
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 31 Apr 2006

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Meeting & Events Schedule

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. This will be a great opportunity to help with researching your family.

Saturday, Jul 22nd, 2006

9:30 am, Plain, WI
Kraemer Library and Community Center

***NOTE THE SPECIAL DATE
FOR THE JULY MEETING
(due to German Interest
Group event).***

Saturday, Jul 15th, 2006

German Interest Group Whitewater, WI

Do not miss this annual day-long seminar on German genealogy. I always learn something new, there are interesting fellow researchers to meet and vendors with stuff to sell.

3 R's of German Research: Reading, Writing & Records

**German 101: Understand German
When All You Know is English**

Reading German Handwriting and Records

**German Church Records:
The Key to Successful Research**

**Accessing Records in Germany:
Local Repositories**

http://www.rootsweb.com/%7Ewigiq/workshop_page1-general_info.html

Internet and Goodies

Biographies of US Congress members

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/serialset/cdocuments/hd108-222/>

if you had ancestors that were part of the United States Congress you will want to look at this online history.

Interactive German Map

<http://www.de.map24.com/>

I read about this really neat interactive map of Germany from the Germanic Genealogy Journal of Spring 2006.

Interactive means you click on stuff on the map and it shows you stuff.

1) If you hover over a town, it will show the German government levels - kind of like clicking on a town in Wisconsin and seeing the County governments and State governments for the town

2) There is a distance measuring icon on the tool bar that lets you measure stuff in detail - for example you can see how far your ancestors traveled to church - you can also see all the towns within a selected number of kilometers

Making Sense of Old documents

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/browse/makesense/>

One of the skills that a family researcher needs is the ability to find clues in old documents. This web site contains a number of articles and audio recordings which will give you lots of ideas that will be helpful in doing your research and discovering clues in old documents.

You can find detailed guides about reading maps, letters, diaries and photographs. You will also find how to make sense of advertisements and popular songs.

Understanding history is the first step to understanding your ancestors.

WWI and Wisconsin

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/turningpoints/tp-037/>

The Wisconsin Historical Society's web page has lots of really neat stuff. The site gives you a compilation of the information that lets you find out about World War I and how it affected Wisconsin. The topics run the gamut from book burning to letters from soldiers.

Learn Latin Online

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/latin/beginners/>

Lots of the church stuff genealogists look at is in Latin. Here is a fairly extensive online course to help you learn Latin.

ArchiveGrid -- Open the door to history

<http://archivegrid.org/web/jsp/index.jsp>

For me there is nothing better than to rummage around in libraries looking for stuff about my ancestors and my hometown. The next best thing is to rummage around in libraries' online catalogs. This site combines the online catalogs for some of the great research libraries. It's a little tricky to use because they hide the input box for your search terms in the upper left-hand corner. This is free for use until May 31.

Online Death Certificates State of Missouri

<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/>

The state of Missouri has an online index to death certificates from 1910 to 1955. For 1910 to 1920 you can view an image of the certificate. The state is working on adding more images to the site.

The price is right free.

NARA Videos on Google

<http://video.google.com/nara.html>

NARA is the federal government agency responsible for accumulating, safeguarding all the stuff the government generates. NARA has a lot of very interesting films that they are now making available on Google.

The Genealogy Guys Podcast

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

Podcasting is the distribution of audio or video files, such as radio programs or music videos, over the Internet. Huh? What does that mean?

In this case you have 2 guys talking about genealogy topics weekly. You can download the files if you have a high speed Internet connection. Otherwise you should ask a friend to download the files for you.

George G. Morgan, internationally-recognized genealogy expert, author, and lecturer & Drew Smith, MLS, instructor at the School of Library and Information Science at the University of South Florida in Tampa are the 2 guys

These guys have talked about a number of neat topics since starting in September 2005.

- Researching in Salt Lake City
- Finding genealogical items on Ebay
- World War I and World War III draft and enlistment records
- Using PERSI

One of the traits of a successful genealogy researcher is that they are always trying to learn new stuff. By the way the price is right, this is a free service.

Make your own obituary

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=409419>

After you die, how do you make sure that they get your life story straight at the funeral? One way is to record your own life story using multimedia and a computer. This may sound like a weird and stupid thing to do. But imagine what your descendents 20 years from now will think about hour-long movie that tells their favorite ancestor's life story.

Cemetery Lists, White Mound, Lady of Fields, Pleasant Hill

http://www.interment.net/data/us/wi/sauk/white_mound/index.htm

<http://www.interment.net/data/us/wi/sauk/ladyof/index.htm>

http://www.interment.net/data/us/wi/sauk/pleasant_hill/index.htm

The listing of the transcriptions for these cemeteries have been updated and put on the Internet.

I have photos of all the tombstones in these cemeteries.

Wisconsin Magazine of History Online

http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/highlights/archives/2006/02/digitization_gr.asp

One of the best sources of information about the people and history of Wisconsin is the magazine Wisconsin Magazine of History and its predecessor, Wisconsin Historical Collections.

The Schoenleber Foundation and the University of Wisconsin-Madison is providing the funding to scan and create a searchable index on these magazines.

The really good part is that these will be available online for FREE.

They estimate that the first issues will appear "about the time that daffodils begin to wave their heads in the spring breezes."

(Wow, somebody writes real good.)

Progeny Software

<http://www.progenysoftware.com/FTM-Charting-Companion-charts.html>

This company sells a product that makes interesting charts using data from your genealogical program.

I especially like the timeline charts. This gives you a great visual feel for how long a person lived and the relationship to the lives of their relatives.

Wis Hist Society Pre-1907 Vital Records Index
<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/vitalrecords/index.asp>

The Wisconsin Historical Society has added a searchable index to marriage, birth, death records prior to 1907. (1907 was the year that counties were required to send these records to a central repository in Madison.)

Civil War Research

The Old Franklin Township Historical Society is doing a comprehensive review of people who served in the Civil War and lived in Franklin Township, Sauk County, Wisconsin. This society is a great place to find information about an ancestor who served in the Civil War. If you have information or documents to share about local civil war soldiers, they will be happy to talk to you.

"Sandy Stiemke" scrary@jvl.net
"Phyllis Dearborn" pdear@merr.com
"Gene & Karen Beth" gkbeth@charter.net
"Marian Burmester" burmeste@mwt.net

Pioneer Research Certificates

This is a classic case of ancestors hiding information on us. One of the people who visited the Wisconsin Historical Society Library last week was researching the Pioneer Certificate data in the Archives Room on the 4th floor.

People turned information into the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society. The purpose of this information was to prove when an ancestor settled in Wisconsin. Under this program, applicants with ancestors who had settled in Wisconsin at least 100 years earlier received century or pioneer certificates.

She expected to only find information about Wisconsin ancestors. However the submitter included information about their ancestors from Europe including neat stories about flooding and information about a mysterious relative.

The moral of this story is to keep your eyes open because you never know what you will find and where you will find it.

Hildegarde Thering's Research Notes

Joseph Lins June 1928 htam0021.jpg
"Joseph Lins was district delegate to the national convention of the Democratic party in Houston, Texas."

The Rock (yet again)

After the February meeting my Dad and I made another trip to the Loreto School Rock. We hoped that a lot of the moss growing on the Rock would be easy to remove just before spring. This would let us take some detailed pictures of the inscriptions, as part of our project to document the people who left their marks on this historical marker.

First off, in order to do any job properly you have to have the right tools. Thanks to Bill Liegel, we were able to use his 6-wheel vehicle. This is the best way to visit the rock. I remember the "long" tiring trips last fall down the hill to the Rock. It would have even been worse with the snow cover still on the trail. This vehicle didn't go fast but it was able to smoothly go over the snow and the ruts on the trail.

The main difficulty was a tree that had fallen across the trail during the winter. We were able to move the tree out of the way, mostly. Note to myself: be sure to set the brake on a running vehicle when you are moving a tree. Oops, don't tell Bill L. about this.

After making it to the Rock, it only took a half-hour to clean off the vegetation. I took some clear photos of the names and initials and dates on the Rock. After we were done, I suggested to my Dad that we go to Drea's "library" to do some more research. This is a picture of him after he raced back to the vehicle. It was the perfect end to a successful research trip.



Researching on the Internet

The biggest problem with any discussion of researching on the Internet is that you end up with a list of a bunch of web sites. After typing long Internet addresses for two or three sites, many people to put these lists on the pile things to do.

I created a web site called HAASGENFIND which makes it easier to check out the list of genealogical research sites on the Internet. My site can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/6sj31> (The last character is the number 1.) The site focuses on Germany, Wisconsin and my hometown of Plain, Wisconsin.

OK what makes my site so great and different from hundreds of similar sites that list a bunch of Web addresses?

The big benefit is when you click on a site it opens up the site in a new window. Many times when I'm following an Internet link I go down through several layers and can not find my way back to web page that I started with. By opening up a site in a new window I can explore lots of different links and still return to my starting point by just closing the new window.

Another benefit is that my site allows you to put in the names of people and places. Lots of sites like Google let you type in the names of people and places then gives you the search results. My site reduces the need to type these names over and over in different sites. My site also tries various combinations.

One of the biggest benefits of my site is that it allows you to document what you are searching for. You can save the web page that my site generates to your PC. You can print out this web page. This allows you to check out the sites at different times, which is handy because you will not be able to check out all the sites on my web page in one sitting.

OK, let's start researching on the Internet.

The first step in researching on the Internet is to prepare a bunch of lists. History is people doing things at specific places, at specific times. Make lists of the names of people and places and the dates events took place.

The longer your lists are the better. Include the names of relatives, friends and neighbors of the ancestor you are researching. It is easier to search for a group of people than an individual. Our ancestors' lives involved doing things with their family and the people they knew. It is easier to find a family of people with different names than to look for an individual with the name of John.

Regarding dates, if you don't know the precise date you can estimate a date range for key events such as birth, marriage, immigration, land purchase, and death.

Include all possible alternate spellings for names and places on your lists. At times it seems that the people who enter information into the Internet can't spell. The information you're searching for might be hidden underneath a badly misspelled name.

Don't be satisfied with finding one source for a piece of information. People, who have done genealogical research for awhile, recognize it is rare to find information that doesn't conflict. I would rather have five pieces of information that conflict and then go through a process of resolving the differences.

Persistence is an absolute necessity. You have to be patient. I know lots of people who were one click away from finding stuff about the ancestors on the Internet would just gave up.

Once you have your lists, go to the HAASGENFIND web site. The following discussion is meant to be an overview of the stuff that you can find on the Internet. I will point you to sites that you should look at. You will need to invest time to explore the tricks and tips of using the individual sites.

There are three distinct areas that you can enter information into.

There is a spot for entering the first and last name for two people. You can also enter variations for one individual. For example my grandfather was known as Lute and Ludwig. By entering a first and a last name, you can do a last name search. However you can put a complete name in any of the four slots. This will let you search for four different people or the same person using different names and spellings.

There is a spot for entering three different addresses. You have flexibility in how you enter information into this part of the form. You can enter in a city, county, and a state name to narrow the search. You can also enter in nine different addresses in the slots. This is great for entering different variations for place names. For example my ancestors came from Waldmünchen in Germany. This name has the dots above the U. there three different variations that can be used for this name Waldmünchen, Waldmuenchen, and Waldmunchen.

At the top of this website's form are special characters that you can use to cut-and-paste to enter special characters.

There is a spot for searching about three Wisconsin counties using drop-down lists.

When you have entered your information into the form click on the ENTER button. Here's where the fun starts. Let's look at the results.

One of the first things you want to do is to save this web page to your PC. This will allow you to go back and work on it in pieces. Select FILE from your Web browser's main menu. Then select SAVE AS to save the file. It is also a good idea to print out the web page to keep track of sites that you do have visited.

There are four sections to the results:

- research tips & web sites to look at
- Wisconsin county of information
- person search results
- address search results.

The research tips area gives you reminders of things to search for on the Internet.

Censuses are an excellent source of information about ancestors and should be some of the first information you gather about your ancestors. You should gather United States federal census information for all available years for your ancestors. You should search for all available years because if your ancestors are like mine, they gave different answers in different years. Census records are a great source of information about people, where they were living, where they came from and when things took place. In many cases you can access the federal census online, at home, through your local library.

Don't forget state census or special census. In Wisconsin, you can access these at the Wisconsin Historical Society Library in Madison Wisconsin.

If your ancestors lived on farms in Wisconsin between 1923 and 1980, be sure to check the annual farm census records available on microfilm in the archives room. These farm censuses contain detailed information about the crops and animals raised on the farm and information about the house and the barn. You can learn when the house was built, when they got electricity, and other nifty tidbits of information.

The HAASGENFIND also contains a section of specific document types to look for. You can get World War I draft registrations and bonus records from the Wisconsin Historical Society Library in Madison. You can also find sites on the Internet to get aerial photos from the 1940s of your ancestors' homes in Europe from the United States government.

The next section of HAASGENFIND gives you a number of web sites to look at. I will not go through all of them, but be sure to check them all out. Each site was included for reason.

Making of America - Cornell University, University of Michigan contains digitized and indexed magazines and books from the 1800s. The site is a tremendous resource of information of the times and the places our ancestors lived through. I found some great articles about New York City and Castle Garden when my ancestors came to America.

Many of the very best libraries let you check out what they have on the Internet. Browsing the catalogs of libraries can help you find information about your ancestors. I like to browse the catalogs to get ideas for things I can search for.

Allen County public library has a tremendous amount of genealogical and historical information. They also have been very large collection of genealogical and historical magazines. You can search PERSI, which is an online index to genealogical magazines, for articles that contain information about your ancestors' names in the places they lived. Once you find an article you can request the library to send a copy to you

UW Madison and other UW libraries are fantastic places to research all sorts of things. Many of the libraries on the University of Wisconsin campuses, contain unbelievable stuff specific to the areas that they are located in.

The Wisconsin Historical Society Library is one of the top five historical and genealogical research libraries in the United States. Here are some of things that you should look at for this Library.

- web site -the web site gives you easy access to the things they have
- Madcat - is an online catalog to books, pamphlets, and microforms
- Arcat -is an online catalog to things held in the archives section of the library
- finding aids - give you detail information about holdings at the libraries
- name index, history biography, images - give you access to online collections of digitized images, books and photos
- architecture - this is a database of historically significant buildings in

Wisconsin (This database contains information about several buildings in my small hometown of Plain Wisconsin.)

- federal survey - prior to Wisconsin becoming a state, the federal government took a survey of Wisconsin. This online site gives you easy access to the surveyors handwritten notes.

The website of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints should be one of your first stops on the Internet. They definitely will have information on your ancestors even if they didn't belong to the Church. Here are some of the things you should check out on the site.

- web page - you really need to explore the site, they have lots of hidden goodies
- catalog - their online catalog lets you search the millions of microfilms, books and other records that the LDS church has been gathering since the late 1800s
- guides, helps - the site gives you access to information that you can download that tells you how to research ancestors in almost every place in North America and Europe. These are free and they contain lots of tricks and tips
- search - their online catalog lets you search their online database of the names that the LDS church has collected

The second section of the results deals with information about Wisconsin counties.

- Linkpendium - this site contains great information about counties in United States
- WHS Arcat search using special codes - here is a little-known trek about the Wisconsin Historical Society Library's archive catalog. You can search by County names like Milwaukee and Sauk. However, if you use the secret County codes you'll get more results.
- List of Historical and Genealogical societies - local societies can have unique holdings of information and you should include them in your research

- County government web site – these sites give you access birth, marriage, death, land, probate records for your ancestors
- US Gen Web sites for counties - these sites can contain almost anything. But be sure to check them out.

The **third** section contains search results for the person's names you entered. The **fourth** section contains search results for the addresses you entered.

The objective of the 3rd and 4th sections is to give you a bunch of things to click on without having to re-enter the names over and over again. These "clicks" will give you thousands of things to check out.

This is where it is important to be persistent. You will have to "mine" through a lot of "ore" before you find the nuggets of gold. Even if you don't find "direct" information on your ancestors, you can find clues and fellow researchers to contact if you look hard enough.

Lets look at some of the sites I have chosen.

Google is a phenomenal search engine. It seems like it has a link to every site on the Internet. Here are some things that many people don't take advantage of when using the Google site.

Images – Google lets you search for images on websites. You never know when you will find a picture of an ancestor or the village the ancestor lived in.

Groups – The Groups area of Google collects messages that people have posted regarding a wide variety of topics. Lots of these topics relate to genealogy. It is likely that someone has posted a question about your ancestors. The answers to these questions can be extremely helpful.

~ - If you enter a ~ before a search term on Google, it will search for all similar words. ~boat will also search for ships.

The holdings of the **LDS** church are vast and cataloged extensively on their website. Some of this information is squirreled away in little nooks and crannies. If you don't find information about your ancestors on the LDS website, you are doing something wrong.

Don't forget to check out the **eBay** website. I have found: postcards of Plain and Waldmünchen, family histories written about my ancestors, great buys on genealogical books and computer software.

Rootsweb, like the LDS website has a lot of stuff, but you have to look for it. They have an extensive message board that covers the world. The site also has databases that people have contributed.

Ancestry is a pay-to-use site. It has a tremendous amount of information. You can search their indexes for free. You can access this site for free at many libraries. It has great databases on immigrant arrivals.

ARCAT & MADCAT are the online-catalogs for libraries on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. These catalogs cover the holdings at the Wisconsin Historical Society Library. It would be an understatement to say that they have stuff. They have unbelievable stuff that you never would think that exists.

The Internet is a tremendous research tool. There is lots of useful and correct information. There is also a lot of useless and incorrect information. You will only discover which is which by using the library.