



# NEWSLETTER

September 2019  
Volume 2019 Issue 9

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SEPTEMBER 2019

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*Dating Old Photographs (Bob Heck)*

*Secrets Hidden in Old Photographs (Bruce Butterfield)*

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*Next Meeting is September 11, 2019*

*7:00 PM -- Klemmer's Banquet Center*

*10401 West Oklahoma Avenue*

*Milwaukee, WI 53227*

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## MEETING BITS AND BYTES

Our August meeting at Klemmer's Banquet Center got off to its usual start at 7:00PM with an introduction by Bob Heck who asked how we were enjoying the middle of summer. In August's past we have been sweltering, but this day was overcast with a coolish temp of 70o. The grass and flowers may have been hoping for rain but at least we did not get wet.

Of the 80 members who came to this meeting there was an interesting mix of clothing – everything from shorts to sweaters and jackets were seen in the crowd. There were no new members or guests this time which prompted Bob to mention that he didn't have to explain anything then.

The presentations scheduled in September are both about old photographs. Perhaps you have a collection of those and are not quite sure how to handle them. Bob Heck is going to show us how to date a photograph, but also how to determine the gender of a subject when it is not quite obvious. You know he will have some other tricks up his sleeve as well. Bruce Butterfield plans to go a bit further and help you get more clues about your ancestors from those old photos. He'll help you pick out the oddities, perhaps discover the occupation of the subject(s), where the picture was taken or what exactly is going on in the photo. Surely, you have at least one intriguing family photo that you wish someone had left a note on the back.

## MAP-A-MANIA

Summarized by Louise Stack

Cathy Dailey was the first presenter of the evening and if you have heard her before you know she brings a contagious enthusiasm to each presentation. You might also know from past experience that she LOVES MAPS! Really, she does, since she blurted it out a few times during this presentation. If you never really did love maps yourself, you could have been persuaded to change your mind. Cathy has a job with Aurora but in addition she has a real estate brokers license – ah, that could explain her passion.

So, why does Cathy love maps? She feels that it gives you a way to walk in the footsteps of your ancestors and track what they were doing in life. She also finds it comforting. The same applies to cemeteries for her because she knows that when she visits a grave, she is standing where her ancestors once did. Cathy's point of view is that if you put your ancestors on a map you can trace migration patterns, identify any changes and perhaps visualize their American dream.

Cathy started with the basics of legal descriptions of land. If you have struggled when reading Township, Range & Section descriptions or Lot-and-Blocks or Metes-and-Bounds, she broke them down to the simplest terms for us. One fun tidbit that will surely help you when trying to decipher Township, Range and Sections on a map is that the numbering pattern begins in the top right corner. It moves to the left, then down and to the right and continues on in that same pattern; it was designed this way like oxen plowing a field back and forth. Can't you just visualize those oxen?

Think subdivisions when researching the Lot and Block system. Think geographic features such as rivers, trees, rocks, adjacent buildings etc. for Metes and Bounds. According to Cathy those physical markers are what can cause the most disputes because they aren't always permanent. One example Cathy shared was: "Begin at a planted stone, west 115 poles to 2 white oaks with a dogwood between..." No problems with that description, right.

Cathy strongly recommended using Plat Plotter for digital mapping. It is free and when you practice with it, she says you will LOVE it like she does. You need a starting point such as your metes and bounds description. If you don't know where to start, try looking up your ancestor's address on a census or in a city directory and convert to longitude and latitude for GPS coordinates. Another tidbit Cathy gave was to look beyond the section you are researching for other names on the plat map. You might find relatives or others significant to your ancestor's story.

Sanborn maps are another useful tool which show improvements made on a portion of land. Cathy gave a wonderful example of those using the Pabst Mansion. An 1894 Sanborn map showed that the property included a stable, greenhouse and a smaller dwelling perhaps for servants. The 1910 map showed a conservatory which Pabst had made for the 1893 World's Fair and deconstructed afterwards to rebuild at his mansion. Sanborn maps were used for insurance purposes and recorded anything that could influence the degree of hazards.

Lastly, Cathy covered Google My Maps which you can use to see how people migrated. You will need to create a Google account for this. To show us how this worked Cathy traced her ancestors traveling from Bohemia. In 1880 they traveled 450 miles from their home to Bremen where they boarded the ship Berlin. Of course, they may have had to wait some time for that. The family, including a 3-month old baby, then traveled 4,000 miles to Baltimore in steerage along with 1,246 others. They had to make their own meals in steerage and, if the weather was bad, just didn't eat. Once they arrived in America it was another 400 miles to Cleveland. A member also shared that her family left Rotterdam and it was a 21-day trip to America. At the end Cathy shared a color picture of the world taken from space showing the vast Atlantic Ocean and her ancestor's travel points. She asked if any of us would have made the trip if we had seen that picture first?! That was definitely an eyeopener. I know my ancestors would have said "Nein Danke, Nei Takk and Nej Tak" respectively and gone back home.

## **RELATIVE FINDER AND OTHER NEAT PROGRAMS**

Summarized by Louise Stack

Genealogy games – who knew? Bob Heck took over for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the meeting to show a fun side of genealogy research, not only for you but your family as well. Bob always has great information with examples and pictures too. He started right off on his presentation cover page with 2 pictures; himself on a 2017 visit to the Czech Republic pointing to his ancestral village and the other his mother sitting on her grandmother's lap the day they left that village. Bet those have made the rounds at a family reunion.

The programs that Bob introduced us to were all FREE, which always appeals to us genealogists. He gave an overview of the 12 apps that are available through the Brigham Young University (BYU) Family History Lab. You do have to register, and have your data on FamilySearch, in order to use the apps. Bob advises that FamilySearch should not be your primary database however because other people can go in and make changes.

First, Bob took us to Relative Finder under the “Research” program which could show how you are related to famous/historical people OR the not so famous OR even deplorable people. Well, that might be fun too. You are able to choose from a variety of groups of interest such as presidents, astronauts, European royalty or famous Americans and so on. Bob found he is related to 28 presidents in the 6-14<sup>th</sup> cousin range, including Barack Obama. Barack Obama? Remember, his mother is white so Bob is related on that side. Bob is the 6<sup>th</sup> cousin 4X removed of Abraham Lincoln which is a fairly close match all things considered.

Next, under the “Visualize” Program, Bob showed a pedigree pie where you could see where your family came from. He also mentioned the “One Page Genealogy” program, but said it is not too practical, especially if you have lots of ancestors. Under “Veteran Finder” Bob shared a great picture of his wife's grandfather and his brother.

Here's where the real fun was – in the “Play” program with the genealogy games. If you want to

play Geneopardy for instance, once you log in FamilySearch will create questions for you and assigns the value (100, 200, etc). If you get the answer wrong it will let you try again for half the value. Seems the only thing it doesn't do for you is award actual prizes. There are a number of other game choices of which Bob showed some excellent examples. In fact, the back page of his handout included a couple games for you to try. Toward the end of his presentation Bob did play a live game with his cousin Cheryl. That was an interesting exchange. Lastly, Bob discussed the “Puzzilla” app which is not on the BYU site. It is also free and works with your FamilySearch data. Bob was able to generate a chart with up to 12 generations, but he recommends starting with 4. Whatever program you choose just remember it's all FUN!

## **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

The Carole Evans Story

It was Carole's mother that got her interested in genealogy. “Years ago, she began working on both her and my father's genealogy. She spent many hours in courthouses and libraries, talking to relatives and writing everything down. She was fortunate to have several cousins share their family tree info with her. She also had many pictures of Hilger family relatives. I'm 62% German, and my mom's family came to the Menomonee Falls area in the 1840's. My great-grandfather purchased land on Good Hope Road and built a home for his family of ten children. He was cheated when buying property and was given land that was 2/3 swamp and 1/3 good farming acreage. In fact, the two-story log homestead is still there – on the south side of Good Hope, west of Pilgrim Rd and immediately past the wetlands. The barn is in back.”

“My father grew up in Norwalk, Ohio and every year my parents went on a vacation that included a stop in Norwalk to visit aunts and uncles. This German family came over in the 1830's. My grandmother had many of her siblings' pictures, which were left to us in a large box. Again, mom spent hours in the Huron County Courthouse looking up information on the family.”

“Upon looking back, I remember all the stories that both of my parents told of their years growing up in Ohio and Milwaukee. My grandfather died at 36 so my father never knew him. He and his two brothers lived with their mother and grandmother and got into everything. I loved hearing those stories. Maybe that left a kernel of interest in genealogy that grew!!”

Carole’s mother lived to be 95. When she was 90 Carole told her not to worry that she would take her albums and continue working on the family tree. She has done this since about 1997. Carole can’t remember for sure, but she thinks she has been a member of MPAFUG since about 1998.

Carole is researching both her and her husband’s families. Her husband’s parents each came from a family of ten and left “lots of wedding and other pictures of each of their families.” Carole met a distant cousin on her husband Dick’s side who did the Evans family genealogy. That cousin shared lots of her info with Carole since she never knew her husband’s parents or other relatives. At that time Carole was the only one working on Dick Evans’s family tree.

As for working with other relatives, Carole has on her Hilger side. “However, my Dad’s side is another story. I haven’t found many relatives of the Hipp/Hettel/Lavo/Adelmann families who have family trees. They also haven’t had their DNA done, which would help.”

“Since my father’s families came from Ohio and the Pittsburgh area, we went on a genealogy sleuthing trip in 2014. This was the basis for my talk on 3 Super Bowl rings and my Rockefeller connection at the first Show and Tell meeting last April 2018. Meeting several generous third cousins in Pittsburgh who had never met or heard of me until I contacted them was a wonderful surprise. They met us, invited us to their home, took us to the cemetery where the ancestors are buried, took us out to dinner, to church, etc.”

Another surprise involved her maternal grandfather who became a doctor here in Milwaukee. According to Carole, he graduated from the Milwaukee Medical College in 1903 and his picture

(along with his fellow classmates) is hanging on the wall at the Medical College of Wisconsin. “Out of a farm family of ten children living in Menomonee Falls, two brothers became doctors in the early 1900’s. Not too shabby.”

“A fun find: Discovering a relative married the son of Mary Ann Rockefeller – John D’s sister – and is buried on the Rockefeller plot in Lakeview Cemetery, Cleveland.”

Carole has indeed hit brick walls in her research. “Supposedly, my 3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandparents lived into their 90’s in Pittsburgh, yet I cannot find their date of death, where they died or where they are buried. No one else seems to know either. So frustrating. I’m even thinking of hiring a professional to help me here.” She would like to fill in this missing part of her family story.

Carole also has a great uncle who disappeared in California after 1906. The family story is that he was pushed overboard and drowned in the Sacramento River. She would like to know if this is completely or partially true or totally untrue.

Carole does research in Germany for her families and Wales for her husband’s family. She is not interested in going back past the 1700’s. “The hardest part is that everyone seems to have the same first names. So, how do you tell which Mary or John belongs to which family?”

Thanks for sharing your story Carole!

**Note from the editor:** All of you have a family story within you so please consider sharing. 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 PHOTOGRAPHY.....

The September meeting is all about old photographs. As a genealogist you are probably happy to have photographs of your family, some even going back several generations. Before cameras there were drawings or paintings, but depending on the artist, they most likely aren't as revealing or realistic as a photograph. And speaking of artists, I don't know about you, but my ancestors certainly wouldn't have laid out the money for a family portrait.

Have you ever wondered when cameras and the art of photography came to be? A look back in history reveals that the first camera photograph was made in 1826, but it required a very lengthy exposure time. In 1839 the daguerreotype was introduced which had a much shorter exposure time. That is now considered to be the birth year of photography. You can recognize a daguerreotype photo because it was made on a silver-coated metal plate. You might even have one of those in your box of old family photos. Other processes followed the daguerreotype.

It seems that photographs gained popularity during the Civil War as evidenced by the abundance of battlefield and soldier photos that survive today. Families also would pose for photos for their soldier to carry with them. The first color photograph was actually made in 1861.

George Eastman was the genius behind cameras with roll film which made it possible for ordinary people like us to take pictures. That paved the way for the invention of movie film. You would probably recognize the name of the company that Eastman founded in 1888 – Kodak.

Cameras have really changed over the years with the current standard being a cell phone. In point of fact, a cell phone takes a remarkably good picture. It might even be studio or portrait quality. And with the prevalence of the “selfie” you don't even need someone else to snap that picture.

## Upcoming Programs

### October 9, 2019

Researching an Old Cemetery (Gary Haas)  
Find-A-Grave (Bob Heck)

### October 19, 2019

All day workshop at the Family History Center.  
Program will include:  
Beginning Genealogy: I, II and III  
Computer Security  
Interviewing Techniques  
Researching Your German Ancestry  
Passenger Lists and Naturalization Papers  
FamilySearch Digital Research  
Demystifying DNA  
Google – Beyond Basic Search  
Polish Genealogy Research  
Military Records

### To register go to:

[www.FamilyHistoryWorkshop.Rworld.net](http://www.FamilyHistoryWorkshop.Rworld.net)

Or phone: (414) 425-4183

Deadline is October 15th

### November 13, 2019

Civil War Research – guest speaker Tom Mueller  
City Directories for Research (Bruce Butterfield)

### No Meeting in December

### January 8, 2020

Cyber Security (Bill Heck)

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

### ANNOUNCEMENT

Waukesha County Genealogy Society is presenting a Beginner Genealogy Instructional Series on the following Wednesdays: October 2, 9, 16, 30 and Nov 6. Time is 7:00-8:45 at Nelson Hall in the Southminster Presbyterian Church. For further information and to register go to:

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

## About This Newsletter

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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

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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.