State of Texas *
*
County of Comal *

Proclamation

RECOGNIZING SPRING BRANCH POST OFFICE
A TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION MARKER AND DEDICATION

WHEREAS, in 1867 the first Spring Branch Post Office after the Civil War was established by Gottlieb Elbel out of his homestead in Spring Branch. The first mail arrived on August 27, 1867 between New Braunfels and Fredericksburg through Spring Branch by pony express rider Adolph Jonas on horseback. Gottlieb Elbel was the postmaster until 1872. Spring Branch originated in Western Comal County along the Guadalupe River on Spring Branch Creek. The area was mainly settled by German immigrants to Texas after the founding of New Braunfels. The restored structure still stands at 170 Rittimann Road, Spring Branch, Comal County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, a Texas Historical Commission marker will be dedicated at the site and reads: GOTTLIEB ELBEL AND CHRISTIANE ZEH IMMIGRATED TO TEXAS FROM GERMANY IN 1849. THEY MARRIED AND SETTLED THIS FARM AND WERE AMONG THE FOUNDERS OF SPRING BRANCH CREEK. GOTTLIEB BUILT THIS TWO ROOM LOG CABIN IN 1852 WHERE THE FAMILY LIVED. THE SPRING BRANCH POST OFFICE ORIGINALLY OPENED ON SPRING BRANCH CREEK IN 1858, CLOSED DURING THE CIVIL WAR, AND REOPENED IN THIS HOMESTEAD CABIN FROM 1867 TO 1872 WITH GOTTLIEB ELBEL AS POSTMASTER. HE KEPT A POSTAL JOURNAL THAT IS AN INVALUABLE RECORD OF THE POSTAL CORRESPONDENCE AND SUBSCRIPTIONS OF THE AREA RESIDENTS. THIS POSTAL STATION BETWEEN NEW BRAUNFELS AND FREDERICKSBURG, WITH THE MAIL DELIVERED ON HORSEBACK, WAS SIGNIFICANT IN THE RURAL COMMUNITY'S DEVELOPMENT; and

WHEREAS, Harlan Henryson purchased the Elbel property in 1998 and restored the 1852 cabin and also the family's later home built in the 1870s that stands nearby. Harlan sponsored the marker dedicating this important location. Carmen Rittimann and Brenda Anderson Lindemann were instrumental in providing research for the supporting documents for this marker; and

WHEREAS, a marker dedication will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2015 at 10am at 170 Rittimann Road, Spring Branch, Texas. Barbeque lunch will be provided by Dan Simmons. Donations will be accepted. The proceeds from the barbeque will benefit the Wounded Warriors Program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Comal County Commissioners Court duly convened and acting in its capacity as the governing body of Comal County, and the Comal County Historical Commission wish to commend you on your work towards receiving this marker and your dedication to historical preservation and recording the history of Comal County.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 16TH day of April, 2015.

Sherman Krause, County Judge

Donna Eccleston, Commissioner Pct 1

Scott Haag, Commissioner Pct 2

Kevin Webb, Commissioner Pct 3

Absent

Jen Crownover, Commissioner Pct 4

COMMISSIONERS' COURT COMAL COUNTY TEXAS

Attest:

Bobbie Koepp, County Clerk