
PLAIN HISTORY GENEALOGY GROUP

Covering Plain, Sauk Co, Wisconsin and Beyond

<http://tinyurl.com/6mqug>Page with Active URLs
<http://tinyurl.com/53dn2>.....Haas Bauer Main WebSite
<http://tinyurl.com/4tlrt>.....PHHG ALL Newsletters & Meeting Handouts
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Change in WebSite

The addresses to the WebSite have been changed. The new URL / Internet Addresses can be found at the top of this newsletter.

Hopefully I have fixed all the links. Pleased let me know if I missed any.

Meeting & Events Schedule

Plain History Genealogy Group
Sat Jan 15th, 2005 9:30 am, Plain, WI
Kraemer Library and Community Center

We will discuss how to do use Internet search engines to research your family and town's history. We will be focusing on GOOGLE, which is the best overall search engine. Everybody interested in local history or family research is invited to attend.

NOTE: because of scheduling issues, our January 2005 meeting will be held on January 15 2005.

Internet and Goodies

German Visitors May 2005

I received a note from Dorie Danelski about a group of Germans visiting Plain in May 2005. There aren't a lot of details at this time. I assume they will be from the Waldmuenchen area. You might want to leave room on your social calendar for this visit. Or we might have something special at our May 2005 meeting.

The Genealogy of Jesus

The genealogy of Jesus Christ can be an interesting study. You'll find a lot of the same issues in your own family research. Jesus's genealogy can be found in the Bible in: Matthew, chapter 1 and Luke, chapter 3.

Researchers bring their own bias to their study. Matthew and Luke had different objectives in their versions of Jesus's. Both were interested in tracing his lineage back to David. Matthew was interested in tracing the paternal line through Joseph back to David, in

order to support Jesus's legal claim to being the Messiah. Luke, a Gentile, traced the maternal line through Mary back to King David, in order to support the blood relation.

Matthew started with David's son Solomon. Luke started with David's son Nathan. This means that Joseph and Mary shared the same grandparents (add a boatload of greats). Like many of us, if you go back far enough you will find pedigree collapse.

Matthew and Luke have a different number of names in their lineages, with Luke having significantly fewer ancestors in his version. Unless Mary's ancestors had all their children when they were in their hundreds, what was going on? Both versions use the term "son of". Just like when you are doing your own research, you can't take all words at their face value. Historically in the Bible "son of" can mean "descendant of". Matthew's and Luke's versions did not try to list every name in lineage.

The key thing that many family researchers have learned is that it is necessary to look for alternate names and spellings. Jesus went by many names in the Bible, Jesus, Christ, the Messiah, Lord, Son of Man, Son of God. I found one site on the Internet that gave 100 different names used in the Bible for Jesus. This is almost as bad as having a search for a John Smith in your family tree.

If you are concerned about some other black sheep in your family, Jesus had some of his own. Matthew's version is very interesting because it mentions five women. Historically, women were rarely mentioned in biblical lineages. On top of that, the five women included by Matthew had checkered pasts.

The first bad girl was Tamar. Tamar had relations with several of the sons of Judah. The first, Er, was "wicked this in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord slew him." As was common in the time, since Er did not have any descendants, Tamar married with the next

brother in line, Onan. Onan was also determined to be evil, and the Lord slew him too. The Bible describes the evilness of Onan in graphic detail. Without being specific, I will only mention that two human peccadilloes contain Onan's name. By now Judah was tired of seeing his sons killed. Instead of letting Tamar attempt to have a child with the next son in line, he attempted to prevent Tamar from marrying his son. Dressed as a prostitute, Tamar tricked her father-in-law Judah into becoming the father of her twins.

The second bad girl was Rahab who was a prostitute of Jericho married Salmon. She gained her fame by protecting 2 spies involved in the fall of Jericho.

The third bad girl was Ruth whose "badness" was at she was that she was a Moabite.

The fourth bad girl was Bathsheba, who was a beautiful woman who attracted King David. To marry her, he sent her husband Uriah to his death in battle.

The fifth bad girl was Jesus's Mother Mary. Prior to getting married, Mary became pregnant with Jesus. Because he wasn't there for the conception, Joseph knew he wasn't the father. Under the laws of the time, Joseph could of had Mary stoned to death. Being a good guy, Joseph was willing to have a quiet divorce that would spare the parties disgrace. Fortunately an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph and a dream and let Joseph know what was going on. This is a good example that not every out-of-wedlock birth is a terrible sin or disgrace that has to be ignored.

The biggest problem with the genealogies provided by Matthew and Luke is that they did not cite their sources.

Old Wives Tales

A heavy dew after a fair day means another fair day.

A light dew and no wind means rain.

Red in the morning sailor take warning
red at night sailor's delight.

if you got a dog bite you were to take some of the
hairs of the offending dog and place them on the
wound

if you got stung by a bee you were to cover it with
chalk and then wet it.

a sore throat was to be cured by wrapping the
neck overnight with a warm sock that is from
someone's foot

if you got whooping cough, the father of the family
was supposed to place the head of the sick child
into a hole in the meadow for a few minutes at
dusk. No other family member should be present.

For dandruff wet the hair with kerosene

If you got a sore throat or cold you could boil skunk
fat. Then let it sit in a jar for a while. After that
someone should rub it on the sick person's chest.

The lucky horseshoe is a throwback to a time
when it was thought that witches rode on
broomsticks because they were afraid of horses.
Nailing a horseshoe over your door kept witches
from entering.

According to old wives' tales, you should eat more
sweet foods if you want a girl, and snack on salty
stuff for a boy. Or a full moon will help you
conceive a girl, a quarter moon a boy.

Don't tickle an infant's feet; it will make them
stutter when they get old enough to talk.

If a picture falls off a wall, it is a sign of death.

If a bird flies in the house; a death is soon to come.

If you sweep under a woman's feet she won't get
married.

To insure good fortune for your baby throughout
life, be sure that his first gift is a silver coin.

Cows lifting their tails is a sure sign that rain is
coming.

If 3 people are photographed together, the one in
the middle will die first.

A bride's veil protects her from evil spirits who are
jealous of happy people.

Bavarian Website

P. Dearborn passed this website along for you
researchers interested in looking at the history
of the "old country". It covers emigration from
Bavaria to the Unites States since 1683.
Thanks for sharing this neat site.

"Gary, thought I would send you this website
for the newsletter. I have been getting this
"House of Bavarian History" Newsletter for
awhile; but they recently made part of their
website readable in English. It is interesting to
read about the flow of emigrants out of
Bavaria from THEIR viewpoint. Not always
what we hear from American writers."

<http://www.hdbg.de/auswanderung/english/index2.htm>

Catholic Biblical Apologetics

"Apologetics (from the Greek apologeisthai,
meaning to defend) is an orderly defense and
justification. The intent of this work is to
present what the Roman Catholic Church
teaches, and why."

This is a great site to research Catholic
History.

<http://www.catholicapologetics.org/aptoc.htm>

This site also gives the genealogy of Christian
Churches.

<http://www.catholicapologetics.org/ap021200.htm>

A Really Big Digital Camera

3 and 5 megapixel cameras can take really nice photos. Fermilab is going to install a 500 megapixel camera at an observatory in Chile to take pictures of the sky for dark energy. They hope to generate over 100 terabytes (trillion bytes) of data. With new technology like this, expect to see the improvements in "consumer" digital cameras that we normal people use.

www.fnal.gov/pub/fermineews/fermineews04-05-01/p4.html

Storage for a Really Big Camera

Pretec is developing a 12 gigabyte (billion) compact flash that will cost \$15000. This isn't cheap. But it does point to a future where storage capacities will be huge. Hopefully they will be a little cheaper than this bemoth.

www.engadget.com/entry/4463693158281236/

State Census Summary

The US Federal Census meets most people's needs for researching families. Plus many people can access the federal census from at home. Sometimes you need more.

The burning of the 1890 federal census and the nasty habit of ancestors dying before the census was taken are a couple examples where censuses taken by states.

There are not any firm or standard "guidelines" as to how States took census of their population. Nor did the States take "complete" census. Some State census listed only the head of the household, not everybody living in the household. Sometimes the census is for only certain parts of the state.

The following site gives a great summary of the years that census are available for each state.

<http://www.genealogytoday.com/genealogy/enoch/census.html>

Heritage Quest German Information

This site explains on old homes are recycled in Germany. It explains why you won't find any "run down" historic houses in Germany.

www.heritagequest.com/genealogy/europe/html/house.html

This site explains how cemeteries work in Germany.

www.heritagequest.com/genealogy/europe/html/graves.html

This site shows how a "day laborer's" house might have looked.

www.heritagequest.com/genealogy/europe/html/taglohner.html

This site describes how the house and the barn were one building.

www.heritagequest.com/genealogy/europe/html/barn.html

Adding Comments to a File Under XP

If you are using Microsoft XP, you can add a comment to a file. It is safer to have comments and descriptions "attached" to the file itself, instead of having the comments in a separate document or index. You can add a fairly "large" comment to a file by:

- right clicking on the file
- clicking on PROPERTIES
- adding the comment under the SUMMARY tab
- make sure you click on the APPLY button

This was a quick tip from Ancestry.com in their Nov 12, 2004 electronic newsletter.

Google Desktop

Google is the world's greatest search engine. Now they want to work their magic on your desktop computer. PC Magazine had a great first look at this product in their December 16, 2004 magazine. If you are like most people, you've put things on your hard disk and can not find it later. Google Desktop attempts to find things in the black hole of your filing system on your hard disk.

Google Desktop indexes all files on local drives and mapped network drives. Since this program looks at all of your files, you should be careful if your computers are hooked up to up to a network drive. Google Desktop will index the name of every file on your computer. It will look inside certain file types and index the words in them. The extra search is done on Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, text files, and e-mails on Outlook or Outlook Express. Google Desktop will also index your Internet Web history.

In my view, Google Desktop is not ready for prime time yet. It is a good first step, but there are some things that need to be improved.

One of the concerns about using Google Desktop is that it will send your private and personal information back to Google. Google has made strong assurances that this won't happen. Google does give you the option to send information about how many searches you've done and how long they taken. I trust Google, but I don't trust all the hackers out there. Breaking into your personal Google index is a challenge a hacker can't resist.

Indexing your information will take several hours. The indexing program will always be running so it can keep track of your stuff on-the-fly. This has the potential so your machine down.

Google Desktop does not index information in PDF files or ZIP, compressed files. I have a lot of information in these files that Google Desktop would not even look at.

If the document is really long, Google Desktop does not index the entire document. This kind of defeats the purpose of indexing all stuff on your computer.

A big potential problem with Google Desktop is that it tracks when you make a change in a

document. It will keep copies of each version of the document that you have. This can chew up a lot of space on your hard disk.

So in short, nice try, but it is not recommended at this time. The idea is good and you should keep your eyes open for future advancements.

Open Office

Having a good wordprocessor, a spreadsheet and a "powerpoint-like" program can be useful when you are working on your family history. The Microsoft Office Suite can be very expensive to purchase. Fortunately there is a "free" alternative. (Nothing is really free. You get what you pay for. You don't get any printed user manuals. Nor do you get a warm and fuzzy support person to call for help. Installation can be a little tricky depending on how old your PC is.)

This "free" alternative can be found at <http://www.openoffice.org/>. It is very similar to the Microsoft Office Suite in how it works. It can read and write files in the Microsoft format. You can do most of what you can do with Microsoft's Excel, Word and PowerPoint. The stuff it can't do will only be missed by true geeks.

OpenOffice has many extra features not found in the Microsoft Office suite. One of these neat features is that it can create PDF files. It will also run on almost any PC, including Macintosh and Unix/Linux based PCs.

Here are some URL's pointing directly to things you will want to look at.

answers to how to do things

<http://www.ooforum.org/>

documentation, user guides, setup guides, etc

<http://documentation.openoffice.org/>

download most recent version

<http://download.openoffice.org/1.1.3/index.html>

version for Windows 95

http://www.openoffice.org/dev_docs/source/1.0.3/index.html

You can download the program directly from the Internet at no cost. However the file size is over 40 million bytes and can take a long time if you are using a regular dialup connection.

This is good example that you don't have to buy any software. There are legitimately free versions of software that can be found on the Internet.

Hildegarde Thering's Research Notes

Here is an example of some of the neat things that can be found in the research notes of Hildegarde Thering. It seems like these two snippets were copied by Ms. Thering from August Delerth's writings. There are two things to note about these items. One, Ms. Thering did not write down the sources of her notes. Although you should be able to find the original source. Two, you have to remember that August Delerth was a story teller and his writings were not always based on facts. Even so these make for interesting reading.

Elmer Weiss (?)

Old man Weiss came over to where we worked at the farm today and started talking about old times, telling especially about the old days in Logtown when all the boys wanted to fight. "Drink and fight, and keep awake all night" was the motto of the young generation. "It was then and it is today yet" he added and went on to tell a story about a young Schmidt boy, a tough who wanted nothing better than to fight. Schmidt encountered an overgrown bully named O'Halloran at a dance and the two soon chipping up to each other and presently went outside where they battled. O'Halloran bit the Schmidt's nose and Schmidt put his fingers into O'Halloran's eyes with the result that both had to pay frequent visits to the doctor and both were in measure cured of fighting.

Evening in Spring by Derleth

Catholics roared grandfather, Great God in Heaven, woman! I've know some of those damn Catholics out in Logtown to try teaching their young hired girls to go out stealing at night and some others who tried to into their hired girl's bed. And that's just a sample.

Nifty Research Stuff

Videos at the Kraemer Library

The library has several videos in VHS and DVD / PC format that are worth their weight in gold.

Plain 1930's

Ringlestetter 1930's (there is an index)

Reedsburg 1930's

These are some tremendous videos. They were taken back in the 1930's. It is great to see the our ancestors as children and the way Plain and Reedsburg used to look.

*T. Kraemer 1990's Maria Plain, Austria
Waldmunchen*

These are more recent videos. They give a lot of information about the origins of Plain.

WHS Guide

The Wisconsin Historical Society Library in Madison, Wisconsin is a great research Library. There is lots of good stuff there, but how do you find out what they have? I have prepared a 60-page guide to library that can be helpful. It is not possible to describe all the library's holdings in one small document. The library's collection is constantly changing. The guide has errors and omissions, but it is a start. 20 pages of this guide deal with specific items that you can find about Sauk County and Plain, Wisconsin. Some of the items covered in this guide are:

- suggestions of how to research at the library
- the reading room on the second floor
- the microform's room on a second floor
- the archives room on the fourth floor
- books in the general collection
- books in the government publication collection
- books in the pamphlets area
- online catalogs
- digitized information available on the Internet
- newspapers from Sauk County
- archive holdings related to Sauk County
- plat maps available for Sauk County
- pamphlets related to Sauk County
- books related to Sauk County