



NEWSLETTER

January 2019
Volume 2019 Issue 1

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JANUARY 9, 2019

Cyber Security presented by Bill Heck
Security Programs You Should Use presented by Sam
Colon

Next Meeting is January 9, 2019
7:00 PM -- Klemmer's Banquet Center
10401 West Oklahoma Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53227

MEETING BITS AND BYTES

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Hard to believe we are starting another year already. With no meeting in December we hope that you had a memorable holiday season and are now all hyped to start a new season of MPAFUG meetings.

It has become a tradition to start out our new year with an informative, yet somewhat scary, evening on the topic of cyber security. If you have watched the news at all during the holidays you probably noticed any number of stories about hacks, scams, security breaches and so on. For the last several years Bob Heck has invited his son Bill to come share the latest on security in our technology-oriented world so we will again welcome him this January. Bill's goal is to educate you so you will, hopefully, not become a victim of a cyber-attack. His presentation is always an eye-opener so come join us at the January meeting.

THE YEAR 2018 IN REVIEW

Summarized by Louise Stack

January: As had been customary for the previous few years, our 2018 MPAFUG year began with presentations on cyber security. The Heck father/son duo were the presenters: Bob Heck started with his topic of **Cyber Security** followed by Bill Heck with **Internet, Computer and System Security**. Bob shared all kinds of scams that one could encounter and interspersed that with examples and recommendations. Those of you that attended the meeting, did you change your car GPS home address to the police station address as Bob recommended? That was just one of his tips with the biggest piece of advice being to keep your anti-virus software up-to-date.

Bill Heck began his presentation by telling us that 2017 was an insanely busy year in terms of cyber attacks and who was targeted. So, who are the targets? You, me, companies, agencies, anyone or anything with an on-line presence. That pretty much covers everyone doesn't it. Really makes you wonder what 2018 has in store. Both Heck's mentioned password security with Bill's advice being that you should treat your passwords like your toothbrush: choose a good one, don't share and change it often. Bill's strongest recommendation was to get educated and stay educated about cyber security.

February: This month was all about putting your ancestors on the map. The topics were **House Research in Europe** presented by Bob Heck and **Map It!** presented by Cathy Dailey. The gist here from both topics was that knowing the history of your ancestor's home and seeing where that home was can tell you a lot about the people who lived there. It will also help you learn about the friends and relatives who lived nearby.

March: The topics for March were **Social Media and Genealogy Research** presented by Cheryl Heck and **Computer Scam Environment Today** presented by Sam Colon. According to Cheryl a wealth of possible genealogical information can be found on the internet. She is a fan of Facebook in particular where you might find lost friends, family and neighbors and can also share photos and documents.

Sam Colon's presentation was a nice complement to Cheryl's because there are, of course, always scams awaiting you when you use your computer.

April: When doing your family research, it is always nice to know about options you may not have considered. The April topics were **Webinars for Genealogy** presented by Lynn Thrasher and **A Fresh Look at PERSI** presented by Bruce Butterfield. Lynn taught us that there are webinars for literally *everything*. There are lots of options on where to find webinars but Lynn suggested starting with a simple google or YouTube search for genealogy.

PERSI on the other hand is an index of articles in periodicals. Bruce even found himself in there

because of an article he wrote in the MPAFUG newsletter. Two ways Bruce suggested that you can get PERSI are through FindMyPast.com or by using the Family History Library. He did mention that about 80% of the article and magazines are located in the WI Historical Society Library in Madison.

May: June has been the annual bus trip to Madison for research at the WI Historical Society so, in preparation, Jane Orne gave a presentation on **Planning a Research Trip**. Although mostly focused on what is available in Madison, Jane's tips would apply to any research trip you might embark on.

Bob Heck also gave a presentation on **Things You Can Find Using FamilySearch.Org**. We are all aware of this website and may even use it frequently, but Bob shared a number of things that you probably have not tried yet. Seems like you can always learn something new.

June: This month was all about Show and Tell. Louise Stack began with a presentation titled **A Stack of Research: Travels and Breadcrumbs**.

Louise shared where her family research has taken her and how one clue leads to another, and how things may not go as planned.

The second half of this meeting was great fun and was comprised of 5-10 minute presentations given by several members. It proved to be so popular that there will be a full evening of show and tell in 2019. Presenters were:

John Canapa who shared a story about his great aunt.

Sam Colon who was researching his wife's GGG grandmother but left us with a stunning admission that you should always listen to your wife.

Bob Culver who discovered his maternal grandfather's story.

Bob Heck who found his GG grandmother's burial site.

Cathy Dailey who found ancestors despite roadblocks on the spelling of the family name.

Carol Evans who has had a number of positive experiences locating long lost family and even has a relative who owns 3 Super Bowl rings.

July: The topics for this month were **US GENWEB** presented by Bob Tatalovich and **Book**

Research on the Internet presented by Bob Heck. Bob T shared the fun tidbits he was able to find while researching in GENWEB which is a free on-line genealogy website providing info on every state and county in the US. Bob H taught us the value of searching books for your ancestors and gave several examples of where to look for books. Like Bob H you might even find a picture of a relative you had never seen before.

August: The first part of this month's meeting took us to **MyHeritage.com – Another Weapon in Your Research Arsenal** presented by Sam Colon. He let us know that MyHeritage is second only to Ancestry, but unlike them has a free plan. Sam did a fun demonstration of using their extensive yearbook collection to find and snip Bob Heck's photo.

The second topic was all about sharing your research by **Starting A Family Newsletter** presented by Bob Heck. Bob made it look like we too could do this especially since family donations have paid for the printing and mailing costs since 1993.

September: Both presentations this month were about land with **Federal Land Records on the Internet** presented by Bob Heck and **Metes and Bounds Mapping and Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps** presented by Cathy Dailey. Bob showed us where to look for federal records but also had other excellent maps and taught us how to read a grid map.

Cathy, a true map-lover, gave us a lot to digest at the meeting but also had a very detailed handout. She reminded us that the physical description of land/property is important for tracing your ancestors and will not change although an address can. By researching maps, you are really doing genealogy of the land.

October: This month was different in more ways than one. There had been a survey sent to all members so we said good-bye to Bob Heck's Q&A session to begin the monthly meeting. And for some Halloween fun there was a Tombstone pizza give-away during the meeting. The topics for the month were also very diverse with Bruce Butterfield presenting **Is Your Computer Dead? Is Your Computer Dying? Or**

Does it Have a Bellyache? Bruce's topic was about the health of your computer, how to recognize a problem and be able to avoid or fix it.

Winnie Mading took us back in history with her presentation on **Pre-Revolution Wars and Conflicts; Why is this Important to Genealogists.** She truly had done a lot of research on this topic and had so much to share that it evolved into a 12-page handout.

November: Since Veterans Day is celebrated in this month Bob Heck started the meeting with an All Services Medley to honor veterans amongst the members.

The topics for the month were **GENUKI** presented by Bob Tatalovich and **Irish Church Records** presented by Bob Heck. Both topics were related as GENUKI means genealogy in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Bob T gave a great look at the GENUKI web page to show us how to get started on our search and shared how he was researching his wife's family.

Bob Heck told us that Irish research can be very challenging but not impossible. Many records were destroyed by fire during the Irish Civil War but Bob H showed us how to work around that to find your ancestors.

December: No meeting so you could celebrate your family traditions.

MORE MONKEY BUSINESS – Tidbits from Survey Monkey

The steering committee was really interested in hearing from our members. Of course, we do like the compliments the best, but plan to make improvements along the way based on your suggestions. Just so you know, we do plan ahead which means that we already had some programs set for 2019.

Here are a few more comments from that October survey:

“No other organization that I am aware of is this thorough in helping its members be successful with finding their kindred dead.”

A number of you were looking for computer help for your research or need other help because you have a MAC.

Several of you would like to see just one speaker per meeting with some asking for a question and answer period to follow as well. Some would like to see more interaction between members either in person or on social media.

Brick walls/road blocks were mentioned a few times with suggestions to have more members give talks about their experiences and how they got over their brick walls.

Someone mentioned that they loved the periodic emails with different websites to explore while several mentioned there should be more websites presented. A suggestion for more workshops or seminars was also noted.

There was a suggestion to bring up anything new in genealogy that comes up but also that more people should contribute in this area.

Many of you would like to see specific countries or areas of research as a topic. Two of special note were Jewish and Viking ancestry. Any volunteers for a presentation?

Just so you know Bob Heck isn't the only one who doesn't like talking during the meeting because there were comments about that as well.

Upcoming Programs

January 9, 2019

Cyber Security (Bill Heck)
Security Programs that You Should Use (Sam Colon)

February 13, 2019

Photo Magic: An Update (Bob Heck)
7 Deadly Sins of digitizing photos (Bob Tatalovich)

March 13, 2019

New Toys for the Genealogist (Gary Haas)
DNA an Update (Pat Mundstock)

April 10, 2019

A Full Night of Member Show and Tell
Contact Bob Heck if you would like to give a 5-10 minute presentation.

May 8, 2019

Finding the Trail to Europe (Bob Heck)
Tracing Military Deaths (Louise Stack)

June 12, 2019

Research Strategies (Jane Orne)

July 10, 2019

World War I Genealogy Research (Debra Dudek) Full evening presentation.

August – November 2019

In the works.

If you would like to make a presentation or have a suggestion for a topic for a meeting, please contact Bob Heck

About This Newsletter

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Members interested in submitting articles may e-mail them to bheck@voyager.net. The MPAFUG Publisher will determine if an article will be used in this newsletter. Articles will be used as space permits.

NO COPYRIGHTED ARTICLES may be submitted without express permission of the author and publisher. Articles should be submitted by the 1st Wednesday to be considered for inclusion in that same month. Credit will be given for your article.

Wisconsin Research Tidbits

If you haven't tried them yet, there are places around our state that just might have what you are missing in your family research. In Milwaukee we are lucky enough to have 3 good sites:

Family History Center Milwaukee
9600 W. Grange Ave.
(414) 425-4182

The Family History Center does offer help with certain areas of research on different days. Our own Bob Heck, for example, helps with German and Czech research on Thursday evenings.

Milwaukee County Historical Society
910 N. Old World Third St.
(414) 273-8288

Milwaukee Central Library
Frank P. Zeidler Humanities Room
814 W. Wisconsin Ave.
(414) 286-3000
Open Sundays!

Other WI Family History Centers are in:

Madison
Appleton
Eau Claire
Shawano
Sheboygan
Wausau

Historical Societies:

WI Historical Society Library, Madison – can do research online and is free.

WI State Genealogical Society – have to be a member to use their online resources but they do offer webinars.

Local historical societies – there are more than you think and should not be overlooked. The only caution here is that you should call ahead for hours as many are very limited.

Wisconsin Area Research Centers are another excellent research source that should not be overlooked. Bob Heck found a Civil War recruitment poster for the 19th Wisconsin Infantry at Parkside while your newsletter editor found court records regarding her family at River Falls. You just never know what you might find. Remember Google is your friend and you can get started at home; however, a road trip can be fun too. Make sure you check for hours and parking, etc. before you go. When googling the ARC, you are interested in you will find that they are often connected to the library. You would be looking for “University Archives and Area Research Center.”

The Area Research Network is set up at 14 University of Wisconsin colleges throughout the state. You will find them at:

Ashland	Parkside
Eau Claire	Platteville
Green Bay	River Falls
La Crosse	Stevens Point
Madison	Stout
Milwaukee	Superior
Oshkosh	Whitewater

Here's what you could find at an ARC:

Birth, Marriage and Death records
Citizenship 1st and 2nd papers
Maps, Atlases, Land Records and Plat Maps
Tax, Census, Court and Probate Records
Records of Local Institutions and Local Businesses
Manuscripts, Diaries and Letters,
Digital Photos

MPAFUG KEY INFORMATION

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bruce Butterfield:

414-462-6097

Babtrfld-mke@wi.rr.com

Sam Colon:

414-327-2133

genrschr@gmail.com

Bob Heck:

414-421-7143

bheck@voyager.net

Jane Orne:

262-938-9371

orne@Rworld.net

Guy Porth:

414-510-0563

guyporth9@yahoo.com

Louise Stack:

414-764-0365

kilostack@att.net

Bob Tatalovich:

414-897-8280

Bobt3725@gmail.com

Questions about MPAFUG?

Write, call or email:

MPAFUG c/o Bob Heck

4910 Steeple Dr.

Greendale, WI 53129

414-421-7143

bheck@voyager.net

Steering committee meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month except December. The meetings start at 7:00PM and are held at the Family History Center located at 9600 W. Grange Ave., Hales Corners, WI. The Steering Committee is an informal group of members who get together to plan the general agendas for future meetings. All MPAFUG members are welcome to attend.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership in MPAFUG is open to anyone interested in learning more about computer genealogy. Membership is \$12 per calendar year for an individual or family. Dues are \$6 for the balance of a year if you join after June 30th. Send a check made payable to MPAFUG to:

Lynn Thrasher – MPAFUG Treasurer
PO Box 14222
West Allis, WI 53214-0222

OUR WEB PAGE: <http://mpafug.org>

We invite you to visit our web page and even print a copy of this and the previous month's newsletter. We also have a surname section where you can see who else is working on your family line. Members of MPAFUG have access to a members-only web page which contains past newsletters and handouts from our meeting.