

TSHSC Staff (DP), 6/13/72

Official Texas Historical Building Medallion  
w/14" x 9" Interpretive Plate  
Comal County (Order #3575)

Location:  
251 S. Seguin St.,  
New Braunfels

EARLY SETTLERS' HOME\*

3575

SITUATED ON LOT DEEDED TO

COLONIST CHRISTOPH LUENTZEL.

ADOBE BRICK AND CEDAR BEAM

HOUSE WAS BEGUN ABOUT 1850

BY HEINRICH BEVENROTH(D.\*\*1850),

AND ENLARGED BY LATER OWNERS

HEINRICH C.C. POHLMANN, MRS.

ELISABETH GEHRUNG, EGMOND

SCHRAMM, AND AUGUST PURSCH.\*\*

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK - 1972\*\*\*

\*3/8" lettering to contrast with text

\*\*3/8" lettering

\*\*\*1/4" lettering

RECEIVED  
READY FOR  
JUL 24 1972

SOUTHWELL ORDER  
TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

APPROVED

Truett Latimer

*by Bob Watson*  
7-24-72

FILE COPY - DO NOT REMOVE

History of New Braunsfels  
and Comal County, Texas

1844 - 1946

by Oscar Haas

1968

INDIANS--THE EARLIEST  
IMMIGRANTS

The question is often asked: "What Indians were here when the first settlers arrived?" "They were the Lipan, the Tonkawa, the Karankawa, and Waco Indians. . . . Although the settlement lay on the utmost Indian frontier of Texas . . . the same never was in an earnest danger of attack by Indians . . . the various tribes were treated with a friendly disposition by the officials and the settlers, though their demands often were annoying. . . ."<sup>1</sup>

The first close contacts with aborigines are recorded by Herrmann Seale: "It was the beginning of April 1845 as Texan teamsters from Victoria on order of officials of the Immigration Company arrived at Indian Point to get those of us for whom there was no room on the first wagons and take us with our baggage to the fifteen miles above Seguin, first established settlement, New Braunfels. We had been four weeks on the road when we came to Seguin. Rain storms occurring almost daily caused the oxen-drawn wagons to travel only short distances in a day. Camp at Seguin was broken early in hopes to get to New Braunfels before night. It was a wearisome trip along the east bank of the Guadalupe following the wagon tracks in the prairie cut by the first wagons. Often yokes of oxen of several wagons had to be used to pull the wagons one at a time through bog holes. Thus it was again only twelve miles the weary oxen could pull the heavy wagons and we had to camp-out one night more for which a fresh water spring and a small forest furnished the necessary ingredients. It was on the night of the 4th to the 5th of May, 1845. In that night a Texas electrical rainstorm broke up a cannibalistic orgy by Tonkawa Indians in the Guadalupe River bottom at which they had feasted on boiled and fried flesh of one of their enemies, a warrior, of the Waco Indians. The next morning a number of Tonkawa squaws on their way from the feast, in grinning gesture told us how delicious the flesh tasted and hoped by eating of it their own offspring would be as brave as the Waco warrior had been."<sup>2</sup>

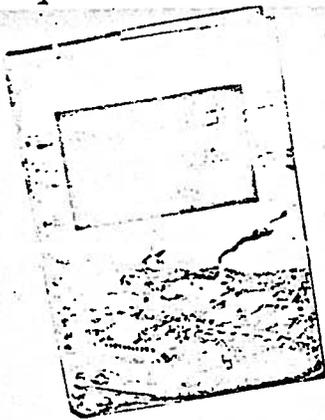
That a number of Waco Indians had been encamped on the Guadalupe in the Waco Spring area some eight miles north of New Braunfels and by March 1846 had abandoned that camp, apparently moving away from impending civilization, is recorded by Ferdinand von Roemer, who had accompanied a group excursion on horse back. "The destination of our excursion was a point lying about eight miles north of New Braunfels on the Guadalupe, where at one time the Waco Indians had camped. . . . After a ride of one and one-half hours, a small tributary valley led us down to the Guadalupe, where close to its forested bottom lay the abandoned Indian camp among scattered live oak trees. The bent twigs, resembling a bower, which formed the wigwams after being covered with skins, were still standing, and in the middle of each, the little fireplace was still plainly visible."<sup>3</sup>

Seale's second close contact with Indians occurred on his first night in New Braunfels. He slept that night in the tent of his hometown friend Christoph Luentzel (now Seale Street area) with three other home-town friends: Heinrich Herbst, Ludwig von Assel, Franz Marheinecke. The five, after several hours in reminiscence, had finally gone to sleep when an uncanny howling like that of a pack of wolves banished all sleep. A number of brandy-drunk Indians with unruly intoxication danced around the tent and with gestures indicated they wanted more brandy. While Seale was trying to get them to understand that there was no brandy in the tent, the drunks, mixing the Spanish and Indian languages, became threatening. The situation was growing extremely hazardous. However, one of the Indians, in his intoxicated staggering, went too close to the edge of the Guadalupe bluff and tumbled forty-two feet to the river's bed. The accident sobered the other Indians who rushed down to Naogdoches Road Crossing and up the bed of the river to their companion who had fallen onto a grassy ledge from which he rolled down unharmed.<sup>4</sup>

Among others who have recorded face to face meetings with Indians in early New Braunfels was Lt. Oscar von Claren, who visited the encampment of the Tonkawas, Lt. Claren came with the first contingent of colonists in March 1845. "There were some five hundred men, women, and children in the camp. Their wig-

<sup>1</sup>See *among the Schaffers*, 117.  
<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.*, 167-168.

<sup>3</sup>*Roemer's Travels*, 117.  
<sup>4</sup>*Herrmann Seale, Assailed Writings*, 173.



# OSCAR HAAS

329 EAST ZINK STREET  
NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS 78130

3575

*History of New Braunfels and Comal County, Texas*  
by Oscar Haas

What's historical about Town Lot No.93, in particular about the S.E.half of it.

Well, how lucky can New Braunfels be to be where she is. A century and quarter ago, was wild Indian country.

Prince Carl of Solms Braunfels, founder of New Braunfels, was ordered ~~to take~~ by the German Emigration <sup>Company</sup> of Mayence, Germany, to take three sail-boats loads settlers up to the San Saba River country. Prince Solms being warned by the government of the Republic of Texas that the land there was in full control of Comanche Indians and Texas was not in position to give the settlers any protection, Prince Solms conceived the idea to establish a way-side station equidistant from the coast to the San Saba country.

Lucky for New Braunfels, Prince Solms could buy 1265 acres for \$1111 of the Veramendi lands here on the Comal. (See Chapter III in HISTORY OF NEW BRAUNFELS) He had Lt. Nicolaus Zink, who was on leave from the Bavarian Army, to survey and lay out the 1265 acres into a town-site, story has it that the settlers drew numbered slips from a hat for a town lot. The Prince presented each single man over 18 years of age and each family head with a town lot, they "being under contract of the Emigration Company for the waters of the San Saba and Llano" rivers where they were to receive 320 and 640 acres of free land, respectively.

Town Lot No.93 fronting off Seguin Street fell to Christoph Luentzel (Luentzel) see page 50 HISTORY OF NEW BRAUNFELS and COMAL COUNTY.

Luentzel being from Hildesheim the same place teacher Hermann Seele came, was among the first group who crossed the Guadalupe on Good Friday March 21, 1845, single, age 25, but to all evidence Luentzel did not build on Lot 93, but had a tent house on his 10-acre farm plot on banks of the Guadalupe, where and with whom Hermann Seele had the experience with brandy-drunk Indians (see page 9.) Luentzel too was charter member #182 First Church (see page 305)

LUENTZEL, 1850, (see Vol.B-112) Comal County Deeds conveyed Town Lot 93 to Heinrich Bevenroth who agreed to pay Luentzel whatever sum the "Verein" asks for such lots from strangers, and assumes any indebtedness on the lot, also to perform for Luentzel any community labors Luentzel might yet be due to the Verein. Signed before (Pastor) L.C.Ervendberg, Chief Justice, and Conrad Seabaugh, Clerk Comal County Court. (See pp. 299 & 300)

● Heinrich Bevenroth and wife are listed charter members Nos.29 & 30 First Church Mrs.Bevenroth drowned in Comal March 19, 1850; Mr.Bevenroth died June 10, 1850. Deaths Nos.4 & 6 in Church Death Registers for March and June 1850.

\* Heinrich C.C.Pohlmann (D-478) Comal County Deeds, October 19, 1855, conveyed Lot 93 for \$400, to Elisabeth Gehrung, says original owner was Luentzel "subsequently set over and confirmed to me."

Elisabeth Gehrung (H-445) September 17, 1866, per her attorney Robt.Bechem (see page 188 HISTORY OF NEW BRAUNFELS under date January 17 1862) conveyed, for \$30 S.E.HALF OF LOT 93, to Carl Klappenbach (KARL KLAPPENBACH) Note:our Ernst K.Klappenbach is grandson of Carl Klappenbach & Olga Schramm Klappenbach.

Consequently, it may be said, that, quite some improvement, could have been done on the house, because: in 1855 Elisabeth Gehrung buys all of Lot 93 for \$400, and sells half of it 1866 for \$300, to Klappenbach.

The Klappenbachs, (I-621) on May 12 1869 for \$300, conveyed S.E.Half of 93 to Mr.Klappenbach's brother-in-law Egmond Schramm.

However - Egmond Schramm and wife, 1888 (T-430) for \$1000. sell S.E.Half of Lot 93, to August Pursch.

It therefore could be said, that, part of the house was begun 1850 by the Bevenroths.

More added to it by Heinrich C.C.Pohlmann by 1866

Considerably more by Elisabeth Gehrung.

But, the bigger part, by Egmond Schramm and wife, between 1869 and 1888.

\* Heinrich C.C.Pohlmann was early cantor of First Protestant Church





# Telephone & Work Log

Station	128205	11:00 AM
Name to		
Location	William Rogers office	
Address		
City/State	TX	
Project County	Comal County	
Client County	Early Settlers Home	
RTM <input type="checkbox"/> Market <input type="checkbox"/> Replacement <input type="checkbox"/> Review <input type="checkbox"/>		
Call	They Did	
Find Action	Find Mode	

Priority  Urgent  \*\*High  \*Medium  Low  Radar

Job #

Notes

need copy of order for tax purposes

Record #