
❖ Haas & Bauer ❖

Issue 1

November 1996

What's this about?

Last spring we started working on the genealogy/history of the BAUER and HAAS families. This newsletter is an attempt to let you know what we are doing.

Genealogy can be very addicting. People get interested in genealogy for a number of different reasons.

No matter why somebody becomes interested, in researching their history it is "too" late. This area is full of shoulda's. "I should have started twenty years ago so I could've talked to my grandparents." "I should have got the names of the people in the old pictures."

Because time is "running out", we are approaching this project with a degree of urgency.

The primary objective is to gather as much as we can as fast as we can. The tradeoff is accuracy. We would rather have a lot of stuff that might not be perfectly accurate, than a few sheets of paper that are "perfect".

We are *digitizing* everything we gather. This includes scanning every piece of paper and picture into a computer.

By putting everything into a computer we get a number of benefits.

One of the benefits is that this is good way to store pictures. These photos will never fade, they will never get torn and it is easy to make a copy for somebody.

The main benefit is that a computer is good for indexing all these pieces of papers that we are storing. We are just getting started and already have over 7000 pieces of pictures and papers to put into the computer. To fully index this data will require us to index at least 50000 separate items / events / pictures.

A picture of 10 people will require us to index at least 10 separate items. As you can see it is going to take a long time to to fully index everything .

This indexing system will be very easy to use. It will use the same format that the WORLD WIDE WEB on the Internet uses. This might not make sense to you if you don't have a computer. The long and the short of it is that you can work this system with just a mouse.

For example, we have over 100 pieces of paper related to John B. Haas. This index will allow you to locate and look at the original document within seconds.

This indexing and digitizing system is another reason why we are not concerned with "accuracy" at this time. This system will let you double check everything that we write about.

By the year 2000 everything should start to come together. The data that we have will go from "rough draft" to "almost final" status. Computers and printers should be significantly more powerful. Imagine a machine the size of a book holding all of our data.

WHAT DO WE HAVE?

In starting this project we wanted to focus on the "sharing" of data. All the stuff we have will be available for the cost of "copying". We are not set up to do mass copying and distribution at this time.

However, we want to let you know what we got. There is no need for anybody to retrace our efforts and expenses in gathering information. If you are thinking about starting your own genealogy project, call us. We can make special arrangements to let you look at our stuff.

The following are a brief descriptions of some of the things we got.

SSDI - When somebody dies, you can get a death benefit from Social Security. The Social Security Death Index has almost everyone in the country who "applied" for a death benefit since 1963. This includes the persons birth date, death date, where they lived before death.

Phone Disks - We have disks which have most of the listed telephone numbers in the United States. You can get a list of everybody who lives in Plain. You can get a list of everybody in Wisconsin who has the last name of Haas.

World Family Trees - We are using the FAMILY TREEMAKER program to track people. This program includes family trees that people have turned in. I was surprised to find the Ruhland Family Tree included. The Ruhland Family Tree seems to include BAUERS. Who knows what else might be hidden in these disks.

Census - After 72 years, the government releases the detail census data. Since Franklin, Bear Creek and Spring are small, we made a copy of the entire census for these townships for 1900. This data lists everybody with their birth dates, number of years married, number of children, number of children still alive, year that they immigrated, etc. We also have census data from 1870 1875 1880 1885 1905.

Ship data - We got the detail passenger lists for the voyages that HAASs and BAUERs took from Germany to America. We have the detailed specifications and histories of these ships. Thanks to Theresa Haas for getting this data from the Essex Museum.

Birth/Marriage/Death Certificates - We have the death certificates of most of my great-grandparents and grandparents. We have several other certificates that we collected for various other reasons.

Plat Maps - These maps show who owned what land. These documents help explain a number of different mysteries. We have plat maps for 1857 1877 1890 1906 1922 1947 1990. Most of the maps are complete for BEAR CREEK and FRANKLIN.

Old pictures of Plain/Saint Lukes - We have pictures of the interior of church destroyed by cyclone and other old pictures.

Blau Family History - If we can do as good a job with our history as the BLAUs did with the Blau Family History, we will have done well. This document has biographies about our RUHLAND and KRAEMER ancestors.

Laubmeier Family Tree - This family tree covers 7 generations of our ancestors.

Kraemer Family Tree/Data - Everybody has some Kraemer relations. We have detail data on this family.

Books - There are some great books about Plain. Some of those that we used as sources are :

History of Plain by Hilda Thering
1957 100th Anniversary of St Luke's
One-room school houses of Sauk Co
Cemetery inscriptions of Sauk County .

Home News - Esther Ruhland-Haas and LaVerne Haas have been clipping articles from the Spring Green Home News paper. We having clippings from the 1930's to the present. These clippings are a good source of our family history. We also have access to every Home News since the beginning of time.

Photos - Thanks to Rita Haas-Ruhland we have some fantastic pictures of John B. Haas's and Joseph M. Ruhland's families.

We have lots of other stuff. In future letters we will write about this stuff.

Family Tree

Enclosed is a preliminary draft of our family's ancestor trees. Take them for what they are worth. These will be corrected in the future on a regular basis. We'll also make descendant trees and time outlines.

Future Plans

One goal is to try to keep people up-to-date on the status of project. This newsletter is the first attempt.

I plan on focusing each newsletter on a main topic. There are a slug of issues to be addressed.

Some relatively untouched areas to be researched are wills filed at the county court house and old HOME NEWS newspaper articles. Another thing to be looked at is the record book of the Plain undertaker from the first part of the 1900's.

What should you do next?

1) Let me know if you want to continue to receive this newsletter. I am planning on sending it to my aunts, uncles, and siblings. If I don't hear from you, I'll **remove** you from the mailing list.

2) If you are planning on getting a new computer, we recommend that it have a 2.5 gigabyte harddisk, pentium processor, 17-inch screen. Call me for specific recommendations.

3) I will be home during the weeks of Thanksgiving and Christmas. If you would like to see this stuff on my computer, call me.

4) If you have any stories, letters or pictures to share, please let us know.

5) Look for the 10-part PBS series on genealogy starting in January 1997.

Future issues will deal with "stories" about how are ancestors lived. This should make more interesting reading. This issue was meant to spark interest. Please let us know of any comments or suggestions. (There is no prize for identifying the most mistakes in this newsletter.)

PS. We documents that prove that Franziska Bauer/Reuschlein/Pronold is officially dead.

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