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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/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 32 Jun 2006

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## Meeting & Events Schedule

**Saturday, Jul 22nd, 2006**  
9:30 am, Plain, WI  
Kraemer Library and Community Center

We will talk about how to determine the date a photo was taken based on items in the photo. We will discuss how to tell when a photo was taken by the hair styles and clothing worn by people in the meeting.

***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 plus there are interesting fellow researchers to meet and vendors with stuff to sell.

[http://www.rootsweb.com/%7Ewigig/workshop\\_page1-general\\_info.html](http://www.rootsweb.com/%7Ewigig/workshop_page1-general_info.html)

**Saturday October 14, 2006**  
WSGS Fall Seminar – Fond du Lac, WI  
Paula Stuart-Warren

She is an excellent speaker and knows how to “teach” genealogy topics.

**Saturday April 21, 2007**  
MCGS Biennial Workshop – Milwaukee, WI  
Cyndi Howells

This is the Cyndi that created Cyndi's list.

## Internet and Goodies

**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.

**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 government and State government 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

**Map Your Ancestors on GOOGLE Map**  
<http://www.mapyourancestors.com/>

This site allows you to map where your ancestors lived using GOOGLE maps. You can add photos and text to make an awesome map. Seeing how your ancestors migrated can make it easier to understand the raw dates, names and places you discover in your research.

**Social Security Death Index SSDI**  
<http://stevemorse.org/ssdi/ssdi.html>

The Social Security Administration will pay about \$250 in a death benefit if the relatives request it. The Social Security Administration updates its Social Security Death Index (SSDI) database monthly with these requests. Most of the people who died after 1963 are included in this index. This database includes, birth date, death date, social security number, date of last residence, date last check was sent.

**OHGen - LDS IGI Files & Vital Records**  
<http://www.ohgen.net/>

The LDS church's IGI file can be a tremendous source of information, but it can be tough to use. You don't have to be a Mormon to be included in this database.

The OHGen (I assume an Ohio genealogy group) has set up a site that makes it easier to use the IGI file.

You pick a state, then a county. OHGen's site will take you to FAMILYSEARCH.org with the BATCH number for the county filled in. This allows you to see all the people recorded in the IGI file for the selected county.

The OHGen site also has links to unique websites for some of the counties.

**LDS Microfilm of Waldmuenchen**  
<http://garylhaas.web.aplus.net/phgmain/LDSWaldmuenchen.pdf>

<http://garylhaas.web.aplus.net/phgnews/WALDPTM1.PDF>

Most of the people from Plain, Wisconsin have ancestors from Waldmuenchen, Bavaria, Germany. The LDS Church has 3 microfilm collections of civil records from Waldmuenchen.

You can find these films listed on the LDS website at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). The first of the two links is just a reformatting of this listing of films.

The second link gets you a transcription of a list of people who emigrated from Waldmuenchen. This list will help you find your ancestors "permission to leave" form in the LDS microfilm collection. This list is needed because these "permission to leave" forms are not in a strict alphabetical order.

I strongly recommend that you download and print these sheets. They make a good checklist of what is available.

## Reedsburg Library - Online Index to Reedsburg Newspapers

<http://www.scls.lib.wi.us/reedsburg/genealogyinst.htm>

This site lets you search an online index of Reedsburg, Sauk County, Wisconsin newspapers. This can be helpful when you are searching for obituaries or other articles about an ancestor.

## Reedsburg Library - Pictures of Sauk Co Communities

[http://www.scls.lib.wi.us/reedsburg/local\\_his.html#photo](http://www.scls.lib.wi.us/reedsburg/local_his.html#photo)

This site lists the digital photos at the Reedsburg Library has of communities in Sauk County. It gives you an idea of what's available in their inventory. There were some photos from Plain Wisconsin that I didn't know existed.

## Wisconsin Court System On-line

<http://wcca.wicourts.gov/index.xsl>

<http://wcca.wicourts.gov/help.xsl;jsessionid=CDA189FD6EE12655F22E849F9FD63C39.rend er12>

It's very possible that the ancestors or friends that you are looking for have had some interaction with the legal system. This could be civil suits, criminal cases, or even probate cases. The Wisconsin Court System gives you free, online access to index of these cases.

Most counties in Wisconsin started loading data into the CCAP system (Consolidated Court Automation Programs) in the early 1990s. Some counties like Door County have loaded probate cases going back to 1859.

This is a complicated search form and I don't have it completely figured out myself. Here are some tips.

**1) Select the ADVANCED SEARCH option.**

**2) Set the RECORDS/SCREEN to 50**

## 3) Search By Name

a) PARTY NAME

enter at least three letters of the last name, you can use the \* wildcard  
enter at least the first letter of first name

b) CASE TYPE drop down list (optional)

select a case type to reduce the number of cases in the result field

Click on the Search button

## 4) Search by Case type

This is an extremely complicated search process. But it can give you the really good stuff. I use this option when I want to check for all the cases of a particular type in my home county of Sauk.

a) COUNTY - select a county

b) Enter a CASE NUMBER (this is really tricky).

There are four items to fill in.

#1 Select a year

#2 Select one of the codes in the following list from the dropdown list.

PR – Probate    PA – Paternity    FA - Family  
CV – Civil      WL - Wills

TR - Traffic Forfeiture    HT - Habitual Traffic Offender  
CT - Criminal Traffic

CF – Felony                      CI - Commitment of Inmate  
CM – Misdemeanor              FO - Non-Traffic Ordinance  
IP - Incarcerated Person    TC - Tribal Court Orders

CL - Construction Lien      CO - Condominium Lien  
CX - Complex Forfeitures    FJ - Foreign Judgments  
HL - Hospital Lien              IN - Informal Probate  
JD - John Doe                    JT - Joint tenancy  
ML - Mechanic's Lien          OL - Other Lien  
SC - Small Claims              TJ - Transcript of Judgment

TW - Tax Warrants

UC - Unemployment Compensation

WC - Worker's Compensation

#3 and #4 Enter a range of numbers

Try 1 and 9999999. You might have to enter a series of ranges because the web site will only return a maximum of 500 results.

Click on the SEARCH button.

5) Click on the case number in the results list to see more details about the case.

Again, you to be patient with this site and experiment to find what works for you.

## Hildegarde Thering's Research Notes

### St Luke's School htah0073.jpg

On Dec 21, 1920, the pupils of St Luke's School moved to the new school building with its modern facilities and spacious school rooms.

After the erection of the Sister house, about 25 pupils boarded there with Sister Susana Schutz as the housekeeper.

About 1937 a cadet organization was introduced at St Luke's. The cadets supervised the parking and boarding of school buses and guarded school crossings for many accident free years.

The new St Luke's School and additions was solemnly blessed March 10, 1953 by Bishop William P. O'Connor

## Making Large Wall Charts

The objective of this article is to give you ideas on how to create a huge wall chart. This is an extremely complicated process until you have done it once or twice. This article is broken down into a number of smaller topics that will give you an understanding of the process. This will also help me respond to questions on the process.

### **Topic 1.** Why would you want to create a huge wall chart?

Most genealogy programs let you create a huge pedigree chart out of 8 ½ inch by 11 inch sheets of paper. You can tape these individual sheets together to make one large pedigree chart, but it doesn't look as nice as a pedigree chart that has been printed on one sheet of paper.

You can also create banners of digital images. A huge 3 foot x 6 foot banner of old photos is extremely popular at family reunions. It's amazing how seeing a group of photos at one time can prod memories. At a recent family reunion, one of these banners inspired my relatives to tell stories that I've never heard.

### **Topic 2.** A little bit of planning helps.

Collect all of the images you want to use before you start making your wall chart. It's also handy to have all your editing done on the images. Cropping, brightening, and improving the contrast of digital images can be done by lots of digital image editing programs. Paint Shop Pro and Picassa do a decent job of editing images.

### **Topic 3.** Once you have a wall chart created, where do you get printed?

I get my wall charts printed at Kinko's. To start with, Kinko's needs a PDF file (Portable Document Format). The format of a PDF file can be read on almost any computer.

The maximum width is 36 inches. I suggest that you stick with a maximum length of 6 feet.

The cost to get the wall chart printed in grayscale is \$.75 per square foot. You can get wall charts printed in color for \$8 per square foot.

Kinko's will laminate the wall chart for \$3 per square foot. The lamination protects the chart from creases and spills.

**Topic 4.** You need a program to create a PDF file.

Recent versions of Family Tree Maker can create a PDF file. You can also buy a program from Adobe for hundreds of dollars to create a PDF file.

I use a program called PDF 995 to create my PDF files. There is a free version and the full version costs \$10. The difference is that the free version pops up an ad for the full version.

You need to download pdf995s.exe and ps2pdf995.exe from <http://www.pdf995.com/download>. Once you download these two files, you just run them and you will have a working program to create PDF file.

**Topic 5.** You need to set up the program that will create the PDF files.

Choose the PDF creating program just like it's a printer using **FILE – PRINT** from most program's menus.

Click on the **PROPERTIES** button when you select the PDF creating program as your printer.

Set the option to print in landscape or portrait orientation.

You might need to set the paper/quality of the PDF creating program. The default is 600 dpi. In order to get large pedigree chart printed, you might need to set the quality to 200 dpi or lower.

You also need to set the size of the paper output.

You will probably have to experiment and explore how to set these parameters.

**Topic 6.** You will need to set up the printing parameters of the program that is going to create the wall chart.

This can be done with the program's **FILE – PAGE SETUP** menu selection. You will need to set up the page size and the orientation.

In some cases you will need to locate and check a box that tells the program to print the wall chart on **one sheet of paper** and set of a bunch of **overlapping** 8 1/2 inch by 11 inch sheets of paper.

**Topic 7.** The next step is to create the wall chart itself.

To create a large pedigree chart, just follow the directions of your genealogy program. It is possible that your genealogy program is not capable of creating a wall chart on one sheet of paper.

I use Microsoft Publisher to create a wall chart of digital images.

**INSERT – PICTURES – FROM FILE.**

You have control over how the images are arranged and their sizes.

**Topic 8.** The next up is to create the PDF file.

From the **FILE – PRINT** menu selection of your program, you select the PDF creating program just like it's another printer. When you tell your program to print, it creates a PDF file that you will have to give a name to. Be sure to remember the file name and the folder that you save the PDF file in.

You can include color digital images even though the final print out might be grayscale.

Review the PDF file and make sure that it is just the way you want it. It takes me at least three or four tries to get it just right.

**Topic 9.** The next step is to copy or burn the PDF files to a CD disk that you will take to Kinko's.

If you feel adventurous, you can go to <http://fedex.kinkos.com> and place your order online.

You can also copy the PDF file to your web site. This is handy if you have relatives that would like a copy of your wall chart. All you have to do is tell them where the file is on the site, and they can go through the hassle of making your own print out.

**Topic 10.** I always take my PDF file to a Kinko's store.

This way can make sure that my wall chart will come out just like I want it to. It avoids the problem of somebody printing your wall chart in expensive color instead of grayscale.

There is that most a 24-hour turnaround time. Sometimes they can even print it while you wait.

Hopefully this article gives you an outline of the steps involved. You can save a lot of time and effort by getting a friendly geek to help you do your first wall chart.