

# Old Franklin Township Historical Society Newsletter

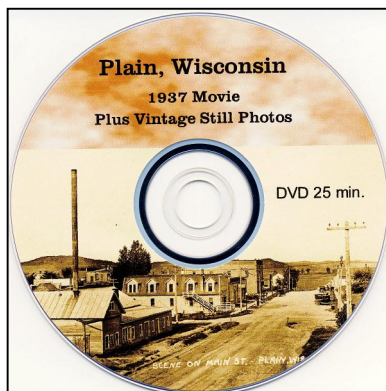
June 2012 - Volume 6, Issue 1



## "Happy 100th Birthday, Plain"

This year, the Village of Plain celebrates its 100th birthday! In 1860, the post office was established with the name of Plain. In 1882, the downtown area was made up of three houses, Perry's Store, B. J. Wilcox Blacksmith Shop, and the Stutz Saloon. As the village grew, by 1912 it was decided to secure a village charter in order that the village businesses be handled more effectively. On April 1, 1912, an application for an order of Incorporation in the Village of Plain was filed in the Circuit Court of Sauk County. The petitioners were Henry J. Reuschlein, M. B. Paulus, Wm. S. Cramer, Henry Plou, Peter Peters, Alvin J. Cooper, and Jas. M. Nachreiner. Inspectors of the election were John Weiss, William Cramer and H. J. Liegel.

The first charter election was held on June 4, 1912. After the Village of Plain was incorporated, the first meeting of the Village Board was held on June 17, 1912. Perhaps the village board members snacked on delicious Oreo cookies - which were invented in the same year!



To commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the incorporation of the Village of Plain, a new 25-minute DVD is available for purchase. Included on the DVD is a 16mm film made in November 1937. This film contains footage of children at St. Luke's School and scenes of people around the village. The first part is shown at regular speed; while the second part is shown at a slower speed so faces of children and people can be identified. You may have already seen this 1937 film, but there is now a third part which includes a large collection of vintage picture-postcards of the Village of Plain. The DVD can be played like a movie on a TV/DVD player, or on a computer. The cost of the DVD is \$10 plus \$2.50 for shipping and handling. The DVD was made possible by a generous donation from William C. Schuette. Bill edited the video and added period music in the background. To order, see page 4 of this newsletter (the last line on the order form) or contact any OFTHS officer.

## Our Sympathies to Georg Ederer



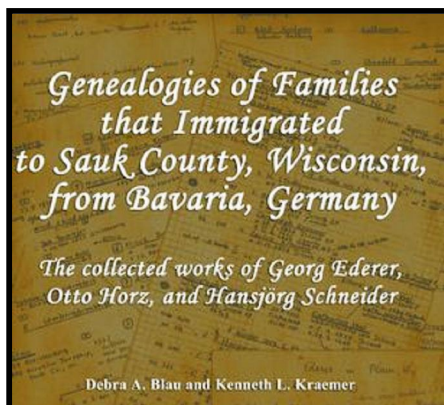
Ms. Resi (Zangl) Ederer  
Born on June 30, 1932  
Died on January 17, 2012

The Old Franklin Township Historical Society would like to extend our sympathies to Georg Ederer of Waldmünchen, Germany. He lost his dear wife, Resi, to cancer this past January. The community of Plain and Franklin Township, and those with ties to the area, owe so much to Georg for his meticulous pedigrees of our German ancestors.

## Georg Continues Family Research

Georg, who celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, continues to work regularly in the parish archives at Waldmünchen, and is teaching someone to become his successor. He recently helped Marian Ruhland Burmester, who grew up in the Plain area, find marriage records for her Weiss ancestors. The search for more information about the Weiss family was difficult since most of the 12 children were girls, and there were only two boys to continue the Weiss name. There are still some families with the name "Weiss" in Waldmünchen. Georg tries to stay busy in an effort to overcome the sorrow of losing his wife, and is admirably carrying on with his genealogy hobby.

## "Genealogies of Families that Immigrated to Sauk County, Wisconsin, from Bavaria, Germany"

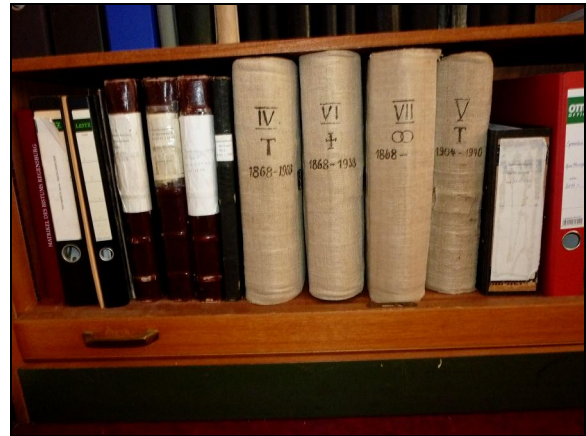


Georg Ederer's pedigrees were recently scanned and published in the fall of 2011 onto a DVD entitled, "*Genealogies of Families that Immigrated to Sauk County, Wisconsin, from Bavaria, Germany.*" The OFTHS is handling sales of the DVD; the price is only \$20. Besides Ederer's pedigrees, there is much more valuable German genealogy information included on the DVD. The DVD works only in a computer. Please see page 4 of this newsletter to order your copy.

*"Thank you to Debbie Blau for helping with this issue of our newsletter."*



Christa Senft and Georg Ederer researching in the parish archive for Marian Burmester's Weiss relatives. Georg found marriage records for two daughters of Anton and Barbara Weiss. Photos on this page were taken by Willi Senft.



## *Fundraisers and Events!*

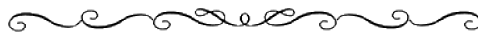
We need the help of the community to continue preserving our history and restoring the old Franklin town hall, which serves as our museum. Events that are being planned are as follows:

Brat Sale - Friday & Saturday, August 3rd & 4th.



Chili Supper Saturday, November 10th.

Open House Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 10-2:00 P.M., and Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 12-4:00 P.M. at the old Franklin town hall located at 915 Wachter Ave. in the Village of Plain.



For more information on the merchandise the society has for sale, please visit our website  
<http://www.townoffranklinhistoricalsociety.com/>

Clip & send order blank

<b>Check mark in left column merchandise ordered</b>		<b>Shipping &amp; Handling</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 21st 1918 Cyclone ~ A Path of Destruction	\$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 "Billytown"	\$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. Luke's Parish	\$12.00 \$3.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	"Genealogies of families that immigrated to Sauk County, Wisconsin, from Bavaria Germany"	\$20 none
<input type="checkbox"/>	Plain, WI 1937 Movie Plus Vintage Still Photos	\$10.00 \$2.50
<b>Total including shipping &amp; handling</b>		
Name _____		
Address _____		
_____		
_____		
<b>Make check payable to: Old Franklin Township Historical Society</b>		
<b>Send payment to the following address:</b>		
Old Franklin Township Historical Society		
915 Wachter Ave.		
P.O. Box 218		
Plain, WI 53577		

Would you like to submit articles for our newsletter...?



Do you have any unanswered questions dealing with local history or family genealogy? Let us know and we will print it in our next newsletter. Just email the society at [plainofths@gmail.com](mailto:plainofths@gmail.com)



## 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. . . .*

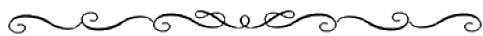
During the past several months, the OFTHS has been moving forward on several areas; one is the involvement of the restoration of the Old Franklin Township Historical Society Museum, and the other is to help Plain celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday in 2012.

In 2012, we replaced the windows on the north and east side of the building to be more energy efficient. In addition, we cleaned the original wood siding and repainted the north and east side to the original character. We are also placing a rock cap on the north side to complement the original stone character of the west and south side which was completed in the past two years. The east side of the basement exterior wall is scheduled for completion in 2013. We are grateful to the Township of Franklin Board for their financial help in carrying out some of the restoration work. We will then have completed the basic restoration of the exterior portion of the Old Franklin Township Hall; which serves as the OFTHS Museum to collect and preserve historical items from ancestors and residents of the township of Franklin, and surrounding communities in the Plain area.

Our second focus for 2012 was to search out and exhibit articles of historical significance dating back to June 4, 1912, when the Village of Plain secured their Village Charter. Mary Jayne Liegel, Vice-President of OFTHS devoted many hours to search out and develop exhibits at the OFTHS Museum, which best reflect the past 100 years in the development of the Village of Plain. We gratefully appreciate all her efforts. Be sure to visit the museum during the Plain EMT/Fire celebration, when the exhibits are displayed on Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 10-2:00 pm., and Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 12-4:00 pm.

As we look ahead, the OFTHS will host a Brat Sale during the weekend of Friday, August 3 & Saturday, 4 at the Legion's Wagon, located at Cenex in Plain, and our Fall Chili Supper is scheduled for Saturday, November 10th at the American Legion Club House in Plain. These two fund raisers will help our group pay for restoration costs of the Old Franklin Township Historical Society Museum. We hope you will join us during these social events to aid our group in the restoration of the landmark in Franklin Township.

Until next time! í Eugène Hausner email: hausnergp@frontier.com



*õHistory gives answers only to those who know how to ask questionsö*  
~Hajo Holborn

The OFTHS and/or author copyright © all articles contained in this newsletter; permission must be obtained from them prior to any further use.



*Old Franklin Township Historical Society*

915 Wachter Ave.

P.O. Box 218.

Plain, WI 53577

[plainofths@gmail.com](mailto:plainofths@gmail.com)

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

PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE

*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