



**Johann Wolfgang Braeutigam<sup>1</sup>**



**Christine Kensing Braeutigam<sup>2</sup>**

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## **Johann Wolfgang Braeutigam**

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### **Johann Wolfgang Braeutigam**

**Born:** 16 March, 1829 in Kaltenlengsfeld, Germany.

**Baptized:** 17 March, 1829

**Married:** 1 September, 1850 in Fredericksburg, Gillespie County, Texas.<sup>3</sup>

**Died:** 3 September, 1884 in Fredericksburg, Gillespie County, Texas.<sup>4</sup>

**Buried:** Der Freidhof Cemetery in Fredericksburg, Gillespie County, Texas.

### **Justine Louise Charlotte Kensing<sup>5</sup>**

**Born:** 26 November, 1831 in Hamelspringe, Hanover, Germany.

**Baptized:**

**Died:** 18 October, 1924 in Fredericksburg, Gillespie County, Texas.

**Buried:** 19 October, 1924 in Der Freidhof Cemetery in Fredericksburg, Gillespie County, Texas.

Johann Wolfgang Braeutigam was born 16 March, 1829 in Kaltenlengsfeld, Germany. Wolfgang was the third child of Johann Valentin and Maria Elisabeth Pfeiffer Braeutigam.

Probably sometime in 1845, Wolfgang's family made the decision to immigrate to the Republic of Texas. After a long journey of approximately three months, the Braeutigam family reached the coast of the Republic of Texas. After a long stay in Indianola, the family was transferred by wagon and foot to New Braunfels. Later the family was one of the first families in Fredericksburg.

On December 12, 1847, the men of Fredericksburg and the surrounding area petitioned the state legislature to form a new county to be called Pierdenalis<sup>6</sup>. Wolfgang Braeutigam's signature along with 149 other men's signature may be found on this document. The legislature agreed and formed Gillespie County on February 23, 1848, in honor of Captain Robert Addison Gillespie, an officer who was killed in the Texas-Mexican War.<sup>7</sup> Fredericksburg was named the county seat. This allowed official business to be performed in Fredericksburg and not travel the sixty miles to San Antonio.

Wolfgang received town lot #564 located on present day Ufer Street (later called Peach Street) and his mother, Maria Braeutigam, received town lot #395 just north of him on Creek Street.

In 1848, the Texas Legislature renewed the Fisher-Miller grant and certificates. The heirs of Valentin Braeutigam (Wolfgang's father) received the 640 acres of land on certificate number 222.<sup>8</sup> This entitled the heirs to

the land in the Giddings district (later known as McCullough County). Valentin's land was in sections 560 and 561 in Giddings District 3, about 20 miles northeast of the old San Saba Fort. Wolfgang received 320 acres of land on certificate number 756 since he was at least 17 years of age when reaching Texas.<sup>9</sup> Wolfgang's land was in section 1235 in Giddings District number 3, about 2.5 miles north of the old San Saba Fort.

In 1850, Fredericksburg had a white population of 672.<sup>10</sup> Wolfgang would marry Christine Kensing on 1 September, 1850. Christine was born in the Province of Hanover, Germany on November 26, 1831. She came to Texas with her parents in 1845 on the ship *Gerhard Hermann*<sup>11</sup>. Her mother and sister died in Indianola of Cholera. In 1846, her father, Fred Kensing, two brothers, and herself, moved to Victoria where her father started a blacksmith shop but died before completion. The remaining three children came to Fredericksburg in 1846.<sup>12</sup>

Wolfgang and his wife, Christine, were living with Wolfgang's sister, Anna Hopf, probably on Creek Street.<sup>13</sup> On May 12, 1851, Wolfgang Braeutigam became a citizen of the United States.<sup>14</sup> On May 30, 1853, Wolfgang sold his 320 acres of land for \$20 to a Mr. A. F. Wrede.<sup>15</sup> Because of the many Indians in McCullough County, Maria Braeutigam traded her certificate of land for a saddle. Wolfgang Braeutigam and his mother bought 99 acres of land on Drei Kricken.<sup>16</sup>

By 1860 Fredericksburg had grown to almost 1200 people and the county white population to 2703.<sup>17</sup> Wolfgang Braeutigam and family lived at Grape Creek, just southeast of Fredericksburg. By then the Braeutigams had 200 acres (21 improved and 179 unimproved) of land for cattle, swine, wheat, Indian corn, and sweet potatoes.<sup>18</sup> Wolfgang and Christine had five children by 1860, with two dieing at an early age.

In 1861 Texas voted to secede from the Union, but Gillespie County voted 400 'against' and 17 'for' the secession.<sup>19</sup> This prompted many anti-German feelings throughout the state. Most Germans did not volunteer for the armed services of the Confederacy, but some would volunteer hoping to stay near home and help with Indian defense.<sup>20</sup> On 16 August, 1862, Wolfgang Braeutigam is listed as voting for a Brigadier General for the Texas State Troops (a sort of Home Guard for Gillespie County).<sup>21</sup> Wolfgang is also listed as a private of the 3rd Frontier District, Company C, of the Texas State Troops serving for 8 days at \$2.00 a day. Wolfgang enlisted on 14 April, 1864 in Gillespie County.<sup>22</sup>

By 1870, Wolfgang still had 200 acres (55 improved and 145 unimproved) of land for cattle, swine, wheat, rye, Indian corn, oats and sweet potatoes.<sup>23</sup> In March, 1870, Wolfgang bought 640 acres of land closer to Fredericksburg. This land included the abandoned Ft. Martin Scott.

During the 1870s Indians were still a major threat to the citizens of Fredericksburg and the surrounding area. On November 1, 1876, a petition was written and signed by the men of Gillespie and Blanco Counties to ask Texas Ranger Captain McNelly for a detachment of men to be place on the border of Gillespie and Blanco Counties because "the State of our Society is such that we need an extreme degree assistance to maintain law and our rights..."<sup>24</sup> Wolfgang Braeutigam was one of the men who signed this petition.

The 1880 Agricultural Census list Wolfgang Braeutigam as having 640 acres (45 improved and 595 unimproved). Wolfgang also had:

Horses	8
Mules	8
Milch cows	6
Other cattle	6
Calves dropped	6
	3
	330
	150
	196
	1
	3
207 fleeces @ 400 lbs	
Swine	25
Poultry, Barnyard	36
Eggs produced in 1879 (dozen)	150
8 acres of Indian Corn for 30 bushels	
6 acres of Wheat for 65 bushels	
10 acres of cotton for 2 bales <sup>25</sup>	

The 1880s also brought the first County Fair of Texas to Gillespie County. In 1881 Wolfgang Braeutigam had the first Gillespie County Fair on his land.<sup>26</sup> Close to present day Highway 290, Wolfgang and his family built a saloon and a small store. Between the two buildings, he built what is said to have been the first dance hall in the county. This was known as "Braeutigam Garten".

In September of 1884, three men entered "Braeutigam Garten" for refreshment. One man demanded Wolfgang had over his money, but Wolfgang refused and reached for his rifle instead. The man shot Wolfgang dead. Wolfgang's youngest child, Henry, was the first to find his father. Wolfgang passed away on the 3rd of September 1884.

The family ran the fair and "Braeutigam Garten" for several more years before finally selling all concessions and closing "Braeutigam Garten".

Henry Braeutigam would later inherit the Ft. Martin Scott property and his mother Christine would live with Henry and his family until the first part of 1923. Christine moved in with her daughter, Mrs. E. Schuchard until Christine passed away on October 18, 1924.<sup>27</sup>

**Children:**

Johann August Braeutigam 25 November, 1851 - 13

August, 1916.

Heinrich Braeutigam 25 January, 1854 - (?).<sup>28</sup>

Emma Sophie Braeutigam 17 January, 1856 - 23 April,  
1858.

Anna Elise Braeutigam 9 December, 1857 - 27 February,  
1929.

Richard Valentin Andreas Brautigam 3 December, 1859 -  
27 March, 1927.

Emma Sofie Marie Braeutigam 18 January, 1862 - 4  
February, 1932.

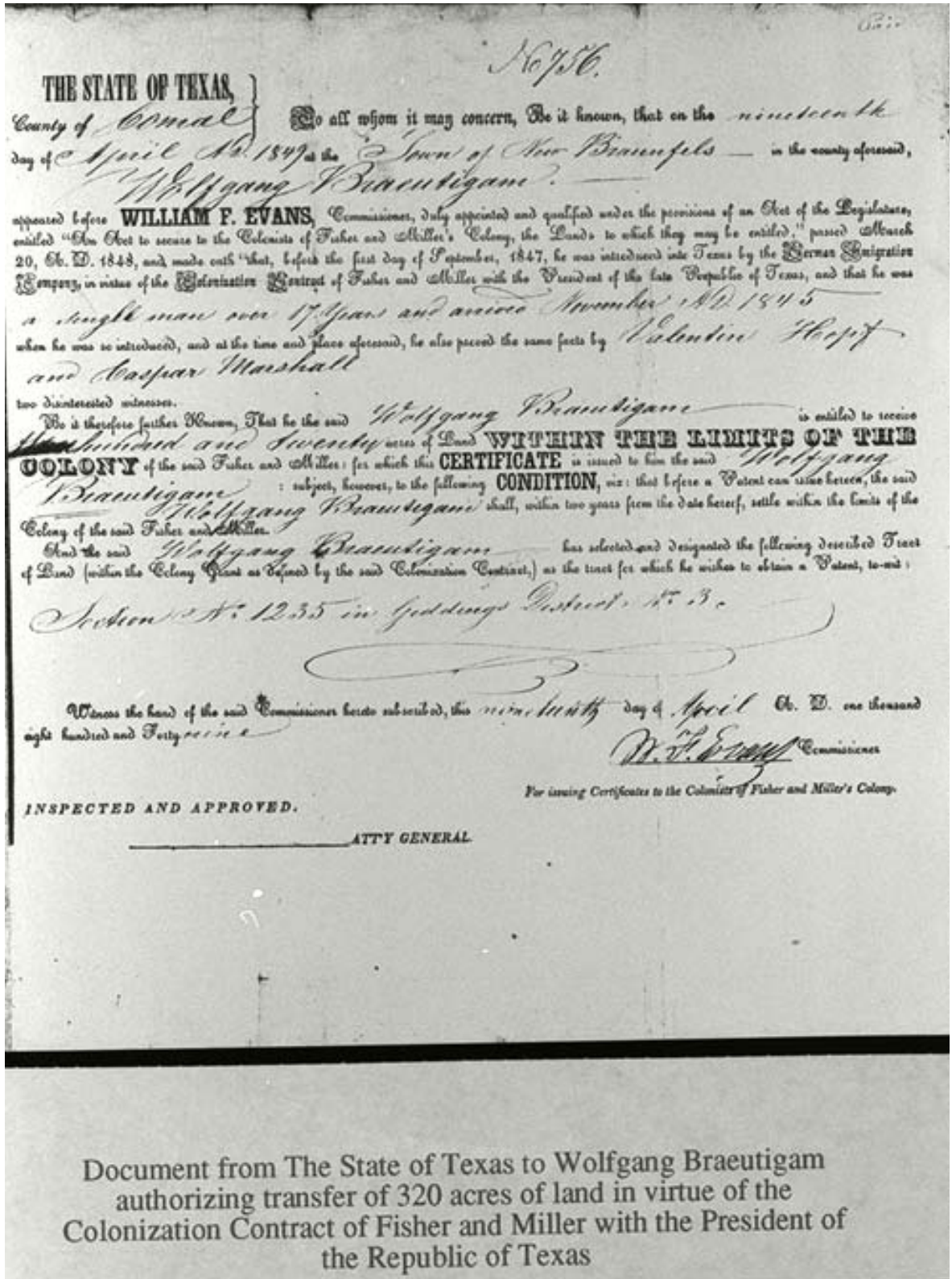
Otto Heinrich Paul Braeutigam 8 September, 1864 - 6  
February, 1944.

Max Felix Braeutigam 10 January, 1866 - 5 August, 1884.

Emil Braeutigam 11 February, 1869 - 20 August, 1929.

Christine Elise Braeutigam 23 May 1871 - 4 July, 1959.

Henry Wolfgang Braeutigam 9 March, 1874 - 26 October,  
1946.



U. STATES OF AMERICA. }  
STATE OF TEXAS. } KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:--  
COUNTY OF COMAL.

That I *Wolfgang Braeutigam* one of the emigrants introduced as a colonist under a certain contract of colonization entered upon between the Government of the Republic of Texas and Henry F. Fisher and B. Miller, bearing date the 1st day of September, A. D. 1843, and by the latter assigned and transferred to the German Emigration and Railroad Company, do by these presents acknowledge and declare, that I arrived in Texas on board the *Tobias Detlev* from Bremen at the port of *Galveston* on the *eighteenth* day of *December* A. D. 1845 and that by virtue of said colonization contract, I am being a single man over the age of 17 years entitled to a conditional grant of *Three hundred and twenty* acres of land. Now be it known, that I the said *Wolfgang Braeutigam* do by these presents accept the same upon the terms and conditions in the said colonization contract set forth and contained, and I do for myself, my heirs and administrators, in consideration of the trouble and expenses of the said Company, had for transportation and otherwise, also in consideration of One Dollar to me in hand paid by the said Company, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, and in pursuance of the permission granted to me in the said colonization contract, by these presents release, assign and set over unto the said German Emigration and Railroad Company, the one-half of the said *Three hundred and twenty* acres being *One hundred and sixty* acres of land, together with all my right, claim and interest, of, in and out of the same, in fee simple. In witness whereof, I have herunto set my hand and seal by way of seal, this *the twenty second* day of *March* A. D. 1847

Witnesses, *Wolfgang Braeutigam*  
*H. Seale*

Document from the State of Texas authorizing the transfer of 320 acres of land. Note the date of arrival to Texas – 18 December 1845. Also note the signature of Wolfgang – he is still writing in the old German method – the ‘W’ looks like an ‘M’ and the ‘B’ looks like an ‘L’.

No. 222.

The State of Texas }  
 County of Breal }  
 Be it known that on the thirtieth day of April A.D. 1849. at the City of New Braunfels in the County aforesaid Maria & Wolfgang, Elizabeth & Elise Braeutigam heirs of Valentin Braeutigam deceased proved before William S. Evans Commissioner duly appointed and qualified under the provisions of an Act of the Legislature entitled an Act to secure to the Colonists of Fisher and Miller's Colony the Lands to which they may be entitled passed March, 20th A.D. 1848, by the testimony of Valentin Kopf and Caspar Marshall two disinterested witnesses, that the said Maria & Wolfgang & Elizabeth & Elise Braeutigam are the heirs of Valentin Braeutigam deceased and that the said Valentin Braeutigam deceased was before the first day of September A.D. 1847, introduced into the German Colonization Company's rights of the Colonization Contract of Fisher and Miller with the President of the late Republic of Texas: that he was a married man & arrived America in 1835, when he was so introduced, and that he departed this life in the year A.D. One thousand eight hundred and forty six.

Be it therefore further known, that the said Heirs of the said Valentin Braeutigam deceased are entitled to receive six hundred and forty acres of Land within the Limits of the Colony of the said Fisher and Miller: for which this Certificate is issued to the said Heirs subject, however to the following Condition viz: That before a Patent can issue hereon the said heirs of the said Valentin Braeutigam deceased, shall, within two years from the date hereof settle within the Limits of the Colony of the said Fisher and Miller.

And the said Heirs of the said Valentin Braeutigam deceased have selected and designated the following described tract of Land, situated within the Colony Grant as defined by the said Colonization Contract, as the tract for which they wish to obtain a Patent, to wit:

Sections No 560 & 561 in Garrison's District No: 3

Witness the hand of the said Commissioner here to subscribed this thirtieth day of April A.D. One thousand eight hundred and forty nine.

W. S. Evans Commissioner  
 For issuing Certificates to the Colonists of Fisher and Miller's Colony

Transfer of land to the heirs of Johann Valentin Braeutigam

State of Texas  
Gillespie County  
and State of Texas  
Know all men by these presents that  
Johann Wolfgang Braeutigam of the County  
of Gillespie State of Texas  
do hereby acknowledge and confess, and  
by these presents do assign and transfer unto  
A. P. Wulff all my claim title and interest in the following tract of land to  
which I am entitled as an emigrant introduced under Fisher  
& Miller Contract by the German Emigration Company  
to wit: Three hundred and twenty acres of land within  
the limits of the Colony of said Fisher & Miller Section  
No. 1235 in Giddings District N. E. within the Colony  
Grant as defined by the said Colonization Contract, for  
which the necessary certificate being No. has been duly issued  
unto me by W. P. Cross Commissioner at the City of New  
Orleans April 19<sup>th</sup> A. D. 1849. under the provisions of an  
act of the Legislature passed March 20<sup>th</sup> 1848. and hereby  
authorize the said A. P. Wulff to take out a patent therefor  
and to exercise complete ownership thereof together with  
all and singular the rights members benefits and  
appurtenances to the same belonging. I have and to hold  
all and singular the said tract of land & premises unto him  
the said A. P. Wulff his heirs and assigns forever hereby  
binding myself my heirs executors administrators & assigns  
to warrant and forever defend all and singular the said  
tract of land & premises unto the said A. P. Wulff his heirs  
and assigns against the claim or claims of all and every  
person or persons whomsoever claiming or to claim the same  
lawfully or any part thereof, by through or mean me my  
heirs executors administrators & assigns or for return whereof  
I have hereunto set my hand and seal for seal  
this thirtieth day of May A. D. 1853.

J. W. Braeutigam

Wolfgang sells his land for \$20

State of Texas ~~County of~~ ~~Wade~~ ~~County~~ ~~Clack~~ ~~in~~ ~~and~~ ~~for~~  
~~Greene~~ ~~County~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~County~~ ~~State~~ ~~of~~ ~~Texas~~ ~~do~~ ~~hereby~~ ~~certify~~  
 upon ~~Wolfgang~~ ~~Braeutigam~~ who in my pres-  
 ence signed sealed and delivered the instrument of writing on the  
 reverse hereof, and declared the same his act and deed for the  
 uses and purposes therein contained. Witness my hand and  
 official seal this thirtieth day of May A. D. 1853.

P. W. C. C. G.

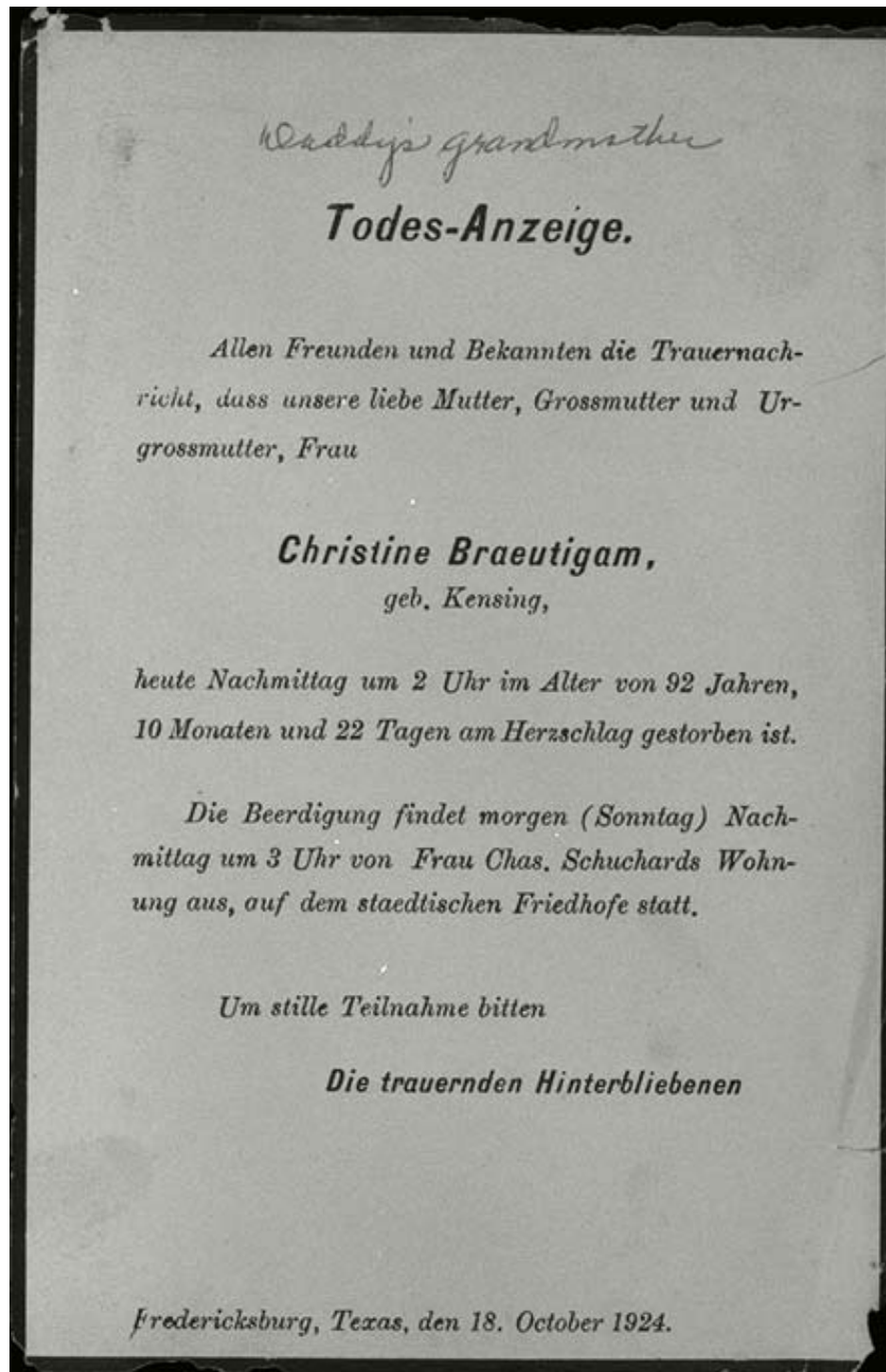
The State of Texas & I James Smith Clerk of  
 the County Court of said County do hereby certify  
 that the within and foregoing instrument of writing  
 was filed for registration in my office the 14th day  
 of February 1854 at 3 O'clock P.M. and duly  
 Recorded the 25th day of June A. D. 1854 at 6 O'  
 clock P.M. in the Record of said County in  
 Book L No. 2 on pages 616 and 617. —  
 Witness my hand and the  
 Seal of the County Court of said  
 County at office in San Antonio  
 the day and year last above written  
 James Smith  
 Clerk

Wolfgang Braeutigam's citizenship entry



Petition  
We the undersigned Citizens  
of Gillespie and Blanco Counties  
recognize the generous and extended  
to us by Capt. K. [unclear] and his  
Gallant Rangers, and would respect-  
fully ask a continuance of his or  
their aid, We request to make a formal  
Statement and say that the State of  
our Society is such that we need  
in an extreme degree assistance to  
maintain law and our rights and  
by that a detachment of men be  
stationed in our midst somewhere  
on the line of Gillespie and Blanco  
Counties  
Nov. 1st 1850

Petition asking for Texas Ranger protection against Indians in Gillespie and Blanco Counties.



Obituary notice for Christine Braeutigam (in German)

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**The Murder Of  
John W. Braeutigam**

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Mr. Wolfgang Braeutigam, or John Braeutigam, as he was commonly called, was the owner of a place for entertainment located about two miles from Fredericksburg on the San Antonio road. He was a well-liked person and was about 55 years of age at the time of his unfortunate experience.

On September 3, 1884 four strangers entered his establishment and asked for some drinks. When he served them the drinks, one of the men drew his revolver and sought to empty the money chest. Mr. Braeutigam, who was a courageous man, reached for his musket which was standing in the corner when the robber's bullet struck him fatally. The money till contained only a small sum.

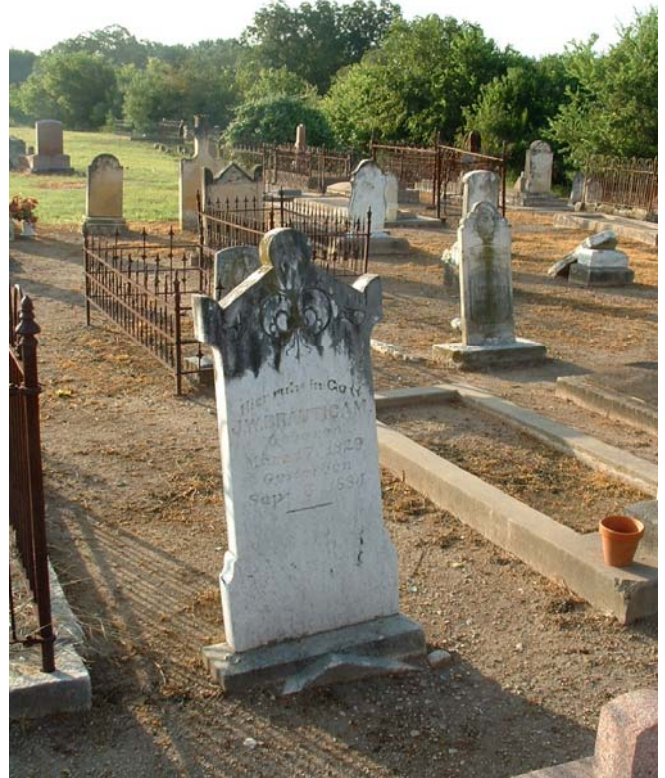
Since the business establishment was located some distance from the nearest residences, it enabled the perpetrators to escape unmolested. One of them was shot by a ranger in the lower country when he resisted arrest. Another was delivered to the local jail and met with death when the jail was destroyed by fire. A few years later the third one was shot to death above Mason and the fourth one, presumably the one who committed the murder, a fellow named Fannin, escaped.

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*The Murder of John W. Braeutigam*, pg. 79, Fredericksburg, Texas. The First Fifty Years,  
A Translation of Penninger's 50th Anniversary Festival Edition by Dr. Charles L. Wisseman, Sr., 1971.



Headstone of Max Felix Braeutigam  
Der Friedhof Cemetery  
Fredericksburg, Texas  
January 10, 1866 – August 4, 1884



Headstone of Wolfgang Braeutigam  
Der Friedhof Cemetery  
Fredericksburg, Texas  
March 29, 1829 – September 3, 1884

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<sup>1</sup>Photo courtesy of Christine Luckenbach, Luckenbach, Texas.

<sup>2</sup>ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Volume 1, Page 1, Marriage Records of Gillespie County, Fredericksburg, Texas.

<sup>4</sup>*The Murder of John W. Braeutigam*, pg. 79, Fredericksburg, Texas. The First Fifty Years, A Translation of Penninger's 50th Anniversary Festival Edition by Dr. Charles L. Wisseman, Sr., 1971.

<sup>5</sup>Justine Louise Charlotte Kensing Braeutigam was commonly known as Christine Braeutigam.

<sup>6</sup>Texas State Archives, Austin, Texas.

<sup>7</sup>The Handbook of Texas, Volume 1 and 3, The Texas State Historical Association.

<sup>8</sup>German Immigration Contracts, Texas General Land Office, Austin, Texas.

<sup>9</sup>ibid

<sup>10</sup>Census of 1850. Gillespie County had a population of 1235 white persons and 5 slaves.

<sup>11</sup>Pioneer's in God's Hills, Volume I, pg 250, A New Land Beckoned, 1844-1847, Chester Geue. pg 108.

<sup>12</sup>Fredericksburg Standard, Fredericksburg, Texas. October 25, 1924. NOTE: other sources list Christine's fathers name as Georg Christian David Kensing--The Bremers and Their Kin in Germany and in Texas by Robert R. Robinson, Jr., Volume II, pg. 831.

<sup>13</sup>Valentine and Anna Hopf received town lot #396 located next to Maria Braeutigam town lot in Fredericksburg. Pioneer's in God's Hills, Volume I, pg 263.

<sup>14</sup>Gillespie County Courthouse, Fredericksburg, Gillespie County, Texas.

<sup>15</sup>German Immigration Contracts, Texas General Land Office, Austin, Texas.

<sup>16</sup>Drei Kricken is also known as Grape Creek and later known as Luckenbach.

<sup>17</sup>German Settlements in Texas, R.L. Biesele; Census of 1860.

<sup>18</sup>1860 Production of Agriculture Census in Texas.

<sup>19</sup>German Settlements in Texas, R.L. Biesele.

<sup>20</sup>Fredericksburg, Texas During the Civil War and reconstruction, Masters Thesis by Frank W. Heintzen, 1944.

<sup>21</sup>31st Brigade, Texas State Troops folder, Texas State Archives, Austin, Texas.

<sup>22</sup>Dallas Public Library.

<sup>23</sup>1870 Production of Agriculture Census in Texas.

<sup>24</sup>November 1, 1876 McNelly Petition. San Jacinto Museum of History. LaPorte, Texas.

<sup>25</sup>1880 Production of Agriculture Census in Texas.

<sup>26</sup>Annual Fair Was Outstanding Community Event, G. C. Callan.

<sup>27</sup>Fredericksburg Standard, Fredericksburg, Texas. October 25, 1924. NOTE: The paper list her daughter as Mrs. E. Schuchard, it should be Mrs. Charles C. Schuchard.

<sup>28</sup>Heinrich Braeutigam died supposedly when the family was still in the Luckenbach area. He was buried there with

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his sister, Emma Sophie, and his Grandmother, Maria Pfeifer Braeutigam. Heinrich does appear in the 1860 census, but not in the 1870 census.