

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Comal County (Order #8759)

Location: 430 W. Mill St., New Braunfels

THE NEW BRAUNFELS ACADEMY\*

THE FIRST GERMAN SETTLERS HERE IN THE 1840s WERE ASSURED BY THEIR SPONSOR--THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF GERMAN IMMIGRANTS TO TEXAS--THAT SCHOOLS WOULD BE PROVIDED IN THEIR COLONY. THE SOCIETY HIRED ITS FIRST TEACHER IN 1845, AND CLASSES BEGAN THAT AUGUST.

STATE LEGISLATION IN 1854 AUTHORIZED THE CREATION OF COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS, AND THE CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS BECAME COMAL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE. BUT IN 1856 THE LEGISLATURE RETRACTED SCHOOL LAWS SUPPORTING LOCAL DISTRICTS AND SPECIAL SCHOOL TAXES.

IN RESPONSE, THE CITY PERSUADED THE LEGISLATURE TO CREATE THE NEW BRAUNFELS ACADEMY IN 1858 AND TO GRANT AUTHORITY FOR A CITY PROPERTY TAX AND TUITION TO FUND THE SCHOOL, THUS MAKING THE ACADEMY ONE OF THE FIRST TAX FUNDED SCHOOLS IN TEXAS. PUBLIC SCHOOL PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE ACADEMY, INCLUDING THE 1856 SCHOOLHOUSE ON THIS SITE AND TEXTBOOKS IN GERMAN AND ENGLISH.

THE ACADEMY PROVIDED EDUCATION AND EXAMINED STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ALIKE THROUGH 1871. THAT YEAR THE STATE FINALLY ESTABLISHED AN EDUCATION SYSTEM, AND A PUBLIC SCHOOL OCCUPIED THE BUILDING HERE. THE ACADEMY TRUSTEES FULFILLED THEIR DEBTS BY RENTING THE SCHOOL BUILDING TO THE STATE BEFORE THEIR CHARTER EXPIRED IN 1879. \*\*

TEXAS SESQUICENTENNIAL 1836-1986\*\*\*

\*3/4 inch lettering

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\*\*\*1/4 inch lettering

THE NEW BRAUNFELS ACADEMY:  
A PIONEER IN TEXAS EDUCATION, 1858-1878.

The establishment of the New Braunfels Academy in 1858, in a way, was the fulfillment of one of the goals of the Gesellschaft zum Schutze Deutscher Auswanderer nach Texas. (The Society for the Protection of German Immigrants to Texas, hereinafter described as the Society) This Society organized and led more than 7,000 immigrants to Texas in 1844, 1845, and 1846, many of whom came to New Braunfels and Comal County, the primary settlement of the Society.<sup>1</sup> One of the goals of the Society when it was organized in Biebrick, <sup>Hessen</sup>Germany in 1843 stated that the organization considered it their responsibility to ". . .provide for the moral. . .instruction of the children. . .and to erect. . .schools in the colony."<sup>2</sup> The stages through which the schools of New Braunfels passed is relevant to the story of the New Braunfels Academy as each new progression was an obvious continuum of the development of a locally tax supported school in New Braunfels.

Society School Period: 1845-1848.

To fulfill their promise to the immigrants, the Rev. L.C. Ervendberg was recruited by the Society.<sup>3</sup> Ervendberg also became the pastor of the First Protestant Church of New Braunfels and in his dual capacity hired Hermann Seele as the first school teacher for the community in

1845.<sup>4</sup> It was a few months after the church was organized that on August 25, 1845 the school began holding classes under the trees at the foot of the Sophienburg Hill where the congregation had built benches for its services.<sup>5</sup> By January 1846 the congregation had its first building under construction and the classes were moved into the partially completed building. The school continued to function in this building, under an extension of the Society's supervision until the organization no longer existed.<sup>6</sup>

Church-School Period: 1848-c.1850.

In February 1848 the First Protestant Church reappointed Hermann Seele as the school teacher and assumed the responsibility for collecting the monthly school payments from the patrons of the school.<sup>7</sup> In accepting that responsibility, the congregation became the schools' director until 1850 when the congregation voted to terminate the church-school relationship. The congregation continued to express an interest in the school as Ervendberg served for several years on the first school board appointed by the City. The congregation voted in 1854 to again offer the buildings of the church to the several school districts of the county if any of the districts requested their use.<sup>8</sup>

City of New Braunfels School Period: 1853-1854.

An unsettled period for the New Braunfels school ensued as no official action by the community is noted in the minutes of the Board of Aldermen, City of New Braunfels or the minutes of the Comal County Commissioners Court, the most likely community organizations to assume responsibility. It is possible that the church building continued to function as a school. Some New Braunfels residents, those who lived in Comal Town took action in 1850. A Comal Town School trustee purchased lot No. 4 for a schoolhouse

in their area of town.<sup>9</sup> One reason they wished to establish a school in Comal Town may have been the difficulty of crossing the Comal River over which there was no substantial or safe bridge for the children to use when attending classes across the river. Another reason has been described as ". . . a spirit of independence. . ." which Comal Town residents felt.<sup>10</sup> In early 1852 a group of Comal Town residents petitioned the State Legislature to incorporate their school, the Comal Union School.<sup>11</sup>

In February 1853 the New Braunfels Board of Aldermen also acted. They appointed a committee to make recommendations for a city school.<sup>12</sup> In subsequent months a plan was developed, a school council and a property search committee were appointed.<sup>13</sup> A constitution for the city school was presented to the City Board on May 30, 1853, in which the first statement declared that the Board of Aldermen was organizing a city school ". . . until a state public free school system is established. . ." It was also agreed that two rooms and two teachers would be provided. In July members of the Board recommended that a school be opened ". . . in accordance with the School Constitution."<sup>14</sup> During the interim, the school functioned in a shack and rented buildings. Construction was still in the future as lawsuits to determine ownership of the selected property developed. Lots 215 and 216 had more than one owner from 1853 to 1855.<sup>15</sup>

At the same meeting of the Board of Aldermen, when they agreed to open the school in temporary quarters, the Board also discussed the possibility of ". . . petitioning the legislature to grant a school tax." The Board was sensitive to the pending 1854 school legislation and did not wish to interfere with it;<sup>16</sup> however, it is unclear whether the idea for a local tax for the benefit of the schools led to the Comal County

*local*  
~~tax law~~ of 1856 or the Act to incorporate the New Braunfels Academy in 1858. It is important to note that ~~New Braunfels was already considering~~ that option as early as January 1854 before the first public school law was passed.

County-District School Period: 1855-1858.

Shortly after New Braunfels city action, the ~~State~~ passed its first public school law establishing a state and county school system.<sup>17</sup> The Chief Justice of Comal County and the Board of School Commissioners, as prescribed by the state law, divided the county into eight school districts. The City of New Braunfels (excluding Comal Town), became District One.<sup>18</sup> In August M.A. Dooley transferred the deed to lot 215 to the School Trustees of District One with a stipulation that it must be used in perpetuity ". . .under the direction and control of the School Trustees of School District 1. . .to encourage and promote general education. . . ." Also, the deed stipulated that a school house must be built within eight months. William Seekatz, F.P. Fein, and George Ullrich also transferred the deed to lot 216 to the School District. The deed carried the same restrictions as lot 215.<sup>19</sup> To comply with the stipulation regarding the school house, on August 8, 1855, the Trustees of School District One signed a contract with Conrad Meyer, contractor, to construct a ~~one-story rock school~~ building on city lot 215 for \$1750.<sup>20</sup>

If the terms of the contract to build the school were kept, the ~~building was completed~~<sup>PROBABLY</sup> in April of 1856, a perfect time as the school *seep.* regularly took a one month vacation at the end of the winter semester.<sup>21</sup> Although the original plan by the Board of Aldermen was to build a two-room school, ~~probably~~ by the time the structure was built, it was decided to have a ~~three-room building~~ since the specifications call for three

doors on the rear of the structure.<sup>22</sup> Now it became the responsibility of School District One to find a way to pay for the structure.

Funding for schools was a continuing problem throughout Texas. The Legislature had attempted to provide for the schools in the early 1850s by granting surplus lands to each county which they could sell for revenue. The system was not effective because there was too much cheap land available in the state. In early 1852 two surveyors petitioned the Comal County Commissioners Court to locate school lands for Comal County.<sup>23</sup> Neither the sale of school lands nor the state apportionment provided by the Public School Law of 1854 provided sufficient revenue to sustain the local county school system.<sup>24</sup> The County took a bold step in 1856; it petitioned the Legislature to allow the several school districts of the County to levy a special school tax.<sup>25</sup> Each district was given the right to accept or reject the tax. District One petitioned the Comal County Commissioners to levy the tax for the nine months of 1856.<sup>26</sup>

At about the same time, just as the patrons of District One had completed their school, fulfilling the requirement of the 1854 school law for a "permanent school house," the State Legislature changed the law.<sup>27</sup> Among the several provisions of the Public School Law of 1856, it no longer provided for county school districts. For New Braunfels, it had the effect of placing the ownership of the school house, just completed by District One, in question. The law also allowed any child within the county to attend any school which it chose. Perhaps the leaders of the community could see a possible problem, over which they would have little control. The solution was new and innovative for 1858: a school for the children living within a specific area, the City of New Braunfels, which would be partly supported by local taxes.

The New Braunfels Academy Period: 1858-1878.

In developing a solution to the problem, the Board of Aldermen, City of New Braunfels, in a special called session, concretely took action to define the corporate limits of the City.<sup>28</sup> Within a few weeks, the State Legislature created the New Braunfels Academy, a corporation whose purpose was to provide an education for the children of New Braunfels.<sup>29</sup> The Act made the citizens of New Braunfels the stockholders. It was their responsibility to elect six trustees; the mayor was an ex-officio member and the Chief Justice of the County Court was the ex-officio president of the Board of Trustees. All power to transact business of the corporation was vested in the Board of Trustees.

To legalize a transfer of the property, the patrons of the now abolished First School District of Comal County, on February 27, 1858 ". . . unanimously resolved that all property. . . belonging to the public schools of the First School District of Comal County or the Free School at New Braunfels shall be donated and transferred to the New Braunfels Academy . . . ." The deed to the property is still in the name of the Academy.<sup>30</sup> It was valued at \$5,114.90 at the time of transfer. Other properties included: 53 school benches, 1 chair, 2 tables, 4 blackboards, 2 clocks, a globe with compass, a group of books (about twice as many in the German language as in the English language), 4 stoves with pipes, 4 water buckets, a hand brush and a broom.<sup>31</sup>

To finance the corporation, the authorities of the City of New Braunfels were given the power to levy and collect a special tax on all persons and property within the City which was subject to taxation by the State and limited in amount by the rate of the annual state tax. On May 15, 1858 the Board of Aldermen resolved to levy and collect the taxes

of the school corporation. In June, Johan Heilmann was bonded to receive and disburse the school monies.<sup>32</sup>

The School Board of Trustees was organized immediately into a form that it maintained throughout its existence. There were four basic committees: appointments and instruction, administration, finances, and library. Great leverage was given to committee members to act for the Board. If a particularly difficult problem arose, the full Board was then asked to resolve it.<sup>33</sup> Being careful to abide by the Legislative Act that created the Academy, the first School Board wrote by-laws and established rules and regulations for students and faculty. It also established a "Quarter Annual Conference" for the faculty. The Conference was designed to air and discuss important topics: curriculum, schedule of classes, methods for individual areas of study, acquisition of teaching materials, and review and disciplin, as well as behavior complaints. The Conference was also charged with the responsibility of sponsoring public examinations of the students.<sup>34</sup> The examinations were scheduled at the end of the winter term. The two-day ordeal not only tested the students, but was a tool to evaluate the teacher. Often his job would depend on the astuteness of his students in answering the questions posed by members of the Board of Trustees, Appointments and Instruction Committee. Parents were expected to attend and to vote on hiring the teachers again for the coming year.<sup>35</sup>

To be prepared for the public examinations during the six years that a student attended the institution, the curriculum was comprehensive and demanding. It varied slightly during the Academy years but generally included: reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic, all in the English and German languages, and translation from English and German grammar.

In addition, there was history of America and natural history, and geography.<sup>36</sup> A library was also established for the use of the students and faculty. Throughout the years, space and funds were limited. Although many plans were developed for the library, some may not have been realized. There was little money to replace worn out books; consequently, most came as gifts, some from important persons of the period.<sup>37</sup>

Not requiring the use of the library, there were also other less demanding courses: gymnastics and ladies handiwork were among those that were described as "instructional alternatives."<sup>38</sup> An innovation in education was developed in 1869 when a night school was started to train ". . .for a practical business career."<sup>39</sup> A serious music program was added in 1870 which was called the New Braunfels Volunteer Music Choir. It included the use of musical instruments.<sup>40</sup> One time that the choir could depend on being asked to perform was at the celebration that followed the ceremony to award diplomas to graduates on the last day of public examinations.<sup>41</sup>

For the students of the New Braunfels Academy era there were other serious considerations while attending school. The rules and regulations established very definite rules for the behavior of the students: dress code, attendance and illness expectations, discipline policy and punishment. There were also expectations with regard to sharing the work load at the school; penalties always followed a refusal to do ones share. Each student and parent knew that child's behaviour was a reflection on the parent whether in the classroom or on the playground. On the other hand, there were also expectations of parents; tardiness in paying the prescribed tuition could result in a student being expelled and an obvious embarrassment to both.<sup>42</sup> While the payment of tuition was a serious concern of the Academy Board, indigents and orphans were an accepted responsibility

from the beginning. Some funds became available to help after the passage of the early state school laws. These funds were dispersed by the County Court. From 1861 to 1863 the city assumed some responsibility as well as granting an interest-free loan to keep the school open through the difficult Civil War era.<sup>43</sup>

Financial matters were always difficult. Salaries for the teachers and repayment of mortgages and other loans kept the Board of Trustees constantly under pressure. Growth caused other pressures to hire additional teachers; the need for additional classrooms or library space were regular topics at the Board meetings. From the opening of the Academy to its end the faculty remained relatively constant at three or four teachers: one German, one English and one or two who taught in both the English and German languages.<sup>44</sup>

The need for an additional classroom became apparent by early 1866. Several plans were proposed but it was not until 1867 that two rooms were added to the original Academy structure. The addition was built by Charles Floege for \$1,820.<sup>45</sup>

BLOG.

The mortgage on the 1867 addition as well as other mortgages and indebtednesses had not been repaid when the State Legislature passed the third, and up to that time, the most comprehensive public school law. The law, in many ways, was patterned after and was influenced by the special legislation of 1858 which created the New Braunfels Academy. It provided a State Board of Education, and special assistants who were responsible for specified areas of the State. In the beginning, these areas were the same as the Judicial Districts of the State; however, special state school districts were formed in an amended law. There was a system of apportioning the state monies to the individual counties and then to

the designated districts within each county. Many of these elements were part of the Act to create the New Braunfels Academy. It must have been comforting for the pioneers of the school legislation in New Braunfels to know that they had a part in creating the new school law. That new law, however, created a problem for New Braunfels: The Academy was functioning well and the patrons were not anxious to be forced into accepting carte blanc the new state law. They hoped ". . .to keep the Academy open while simultaneously making use of the advantage of the Public School Statute." They found that to be difficult. At public meetings in <sup>BY</sup> 1871 and 1873, the patrons reluctantly decided to rent the building and the furnishings to the State Superintendent of Schools for consecutive terms.<sup>46</sup>

Joining the State public school system offered many advantages: teachers were, for the first time, placed under one year contracts although faculty examinations were also required.<sup>47</sup> The first principal was named during this period and assumed many of the responsibilities of the Instruction Committee.<sup>48</sup> The most obvious advantage was the rent which the State school system paid to the Academy Board for the use of its facilities. For the year 1871-72 and 1872-73, the building was rented for ten months each year at an annual rate of \$750 the first year and \$500 the second. The funds were used to pay off loans to Mr. Charles Floege and others, eventually creating a solvency that had never existed before.<sup>49</sup>

From 1873 to 1878 the Academy had the unique distinction of functioning as a Public Free School of the State of Texas while also having an active functioning Academy Board of Trustees. Funds were channeled through the Academy Board to the local school and at least one "Free Public School Board" existed; Dr. J.P. Lehde was elected its president.<sup>50</sup> Some question of the relationship must have arisen during this period as school

funds were withheld by local governing bodies but the Academy successfully demanded and received their payment.<sup>51</sup> In 1879, as the Academy's Charter was expiring, the Board of Trustees petitioned the Legislature to renew its Charter. While the House and Senate passed the Bill, Governor Oran N. Roberts vetoed it. He believed it to be unconstitutional.<sup>52</sup> The Governor's action brought to a close the period of the New Braunfels Academy, although as late as 1884 the name continued to be used in the Minutes of the Board of Trustees of the New Braunfels Public Schools of District One, Comal County. It was also commonly used throughout the life of the building.

#### Conclusion.

The Act that created the New Braunfels Academy eventually led to its demise as a functioning school for the students of the City of New Braunfels. The far-reaching legislation encompassed in the Act to create the Academy: local taxation for school purposes, was soon adopted by other progressive school districts who had moved forward under the Public School Law of 1854 and then possibly also found the ownership of school property in jeopardy when the 1856 law abolished the county school districts.<sup>53</sup> Local New Braunfels historians<sup>54</sup> have consistently asserted that New Braunfels' school system represents one of the first public schools to be partially supported by a self-imposed tax and the only one in Texas to survive in its original form: The New Braunfels Academy to its present day counterpart, the New Braunfels Independent School District.<sup>55</sup>

FOOTNOTES.

<sup>1</sup>John O. Meusebach, Answer to Interrogatories, In Case No. 396, Mary C. Paschel v Theodore Evans, District Court, McCulloch County, Texas, Nov. Term, 1893. Included in Colonial Documents, 1845, the Society for the Protection of German Emigrants, Mainz, Germany, 1845. (Austin: Pemberton Press, Micro., LAC 40090, 1964), p. 30. Meusebach states that in 1844 there were 700 immigrants introduced to Texas, 1845: 4304; 1846: 2376. A total of 7380. Hereinafter cited as Meusebach, Answer to Interrogatories.

<sup>2</sup>R.L. Biesele, German Settlements in Texas, 1831-1861, (Austin: University of Texas, 1930; reprint. ed., 1964, pp. 83-97. See also, Meusebach, Answer to Interrogatories, p. 29.

<sup>3</sup>Hermann Seele, "Dis Cypresse and Gesamellte Schriften," manuscript in Sophienburg Memorial Association, Archives, New Braunfels, Texas. For trans., ed., see Edward C. Breitenkamp, The Cypresse and other Writings of a German Pioneer in Texas, (Austin and London: University of Texas Press, 1979), p. 79. Ervendburg was called as the "spiritual leader."

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., p. 77.

<sup>5</sup>Oscar Haas, The First Protestant Church, Its History and Its People, 1845-1855, (New Braunfels, Texas: The Zeitung Pub. Co., 1955), p. 49. Also, Oscar Haas, History of New Braunfels and Comal County, 1844-1946, (Austin: Steck Co., 1968), p. 108.

<sup>6</sup>Meusebach, Answer to Interrogatories, pp. 18, 30.

<sup>7</sup>First Protestant Church, Minutes of the Church Board of Directors, V. 1 (16 February 1848): 16. Trans. by E.C. Mornhinweg, 1984. Hereinafter cited First Protestant Church, Minutes. The Sta. Peter and Paul Catholic Church had already opened a school for the children of their parish. See Monica Furhmann and others, The History of Saints Peter and Paul Church and Parish, 1844-1974, (New Braunfels, Texas: Modern Printing Co., 1974), n.p.

<sup>8</sup>First Protestant Church, Minutes, V. 1, (16 June 1850): 29-31; (24 March 1854): 31. This decision may have been made because of the action of the State Legislature in passing the Public School Law of 1854.

<sup>9</sup>Comal County Deed Record Book, "B," p. 282. Conrad C. Pape purchased lot no. 4 from M.A. Dooley for \$10. The deed stipulated that a school must be built on the site for the children of Comal Town.

<sup>10</sup>Curt E. Schmidt, "A Short Sketch of the Early Schools in New Braunfels," n.d., p. 2. The manuscript is a part of the authors personal papers. See also, Comal County Commissioners Court, Minutes, V. "A," (23 November 1853 to November Term 1856): 250-251ff.

<sup>11</sup>Texas, Laws of the State of Texas, "An Act to Incorporate the Comal Union School, 13 February 1852." Incorporators were: Daniel Murcheson, David H. Coleman, William Sattler, J.G. Muller, J.J. Ottens, Conrade Pape, C. Engelke, J.H. Klingemann, and Julius Haimes.

<sup>12</sup>New Braunfels, Minutes of the City Board of Aldermen, V. 1, (17 February 1853): 145. Hereinafter cited as New Braunfels City Board, Minutes. The members of the committee were: C. Seabaugh, J. Egging, and F. Ferguson.

<sup>13</sup>New Braunfels City Board, Minutes, V. 1, (7 March, 25 April 1853): 145a. Council members were: P. Triesch, L. Henne, A. Forke, L. Wilke and Rev. L.C. Ervendburg. Forke and Wilke were replaced by H. Eimcke and F. Moureau when they resigned. Property search committee members were: M.A. Dooley, W. Gerhard, and F. Ferguson.

<sup>14</sup>New Braunfels City Board, Minutes, V. 1, (11 July 1853): 149. \$473 had been collected for the school. During the interim, according to Curt E. Schmidt, "A Short Sketch of the Early Schools in New Braunfels," pp. 1-2, the school functioned in a shack and rented buildings. See also, "Story of the New Braunfels Schools," Neu-Braunfelser Jahrbuch, 1943, (New Braunfels, Texas: New Braunfels Zeitung Pub. Co., 29 July 1943): 52. Trans. by E.C. Mornhinweg for the author, 1985. Hereinafter cited, "The Story of New Braunfels Schools."

<sup>15</sup>For a complete ownership succession of lots 215 and 216, see Appendix I.

<sup>16</sup>"The Story of New Braunfels Schools," p. 51.

<sup>17</sup>Texas, Laws of the State of Texas, "An Act to Establish a System of Schools, 31 January 1854."

<sup>18</sup>Comal County Commissioners Court, Minutes, V. "B," (25 March 1854): 2. Comal Town was placed in District 2 along with Smithsons Valley and Waco Springs. When the idea of districts was first proposed, the Court divided the County in 4 districts, later, 8 districts were decided upon. See *ibid.*, V. "B," (18 May 1854):7.

<sup>19</sup>Comal County Deed Records, V. "D," (3 August, 11 August 1855): 424, 427. The group paid Dooley \$75 for the lot. The School Trustees in each case paid the "donors" a consideration of \$1.00 for the lots.

<sup>20</sup>The sum was to be paid in three payments of \$300, \$450 and a final payment of \$350 with 10% interest to be paid one year after completion of the project. The contractor held the loan until the final payment. In a subsequent mortgage agreement, C.W. Thomas, Jacob Schmidt, and Conrad Meyer actually supplied the funds. In 1865, Oscar Friedrich assumed Meyer's loan. See Comal County Deed Records, V. "D," (8 August 1855): 425-26; V. "H," (9 October 1865): 229. Finally, on 15 November 1855, three months after the construction contract had been let, Julius Eggeling gave his right to lots 215 and 216 to the Trustees of the First School District of Comal County for a \$1.00 consideration. See Comal County Deed Records, V. "E," (15 November 1855): 27-28. This deed carried no restrictions.

<sup>21</sup>New Braunfels Academy, Minutes of the Meetings of the Board of Trustees, 1858-1882 [sic], translated from German by Carl Clifton Toliver, Edna Faust translation project of the University of Texas, Austin, Texas, 1982, V. 1, "By-laws of the New Braunfels Academy," p. 37; (2 March 1858):10. Beginning in 1859, the spring vacation was shortened to approximately 2 weeks. See, V. I, (2 March to 5 March 2870): 42-143ff. Hereinafter cited New Braunfels Academy, Minutes.

<sup>22</sup>See Appendix II. By August 1858, it was suggested that ". . . a fourth teacher was necessary." See New Braunfels Academy, Minutes, V. 1, (19 August 1858): 33.

<sup>23</sup>Moses Evans and Granville H. Sherwood were the petitioners; however, Andrew Bell Burleson was subsequently hired to search for the lands and patent them. See Comal County Commissioners Court, Minutes, V. "A," Special Term, (16 April and 17, 22 May 1852):161, 165-169. Eventually 4 leagues of lands were patented for Comal County Schools for which the surveyor was paid \$350. See also, *ibid.*, V. "A," (13 September, 23 November 2853): 246, 253.

<sup>24</sup>The first apportionment was for \$392.46 in 1854. According to Friedrich Eby, Development of Education in Texas, (New York: MacMillian Co., 1925): 120, the apportionment allowance was \$.62 in 1854 and \$1.50 in 1855. The Comal County apportionment would have been \$2,062 based on the Comal County "free white" [student] population reported to be 708 in 1855. See, Comal County Commissioners Court, Minutes, V. "B," (10 May 1854): 7-8, 105.

<sup>25</sup>Texas, Laws of the State of Texas, "An Act authorizing the Trustees of the several School Districts of Comal County to levy and collect a special tax for school purposes, 4 February 1856." See Appendix IV for the complete text of this Act.

<sup>26</sup>Comal County Commissioners Court, Minutes, V. "B," (November Term, 1956):174-75. The First School District of Comal County collected \$278.45 in 1856 and \$327.37 3/4 in 1857. See, *ibid.*, (November Term, 2856 and February Term, 1857): 252, 270.

<sup>27</sup>Texas, Laws of the State of Texas, "An Act Providing for the

Support of Schools, 29 August 1856."

<sup>28</sup>New Braunfels City Board, Minutes, V. 2, (15 January 1858): 121.

<sup>29</sup>See Appendix V for the complete text of "An Act to Incorporate the New Braunfels Academy, 5 February 1858."

<sup>30</sup>The transfer was sealed by a \$1.00 consideration by the incorporators of the Academy. The incorporators were: James Ferguson, Francis Moureau, Julius Rennert, J.A. Stahely, W. Seekatz, and Theodore Koester. See Comal County Deed Records, V. "C," (27 February 1858): 778, and New Braunfels Academy, Minutes, V. 1, n.d., p. 1.

<sup>31</sup>New Braunfels Academy, Minutes, V. 1, n.d., p.5.

<sup>32</sup>New Braunfels City Board, Minutes, V. 1, (15 May, 7 June 1858): 132. The annual tax rate from 1 July 1858 to 1 July 1859 was 21½¢ per \$100 evaluation. The City collected \$328.66 3/4 for the first half year. Ibid., (6 August, 6 September 1858): 141, 144. On 1 January 1859 income from the Academy tax was \$289.28½; expenditures, \$286.61. \$2.67½ remained in the treasury. See *ibid.*, (21 February 1859): 162.

<sup>33</sup>New Braunfels Academy, Minutes, V. 1, "Rules and Regulations on Committee of Appointments and Instruction," p. 11; also, (14 May 1858): 28.

<sup>34</sup>*Ibid.*, "By-laws of the New Braunfels Academy," p. 37.

<sup>35</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 35-36.

<sup>36</sup>*Ibid.*, (1 November 1860, 4 March 1868): 55-56, 124.

<sup>37</sup>One ambitious plan called for printing a catalog; although the plan was proposed several times, it is doubtful that the project materialized. See New Braunfels Academy, Minutes, V. 1, (9 December 1853; 1 July 1860; 18 March 1861; 7 June 1864): 5, 48-49, 69, 86.

<sup>38</sup>*Ibid.*, (2 March 1859): 43.

<sup>39</sup>*Ibid.*, (28 June 1869): 140.

<sup>40</sup>*Ibid.*, (7 December, 25 March 1870): 146-47.

<sup>41</sup>Up to 1874, a student "graduated" when he or she completed the 6th year at the Academy. New Braunfels Academy, V. 1, (10 August 1874): 182.

<sup>42</sup>New Braunfels Academy, Minutes, V. 1, (15 March 1858):12, 16-18, 39, "Student Rules and Regulations," and "Student By-Laws."

<sup>43</sup>Ibid., (19 August to 4 December 1867): 34-122ff. There were numerous instances when exemptions were made for orphans and children of widows.

<sup>44</sup>Ibid., (19 August 1858 to 21 April 1866): 33-105ff. A fifth teacher was hired in 1866 and a sixth in 1874. See, Ibid., (21 April 1866, 5 August 1874): 105, 181.

<sup>45</sup>Ibid., (7 March 1866 to 18 May 1867): 103-120ff. The addition was built by Charles Floege for \$1,820. Of this amount, \$181.50 was paid by private contributions. Floege carried a mortgage for \$1,400. See Comal County Deed Records, V. "H," (26 June 1867): 79. One more addition completed the building that continued to be called "The Academy." In 1900 a partitioned classroom was added to house the seventh and eighth grades (High School); however, this addition was made by the New Braunfels Public Schools, not the New Braunfels Academy Board of Trustees. The photograph in Appendix III shows the schools after the 1867 addition. See Appendix VI for the appearance before it was removed from the premises.

<sup>46</sup>Ibid., (4 May 1858 to 19 September 1868): 22-130ff. Also, see, Texas, Laws of the State of Texas, "An Act to Organize and Maintain a system of public free schools in the State of Texas, 24 April 1871, amended, 29 November 1871. Between the two meetings, the patrons did try to re-open the institution as the "old Academy" but only 5 children enrolled, not enough to pay for even one teach. A later attempt in 1873 was also unsuccessful. New Braunfels Academy, Minutes, (6 June, 7 and 13 July, 23 August, 4 September 1871; 17 August 1871; 24, 30 June 1873): 150-51, 154, 157, 160, 164.

<sup>47</sup>Ibid., (7, 9 July 1871):150, 152. Salaries rose slightly (up from \$40 and \$50 to as high as \$60 a month.) A female teach, Miss Clara Melchert was hired for the first times, although Mrs. M. Klein taught "Ladies handiwork" in 1859. Ibid., (15 June 1859; 22, 27 September 1873): 47, 168, 170.

<sup>48</sup>Mr. R. Wipprecht was the first principal. See, Ibid., (28 August 1874; 5 October 1877): 183, 210.

<sup>49</sup>Ibid., (19 July; 4, 15 September 1871; 27 August 1872): 152, 157-58, 160.

<sup>50</sup>Ibid., (11 September 1873):168.

<sup>51</sup>Ibid., (10, 18 July; 5, 9 August 1875): 180-81, 187.

<sup>52</sup>"The Story of the New Braunfels Schools," pp. 43-46. The story includes a letter from State Senator F.C. Weinert, Seguin, Texas to Adolph Seidemann, New Braunfels, 8 April 1914. The Senator included papers of the Senate action in passing the New Braunfels Academy Act, 1858 and the Senate Action and Governor Roberts denial in 1879.

<sup>53</sup>A few other communities attempted local taxation as early as the late 1840s but none successfully maintained their system without interruption. See Laws of the State of Texas, "An Act to establish School in the County of Galveston, 21 January 1848," and an Act to authorize the Corporation of Galveston to levy a tax for the support of Free Public Schools, 2 April 1846." Houston and Corpus Christi were also among the early systems to use local taxation to support their schools.

<sup>54</sup>See Oscar Haas, Curt E. Schmidt, F.G. Oheim and others.

<sup>55</sup>The site has been used for school purposes from 1858 to the present date, as the original deed stipulates. In 1913 a new school building was started on the same site, and upon its completion, the old New Braunfels Academy building was removed. Part of it still is used for a home at 127 Nacogdoches Street, New Braunfels, Texas. The author is still searching for other parts of the structure. (See Appendix VII for a photograph of the remaining part of the building.) The 1913 school is currently being remodeled and will soon serve as an Administrative Office Building for the New Braunfels Independent School District.

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\*For ease in description, the volumes of the minutes of the New Braunfels school system have been assigned numbers according to chronological order. A complete list, including dates and assigned numbers follows.

MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE NEW BRAUNFELS ACADEMY, NEW BRAUNFELS PUBLIC SCHOOLS, DISTRICT ONE; and THE NEW BRAUNFELS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT. The list includes the assigned volume numbers and the dates of the assigned volumes to which the numbers have been assigned.

- Vol. 1: 3 March 1858 to February 1882.
- Vol. 2: March 1883 to 8 March 1892
- Vol. 3: 12 April 1892 to 3 March 1908
- Vol. 4: 7 April 1908 to 1 December 1914
- Vol. 5: 5 January 1915 to 25 October 1921
- Vol. 6: 3 January 1922 to 21 June 1924
- Vol. 7: 1 July 1924 to 29 August 1935
- Vol. 8: 5 September 1935 to 19 March 1943
- Vol. 9: April 1943 to December 1949
- Vol. 10: 3 January 1950 to August 1956
- Vol. 11: 10 September 1956 to 30 August 1957
- Vol. 12: 10 September 1957 to 12 August 1958
- Vol. 13: 9 September 1958 to 29 July 1959
- Vol. 14: 20 August 1959 to 10 August 1960
- Vol. 15: 7 September 1960 to 3 July 1961
- Vol. 16: 11 July 1961 to 20 August 1962
- Vol. 17: 11 September 1962 to 19 August 1965
- Vol. 18: 1 September 1965 to 1 September 1967
- Vol. 19: 12 September 1967 to May 1969
- Vol. 20: June 1970 to May 1970
- Vol. 21: June 1970 to December 1971
- Vol. 22: January 1972 to February 1973
- Vol. 23: 13 March 1973 to December 1973
- Vol. 24: January 1974 to December 1974
- Vol. 25: January 1975 to December 1975
- Vol. 26: January 1976 to December 1976
- Vol. 27: January 1977 to July 1977
- Vol. 28: August 1977 to April 1978
- Vol. 29: May 1978 to April 1979
- Vol. 30: May 1979 to 4 August 1980
- Vol. 31: 26 August 1980 to 25 August 1981
- Vol. 32: 1 September 1981 to 24 August 1982
- Vol. 33: 7 September 1982 to 22 August 1983
- Vol. 34: 6 September 1983 to 5 March 1985
- Vol. 35: 9 April 1985 to

APPENDIX I.

Progression of Ownership, New Braunfels City Lots, no. 215 and no. 216:  
Recorded in County Clerks Office, Comal County, Texas.

1. The German Immigration Company to M.A. Dooley, 10 April 1852. Recorded Volume C, page 542. Lot 215 is part of a 5 acre tract; Lot 216 is part of a 40 acre tract.

Dual ownership of Lots no. 215, no. 216.

2. Sheriff, Comal County, George Ullrich, to F.W. Grassmeyer, 2 February, 1853. Recorded Volume C, page 645.

Ownership in question: Lawsuit.

3. F.W. Grassmeyer v. M.A. Dooley, 2 February 1853. Recorded Volume C, pp. 645, 46, 47. Ownership retained by Dooley. Possibly the legal descriptions in the early records caused the discrepancy as the Grassmeyer tract was over 1,000 acres.

A Second Dual Ownership of Lots no. 215, no. 216.

4. Sheriff Comal County, George Ullrich to Julius Eggeling. (Sale ordered by District Court, Bexar County in favor of a mortgage held by M.J. and J.B. Lee against C.F. King. The relationship of King to the property is unclear.) Recorded, 3 July 1855, Volume D, p. 424.

5. The Lots are Separated.

Lot no. 215:

5. M.A. Dooley to School Trustees, Comal County Public Schools, District 1, 3 August 1855. Recorded, Volume D, page 424. The lot is a gift to the School District.\* The deed stipulates that it must be used forever for the school children of the District and that a schoolhouse must be built within 8 months.

Lot no. 216:

6. M.A. Dooley to William Seekatz, F.P. Fein, and George Ullrich, 11 August 1855. Recorded, Volume D, page 427.
7. William Seekatz, F.P. Fein, and George Ullrich to School Trustees, Comal County, District 1, 11 August 1855. Recorded Volume D, page 427. The lot is a gift to the School District. The deed stipulates that it must be used forever for the school children of the District and that a school must be built on lot no. 215 within 8 months.

Lots 215, 216: Rejoined and Dual Ownership Ends.

8. Julius Eggeling to School Trustees, Comal County, District 1, 15 November 1855. Recorded, Volume E, page 27. Eggeling is the Mayor of New Braunfels from 2 August 1852 to June 1856. Although the City was deeply involved in the schools at this time, the lot was purchased by Eggeling and given to the School District.\*
9. School Trustees, Comal County, District 1 to New Braunfels Academy, 27 February 1858. Recorded, Volume E, p. 778. No further action is noted in the deed records of the County Clerk, Comal County.

\*The gifts of the property are always sealed with a \$1.00 consideration.

APPENDIX II.

The Description of the Schoolhouse built for Comal County School District 1, found in the Contract signed by the School District and Conrad Meyer, Contractor. Recorded 8 August 1855, County Clerk's Office, Comal County, Volume 3, pp. 425-26.

. . .The Contractor. . .binds himself to the contract member of the first part and its official successors, and comes to an agreement with the same, that he will build a one story rock schoolhouse on the city lot No. 215 or on such a place as will be designated to him. . ., from good and sound materials in accordance with the enclosed building plan, to explain the same by February first next year, erect, build and finish. And the contract member of the first part obligates itself. . .to pay the sum of seventeen hundred and fifty dollars (\$1750). . . . .

Explanation of the schoolhouse plan.

- (1) This structure shall be 62 feet long, 23 feet wide, have a height of 10 feet, and have a wall thickness of 30 inches.
- (2) The inside shall be plastered and white washed.
- (3) The floors shall be of one inch thick fir wood and the ceiling of three-fourth inch fir wood, and be grooved and feathered.
- (4) The whole structure shall have 12 windows, each with 12 panes, the pane to be 12 x 15 inches. The windows shall be operative from below and above.
- (5) The casements for windows and doors shall consist of so called log borders and be set in masonry.
- (6) The front of the structure shall be a double door 4 feet wide and the same shall have fan light panes over them and form a symmetrical line with the windows. The locks and hardware shall be of good quality.
- (7) On the back side of the building shall be three simple doors 3 feet wide and four windows of above size.
- (8) On each gable side shall be two windows as above.
- (9) The floor supports shall be of sound wood of 6 x 6 inches and placed over the joists.
- (10) The joists shall have a strength of 2½ x 10 inches at intervals of 2 feet 3 inches.
- (11) The roof rafters shall be a length to give the building a proportionate roof, and a strength of 2½ x 5 inches, and the roof ridge beam shall be a height so that the roof will have the necessary pitch. A beam shall be placed only if required.
- (12) The roof boards shall be of red wood or fir and the shingles on 11½ inch centers.

Signatures of contract members: Alex Rossy  
Ferdinand Lindheimer  
C. Meyer

Witnessed by Albert Dreiss.

[ . . . . . ]

Translated from the German Language by:  
Eugene C. Mornhinweg, 1985

APPENDIX III.

Photograph of the New Braunfels Academy, New Braunfels, Texas, c. 1867 [after first addition]. The portion to the left is the original structure shown from the back side. The new wing [front of photograph] appears to be under construction.

Historic photograph is part of the Sophienburg Memorial Association Archives Collection and is reproduced courtesy of the Association.

Photograph copied courtesy of Eldon C. Ketler, New Braunfels, Texas.

[See page 26]

APPENDIX IV.

An Act authorizing the Trustees of the several School Districts of Comal County to levy and collect a special tax for school purposes.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas, That the County Court of the county of Comal, are hereby authorized and required to levy in the several School Districts of said county, a special tax for school purposes; Provided, that the inhabitants of each district to be taxed, shall consent in such taxation by a vote as prescribed in the second section of this act; and provided further, that said tax shall not be of greater amount in any district than the State tax.

Section 2. That it shall be the duty of the Chief Justice of said Comal County to order an election at any time within three months after the passage of this act, at which election a vote of the inhabitants of each School District in the county shall be taken; those in favor of the tax to vote "for the special school tax," and those opposed thereto, to vote "against the special school tax;" returns of such election shall be made to the Chief Justice within ten days thereafter; and in those districts in which a majority of the votes cast shall be for the special school tax, a tax shall be levied and collected agreeably to the first section of this act, and in those Districts in which a majority of the votes cast shall be against the special school tax, no such tax shall be levied.

Section 3. That the Taxes herein before provided for shall be collected by the Assessor and Collector of said Comal County, in the manner in which other taxes are collected, and that when collected, he shall pay the same to the County Treasurer, whose duty it shall be to pay the sum collected in each district to the trustees or other persons having supervision of the public schools of said District: Provided, This law shall not apply to the property of non-residents of the county.

Section 4. That this act take effect from, and after its passage.  
Approved 4th February, 1856.

## APPENDIX V.

### An Act to incorporate the New Braunfels Academy.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas, That Theodore Koester, James Ferguson, Francis Moureau, J.A. Stahely, William Seekatz, and Julius Rennert, be and they are hereby constituted a body corporate and politic by the name of the New Braunfels Academy, and by that name they shall have succession, with capacity to hold estate, real, personal and mixed, not to exceed two hundred thousand dollars in value, to sue and be sued, and generally to do any and all things necessary to carry into effect the purposes and objects of the above Institution, not incompatible with the laws and constitution of the State.

Section 2. That the citizens of the city of New Braunfels shall be the stockholders of said corporation; that said stockholders shall at a time to be fixed by a majority of the incorporators herein named, elect six Trustees, three of whom shall serve two years, and the other three four years, and that therefore three of said Trustees shall be elected every two years. That in addition to said six Trustees, the Mayor of the city of New Braunfels, shall be ex-officio Trustee, and the Chief Justice of Comal county shall be ex-officio President of said corporation, and a majority of the whole number shall form a quorum for the transaction of business. Said Trustees shall have the right to choose a Secretary and Treasurer from their number, to employ teachers, to establish preparatory schools, to fill vacancies in their own body, and to transact all business connected with the Institution, to pass By-Laws, and rules and regulations for their own and the government of the Institution. They shall have a common seal, and may change and alter the same at pleasure.

Section 3. That no religious qualification or test of any kind shall be requisite in order to become a Trustee, Professor, Instructor, or Student in said Institution.

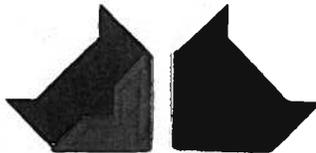
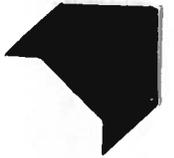
Section 4. That the location of said Institution is hereby fixed at the city of New Braunfels, in the county of Comal.

Section 5. That the corporate authorities of the city of New Braunfels, shall have authority in their discretion, to levy and collect a special tax upon all persons and property within the corporate limits of said city, and subject to taxation by the State, for the support of the Institution hereby incorporated, and the preparatory schools herein provided for, which tax shall not in any year exceed the rate of the State tax for such year, and shall be levied and collected in like manner as other corporate taxes of said city are, and when collected shall be paid over to the Treasurer of said Institution.

Section 6. That this Act take effect from and after its passage, and shall continue in force for twenty years and no longer.  
Passed, February 5th, 1858.

APPENDIX VII.

Candid photographs of the remaining section of the New Braunfels Academy now located at 127 Nacogdoches Street, New Braunfels, Texas.



Left Photograph: May be the original section which faced toward Comal Creek. It is described as having "...a double door..." on the front of the structure. It is believed that the front became the back when Mill Street was improved in 1902.

Right Photograph: Shows the rear of the original section (along with modern additions). The unusual roofline may indicate that it is the last section added to the school in 1900. A former student, believes that it is. [Mrs. Franciszka Liebscher, interview, August 16, 1985, New Braunfels, Texas.]

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

Successful local research is possible only when the combined talents of many people are shared. I wish to especially acknowledge the assistance of three individuals: Eugene C. Mornhinweg, Eldon C. Ketler, and Jolene Erben. Mr. Mornhinweg's unique ability to read and translate the old German script was invaluable. Without his help, the project would have lost much of its authenticity. Mr. Ketler, a master photographer, has generously shared his talent in this and many other projects in his adopted community, New Braunfels. Similarly, Mrs. Erbens assistance in the title searches was invaluable.

The help of public and private organizations is also the help of individuals. I especially thank those at the New Braunfels City Hall, the Comal County Clerks office, the New Braunfels Independent School District office, and the First Protestant United Church of Christ whose efforts often went beyond that which should be expected. The Sophienburg Association Board of Trustees and especially the staff in the Sophienburg Archives, I wish to acknowledge their generosity in sharing the holdings of their photograph collection and the contents of private papers. The treasures which they carefully preserve are available only because they care.

To the New Braunfels Independent School District Board of Trustees, for allowing the New Braunfels City Council Parent Teacher Association to sponsor the placement of a State Historic site marker on the site of the New Braunfels Academy, we say thank you. We cannot imagine a more

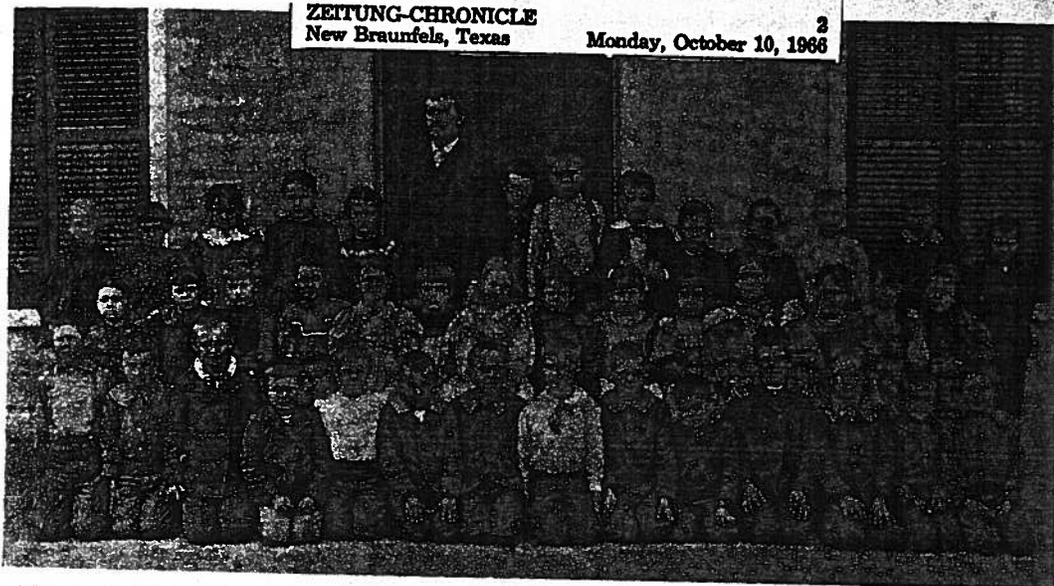
appropriate Sesquicentennial project for our community and for the State Parent Teacher Association than this one.

Finally, the school children of New Braunfels, whose efforts to raise the funds to place the marker must not be forgotten. In participating in this project, they will be acknowledging the value of the foundation laid by the New Braunfels early school officials in making their schools and education for the children a priority from the inception of the community.



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VII. Candid photographs of remaining section of New Braunfels Academy Building, 1985.	



**THIRD GRADE, 1897** — "One of the most valuable mixed assets I possess," was how the late Robert H. Tays Sr. referred to his copy of the above photo. He is one of the pupils in this third grade class of 1897-98 New Braunfels "Öffentliche Schule," (Public School).

Front row, l to r, Edwin Halm, Walter Holzmann, Arthur Wiemann, E. Schuchardt, Herbert Voelcker, Gilbert Naegelin, Robert H. Tays Sr., Otto Goetzel, Herbert Meckel, Johnnie Steger, Alvin Pieper, Jesse Sippel, Paul Guessow, and Henry Plumeyer.

Center row, l to r, Ottilie Coreth, Emmy Sippel, Alma Eisanann, Emilie Baus, Laura Mueller, Frieda Schmiedekind, Mathilda Weber, Frieda Meckel, Hilda Heidemeyer, Lena Gerlich, Maymie Forke, Emmy Staats, Hulda Roeper, Valeska Stein.

Back row, l to r, Lena Mergel, Vero Scholl, Ella Staats, Martha Popp, Anna Jahn, Teacher A. C. Coers, William Habermann, Heimo Floege, Martin Faust, W. Schuardt, Alfred Pursch, Carl Kramer, Alex Roth, and Alvin Meyer. (Photo from Mrs. R. H. Tays Sr.)

### Early New Braunfels — CXXIV

## Eighth Grade Added in 1891; Minutes in English in 1892

By Oscar Haas

Seventy-five years ago, a question whether to add the 8th grade to the New Braunfels "Öffentlichen Schule" (Public School) came up in a board of trustees meeting held July 7, 1891.

The board at the time was composed of the Hon. County Judge Adolph Giesecke; the Hon. Mayor Joseph Faust; Trustees Alfred Homann, Fritz Druebrt, Wm. Schmidt, Ernst Koebig, Ernst Gruene Jr., Louis Henne.

The board resolved to first go to the parents of the pupils who had finished the 7th grade and find out how many would come back if the 8th grade would be added. (Page 102 of minutes book No. 2)

There is no report in minutes as to the result of the visits to the parents; however evidence that the 8th grade was added is shown

in the minutes of the meeting. Katz succeed Messrs. Ernst Koebig and Ernst Gruene Jr.

Minutes now are in the English language and in a called meeting held June 14, 1892: "The Members of the Board found it necessary to employ six teachers, (and) it was moved, seconded and adopted to employ a sixth teacher at a salary of \$50 per month."

The names of the teaching staff then are quite familiar to many of us oldsters: Professors Max Kiesewetter, principal; J. M. Coyngraham, F. J. Heilig, L. S. Welsch, Miss Emma Toepperweln, and Miss Gertrude Metzenthin.

Miss Emma Heilig, elected the sixth teacher in June 1892, resigned July 25, 1892. According to Zeitung of April 27, 1893, she married Mr. Louis Rice.

The same issue of the Zei-

gung of the 10th of April, 1893, says: "Since the death of his wife a few years ago, he lived in the Ludwig, later Mittendorf Hotel where during his illness he was given the best nursing care especially from young Mr. Louis Mittendorf."

"Burial, was on May 1 under 'Geleite des Schulvorstandes' (escort of the school board), school children, and his large number of friends, at the Comal Cemetery."

Minutes of April 10, 1894, list Messrs. Adolph Stein and Otto Forke newly elected trustees replacing Messrs. Louis Henne and Heinrich Orth.

The first time, diplomas for graduates are mentioned, is in minutes March 5, 1895.

"The principal recommended the Purchase of Diplomas for children of the 7th grade who are expected to graduate of the so-called cc branches, in June, which

The city walls of Cartagena, Columbia, built 400 years ago, are wide enough for 8 cars to drive on, side-by-side.

Napoleon built the Arch of Triumph in Paris in 1806-07, at the intersection of 8 boulevards.

**THIRD GRADE, 1897** — "One of the most valuable mixed assets I possess," was how the late Robert H. Tays Sr. referred to his copy of the above photo. He is one of the pupils in this third grade class of 1897-98 New Braunfels "Öffentliche Schule," (Public School).

Front row, l to r, Edwin Halm, Walter Holzmann, Arthur Wiemann, E. Schuchardt, Herbert Voelcker, Gilbert Naegelin, Robert H. Tays Sr., Otto Goetzel, Herbert Meckel, Johnnie Steger, Alvin Pieper, Jesse Sippel, Paul Guessow, and Henry Plumeyer.

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The board resolved to first go to the parents of the pupils who had finished the 7th grade and find out how many would come back if the 8th grade would be added. (Page 102 of minutes book No. 2)

There is no report in minutes as to the result of the visits to the parents; however evidence that the 8th grade was added is shown in minutes of a special meeting of the board (page 103) at which time "Folgender Plan die verschiedenen Grade zu lehren, wurde angenommen" (the following plan was adopted by which the several grades were to be taught): 1st grade in one room; 2nd in one room; 3rd in one room; 4th & 5th in one room; 6th & 7th in one room; the 8th in one room to which Spanish and book-keeping was to be included.

Further evidence is contained in minutes on page 108, where the board in meeting September 23, 1891, resolved that students sent to the New Braunfels 8th Grade from other cities pay a \$2 tuition fee monthly.

This exhausts minutes book No. 2. And page 1 or book No. 3 lists names of two new board members: Messrs. Heinrich Orth and William See-

katz succeed Messrs. Ernst Koebig and Ernst Gruene Jr.

Minutes now are in the English language and in a called meeting held June 14, 1892: "The Members of the Board found it necessary to employ six teachers, (and) it was moved, seconded and adopted to employ a sixth teacher at a salary of \$50 per month."

The names of the teaching staff then are quite familiar to many of us oldsters: Professors Max Kiesewetter, principal; J. M. Coyngrahame, F. J. Heilig, L. S. Welsch, Miss Emma Toepferwein, and Miss Gertrude Metzenthin.

Miss Emma Heilig, elected the sixth teacher in June 1892, resigned July 25, 1892. According to Zeitung of April 27, 1893, she married Mr. Louis Rice.

The same issue of the Zeitung carried a news item on front page, titled "Comal Atheneum: Public debate in English, Friday April 28, in Courthouse. Resolved that reading is a better source of information than observation. Affirmative, S. R. Whitley. Negative, Prof. M. Kiesewetter." (Whitley was the first editor of the New Braunfels HERALD).

The Zeitung of May 4, 1893, has the obituary of Prof. Coyngrahame, who died April 30, 1893, age 53, a native of England.

"The past 10 years the deceased was a teacher 'an hiesiger Schule' (in local school). His best friend was his 'Bibliothek' (library) to which he devoted all of his spare time . . .

"Since the death of his wife a few years ago, he lived in the Ludwig, later Mitterdorf Hotel where during his illness he was given the best nursing care especially from young Mr. Louis Mitterdorf.

"Burial, was on May 1 under "Geleite des Schulvorstandes" (escort of the school board), school children, and his large number of friends, at the Comal Cemetery."

Minutes of April 10, 1894, list Messrs. Adolph Stein and Otto Forke newly elected trustees replacing Messrs. Louis Henne and Heinrich Orth.

The first time, diplomas for graduates are mentioned, is in minutes March 5, 1895.

"The principal recommended the Purchase of Diplomas for children of the 7th grade of the so-called branches, in June, which duly considered, and Principal Mr. Neuss was authorized to order fifty Diplomas at once." (Page 28, minutes No. 3).

Prof. J. G. Neuss succeeded Principal Kiesewetter July 3, 1893. Other teachers elected in 1893: Profs. C. A. Brown, Hermann Buley, Miss F. A. Philipps.

Miss Philipps resigned May 1894 and was succeeded by Miss Tillie Kordzick of Fredericksburg.

Prof. Buley, according to minutes of a called meeting held December 14, 1894, had died on the evening of that date, and object of the meeting was:

"To arrange for his burial . . . Motion of Mr. Seekatz to pay the expenses out of the General Fund was adopted."

The city walls of Cartagena, Columbia, built 400 years ago, are wide enough for 8 cars to drive on, side-by-side.

Napoleon built the Arch of Triumph in Paris in 1806-07, at the intersection of 8 boulevards.

Ottie Coreth (Miss) first in second row left to right, is costodian of Sophienburg Museum in New Braunfels.

JANUARY 1900

APPENDIX VI.

The old New Braunfels Academy Building after a wing [far left and back of photo] was added in 1900. This is a postcard reproduction, c. 1914 just prior to the building being moved from the site.

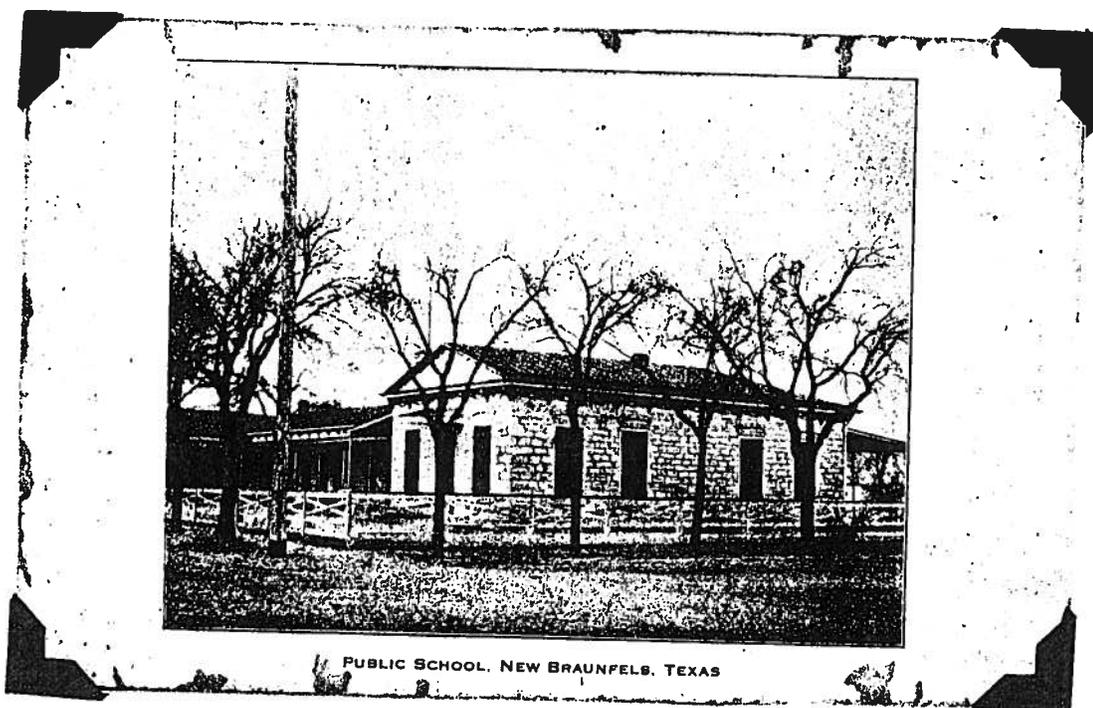
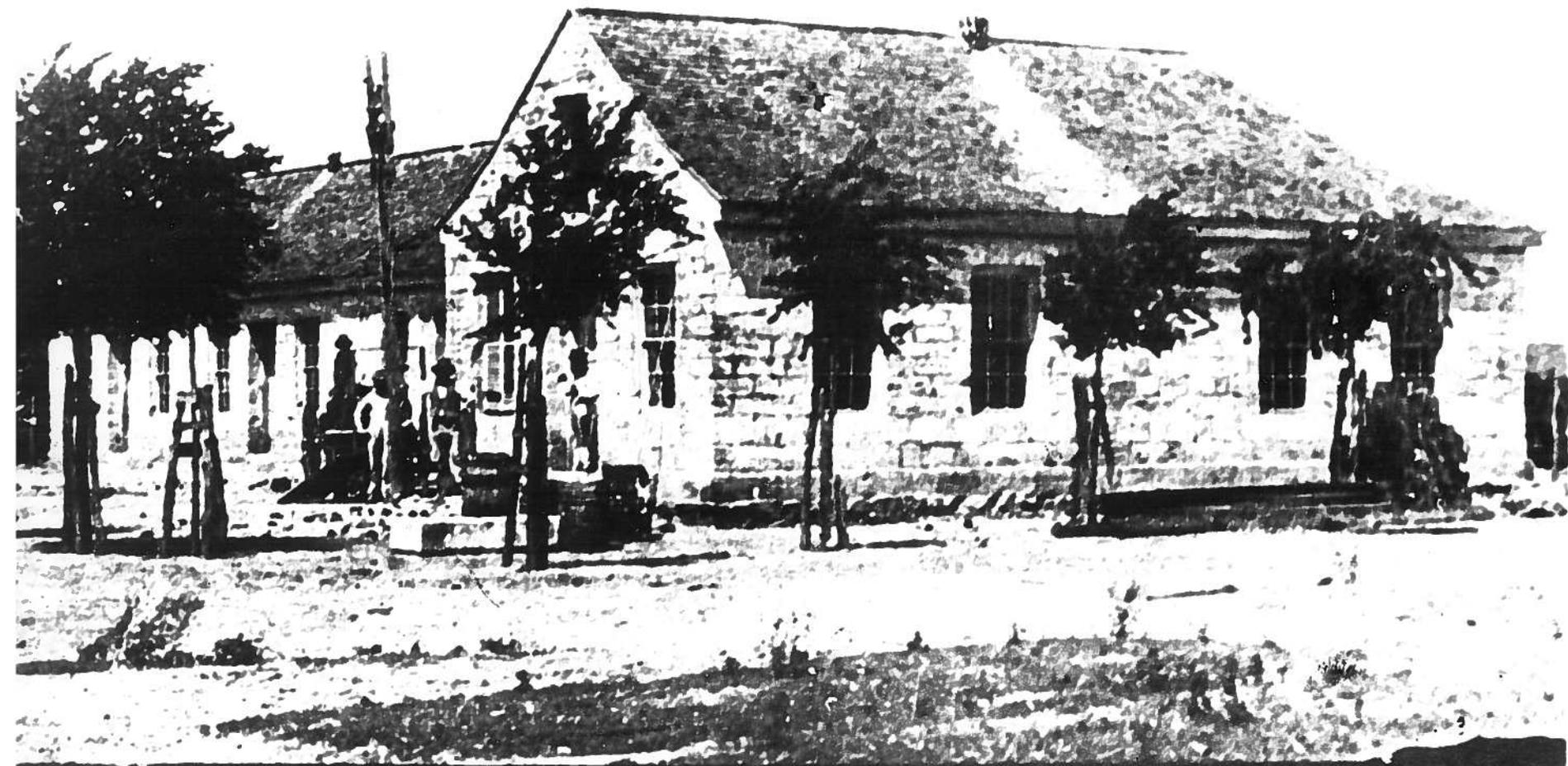


Photo courtesy of the Sophienburg Memorial Association, Archives, New Braunfels, Texas.



127. OLD ACADEMY. NEW BRAUNFELS.

