State of Texas *
*
County of Comal *

Proclamation

RECOGNIZING SMITHSON VALLEY CEMETERY
A HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY MARKER AND DEDICATION

WHEREAS, the Smithson Valley Cemetery on FM 311 in Comal County was established in 1876 with the burial of two-year-old Karl Ohlrich. It was initially a ranch cemetery and was deeded as a graveyard by the baby's uncle, Heinrich Pantermuehl. There are 125 platted plots in the cemetery and 76 gravesites. Burials continue in this cemetery of descendants of the initial Smithson Valley families. The Smithson Valley Cemetery Association was established in 1970 to maintain and care for the cemetery. The cemetery was certified as a Historic Texas Cemetery in 2008 and the Association has now sponsored a Texas Historical Commission marker to designate the location; and

WHEREAS, Smithson Valley was named after Benjamin Franklin Smithson. Smithson was one of the first to settle in the area and became a rancher and farmer. The Germans of the community called it "Schmidtsthal" which translates to "Smith's Valley". At one time, the community had a store, cotton gin, blacksmith shop, one-room schoolhouse, dance hall, post office, bowling alley, saloon and cemetery. Benjamin Smithson would not be buried in the cemetery, however, many of the German immigrants who lived, worked and gave life to the valley, are buried there; and

WHEREAS, Teresa Johnson, secretary of the Smithson Valley Cemetery Association prepared the marker application and narrative with the help of Carmen Rittimann. Carmen has faithfully maintained the association minutes. Dennis Saur is the president of the Smithson Valley Cemetery Association sponsoring the marker. The marker will serve as a reminder of German immigration and settlement in the Texas Hill Country; and

WHEREAS, a marker dedication will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2015 at 11am at the cemetery on FM 311 off of Hwy 46.

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

Attest: Bobbie Koepp
Bobbie Koepp, County Clerk

COMMISSIONERS' COURT
COMAL COUNTY, TEXAS