



NEWSLETTER

April 2017
Volume 2017 Issue 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Milwaukee County Historical Society
2. Wisconsin Historical Society ARC Centers
4. Upcoming Programs
4. About This Newsletter
4. Meeting Bits and Bytes
5. Opportunity Table
6. Help with PAF
6. MPAFUG Key Information

Milwaukee County Historical Society

Summarized by Louise Stack

Kevin Abing, Archivist for the Milwaukee County Historical Society, was our speaker the first half of the March meeting and came to share what resources are available for genealogists to explore there.

Originally the historical society was housed on the 7th floor of the courthouse in downtown Milwaukee, but with expanding collections and exhibits it eventually outgrew that location. In 1965 it moved to a former bank building on Old World 3rd Street where it is today. The building is owned by Milwaukee County and, since it is the official repository for county records, it houses a number of heavily used collections.

For those of us with ancestors who lived in the Milwaukee area, this is a must-stop place for your research. The collections include naturalization papers, city and county directories, census records, court records, jail registers, probate records, coroner's inquests and Milwaukee County Infirmary patient records. There are incorporation records, a business index, assessment and tax records, church, photo and map collections and published histories. Now you can research online but there is something about actually seeing a document that makes it more real.

Kevin began with naturalizations and showed a couple of examples. There is an alphabetical card index for naturalizations and bound indexes for the intents. Prior to September 28, 1906 the Final Petitions and Declarations of Intent contained just bare bones information, such as the name, date of entry and the port. However, after that date considerably more information was included on the petitions; hometown of the immigrant, name of the ship arrived on, and sometimes birthdates of spouses and children. After September 1906, the Declaration of Intents often have physical descriptions of the immigrant. Later declarations also have photos of the person. These documents can be copied.

There are Milwaukee city directories as well as county directories which are helpful in finding residents who lived outside the city limits such as in a township or suburban community. The society has city directories from 1847-1990 with just a few gaps, World War II years

APRIL 12, 2017

IN CASE YOU WANTED TO KNOW

DNA

By

Pat Mundstock

To-America Research on Family Search

By

Bob Heck

*Next Meeting is May 10, 2017
Klemmer's Banquet Center
10401 West Oklahoma Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53227*

for one. In the early directories, unless they were business owners or held an esteemed position such as school principal for instance, very few women are listed. About 1920/1921 spouses began to be included in the directories. Also in 1921 reverse street guides began which can give information about who or what occupied a particular street address in a given year.

Looking for civil court cases and divorce records? You can find those for 1837-1974, but note that any records after 1931 are off-site so will require a few days for them to be retrieved. There are some criminal case files for the years 1837-1914 and those have a name index. You might also find probate records although they are scattered between 1850-1935. All probate records after 1916 are available at the courthouse. Some of Milwaukee's noteworthy citizens can be found in the probate records if you want to look those up just for fun.

Jail registers are available for 1855-1964 but would be very difficult to research as there is no name index. You would need to have a rough idea of the date of arrest and then you could possibly find some helpful information. The same applies to any ancestor who may have been buried at the "Potter's Field" on the Milwaukee County Grounds. Again, no name index so you would need to know when the person died.

You can find Coroner's Inquests for 1873-1935 and 1960-1969. Unfortunately, a flood at the Milwaukee County Coroner's Office destroyed the records between 1935-1960. Don't overlook the possibility of finding information about an ancestor who may have died in an accident. The inquests contain testimony from witnesses and death certificates which you may view, but not copy.

What about family who were patients at the County Hospital, Milwaukee County Infirmary or Insane Asylum? Milwaukee County Historical Society does have patient registers for hospital patients up to 1932 with male and female patients being recorded separately. There are patient records for the Infirmary between 1894-1942 with varied amounts of information. Sadly though, records for the insane were disposed of by the Mental Health Complex.

There are no marriage records at the Milwaukee County Historical Society, but interestingly there is an index for anyone who obtained their marriage license at City Hall. The years available are 1897-1982. Also of note is a small collection of marriage applications/licenses issued by St. John's Episcopal Church for the years 1854-1878. The story behind that was a pastor who was "fired" so he returned to England with all his church records. Many years later a descendant discovered the records and contacted Kevin to donate them.

Plat maps, street maps and Sanborn fire maps may help you find where an ancestor lived during a certain period.

Street names and numbers have changed over time but an older map may help in your search. There are Sanborn Fire Insurance maps for 1898, 1910 and 1966 as well as several years of Milwaukee County plat maps between 1858 and 1961. As an example, Kevin had an old Sanborn map with the bank building where the society is located showing that Water Street used to be a through street on the east side of the building. Today Pere Marquette Park is there.

If you are interested in historical photos in and around Milwaukee, there is a huge photo collection at the historical society. The collection includes Milwaukee businesses arranged by street or category, Milwaukee street scenes, clubs and organizations and public figures. There is a collection by Lyle Oberwise of thousands of color slides depicting Milwaukee between 1930-1980. The photos Kevin shared at the meeting brought back memories for many of us - Bay Shore Shopping Center (the original), Borchardt Field, city hall and the rag man. Has anyone heard of the "Centurama" held in Milwaukee to celebrate the first 100 years, 1846-1946? Great picture of that on the lakefront near today's Summerfest grounds.

There are so many records and resources at the Milwaukee County Historical Society that Kevin highly recommends you stop in to see for yourself. It is located at 910 N. Old World Third Street and is open Monday through Saturday. Parking may be a bit of a challenge due to construction, but certainly worth the visit - especially if you find that elusive ancestor.

Wisconsin Historical Society ARC Centers

Summarized by Louise Stack

Staying with the topic of historical societies Bob Heck took over the second half of the meeting with a talk on the ARC's or Area Research Centers. He began with information on the Wisconsin Historical Society which was founded in 1846 and is the oldest historical society in the United States to receive continuous public funding.

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin is actually organized into four Divisions. Those are: The Division of Museums and Historic Sites, the Division of Historic Preservation-Public History, The Division of Administrative Services and the Division of Library-Archives which would be of most interest for genealogists. More about that last one later.

The Division of Museums and Historic Sites operates the Wisconsin Historical Museum in downtown Madison as well as 11 other historic sites throughout Wisconsin. They are basically tourist attractions but reflect Wisconsin history with exhibits and demonstrations, some interactive. Visited Old World Wisconsin? That is one of the Wisconsin historic sites. Bob even shared a

photo of his granddaughter making soda bread when she visited there.

The Division of Historic Preservation-Public History handles the Wisconsin Historical Society Press and the Wisconsin Magazine of History which you would receive quarterly as a member. This division also administers the state's burial sites preservation program. The Division of Administrative Services provides support and planning for the WHS. The society's website has a large, searchable collection of historical images and digital archives containing thousands of scanned documents relating to Wisconsin history.

Now on to the one we genealogists would find most helpful for family research – the Division of Library-Archives. This division collects and maintains books about the history of Wisconsin, the US and Canada. It has nearly 4 million items with their newspaper collection the second largest in the US after the Library of Congress. The society's archives are the official repository for state and local government records.

WHS coordinates an Area Research Center Network with ARC Centers that are set up at 14 UW Colleges throughout Wisconsin. Ready for a road trip? ARC's are located at: Ashland, Eau Claire, Green Bay, LaCrosse, Madison, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, Parkside, Platteville, River Falls, Stevens Point, Stout, Superior, and Whitewater. Each of those ARC's are responsible for materials from their surrounding counties. The UW Whitewater ARC for instance is responsible for Rock, Jefferson and Walworth Counties.

ARC's have a wealth of information that you may not be able to find elsewhere. Bob had several examples of what he has been able to discover. He shared a photo of a 19th Wisconsin Infantry Recruitment poster he had found at Parkside. Promises of \$100 in gold on the poster brought back a memory for Bob when he joined the Air Force. The recruiter told him there was a girl behind every tree in San Antonio, but of course, there are no trees in San Antonio.

What can you expect to find at an ARC? Typical records include birth, marriage and death, cemetery and census records, church records, naturalizations, citizenship, court and probate records and maps. Also, maps, atlases and land records, tax records, directories, family histories and farm records.

To use tax records as an example, there is considerable information that can be uncovered. In Bob's case, he was able to find his ancestor Peter McNulty in tax records at Parkside for 1856 in Kenosha County. In the 1857 records, Bob noted that McNulty was recorded as McEnulty. He also found records for Widow Zerne who married his great-great grandfather Johann Heck after she paid her delinquent taxes in 1856.

So, what can you really learn from tax records? How about the specific property description of your ancestor's land? You could also determine when and where your ancestor was living. This might be especially helpful since there is no 1890 census to reference.

Other records that Bob has found at Parkside include the Declaration of Intention for Peter McNulty and handwritten notes from a Burgess family reunion in 1936. He has found plat maps, probate records and court records relating to his ancestors. In fact, after 3 attempts Bob was able to see and get copies of proceedings in Kenosha County involving his grandmother's 2 brothers who were sent to prison. The records were sealed but he happened to visit on a day when a student was working and Bob simply asked about the records as he had the other 3 visits. As you know, Bob always says "Ask the Question!" and when you throw in his luck it seems to get results. Bob's tip: When you are told that the courthouse burned down so there are no records, ask if the people didn't have to pay taxes then.

MPAFUG will offer a bus trip to Madison for research at The Wisconsin Historical Society Library on June 20, 2017. It is the ARC for Dane, Sauk and Columbia Counties but it also has the largest collection in the world dedicated exclusively to North American history. If you have Wisconsin ancestors you need to search their newspaper collection on microfilm, but come armed with names and dates.

The Madison WHS has 12 levels of books and publications, an Archives section for special collections, a pamphlet collection and over 3 million images in their photo archives. You could be missing out on some valuable family history if you have never visited the Wisconsin Historical Society Library or visited an ARC. They are gold mines just waiting for you to tap into.

Bob's tip: You know your ancestor is in an old photo but you can't ID them – just pick one!

Kevin's tip: You can request information from an ARC be sent to Milwaukee

Upcoming Programs

May 10, 2017

Preparation for a Research Trip (Jane Orne)
Naturalization Records in Wisconsin
(Bob Tatalovich)

June 14, 2017

What's in the Attic (Louise Stack)
Photo Magic (Bob Heck)

June 20, 2017

Bus Trip to Madison

July 12, 2017

External Storage, DVD Storage, Cloud Storage,
Scanners (Sam Colon)
Moving Data and Software (Bob Heck)

August 9, 2017 – Terminology & Stuff

Roots Magic (Bob Tatalovich)
Legacy (Bruce Butterfield)

September 13, 2017

Victorian Mourning & Funeral Practices (Steve Person)
Funeral Home Research (TBA)

October 11, 2017 – Terminology & Stuff

Whoa dn What You'll Find in the US Census &
City Directories (Cathy Dailey)
Plain History Group Land Records (Gary Haas)

October 21, 2017

FREE Genealogy Workshop at the Family
History Center, 9600 West Grange Avenue.
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

November 8, 2017

Courthouse Reseach (Guy Porth)
Researching Will & Probate Records On-Line
(Bob Heck)

December, 2017 – No Meeting

Do NOT forget, there is no meeting in December

Bus Trip Note

The upcoming bus trip to Madison will be \$20.00 per person. Registration is available so make sure to reserve your spot – they usually go pretty fast.



Happy Researching!



But, don't shake the family tree too hard – you never know how many nuts might fall out!

About This Newsletter

This newsletter is the official monthly publication of the Milwaukee PAF Users Group. All rights are reserved. No articles herein may be reproduced for profit or commercial gain without the express written consent of the Publisher or the Milwaukee PAF Users Group. Other PAF Users Groups may republish articles freely, but must include credit to the authors and *for* the Milwaukee PAF Users Group Newsletter.

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.

Meeting Bits and Bytes

It was quite the blustery day for our March meeting. As Bob Heck got the meeting underway he mentioned that the high winds had caused a number of trucks to be blown over on the roads. Despite that there were 108 members who put on their heavy shoes and ventured out to the meeting.

Our very own Frank Lamping was in attendance. Frank had recently been inducted into the Green Bay Packer Fan Hall of Fame after receiving some 40,000 votes. In addition, he had just received a Hometown Hero Award in Madison. I think Frank may also have had a winning raffle ticket.

Surprisingly, there were no (0, zero) guests or new members. According to Bruce Butterfield this was only the 2nd time since MPAFUG has been in existence that this has happened.

Before starting his question and answer section, Bob made an important announcement about the opportunity table. Since there are usually a number of tantalizing items and it can be daunting to choose, it can sometimes cause a back-up so a new rule was established. If you have a winning raffle ticket, you must make your decision in 20 seconds or go to the back of the line.

There were the customary 6 questions from Bob. Another surprise this evening was that no one was able to answer the very first question; "What will you find if you scroll to the bottom of the Wisconsin Collection?" which had been in an email message. The answer was

that you would find many books and articles on Wisconsin history, many of which contain biographical sketches. Now using that same email message, question number 2 asked what you would need to do if you wanted records from Minnesota. Quite simply you would substitute Minnesota for Wisconsin.

Bob seems to be getting trickier with his questions so for number 3 you not only had to be brushed up on your MPAFUG emails and the current newsletter, but you had to be paying attention to the pre-meeting screen with upcoming events and announcements. A chill mat for a laptop computer was the answer to what the 3rd item listed on the opportunity table was.

Question number 4 seemed easy enough because Bob was asking for the title of his February talk. Most members knew that the talk was about hoaxes and scams, but getting the correct title was a little more difficult. Bob's talk was "How to Identify a Hoax or Scam?"

The last two questions also pertained to the February meeting. Unbelievably, people lost one billion dollars from Ransom Ware. And finally, did you know that Bob Heck could have become a Russian Count or "Secret Councilor" by bidding \$10,000 dollars on e-bay? He chose to pass on that fabulous honor and remains our Bob Heck of Greendale, WI.

One of our members left a seat cushion at the February meeting and since it was not claimed at the March meeting, it will be a give-away at the April meeting. According to Guy Porth it is very comfortable.

Opportunity Table

- One Package Sheet Protectors (50)
- Wireless Mouse
- HP Wireless All-in One Inkjet Printer
- HP 556 Wireless Printer
- Refurbished Asus 15" Windows 10 Laptop
- Notebook Essentials wireless Mouse, Network cable, USB port, surge protector

Help with PAF

Call us if you need assistance in using PAF, or if you have question about MPAFUG
We're here to help!

NAME	PHONE	E-MAIL Address
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
Bob Tatalovich	414-897-8280	bobt3725@gmail.com
Jane Orne	262-938-9371	orne@Rworld.net
Guy Porth	414-510-0563	guyporth9@yahoo.com
Earl Capps	414-327-4327	elcapps@yahoo.com

MPAFUG Key Information

The Steering Committee

Steering committee meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month except December. The meetings start at 7:00 pm at Bob Heck's house (4910 Steeple Drive, Greendale, 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 and participate in the meetings.

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 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 meetings.

Resources Available:

In addition to our monthly meetings and website, we offer 3 CD's that are available to members for purchase. CD's are \$5 each if picked up at a meeting, or an additional \$2.50 for shipping/handling. Contact Lynn Thrasher - MPAFUG Treasurer, PO Box 14222, West Allis, WI 53214-0222.

- ◆ MPAFUG Newsletters – December 1991 thru December 2013
- ◆ MPAFUG Handouts – 1999 thru 2013
- ◆ MPAFUG Utilities CD – contains 16 useful programs including PAF, Picasa, GenViewer, Open Office, Adobe Reader, PDA to Palm OS, FastStone, IRFAN Viewer/Plugins, FamilySearcher and more

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. To join, send a check made payable to "MPAFUG" to: Lynn Thrasher – MPAFUG Treasurer, PO Box 14222, West Allis, WI 53214-0222.

Questions about MPAFUG?

MPAFUG c/o Bob Heck
4910 Steeple Drive, Greendale WI 53129
Phone: 414-421-7143
E-mail: bheck@voyager.net