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# PLAIN HISTORY GENEALOGY GROUP

*Covering Plain, Sauk Co, Wisconsin and Beyond*

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<http://tinyurl.com/53dn2>.....*Haas Bauer Main WebSite*  
<http://tinyurl.com/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*

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## Meeting & Events Schedule

**Saturday, September 13th, 2008**  
**9:30 am, Plain, WI**  
**Kraemer Library and Community Center**

We will demonstrate how to research your ancestors using Internet sources. This will include the LDS [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) site and an opportunity to ask how to research your ancestors. Everybody is welcome.

**Saturday, October 25, 2008**  
**8:00 am**  
**Genealogy – A Lasting Legacy**  
**LDS Church**

9600 West Grange Ave  
Hales Corners, WI

This is a great day-long free Genealogy Workshop. There will be 17 different topics to choose from for the 5 1-hour presentations.

There will also be a presentation on one of the greatest family research resources, Familysearch.org.

There is a syllabus that covers all presentations which will be available for \$5

If you are in the Milwaukee area, I strongly recommend this workshop. Many of the presentations will be given by members of MPAFUG (Milwaukee Personal Ancestral File Users Group)

To register or to get more information contact:

Jane Orne  
3975 S 124<sup>th</sup> Street  
Greenfield, WI 53228  
[FHC@Rworld.net](mailto:FHC@Rworld.net)

## **Internet and Goodies**

### **BRB Publications-Free Govt Public Record Sites**

<http://www.brbspub.com/freeresources/pubrecsites.aspx>

Government records are great source information while family, ancestors and communities. This is a free site that covers a wide range of government agencies and resources. This to be a great site to spend time browsing.

### **Catholic Church Restricts LDS Church Access**

<http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/0802443.htm>

The Vatican has instructed dioceses throughout the world not to give the LDS church access to records. This will not have a significant effect on people researching Bavarian ancestors, because Catholic church records from Bavaria had not been filmed.

### **WEST POINT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY (Columbia County WI)**

<http://www.townofwestpointareahistoricalsociety.org/WPAHS/>

This is a very well-designed site and is a example of how do WebSite. Columbia County is close enough to Sauk County that there might be information on your ancestors.

### **Rebuilding the Soul: Churches and Religion in Bavaria 1945-1960**

<http://edt.missouri.edu/Winter2007/Dissertation/DavisJ-041307-D6773/research.pdf>

This is a 600 page University dissertation that analyzes Bavarian churches after World War II. This is an interesting insight into the life in Germany after the war.

### **BYU Learn how to read German Script**

<http://script.byu.edu/german/en/welcome.aspx>

Most of the really good documents about our ancestors are written in the hard to read German script. This free tutorial helps you get the skills needed unlock the information in these old German documents.

### **Historical Aerial Photos of Wisconsin**

[http://www.sco.wisc.edu/apcat/apcat\\_records.php?county=Sauk](http://www.sco.wisc.edu/apcat/apcat_records.php?county=Sauk)

<http://www.sco.wisc.edu/index.php>

<http://www.sco.wisc.edu/maps/index.php>

This site gives you access to aerial photos of Wisconsin they go back to the 1930s.

### **Site About all things German**

[http://germanoriginality.com/heritage/genealogy\\_links.php](http://germanoriginality.com/heritage/genealogy_links.php)

This is a unique source information about German heritage. It is a great source to discover details that will be helpful in researching your German ancestors.

### **Video of houses being destroyed by flood Lake Delton WI**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=guBo0FQhjaM>

The June 2008 floods had a terrible effect on Sauk County. This video shows the history.

### **WWII German Prisoner of War Camps**

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

<http://www.b24.net/>

<http://www.merkki.com/kriegies.htm>

[http://www.elsham.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/gt\\_esc/index.html](http://www.elsham.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/gt_esc/index.html)  
[http://dmc.tamu-commerce.edu/cdm4/item\\_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/uw&CISOPT R=320&DMSCALE=50&DMWIDTH=600&DMHEIGHT=600&DMX=511&DMY=0&DMMODE=viewer&DMTEXT=&REC=18&DMTHUMB=1&DMROTATE=0](http://dmc.tamu-commerce.edu/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/uw&CISOPT R=320&DMSCALE=50&DMWIDTH=600&DMHEIGHT=600&DMX=511&DMY=0&DMMODE=viewer&DMTEXT=&REC=18&DMTHUMB=1&DMROTATE=0)

These sites are great sources of information about prisoner of war camps in Germany during WWII. It is a combination of information, pictures and stories. It has information about Dulag Luft which was the first camp many American flyers were sent to for interrogation and processing.

### **PBS's History Detectives**

<http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/techniques/index.html>

<http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/video/index.html>

This series involves solving mysteries with historical origins. A family / local history researcher is really a detective. This website is a great tutorial on how to evaluate and research historical items.

## Classmates.com Finding Classmates

<http://www.classmates.com/?s=74803>

<http://www.classmates.com/registration/location.jsp?cType=school&overseas=false&canada=false&sId=26&state=Wisconsin&cLetter=P&cId=3186611&city=PLAIN&lLetter=S>

<http://www.classmates.com/registration/location.jsp?cType=school&overseas=false&canada=false&sId=26&state=Wisconsin&cLetter=P&cId=3186611&city=PLAIN&lLetter=P>

<http://www.classmates.com/registration/location.jsp?cType=school&overseas=false&canada=false&sId=26&state=Wisconsin&cLetter=S&cId=7827&city=SPRING+GREEN&lLetter=R>

This site is dedicated to helping you find classmates from way-back.

## WWI letters from Soldiers published in Baraboo News Republic

<http://www.saukcounty.com/schs/ww1%20letters.htm>

During WWI, the Baraboo News Republic published letters from soldiers. I wished I had letters my grandfather had written, but this is the next best thing. My grandfather shared the same experiences that these letter-writers had.

## Information About Plain

<http://violetblue20.googlepages.com/plain%2Csaukcounty%2Cwisconsin>

[http://violetblue20.googlepages.com/plain\\_vs\\_maria\\_plain\\_discussion](http://violetblue20.googlepages.com/plain_vs_maria_plain_discussion)

[http://violetblue20.googlepages.com/maria\\_plain\\_meditation\\_garden](http://violetblue20.googlepages.com/maria_plain_meditation_garden)

<http://sites.google.com/site/auswanderer20/system/app/pages/sitemap/hierarchy>

Debbie Blau has put together a great site containing information about the Plain, WI area. Check it out, there is good stuff to read there.

## Sauk County Patrons Directory

<http://www.historicmapworks.com/Map/US/193198/Sauk+County+Patrons+Directory+001/>

<http://www.historicmapworks.com/Map/US/193199/Sauk+County+Patrons+Directory+002/>

This is a list of people who lived in Sauk County Wisconsin in 1906. I am not sure why this list prepared but it is a nice list of names and how long somebody had been a resident of Sauk County.

## ProGenealogists Lists of US Info Sources

<http://www.progenealogists.com/genealogysleuthb.htm>

This is an extensive list of genealogical sites. It is not the best list of sites I have seen. However, sometimes the really good stuff is hiding on less-than-perfect sites.

## St Luke St Patrick Cemetery Tombstone Photos

<http://www.usgwarchives.net/wi/cemetery/sauk-bearcreektwp-stpatricks-old.html>

<http://www.usgwarchives.net/wi/cemetery/sauk-bearcreektwp-stpatrickloretto.html>

<http://www.usgwarchives.net/wi/cemetery/sauk-bearcreektwp-ward.html>

<http://www.usgwarchives.net/wi/cemetery/sauk-franklintwp-oldstlukes.html>

<http://www.usgwarchives.net/wi/cemetery/sauk-franklintwp-stlukescatholic.html>

<http://www.usgwarchives.net/wi/cemetery/sauk-franklintwp-pleasanthill-plain.html>

<http://www.usgwarchives.net/wi/cemetery/sauk-franklintwp-whitemound.html>

You can find pictures of tombstones in cemeteries surrounding Plain, WI. A picture is worth more than a written transcription of the information on the marker.

## Challenging your assumptions

A bad assumption can ruin a research effort. My bad assumption is that by some divine intervention or strict church rules, the index of the Church of Jesus Christ of latter-day Saints on [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) has no mistakes and perfectly describes the item. I went to the German Interest Group-Wisconsin's annual workshop featuring Baerbel Johnson. She works at the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City so she knows what she's talking about.

One example of less-than-perfect indexing involved a microfilm that the index said covered a time period of up through 1875. She was looking for document from 1878. When she looked at the actual microfilm she found the document from 1878.

She also pointed out that the index might have different names for the same type of document.

Lesson learned: no index is perfect.

## Read the entire document

Early after graduation from college I learned a life lesson. My first job was as an auditor. An auditor's goal is to take a quick look at a document and check off that they have seen it. One day I asked a client to find me a document. She brought it to me. I looked at it for a second. Made my check mark and gave it back to her. The guy running the audit told me to never do that again. He knew that she had spent hours retrieving the document and I had made her mad when I returned so quickly.

Today whenever I ask a librarian to retrieve something for me I always look at it for a while before I return it. This keeps the librarian happy and I have found wonderful things doing this.

I was looking for my great great-grandmother's divorce document. I found the county civil court records in the archives room at the Wisconsin Historical Society Library in Madison. The books had a nice index. Unfortunately I couldn't find her name. Not wanting to give the book back to the library quickly, I browsed through it. My browsing showed me that the index was not complete. The index purposely excluded the really interesting cases such as divorce and illegitimate children.

One time at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, I found my great-great-grandfather's marriage documents from Germany in the middle of a roll of microfilm. I decided to skim the rest of the roll. About 20 images from the end of the roll, I found a second marriage document related to a different woman.