even at out-of-state expositions." (Seele wrote it in 1882).

Because all the above chronicled events are dated long after the Civil War was ended, this dispells a popular hearsay which is oft heard, that gray material for uniforms of the Confederate States Army, was furnished by the New Braunfels woolen mill.

The Zeitung of Friday, July 21, 1882, the date with which this installment is begun, also carried the following little items: "HACKMETACK, a lasting and fragrant perfume. Price 25-50 Cents, at Voelckers."

"Verloren. Ein 'Cigarren-Etui' mit Perlen gestickt (Lost. A bead-embroidered cigar case) between the plaza and the woolen factory. A $2 award to the finder who will deliver it to the Zeitung's office."

STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE

TEXAS

COMAL COUNTY, C.S.A.

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(1964)