
LAIN 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 33 Aug 2006

Meetings & Events Schedule
Internet & Goodies
Looking Back
Skypecasts
Getting Information From Photos

Saturday April 21, 2007

MCGS Biennial Workshop – Milwaukee, WI
Cyndi Howells

This is the Cyndi that created Cyndi's list.

Internet and Goodies

Meeting & Events Schedule

Saturday, Sep 9th, 2006

9:30 am, Plain, WI

Kraemer Library and Community Center

We will discuss how to research your German ancestors. This will give you an overview of the available data sources and techniques you can use.

Saturday October 14, 2006

WSGS Fall Seminar – Fond du Lac, WI

Paula Stuart-Warren

- Railroad records and Railroad History
- 20th and 21st Century Research
- Organizing Your Genealogical Materials
- A Baker's Dozen of Simple Ways to Write Your Family History

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

Wisconsin Delayed Birth Cert Pre-1907

http://www.rootsweb.com/~wsqs/indx_toc.htm

In a perfect world, a birth certificate should be filed shortly after the birth. Unfortunately this didn't happen in every case. Eventually the person would need a birth certificate and a Delayed Birth Certificate is filed. The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society's web site has an index to Delayed Birth Certificates for births before 1907.

German Genealogy WIKI

http://wiki-en.genealogy.net/wiki/Main_Page

http://wiki-en.genealogy.net/wiki/FAQ_sqg

Here is a great site that contains lots of information about researching German ancestors. The FAQ has great information in it. Check it out you should find something to help you with your Germanic genealogy research.

Time and Date - Calendar

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

This is a great site if you would like to print out a full-year calendar for any year. It even takes into consideration the various changes in calendars during the past.

People Finders - Find People

<http://www.people-finders.ws/>

Searching for people is a big part of genealogical research. There are lots of pay for use sites on the Internet that are supposed to help you find people. Based on my experience most of these pay for use sites are not worth it.

People Finders is a pay for use Internet site but it will allow you to search for people and display an abbreviated list of results. These results include a lot of useful information; names, places, family members and even ages.

Library of Congress - Panoramic Maps

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/pmhtml/panmap.html>

Back before there were satellite maps, there were hand-drawn maps of cities. The Library of Congress web site gives you easy access to panoramic maps of towns throughout the United States.

The trick is that these maps are in a computer format called SID. You can download these large files that give you extraordinary detail. You can even see the windows of buildings in the drawings. You need a special viewer to display maps on your computer. IRFAN viewer can display these files.

Catholic Religion & Humor

<http://www.catholic-pages.com/start/>

<http://www.catholic-pages.com/grabbaq/>

Religion is a big part of many people's lives. If you are starting genealogical research, knowing about your ancestors' religion can give you lots of clues.

This site has lots of information about the Catholic religion. I especially liked the humor section of the site.

Looking Back

(Replaces Hildegard Thering's Research Notes)

Brides of Priest

Chimes 1935 – Page 9

Today when a priest is ordained, the church is his bride. In the past, priests had a live-female bride at their ordination.

In the 1935 Chimes, Irma Kraemer wrote about the first masses of three new priests. These masses took place in May and June 1934.

Rev. Frank Brickl's bride was Marcella Brickl with two bridesmaids Ellen Brickl and Elvy Ring. There were also two pages David Brickl and Paul Dischler "garbed in suits of black velvet". This mass took place May 27th 1934.

Rev. Edmund Bettinger's bride was Verda Meister with two flower girls, Alice Frank and Mildred Meixelsperger. The pages were Philip Bettinger and Clarence Young. This mass took place June 5th 1934.

Rev. Donald Wiest's bride was his baby sister Rita, with two "angels" Dorothy Bindl and Berndadine Lins. The pages were Linus Brickl and Virgil Lins. This mass took place Jun 17th 1934.

Leo Ringlestetter's home-movies from the 1930's include parts of one of these first masses.

The following web site shows a picture of a little girl acting as the bride in the ordination ceremony.

<http://www.uwm.edu/Libraries/arch/kwas/kwas10.htm>

The parish I belong to in Milwaukee has a recently ordained priest. I asked him about brides at ordinations and this was news to him.

St Luke's High School Annuals

This will be a quick overview of the five St. Luke's High School annuals. Future newsletters will cover details. The start with, the annuals did not come out every year.

St. Luke's Chimes 1931 (78 pages)

It starts with a history of St. Luke's High School. Information about faculty and students going back to 1921 is included. There are pictures of students in first through eighth-grades. Student organizations and their members are described. A calendar of events for 1931 gives an idea of what a normal school year was like. This annual finishes with literary efforts by students.

St. Luke's Chimes 1935 (88 pages)

The first 26 pages cover information about clergy, faculty and students of the high school. The next 10 pages cover organizations and plays put on by the students. The next section of the annual contains literary efforts of the students. The next section covers features written by the students about school related events. This annual contains extensive advertisements at the end.

The 1940 Chimes – Dedication Issue (103 pages)

From a historical standpoint, this is the most important annual. It has extensive information but the dedication of the church in 1939. This annual covers organizations and people not associated with the school itself. This annual also has extensive information about the faculty in the students, including pictures of all classes. There is a section about alumni that is very extensive. The last section is advertisements from sponsors.

Chimes 1957 (60 pages)

The first thing I noticed about this annual is it was heavily influenced by somebody who took a calligraphy course. All the classes and the baseball team are covered. There is a section about the school activities. The sponsor advertisements include photos of the businesses and the owners

The Ox's Tale (1959 67 pages)

Like previous annuals, this issue contains information about faculty and the classes. This annual also has a number of scenes from everyday life at the school.

The Ox's Tale (1960 61 pages)

This is similar to the 1959 issue.

Skypecasts

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

<https://skypecasts.skype.com/skypecasts/home>

What is Skype?

Skype is a way talk to other people on the Internet. It is similar to talking on the phone. There is a free version that allows you to talk to anybody in the world over the Internet.

What are Skypecasts?

Skypecasts are large, hosted calls on Skype. You can have up to 100 people on a, free Internet-based conference call.

What do you need to use Skypecasts?

Minimum System Requirements:

- PC running Windows 2000 or XP
- 400 MHz processor
- 128 MB RAM
- 15 MB free disk space on your hard drive
- Sound Card, speakers and microphone
- Internet Connection (either dial-up: minimum 33.6 Kbps modem, or any broadband: cable, DSL, etc.)
- A PC-Headset with a microphone is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED**

Okay, why should I care?

This is an excellent way to talk to a group of people for free. This could be great for:

- family genealogical research projects
- keeping in touch with family
- hosting seminars and conferences online
- keeping in touch with people working on a project

Do you have an example?

Dick Eastman is a well-known genealogist with a loyal following. He is a leader in using technology to spread information about genealogy.

On Aug 10, 2006 he held a try-out of a Skypecast. There were over 20 people from all over the world talking to one another. There were people from Australia & New Zealand (Friday noon their time). There was a person from Europe (Friday 4:00am their time). There was even a visually-impaired person on the line.

I attended this meeting and these were my observations.

- sound quality was excellent (as good as talking on the phone in most cases)
- people without headsets need to be muted (feedback)
- you need a strong moderator
- you need a method of making people feel comfortable talking
- you need a clearly defined agenda
- this can be complicated (get a geek to help you through your first call & setup)

Conclusions:

This can be a fantastic way to hold online conferences / seminars . You could even have a website loaded with a PowerPoint presentation that can be viewed by people on the call.

Getting Information From Photos

One of the more frustrating things that a genealogist has to deal with is a box of unlabeled photos. We are going to discuss some techniques that I have used to extract information from photos.

A genealogist is like a detective gathering and assembling information. A detective analyzes information and draws conclusions. You can use this same technique with photos.

The more stuff you know, the better. The TV detective, Columbo solved most of his mysteries by recognizing an obscure fact.

You need the right tools to do a good job.

Reference Books

Here are some great reference materials that I strongly recommend you add to your reference library.

- *"Uncovering Your Ancestry through Photographs"*
Maureen A. Taylor 2nd Edition 2005

This is an easy to read and understand book that covers all aspects of working with photos.

- *"Identifying and Dating Your Family Photographs"*
Maureen A. Taylor VHS 75 minutes

Just like her book, this VHS tape is an excellent way to learn about photos.

- *"Dressed for the Photographer
Ordinary Americans & Fashion, 1840-1900"*
Joan Severa 1995

This book can be considered a "bible" to dating photos by what the people in the photos wore. It is a very "intense" book that covers the topic in such detail that it can be intimidating. Severa's book has an extensive number of example photos with detailed descriptions. (She has connections to the Arena, WI area. I met her at a genealogical conference several years ago.)

Hardware

A magnifying glass is helpful in seeing details in a photo. I like the magnifying glass made by Magnabrite.

<http://www.magnabrite.com/html/Home.htm>

Scanners let you digitize and preserve photos. With a digitized photo you can enhance the brightness of the image or zoom in on the details.

Historical & Genealogical Knowledge

Your genealogical research with names, places, dates is a key tool in analyzing photos.

Knowing that Grandfather Fred was born in the 20th century, makes it easy exclude him from a photo from the 1870s.

Since photos are affected by historical events, having a good knowledge of local and basic history is helpful.

Process used by a Photo Detective

Here is a process that you can use to extract information from photos.

For each object in the photo, write down every detail on its own 3 x 5 card. Writing information down helps identify obscure facts in a photo.

Detectives on TV shows often stick their 3 x 5 cards and photos onto a wall. There is a huge benefit to being able to see everything at the same time.

The human brain is capable of making amazing connections if it can absorb the information.

Putting information on a wall or a piece of poster board lets you rearrange the information.

You can never tell which arrangement of data will lead to a A HA moment.

Here is a photo that has lots of information.



- the number of people
- the number of men, women, children
- their ages, how they are dressed, who they are standing next to
- the time of year
- the hill
- the building

Blowup Photo to Poster-size

Sometimes blowing up a photo can help you discover overlooked details. You can take a photo to Kinkos and have it blown up to poster-size for under \$6.

Stuff to look for in a Photo

Look at the physical traits of the people in the photos. Look at the person's eyes, which don't change as much as a person's hairline over time. I had a female relative that wore a monocle. Boy, did she stick out in a photo.

Be on the lookout for photos that have been retouched. An example is some early photographers would use wax to pin back ears.

Look for family resemblances, but be careful. I have a friend whose daughter has a striking resemblance to his cousin. The weird thing is, his daughter is adopted.

There are certain things that you expect to see in photos of different types of events. For example you expect to see a baby in a baptismal photo.

Look for other things in the photos. Calendars in the background can help date a photo. Landmark buildings and cars can also date a photo.

How a Photo was Made

How a photo was made can date it. For example you won't find a Polaroid photo from the 1870s.

When a specific photo process was invented sets a definite low date for photo. The high date or last-used date is not quite as rock-solid.

The earliest types of photos were Cased Photos. Some of these photos were reversed or mirror images. There weren't any negatives so you could not make copies. Some cameras had multiple lenses which allowed for multiple images from one exposure.

These types of photos could be easily damaged or destroyed and typically were packaged in protective cases.

Daguerreotype photos were the first photos and can be identified by their mirror-like surface which has to be held just right to see the image.

Ambrotype photos were made on glass which explains why so few of them exist today.

Details about the case can help you pinpoint when the photo was taken.

Tintype photos were made on iron that was coated with light-sensitive chemicals.

They might have gotten their name because a tin shears was used to cut the photos.

Their durability, inexpensive cost, and how quick they could be produced, made them popular especially with Civil War soldiers.

You can date Tintype photos by patent marks on the back of their holder.

Tintype photos had several distinctive periods.

There was a GEM PERIOD with small postage stamp size images.

There was a BROWN PERIOD when the surface was tinted brown.

There was a CARNIVAL PERIOD that lasted until the 1940s.

Photographers traveling with carnivals would take photos using unique backdrops since the Tintype photos could be created in under 10 minutes.

Cabinet cards were a very popular type of paper-based photographs.

Cabinet cards can be dated by square or round corners.

Cabinet cards can be dated by their thickness. A quick way to measure the thickness of a card is to stack 20# printer paper next to the card. 20# printer paper is about .004 inches thick.

As a photo detective, you can get a tremendous amount of information by the things that are and are not in a photo, especially people.

Analyzing the costumes and hairstyles of the people in a photo is challenging and fun.

It doesn't matter whether your female ancestor lived in the big-city or on a farm they all followed fashion trends.

There are a couple of traps in looking at women's fashion trends in photos.

Trap #1: The women might be wearing outdated fashions. It might take a woman several years to update her wardrobe. A woman might be wearing her great-grandmother's wedding dress.

Trap #2: Sometimes a woman would modify her existing wardrobe. She might put the new sleeve style on an older dress.

Here's a quick tip. For \$10 you can have somebody date your photo over the Internet.
<http://www.costumegallery.com/fotodate/FAQ.htm>

Creating a Cheat-Sheet

Part of my photo dating process is to build cheat sheets.

The cheat sheets make it easier for me to absorb all the descriptions of fashion trends and match them up to certain time periods.

You can get a rough-draft of one of my main cheat sheet from my website.
http://garylhaas.web.aplus.net/phgnews/phgg0607_PhotoGuide.pdf

Photo Dating Tips

Let's look at some photo dating tips.

Young boys and girls were often dressed alike. Boys usually parted their hair on the side.

Look at the youngest woman in the photo. Young women typically adopted changes in fashion trends earlier.

Forget about men's styles. The changes in men's styles were not quite as dramatic.

The best way to date a photo is by a woman's hairstyle. I might not be able to identify the difference between a Zouave jacket and a Garibaldi shirt. But I can tell you the woman's here is parted down the middle.

Using images gotten from the Internet, I made visual cheat sheets.

These make it easier for me to identify changes in shoulder styles, fullness of dresses and sleeve styles.

Visual cheat sheets make it easy to identify changes in bustles styles. The

You can see what trains on dresses were the style.

You can also date a photo based on the complexity of the upper part of the dress and the skirt.

Dress styles of the 1890s make it easy to date photos.

There was a fullness of the sleeve especially around the shoulders.

I found a web site with sketches of the trends in women's hairstyles and hats.

This can be helpful in understanding changes in styles.

Instead of having several pages of visual cheat sheets, I combined all my sheets onto a 3' x 6' single cheat sheet which I have printed at Kinko's for about \$10. This is a useful tool to hang on the wall next to the picture itself and the 3 x 5 cards that I filled out.

Sites with Examples

The best way to learn how to get information from photos is to look at a lot of examples. Looking at a photo of hairstyle or dress style makes it easier to absorb the information.

Here are some Internet sites with some great examples that will help you distinguish between styles.

<http://www.marquise.de/en/themes/timeline/index.shtml>
<http://www.cwrl.utexas.edu/~ulrich/19cdress/>
<http://www.cwrl.utexas.edu/~ulrich/19cdress/timeline.htm>
<http://www.shootingstarhistory.com/hairstyles.html>
<http://www.fashion-era.com/index.htm>

When I looked at photos of wedding dresses from various time periods, I was struck by two things.

First, looking at black-and-white photos, you forget that dresses came in different colors.

Second, not all wedding dresses were white. Often the wedding dress would become a part of the woman's wardrobe.

Hairstyles can be helpful when dating photos if you can tell the difference in styles.

Check for parts. Does it cover the ears? Are there frizzy bangs? Is the style elaborate?

Older ladies might not wear the newer style. This is like a grandmother of current times not dying her hair purple like her granddaughters.

The Wisconsin Historical Society Library in Madison has a huge collection of photos. These photos are kept in the fourth floor in the archives room. While not all of these photos are catalogued, you can search in the Arcat online catalog. Your best bet is ask the reference librarians on the fourth floor

This Library has a large collection of individual photos and photo collections of various photographers.

Locating the collection of a photographer who photographed an ancestor can be a windfall. The collection could contain photos of your ancestor that you haven't seen.

The collection could contain photos of your ancestor's relatives. Everybody in the ancestor's family could have gone to the same photographer.

As a final thought, how will our descendents deal with all the thousands and thousands of digital photos that you are creating today?

Programs like Google's Picassa allow you to include detailed notes and descriptions inside individual photo files themselves.

There are programs that can extract the detailed notes and descriptions and let you create a printed index of your photos.