

REVIEW

Oscar Haas, **History of New Braunfels and Comal County, Texas 1844-1946**. Austin: First Printing, 1968; Second Printing, 1975. 338 pp.

New Braunfels, county seat of Comal County, Texas, has a long and significant association with the German-Texan population. Established in April 1945 as the **Hauptstadt** of the **Verein zum Schutze deutscher Einwanderer in Texas**, it was the initial destination of thousands of immigrants during the latter half of the 1840's and later. Today, the town still remains essentially German in character.

History of New Braunfels and Comal County, Texas 1844-1946, first printed in 1968 and followed by a second printing in 1975, is a concise historical accounting of both the town and the county, including chapters on the early Indian and Spanish history of the area, the arrival of the Germans under the auspices of the **Verein** and the establishment of New Braunfels, early transportation and travel, old buildings, clubs and societies, city and county schools, county post offices and early industries, as well as a detailed chronological history of the county history (1844-1946) drawn from the Commissioners Court minute books and other sources. Among the many lists included are found the founding colonists and the numbers of their town lots, the recorded deaths of the 1845-1846 epidemic, the charter membership list of the First Protestant United Church of Christ, 1845-1846 marriages, muster rolls of men who served in the Confederate forces from Comal County, names and dates of New Braunfels mayors, Comal County judges and clerks, names of early teamsters, alphabetized 1850 and 1860 census enumerations, and a wealth of other data important to the researcher.

Mr. Oscar Haas, himself a descendant of **Verein** colonists, is esteemed as a historian of note on the area of which he writes and the German-Texan population centered there, and both he and his wife have never been too busy to eagerly encourage and assist the research efforts of others. Born October 12, 1885 in Comal County, Mr. Haas served as Comal County Treasurer from 1934 until 1962 and began the accumulation of his many files of historical data early in his public office career. For many years he contributed weekly articles on the history of Comal County to both the German-language **Neu-Braunfelser Zeitung** and the English-language **Herald**, and following the merger of the two papers in the early 1950's to form the New Braunfels **Herald and Zeitung**, he continued until the event of his ninety-first birthday to supply a weekly historical article. In addition to the book of this review, Mr. Haas is the author of **A Chronological History of the Singers of Germans Song in Texas** (1948), was the compiler of **The First Protestant Church, Its History and Its People, 1844-1955** (1955), and supplied the data on Comal County utilized in **The Handbook of Texas**.

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