

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*
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Vol 35 Dec 2006

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There are still copies available of the Research Guide to the Wisconsin Historical Society. These will be available at meetings.

Internet and Goodies

Meeting & Events Schedule

Similar Facial Expressions

Saturday, Jan 13th, 2006

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

We will discuss things that we can do to celebrate the **150th anniversary of St Luke’s parish**. The more ideas we get the better. We will meet in the area by the fireplace so come early to get a good seat. There will also be a demonstration of how to **create a DVD movie** from video, picture and sound files. This meeting is open to everyone.

The Smithsonian magazine of December 2006 had an interesting article about how **facial expressions could be genetic** (page 14) . How often have you looked at pictures of relatives from two different generations and thought they have similar facial expressions. A study conducted by the University of Haifa in Israel showed that relatives having similar facial expressions is not always due to a of mimicking facial expressions that have been seen.. A study of 21 blind people showed that they had facial expressions similar to close relatives. If facial expressions aren’t genetic, how could blind people have the same expressions? Makes you think.

Saturday April 21, 2007

MCGS Biennial Workshop – Milwaukee, WI
Cyndi Howells This is the Cyndi that created Cyndi’s list, the best list of genealogy resources on the Internet.

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

Ancestry.com Immigration Records free until 2007

<http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/11-28-2006/0004481042&EDATE=>
<http://www.ancestry.com>

Saturday July 14, 2007

German Interest Group – Whitewater WI
Larry Jensen will be the speaker. Of all the presentations I have seen on German genealogy, he is the best speaker in my opinion. His presentations are packed with information. Make sure you mark your calendar for this event.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wigig/>

Ancestry.com has a tremendous collection of passenger arrival information online. For the rest of 2006 you can access this database for free. This is a great site for getting access to digital images of passenger lists for Castle Garden.

Larry O. Jensen's A Genealogical Handbook of German Research

http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/RG/images/Ger_BMD_RefDoc_HandbookGermanResearch.pdf

Larry O. Jensen is an expert in the German genealogical research field. His handbook is a tremendous source of information and the price is right it is free.

Nifty Use of PDF 995

<http://www.pdf995.com>

Thanks to Bob Miller of Milwaukee for a nifty trick.

I have written about PDF 995 in the past as a great alternative to the expensive Adobe PDF file creator.

Problem: You have a Powerpoint presentation, you want to make a handout of the slides, Powerpoint allows you to print 4 or more slides to a page. The problem is that Powerpoint prints smallish images of the slides. How do you make them bigger?

Trick:

- 1) Install PDF995
- 2) In Powerpoint, select PDF995 as the printer
- 3) While selecting PDF995, click on the PROPERTIES button
- 4) In PDF995 properties, set the number of pages to sheet to 6
- 5) Return to Powerpoint, print out the slides as full-size slides

The end result is that the slides are printed "larger" and you have a nice handout.

This is also a great way to print a number of pictures onto one page.

Ravensten Maps of Germany

<http://www.library.wisc.edu/etext/ravenstein/home.html>

The University of Wisconsin at Madison has made this collection of old historical German maps available online.

HP Print Templates to do some nifty things

http://www.hp.com/united-states/homefun/simple_print_favorites.html

This site of HP, the printer giant, has lots of nifty templates for computer projects that you can do. I especially like the one that lets you turn six photos into a cube.

Patrick Crispen's Understanding PC Stuff

<http://www.netsquirrel.com/powerpoint/complete.html>

It is rare to find somebody who can explain complicated computer topics using easy-to-understand words. It is even rarer to find someone who offers his information for free. The site is an example of one of these rare cases.

A standard history of Sauk County WI

Vols I & II, Cole 1918

<http://digioll.library.wisc.edu/cgi-bin/WI/WI-idx?id=WI.ColeStandardv1>

<http://digioll.library.wisc.edu/cgi-bin/WI/WI-idx?id=WI.ColeStandardv2>

This book is a great source for information about Sauk County WI.

Cole, Harry Ellsworth, 1861-1929, Editor
A standard history of Sauk County, Wisconsin: Volume II Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1918

Meyers Orts Gazetter Online & Free

<http://tinyurl.com/ya5kem>

If you are researching German Ancestors, you will need to look at Meyers Ort Gazetter of the German Empire Online. It can be a difficult book to use because of the abbreviations and codes, but the information you can get about your ancestor's German is vital.

I was absolutely amazed that this gazetter is available on www.ancestry.com. I couldn't believe that this gazetter is available for free. Check it out.

CAREFUL: The Meyers Orts gazetter does not reflect the current government structure. My ancestors' German town was converted from its own "county" to part of another county which now has the records.

Microsoft Wisconsin Settlement

<http://www.microsoftwisuit.com/FAQ.htm>

This is the ultimate computer software rebate and you already have paid for the software. All you have to do is rummage around your records for software that you could have used as long ago as Dec 1993. You can actually get money for a copy of Windows 95 and Microsoft Works suite that you no longer use. June 30, 2007 is a deadline for submitting a request for this.

Many people will not have to supply any purchase receipts or serial numbers to get the rebate. The vouchers can be used for a number of computer-related items, and they don't have to be Microsoft products.

If you don't want to mess with vouchers, you can give them to friends or charitable organizations.

This sounds too good to be true, but this is the proverbial "free-lunch".

Havard Univ Library Online Immigration Items

<http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/immigration/>

You might have to dig, but there are some tremendous stuff in this online library.

Wisconsin Historical Soc Lib - Historical Maps

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/reference/maps/#industrialization>

History is not just a bunch of dates and places. This site has a much of maps that helps you get a better understanding of historical events.

Proper Way to refer to Mormons

<http://lds.org/newsroom/page/0,15606,3899-1--15-168,00.html>

This site describes how to refer to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and its members.

Slang of the 1920's

<http://local.aaca.org/bntc/slang/slang.htm>

Every generation has their own way of talking. This site can be handy if your ancestor wrote something that you don't understand.

I hate to go on a date with a gold digger and find out that the bank is closed.

PC Digitizing Cassette Tapes PlusDeck2

<http://www.geeks.com/details.asp?invtid=PLUSDECK2C&cpc=SCH>

If you have a lot of cassette tapes that you would like to convert to a digital format, this might be the toy for you. This can be great if you have old Partridge Family tapes or recorded genealogical interviews. I got one of these for about \$100. Here are some things to think about.

- 1) The device automatically switches to side B so you don't have to get up and switch sides.
- 2) With my old tapes, the first 10-15 seconds of side B doesn't already get the right speed.
- 3) The recording process can be controlled from your PC.
- 4) CONFIGURE - Tape Side: I use the option to record side A & B into separate files.
- 5) CONFIGURE - Type: I use MP3 256 for the highest compressed quality.
- 6) CONFIGURE - Auto Cut: The program has problems breaking a tape into individual songs. I record each side into it's own files.

Keep in mind that you have a low quality cassette tape as input, this means that you will not get CD-quality output. But I am happy with it.

Looking Back

St. Luke's Chimes 1935

The second volume of the St. Luke's Chimes is very similar to the 1931 edition..

St. Luke's Parish was still part of the LaCrosse diocese. The pastor, **Father P. A. Beschta** was assisted by the assistant pastor, **Father Nicholas Beschta**. Pages eight and nine deal with vocations from Plain. There were five men and 34 women following their religious callings. Three of the priests were ordained in 1934 and celebrated their first masses at St. Luke's. I was fascinated by the tradition of having a bride for the priest as part of the ceremony.

Page 11 has pictures of the Church's three bells. These bells were on the ground until the current church was built. I wonder how many times these bells were rung late-at-night by pranksters.

Page 12 has the **school's Alma Mater**

St. Luke's, Our Alma Mater dear,
All hail to St. Luke's High!
We love both joyous days and drear
We spent in St. Luke's High.

Now let us lift our hearts in song
To days that soon are past,
As happy thoughts of childhood throng
Our minds unto the last.

Chorous
St. Luke's, St. Luke's, oh ever dear to us,
St. Luke's, St. Luke's as we are singing thus
Our hearts throb with delight,
Our faces beam so bright,
Oh, let us pledge upon this day,
To St. Luke's our loyalty.

Come sing thy praise, oh Muse of Song,
To Alma Mater grand,
Come loyal friends the song prolong,
Come, sing ye grateful band,
To one who ever is to use
A star upon the sea,
Whose rays of learning beam on us,
Into Eternity.

Page 14 shows a picture of the high school department. This was made up of the rooms on the third-floor.

Names and pictures of the senior classes of 1932 and 1933 were included. However there was nothing for 1934. In addition to the pictures and the names for the 1935 senior class, memberships in organizations and roles in the class plays. Pictures of the juniors, sophomores and freshmen are included.

Pictures and names of the members of the various school organizations are provided.

St. Luke's Alumni Association

St. Luke's Chimes Staff

St. Luke's Orchestra

St. Luke's Glee Club

Kicked Out of College

This play was about a college senior who was kicked out of school because he partied too much and spent most of his time trying to invent an air brake. Leviticus the Ace of Spades, "the dark brother" was played by Erwin Bindl.

The Red-Headed Stepchild

The senior class play of 1933 is about a young girl who tries to fit into the household of a wealthy financier. It was presented on May 14th.

Mansions

This play was presented by the High School Girls on January 27, 1935. It was about a mother trying to marry off her daughters who is frustrated by a daughter who wants to be a nun. This is not a happy play in that it deals with death.

The Little Mothers

There isn't a description of the play, but it did have a number of orphans in the cast.

There are 13 pages of literary efforts by the students.

The FEATURES section includes photos of the students as babies on page 54. Some of them are pretty cute. As described on page 59, **Frank Meise's** photo was awarded a blue ribbon and

Agnes Reaser's photo was awarded second place.

The school history of the last four years is given.

Geroldine Bauer wrote that in 1932 changes to the students' navy blue uniform with blue serge with white collars and cuffs were discussed. The uniform was revised to a navy blue jumper with white blouses.

Verda Schweiss wrote about the adoption of Yale Blue and Gold as the schools color in the spring of 1933. The runner up colors were Red and White.

Verda Schweiss wrote about the first pre-Lenten party. (1933) One game played involved giving every attendee a small bag of beans. The attendees would be asked questions during the party and they would lose a bean each time they answered "YES". This contest was won by Adele Ferstl. "Spinning the Bottle" was popular game. Lunch was prepared by the senior girls and served by two eighth grade girls dressed in uniforms. This lunch included sandwiches, potato salad, pickles, fruit, cake, ice cream and coffee. There were place cards with tiny pink bows and a small paper roll with ballads. The reading of the ballads by the attendees was the source of much jocularity.

Virginia Schmitz wrote about the tennis court which was also used as a volley ball court and a skating rink.

The addition of a gold felt "L" to the school uniform was written about by Agnes Reaser.

Verda Schweiss wrote about the formation of St Luke's High Club in September 1933. There were monthly meetings with entertainment programs and the opportunity to practice parliamentary practice. One meeting's entertainment involved practice job interviews. If the interviewee used the expression "OKAY" they immediately "flunked" the interview.

Dorothy Nachreiner wrote about the second pre-Lenten Party in February 1934. The bag of beans and YES game was played again. Apparently you

could reply in the affirmative, you just couldn't use the word YES. Spin the bottle was played with questions like "Who didn't wash his face this morning?" There was a game which involved the "two Reverends blindly feeling about for each other in order to wish each other good morning". There was a "question and answer" game and poems about each individual.

Bernadine Hausladen wrote about a "School Day" held May 6, 1934 which included exhibits prepared by each class.

Eugene Beck wrote about classmates **Joe Brechtl** and **Anthony Young** leaving St Luke's High to enter Mt. Calvary College.

Philip Ferstl wrote about playing football in the fall of 1934 on **John Brechtl's** field and coaching by **Leo Ringelstetter**.

Virginia Fowler wrote about Christmas caroling. In 1933 **Father Beschta, Mr. Mike Weiss, Mrs. Frances Alt, Mr. and Mrs. John Brechtl** and **Mrs. Mike Schutz** were caroled in 20 degree below zero weather. In 1934, three sick people were added to the caroling list, **Mrs. Peter Kraemer, Mrs. George Lins, and Mr. Patrick Walsh**.

Freshman **Charles Beck**, sophomore **Emily Diehl**, junior **Dorothy Nachreiner** and senior **Bernadine Kraemer** wrote about their reaction to a "mission week".

Agnes Dietl wrote about a "Hard-Time Party" held a few weeks before Thanksgiving. Attendees were dressed in their grandparents' clothes. There was a lying game won by Miss Beschta. **Russel Schweiss** won the clothespin race. Attendees also played; games with a volley ball, walking over glasses blindfolded, spinning the bottle, meeting blindfolded to shake hands and questions and answers.

Dorothy Nachreiner wrote about the third pre-Lenten Party which was held the Monday before Ash Wednesday. Everybody was dressed in their Sunday best. One game played involved a bag of candy hearts with attendees losing one if they stepped on a chalked circle. A scissors trick was

demonstrated. The “Prince of Paris” tongue-twisting game was played involving the key phrase of “Who, sir; I sir?”. A stage coach game “kept everyone in a twirl”. Games called “The Prayer to Allah” and “The White Elephant” were played.

Page 68 lists scholarship awards from 1932, 1933, 1934. There wasn't sophomore class in 1932, which meant no senior class in 1934.

Page 69 has pictures of students.

Page 70 has collected humor.

Pages 71 through 88 lists the sponsors and contains sponsors' ads.

Hidden on page 87 are questions and answers about students. One of the questions was “**Why is Bernadine Kraemer like an onion?**”

Paul Kramer - Immigration To America

One of the items you want to find out about your ancestors is when they came to America. Knowing the arrival date gives you the earliest year to look for records generated in America. Information about the ship and other passengers can add interesting information to your research.

During the recent Thanksgiving holiday, I was looking through “A Kraemer Chronicle” written by **Claire Geesaman** in 1991. On page three of this book there is a footnote that states that Paul and his family arrived in New York City from Hamburg on June 14 1866 aboard a ship called the Teutonia. This fact was found by **B. Ann Kraemer Neviaser**.

When I returned to my home in Milwaukee I checked this out on the Internet to verify this. (My parents don't have access to the Internet.) This is what I found on the Castle Garden database.

Ship: **Teutonia**
Departure: Hamburg Germany
Arrival: Arrived New York City, New York
14 Jun 1866

Franza	Cramer Child	7
Paulus	Cramer Laborer	37
Peter	Cramer Child	3
U	Cramer Infant	U
Walburga	Cramer Wife	34

Next I logged onto the Ancestry.com site to access their huge immigration database and look for a digital image of the original ship manifest. Normally there is a charge for using this Ancestry.com database, but it was free until the end of December 2007. Within a couple of minutes I was looking at the passenger list. (Paulus Cramer was number 249 on the list.) There was a handwritten note on the list stating “a baby born on voyage” so this is the family that I was looking for.

Being a single person, I can imagine how difficult it is to take a toddler to a shopping mall. Walburga Kramer must have had her hands full with two young children, and one on the way and a dangerous ocean trip.

My next steps will be to research the New York Times around June 14 1866 to get information about the ship's arrival. I will also want to look at other passengers on the ship. It was common to separate the men from women and children on the voyage. I written a Microsoft Excel macro that will download the passenger list. It is very likely that Walburga had a friend on the ship to help her with the children.

Visit to St Anne's Hill

During the recent Thanksgiving holiday, my brother and I made the trip up Saint Anne's Hill. A number of things have changed over the years.

First, the path is fenced off so you don't have to walk through the cows. I miss this. There was something religious about stepping in a fresh cow pie.

Second, there are benches along the way. Since I have had my AARP card for over a year, this was nice.

Third, I finally tried to read the cornerstone of the chapel. If I read it right, the cornerstone is from the house where the first Mass was said in Plain in 1857.

Fourth, there is a tape player with music from the choir of the church in Ast, Bavaria, Germany.

Finally, somebody has added nice brass plates to the statues of the Saints inside the chapel. Here is a test of how well you know your Saints. Try to match the name of the Saint to the description.

- 1) Our Lady of Perpetual Help
- 2) St Therese
- 3) St Charles Borromeo
- 4) St Aloysius Gonzaga
- 5) St Francis of Assisi
- 6) St Anthony
- 7) St Stevie Wonder

a) The Mother of Jesus. Unless you are a Protestant, you should be very familiar with Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

b) This saint saw herself as the "Little Flower of Jesus". She was born in France in 1873. She died on September 30, 1897 and eventually her feast day was set as Oct 1st following the ancient custom of celebrating the day after death as the day she entered in to heaven. Her given name at birth was Marie Francoise Therese Martin. This Carmelite nun was declared a doctor of the Church in 1997. She was canonized in 1914. She was declared a saint on May 17, 1925. Was a statue dedicated to her because she was a "new" and popular saint of the day? The miracles that made her a saint occurred after she died. It is blasphemous to write this, but did she know somebody on the Church's "saint committee" to

have been made a saint so shortly after her death.

c) This saint was born in Northern Italy in 1538 and died November 3, 1584. He was one of the key factors in the Catholic Counter-Reformation (the response to Martin Luther, a leader in the creation of the Protestant church). He was the archbishop of Milan and a Cardinal. He was a force behind the Council of Trent. He was canonized in 1610 and his feast day was set at November 4th.

d) This Italian-born saint was born March 9, 1568 and died June 21, 1591. As a child he served at the court of Grand Duke Francesco I de' Medici. He was influenced by a book about Jesuit missionaries in India. He became a Jesuit priest over the objections of his well-to-do family. His family was concerned that in order to become a Jesuit, he would have to renounce his property rights and status in society. He was beatified in 1605 and canonized in 1729. He is a patron saint of plague victims. During March you will often hear his name, connected to basketball.

e) This saint was born in 1182 in Italy and died October 3, 1226. He established an order also known as "Friars Minor". He was baptized with the name of Giovanni di Bernardone by his mother to honor Saint John the Evangelist with hopes that he would be a great religious leader. His father was not keen on the idea and re-named this future saint to honor his mother who was French. In 1201 he joined a military expedition against Perugia and was taken prisoner and held captive for a year. After his death, there were numerous miracles attributed to him. This caused a great deal of consternation for the clergy living around his burial site. These clergy prayed that the dead-saint stop doing miracles, which he did.

f) This saint was born in the third-century in Fayum (around north-east Egypt?) of wealthy parents. According to one source he died at the age of 105 around the year 350. He was a leader of Christian hermits and Christian monarchism. The literary work of "Greek Life" attributed to St Athanasius is a recognized source of information about this saint.

g) The patron Saint of card players who get hands that even a blind guy can play.