

12" X 6" Medallion Plate inscription
Comal County

SAND BRICK HOME, BUILT

1855, BY GEO. ULLRICH, WHO

HAD DRIVEN FIRST WAGON OF

GERMAN EMIGRATION CO.

SETTLERS IN 1845 ACROSS

THE GUADALUPE RIVER.**

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK, 1965.***

**3/8" lettering

***1/4" lettering

Presentation of TEXAS HISTORICAL BUILDING MEDALLION, the first in New Braunfels and for Comal County, to Mr. and Mrs. Chester W. Geue, 2636 Stadium Drive, Fort Worth, Texas, July 7, 1962.

The Geues have acquired for preserving for historical heritage the pioneer home of Mr. Geue's grandparents on his maternal side in New Braunfels at 554 West Mill Street.

Gist of the presentation.

This pioneer home, 554 West Mill, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Geue owners, is presented THE TEXAS HISTORICAL BUILDING MEDALLION, by the Texas State Historical Survey Committee, Mr. Geo. W. Hill, Exc. Director, Austin, Texas, through Oscar Haas, Chairman Comal County Historical Survey Committee.

County Judge Clarence W. Rice, at the request of Mr. Hill, in 1959, to appoint a County Historical Survey Committee, appointed the Directors of Sophienburg Memorial Museum Association for that committee.

The committee however never became interested in that type of activity and has rocked along these past three years.

For a year and a half or so now Mr. and Mrs. Geue have conducted research on their own families on their paternal and maternal sides. Mrs. Geue far back as the Mette Eschels and Essel Nissen Schmidt family of the 1700s back of Northern Silesia down to Dr. Frederick Wm. Hander and Katie Wolfer family in Texas.

Mr. Geue goes back to pioneer families Friedrich Geue and Elisabeth Mether from Alten-Elatow, Prussia, and Heinrich Staats and Wilhelmine Busch from Steinbrucken, Nassau, and George Ullrich and Johann Jost Froelich families from Lindenau, Meiningen, and Bicken Nassau respectively.

Mr. and Mrs. Geue, finding what could be found in records, became deeply interested, made trip after trip from Fort Worth to New Braunfels, to Austin, even to New York City to delve into records.

They next purchased from Mrs. Blanca Froelich Bading, this, Mr. Geue's Grandparents on his maternal side home, renovated to its original beauty. By that I mean the varnish, paint, and enamel that in course of time is applied to doors, window frames etc., removed and the original character of the wood from which these were produced, restored. Restoration work was done by Mr. Gus. Biesenbach under supervision of Mr. and Mrs. Ernst Stein.

The land here belonged to a former governor of Texas when Texas was a state of Mexico, Juan Martin de Veramendi. Later when Texas yet was the Republic of Texas, Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels in 1845 purchased 1265 acres of the land. According to Comal County Deed Records book H page 511, Viktor Bracht, author of Bracht's Texas, became owner of Acre Lot #168 and sold Lot #6 out of the acre lot (30 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres) containing $\frac{1}{2}$ an acre Bavarian measurement to George Ullrich who according to research by the Geues, built these two front rooms and kitchen on the west side in 1855. By 1865, a daughter of George Ullrich, Sophie, married William Froelich and lived here. Additional rooms were added to accommodate the growing Froelich family.

It is my pleasure, in the name of Texas State Historical Survey Committee, and for myself as one-man Comal County Historical Survey Committee and/or both as un-offical and amateur deliver in New Braunfels and Comal County history, to make this announcement: that you two are the first couple in New Braunfels and Comal County to place a TEXAS HISTORICAL BUILDING MEDALLION as a symbol of preservation of a historical building and shall be the nucleus for an eventual conservation society being formed such as Fredericksburg, San Antonio, Seguin and other places have for preservation of historical heritage. This medallion is number 107. C O N G R A T U L A T I O N

Oscar Haas

Daily Tribune-Herald

Waco, Texas
OCT 22 1967

COMAL



MR. AND MRS. CHESTER GEUE

Genealogical Society Guests Monday Evening

Chester Geues To Be Guests Of Local Ancestor Hunters

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Geue, who have restored a pioneer New Braunfels home, are to be guests of Central Texas Genealogical Society Monday at 7 p.m. in the meeting room of Waco-McLennan County Public Library.

Howel Woodfin will preside and introduce them. The Geues are both descendants of German immigrants who came to Texas more than a century ago. They will tell a bit about Germans in Texas before 1844, more about those who came between 1844 and 1847.

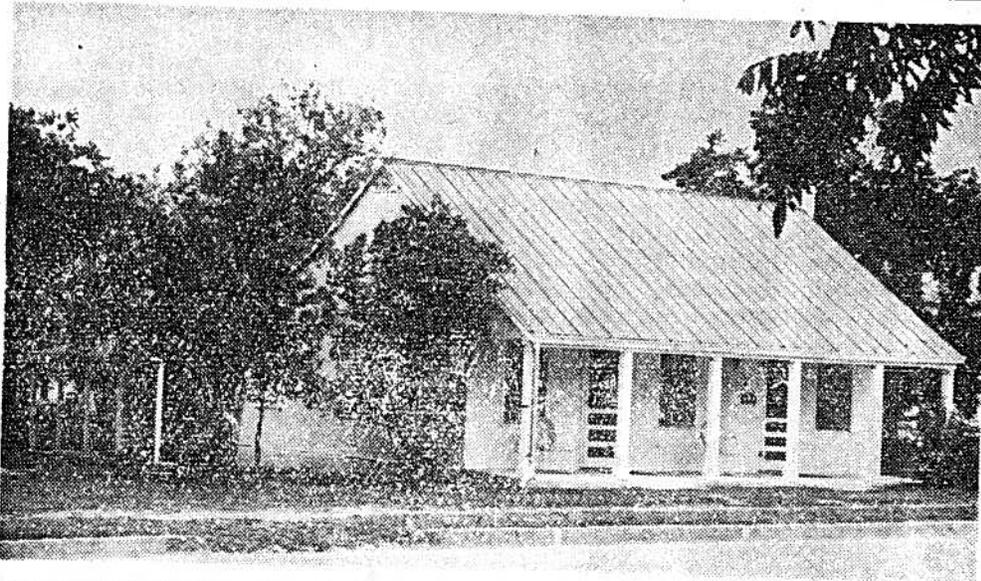
Geue was a native of New Braunfels and his wife, formerly Ethel Hander, of Beaumont. A coincidence was that his great-uncle and her great-aunt were members of the same confirmation class in 1857, with no idea that descendants in the two families would meet at the University of Texas in Austin, marry, and rear a family.

Mr. and Mrs. Geue lived in Eastland 16 years, then to moved to Fort Worth where Mr. Geue continued his career as an engineer until his retirement in 1964.

His great-grandfather, Georg Ullrich, led the first wagonload of settlers across the Guadalupe River at the founding of New Braunfels in 1845. Mr. and Mrs. Geue have restored the cottage he built, and Texas State Historical Survey Committee awarded it a medallion in 1962.

They have continued their search for more information on the colonization plan that brought 7,200 Germans to Texas in the mid-1840s. They have written a book, *A New Land Beckoned*. It is a compilation of source material on this immigration with a short history of settling the nearly four million acres of the Fisher-Miller grant. Genealogists find the book a source of information. Mr. and Mrs. Geue are both members of Texas State Historical Association and of Texas State Genealogical Society. He speaks and reads German, including script.

President Woodfin reports that Central Texas Genealogical Society has had a 10 per cent increase in membership within the last few weeks.



HISTORIC HOUSE—This is the century-old George Ullrich residence on Mill St., New Braunfels, restored to its original pioneer appearance. The house has been presented an historical medallion.

Couple, House in New Braunfels Receive First Historic Medallion

Oscar Haas - Special Correspondent

NEW BRAUNFELS — (Spl.)—A Fort Worth couple, descendants of a pioneer New Braunfels family, have been awarded a Texas Historical Building Medallion for a home they own here.

Mr. and Mrs. Chester W. Geue are the recipients of the medallion for the George Ullrich home. Ullrich was Mrs. Geue's great-grandfather.

The Fort Worth couple has completely restored the handsome old home in keeping with its pioneer warmth.

Enamel and paint coats which had encrusted the woodwork all have been removed and doors, windows and their frames have

been restored to their original wood finish. The original floor levels have been retained throughout the house.

Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels in 1845 appointed Ullrich wagon-master for the wagon train bringing immigrants up from the coast. On Good Friday, March 21, 1845, after Prince Solms himself on horseback rode through the Guadalupe River at the old Nacogdoches Rd. Crossing, to

test depth and force of the flood water there, Ullrich drove the first wagon with immigrants across the river.

Mr. and Mrs. Geue, on Mr. Geue's retirement, plan to live in New Braunfels and devote their efforts to restoration and preservation of pioneer landmarks here. Mrs. Geue is a granddaughter of Christian Wilhelm Hander native of Denmark and a Confederate soldier in the Civil War. He kept a diary now translated to English by Col. Leonard B. Plummer of Department of Germanic languages University of Texas.

The historic building medallion was the first to be awarded in Comal County. Oscar Haas, member of the Comal County Historical Survey Committee, announced the award.

Cave Preview Planned For C.C. Banquet

NEW BRAUNFELS (Spl.) —The annual chamber of commerce banquet of the Comal County Chamber and New Braunfels Board of City Development is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 14 in Landa Park,

