

# 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  
<http://tinyurl.com/4rrlv> <http://tinyurl.com/66w3v>..... Newsletter Table of Contents  
<mailto:garylhaas2005@yahoo.com>.....eMail Contact  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/phgg> ..... Yahoo! Group  
<http://garyhaas.blogspot.com> .....Stuff I Find Interesting Blog

## Vol 24 Feb 2005

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## E-Mail Address Change

I have a new eMail address. It is like the old address but with a 2005 in it.

DO NOT EVEN OPEN UP AN eMAIL FROM THE OLD ADDRESS [garylhaas@yahoo.com](mailto:garylhaas@yahoo.com).

## Meeting & Events Schedule

**Plain History Genealogy Group**  
**Sat Mar 12th, 2005 9:30 am, Plain, WI**  
**Kraemer Library and Community Center**

There are lots of nasty people trying to do nasty things to your computer. We will discuss the ways that hackers are trying to get at your computer and how you can protect yourself. Everybody interested in local history or family research is invited to attend.

**Milwaukee County Gene. Society, Inc.**  
**BIENNIAL WORKSHOP 2005**  
**April 23, 2005**  
**Serb Memorial Hall Milwaukee, WI**

The featured speaker is Daniel M. Schlyter from the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City. I have been to his presentations before and they are very interesting and informative. He has a specialty in German Research.

Daniel Schlyter

- The Changing Map of Eastern Europe.
- Jan, Johann, John, Hans, Ivan, Juan, Jack.
- Understanding Germany and Its Records
- Using Vital Records to Build Your European Pedigree.

Bob Heck

- Internet Research Using the U.S. GenWeb - Part I
- Internet Research Using the U.S. GenWeb - Part II

Michael Edmonds

- Using Wis Hist Society Archives Digital Resources
- Using the Wis Hist Archives Collections in Madison

The presentations by B. Heck and M. Edmonds will be given at the same time as D. Schlyter's so you can only see four presentations.

<http://tinyurl.com/5c2ec>

**Plain History Genealogy Group**  
**Sat May ??, 2005 9:30 am, Plain, WI**  
**Kraemer Library and Community Center**

This will be our annual open house where our members will bring their stuff in and share their research and knowledge.

We don't have a definite day for this meeting yet. We will be trying to coordinate this meeting with the visit of the group from Waldmuenchen.

**German Workshop J. Humphrey**  
**Saturday July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005.**  
**UW-Whitewater Greenhill Center of the Arts**

This is the annual genealogical workshop put on by the German Interest Group from Janesville, WI. I never miss this event. You can always learn something new.

- Developing the Skills to Become a German Genealogist
- Researching German Ancestors: the resources and the obstacles
- Exploring the German Character
- Finding Your German Ancestor's Place of Origin

<http://tinyurl.com/57kol>

## Internet and Goodies

**Aerial Photos of Germany**  
<http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/photos.html>

Believe it or not, you can get aerial photos of Germany from the US Federal Government. This site explains the process. You can start the process with a quick email to the government agency.

These photos were taken during World War II. I am not sure, but I would think there might be photos from all over Europe.

**Wintergreen Lifesaver Tricks**  
<http://www.dearanswerlady.com/html/lifes.html>

Here is a stupid human trick. Buy some wintergreen Lifesavers, go in the bathroom, close the door, turn off the light, standing in front of the mirror chomp on a lifesaver and notice the blue flash. Just one of the things I do to amuse myself.

The site explains it in more detail.

**Superbowl Ads**  
<http://dyn.ifilm.com/superbowlads/>

In case you were loading up on snacks and missed an ad from the SuperBowl, you can watch them on-line.

My favorites were the 1) guy with the cat and the butcher knife and 2) the Pepsi ad with cute ending.

**Time Magazine Archives**  
<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/archives>

If you are doing genealogical or family research, you have to know the historical events of the time.

Time Magazine has placed their archives on-line. This archive is searchable. They have some great stuff including information about the 1930's and 1940's when my parents grew up. I especially like the articles about World War II and the events leading up to it.

If you want to read the "whole" story you have to become a subscriber to Time Magazine. There is an offer on the website that will let you be a subscriber for 6 issues at a cost of \$1.99

Even if you don't want to cough up the money, you can get the magazine citations and go to the library and look up the information yourself.

## Microsoft AntiSpyWare

<http://tinyurl.com/47cus>

Hiding behind my ZoneAlarm Firewall, my Norton Antivirus and running Ad-aware spyware, I felt pretty confident that the bad boys couldn't get at my PC.

I downloaded the current version of Microsoft's AntiSpyware program and it found 5 spyware programs hiding on my PC. And these were truly nasty ones.

The program ran fairly quick and it gave detailed descriptions of the spyware it found.

It automatically set itself up to check my PC everyday.

It also runs in the background and prevents the nasty stuff from even loading itself.

There are Advance tools which are great for you geeks who want to see what is going on with your PC.

The current price of the software is right, free.

HOWEVER, remember this is a program that was developed by Microsoft which has a bad record for developing secure programs. Microsoft's antispyware program makes a great target for hackers.

My opinion? People who know me, know I am not a Microsoft Fan. But this program seems to be the greatest thing since sliced bread. In short I have it loaded on my PC, you might want to give it a try too.

Here is the bad news, it only works on Microsoft Windows 2000, Windows XP, or Windows Server™ 2003.

## Onion Domed Churches

<http://answers.google.com/answers/threadview?id=63249>

A lot of the churches and southern Bavaria have onion domes. a couple of years ago, I used GOOGLE's ANSWER feature and for \$20 I got a very detailed description. The above web site will take you to the answer I got.

Here are some of the highlights of the answer.

- Influence of Persia
- Started in Russia
- Shape particularly suited to shed large amounts of snow

[www.orthodoxworld.ru/english/hram/1/](http://www.orthodoxworld.ru/english/hram/1/)

- In russia the familiar "onion" dome was developed by the 13th century.

[www.goarch.org/en/ourfaith/articles/article8025.asp](http://www.goarch.org/en/ourfaith/articles/article8025.asp)

- The characteristic onion dome first appeared in Novgorod on the Cathedral of Sancta Sophia in the eleventh century

[www.bartleby.com/65/do/dome.html](http://www.bartleby.com/65/do/dome.html)

- There is an urban legend that Hershey's Kisses were invented by a homesick Russian missing the sight of onion domes on churches.

## Tanguay Books

<http://www.family.crevier.org/books/>

Dictionnaire généalogique des familles canadiennes by Cyprien Tanguay (1819-1902)

This book consists of seven volumes of Canadian genealogical information and is an invaluable resource for anyone with roots in Quebec. The following links allow you to download them in PDF format from their web site. Be warned that each volume is HUGE. All seven volumes should fit on one CD.

## **Painting of St Anne's View**

<http://tinyurl.com/4y5dm>

Steven Kozar from McFarland painted the view from St Anne's Hill in Plain Wisconsin

## **WWII Draft Registrations**

Draft registration records are a great source of information about our ancestors. The New York Family history web site describes the various registrations that were taken.

The fourth registration which covered men ages 45 to 64 can be a treasure trove of information.

Unfortunately, many of these cards are lost somewhere. Fourth registration cards are available for New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico through NARA.

The registration cards for Wisconsin, have to be somewhere. This is something to keep your eyes open for.

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, Leslie Corn ,Winter 2002 Newsletter Addendum Sep 2 2004

### **Registrations**

1. Oct 16 1940; men 21-35 years
2. Jul 1 1941; men who reached 21 since last registration
3. Feb 16 1942; men 20-21 years and 35-44 years
4. Apr 27 1942; men 45-64 years (not liable for military service)
5. Jun 30 1942; men 18-20 years
6. Dec 10-31 1942; men who reached age of 18 after Jun 30 1942
7. Nov 16 - Dec 31 1943; American men living abroad 18-44 years

After the 6th registration, men were required to register when they reached 18.

## **Hildegarde Thering's Research Notes**

### **German Confessions htag0054.jpg**

There is a letter from Father Delbert Schmelzer. He was the associate pastor a St. Luke's parish in Plain Wisconsin from 1960 to 1962. He talks about his duties in the classes that he taught. In addition to the religion classes, he taught English literature, mechanical drawing, industrial arts, and forensics.

Another memory that he mentions is that he heard a "considerable" number of German confessions. I find it fascinating that there were a number old-timers around in the 1960s still speaking German.

### **Plain Lyceum Group htaf00075.jpg**

What did people do before there was cable TV? In the January 21, 1904 issue of the Weekly Home News, Thering noted a story about the Lyceum group.

Seems like people got together, and just talked about things. She writes about a mock trial, which took place at the Meadows school.

She writes about the topic of discussion for the next meeting: that women have greater influence over men, than money. This must have sparked an interesting conversation.

## Nifty Research Stuff

### Wisconsin Historical Turning Points

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/turningpoints/>

The Wisconsin Historical Society Library has embraced the concept of digitizing information and making it available on their web site. There is a new section that deals with turning points in Wisconsin history. The following is a list of topics that you can browse.

#### Browse by Topic

1. Prehistory & Native Peoples
2. Early Explorers, Traders & Settlers
3. Territory to Statehood
4. Immigration & Settlement
5. Civil War Era
6. Mining, Lumber & Agriculture
7. Progressive Era
8. 20th -c Wars & Conflicts
9. Prosperity, Depression, Industrialization & Urbanization
10. Response to 20th -c. Change

On the left-hand side of the web page, there are some other nifty parts of this web page to explore

- \* Advanced Search
- \* Dictionary of Wisconsin History
- \* Reference Maps

## Using Internet Search Engines

(The handout on the web site is different than the one given out at the meeting. The revised handout has more information, and is tweaked a little bit.)

Everything you could possibly want to look for can be found on the Internet. The Internet is the world's biggest library. Except they have taken all the books, ripped them apart, and threw the pages on a pile. How do you find something in this mess?

The best way to find things is to use search engines. We are going to talk about some general tips about how to use search engines. We will focus on the Google search engine, which in my opinion is the best.

A little bit of trivia for you "old-timers" who used the Internet before search engines. If you remember Archie, Veronica, Jughead and Gophers, you have really been using the Internet for a long time.

As a starting point, if you don't enter the right word in your search requests, you won't get what you looking for. Here are some classic reasons why your word selections don't work.

Heteronyms. These are words that are spelled the same, but have different meanings. For example, the word fast, can mean, quick or not to eat. Roots can be part of a tree or to cheer for your team. You don't want to use the term root if you are in Australia.

Polyonyms. This is where you have different names for the same thing. For example, the mythical god Jupiter is also known as Zeus or Oden.

Homonyms. These are words that sound like, that are spelled differently, and have different meanings. A good example is TO TWO TOO.

Capitonym. Sometimes capitalizing word changes the meaning. Polish refers to an ethnicity, while polish is something you put on your shoes.

Slang. Slang words have different meanings. Neat, bad, and groovy have different meanings as slang words.

Exonyms. Some words have different names, depending on the region of the world that you're in. If you use the words POP and BUBBLER, people know that you're from Wisconsin. If you're from Germany, Bavaria is called Bayern.

Next, everybody has their own way to enter words into a search engine. As a starting point, I like to use nouns in my searches. Nouns are persons, places or things. You typically don't get your search words right the first time. I like to start out with general search words working towards a specific. This will tend to give you more results to work your way through. But it is easier to eliminate the extra results you get, than only to get a handful of results. As you try different search words, you can review the results in trying to change your query. A big tip is to be persistent. Don't give up too quickly. You have to go through a lot of ore to find a few nuggets of gold.

By the way, misspelled words are another problem. Not only do you have to worry about being able to spell, you can miss things on the Internet, if words are spelled wrong on web pages. That one piece of information that might be hiding on you might be on a web page where genealogy is spelled GENEALOGY.

Sometimes using a different word with the same meaning can make a search successful. A Thesaurus is a good tool to look for different words with the same meaning. Microsoft Word, and many other word processing programs have built in Thesaurus that can help.

Let's look at the basic parts of the search engine.

1) Search engines use programs called SPIDERS to search the Internet for things to index. One thing that makes search engines different is where and what their SPIDERS look at and how often they do it.

2) Search engines store what their spiders find in a searchable catalog.

3) Search engines have different front ends or forms that you enter your search-words into. Some of these can be very complicated. Some of these can be very simple.

4) The last part of the search engine is how it displays its results. We'll look at a couple of different examples later on.

Let's go over some quick tips on how to use search engines.

First, be creative, be specific, and be persistent. Don't give up too easily.

In most cases, you can just enter words into a search engine and get a good result. Sometimes using some punctuation and other symbols are needed.

For example if I want to research on the immigrant-processing center called Castle Garden, I cannot just type in the words castle and garden. You'll get lots were results about flower gardens. However, if you put in quotation marks around Castle Garden, you'll get better results.

You can also use special symbols like the +, -, and the ~ in front of the words in your search query.

Putting a + in front of the word tells a search engine that this word has to be on the web page. In most cases, you don't have to use the + because search engines use this as the default.

Putting a - in front of the word tells a search engine that it should exclude web pages with this word. For example, even using quotation marks around Castle Garden will still give you a lot results about castles with gardens. Adding the term flowers with a - in front of it will exclude all web pages with flowers.

Putting a ~ in front of the word tells the search engine that it should look for words with the same meaning. For example putting a ~ in front of the word ships, will also display sites about boats.

Suppose you're looking for web pages about Bavarian, but you also want to search for web pages with the German spelling Bayern. Putting

the word OR between these two names will return web sites that contain either spelling. You might need to put parentheses around the words. If you don't remember your algebra, you might want to avoid using OR's in your searches. ( bavaria or bayern)

If nothing else works, you can experiment and combine a variety of symbols in your search terms.

Some search engine only use a limited number of words in doing a search. For example, Google used to only look at the first 10 words that you entered. I read somewhere that this has been increased to 32 words. If you are using more than 10 words, there is probably something wrong with your search query.

Some search engines will let you use wildcards. Google does not let you use wildcards.

The order that you enter words into a search engine also will make a big difference in the results that you get. Try rearranging the order of the words to get different results.

Capitalizing words usually doesn't make a difference. However, capitalizing words in a Google search for phone numbers will not work.

Instead of entering complicated strings of words in symbols, most search engines have ADVANCE SEARCH forms that it easier to enter complex searches.

Each search engine has it's own tricks.

In Google, entering the same word twice can give you different results.

In Google, entering 2 numbers separated by dots will look for any number in that range. To search or web pages that referred to anything that happened in the 19th-century, you just enter 1800..1899. This will include sites that have the years 1834, 1872, 1893, anything in the range.

Here are the results of several different searches that I did on Google. Notice how using different symbols and tricks will give you different results.

german immigrant ships	74,300
german german immigrant ships	180,000
german emigrant ships	18,500
german ~emigrant ships	29,600
german ~immigrant ships	408,000
german ~immigrant ~ships	1,280,000
german ~immigrant ~ships 1870..1882	293,000
german immigrant ships 1870..1882	27,900

Google's ability to search for range of numbers can also be used for evil. The bad guys can search for ranges of credit card numbers and see if there is information about individual accounts on the Internet.

This web site lets you do complex genealogical searches on Google. You give it a name, and it creates a complicated query with a name in different formats. It also lets you check for certain locations. The following are some of the examples of these queries.

<http://www.genealogy-search-help.com/>

"john haas" OR "john \* haas" OR "haas, john"  
~genealogy OR ~ancestry

"john haas" OR "john \* haas" OR "haas, john"  
~genealogy OR ~ancestry waldmuenchen

allintitle: haas ~genealogy OR ~ancestry

Here are some web-sites that give you a lot of information about a number of different search engines.

### Quick Comparison of Search Engines

<http://www.infopeople.org/search/chart.html>

### Information & News about Search Engines

<http://searchenginewatch.com>

### Cyndi's List - Search Engines

<http://www.cyndislist.com/search.htm>

Earlier we have noted that search engines show the results in different formats. One of these different formats includes clustering the results. This means grouping, the results by common topics. The Vivisimo Search Engine is a good example of clustering.

<http://vivisimo.com/>

Google is the best search engine in my opinion.

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

### Corporate Information

[www.google.com/corporate/tenthings.html](http://www.google.com/corporate/tenthings.html)

Two things that guide Google's corporate policies are: "Don't Be Evil" and "Be Good". Some examples of evil things that some search engines have done are:

- tracking what individuals are searching for.
- showing advertisers web pages at the top of the result list.

The search engine market is very competitive and changes daily. For example, Microsoft is starting their own web search engine. Even though Microsoft's search engine might return more results than Google, I will avoid it because I don't trust Microsoft.

**Microsoft Beta Search Engine.** The Microsoft's search engine gave more results. But can you really trust Microsoft?

<http://beta.search.msn.com/>

**Google Help.** Google has a great help web page that explains in detail how to use various Google features. There is a great section on how to do searches on Google.

[www.google.com/help/index.html](http://www.google.com/help/index.html)

**Google Directory.** Google has a directory of web sites grouped by various categories. This directory was manually set up by human beings can, not an automatic spider program. A directory can be a good place to look if you know what you looking for.

<http://www.google.com/dirhp>

**Google Answers.** You can also hire people to research a topic for you. I spent \$20 to have somebody research, why a lot of the churches in Bavaria have onion-shaped domes. You can read what my researcher found and what other researchers found for others on the following web page.

Hiring somebody to research a topic for you is fairly simple. You type in your question, set a price that you think will get you a good result and submit it. In many cases, you'll get an answer within days.

<http://answers.google.com/answers/>

In addition to doing regular searches, Google as a number of other unique features that you can find out about on the following web page.

### Help on various features

[www.google.com/help/features.html](http://www.google.com/help/features.html)

Here are some tricks, I like to use when I use a search engine.

#### **TRICK: SHIFT LEFT CLICK on a link.**

Opens the webpage in a new window - lets you easily return to results without getting lost.

#### **TRICK: F11**

Lets you see more of the site on the screen. Hitting F11 again returns all the extra stuff on the screen.

#### **TRICK: Print "SELECTION"**

Only print what you need. This is an option on the print dialog box.

#### **TRICK: Fagan Finder**

If Google's advance search form is too complicated for you, try the following web site. It can make it easy to enter complex searches into Google.

<http://www.faganfinder.com/google2.html>

The next time you go to Google's main web page, look at it in detail. There lots of really neat things that you can use. For example, in addition to searching for web pages, there are

links to let you search, Images, Groups, News, and Froogle. There are links to let you do Advanced Searches and set your preferences. There is an About Google link will tell you amazing things about Google.

Lets look at the Google search results for the German village that my ancestors came from. Specifically looking at the neat stuff that is hidden in the results.

**Cached Links** - Google keeps copies of sites that it has indexed. This is helpful when web site is no longer available. The link to this is hidden below the individuals result.

**Similar Pages** - This lets you look for web pages that have similar content. This is great if you find a web page that has good stuff, but not enough of it.

One of the best sites about my ancestral German home , is in German. Google has a link, which automatically translate the page into English. Google also has a translation web page that can be used to translate all sorts of information in foreign languages.

#### **Translation**

[http://www.google.com/language\\_tools](http://www.google.com/language_tools)

**Google Advanced Search.** Google's Advanced Search page, makes it easy to enter complex searches.

In the "Find Results" area there are four areas:

- "with all the words"; this is an AND search similar to a + put in front of the word
- "with the exact phrase"; this is similar to put in quotation marks around words
- "with at least one of the words"; this is an OR search
- "without the words"; this is an EXCLUSION search similar to a - put in front of the word

You can set the number results to this display on one page. I usually set mine to 100 so I can see more items on a single page.

There's also a line for searching for information in specific file formats.

You can search for items in specific file formats by adding special terms of the end of your search query. For example adding filetype:pdf to the end of your search will give you files in PDF format. These can be forms. For example adding filetype:xls to the end of your search will give you files in spreadsheet format. You might find lists of data in spreadsheets, such as church record transcriptions.

[www.google.com/advanced\\_search](http://www.google.com/advanced_search)

**Froogle.** Froogle lets you search the Internet for things that are for sale. Similar to eBay, there lots of nifty genealogy things for sale on the Internet. Items from a variety of sources, including eBay, are listed in the results items for sell - includes eBay

<http://froogle.google.com>

[froogle.google.com/froogle\\_advanced\\_search](http://froogle.google.com/froogle_advanced_search)

**Local Search.** Google's LOCAL search feature lets you find all the various items in a geographic location. For example, you can search for all the cemeteries, libraries, museums, in a certain area. If you are really hungry, you can search for all the donut shops and a 5 mile radius from your home.

<http://local.google.com>

**News.** Google also searches thousands of newspapers. This can be handy if you try to find information about a particular town, a specific family, or maybe even looking for each an obituary.

<http://www.news.google.com>

**Phone book.** Google also lets you search for the phone numbers of people living in a certain area. Here are some examples of how to enter the search and Google's regular web search page.

rphonebook: g, haas, milwaukee  
rphonebook: gary,haas,wisconsin  
rphonebook: gary,haas,414  
rphonebook: haas,milwaukee,wi  
rphonebook: haas,53211

**Site.** Sometimes you don't want to search the entire Internet. Maybe only one of search for information on one site like [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) or [www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com). Here are some examples of how you would enter the search into Google's main search page.

wisconsin site:[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)  
haas site:[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

**Groups.** This is most under-used feature on the Internet. People post a question to a specific group or topic. Anybody can answer this question. This is based on Usenet groups, which started in 1979. You do not have to post your own question. You can look at the answers to other people's questions.

You can find the answer to almost any question on any topic. I use it to find the answer to almost any computer-related question you can think of. I also do surnames searches and searches about my ancestors' hometowns. You can also search for messages posted by a specific person, if you find somebody researching the same topic.

<http://groups.google.com/>

<http://groups-beta.google.com/>

### **Google Labs - New Stuff**

The guys at Google are always developing new things. This web page gives you a sneak peek at them. I check this on a regular basis to see what new goodies. They have come up with.

<http://labs.google.com>

**Suggest.** This web page helps you set up your search term. The web page will suggest additional search terms.

[www.google.com/webhp?complete=1&hl=en](http://www.google.com/webhp?complete=1&hl=en)

**Google Desktop Search.** Google came out with a product that will track the stuff on your PC. I don't recommend this product at this time for the following reasons:

- it doesn't index everything.
- it can take a while for your computer to be indexed

- it will keep multiple copies of the same file as you make changes to, taking up a lot of space on your hard disk.
- this is a tempting target for hackers looking to get at your personal information

<http://desktop.google.com/>

**Google Alerts.** There are thousands of web sites being added to the Internet every day. You can have Google send you an e-mail when it finds something new about a family, town or any other topic.

<http://www.google.com/alerts>

**Google Print.** Google is in the process of digitizing books at major libraries.

[www.print.google.com](http://www.print.google.com)

**Google Newspaper.** This gives you the "top ten" lists of what people are searching for. This keeps you current on what is popular in the current culture.

<http://www.google.com/press/zeitgeist.html>

**Google Blog.** This blog gives you current information from Google about the neat things that they are doing.

<http://www.google.com/googleblog/>

What is next for Google? They want to be a main part of your life. They want to be a primary source of information for you. Picture this. You are in a supermarket looking at a can of pork and beans. You scan the can with your cellular phone. Google will tell you if you can buy cheaper and where you can get it from.