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# PLAIN HISTORY GENEALOGY GROUP

*Covering Plain, Sauk Co, Wisconsin and Beyond*

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<http://solo18.abac.com/garylhaas/phgnews/phgnl020.htm> *Page with Active URLs*

## Vol 20 June 2004

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## Meeting & Events Schedule

**Plain History Genealogy Group  
Sat July 17th, 2004 9:30 am, Plain, WI  
Kraemer Library and Community Center**

### **NOTE SPECIAL DATE FOR MEETING**

The topic for July's meeting is "USING TECHNOLOGY IN DOING FAMILY RESEARCH." We will be looking at a number of technological toys and tools that you can use to research your family history. You won't have to be a "total" byte-head to pick up some useful tips.

Future Meetings:  
Sep 11,2004 Nov 13, 2004

### **German Interest Group Sat Jul 10 2004 UW-Whitewater, Whitewater WI**

The speaker will be Roger Minert. I heard him speak a couple of years ago and he was phenomenal. Definitely an item to put on your calendar. He will give four presentations:

- Deciphering Handwriting in German Documents
- Asking for Help then Getting Your Money's Worth from Professional Researchers
- Where Your Ancestors Fit in the German Social Scene
- Courtship and Marriage in Germany 1500-1800

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wigjq/>

### **Walworth County Genealogy Fair Oct 9 2004**

There aren't any details yet, but something to keep your eye on.

<http://www.walworthcgs.com/>

### **WSGS Fall Seminar Sat Oct 16 2004 Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI**

Jim Hansen from the Wisconsin Historical Society Library will be giving several presentations related to the history of Wisconsin. After listening to one of his presentations, you usually come away with lots of ideas for "new" things to research.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wsqs/>

## Internet & Goodies

(A goodie can include anything that tickles one fancy or shows something unique about our current culture that would be of interest to people 100 years from now.)

### **Care and Handling of CD & DVD Disks**

Here is yet more information on taking caring of your disks. A good craftsman always knows his tools. If you are going to use disks to backup your precious data on disks, you should know their limitations. This guide is geared for archivists and other people who deal with keeping stuff stored for a long time.

[www.clir.org/pubs/reports/pub121/contents.html](http://www.clir.org/pubs/reports/pub121/contents.html)

"Care and Handling of CDs and DVDs: A Guide for Librarians and Archivists" by Fred R. Byers, October 2003 Co published by Council on Library and Information Resources and National Institute of Standards and Technology

## Map Guide to German Parish Registers

[www.heritagecreations.com/](http://www.heritagecreations.com/)

Kevan Hansen is in the process of creating a 40-volume "Map Guide to German Parish Registers." This will be very nifty stuff and they could be as popular as the "Germans to America" reference guides.

I have copied the following information from their website.

Each book is divided into five sections:

- Province/Duchy resources
- Maps of parish boundaries for the main Lutheran churches
- Maps of parish boundaries for the Catholic churches
- Records availability for minority religions
- A complete index to all of the towns shown on the individual maps

The *Map Guide* makes your research easy. Included in each volume is:

- A master index to the parishes themselves
- The family history library microfilm numbers
- A listing of towns in that district.

What will you find in each volume? Here is a quick list of what makes this series, not only unique, but valuable:

- Identifies the parish where your ancestor went to church based on where they lived.
- Gives the Family History Library microfilm number for your family's parish records.
- Visually identifies church parishes for Lutherans and Catholics within each district.
- Identifies neighboring parishes, just in case your ancestor may have gone to an alternate parish.
- Aids in conducting area searches, particularly across district or regional borders.
- Provides visual identification of search areas in which to look for your family.
- Helps in determining proximity of one area to another.
- Aids in determination of reasonable travel distances from one area to another.
- Identifies population centers in each church parish.
- Identifies archives, repositories, and other resources.
- Aids in identifying the location of minority religions

\$34.95 for softbound \$65.00 for hardbound per Volume

Vol. 1 - **Grandduchy of Hessen** (Shipping week of April 26)  
Vol. 2 - **Grandduchy of Baden** (Shipping week of May 3)  
Vol. 3 - **Grandduchies of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, and Mecklenburg-Strelitz** (shipping week of May 3)  
Vol. 4 - **Province of Schleswig-Holstein - Kingdom of Prussia; and Grandduchy of Oldenburg** (shipping May 2004)

Followed by:

- Kingdom of Württemberg and Province of Hohenzollern, Kingdom of Prussia (4 vols.) (shipping June 2004)
- Thuringian States (1 vol.)
- Kingdom of Saxony (2 vols.)
- Elsass-Lothringen [Alsace-Lorraine] (1 vol.)
- Province of Hessen-Nassau - Kingdom of Prussia (2 vols.)
- Province of Saxony - Kingdom of Prussia (2 vols.)
- Kingdom of Bavaria (5 vols.)
- Province of Westfalen - Kingdom of Prussia (2 vols.)
- Province of Rhineland - Kingdom of Prussia (3 vols.)
- Province of Hannover - Kingdom of Prussia (2 vols.)
- Province of East Prussia - Kingdom of Prussia (2 vols.)
- Province of West Prussia - Kingdom of Prussia (1 vol.)
- Province of Brandenburg - Kingdom of Prussia (2 vols.)
- Province of Pommerania - Kingdom of Prussia (2 vols.)
- Province of Posen - Kingdom of Prussia (2 vols.)
- Province of Silesia - Kingdom of Prussia (3 vols.)

## Weird Stuff in Wisconsin

<http://www.weird-wi.com/>

Sometimes history is just weird. This site is attempts to document some of the weirdness that has happened in Wisconsin.

Has this ever happened to you? Somebody asks you where you are from. You say Plain. They say "Oh isn't that were Ed Gein is from?". Now you can politely point them to this site, so they know it was Plainfield.

<http://www.weird-wi.com/ghouls/index.htm>

If you are too young to remember Ed Gein from PLAINFIELD (not Plain), you can do some reading yourself.

Trivia Question: Which movies were based on Ed Gein's life? The answer is at the end of this newsletter.

## Missing eMail

What's going on? You send an eMail to a friend and they never get it.

You might want to check with your ISP (Internet Service Provider). To combat spam and junk eMail, some ISPs throw suspicious eMails away. Some ISPs will put these "potential problem emails" into a folder for you to look at before they are deleted. Some ISPs, like AOL will not even show them to you. As part of a study, 10,000 emails were sent out. 40% of these emails were never delivered. They were lost in a "black hole" at the internet service provider.

My recommendation is to get a free eMail account from YAHOO!. You will be protected from eMail viruses. And most important, you will see every eMail sent to you. Its spam filter does a pretty good job. I have upgraded my YAHOO! free eMail account for \$30 a year. I get all sorts of nifty bells and whistles, which makes the \$30 seem cheap. You get what you pay for.

## Counties in the United States

Many of the really good genealogical records are kept at the local level, mostly at counties. The following web site has a lot of interesting stuff that I never knew about counties in the United States.

<http://www.n9jiq.com/counties/county.html>

Here are some nifty things that surprised me.

- Louisiana has parishes instead of counties
- New York City has 5 boroughs instead of counties
- Several states have (or are) eliminating counties  
Connecticut, Rhode Island, Delaware, Massachusetts
- Several states have "Independent Cities" instead of counties  
(Virginia has 40 of these)
- Some states have merged city and county governments
- 

So, if you are looking for relatives in counties in another state, make sure you know what you are looking at. As another little "trick", many county's

borders have been changed throughout the year. Can't anything be simple.

## Drea's Bar on the Ridge

Coming from a small community of German immigrants, a significant amount of my ancestors' history can be traced through local bars. (I have done extensive personal research in this area myself ;-).)

One of the local bars in the Plain area is Drea's Bar on the Loreto ridge.

The Reedsburg Times Press did an article on Drea's Bar in the Sat April 24, 2004. Maybe it will bring back memories for you. It did for me. (There is a picture of Larry Drea with the article.)

<http://reedsburg.scwn.com/articles/2004/04/23/news/news06.txt>

## Physicists Help Restore Old Audio Recordings

When we say "old audio recordings", we mean really old. We are talking about the old wax cylinders not the "plate-like" records. (For you young kids we used these records before CD's became the standard.)

These scientists are using a powerful microscope and computer technology to read the grooves on the wax cylinders. This allows them to save the data without having to touch the cylinder with a stylus. The Library of Congress has about 2.5 million recordings that need to be converted.

You might ask, "Hmmm, that's nice but why should I care." Think about our ancestors 50 years from now having scientists doing wonderful things with the "low-quality" jpeg digital images that we are creating with digital cameras and scanners.

This article was found in USA Today April 29, 2004.

<http://tinyurl.com/28kym>

## PC Pitstop

Your computer is acting funky and there is no geek around. What do you do?

You can go to [www.pcpitstop.com](http://www.pcpitstop.com) and let this site check your PC out. (I heard about this site on Tech-TV.) This site gives your computer a thorough test. The great part is that it lets you know: what you have, if there are problems and how to fix them. Here are some of the stuff the site will tell you about:

- Problems that the site can fix on its own
- Details about your window configuration
- Programs that are running (great for identifying nasty programs from hackers)
- Run a virus check (using Panda Software)
- Stuff about your Internet Connection
- Serial numbers, bios version, motherboard, processor, memory
- Hard disks (checks for fragmentation)
- CD/DVD drive information
- Video Board / Monitor information

You are given an option of "signing up" or running anonymously. I signed up because the site will keep information about each test and give something to compare to.

Even if you have a friendly geek to help you, you can run the program and email the results to your geek friend. This could get your computer up and running faster. It also makes for a happier geek because they have a lot of use full information.

The price is right, FREE. Give it a try.

**WARNING: You are opening your PC up to potential hackers by using these types of online sites. Make sure you know whom you are letting into your computer before you let them in.**

## Using the IGI files for German Towns

The International Genealogical Index (IGI) was created by the Family History Library from records submitted by individuals to the temples of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for proxy ordinances.

You can look for your Ancestors on the IGI Search Page <http://tinyurl.com/5kwh> on [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org).

If you find an ancestor on the online IGI, be sure to write down the SOURCE (or click on the link). This will show you the source, which might be a film you can order to be sent to your local Family History Center Library.

Be sure to write down the BATCH number (or click on the link) to find other ancestors that were recorded from the same town / church / source.

If you find an ancestor, you will probably want to search for other records from the same source. Imagine finding a listing of all the birth, marriage, and death records for the German church parish your ancestors lived in.

What if you can't find an ancestor's name on the online IGI Search Page? The ancestor's information could be hiding under a misspelled name.

The following web site can help.

<http://igi.wahler.org> has a partial index to IGI batches for Germany. It lists batch numbers for various German towns. You can search this index on line or you can download the index to an EXCEL or ACCESS database. (I downloaded the EXCEL format.)

This site is in German. Click on the British Flag in the upper right-hand corner to go to the list.

- 1) Using this partial index find your town if it exists.
- 2) write down the alpha KENN letter (C,J,K,M,) and the batch number.  
The code for Tiefenbach, Sonthofen, Oberallgau, Schwaben, Bayern C939471
- 3) go to <http://tinyurl.com/5kwh> and enter the batch number AND GERMANY in the REGION field

Found in: "Germanic Research Log", "Germanic Genealogy Journal Spring 2004" Which was inspired by The May 2003 issue of the "Newsletter of the German Interest Group-Wisconsin"

## WWII Army Enlistment Records

You can access World War II Army enlistment records at the online NARA site (National Archives & Records Administration.) This site has information on about 9 million enlistees.

I was able to find the records for Charles A. Ruhland, son of Alois and Christina (Schwartz) from Plain, WI. He died in 1944. In combat? He was part of the Coast Artillery Corps. According to the record he enlisted for the Philippine Department.

You can find Clark Gable's enlistment record showing he started as a private in the Air Corps. The record shows that he had 2 years of high school.

Okay how do you find records? It is very tricky.

First you have to get the web page with the search form. Trust me, your best bet is to use this shortcut. <http://tinyurl.com/3ebb4>

If you bring some bread crumbs to mark your trail you can try this path:

1. Go to <http://www.archives.gov/aad/>
2. Click on the SEARCH button in upper left hand corner
3. Click on dropdown list on Subject Line (You can find lots of good stuff here)
4. Select World War II Electronic Army Serial Number Merged File
5. Click on "first" SELECT

You can search by:

- Army Serial Number
- Name
- Residence: State
- Residence: County
- Place of Enlistment
- Year of Birth

The search form is tricky. For State and County you need to enter special codes. For example: Wisconsin is 63 and 111 for Sauk County. You can find these codes by clicking on a "small" link to the right of the input box.

## May 2004 Open House

We had over 40 people show up for our first open house. This was a great turn out for our first time.

Thanks to all the people who brought their good stuff in to share. Some of the stuff was absolutely amazing. (For you thieves reading this newsletter, I will not be giving a list of who brought what.)

With the success of this year's open house, we will have to consider making next year's open house longer. Maybe a whole day event.

### *Movies Based on Ed Gein of Plainfield, Wisconsin.*

- *Psycho*
- *Silence of the Lamb*
- *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*

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## KEEP IN CONTACT

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Send Email to [garylhaas@yahoo.com](mailto:garylhaas@yahoo.com)

Be sure to check the website occasionally. <http://solo18.abac.com/garylhaas/>

Join our Yahoo Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/phgg>

Some members can be contacted using Yahoo Messenger.