



# NEWSLETTER

April 2019  
Volume 2019 Issue 4

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Meeting Bits and Bytes
2. Headware, Software, Hardware: New Stuff for 2019  
DNA an Update
3. Member Spotlight
4. History Lessons
5. Upcoming Programs  
In Search Of  
About This Newsletter
6. MPAFUG Key Information

APRIL 10, 2019

---

*Full Night of Member SHOW and TELL  
Ten Presenters*

---

*Next Meeting is April 10, 2019  
7:00 PM -- Klemmer's Banquet Center  
10401 West Oklahoma Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53227*

---

## MEETING BITS AND BYTES

The day of the March meeting was a beautiful, sunny 80°. Oops, sorry, that was where your reporter was. For those of you who ventured out to the monthly meeting of MPAFUG at Klemmer's Banquet Center in Milwaukee, you were probably happy that it was 45° and *not* snowing. There were 110 in attendance with one new member/guest; Kathy from Greenfield.

Bob Heck commented that both of the presenters for the evening, Gary Haas and Pat Mundstock, were former members of the MPAFUG Steering Committee who had graciously agreed to do presentations and both were very knowledgeable in the areas they were presenting. Bob added that Pat was quite an expert in the area of DNA and has a knack for presenting things clearly. Pat, however, said she wouldn't consider herself an expert as there is plenty out there she doesn't know and she is always learning a little more. As for Gary, he always has the best new gadgets and gizmos that technology has to offer. Were you one of the lucky ones that got a special swivel chair ride wearing the virtual reality headset? If so, hope you remembered to put the headset on sitting down as Bob advised, although a couple reportedly did stagger away.

Sam Colon made an important announcement during the break about the April opportunity table. There will be a Windows10 Lenovo desk top computer available. According to Sam, if you currently have Windows7 now is the time to upgrade as it will go "bye-bye" in 2020. The Lenovo computer has a 500GB hard drive, a photo editing program and an office program. Sam suggests coming to the April meeting and buying lots of tickets!

Last June the second half of the meeting was member Show and Tell which proved to be very entertaining and inspiring. There was John Canapa who talked about his aunt's huge copper grave marker and monument when she actually came from a family of stone cutters. Sam Colon shared his story of searching for his wife's 3X grandmother and having to admit that you should listen to your wife. Bob Culver had an interesting story about a grandfather who disappeared after his wife gave birth to twin girls and apparently faked his own death. Cathy Daily told of a search for a farm that both her father and grandfather worked on. Her father said the name but didn't know the spelling. Cathy persevered and stumbled upon the name in an unexpected place. Bob Heck talked about searching for a 2X great-grandmother's grave and ultimately finding it next to another 2X great-grandmother. And who could forget Carol Evans' story about a female relative with 4 super bowl rings. Come on out to the April meeting to see what your fellow members have to share!

## **HEADWEAR, SOFTWARE, HARDWARE**

Summarized by Louise Stack

Gary Haas began the evening presentations to bring you the latest in technology devices and give some tips for using them in your research. Funny though that the tech portion of the meeting began with some minor sound issues, but presenter Gary Haas promised to talk really LOUD. Gary's presentation was about technology you can use but cautioned that it was an overview and not a detailed version of what and how to do things. He is very thorough so also provided plenty of websites to explore for follow-up. However, those of us who are not so tech savvy might have felt our eyes glaze over because Gary had so much to offer.

Gary admitted that he is an inherently lazy person always looking for a way to save key strokes, mouse clicks and hand movements since he does a lot of data capture. The more he reduces the movements the better it is. Gary has over 500,000 files.

He offered a number of tips for you when doing research:

1. Be persistent and never give up. He cited an example of a German researcher who was told there were no census records for the time period he was looking for but he went on to find them himself.
2. Don't reinvent the wheel.
3. Don't be a jerk, you will need help from people. Gary did a months long research project on his hometown of which he sold CD copies of for \$10. He heard back from someone who couldn't believe Gary would charge for family records.
4. Find a geek to use as a mentor or guide. Gary suggests watching them work on the computer because he himself does things that are second nature and he doesn't always tell people to do it.

Gary also had some great advice on software. To handle his passwords, he recommended LastPass. One feature he likes, after experiencing a death in the family, is that he was able to set his brother up to request Gary's passwords in the event of his death. We've heard how difficult it can be to access otherwise. Another suggestion Gary had, which he included web addresses for, was to get accounts with USPS, Social Security and the IRS. Why? If you don't sign up for an account, a hacker can in your name.

According to Gary 90% of people do not know how to fully do a Google search. If you try something different you might get a different result. An example here was a search Gary did on a 4X great-grandfather through the Bavarian State Library newspapers. There he found a 2 ½ page article on a 4X great-grandfather who was beheaded. Gary said he deserved it, but left us hanging with the rest of that story. To give an example of Google Images Gary shared that his parents had taken a picture of a beautiful stained-glass window but didn't remember the name of the church. Google Images made a match from a Japanese tourist's site.

Gary had plenty of other information in the software category. One especially intriguing tool he mentioned was scraping. He explained this as getting information off a webpage into a form he can use. He did ask Jane Orne not to tell FamilySearch about this as he has found things there he can use. Hmmm. Gary did say that he kind of expected heads to blow up with all the info he was dishing out. At the end, he also said that he

barely scratched the surface of it all and you could send him an email with questions.

The last portion of his presentation, and maybe the most fun, was when Gary shared his latest hardware. He said that having the right toy sure makes a difference. Computers, cameras, drones and more – Gary has it all. He even has a 11x17” inch mousepad so he never goes off the edge!

## **DEMYSTIFYING DNA: An Update for 2019**

Summarized by Louise Stack

After the break Pat Mundstock took the stage to share her knowledge of DNA. Many of us have had our DNA tested but probably don't know much more than what the results showed us. Pat had some updates on that as well as letting us know what DNA is all about.

For starters Pat gave a very simple explanation that DNA is nothing more than a code, your genetic code actually. Just like the alphabet is a code or Roman numerals are a code for instance so is DNA. Computers talk in code using a 2-part code of 0's and 1's. DNA uses a 4-part code of A/C/T/G which combine in pairs and how those pairs match is what gives you your own genetic code.

Pat told us that her interest in DNA started when she and her family thought they could be descended from Attila the Hun because his father's name was Mundzuk. Of course, she knows more now and the odds of being related are nil.

There are different kinds of DNA which can be tested with Autosomal being the one that anyone can do and looks at all of the chromosomes. Pat had us go back to biology class for a minute to remind us that we are made up of cells. In the nucleus of those cells there are 23 chromosomes. Interestingly, that is how the testing company 23 & ME got its name. Anyway, the prices vary for the testing and it depends on what you want to know. Pat did mention that Ancestry does the most advertising but you should look for a sale if you want to order a kit.

At the meeting Pat asked how many read the fine print on anything. She then stressed that DNA is one area that you really want to read it. You do want to know how they are using your DNA, who has access to your DNA and how they share it and how you contact people you may be related to. Pat also mentioned a new term you might run into – non paternal events. In her case, her great-grandmother had gotten pregnant and her husband left her. That child carried the 2<sup>nd</sup> husband's name (her great-grandfather) but would not be related to him.

Pat had lots of information to share, but one thing of particular interest is that if you had done your DNA a while ago with Ancestry you might want to go back and check it again. Since Pat gave this talk 2 years ago the database has increased and maps have been re-drawn so your DNA percentages have probably changed too. Pat's had but she is good with the changes since it matched her research and documentation.

## **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

Sam Steffan as told to Louise Stack

This monthly column is designed to get to know our members better, see what your areas of research are and perhaps connect you with other members who are researching the same country or culture.

For many years member Sam Steffan only had a passing interest in the history of his grandparents. His father and maternal grandmother did talk about their relatives, but Sam just didn't take an interest. After his wife started researching her genealogy and Sam became exposed to her family histories then he began to have “questions” about his past. As most relatives had passed away an urgency had developed. Sam has been doing his genealogy research for about 2 years but it is an “intermittent” activity for him.

Sam has been a member of MPAFUG for about 5 years. He originally joined because his wife became a member and he could assist her in researching her past. He wasn't active on his genealogy until later. Sam primarily researches his family but he does assist his wife in her genealogical activities.

As far as sharing information Sam has an aunt in Florida who had done some research so he has her notes. As he discovers additional information it is passed on to her.

Sam hasn't gone on any road trips for his family research since almost all of his relatives arrived in the Milwaukee area after 1900. He did get a bit of a surprise though. Sam's father said he was German but a review of his grandparents' residences in Europe revealed a more complex answer. They lived in the Danzig Corridor, which was under German, then Russian, and finally Polish control. Vital records for those ancestors are in German, Russian and Polish. Sam really doesn't have a good answer about that yet.

The best find Sam has had so far came from some official records that his aunt had obtained from Sam's grandmother. The records were in what appeared to be Polish. According to Sam his grandmother treated those records as vitally important. As she couldn't speak English nobody in the family knew what they really were. It took several dead ends until Sam hooked up with UWM Language Services. A student at that location determined the documents were in Old Russian. She translated them, revealing them to be a real estate purchase in 1882 by his great-grandparents for 8 acres of farm land in Poland. Sam is hoping to find that he is a wealthy land Baron!

Sam as not really hit any brick walls yet but chalks it up to his research being rather casual. He had gone back to about 1880 on his father's side. However, on his mother's side he has found relatives that go back to 890 A.D. in England. Currently, he is doing research in Germany, Poland and Russia

Thanks for sharing Sam! When you become that wealthy land Baron don't forget your friends at MPAFUG.

**Note from the editor:** Our hope is that many, if not all of you, will volunteer to be included in the Member Spotlight. There are 12 questions to answer that will be the same for everyone. You can give as much or as little of an answer as you want.

If you are interested, please see me at a meeting or email me with Member Spotlight in the subject line at:

[kilostack@att.net](mailto:kilostack@att.net). Hope to hear from you!

Louise Stack

## History Lessons

### LET'S TALK COUSINS.....

So, you've had your DNA tested and gotten the results back with varying degrees of cousins listed. Do you really know what a 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or more cousin is? Perhaps this will help.

When you hear the word cousin it usually means a 1<sup>st</sup> cousin. A 1<sup>st</sup> cousin has two of the same grandparents as you. You probably know your 1<sup>st</sup> cousins as children of your aunt or uncle. Not to confuse you, there are also other definitions for cousin:

A person belonging to the same extended family,  
A thing related to another (i.e. tomatoes and potatoes are cousins)

A person of a kindred culture, race or nation (the Apache and Navajo Indians are cousins).

Then there are 2<sup>nd</sup> cousins who have the same great-grandparents, but not the same grandparents. Using that same formula, 3<sup>rd</sup> cousins have the same great-great-grandparents, 4<sup>th</sup> cousins have the same great-great-great grandparents and so on. You can do the rest of the math to get to those 6<sup>th</sup> or more cousins. What then is a 1<sup>st</sup> cousin once removed? The term "removed" indicates the number of generations separating the cousins. Once removed means that the person is the child of your 1<sup>st</sup> cousin. Still with me? A 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin once removed is the child of your 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin and on it goes. Those branches of your family tree just keep getting bigger and bigger when you add in all those cousins.

## Upcoming Programs

### April 10, 2019

A Full Night of Member Show and Tell  
Chuck Johnson, David Miller, Bruce Pollock, Carl Micech, Jean Micech, Bob Heck, Ed King, Bruce Butterfield, John Canapa and Sam Colon.

Contact Bob Heck if you would like to give a 5-10 minute presentation – we have room for more.

### May 8, 2019

Finding the Trail to Europe (Bob Heck)  
Faces Behind Memorial Day (Louise Stack)

### June 12, 2019

Local Resources: In the works with possible topics being the Milwaukee Public Library and the Golda Meir Library.

### July 10, 2019

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

### August 14, 2019

Relative Finder/BYU Labs (Bob Heck)  
In the works with a possible topic being Genealogy Mapping.

### September 11, 2019

Dating Old Photographs (Bob Heck)  
In the works with a possible topic being Secrets Hidden in Old Photographs.

### October 9, 2019

In the works with How to Read Old Tombstones and Cemetery Research.

### October 19, 2019

All day workshop at the Family History Center.

### November 13, 2019

In the works with possible topics being For Better or Worse: Marriage, Separation and Divorce Records, Civil War Research or Live Interviews.

## No Meeting in December

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

## In Search Of

We are looking for an assistant reporter for the newsletter. As much as your current reporter would like to make every meeting, it is not always possible. It is just a matter of taking notes to supplement the meeting handouts and report any news from the meeting. The June meeting could really use a reporter. Please contact Bob Heck or Louise Stack if you want to help 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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday to be considered for inclusion in that same month. Credit will be given for your article.

## MPAFUG KEY INFORMATION

### STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bruce Butterfield:  
414-462-6097  
[Babtrfld-mke@wi.rr.com](mailto:Babtrfld-mke@wi.rr.com)

Sam Colon:  
414-327-2133  
[genrschr@gmail.com](mailto:genrschr@gmail.com)

Bob Heck:  
414-421-7143  
[bheck@voyager.net](mailto:bheck@voyager.net)

Jane Orne:  
262-938-9371  
[orne@Rworld.net](mailto:orne@Rworld.net)

Guy Porth:  
414-510-0563  
[guyporth9@yahoo.com](mailto:guyporth9@yahoo.com)

Louise Stack:  
414-764-0365  
[kilostack@att.net](mailto:kilostack@att.net)

Bob Tatalovich:  
414-897-8280  
[Bobt3725@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:bheck@voyager.net)

Steering committee meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup>. 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 meetings.