

Old Franklin Township Historical Society Newsletter

December 2011 - Volume 5, Issue 2

German Bavarian Ancestors?

Looking for the perfect Christmas Gift for a
Genealogy/History friend!



The biggest news of the society is handling the distribution, marketing, and sales of the DVD, entitled, "Genealogies of Families that Immigrated to Sauk County, Wisconsin from Bavaria, Germany: the collected works of Georg Ederer, Otto Horz, and Hansjoerg Schneider." The works contain information about the ancestors and early settlers of many Plain and Spring Green area families who emigrated from villages in and around the county of Waldmünchen in Bavaria, Germany.

Included on the DVD:

- Thirty years of work on family pedigrees by Georg Ederer from Waldmünchen. Ederer has researched in parish archives in Bavaria, Germany, and in the Czech Republic. The work of scanning these pedigrees was done by Waldmünchen residents, Willi and Christa Senft.
- The 300 page doctoral dissertation on the subject of emigration by Otto Horz in 1939 at the University of Marburg in Germany. It includes a listing of 400 individuals which shows the emigrant's name, home town in Germany, and the date and reason for emigration.
- Immigration works of Hansjoerg Schneider, a local historian from Waldmünchen, Bavaria. Included is an emigration booklet written in 1992, a 98-page research essay which expands on the work of Otto Horz, and a six-page essay about emigrants written in 2010.
- A miscellaneous section of indexes created by Gary Haas of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. A translation of statistics of residents from villages in and around the county of Waldmünchen in the year 1867 was created by Georg Blau of Hoechstädt-Donau, Bavaria, Germany.

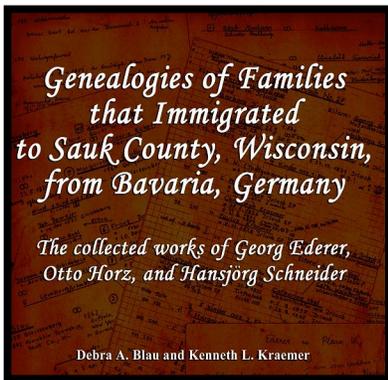
The idea to produce the DVD came from Ken Kraemer, a native of Plain and a professor in the business school at the University of California in Irvine, California. Debbie Blau, a Wisconsin native with ancestral roots in the Plain/Spring Green area, organized the files on the DVD, indexed the Ederer pedigrees, and along with Ken, wrote the introduction booklet. The booklet describes in detail how the project began and includes information on how to use the DVD.

The cost of production was paid for by a grant from the Sauk County UW Extension Arts and Culture Committee, and donations from Kraemer Brothers, LLC, Norine F. Kraemer, and Gary Haas. A San Diego company produced the DVDs.

For more information go to <http://www.townoffranklinhistoricalsociety.com> or <http://garylhaas.site.aplus.net>. The DVDs are now available for sale through the Old Franklin Township Historical Society and the Kraemer Library and Community Center in Plain, Wisconsin. The cost is \$20, which includes shipping and handling. Profits from DVD sales will go to the Old Franklin Township Historical Society (OFTHS) for historical preservation and enhancement of family history projects.



To order a DVD, please complete the following form and mail it to:



**Old Franklin Township Historical Society
 915 Wachter Avenue
 Plain, Wisconsin 53577**

Please send the DVD, "Genealogies of families that immigrated to Sauk County, Wisconsin, from Bavaria Germany," to me at:

Your name: _____

Signature: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

ZIP code: _____

Phone: _____

Number _____ of DVDs @ \$20.00 each = \$ _____ Total

Please enclose a check or money order for the "Total" above with your order.

Postage and handling is included in the DVD price.



Email Marian Ruhland Burmester with ideas for future newsletters at trkyhntr811@lycos.com



More Christmas shopping ideas!

Our society has a few items that would make great stocking stuffers.

Clip & send order blank

Check mark merchandise ordered		Shipping & Handling
<input type="checkbox"/> May 21st 1918 Cyclone ~ A Path of Destruction.ö	\$30.00	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 1955 Centennial Parade Video - VHS	\$20.00	\$3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 1955 Centennial Parade Video - CD	\$20.00	\$1.50
<input type="checkbox"/> The Ghost Village of White Mound öBillytownö	\$16.00	\$3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Index - To Hildegard Thering's Book (Index only)	\$10.00	\$3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> The History Of St. Lukeø Parish	\$12.00	\$3.00
Total including shipping & handling		
Name		
Address		
Make check payable to: Old Franklin Township Historical Society		
Send payment to the following address:		
Old Franklin Township Historical Society		
915 Wachter Ave.		
P.O. Box 218		
Plain, WI 53577		

Copies of our first publication öMay 21st 1918 Cyclone ~ A Path of Destructionö are still available. The book covers the cyclone from its start in the state of Iowa to its end near Poynette in Columbia County, Wis., where it hit the encampment of the 161st Artillery of 3000 men enroute to Sparta, Wis. Featured in the book is the damage in Lone Rock where much of the town was destroyed, destruction around and in the village of Plain where St. Lukeø Catholic Church was destroyed and the destructive path across Sauk County. The book of 300 pages contains a large number of postcards and photos submitted from the local area, as well as recollections of people who lived through the cyclone.

Use above form to order.



St. Luke's Catholic Church

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History Articles

Weekly Home News June 8, 1916

Famous Players to Visit Plain.

Because Plain is a German community its residents will soon be favored by a troupe of musicians and actors of more than usual interest. The Oberammergauer theatrical troupe, touring the country in vaudeville and on the lyceum circuit, has included Plain in a summer trip with which they are filling the interval between the closing and opening of their season for which they are under contract.

Their program consists of yodeling, singing, dancing and instrumental music on zither, violin, etc. Besides they present a laughable farce, which has many funny situations.

The leading lady of this troupe was the Mary Magdalene in the last production of the passion play at Oberammergau and the cast contains several others, also, who participated in that play.

At Reuschlein & Brickl's hall June 17th and 18th.

P.16 of "History Of St. Luke's Parish"

By Rev. Johann G. Laurer

On June 14, 1906 Reverend Laurer undertook a trip to Europe to visit his homeland, which he had not seen for twenty-five years. The parish gave him a gift of one hundred dollars for this trip. During his absence the Very Reverend Franz Sales Lang, Professor at the Civil Middle School in Vilshofen, Bavaria administered the parish in Plain until August 26. At the beginning of the school year Father Lang had to return to his position in Vilshofen. Reverend Franz X. March, S.J., a fellow townsman of Father Laurer, took his place in the parish in Plain until his return on October 10. During his trip to Europe, Father Laurer visited Waldmuenchen and the surrounding villages and brought back for every member of the parish a little remembrance from Europe, namely rosaries and medals blessed by the Holy Father himself.

German Tradition

Almost every German city celebrates the holiday season with a traditional Christmas market. The fairs, which date back to the 14th century, originally provided food and practical supplies for the cold winter season, but soon the markets became a beloved holiday tradition and a great way to get into the Christmas spirit.



Christmas pickle

The whole legend maybe a complete myth! From research on the internet; it seems if you ask any German about it, most have never even heard of this silly tradition!

One version of the story is on Christmas Eve it is a tradition in Germany to hide a pickle [ornament] deep in the branches of the family Christmas Tree. The parents hung the pickle last after all the other ornaments were in place. In the morning the most observant child would receive an extra gift from St. Nicholas. The first adult who finds the pickle traditionally gets good luck for the whole year.

Another version is: A Bavarian immigrant was fighting in the American Civil War. As a prisoner of war, he was injured and dying. He begged his guard for just one pickle before his death. The guard was sympathetic and granted the dying soldier's request. However, this pickle apparently had miraculous restorative powers, and the Bavarian survived.

While the origins of this holiday "tradition" remain clouded in mystery, you can still enjoy your German Christmas Pickle Ornament.



Memorial Donation

Do you have a loved one that you wish to be remembered through a donation?

Please complete the form below:

Donation In Memory Of _____

Donor _____

Address _____

Send to:
Old Franklin Township Historical Society
P.O. Box 218
Plain, WI 53577



From the President's desk . . .

2011 was another year of many activities and decisions by the Old Franklin Township Historical Society (OFTHS).

We have seen steady improvements to preserving the historical value of the original township hall, which was the focal point back in 1887 with the completion of the old town hall at that time. With a flash forwarding of the clock, in 2011, we completed the rock capping of the basement wall on the South side of the building, replaced the second floor windows on the West side to an energy efficient mode, and repainted the original wood siding to preserve the character of the original construction.

As we looked at the interior of the second floor, Eric Ruhland constructed wood cabinets for the storing of the Township of Franklin official records, to include; from the beginning up to the current records.

The plans for 2012 include the upgrading of the North side, second floor with energy efficient windows, and the painting of the original wood siding, again to preserve the original character of this unique building in the Township of Franklin.

2011 was the year in which our exhibit focused on the 1940's with exhibits during the annual Plain, WI Fire/EMT celebration event.

We also recognized Edward Prem, and Mary Anne Liegel as the 2011 OFTHS Man/Women of the Year during the three day celebration. We reflect back on all the great contributions these persons have given to our community over the years.

Fund raising events are always part of any organization, and thus We had a successful brat stand event in June, and a great chili supper in November. Hope you all were able to partake, if not, check with our upcoming fund raising events for 2012.

We are especially appreciative of all the great community minded persons who help the OFTHS with membership involvement, and sponsorships to extend our organization's thrust to preserve the historical character of our community.

A new DVD release in 2012 by the OFTHS is the focal point to further preserve the history of many of the early founders of Franklin Township, Plain, WI, and Sauk County. Be sure to review the article in this news letter regarding the "Genealogies of Families That Immigrated to Sauk County, Wisconsin from Bavaria, Germany".

A highlight of 2012 will be the Centennial celebration of Plain, Wisconsin, reflecting back on June 4, 1912 of their Charter Election. The OFTHS will be developing an exhibit to reflect back on those 100 years of the community of Plain, WI.

Wishing all our OFTHS members and supporters a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Until next time! í Eugene Hausner email: hausnergp@frontier.com



"History, like a vast river, propels logs, vegetation, rafts, and debris; it is full of live and dead things, some destined for resurrection; it mingles many waters and holds in solution invisible substances stolen from distant soils."

~Jacques Barzun



Old Franklin Township Historical Society

915 Wachter Ave.

P.O. Box 218.

Plain, WI 53577

Postage
Stamp

plainofths@gmail.com

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

PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE

Fröhliche Weihnachten!
Merry Christmas!



OFTHS *Officers & Board Members*

President: Eugene Hausner

Vice President: Mary Jayne Liegel

Treasurer: Mary Frances Nachreiner

Secretary: Georgene Hausner

Directors: William Bergman, Marian Burmester & Sandy Stiemke