
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*
<http://tinyurl.com/22e2ua>.....*Loreto, Sauk Co, Wis*

Vol 43 June 2008

Vol 43 June 2008

Meeting & Events Schedule

Internet and Goodies

HistoryNet.com - Interesting Historical Articles

RetroCrush - Explore recent Cultural History

George Duncan's Historical Facts of WW II

Waldmuenchen Historical Tours

Ways to Learn a Language Online

Nationwide Gravesite Locator of Veterans

Questions asked by US Citizenship and

Immigration Services

IPUMS Instructions Given to Federal Census

Enumerator Instructions

Racine Dominican Catholic Sisters webpage

Using Libraries on Internet

Military Research

Eugene Prouty

Martin Fargen

Richard Umhoeffer

Meeting & Events Schedule

Southwest Regional Convention

Sauk-Prairie Area Hist Society Aug 16 2008

These Regional Conventions are pretty good.

I am planning on being there.

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

Contact Carol Kratochwill at

ckratochwill@hotmail.com

Saturday, July 19th, 2008

9:30 am, Plain, WI

Kraemer Library and Community Center

***NOTE THAT THE DATE IS
THE 3rd SATURDAY IN JULY –
Assuming the Library is open
after the flood***

We will demonstrate how to research your ancestors using Internet sources. This will include the LDS www.familysearch.org site and an opportunity to ask how to research your ancestors. Everybody is welcome.

Profiles of German Emigrants

Saturday July 12, 2008

Baerbel Johnson

Whitewater, Wisconsin

***Profile of a 19th Century German Emigrant
Understanding Occupations in German Research
Strategies Solving German Research Problems
German Marriage Laws & Customs***

Do not miss this annual day-long conference on German genealogical research. It is tremendous plus they will have lots of books and research tools for sale. Check the website for more information and a registration form.

http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wigig/workshop_page1-general_info.html

Internet and Goodies

HistoryNet.com - Interesting Historical Articles

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

I have an addiction for reading historical stuff. This publisher of some very good magazines has an excellent website packed with historical information.

RetroCrush - Explore recent Cultural History

<http://retrocrush.buzznet.com/archive.html>

A big part of family and historical research is to have an understanding of what was going in the period that you are researching. This site is full of stuff that will give you a good understanding / remembrance of current cultural history.

George Duncan's Historical Facts of WW II

<http://members.iinet.net.au/~gduncan/index.html>

This site has a lot of detail trivia about World War II. Sometimes you have to look at the small parts of something to get a good overview of the whole item.

Waldmuenchen Historical Tours

<http://translate.google.com/translate?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.waldmuenchen.de%2Fhistorischer-spaziergang.html&sl=de&tl=en&hl=en&ie=UTF-8>

http://www.waldmuenchen.de/historischer_spaziergang.html

This is an interesting site about historical things to see in Waldmuenchen. The original site is in German. Using Google Language you can convert the site to English.

Ways to Learn a Language Online

http://www.readwriteweb.com/archives/20_ways_to_learn_a_language_online.php

Learning a language can be tough, time consuming and expensive. These sites eliminate the expensive problem of learning a language.

Nationwide Gravesite Locator of Veterans

http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL_v1

This is a well-done site that makes it easy to find the burial spots of veterans. It covers the obvious VA and Veteran cemeteries. It also covers private cemeteries where the grave is marked with a government grave marker.

Questions asked by US Citizenship and Immigration Services

<http://www.ellisland.org/quizzes/takequiz.asp>

This is an interesting site to check your knowledge of the US by answering questions the immigrants wanting to become citizens had to answer.

IPUMS Instructions Given to Federal Census Enumerator Instructions

http://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/tEnumInstr.shtml?s_ssdmh=dm13.166231

The US Federal Census is a key source of information for genealogical research. This web page shows the instructions given to census takers.

This site also has a complicated research database that could give interesting information about our ancestors, if you can figure out what it is and how to use it. I am struggling.

Racine Dominican Catholic Sisters

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

The Dominican Sisters based in Racine Wisconsin provided me with a grade school education. They also provided education to many immigrants to Wisconsin from the 19th century on. This site gives information about the order and individual nuns.

Using Libraries on Internet

My idea of a perfect day is to run around the book stacks of a library. Libraries are becoming an underutilized resource. Many libraries are having concerns about getting people to physically come into their building. Many researchers feel that they can find everything on the Internet. Most of the really **progressive libraries have extensive Internet web sites**. This allows them to attract potential visitors. These web sites also help potential visitors plan their visit, getting the maximum benefit of their visits.

Let's start with how to use libraries.

Did you ever wonder why some people seem to have more luck in their research? It is probably because they have a good search strategy.

One search strategy is to look for that one item that will have what you need. This is like shooting at a target with a rifle. You need to have good aim to successfully hit the target with a single bullet. **I prefer the shotgun method to research. The shotgun has a wider range and you are more likely to hit something.**

For example instead of searching for the obituary of Uncle Fred which is a narrow search, I will search for information about his death. I have found information about my ancestors' deaths in: obituaries of their brothers and sisters, historic books about where they lived, tombstones transcriptions, probate records, and personal diaries.

Some of my greatest research successes have come when I'm looking for something else. One time I found my great-grandfather's marriage document on a roll of microfilm. Instead of stopping and rewinding, I scanned the film to the end. About 10 images from the end, I found a second marriage document for my great-grandfather to another woman. It is important to keep your eyes can mind open when researching.

If you are going to research on the Internet, you need to get used to using search engines and online catalogs. Your attitude is extremely important. I have heard people complain that a search might return thousands and thousands of possible hits, where I would say Yippee Yippee Woo Woo I have lots of stuff to look at. By scanning these thousands of search results I get clues and ideas on how to refine my search.

The more you look at, the better you understand what you don't know. **There are lots of really need stuff hiding on you.** Who would think to search for **Annual Enumeration Statistics** at the Wisconsin Historical Society Library in Madison. More about that later.

What kind of library resources should you be looking for on the Internet? Online catalogs, tools to plan your visit, ability asked for help using e-

mail or text chatting are some other things to look for. Many libraries have unique digitized collections that you can access at home.

There are some drawbacks to using library resources on the Internet. **First off there is no such thing as easy to use Internet web sites.** Each library and web site has their own secret tricks. Hidden behind the icon on a web page could be unbelievable treasure. The biggest problem is information in web sites and online catalogs were created by people and people can not spell. This requires persistence and imagination to try all possible combinations that some goofball might have spelled the name that you are looking for.

Here are some examples of common spelling problems that you will encounter while researching.

When looking for information on Bavaria I will use the German spelling of **Bayern or Baier.** The really good stuff about Bavaria will be written in German.

In the German language there are **interchangeable letters.** I found my Pronold ancestors alphabetized under the B's in German records.

And of course people can't spell. I have found Meixelsperger ancestors indexed underneath the K's because the name was written with a flowery M. in German if you have a letter that is fancy and you can make it out, the rules of thumb is that it must be a K.

How do you find which libraries are online. www.publiclibraries.com is a good starting point. You can search for public libraries from every state. Local libraries are tremendous sources of unique data gathered by local historians and genealogists. The Spring Green Library has a card index of individuals mentioned in The Weekly Home News (local newspaper). This is a tremendous resource not available any other place.

State libraries, presidential libraries, national libraries and university libraries are fertile research grounds. Some people will restrict their research efforts to the top two or three libraries or

web sites. Myself, I want to look at them all. The really good stuff is always hidden in some remote corner or obscure link of the Internet.

The best library system in the area is the University of Wisconsin in Madison library system.

The system has two catalogs: MadCat and ArcCat.

Madcat covers all the books and newspaper microfilm holdings held by various libraries in the system. As with most catalogs, using Madcat can be a intimidating.

Down the lower left-hand corner is a link to help on how to use the catalog. I always look for a link to help information on every web site that I use. Again there is good stuff in there.

There are four ways to search for information. I always use the guided search method.

Arcat covers archive holdings of the system. These are the really good stuff. This includes plat maps, personal manuscripts, diaries, and special microform holdings

As with Madcat, the guided search method is a method that I prefer.

The guided search method for Madcat and Arcat are very similar. The guided search screen is confusing the first 20 or 30 times you use it. Let's look at individual parts of the screen.

You need to understand the concept of AND OR NOT. You will enter search criteria. If you use AND, the results must have must have all the criteria. If you use OR, the results will contain items that match either of the criteria. You can use NOT, to exclude items. I really use NOT.

There are some handy hints at the bottom of the page. The hints explain the hidden trick of using a ? As a wildcard.

You can control the number results that a return per page. The default is 25 records per page. I always choose 100 records per page. This reduces the number of pages that I have to look at or print out.

This box determines how your selection criteria is used. For example if I'm searching for the town of Spring Green, Wisconsin I will enter Spring Green in the first criteria box and select AS A PHRASE. Otherwise I will have to look at every item that has spring or green.

There is an option that lets you search the catalog in specific areas. I always use keyword anywhere. The other ones are restrictive and reduce the number of results.

This is what the results page looks like. Don't overlook the **SORT AGAIN BY** option. Many times looking at results that are in some sort of order lets you see a pattern that will be vital to your research.

Don't forget to look at **RECORD OPTIONS** at the bottom of the page. This allows you to select items on the individual results pages and e-mail the information to yourself. The **FULL RECORD** option gives you all the information that you need about the item. I always print these out before go to the library site give the print out to a research assistant at the library to make it easier to locate and request the specific item.

Here is a little-known trick that works only with the archives area. Each item in the archives is assigned a geographic code. **These geographic code cover every County in Wisconsin and every state in United States.** For example stock County has a geographic code of S3 which is use in the archives catalog.

You just enter the S3 for Sauk County.

Using Sauk County as a search term gives 176 results. Using the super secret code of S3 gives 282 results.Using the super secret code gives you 50% more items.

The really good items to look at are the really large collections that have a lot of boxes or folders. These large collections have **FINDING AIDS** which give even more detail information about the items.

This is a great place to go fishing. In searching for Sauk County I found items referenced in holdings for other counties. You never know what you

going to find in these hidden areas. And if you don't look you won't find.

Lots of really good stuff our hidden under weird names. If you search the archives for **ANNUAL ENUMERATION FARM STATISTICS**, you'll find a pot of gold. Every farm Wisconsin between 1923 and 1980 had to supply information to government record takers.

These records contain information about the size of the farm, the crops and animals raised, whether there was electricity, the age of the house, the age of the barn, and the cheese factory used.

If you ancestors that lived on farms, you'll one look at these films.

Many researchers only look for genealogical information at the Wisconsin Historical Society Library. These researchers are missing out on some really good stuff. There are a number of libraries that have great historical and genealogical holdings. The UW-Madison Memorial Library, located right across the mall from the Historical Society Library, has to be on your list of places to research at.

Many local libraries are putting digitized resources online. The people working at the library know where the really good stuff is. Talk to your local librarian. Be sure to ask them how to access these two resources at home at no charge.

Heritage Quest – This service gives you access to **US Census** information and PERSI. **PERSI** is a searchable index of articles published in genealogical magazines and newsletters. Articles from the Plain History Genealogy Group's newsletter are listed in this index. You can search PERSI for names of people, places and organizations.

NewspaperArchive – This company is digitizing information from throughout the United States. It is amazing how many articles there are covering Plain and Sauk County. Be sure to search their online index for

Nursing Home Elephant Sauk Wisconsin

Using these online resources allow you to research in you pajamas at midnight if you can't sleep.

The **ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY** is a great place to go fishing. They have one of the top five genealogical and historical collections in the world. Just going through their free online research guides can give you useful information on how to research.

Their online catalog has a very simple interface. Searching their catalog might identify books that you never dreamt existed. Once you find a book, you can search local libraries to find the book. You can also search WorldCat which is described later in this article.

The ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY also has a **ASK A LIBRARIAN** which can be a source of information.

There is a **TIPS & TRICKS** which is loaded with buried treasure.

If you cannot find information about your ancestors on the **LDS church's familysearch.org**, you are not using it correctly.

I always use the **KEYWORD SEARCH** to search their catalog. This would give you the least restrictive search criteria and give you more results.

I searched, LDS's familysearch.org for my ancestors' home in Waldmuenchen, Bavaria, Germany, using **WALDMUNCHEN**.

Don't be put off because the results are in German. The really good information about your ancestors' home in Germany will be in German.

When you select one of the individual items in the results list you'll get a web page give you more information about the item in both German and English. Click on the **View Film Notes** button to get the film number that you need to place your order.

This is a treasure trove for me. The Catholic Church has not allowed filming of the records of their churches in Bavaria. The civil records related to marriages and permissions to change residence are phenomenal

Pretend that I am jumping up-and-down and yelling at the top of my voice.

If you have German ancestors, you have to look for their **marriage contracts and related documents**. I have some over 40 pages long with unbelievable information.

This will give you information about how the microfilm is organized in the order numbers.

My ancestors' home in Germany has an umlat in it, the u with the two dots over it. Which is the best way to search for this name? -Figure out how to type an umlat on the keyboard

-add an E which is a common convention
-type a regular U.

Waldmünchen Waldmuenchen Waldmunchen

My suggestion is to try all the spelling variations.

In the past you had a go to a LDS church to order microforms. Wisconsin Historical Society Library in Madison Wisconsin will place these orders for you and let you work with the microforms at their well-equipped Library.

There is an additional charge of about \$2.50 per microfilm reel to cover their costs. This makes their charge per roll of microfilm about **\$7**. I recommend that you check out their online order form and contact them by phone. They make it very easy to order the films.

Just because you cannot read the language do not overlook foreign libraries. These are the best sources of information about your ancestral immigrant and their home.

You don't need to learn the entire language. Just learning a few words is enough.

A good example is the web site for the Bavarian State Library.

One of the first things to look for on a foreign language web site is an option to view the site in English.

You also have to develop an eye for what might be good stuff

Hidden in the lower right hand corner of the Bavarian State Library is a link to the maps. There is a complicated path of clicking that gets you to the good stuff.

First you do a quick search SCHNELLSUCHE for a place ORT.

You get a web site load with links crying out "click on me".

Clicking on the right link gives you access to hundreds of maps. I found 177 maps starting from 1160 covering my ancestors' home in Germany.

Being able to track changes in location of roads and place names over this huge time period is a great source of information.

If nothing else, you get a good illustration for your family history publication.

I saved the best for last. WorldCat is a catalog to libraries throughout the entire world.

Searching for my ancestors' home of **Waldmünchen** yields some unbelievable results.

This site allows you to use a ? As a wildcard for the umlat, a u with two dots. So I used Waldm?nchen as my search term.

WorldCat allows you to search by keyword, title, author, subject or its assigned number (ISBN, ISSN or OCLC). Again, I recommend that you use the keyword search first. If you are looking for a book that you know exists than you can try the other options. WorldCat also allows you to specify criteria for language, format, and publication dates.

I found 134 possible results for **Waldmünchen**.

The left hand side of the results page summarizes the results and allows you to narrow in on the good stuff. WorldCat summarizes the results by author, content, format, language, and publication year. There are clues in the summaries. For example, if you find an author who has written something about your ancestors' home, do a search on WorldCat and Google looking for other stuff they has written.

WorldCat screens for the individual result item contain information that is hidden.

WorldCat's result screen gives you information about the author and the item. Talk about getting lucky, I found a book printed in 1941 that gave a detailed list of everybody who left my ancestors home town in Germany from the early 1800s to the early 1900s. The publication date of this document makes me think that was used by the Nazi government to identify emigrants who might want to return to Germany and help the Third Reich during World War II.

WorldCat's result screen has a tab with information about which libraries hold the item. In this case there is a Library Frankfurt Germany that holds this publication. Unfortunately it is 4200 miles away.

WorldCat's result screen has a tab with more details about the item.

In addition to giving more details about the item, it also includes notes submitted by individuals. I added a note that I have a personal copy of this document donated by Dori Danelski to a local Library in my hometown. I also gave my e-mail address and indicated that I also have a personal copy.

Clicking on this tab saves you the effort of making the 4200 mile trip to a Library in Germany. You never know who might have a one of a kind book.

WorldCat's result screen has a tab with reviews.

I added a note that I have a typed transcription of this document suitable for optical character recognition. This geeky note implies that I have converted this document to a wordprocessing format and translated from German to English.

WorldCat also allows you to build a list of the items that you have found. You can share this list with other people.

Stuff I Have and How to Get It

I have a lot of really neat stuff in digital format including:

- Tombstone pictures
- Pictures of houses in plain
- Copies of Annual Farm Census 1923-1980
- Otto Hertz's book on emigrants
- Nachreiner Funeral Book
- And Much More

I am very willing to swap information.

Your best bet is :

Contact me before the bi-monthly meeting
So I can gather what you are interested in

Bring a USB drive to the meeting

Military Research

The following is information I found on people from the area that served in World War II and were prisoners of war.

I found a "new" site. Footnote.com. Footnote has an agreement with NARA, the National Archives Record Administration, to digitize government records. Footnote is a pay-for-use site. It is about \$60 a year or \$8 a month. The really neat thing is that once you sign up, it does not automatically renew. Cancelling subscriptions to Internet sites can be almost impossible in some cases.

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

Eugene Prouty

Reference gw0000

Footnote.com has the actual Missing Air Crew Report MACR which describes the crash of Eugene Prouty's airplane in the Pacific during World War II. Lots of this information was transcribed and available on a free website.

However you always should look at the original document to see if the transcriber made "mistakes" or omitted items.

The actual MACR report includes a hand-drawn map of the crash area and the next of kin who should be notified.

Martin Fargen

Reference # 00004509

NARA WWII Prisoners of the Japanese Database

Name: Fargen Martin Franklin
Rank: Corporal
Serv #: 19054420
Service: Coast Artillery Corps
Source: American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor
Registration Records
Sub Unit: F Battery
Assigned Unit: 60th Coast Artillery Regiment
(AntiAircraft)
Parent Unit: Harbor Defenses of Manila and Subic Bays

Prisoner Camp: Tokyo POW Camp Branch #2
Kawasaki
Tokyo Bay Area 35-139

Date of Report: May 7 1942

Tiny Hill Point Fights to Retain Its Name Wisconsin State Journal August 2, 1973

This was an article about the consolidation of the handling of rural postal routes by Loganville. It mentions Martin Fargen who had taken care of the Hill Point route for 28 years.

Prisoner Sends Radio Message Wisconsin State Journal August 5, 1944

(includes photo of Pvt. Martin Fargen)

Copies of a radio message from their son, Pfc. Martin Francis (sic) Fargen, 22, who was captured at Corregidor and is in a Japanese prison camp at Tokyo have been received by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Fargen, Bear Valley.

The Fargens have received 20 messages from persons who heard the broadcast from Tokyo. The war department sent them the text of the message, which said in part:

My health is good as can be expected. I hope all at home are well. The weather here is very pleasant, almost like spring in Wisconsin. The cherry blossoms are very pretty here this spring.

The message was the first from Fargen since Christmas week, when the parents received a card written June 6, 1943. He enlisted when 17 and had been stationed on Corregidor before Pearl Harbor.

Lone Rock Man Freed from Nips Wisconsin State Journal October 13, 1945

(includes photo of Pvt. Martin Fargen)

Pfc. Martin Fargen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Fargen, Bear Valley, has been liberated from a Japanese prison camp and is now in the Philippine islands, it was learned by his parents this week. He was captured at Corregidor.

William Dolan, a brother-in-law of Fargen's and also a soldier stationed in the Philippines, saw

Fargen a short time ago and notified his wife, who immediately called her parents. They had received a letter from Martin that day, the first they knew that he had been liberated.

The letter Pfc. Martin wrote:
Yokaham Japan Sept 14 1945

Dear Folks:

Just arrived at airport here in Yokohama, after sailing from northern Japan on a U.S. destroyer, where we were liberated from those [censored]. I have gained 25 pounds in 25 days and feel well. We are going to fly to Okinawa and then to the Philippine Islands.

Do those Americans ever look good! Hope to be home in a few days and see you all, and start living again like a white man.

I must close now as the plane will leave in a few minutes. I am writing this in the hangar and the noise is terrific. There are about 50 transports leaving every three hours. God bless you all

Martin

Richard Umhoefer

Reference gx0000

These are some of the details about the crash of Richard Umhoefer's airplane during World War II. This information was taken from the official Missing Air Crew Report.

Unit Information:

IX Tr Carr Comd.
440th Tr Carr Gp.
Squadron 95th Troop Carrier Squadron
Located in Orleans, France

Departure: Chateaudun, France

Destination: Bastogne, Belgium

Mission: Glider Tow (1116)

Last sighted: Dec 27 1944 1230 hours
Near Sibret, Belgium

Right engine in flames

Airplane: **C047** A #42-100907

Crew members:

1 st Lt Lewis, William H.	Pilot	0740476
2 nd Lt Putman, Earl E.	Co-pilot	0776032
1 st Lt Umhoefer, Richard P.	Navigator	0809456
SSgt Harvey, Wilmeth H.	Crew Chief	1818574
Sgt Mehling, George D. Jr	Radio Op	3557156

2 parachutes were seen to open

Identifying mark on nose of ship: 9X

Wolf's head painted under pilot's window, with the Wording print in yellow
"OOOOOh HONEY"

Date of Report: Dec 29 1944

I the undersigned while flying in formation in an element of eight airplanes and gliders at about 2500 feet, saw the airplane which was being flown by 1st Lt William H. Lewis, that the right engine was on fire. Lt Lewis's airplane was going down slowly when I noticed two men bail out and their parachutes open. His glider cut loose as he was going down. I did not see either the plane or the men who parachuted reach the ground.

1st Lt Harvey L. Rideout 95th TC Squadron

Place of internment:

Dulag-Luft West

The co-pilot 2nd Lt Earl Putman was badly burned. After being taken prisoner he was sent to a German hospital. He was contacted in the US after the war.

Casualty Questionnaire completed by Richard Umhoefer:

Crash occurred a few miles NW of Bastogne

Sgt Mehling the radio-operator, Sgt Harvey the crew chief, and myself bailed out together and landed in the same field. Lt. Lewis the Pilot, and Lt. Putman the co-pilot were the last to bail out. I don't know where they landed, but they were safe although badly burned.

I was with Sgt. Harvey, Sgt Mehling, and Lt Lewis, for a few days after we were taken prisoners. Lt. Lewis had burns in his face, but the other two were alright. I heard reports that Lt. Putman, was taken to a German hospital.