
PLAIN HISTORY GENEALOGY GROUP

Covering Plain, Sauk Co, Wisconsin and Beyond

<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://garyhaas.blogspot.com>*Stuff I Find Interesting BLOG*
<http://tinyurl.com/at9w8> *Online Searchable Index*

Vol 27 Aug 2005

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Meeting & Events Schedule

Plain History Genealogy Group
Sat Sept 10th, 2005 9:30 am, Plain, WI
Kraemer Library and Community Center

Google Picasa

We will discuss this free tool from Google, which lets you manage and fix your digital photos and images. This meeting is open to anyone interested in genealogy or local history of the area.

Internet and Goodies

PC Quick List of Free Software
<http://nedwolf.com/Freeware.htm>

You can spend thousands of dollars buying software for your computer. In many cases there are free alternatives. This site gives you a nice short list of programs that are every bit as good as the commercial programs you pay hundreds of dollars for.

Picasa - Image Editing and Indexings

<http://picasa.google.com/index.html>

Many people have tons of photos and other digital images on their hard disk. One of the biggest problems people have with these files are: where are they and how can I fix them. Google has a free program called Picasa that is the greatest thing since sliced bread.

After you install the program it searches your hard disk for all sorts of digital files. It indexes them. And it gives you an easy-to-use interface.

Very few digital images are perfect. Some might have a green tint, some are too dark, some are too fuzzy, some are too light. You can always use a full-featured digital editing program, but there are way too many switches and they can be confusing to use. Picasa allows you to fix the problems with your images by clicking just one button. Through magic it figures out what is wrong with a photo and corrects it.

Waldmuenchen - Live Camera

<http://waldmuenchen2.contento.itanix.vnet.de/cms.asp?pt=-2147483586<=de&p=98>

There are lots of small video cameras hooked up to PCs that will let you look at some spot in the world and see what it's like right now. This site will let you check out the weather in Waldmuenchen. (a place where many of my ancestors came from)

10 PC Problems & How to Correct Them

<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0%2C1895%2C1844632%2C00.asp>

PC Magazine ran a great article about some of the basic problems PC users face and how to fix them.

Castle Garden Passenger Search - Morse

<http://www.castlegarden.org/about.html>

<http://stevemorse.org/ellis/cg.html>

If your ancestors came to America through New York, you are in luck. Instead of having to look through rolls and rolls of microfilm, you can search for your ancestors through , free databases. If your ancestors came to America after 1891, you use the Ellis Island database. If they came between 1830 and 1912, you can use the new Castle Garden database.

As with the Ellis Island database, Stephen P. Morse has created a much nicer and easier to use form to do a search.

South Central Library System

- Research Access

<http://www.scls.info/resources/>

Many libraries will let you do genealogical research from your home. The South Central Library System (which includes Plain, WI) gives you access to lots of great databases.

For example, you can access HeritageQuest from your home. HeritageQuest lets you search census records and PERSI.

In order to get access you need to have a library card from one of the counties in the system. If you're doing any sort of research, this has to be in your toolkit. And the price is right, free

PC Virtual Earth - Microsoft

<http://virtualearth.msn.com/>

I know that Microsoft "sucks", but their alternative to the neat satellite photos on Earth Google doesn't "suck that much". Microsoft's site doesn't have all the neat bells and whistles that Google's does, but

- you don't have to load special program to use Microsoft's

- Microsoft's has more detailed satellite images (you can see more detail)

It does give Google's site competition.

How Common is your first name

<http://www.babynamewizard.com/namevoyager/Inv0105.html>

Several months, the government released information about the popularity of first names throughout the years. The original information came in a "printed report" format. This web site shows this information graphically.

I will have to change the old accounting mantra I have lived by. "Substance over form" should now be "Form gives substance".

Loretto - The Rock

<http://garylhaas.web.aplus.net/therock>

My father went to a one-room school house. One of the "historical" records of this school is a large sandstone rock in the middle of the woods onto which students students from many generations have carved their names / initials.

Sandy Stiemke, LaVerne Haas and myself visited the rock to see how we could preserve this history.

We accomplished the first step. We removed loose (and not so loose) foilage and lichen / moss that covered the stone.

We will let the rock settle for a couple of months and in September make a more concerted attempt to document this rock.

Cedar Grove Cheese Factory

<http://cedargrovecheese.com/>

Cedar Grove Cheese, Inc is a "well known" cheese factory located in Plain, WI. They make good cheese and the curds are to die for.

You can order cheese through the mail and they have some interesting information about how they make cheese. (Knowing how cheese is made is required knowledge for somebody who lives in Wisconsin.)

Hildegarde Thering's Research Notes

St Lukes cornerstone 1903

htbd0004.jpg

October 1903

October picnic, Oct 6, dinner and supper served in the basement of the new church, various prizes.

Placed in the corner stone with a few coins of the country, a copy of the Patriot of LaCrosse, Der Wanderer of St Paul and the Weekly Home News of Spring Green, and a document which read:

In the year of Lord 1903 on the 27th day of September when Pope Pious reigned over the church of God, when Archbishop Diamides Fabraner was papal delegate to the USA, when James Schweback was bishop of the diocese of LaCrosse, John G. Lauer pastor of St Luke's congregation, Theodore Roosevelt president of the US, Rober La Follette governor of the state of Wisconsin, Paul Luther chairman and Louis Bettinger & Samuel Magli supervisors of the town of Franklin, Louis Bettinger and John Leigel trustees of St Luke, Adolph Barget and John B Weiss members of the building committee.

Sears Foundation Pig Program

htbd0031.jpg

Feb 17, 1949

10 boys belonging to the St Luke 4H club recently received registered Poland China bred gelts from the Lime Ridge 4H club . This transfer was made in cnnnection with the Sears FoundtionPig Project that has been carried out in Sauk County for the past 8 years The gelts became the property of the boys without any charge except that each boy must return a gelt of equal quality next year.

Boys who received gelts were Richard Nachreiner, Anthony Prem, Joseph Lomansny, Kenneth Rieder, Norman Liegel, Vernon Bindl, Melvin Weiss, Delmar Ring, Harley Blau and Eugene Alt.

Nifty Research Stuff

NUCMC - Manuscript Catalog

<http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/index.html>

There are lots of good stuff in libraries' manuscript collections. NUCMC (pronouced nuck-muck) is a catlogging program operated by the Library of Congress. Its official name is the "national Union Catlaog of Manuscript Collections.

This catalog covers collections at libraries throughout the world. (The Wisconsin Historical Society Library's collection is included.)

There are two catalogs that you need to search

1) Research Libraries Group (RLG) - covers holdings of 160 universities, national libraries, archives, historical societies and other institutions. The drawback is that this catalog only contains records created sin 1986. You have to search their printed volumes to find items created between 1959 - 1985.

2) OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) - serving 41,000 libraries in 82 countries and territories.

You never know what you will find in these catalogs. Give it a shot.

An Approach to Research

I have been researching my family and local history for over seven years. My research has not always taken the shortest or the easiest path. Based on the research lessons that I've learned, here is the approach that I would use today.

You can take a shotgun or rifle approach to your research. You can focus on just one person, or you can try to gather as much as you can from the easy sources. I prefer the shotgun approach, trying to get as much as you can quickly. As a new researcher you don't know enough to do a detailed research project on one person. Gathering a lot of documents and information

from all over the place can help you set your research plan.

Here is an overview of an approach to do research.

- Get help.
- Set your goals, determine what you want to accomplish.
- You'll be gathering lots of documents and information, you need a way to organize it.
- Don't give up. Be persistent.
- Take advantage of research that other people have already done.

Somewhere along the line you need help from somebody. Don't be a jerk. One of the most aggravating questions I get from somebody looking for help is "give me everything you have". Don't feel that you're entitled to anything. I had one idiot asked for everything that I have. I explain that I had five CD disks filled with information that I was selling for \$20. The person get very indignant and asked how dare, could I charge him for information about his family. Needless to say this idiot got nothing. And no longer correspond to them.

You need to set goals. Family and local history research can be whenever you want it to be. They can be just gathering list of names and dates. It can be gathering stories about your ancestors. Can also focus on dead relatives versus tracking live people. I have found that dead relatives never complained that you have been included a newborn third cousin twice removed in your research.

There is no one right way to organize information. But you have to come up with some sort of method. Some people use color folders separated by surname. I have all of my information in digital/computer format. Having your information in digital format makes it easy to back up and share your stuff with other people.

Always make copies of the documents you look at. Taking notes doesn't work. When you go back to look at a document years later, you'll find new stuff. For example, I couldn't find where my great-grandfather was born in Germany.

However, when I took a 20th at his brothers marriage certificate, there was a place as big as life.

Never give up. It helps to be persistent. One of the things you will hear is that the records don't exist, they got burnt up. I'm only surprised by the amount of nonexistence/burnt up records that I have found by looking in another place.

Document what you have and know about your family. Research involves identifying persons doing things in specific places at specific times. Always check to make sure that somebody hasn't already done the research already. A lot of my family research has a ready been done by distant relatives throughout the United States.

A good first place to start gathering information about your relatives is to look at census records. United States Federal census records are available every 10 years since the founding of the country. The most recent census that's available is for the 1930 time. The 1890 census actually burnt up and only fragments are available. You can get names, ages, occupations, and immigration information from census records. The 1900 census is a good spot to start. A key trick is to look at the neighbors. It is likely that they are family and friends. There are also state census that is available. Many libraries will let you access the Federal census at your home.

Part of your beginning research should involve getting vital records at county courthouses. Birth, marriage, land, and death vital records contain a tremendous amount of information.

A great place to look for information about anybody in the United States or Europe is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. www.familysearch.org

Since the 1930s, this Church has had over 100 film crews roaming the world filming any document that could be used in genealogical research. Genealogical research is a big part of the LDS church. The really neat thing is, they make their information available at low-cost through their local churches. You do not have to be worried about somebody trying to convert you.

In all my years of researching at the LDS church, nobody has ever mentioned religion or the Church.

The LDS church is at the forefront of using technology to do genealogical research. They have a truly awesome web site that gives you access to all their holdings.

The SEARCH tab on their main web page is a great place to start.

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

Part of the SEARCH tab has guides and helps that will tell you how to do research in any state and all the countries in Europe. Even experienced researchers can learn tricks to doing better research.

A really neat part of the SEARCH tab is that what you search for individual people.

You can search for individuals in the 1880s census for United States, Canada, and Britain.

You can search the United States Social Security death index, which covers most people who died after 1962.

You can search research that people have turned in to the Church. The Ancestral file, the International Genealogical Index, also known as the IGI file, and the Pedigree Resource File will definitely have your ancestors in them.

The Family History Library Catalog lets you search the published books and microfilm holdings of the Church. My ancestors came from a small-town in Bavaria, Germany. The LDS church has almost 200 rolls of microfilm that cover my ancestors back to the early 1800s.

You can search the Family History Library Catalog in a number of different ways: you can search by place, you can search by last name and my favorite way to search is by a key word found anywhere in the catalog record for the item.

<http://tinyurl.com/95cp>

The Family History Library also has GUIDES and HELPS which give researchers of all experience levels detailed information on how to do genealogical research. These cover every topic you can think of including ethnic groups, countries, states and counties. This should be the first stop for researchers.

[http://tinyurl.com/4957x/](http://tinyurl.com/4957x)
<http://tinyurl.com/2760e>

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

One of the top five research libraries in United States is the Wisconsin Historical Society Library on the University Wisconsin-Madison campus. It is right across from the Memorial Student Union. This is a tremendous place to research any ancestors that lived in North America.

The holdings of the Wisconsin historical Society Library can be searched using two online catalogs. The Arcat online catalog contains information about items in the archive room on the fourth floor of the Library. The Madcat online catalog contains information about everything else.

<http://madcat.library.wisc.edu/index.html>
<http://arcat.library.wisc.edu/>

The holdings of the Wisconsin Historical Society Library to be broken down into five main categories.

The Library has open stack bookshelves. This means that you go right to the shelf and look at the book. Some libraries require that you fill out a request slip and wait for a librarian to get the book for you. The library's has to different types of book holdings: Government related and other. The Library has books covering almost every county in the United States and lots of topics covering North America.

The Library has their microfilm and microfiche holdings in the microforms in a vault on the second-floor. The Library has a second-largest holdings of newspapers on microfilm. Only the Library of Congress has more. The Library has

census records for United States, Wisconsin, and Canada. The Library has microfilm copies of passenger arrival records.

The Library has a significant holding of items they call pamphlets. Pamphlets are published books and records that could not stand up by themselves. These include a lot of paper covered books published by local historians.

The Library has an Archive on the fourth floor. The archives like searching your grandmothers attic. You never know what you're going to find. You can find naturalization records, court records, military records, maps, and unpublished manuscripts.

The Library's photo collection is now housed in the Archive room. There are hundreds of thousands of photographs cover all sorts of topics.

The two versions of online catalogs, Arcat and Madcat are very similar. I strongly recommend that you get somebody to walk you through how to use the online search form. There are lots of tricks and tips that an experienced researcher can show you.

One really neat trick is that the online catalog lets you search through hundreds of results, choose a handful of them and then print or e-mail a nice printed list of items that you are looking for. This printed list of things is a great thing to take along with you to the Library. If you show the printout to a librarian, the librarian can easily help you.

A little-known trick about the Arcat online catalog is that there supersecret codes for counties and states that will give you better results.

The Wisconsin Historical Society Library has put a lot of their good stuff on their website. You can spend months looking at this stuff. Here are some websites you should visit at least a couple of times.

Name Index

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

Local History and Biographies

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

Historical Images

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

Wisconsin Civil War Soldiers

Plain History Genealogy Group

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

ARC Centers

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/arcnet/>

Other UW-Madison Libraries

http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/other_libs.html

There are tons of sites on the Internet that you to get information from. Here are some of the ones that I recommend.

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

<http://stevemorse.org>

If your ancestors came to the United States between 1892 and 1926, they probably went through Ellis Island. These arrivals can be searched in an online database. You can find out all sorts interesting things about your ancestors, where they came from, where they were going, names of people, relatives that traveled with them, how much money they have in them, and pictures of their ships.

The official online search form can be difficult to use. Stephen P. Morse has designed a form that makes it easier search for ancestors that went through Ellis Island. At Morse's web site he gives you easy access to a number of other useful databases.

Roots Web and US Gen Web are great places to search for information that somebody might have posted. Somebody might have posted a database containing all the tombstones transcriptions for a cemetery. There are also bulletin boards were you can post and search queries by surnames and places. There is lots of information group together by county.

<http://www.rootsweb.com>

There aew neat sites on the Internet that charge you to use them. Ancestry has lots of stuff that you won't find any place else. You can spend about \$200 a year to get access to this information at home. However most libraries provide free access to Ancestry's data at the Library.

<http://www.ancestry.com>

Look for the libraries that are in your area especially those with online catalogs and digitized holdings. Some libraries will even send their holdings to Library in your area.

Google is a tremendous place to search for your ancestors. Be sure to search all the areas of Google: web pages, images, current news, and a little used but extremely powerful area of groups.

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

EBay is a great place to find information. You would be amazed Europe what you can find. Postcards, publish family genealogies, hard-to-find reference books and even information from the ancestral home over in Europe.

<http://www.ebay.com>

You will need a program to store your research information in. I personally used two different programs. I use the free program from the LDS church called PAF, personal ancestral file. One main reason that I use the PAF program is that it allows me to transfer my information to my PalmPilot PDA.

I use Family Tree Maker as my primary storage. Family Tree Maker makes it very easy to publish books of your research.

No matter which program you use I strongly recommend that you get an experienced researcher to help you learn the program. Genealogy programs are complicated in not easy to learn how to use.

Suppose you decide to switch your data from one genealogy program to another. Every genealogy program can read and write GEDCOM files that another genealogy program can load. However not all the information can be transferred in a GEDCOM file, especially out is that you've attached.

Organization of your research and tools can determine whether you're going to be successful finding information. I use a PalmPilot PDA to carry all of my research and tools with me in the palm of my hand.

Being able to easily call up family pedigrees in a PDA can allow you to leave heavy binders of information at home.

You can carry around all your names, dates, relationships, and notes in the palm of your hand.

I also carry around a lot of tools with me. I carry a German dictionary and a Latin dictionary in my PDA. I have lists of the tombstones transcriptions for cemeteries around my hometown. I have special databases of information that gathered from a variety of sources.

You don't you family and local research just a hide it away in a corner somewhere. You want to organize it and print it out so you can share with relatives and friends.

A handy format to store your information and is PDF. There are free programs that will convert your information to PDF format. Once you have your information in PDF format, you can take it down to a printshop like Kinko's and have them run off a number of copies for you.

You can also print very large pedigree family trees. PDF 995 will allow you to create a single sheet of electronic version of a family tree 36 inches wide up to 102 inches long. If you take this PDF to Kinko's, they will charge you about a \$1.50 per 12 inches length. You can also have your family tree laminated at about \$2 per square foot.

<http://www.pdf995.com/>

I personally have a duplex printer at home that I can about \$450 for. A duplex printer automatically prints on both sides of the paper. I also have a comb binding system that allows me to turn the printouts into a nicely bound book.

You also want to consider publishing your information on the Internet. It makes great bait to attract other researchers that might be helpful to you.