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# PLAIN HISTORY GENEALOGY GROUP

Covering Plain, Sauk Co, Wisconsin and Beyond

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<a href="http://tinyurl.com/53dn2">http://tinyurl.com/53dn2</a>	.....Haas Bauer Main WebSite
<a href="http://tinyurl.com/4tirt">http://tinyurl.com/4tirt</a>	.....PHHG ALL Newsletters & Meeting Handouts
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## Bad Weather Policy

Unlike postmen, the holding of our meetings will be affected by the weather. If the weather seems like it will make it dangerous for people to travel, the meeting will be cancelled. I will send an email by Thursday evening cancelling the meeting if the weather forecasts are bad. I will also leave a

message on the website homepage and with the staff at the library. When in doubt, call the library.

## Meeting & Events Schedule

**Saturday, Jan 10, 2009**

**9:30 am, Plain, WI**

**Kraemer Library and Community Center**

This meeting will deal with questions from the group. We will demonstrate free software programs that can be used to manage your computer and make your family research projects more effective. This will be a good opportunity to ask questions about things that might have you puzzled.

## Why do family research?

I research my family in order to answer those age-old questions of what is the meaning of life and why are we here. It seems as though every generation believes that theirs is the worst. Looking at the violence and death due to terrorism, the size of my 401k plan, gas at over \$4 a gallon, the need to demonize people with different views than ours and deaths of loved ones, it is easy to feel that we are one step away from Armageddon.

Family research helps me put things in context. Maybe things aren't so bad. Every generation so far has faced challenging issues and yet the world goes on.

Researching how my ancestors dealt with issues can give guidance on how to deal with today's concerns.

## Internet and Goodies

### **USA.gov Genealogy Resources by State**

[http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/History\\_Family/State\\_Genealogy.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/History_Family/State_Genealogy.shtml)

Not all of your tax dollars are spent on \$200 hammers. Governments collect a lot of information on things. This WebSite provides links to the best genealogical WebSite for each state.

### **Combining FamilySearch.org & GoogleEarth**

<http://204.9.231.95/stdfinder/KMLLookup.jsp>

Sometimes looking at information in a different format can uncover things you might have missed before. This WebSite lets you look at the holdings of the LDS Family History Library in Google Earth's mapping program.

### **Harvard University Online Resources Immigration to the US 1789-1930**

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

This is a free online collection of digitized information covering all aspects of immigration to United States. If you have a question about your ancestors' immigration and what it was like, you should be able to find it here.

### **UW-Madison Memorial Library - German Genealogy Reference Sources**

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

The University of Wisconsin in Madison has many libraries useful to a genealogist. This WebSite shows a list of reference sources that can help you research your German ancestors.

### **LIFE Magazine Photo Archive Hosted by Google**

<http://images.google.com/hosted/life>

Life Magazine is well-known for its photo collection. You now search this collection on Google therein

## How Plain WI Got Its Name

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

Debra Blau has done an extension review of how Plain got its name. One possibility is that it was named after Maria Plain in Austria by a visiting priest.

An alternative is that Plain was named by early settlers from Ohio. Plain is a common name for Ohio townships. There are Plain townships in the Ohio counties of Perry, Stark, Wayne, Wood and Franklin.

It seems like a strange coincidence that there is a Plain Township in Franklin County Ohio. This Ohio township was covered in the 1850 US Federal Census.

The question of how Plain, Wisconsin got its name will probably never be answered definitively will be the source of lively disputes on in the future.

## New Year's Traditions

Several unique traditions for bringing in the new year can be found on Wikipedia .

Mexico – wear red underwear to find love  
Mexico – wear yellow underwear to find money  
Mexico – take luggage outside for future trips  
Mexico – eat 12 grapes at midnight  
Germany – New Year's eve called Silvester

Germany – View cult classic short movie  
“Dinner for One”  
catch phrase “Same procedure as every year”  
(similar in concept to “You'll shoot your eye out”  
in A Christmas Story)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ku1\\_DJEBI\\_g&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ku1_DJEBI_g&feature=related)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPVCtpNjMtY&feature=related>

## Dachau Concentration Camp

German concentration camps were a terrible place to be. It is possible that that some relatives were at Dachau, one of the first Nazi concentration camps established in 1933.

Ancestry.com has an index of some of the people held at Dachau Concentration Camp. I found several people from Waldmunchen with familiar last names.

### **Johann Lechner**

Birth: Waldmunchen Sep 7 1895  
Arrived: Aug 7 1937  
Disposition: released Apr 20 1939  
Description: prisoner German  
Residence: Waldmunchen, Bahnhofstr. 17

### **Anton Gruber**

Birth: Waldmunchen Feb 14 1892  
Arrived: Apr 5 1941  
Disposition: transferred Jul 12 1941 Buchenwald  
Description: German or Austrian  
Residence: Lochhausen Haubringerstr. 7

### **Johann Gruber**

Birth: Waldmunchen Mar 16 1873  
Arrived: ????

Disposition: transf Sep 27 1939 to Mauthausen  
Description: prisoner 2 x X1 German of Austrian  
Residence: Magdeburg Berlinerstr. 9

### **Richard Ring**

Birth: Waldmunchen Nov 10 1908  
Arrived: Oct 12 1938  
Disposition: released Mar 16 1943  
Description: prisoner SS

### **Johann Schönsteiner**

Birth: Waldmunchen Dec 28 1895  
Arrived: Dec 14 1935  
Disposition: released Dec 2 1936

## Lawsuit against Plain Telephone Company

While searching [www.books.google.com](http://www.books.google.com), I came across a book of Opinions and Decisions of the Railroad Commission of the State of Wisconsin covering the time period of June 2, 1916 to March 9, 1917.

On page 858 there was a case of A.J. Turner et al., vs Plain Telephone Company which was decided February 12, 1917.

The crux of the case was that about 40 people complained that the Plain Telephone Company was giving inadequate and insufficient service to its subscribers.

A hearing was held January 7, 1917 with testimony given by A.J. Turner and George Volk for the plaintiffs and H.J. Reuschlein for the phone company.

Regular hours were from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm with no service on Sunday morning during Catholic Mass service.

The petitioners requested and were granted that from May 15 to November 15 service would start at 6:00 am with no break in service for Sunday Mass.

According to testimony, "The nature of farm work is such that it is necessary that telephone service be had at an earlier hour."

## **Bob Dewel – Yesteryear** **Revisted**

This is a compilation of articles written by Bob Dewel in the Baraboo News-Republic. These articles cover Sauk County and Baraboo, Wisconsin.

<http://www.lib.byu.edu/fhc/index.php>

Digitized versions of this compilation can be downloaded for free at the above site.

Search All: using Dewel

You should get 10 results

Here are some of the articles and items that I found interesting.

### **2006-2007 Page 96**

“Many Model T Fords of the era could not ascend a steep hill, unless it was done in reverse..”

### **Volume 1 Page 35**

This article describes the Volk-Ahern duel in Plain. Specifically he notes that Ahern fired at the count of 8, before the customary count of 10. Volk then fired, killing Ahern.

### **Volume II Page 1-2**

The Skillet Creek Bachelor’s Club was organized to promote the marriage of young gentlemen.

Apparently this club had a code of ethics which included such gems as “no member shall cut out a brother unless he wants the girl himself”.

A court system was established for members violating rules such as failing to escort a young lady as promised.

Initiation included riding an angora goat.

The club had regular meetings where minutes were kept. The club also kept track of individual marriageable young women. The club’s minutes are on file at the Sauk County Historical Society

There were similar groups for women known as the “Ladies of the Fellowship”, the Arachue and the “Old Maids of Skillet Creek”.

I have got to make a visit to the Sauk County Historical Society in Baraboo to look at these minutes. Trials for loutish behavior and the possibility of debates on the comparative date-ability qualities of individual young ladies should be enlightening.

## **Spanish Flu 1918**

I find it amazing that one of the greatest loss of life events in modern history is not well known. The statistics and facts about this flu outbreak are sobering.

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/museum/artifacts/archives/001965.asp>

<http://www.stanford.edu/group/virus/uda/>

- It lasted from March 1910 to June 1924
- Active in Wisconsin Sep 1918 to Dec 1918
- 20 – 100 million killed worldwide
- It affected 103,000 Wisconsin residents
- 8,459 Wisconsin residents died
- 92,906 US residents died in a 2 month period

Many victims were healthy young adults. Victims were suddenly stricken by symptoms. Within hours they were too weak to walk. Many died the next day, some within hours of the onset of symptoms. Victims had a blue facial tint and coughed up blood.

The flu affected groups of young people, ages 20 to 40. The Wisconsin State Board of Health banned large, indoor public gatherings. This caused the closings of churches, saloons, schools and theaters.

Wisconsin’s death rate was 2.91 versus a national average of 4.39 per a thousand persons. The effect of the flu was reduced in Wisconsin due to a state law in 1883 requiring every village, city, and town to appoint a health officer and board of health.

People were urged to cover mouths when coughing and sneezing, avoid crowds, and get plenty of rest. Public spitting laws were strictly enforced. Kissing was discouraged as being too dangerous.

Due to WWI there were large groups of young men in the various military training camps. 17,000 victims died in Army camps.

Many young men, including my grandfather were assigned to Camp Grant, Illinois for training. 4,000 people were affected. 1000 persons died at the camp in one week between 9/23/1918 and 10/1/1918.

This pandemic was called the Spanish flu because it received greater press coverage after it moved from France to Spain in Nov 1918. Spain was not in WWI and its press was not restricted by war-time news censorship. It was also know as "La Grippe"

In 1918 children would skip to this rhyme

*I had a little bird  
Its name was Enza  
I opened the window,  
An in-flu-enza*

People wearing protective gauze masks were a common site.

## Book On Castle Garden

If your ancestors came through New York City between 1855 and 1890 they most likely came through Castle Garden, located on the south-west tip of Manhattan Island. This is the best book that I have ever seen on Castle Garden. That is probably because it is the only book that I found that deals only with Castle Garden. In 1968, Dr. George J. Svejda wrote a 175 page book titled "Castle Garden as an Immigrant Depot, 1855-1890".

The first 34 pages cover 4 parts:

- Immigration to America
- Immigration Policy 1790-1872
- Steerage Passengers
- Aid Organization

These 4 parts are packed with lots of interesting historical information about immigration. To properly research our ancestors, having a historical knowledge of the events they experienced is a necessity.

The 5<sup>th</sup> part has 113 pages on Castle Garden as an immigrant depot from 1855-1890. This is a

very detailed analysis containing individual's stories and source information. Here are some facts that caught my attention.

I had heard of immigrant runners preying on arriving immigrants but never "watch stuffers", "thimble riggers" and "pocketbook droppers". (page 39)

A railroad ticket to Milwaukee cost \$10.17. (page 49)

"During the Civil War the Irish immigrants were recruited at Castle Garden into Meagher's Brigade." (page 70)

"The firm of Knox & Smith of Alexandria, Virginia, made a particularly good business of furnishing famers in Virginia with German laborers." (page 78)

The destruction of Castle Garden by fire on July 9, 1876. (page 99)

The appendix has neat stuff. There are 11 drawings of events experienced by immigrants processed through Castle Garden. The appendix has a table showing the number of immigrants processed through Castle Garden between 1855 and 1889.

The bibliography is a treasure-trove of source documents that were used to write the book. Many of these sources can be found on the Internet and scream to be added to to-do lists of family and historical researchers.

You might ask where can I get my hands on this book. Several years ago I got a copy on intercompany loan from UW-Oshkosh through the Milwaukee County Public Library. Recently, I was doing my weekly search for genealogical sources on the Internet when I found this book available for free on the Internet.

[http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online\\_books/elis/castle\\_garden.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/elis/castle_garden.pdf)

I was amazed that I found this gem on the website of the US National Park Service. This is another example of why you should cast a "wide net" when researching. There is really good stuff hiding out there.

## **PHGG Utility Disk**

The Internet is a good source for stuff. This Utility disks attempts to address two problems with the Internet.

- 1) Lack of a high speed Internet connection
- 2) Many of the really good stuff is hidden

The following is brief description of what is on the disk.

### **LDS PAF Program -----**

You will need a program to record the information you gather researching your family.

#### **Genealogical Program**

Personal Ancestral File (PAF) is a free program available from the LDS church.

You will probably use several genealogical programs based what they can do. PAF should be one of them.

#### **Tutorial**

PAF is a complex program. Brigham Young University has created a fantastic tutorial that will show you how to use it.

### **LDS Guides -----**

All good genealogical researchers have read countless books that describe how to research. The LDS Church has created some great research guides about Germany and Bavaria. These guides are available for free on there website.

#### **Handbook to German Research**

This 83-page book was written by Larry O. Jensen in 1980. It is packed with information that will make you a better researcher. Every researcher of German ancestors should read this book at least once every 6 months, you will always find something you missed. Germany Research Outline This 60 page outline is one of the best books on researching German Ancestors.

### **How to Determine Place of Origin**

#### **How to find Birth records**

#### **How to find Christening records**

#### **How to find Marriage records**

#### **How to find Family Register records**

### **PHGG Newsletters / Handouts -----**

This has all the newsletters and handouts published since the group was founded. They include many research suggestions, tricks and tips.

### **Free Programs -----**

#### **PDF 995**

PDF is a standard format that every computer can read. Instead of printing a document to paper, you can print it to a PDF file.

I have used PDF to create a digital version of a book about my family and my research. If somebody wants a copy of this 200+ page document, they can download the PDF version from the Internet and print it themselves.

#### **Open Office Suite**

Every computer user needs a word processor, spreadsheet, and "powerpoint" program. You can spend hundreds of dollars for Microsoft's Office suite. Or you can download the free Open Office suite that is can read and write the standard Microsoft records.

#### **Firefox Browser**

To say it clearly, Microsoft's Internet Explorer stinks. Its biggest weakness is that it can easily be hacked by nasty people trying to get control of your computer and data. Firefox is a free program is that is less subject to hacker attacks and can do neat things.

#### **Picasa**

One of the challenges faced by computer users is how to manage all their digital files, photos and movies. Picasa is a free program available from Google. It will automatically find and organize all of your digital images and videos. It will allow you to make simple fixes to photos. Picasa Website uses facial-recognition to automatically recognize people in photos.

## **Manage Your Computer -----**

Would you drive a car without a working speedometer, fuel gauge, or transmission gear display? Not having these displays is what makes using a computer so tough. When your car is not running well, you can take it to a repair shop where they plug it into a diagnostic tool that tells you what is wrong. Again, PC's are tough to use because this is not built in.

### **Belarc Advisor**

This program will you a detail and complete list of the hardware and software on your PC. The first step to solving a problem is knowing what you have.

### **Advanced Window Care**

This free program quickly checks and repairs spyware, security, registry, startup and optimization problems with your PC.

Used with other programs, Advanced Window Care V2 give me a warm fuzzy feeling that my PC is okay.

### **System Explorer**

This program is for geeks and geek-wanabees who want to take control of their PC.

My favorite part of this program is that it puts an icon in the system tray that shows on my PC. It acts like a speedometer for my PC's memory and processor usage.

System Explorer allows me to access the hundreds of programs and options that control how well my PC runs in one, well designed collection.

System Explorer shows hundreds of items that can be confusing. These items which can be Googled by a simple right click.

If you feel that your PC is running too slow or takes too long to startup, System Explorer and a geek can fix these problems.

### **Monitoring**

#### **Tasks**

#### **Processes**

Shows programs that are running and how much memory and processing resources they are using.

#### **Modules**

### **Performance**

This is a nice graphical display showing what is happening on the PC, much like a speedometer and fuel tank measurement.

### **Windows**

#### **History**

This tracks the starting and stopping of programs on the PC. This is a great source of information of what is happening on the PC.

#### **Opened Files**

An interesting list of files that be used by the computer and the user.

#### **Connections**

A list of all Internet connections which can be checked for spyware running.

#### **Snapshots**

#### **Autoruns**

#### **Startup**

If it takes forever for your PC to start, you probably want to turn off or disable some of the items that are automatically trying to startup when the PC is turned on.

#### **IE Addons**

#### **System Addons**

Yet another list of stuff running on your PC that you will want to check for nasty hacker programs

#### **Services**

This is yet another list of stuff running on your PC that you will want to check for nasty hacker programs.

You can disable or set startup type to Manual for many services.

#### **Drivers**

#### **Settings**

## Angels

<http://www.circle-of-light.com/Angels/ranks-of-angels.html>

Angels are messengers of God with various ranks. Here are the 9 levels of angels in highest to lowest order with their responsibilities

Seraphim	adoration of God
Cherubim	sing praises of God, record keeping
Thrones	disposition of divine judgement
Dominations	regulating other angels
Virtues	grace valor in mortals' hearts
Powers	defenders against evil
Principalties	caretakers of nations, cities, ...
Archangels	carry out will of God
Angels	caretakership of humanity

[http://www.theframeworkshop.com/store.cfm?SubCatID=40&view=729&the\\_start=1](http://www.theframeworkshop.com/store.cfm?SubCatID=40&view=729&the_start=1)



## German Christmas Traditions

The Internet is a great source for information and miss-information about German Christmas traditions.

<http://german.about.com/library/blgermyth11.htm>

A frequently mentioned German tradition is the hiding of a pickle in the Christmas tree. The first child finding it is rewarded with a special treat. The first adult who finds the pickle has good luck the next year. One site said that this is a myth. However, if it is a myth why are there so many sites on the Internet that sell pickle ornaments.

German Smokers are popular incense burners.

A neat tradition is the Bride's Tree glass ornament collection. The best ornaments are hand-blown and hand-painted. Each ornament has its own meaning.



Angel	God's guidance
Rose	beauty & affection
Rabbit	faith & hope
Teapot	hospitality
Pine Cone	motherhood & fruitfulness
Santa	unselfishness & goodwill
House	shelter and protection
Fruit basket	generosity
Bird	happiness & joy
Flower basket	good wishes
Heart	true love
Fish	Christ's blessings

