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# PLAIN HISTORY GENEALOGY GROUP

*Covering Plain, Sauk Co, Wisconsin and Beyond*

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<http://tinyurl.com/53dn2>.....*Haas Bauer Main WebSite*  
<http://tinyurl.com/4tltt>.....*PHHG ALL Newsletters & Meeting Handouts*  
<http://tinyurl.com/4rrlv> <http://tinyurl.com/66w3v>..... *Newsletter Table of Contents*  
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## Vol 30 Feb 2006

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## Meeting & Events Schedule

**Saturday, March 11th, 2006**  
**9:30 am, Plain, WI**  
**Kraemer Library and Community Center**

We will discuss how to use the Internet to research your ancestors. This meeting is open to anyone interested in genealogy or local history of the area. There will be experts on hand to help you with your research projects.

We will discuss a little known site that can jump start your research efforts. (I guarantee that it is a little known site because I wrote the site myself.)

**Saturday, May 13th, 2006**  
**9:30 am, Plain, WI**  
**Kraemer Library and Community Center**

Annual open house. People are invited to bring their good stuff and share it with the group. We will play the 1930's videos of Plain and Sister Rose Thering's movie which was nominated for an Oscar.

## Visit to Wisconsin Historical Society Library

If you are interested in making a guided-group trip to the library on a Saturday in April 2006, drop me an email or talk to me at the March meeting.

## Internet and Goodies

### St Luke Cemetery Tombstone Goodies

This transcription still has me saying huh.

*We are bears together  
In the deep blue sea  
We are wet bears*

If anybody knows the meaning behind this let me know.

The most useful tombstone can be found in the "new" St Luke's cemetery. It is at the very top of this cemetery located on a sloping hill. The view from this spot is pretty neat. There is a tombstone in the shape of a bench that invites you to "SIT, REST, AND PONDER GOD'S BEAUTY."

### NARA Updated Archival Database Interface

<http://aad.archives.gov/aad/>

US National Records Administration and Records Administration is a tremendous resource for researching family and local history. Unfortunately their web-interface has stunk. Even the changes they made last year left me wanting for more.

They now have a much better access to their Archival Database which makes it easier to get at stuff. Check the site out, they have great stuff.

## **Der Schlüssel – German Genealogical Index**

Der Schlüssel translates to “The Key”. This little known resource could be the key to researching your German Ancestors. Der Schlüssel is a nine-volume index to 90 German, Austrian, Swiss and heraldic periodicals from 1860 to 1981.

If you are lucky you might find a reference to a German-genealogical publication that includes information about your ancestor or your ancestor's home.

Here are some tips on how to use this research gem.

This document is in German. Even if you can't read the German language, you should be able to recognize names of persons and places.

The first three volumes include their own indexes. The other six volumes have their own combined index.

Each volume has a Contents page (Inhalt), a list of periodicals indexed, and a historical synopsis of periodicals.

The Title index (Titelnachweis) is the “key” to finding a document. The Title index alphabetically lists authors and their articles with a number assigned to them. This assigned number is referred to in the rest of the volume.

The Place index (Ortsquellenverzeichnis) lists towns, counties, areas and countries found in the Title index.

The Subject index (Sachverzeichnis) lists topics such as emigration, census, tax, occupation or religious records.

The Name index (Namenverzeichnis) lists names found in the Title index. Unfortunately, it does not list the individual names found in the articles.

Where can you find Der Schlüssel? It can be found at the LDS Family History Library in Salt

Lake City. Unfortunately it is not in microform so it can't be sent to a local Family History Center. I did not find it in the catalogs for UW-Madison or UW-Milwaukee. The Allen County Library in Indiana only has the first two volumes. I have found and used a copy of the complete 9 volumes at the Newberry Library in Chicago.

Once you find an article in Der Schlüssel you can contact the Family History Library in Salt Lake City for a copy of the article if they have the publication.

Okay, this is a boatload of work. Is it worth it? Would you consider an article about your ancestor, their home town or a listing of local research holdings worth it? Would you consider an article that contains a transcription of census records containing your family worth it? This is definitely worth a trip to the Newberry Library in Chicago.

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

### **Civil War Weisham Claridge**

htao0043.jpg htao0044.jpg

Michael Weisham in Co. K. 18th infantry died in Civil War leaving a wife and three children.

George Claridge enlisted in Co. 36th Wi Volunteers. He was wounded twice. Once a bullet from a sharp shooter's rifle plowed a furrow across his temple, but did not put him out of fight. Later on he received a serious wound in the pit and became a casualty for a time. On being discharged he was placed in the veteran corp, a company of wounded soldiers not yet fit for service in the field but able to do military duty about the national capital.

### **George Brey Sr.**

htan0011.jpg Jan 6 1920

George Brey Sr. lost right hand employed at Alfred Fricks meat market.

*Work was dangerous before OSHA.*

# The Plain Citizen - Newspaper

Between February 15, 1950 and December 20, 1950, Plain WI had its own newspaper. It was operated by Ralph and Claire Peterson of Madison who were well-known in radio-personalities in Madison. They were already operating newspapers in; Rock Springs – The Rock Springs Townsman, LaValle–The LaValle Sentry.

It was to be a 5 column tabloid, a newspaper not an advertising sheet with 4-8 pages per week. Subscription was \$2.50 per year \$4.50 for two years.

They hired a local part-time editor, Delia Schwartz. The Petersons planned to make thrice-weekly visits.

Not everybody was happy about the efforts of the Petersons. According to the Peterson's "William O. Hart, of Baraboo, who suddenly got the idea of running a newspaper in Rock Springs" and then things got nasty. He called Petersons Communists and other names. Hart published a mimeographed newspaper, The Narrows Tribune

Here are some of the articles I came across in the microfilm copies of this paper can be found at the Wisconsin Historical Society Library in Madison WI.)

- Edw. Kraemer & Sons purchased a "Greetings of the Season" ad to the people of Plain and wishing success to the Paper. "General Contractor – Plain, A Plain Institution Since 1911"

- Ad for Plain Locker & Produce Company (Russ, Felix, Art, Ralph)

- Ad for Ring's General Store and Market (Phone 25)

- Ad for Wally & Irmas "Frog Legs, Celebrate New Year's Eve with us (confetti and stuff) Tom and Jerries for Christmas and New Years Days"

- Ad for Bettinger Brothers (Dial 2361)

- February 15, 1950 P.T.A Staging Big Card Party Here on Sunday (local PTA embraces both grade and high schools of St. Luke's Parochial district and the public grade school), pre-Lenten card part Sun February 19 8:00 pm. Mrs. Frank Haag is chairman. Euchre, "500", canasta, pinochle, and sheepshead. Local PTA founded on May 6 1949, Ed Crowley president

-August 1950. Sr Leonella announces faculty  
Sr Eulalia – 1<sup>st</sup> grade      Sr Aimee – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade  
Sr Henrietta – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade      Sr Angelita – 4<sup>th</sup> grade  
Sr Luciana – 5<sup>th</sup> grade      Sr Albertus – 6<sup>th</sup> grade  
Sr Leocadia – 7<sup>th</sup> grade      Sr Rosina – 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
Sr Leonella – High School  
Sr Josita – High School  
Sr Honors – High School

- Plain Euchre Club Met Last Thursday At Diehls Meets Thursday evening at Harry Diehl's tavern The jackpot of \$16 was won by Ralph Meixelsperger and Phil Bettinger with a score of 102 points out of a possible 105. The door prize went to Eddie Weiss.

-Bowling

(Be sure to note how low the scores were. There must have been too many beer frames.)

Ray's (Ray Thering, Gerry Lins, George Brey, Fritz Ruhland, Cletus Wiest) They had a low series of 585 for a 5 man team.

Liegel's Bottle Gas, Bartols, Meadow View Rollers had teams

Huckster's (Fr. Mueller 498 high 3 game series, Leon Kraemer, Fr. Holzer 346 low, Otto Lins, John Dischler)

Rangers (Lawrence Brechtel, Russ Schwiess, Tony Brickl High Game 200, Richard Meixelsperger F'd Nachreiner)

## -Plain People Involved in Two Accidents

Plain residents were involved in two accidents over the weekend.

Harold Schutz of the Cold Springs Cheese Factory, damaged a 1948 GMC truck extensively and spilled 50 cans of cream Sunday morning 6 miles north of Plain, when his brakes failed. The truck rolled over.

Monday morning at 3:30 on STH 60, five miles west of Sauk, Victor Ruhland fell asleep, and ran his 1949 Nash sedan into the ditch. The car was damaged, but Ruhland emerged unhurt – and unrested.

## -Former Betty Dischler Has Operation

Mr. Luke Liegel, Wiota, the former Betty Dischler, has been in ill health for some time. An x-ray recently revealed a piece of wire about ¾ inch long lodged in her stomach.

Last Friday at the Monroe clinic, it was removed (sans surgery). Doctors used a magnet to draw it up through the alimentary canal.

-Lloyd Heiser, 13, of Plain, local Milwaukee Sentinel carrier was featured in the “Your Carrier” of that newspaper of Friday, August 4, 1950

-“Farming for Young People Can be Fun Too”  
(Reprinted from Wisconsin State Journal February 1950)

Nine years ago, the Sears Foundation donated 10 pure bred Poland China gilts to a 4-H club in Sauk County. The purpose of these transfers and of the project in general is to help 4-H club boys and girls get a start in pure brew swine projects. 10 members of the St Luke’s 4-H club transferred one bred gilt each, to 10 members of the Loganville Friendship 4-H club. Delmar Ring, Melvin Weiss, Vernon Bindl, Richard Nachreiner, Joseph LaMassney, Kenneth Reider, Norman Leigel, Anthony Prem, Harley Blau and Eugene Alt.

## Are You Ready for a PDA

PDA stands for personal digital assistant.

PDA’s are supposed to be the greatest things since sliced bread. Are you ready for one? This can be a tough and confusing decision because of all the complexity in choosing a PDA.

Let’s start with what a PDA is. For me a PDA is a combination of hardware and software that allows me to carry my stuff with me. There are tremendous benefits to being able to have your stuff at your fingertips.

Currently I am using a Palm Zire 31 and a TREO 350 which is a combination of a Sprint cell phone and a Palm PDA. Let’s look at some of the stuff I carry on my PDA. Lets start with the basic stuff that you will find on almost every type of PDA.

PDA’s have a calendar function which allows you to keep track of appointments, events, deadlines, and special dates like birthdays and anniversaries.

PDA’s have an address book which allows you to keep track of names, addresses, e-mail addresses, phone numbers.

PDA’s have a memo pad which allow you to make notes. I have all my family and local history research notes on my PDA.

PDA’s have a to-do list which allow you to keep track of things that you have to do.

A PDA strong point is organizing your stuff. You can electronically group memos, to dos, and addresses by categories that you set up yourself.

My favorite feature of my PDA is its ability to search for stuff stored on it. In just a few seconds you can search every knook and cranny that data is stored in your PDA .

You can get lots of free stuff for your PDA on the Internet. One really neat tool is available from the LDS church. They have a free program that lets you transfer information from your PAF genealogy program on your desktop to your Palm PDA. Being able to carry your family research and notes in your hand is invaluable when you research in libraries.

Adobe provides a free program a lets you view PDF files on your PDA. When you create a PDF file, you print to a file instead of a printer. This means that anything that you have on your PC that can be printed to a PDF file, and then it can be viewed on your PDA. This can be death certificates, pictures, pedigree charts, almost anything. You can easily create PDF files using free programs like PDF 995 or using free office suite programs like Open Office which have the ability to create PDF files built in.

There are programs that will allow you to read books electronic format.

There are calculators which will convert names into their Soundex equivalent which is handy when working with US Federal censuses.

There are calculators which will tell you the day of the week for a given date. This helps tell a story. Converting the date my ancestors' ship arrived in New York City into a day told me that they arrived on the Saturday before Easter.

You can get all types of games for your PDA. A quick game of Yahtzee can be a nice break from your research.

There are also free programs that allow you to learn things. I found a free German language tutorial.

I have also bought stuff for my PDA.

I purchased a program which allows me to work with Microsoft spreadsheets and word processing documents on my PDA.

I purchased a German and Latin dictionary for my PDA. It is much quicker to search for words in a PDA instead of flipping pages in a book.

I also purchased a program that allows me to communicate with people in foreign languages. I select a question from its lists in English, the program converts it to German. I hand the PDA to the German person who answers the question in German, and the PDA converts it to English.

One of my best purchases was a database program for my PDA that will convert Microsoft Access databases and Microsoft Excel spreadsheets to a format that I can use on my PDA. So much of the research that I have is in the form of lists. For example: I have a list of the over 50,000 digital images that I have, I have a list of the cemetery transcriptions for my hometown cemeteries, and I have a list of probate records available for Sauk County that I downloaded off of the web site.

Were do I find stuff? I use the Google search engine to find all sorts of free stuff. Here are some great sites to find some tremendous tools that are free.

<http://www.freewarepalm.com/>  
<http://www.eurocool.com/>  
<http://www.tucows.com/Windows/PDA/>  
<http://www.memoware.com/>

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How will I carry my stuff in the future? There have been tremendous advances in PDAs and it is amazing what they can do today. Here are some of the things I expect to be able to do with a PDA in the near future. To start with I want to carry all of my stuff with me. Right now my PDA only has storage for 16 million bytes worth of stuff. I want to carry all 80 billion bytes of the stuff that I digitized.

I want to have a three megapixel or better digital camera on my PDA. Not only will this allow me to take pictures but I can use it as a scanner. Then I can go the next step and use optical character recognition to convert the image into words. This will allow me to translate German documents into English using my handheld PDA.

My next PDA will have a digital audio recorder on it. This will really be handy when I'm sitting with relatives in the story telling really neat stories.

An audio player will be nice to listen to podcasts and Internet radio programs.

I will also want my next PDA to have a GPS device so I won't get lost and that I can mark the location of tombstones and other hard to find locations.

A video player/recorder would also be nice to have on my next PDA.

The most important thing that my next PDA will have is that it will have to be able to connect to stuff. It will have to be able to wirelessly connect to my laptop or desktop to exchange files. It will have to be able to wirelessly connect to the Internet wherever I am. Being able to connect to the Internet will give me unlimited access to information.

Are you ready for a PDA? I group potential PDA users into three groups.

The Ford model T. group consists of those people who just want to do the basics, note taking, to-do lists, memos and carry your genealogy around with you. To do this you don't need the latest and greatest most expensive PDA. The cheap models will meet your needs.

There is the hot Rod group which consists of people who have to have the latest and greatest technology. People in this group will be able to do some incredible things but they will also spend a lot of money.

The third group consists of caveman. These people think that the electric light is the only new technology that they need. Seriously, technology is not for everybody. There is a great deal of pain involved with learning a new technology. If you can get by doing genealogical research using a stone tablet and a chisel, don't let anybody make you feel like you are not doing real research. PDAs can be grouped by what they cost.

Low-end PDAs are very cheap right now because there has been a large drop in the demand for basic units. If you are in the Ford model T. group, this is a great time to purchase a cheap unit for \$100 or less.

The PDAs in the middle group let you do some neat things for between \$100 and \$200. Just like

walking down the middle of the street, purchasing one of these middle group units can be dangerous. You can be hit by a car trying to decide whether you want a basic unit or a more expensive unit. I recommend that you be frugal and cautious when you buy programs for one PDA that might not be usable on your next PDA.

The sky is the limit for the cost of PDAs in the third group. These PDAs will have all the bells and whistles and you will pay for them today. Just like cell phones have grown to be an indispensable technology with their cameras and Internet connections, in a couple of years, PDAs having all the bells and whistles will be cheap and everyone will have one.

What are some basic rules to follow in choosing a PDA? An important thing about a PDA is that it has to make your life more convenient.

If you have to carry around a lot of cables and a battery is always running down, it can be very frustrating.

Make sure you get all the doodads and bells and whistles on your PDA. Thinking back to my first computer, I was sure that I would never need a hard disk bigger than 10 million bytes nor would I need a color monitor. Think about that when you are trying to decide whether you want the camera or not as part of your PDA.

One of the nice things about the Palm line of PDAs is that they are very simple to use. If you have to fight a lot of technical issues that make a difficult use, why bother? If you want frustration, work with your desktop.

One thing that should never be forgotten is that a PDA without data is no more useful in doing research than a toaster is. Being able to carry the equivalent of an unlimited stack of books is what makes it worthwhile.