
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
<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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**NOTE the Special Date for the
July 2009 Meeting**

**SUGGESTION: Bring a flash
drive to meetings. (1-2 gig) Its
a great way to share things.**

Meeting & Events Schedule

Saturday, July 18, 2009

9:30 am, Plain, WI

Kraemer Library and Community Center

The meeting will focus on how to setup a new computer and how to research using Google. This'll be a good meeting for people looking for basic computer information. Everybody is welcome.

Saturday, July 11, 2009

8:30 am, Whitewater WI

German Interest Group

Warren Bittner Collection Manager,
Family History Library in Salt Lake City
German Gothic Handwriting Anyone Can Read
Germany - Maps and Territories
Fitting the Pieces Together (German immigrant)

http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wigig/wor_kshop_page1-general_info.html

Friday, July 24 Saturday July 25th, 2009

8:30 am, Milwaukee

**2009 Super Conference: A Journey of Discovery
FEEFHS**

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

This group is primarily focused on Eastern European research. But when I saw that Larry O. Jensen would be giving presentations, I signed up right away. I've seen him talk several times, and every time he opened his mouth I had a "Wow I never thought of that" moment. German Fest is also being held that same weekend.

Internet and Goodies

Vatican ATMs - To show the importance of the Latin language for Catholics, ATMs in the Vatican allow the user to do their transactions and Latin.

The first radios - Starting in the 1920s, radios were a major source of information for people. My father LaVerne Haas remembers his family's first radio. His father purchased it with a bonus paid to World War I veterans by the government. He remembers a big thing on Sunday afternoons was to listen to major league baseball doubleheaders. He also remembers having to take the radios batteries to the gas station to have them charged up.

WWII rationing - My father LaVerne Haas remembers his family swapping coffee rations for sugar rations. Nobody in his family drank regular coffee. He remembers that people 12 years and older were entitled to a daily coffee ration.

Genealogy Center - Our Military Heritage

<http://www.genealogycenter.info/military/>

This is a site with interesting information about military history and links to information.

How to Create Virtual Tours IN Google Earth

<http://www.techradar.com/news/internet/how-to-create-virtual-tours-in-google-earth-599988>

Sometimes looking at the pedigrees or written information about our ancestors can be about as interesting as watching paint dry. The site shows you how to display information about our ancestors using Google Earth.

Phlebotomy Tech - 100 Genealogy Resources

http://phlebotomytechnicianschools.com/?page_id=52http://phlebotomytechnicianschools.com/?page_id=52

Online Searchable Death Indexes & Records

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

This site covers the United States and a handful of big cities.

Behind the Name - History of 1st Names

<http://www.behindthename.com/?sssdmh=dm13.201040>

German Gazetteers

<http://www.progenealogists.com/germany/gazetteersmain.html>

Before you can start looking for documents about your German ancestors, you need to know how religious and government organizations were set up.

Univ North Texas - World War I II Poster Collections

<http://digital.library.unt.edu/browse/department/rarebooks/wwpc/?q=WWPC&t=collection&system=DC&start=0&pageSize=10&sort=title&view=>

Wartime posters are great way to experience what our ancestors were influenced by.

WHS Detectives Investigate Drinking in Delavan & Oconto 1917-1918

<http://wisconsinhistory.org/turningpoints/search.asp?id=1703>

This is a unique collection about the efforts of people to stop drinking in the 1910s.

Harvard Immigration Collections 1789-1930

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

This collection has a tremendous amount of original documents and photos describing immigrant experiences in the United States.

Dederich's In Time-Struggle for a Better Life

This is a fascinating genealogical study of the Dederich family. It was written by Venance Dederich in October 2008. In addition to being a chronicle of the Dederich family, it is a great historical reference for how people lived. I talked to Venance at the Loreto school reunion and he gave me permission to distribute his work. He asked that I inform him of who I share it with.

Here is an easy process to get a copy:

- Send me an e-mail requesting a copy including your name and why you would like a copy (relation to the Dederich family, interested in the history of Bear Valley, etc)
- Bring a flash drive to the meetings

Home News Articles

During a recent visit to the Spring Green Community Library, I found some interesting snippets of information while browsing old issues of the Home News Newspaper on microfilm.

During World War I several columns in each newspaper dedicated to letters sent home by soldiers overseas. There is a letter from Walter Heheneberger dated October 28, 1918 while stationed in France written to Laverne Ott. "We are living in a dugout. The one I am in used to be an old French wine cellar, and after that the Huns stayed in until they were driven out"

January 17, 1884- Plain "The saloon keepers are getting in their winter supply of ice at this place."

March 29, 1917-Rates of the Plain Telephone Exchange (per year)

- business 1 party \$21
- business 2 or more parties \$18
- residents 1 party \$18
- residents 2 or more parties \$15
- rural loans \$15

April 5, 1917- "The statute referred to says that citizens of a foreign country cannot be admitted to citizenship if the US is at war with the country of their birth."

April 26, 1917-There was a robbery at the Schweitzer farm 5 miles north of Plain. The house was robbed while the family was at church. The criminal was caught and arrested through the efforts of J. H. Liegel and Marshall H. J. Reuschlein. The 22-year-old Kuskowitch, from Alabama, was in the employ of John Haas.

May 10, 1917- "Louis Bettinger made his biweekly trip to Madison, Monday, where he is taking violin lessons from Prof. Bach."

July 26, 1917-According to the Loreto local news column: "The Loreto people have been occupying seats at the movies in Plain and White Mound this week."

April 18, 1918-A patriotic rally was held at Reuschlien's Hall last Friday to promote the sale of Liberty Loans. There were people from the

surrounding communities. A number of speakers gave rousing presentations advocating the purchase of Liberty Bonds. I was surprised that the local priest Rev. George Pesch gave his presentation in the German language. This seems to have been an all around good time including a concert in the street by the Plain band.

December 19, 1918-The US government required that all publications and newspapers be paid for in advance.

March 13, 1919 -Tony Bauer was seriously beaten by Leo, Joe and Walter Greenheck.

April 17, 1919-Additional local items Private Ludwig Haas of the town of Franklin is another Uncle Sam's overseas soldiers who has just returned after nine-month absence.

April 15, 1943-mailing address
PVT Eugene J. Prouty
16056708 40th College Training Detach
Wofford College
Spartansburg, So. Carolna

Translating Webpages

Google makes it easy to translate entire webpages in foreign languages to English. Here's a quick outline of how to get this installed into your web browser

To translate entire webpages you have to first install a button on your browser.

- 1) go to the Google website with translation tools http://translate.google.com/translate_tools?hl=en
go to the section of the webpage labeled Get 1-click translations from your browser's toolbar
- 2a) if you are using Mozilla Firefox's web browser, left click and drag the English button onto your **Bookmarks Toolbar**
- 2b) if you are using Internet Explorer right-click on English **Add to Favorites**
Use the drop-down list **Create in** to select Favorites Bar

Once you have the button installed, all you have to do is load up a webpage in a foreign language and click the button. This is a somewhat simple process, but it never hurts to have a geek around to help.

Wisconsin State Journal Home News Articles

A great way to read old newspapers is to use <http://Newspaperarchive.com> which can be used at home for free through your local libraries. This website has a large collection of Wisconsin State Journal newspaper. Here are some things that I found in this newspaper.

The July 21, 1944 issue had these comic strips

Out Of Our Way
Are Boarding House with Maj. Hoople
Freckles and His Friends
Wash Tubbs
Red Ryder
Boots and Her Buddies
Alley Opp
Terry Drake
Joe Palooka
Brick Bradford
Henry

June 23, 1944 15 German prisoners strike at Sauk City canning company. One often forgotten fact about World War II is that there were a number of prisoner of war camps in Wisconsin. These German prisoners worked at farms and canning factories processing the crops

June 23, 1944 There is a picture of Ray Peterson, a paratrooper and resident of Spring Green, Wisconsin. He is shown guarding German prisoners who were captured on the Allied beachhead in Normandy

I am surprised at the amount of information about soldiers in active duty during World War II was given in the local newspaper. This information included: where soldiers were stationed, the training they were receiving, whether they were prisoners of war, Christmas preparations being taken by American soldiers held as prisoners of war, whether they were on furlough, and detailed information about battles.

A Time to Remember: A Combat Medic Looks Back

This book was written by William Wallace Wenzel who served as a medic during World War II. He currently lives in Prairie du Sac Wisconsin.

This is my favorite type of book to read. It's a good arrangement of short stories that fit together to tell this medic's World War II experiences.

I was struck by the types of information that I had never heard before. The author gives a truthful and frank discussion of his experiences. Here are just a few of the stories that touched me

Page 33- The author writes about his experiences in Cleveland where soldiers were treated like kings, unlike other communities that looked at soldiers as being nuisances. The generosity of Cleveland's civilian workers, who were getting paid large wartime wages, showed that there were some people who appreciated the soldier sacrifices

Page 53 - A prank played on soldiers at the communal crapper on the boat to Europe.

Page 60 - How a language misunderstanding almost got a colonel in sexual-harassment trouble.

Page 101-A prized possession taken by US soldiers from dead German soldiers was their can opener. The Germans had good can openers.

Page 113- An inexperienced mess sergeant turns a warm breakfast treat into death.

Page 126-The questionable actions of the author on Zig Zag Hill. (A place for ladies of ill repute)

Page 139-Public urinals in Paris.

Page 148-Civilians difficulty getting food after war

Page 150-Fraternization with German women

Page 167-How he rescued a young woman from the Russians.

Page 176-How he rescued German relatives living in Berlin.

Page 184- How American officers flew a plane from Berlin to St. Louis to watch the World Series.

Page 189-How he made the best of a bad situation by living in a German town while awaiting transport back to America. A classic example of the author's guiding rule to "live like a fox not like an ox".

I strongly recommend this book to anybody who is interested in what it is like to go to war or anybody who is interested in reading a well-written life experience story.

Where do you get this book? I think it is available at local stores in Prairie du Sac or you can write the author directly:

Dr. William W. Wenzel
675 Grand Ave
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578
608-643-5156

HaasGenFind

I have created a webpage to make doing genealogical research on the Internet easier.

- 1) <http://tinyurl.com/HaasGenFind>
- 2) select up to **3 Wis Counties** using dropdown lists
- 3) enter the first and last name for up to four people this is helpful for people known by nicknames
- 4) enter 3 parts for up to 5 search items my webpage will provide links using several combinations of these 3 parts this can be useful to check alternate spellings

the webpage contains the German umlat characters which you can cut and paste into the search parameters

example: plain sauk county wisconsin
example: waldmunchen waldmuenchen waldmünchen
example: ww1 aef 1914..1920

- 5) click on the **ENTER** button
- 6) scroll down to see a bunch of stuff to look at

Research tips - a quick checklist of stuff

Websites to look at

including Goodies , Software Tools, Libraries, Data Sources, **Newspapers, Magazines Online**, German, Sauk County LDS, Wisconsin Historical Society

Wisconsin County Web Sites

including **Linkpendium** County Sites
WHS Arcat Special Wisconsin County
Local genealogical, historical sites
(note: This link uses the WHS Library Catalog Arcat secret codes for Wisconsin counties.

Person & Search term look ups

including Google, LDS, Ebay,
Ellis Island, Castle Garden
WHS civil war, Rootsweb, Ancestry.com
WHS on-line catalogs Arcat, Madcat

Benefits of using my website to research:

- Each item you click on opens in a new browser page making it easier to get back to HaasGenFind.
- You can print out HaasGenFind to keep track of which sites you have looked at.
- You can save the HaasGenFind webpage to your hard disk. By opening this saved version you do not have to retype in your search criteria.
- You don't have to retype the parameters into hundreds of webpages, you just click on the links.
- You don't forget to check all the sites.
- This website is great to give to inexperienced researchers when they ask you "Where do I look for stuff **on the Internet?**"

I will be adding stuff to this site in the future, such as links to maps.

Microsoft Windows 7

These are my opinions about upgrading to Microsoft's new operating system Windows 7. Most moderate to heavy computer users will want to upgrade to Windows 7 when it becomes available Oct 22 2009. It is so much better than Vista.

- If you only use your PC for email, sharing photos, word processing and you are happy with its speed you don't have to upgrade
- If your current computer is over 3 years old, think about buying a new laptop.
- If you buy a new PC now, you'll get a free upgrade to Windows 7 Home Premium
- If your computer is under 2 years old, and it has 1ghz or better processor and 1gig memory or better you can upgrade from XP or Vista for \$119 to Windows 7 Home Premium.
- **If you preorder Windows 7 Home Premium upgrade by July 11 2009. It will only cost \$50 + shipping. You can pre-order at Amazon.com or BestBuy.com.**
- Talk to a geek. Upgrading is confusing. You'll need to decide if you want the 32bit or 64bit version of Windows 7 Home Premium.

Microsoft Is Evil

I have always thought of Microsoft as being a company more focused on marketing and the destruction of their competitors, rather than focusing on developing a better product. Now I feel that Microsoft has crossed the line and is definitely an evil company.

One of Microsoft's automatic updates messed with Mozilla Firefox's free Web browser. This update installed a big weakness called ClickOnce which allows hackers to somewhat stealthily install programs on your computer by you just clicking on a webpage link.

If you use Mozilla Firefox's web browser, I strongly suggest that you see if this dangerous piece of software is installed on your machine.

- In Firefox Tools --> Add-ons
- look for Microsoft .Net Framework Assistant 1.0
- try clicking on Disable

This might work to disable ClickOnce. Unfortunately you might need to get one of your geek friends to straighten out your computer.

I have turned off Microsoft's automatic update feature. How can you trust Microsoft to decide what should be on your PC? I make sure that my firewall and antivirus programs are always up-to-date. I use **Secunia** to make sure that key software is up-to-date.

Setting up a New Computer

Setting up a new computer can be a scary project. This article is about how I set up a laptop I purchased in May 2009. Hopefully you can learn from my experiences.

I'm switching operating systems, going from Windows XP to Windows Vista. This means I can't just copy files or clone hard disks. I have to do a fresh install.

My biggest fear is bricking my new computer. Bricking is different than breaking. When a computer falls off the table and hits the floor, that's breaking. When you select the wrong option or install the wrong program that locks your computer up and turns it into a brick only suitable for doorstep, that is bricking.

A written plan for the installation process is recommended. Here is an **outline of my plan**.

1. **Gather information about existing programs**
2. **Gather tools and security programs**
3. **Do the initial installation**
4. **Create an image backup**
5. **Load programs and change settings**
6. **Make special adjustments**
7. **Create an image backup**

I kept a **diary or record of the installation process** in notepad. It seems like every program has a hidden installation step. I used a diary to record these hidden steps and maintain a record of the myriad of installation codes and serial numbers.

1. Gather information about existing programs

The first step I had to do was to **gather all the hardware and software** that I will use on the new computer. In many cases you can get the software off of the Internet. The big trick is to have all the serial numbers and installation codes for the software.

Belarc Advisor is a nifty program to make sure that you have identified all the programs you are currently using. It will also give you the serial numbers and installation codes for many programs.

http://www.belarc.com/free_download.html

2. Gather tools and security programs

Like a Boy Scout you want to be prepared for the worst. Most computers come with installed recovery programs that will let you erase any installation errors you've made. This will set up the computer like it was when you took it out of the box. I should have spent the \$19 to get these recovery disks when I ordered my computer. Instead I thought it would save a few dollars and create these recovery disks on my own. This was a mistake. It took my laptop over two hours to create these discs plus it did not finish cleanly. I ended up **ordering the recovery disks** and got to spend an additional \$9 for shipping.

I kept a version of **Knoppix** handy which allows you to run Linux from a CD drive. No matter how badly I hose up my machine, this will allow me to

access the Internet and run spreadsheets and word processing programs.

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

A **paperclip** was kept handy in case I had to force open an uncooperative CD / DVD disk drive.

Because I keep all my data on an **external hard disk**, I did not have to mess around with copying my over 200 gig of data. I strongly recommend that you keep your data on an external hard disk. It makes it easy to move your data from one computer to the next.

My **credit card** was standing by in case I need to purchase software or hardware.

You always end up spending more by trying to be cheap. When it comes to protecting my data, I'm willing to spend a significant amount of money. I never want to be in the spot where my data is destroyed and there's no way to recover it.

Free software is nice, but I would rather pay top dollar for supported programs that will work.

I purchased online an **Internet security program** from **AVG** for about \$60. This program has all the bells and whistles. It has a firewall program, antivirus program, anti-spyware, identity protection and protection from bad websites. It gives me a warm fuzzy feeling that the bad guys will have a tough time getting into my computer.

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

The main reason I chose AVG over Zone Alarm is that I wanted to install Windows 7 prior to October 2009 on my laptop and Zone Alarm does not work with Windows 7 at this time.

A key part of any security and backup system is to have a state-of-the-art backup program that is relatively easy to use. I chose the **Acronis** backup program because it automates the backup process.

It lets you schedule backups so you get in the habit of methodically backing up your data on a regular basis.

It creates an image of your hard disk operating system. It took me 2 1/2 days to set up my computer. If it crashes I do not want to have to spend another 2 1/2 days to reload the programs

and operating systems. An image is a snapshot of the programs and data on your computer. With an image you can click a button and within an hour you can reload your computer without having to install individual programs and change settings.

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

I purchased a \$100,1 TB **external hard disk to use for backups**. You could back your data up to DVD discs. However this backup could take 10 to 20 DVD discs. My experience with computers has taught me to always try to eliminate things that could go wrong. Instead of having to insert 20 DVD discs which is error-prone and time-consuming, I can let my backup program copy my data to the external backup in one step.

3. Do the initial installation

It can be exciting to open up a new computer box and turn on the PC for the first time. Take a deep breath and proceed cautiously.

At this point I **do not have the new computer hooked up to the Internet**.

I pulled out the reading material that came with the computer and studied the installation guide. Finally I was ready to hit the power button.

When you are setting up your computer you will be presented with a number of different options to choose from. Read them carefully.

I did not walk away from the computer during a lengthy parts of the installation. I read every boring message that came up.

At this point I wanted to make sure that I had usable recovery disks. I wish I'd spent the \$19 to buy them instead of trying to create them.

Next I installed my **external wireless mouse**. I've never been able to master the touchpad on laptops today.

I hooked up my external 19 inch LCD monitor in my new laptop. Having two monitors makes installation program go easier and quicker.

I am now ready to hook my computer up to the Internet and install my AVG Internet security program.

To check how secure my AVG security programs are, I went to the website **ShieldsUp!**. ShieldsUp! mimics hacker attacks and sees how well your computer blocks them.

<https://www.grc.com/x/ne.dll?bh0bkyd2>

4. Create an image back up

At this point I installed and used Acronis to make an image of my computer for backup purposes before I start installing the rest of my programs.

My experience with computers tells me to always assume that the worst will happen and I need a plan B. There is a probability that the recovery disks I am relying on have a flaw. Creating an image is like wearing "suspenders and a belt" for protection.

5. Load programs and change settings

6. Make special adjustments

7. Create an image backup

In the next newsletter I will cover 5, 6, and 7. I will reveal the special programs, customized settings and other tricks that turned my laptop into a lean, mean researching machine.

There were a number of unpleasant surprises that I encountered when setting up my new laptop.

It took a long time. It took me 2 1/2 days to complete my installation.

Not all programs will work on a 64-bit operating system. This is geeky, but a 64-bit operating system allows you to use more memory. And more memory makes your programs run faster.

Not all programs work with a multi-core CPU. The CPU, or central processing unit, is the core of any computer. Most of the computers that you buy today will have a multi-core processor. The following is an analogy of the difference between a single core in a multi-core processor.

Imagine you own a farm and want to hire help.

You could hire the strongest person available, like a single core processor. This person can do the

work of two and eats the food three normal men would eat. This is the problem faced by computer makers today. They could create a really fast single core processor, but it would quickly run down the battery on your laptop.

You could hire two normal people, like a dual core processor, **do the work of two and eat the amount of food two normal** men. The benefit is that you get the same amount of processing power for less food or energy.

Another benefit of multi-core processors is that they are good when you are running complex programs. One of the reasons why I got a new laptop was because I would run programs on my old laptop and it locked up for minutes while it was completing one task. With multi-core processors, one processor can be dedicated to the time-consuming task, while the other processor lets you work on other things.

A large part of this newsletter was dedicated to geeky computer topics. These topics are important because computers and the Internet are vital to genealogical and historical research.

**BE SURE TO ORDER YOUR
WINDOWS 7 UPGRADE BY
JULY 11 2009**

(the sooner the better)

**Remember the change in
normal meeting date to
3rd Saturday,
July 18 2009**