
PLAIN HISTORY GENEALOGY GROUP

Covering Plain, Sauk Co, Wisconsin and Beyond

<http://tinyurl.com/53dn2>.....*Haas Bauer Main WebSite*
<http://tinyurl.com/4tirt>.....*PHHG ALL Newsletters & Meeting Handouts*
<http://tinyurl.com/4rrfv> <http://tinyurl.com/66w3v>.....*Newsletter Table of Contents*
<mailto:garyhaas2005@yahoo.com>.....*eMail Contact*
<http://garyhaas.blogspot.com>*Stuff I Find Interesting BLOG*
<http://tinyurl.com/at9w8>*Online Searchable Index*

Vol 40 October 2007

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Meeting & Events Schedule

Internet and Goodies

LDS / Allen County Library / BYU project
C Stoepel's Maps of German Surnames
Bavariagen.com - Key books about Bavaria
1906 book on churches in Waldmuenchen area
German Genealogy Blog
Germany Research Handbook - Jensen
WorldCat Library Catalog
WI Historical Soc Corp Papers 1848-1945
3D scan used to read Tombstones
20071005 GENE UW-Madison Memorial
German Genealogical Sources
Digitizing Your Stuff

Meeting & Events Schedule

Saturday, Nov 10 , 2007

9:30 am, Plain, WI

Kraemer Library and Community Center

We will discuss how to find and get German genealogical records. We will show how to use the Internet to find these records. Everybody is welcome.

Internet and Goodies

LDS / Allen County Library / BYU project

http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Home/News/frareset_news.asp?PAGE=Press/2007-8-15 **Local Histories Online.asp**

You have got to love the LDS church. This is a press release about a project to digitize local histories of the Allen County Library in Indiana. Once this is done, you'll be able to search and access these digitized collections online for free.

North America Local and County Histories to Go Online 15 August 2007

Three genealogical libraries pool their collections in massive digitization effort
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH"Thousands of published family histories, city and county histories, historic city directories, and related records are coming to the Internet. The Allen County Public Library (ACPL) in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Brigham Young University Harold B. Lee Library, and FamilySearch's Family History Library in Salt Lake City announced the joint project today. When complete, it will be the most comprehensive collection of city and county histories on the Web and access will be free at www.familyhistoryarchive.byu.edu.

C Stoepel's Maps of German Surnames

<http://christoph.stoepel.net/geogen/en/Default.aspx>

Sometimes when you're are looking for where your German ancestors lived in Germany, you need to use any tool you can find. With this site, you enter the surname and it gives you several maps showing where people with that name live in Germany. This site will not give you the exact location of where your German ancestors lived, but it will give you ideas of where to look and when not to look.

Bavariagen.com - Key books about Bavaria

<http://www.bavariagen.com/books.html>

Books are a major tool when researching families and local history. This web site gives you access to some of the online catalogs of books about Bavaria Germany. In some cases you'll even find the entire book digitized.

1906 book on churches in Waldmuenchen area

<http://books.google.com/books?id=rb8DAAAAYA AJ&pg=PP13&dq=waldmunchen&ei=d0vrRpj1LZ a2pwK23Ky4Dw#PPP13,M>

This is an example of the extraordinary stuff that you can find on Google books. This book covers the churches in the Waldmuenchen area of Bavaria, Germany. do not overlook Google books when researching family and local history.

German Genealogy Blog

<http://germanmapguide.com/>

Blogs are great sources of information and can keep you up-to-date on new things.

Germany Research Handbook - Jensen

http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Search/RG/guide/Ger_BMD_RefDoc_HandbookGermanResearch.ASP?Aid=&Gid=&Lid=&Sid=&Sisgid=undefined&Did=&Juris1=&Event=&Year=&Gloss=&Sub=&Tab=&Entry=&Loc=undefined

This is a great free book that covers almost everything you need to know about German genealogical research.

WorldCat Library Catalog

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

This has to be one of the best online library catalogs available. It gives you access to books in libraries throughout the world. it is a great way to find out what's available in German libraries.

WI Historical Soc Corp Papers 1848-1945

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/corporations/domestic.asp>

"These are records of for-profit businesses, large and small, which were incorporated under the laws of Wisconsin. The records contain the original articles of incorporation and amendments and sometimes also include dissolution documents. Beginning in 1905, the files also contain annual reports, documents showing changes in officers, and miscellaneous documents."

This allows you to search by county. Next time I am in Madison I will have to check out information on the factors in Sauk county.

3D scan used to read Tombstones

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/7024672.stm>

Tombstones have become virtually unreadable due to age. This is an article about how technology can be used to read the unreadable.

20071005 GENE UW-Madison Memorial German Genealogical Sources

<http://memorial.library.wisc.edu/guides/gen-german.html>

There are lots of libraries on the UW-Madison campus. The Memorial Library has some great German genealogical resources.

Digitizing Your Stuff

The objective of this article is to give you examples of what I do. I have a small apartment filled with books, tapes, photographic records, videos, data disks and thousands of pages of research documents. I can spend hours searching through the piles of my stuff to find something. My goal is to digitize absolutely everything I have so it fit in my hand.

It is difficult to take notes and listen to a presentation at the same time. **I have posted all the details of my presentation on the Internet.** This includes my speech and the addresses to the Internet sites. So don't worry about missing any details in your notes.

My first recommendation for most people when they are starting to digitize their stuff, is to **finding a GEEK.** A few minutes spent with a person who was already familiar with the hardware and software tools can save you months worth of aggravation.

Getting the right tools to digitize your stuff will cost money. **How do you justify these costs?**

Hit by a truck theory. Someday everybody will die and most people are not ready. When I die my relatives undoubtedly will be grief stricken and will probably throw 90% of my stuff into a dumpster. I plan to have all my stuff on one disk which will be donated to a local historical society. Some people put off spending the money today because they're waiting for the newer and cheaper technology to come out tomorrow. Tomorrow never comes.

Pay for price item. Everybody has irreplaceable things. These can easily be destroyed by an act of God or by you doing something stupid like deleting an entire folder or misplacing an item. Computers and hard disks will fail. What would you give to replace a priceless item after a fire? Why not spend this money backing up your priceless items before they are destroyed? Or you one of the people I think fires and floods won't happen to you?

Sharing with relatives. Once you digitize your stuff, it is very easy to share with relatives. I don't

do my genealogical research just for myself. I do it to give pleasure to my family and friends. Plus they have a copy of my stuff, they are great backup. A number of my relatives had died recently before I could publish some of my research. I have vowed to myself that this will not happen again because I did want to spend the money for the required piece of software.

If it is not easy to use, you won't use it. If time is worth money. I strongly recommend that you always stretch your budget and buy the best tools you can. I have always ended up spending more money by buying cheaper stuff first, and spending more money again to get stuff that will work.

What should you digitize and what can you digitize? Under the current copyright laws, almost anything you copy can be construed as a violation of the law. My recommendation is to not be stupid. For example don't digitize a book that you have paid for and then give copies to everybody. This is this asking for a lawsuit.

I have chosen to use a laptop is my primary piece of **hardware** because I can take it everywhere with me. One of the nice things about laptop is that you can quickly open it up and use it without having to search for an electrical socket. I have a desktop which I use for big projects which require more speed and memory. I also purchased a \$20 keyboard so it up my laptop up to my 19 inch monitor when I am at home. I strongly recommend that you spend \$6-\$10 to get a USB extension cable. Almost all of today's hardware plugs into a USB port. Some of these USB ports are difficult to get at. The extension cable solves this problem.

My primary storage is an **external hard disk** that holds 120 billion bytes of information, plugs into my USB port on my laptop and doesn't require an electrical plug-in. I can carry all of my information with me in the palm of my hand.

Western Digital Portable Harddrives
<http://www.westerndigital.com/en/products/Products.asp?DriveID=261>

One my favorite tools for digitizing documents and photos, is a **digital camera.** Here are my recommendations for a digital camera:

- it should have a full-size lenses with the name of a German company on it
- it should be powered by a lithium battery, not rechargeable AA batteries
- plan on spending extra money for batteries and storage devices

I always take my digital camera when I go to a library. I can make a quick copy of a page out of a book without having to go to a copier. I have also been successful taking photos of microfilm reader displays. This saves a lot of time and money.

I have two types of **scanners**. One is a portable flatbed scanner which does not need its own power supply. This allows me to do a quick scan using my laptop's battery without having to fish for an electrical socket.

Canon scanner

<http://www.usa.canon.com/consumer/controller?act=ModelInfoAct&fcateogryid=119&modelid=11446>

Here is a cute trick on how to **build a scanning platform** for working with oversized books and documents that hang over the size of a scanner. Measure how tall your scanner is. Go to a supply store and buy posterboard which is normally 3/8 inches thick. So say that your scanner is 2 inches tall. Buy six pieces of posterboard. Take a box cutter and cut a slot into the posterboard for the scanner. This gives you a nice firm scanning surface.

I also have a **scanner with an automatic document feeder**. I can load up with almost 50 pages, push a button and in five to 10 minutes they are all scanned without me having to listen on the scanner one at a time. Having a laptop and a desktop computer allows me to scan on the desktop while I surf the Internet. This lets me do two things at once.

Brother scanner

<http://www.brother-usa.com/printer/ModelDetail.aspx?ProductID=DGP8065DN>

Digitizing slides requires special hardware and never will be a fun thing to do. It takes a lot of time and uses complex computer programs. I purchased a portable slide scanner that does not

require its own power supply. It is somewhat simpler to use, it does an okay job and best of all, I can plug into my laptop and use it without having to hunt for an electrical socket.

Hammacher Schlemmer – slide scanner

<http://www.hammacher.com/publish/74083.asp?promo=homepage>

One of my scanners came with an excellent piece of software from **PaperPort**. This offer does it all. This software also deals with the problem of scanning a batch of double-sided documents. I will be automatic document feeder with 40 sheets of paper and scan the front side. When this is done, I push a button, flip the paper in the document feeder and scan the other side. The software automatically puts the pages in the proper order. Sometimes you need to scan books sideways to use a automatic document feeder. The software automatically rotate all the pages for you. It is dangerous to try to scan a 200 page book in one pass. Without fail the scanner or the computer lockup halfway through. I scan my books into groups of 40 page documents. The software will automatically combine the separate scans into one document.

Scan Soft – Paper Port

http://www.digitalriver.com/v2.0-img/operations/scansoft/site/html/paperport11/pport_overview.html

I also have an **optical character recognition program**. This converts scanned files into wordprocessing documents. For example I have a 300 page book written in Germany in 1930 that details all the immigrants for my ancestors hometown that moved to America. It is typed in German and does not have an index.

Step 1 I scanned this book with my scanner.

Step 2 I used **OmniPage** which is a phenomenal optical character recognition program to convert the scan book into a word processing document still in German.

Step 3 I use a language translation program to convert the German wordprocessing document into English. Step 4 I underlined all the names in the wordprocessing document and then used a macro to build an index of all the names.

Yes this is very complicated. I can save you months worth of time of translating and indexing.

Omni Page

<http://www.nuance.com/omnipage/>

I strongly recommend that you get the free **Picasa** program for Google this will do almost everything you need to do with digital images. First off of it will automatically find all the digitized images and videos on your computer. It also does a tremendous job of fixing defects on photos.

Google - Picasa

<http://picasa.google.com/>

For making complicated repairs to photos, such as removing scratches, you'll need to buy a special program. I use Paint Shop Pro/

Paint Shop Pro

<http://www.corel.com/servlet/Satellite/us/en/Product/1184951547051?trkid=googlepsp&trkid=15646662&gclid=CPT4i7q9144CFSTHlgodyy2L8w>

Okay now pretend that I'm jumping up and down and yelling at the top of my voice. It is useless to digitize your stuff unless you **build an index to what you have**. An index is vital to finding a document hidden on a hard disk. Indexing is a complicated topic that you should find a GEEK to help you. The best program for you to build an index is a spreadsheet program. I recommend the free **OpenOffice** office suite if you have not already spent the hundreds of dollars on Microsoft Office suite. OpenOffice is compatible with Microsoft's office suite.

Another complicated and confusing way to index your files is called **metadata**. Let's give an example what this is like. Everybody has old photos of people that they have no idea who was in the photo. We're all thankful for ancestors who took the time to write the names on the back of the photos. OK how you write names on the back of a digital file? They are a lot of free programs that can help you build an index. These programs allow you to write almost the entire book about who was in the pitcher and what is happening and then magically bury it inside the file itself. There are programs that can read up all the notes you've entered in all your files and automatically build an index. A competent geek can spend a

half an hour writing you a quick little program to automate adding comments to all of your digital images.

Open Office Suite

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

IrfanView

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

Exifer

<http://www.exifer.friedemann.info/>

Let's talk about my **file naming method**. I have given my digitized files on a made up of eight numbers.

My very first file is named 00000001, my second file is named 00000002, and so on. For each image I enter a separate line in my index for each person, place or thing in the photo or document. Some images can have over 50 items in my index. This allows me to easily retrieve all the files and photos that have information about a specific person.

Scanning is a skill that you need to build by doing a large number of scans. Here are some tips and techniques that I use.

Do no harm. Do not run a one-of-a-kind photo through an automatic document feeder. The careful not to destroy in old photo by the light that the scanner uses.

Scan at the highest resolution level you can. Higher resolution means larger file sizes. In the future the storage of large files will not be an issue.

Editing imperfections. It is relatively easy to fix defects on photos. Make them lighter, remove a green taint from a color photo, repair rips and tears, basically just doing magic with photos.

Better view. I have a bunch of copies of microfilm written in the old German script. Once these were digitized and I my computer, high could zoom in the hard-to-read spots.

Ripping apart books. Before you can digitize a book you have to rip it apart. I use the box cutter to remove the covers. I then told book apart and 20 page sections. I use a paper cutter to get a nice straight edge for scanning and removing the glue from the binding.

PDF or JPEG. What formats to you save your scans in? For items of more than five pages, I use PDF. If I'm going to need to do editing on an image, I'll use JPEG format. In some cases I use both.

Recording microfilm. This requires trial and error. There are no hard and fast rules, other than not using a flash. But I can be done

Scanning Tips

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

Converting movies to a computer format is complex. One method of converting modern film and VHS videotape recording is a hook the device strictly up to your computer. Using a computer to convert film is a sure way to raise your anger level. They can take an incredible amount of time to convert a short film and it is prone to air.

My preferred method is to get a new DVD recorder. You plug your device strictly into it and you get a high quality to settle plain DVD players.

For example I have a friend that had over 30 films that he wanted to get into a DVD format. His efforts at using a computer were unsuccessful, primarily the sounded not sync up to the pictures. He plug his digital camera into a DVD recorder pushed a button, and the DVD recorder took care of all the complicated stuff. Making a copy of a 30 minute VHS videotape only takes about 40 minutes.

DVD Recorder FAQs

<http://hometheater.about.com/od/dvdrecorderfaqs/a/dvdrecfaqintro.htm>

With old **8mm films** you have several options.

Option one, you play the old 8mm movie in old projector and displayed image on a piece of white cardboard. You record this playback using a new videocamera. There are two basic proms with this. One, many people don't have the old 8mm will be projectors. Two, even if you have a projector this process is very complex.

Option two, you take your 8mm movie to a professional photography company, that basically does option one for you. The benefit is its

relatively inexpensive. The drawback is you do not get the highest quality reproduction.

Option three, you send your 8mm film to a professional photography company that makes a digital reproduction of each frame and cleans up any imperfections. This is expensive but it gives you the best quality reproduction.

I also have a lot of data CDs. For example I have 125 disks of the LDS pedigree resource files. This can be a real pain having to put this in and out of the CD drive. I found a program that **converts these CD data disks into a file on a hard disk.** So instead of taking up a lot of space on my bookshelf, it is part of a hard disk that I can hold my hand. If I want to use a specific disk or switch to a specific disk it is just click a button on my computer.

Paragon CD-Emulator

<http://cdrom-emulator.com/home/personal/>

One of the easiest ways to digitize audio is to use one handheld **digital recorders.** It is much better than a tape recorder. I can record up to 20 hours on a digital audio recorder. At family reunions when we are sitting around the campfire, I just put the recorder on the ground and record all the neat stories are told. Little children love to play with these devices. This is a great way to record stuff suitable for blackmail in the future. For example I never recording of my niece in second grade telling the story of how she pooped in the cat's litter box when she was being potty trained.

Sony Digital Audio Recorder

http://www.epinions.com/pr-Sony_ICD-ST25_Voice_Recorder/display~reviews

Olympus Digital Audio Recorder

http://www.olympusamerica.com/cpg_section/product.asp?product=1272

I have a bunch of old cassette tapes of music and genealogical conferences. If you get a \$10 cable and are somewhat of a geek you can do this conversion. I spent one special device for digitizing cassette tapes that is put into your desktop PC. You put the cassette tape in the device push a button and it does all. It even flips the cassette for you.

Plus Deck 2

<http://www.i4u.com/section-viewarticle-75.html>
<http://www.thinkgeek.com/electronics/audio/7a8d/>

I also purchased a special piece of equipment that plugs into the USB port of a computer and converts LP records into a computer format that can be put on a CD. It did a tremendous job.

Hammacher Schlemmer – Convert LP record
<http://www.hammacher.com/publish/74106.asp?promo=xsells>

Converting **cassette tapes and LP records** can be a daunting task. Once again find a geek.

There is some neat software that allows you to edit and cleanup these digitized recordings. You can remove pops and clicks from records and hisses from cassettes. Audacity is a free program that can meet most of your basic editing needs.

My recommendation to do by a \$30 program called Magix Audio Cleaning Lab. This has some unbelievable editing capabilities. It also can be used to improve the quality of the original digitizing process.

Audacity – Digital Audio Editor
<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>
Magix – Audio Cleaning Lab
<http://www.magix.com/us/>

I'll just briefly mention voice-recognition software that allows you to digitize spoken words. You get yourself a headset with a microphone, hook it up to your PC, start talking in the computer will convert what you say into words in a wordprocessing program. This takes some patience, but can be a tremendous timesaver.

Dragon Natural Speaking – Voice Recognition
http://www.digitalriver.com/v2.0-img/operations/scansoft/site/367062/367062_dns-talk.html

Want to get your stuff into a digitized format it is easy to share. **There are a number of different methods of backing up your data.**

Copying your data to DVDs and CDs is usually the best method. It is cheap and these backups can be read on almost any machine.

I strongly recommend that you **do not put printed labels on your DVDs and CDs**. They have done tests and it found that the glue from the label destroys the disks and in as quick as two years. There are special printers that print right on the DVD and CD disk itself. This is okay. For me I use a **Sharpie pen** to label my disks.

If you have your data on an external disk, you can plug in the USB port of another computer and just do a normal copy. I'm a big fan of flash drives, small external disks and even the incredibly large external disks that you can get at reasonable prices today. Their great way to back up your priceless data and move it around.

I recently got an **external DVD dual layer creator** that plugs into a USB port. This new drive is lots faster than the drive that came with my PC. On dual layer drive holds 8 billion bytes worth a data. The really neat thing is this new format of disk can be read in a regular old DVD drive.

Pioneer DVD Dual External USB Drive
<http://computers.pricegrabber.com/dvd-rom-dvd-writers/m/19525529/search=pioneer+dvd+dual+layer+usb>

Okay what format to use? It's amazing how quickly formats go away and are not readable. Some people have difficulty getting at the old floppy disks and special disks like the lomega drives. Here's my recommendation:

- Use multiple formats, DVDs, CDs, external drives
- re-create copies annually
- using the newest technology that you have in making these annual backup copies
- send your data such as pedigree charts to the LDS church which guarantees that it will be saved forever

What is a right method to share your data? There is no right format, it depends on the person. Some people like me like information in a PC format. Some people like to read books. Some people like to watch DVD movies on a 42 inch LCD TV.

I do a lot of self publishing of pamphlets and books to distribute to my relatives.

There are special staplers but you can buy for creating pamphlets. I also use comb binders for making books.

Stanley – Long reach stapler

<http://www.officedepot.com/ddSKU.do?level=SK&id=451799&Ntt=stanley%20stapler&uniqueSearchFlag=true&An=text>

All this of I like to use Microsoft Publisher to layout the format of the text and photos.

To print out to these books I use a color, duplex, laser printer. Having a printer that prints on both sides of the sheet of paper lets you create neat looking documents. These are also incredibly cheap. I saw one recently for under \$400. A laser printer is much faster than an inkjet printer.

Brother – Duplex Color Laser Printer

<http://www.brother-usa.com/printer/ModelDetail.aspx?ProductID=HL4070CDW>

If you have audio, photos and text you can packager information in a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation format.

Using Microsoft publisher and a program to create a **PDF file**, the of a button and of the can print out a 4' by 6' poster on a single sheet of paper which can be laminated. This is great for pedigree charts and collages of photos. These are hits at family reunions. In

PDF is a format that can be read by almost any computer. When I wrote my family histories several years ago, it printed them in a PDF format. I printed out a few copies for close family. If somebody want to copy of these books which have hundreds of pages and charts, I just tell them to download the PDF copy from my Internet site and print it themselves. This way I avoid becoming a print shop.

PDF995 – PDF Creator

<http://www.pdf995.com/>

A good place to share your information is to **set up a web site on the Internet**. I've made lots of contacts with fellow researchers who saw information on my web site. An Internet web site is also a great place to back up your best research items. For one, the web site provider

will back your information up. A secondary benefit is you don't have to haul a bunch of books and documents to every research library that you go to. You can access digital images of these items over the Internet.

Setting up an Internet web site is not the easiest thing in the world. Again this is another spot where I recommend that you find a geek to help you. There are lots of complicated decisions to make. I pay \$10 a month for a web site that holds 2 billion bytes of information.

I have found that many people like the look at information on **DVD format**. One reason is that you get very creative and combining images, audio and digitized movies. Another reason is people have a threshold for pain of using new technology. For some people, they have mastered their DVD player and that's all they want to know how to use. They could care less about learning on the use a computer.

Once again, find a geek. There's a tremendous things that you can do with movie creating programs. The biggest trick is to break the movie down into smaller parts. Don't try to do the narration of the movie in a one-hour block. This makes it too difficult to fine-tune and edit your recording. The first step I do when setting up a movie is to gather all the digitized images and video that I want to use. I will next rename them with a number showing the order that I want to use them in the movie. I will then use the sound recorder which comes with all Microsoft machines to record the narration or the audio. I'll also number of these audio recordings in the order that I want to use them. This makes it easy to drop these images into the movie creating programs in the order I want them to be displayed.

Magix – Movie Creator & Editor

<http://www.magix.com/us/movie-edit-pro/detail/>

There are a lot of benefits that having all of yourself in the digitized format. Even if you're not ready to digitize everything, some of the things discussed in this presentation can be helpful in digitizing the priceless stuff you have gathered in your family research.