



NEWSLETTER

October 2018
Volume 2018 Issue 10

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Federal Land Records
2. Metes and Bounds Mapping & Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps
3. Upcoming Programs
3. About This Newsletter
4. Meeting Bits and Bytes
5. Help with PAF
5. MPAFUG Key Information

OCTOBER 10, 2018

Computer Deaths
By
Bruce Butterfield

Colonial Wars & Colonial Records
By
Winnie Mading

Next Meeting is October 10, 2018
Klemmer's Banquet Center
10401 West Oklahoma Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53227

Federal Land Records

Summarized by Louise Stack

Both presentations for the September meeting were about Land, specifically how to trace your ancestors through the land they owned. Bob Heck gave the first presentation of the evening on Federal Land Records. Apparently, you can learn quite a bit about your ancestors by researching land records, both federal and county; the Who, When, Where and maybe even the Why about your ancestor's place. According to Bob, if your ancestors came from Europe and bought land from the government there will be a record.

Federal land records will give you only the first sale of land from the government to a private party but you might be able to find any subsequent sales of a specific property in County records. Bob gave an example using the address of his boyhood home in Racine County records going back to 1934 when the house was built. In case you want to give it a try the address is 1306 Jones Ave. Better yet, try your own childhood home address.

As you probably already know the government uses 3-letter designations for almost everything so to search for federal records you will want to go to the GLO, BLM website. Sounds more complicated than it is. The GLO is the Government Land Office and BLM is the Bureau of Land Management. There are 4 sections with 3, land patents, survey plats and field notes being of interest to those of us researching in Wisconsin. The fourth section, land status records, are typically used for the western US states. Once you get the starting page on the BLM website click on Search for Documents and pick your state. Remember, when you then enter your ancestor's name it is only going to give you a result if your ancestor purchased land directly from the government. Bob advises that you can use wild cards to help in your search to account for spelling variations in your ancestor's name.

Now for county records. Even if you think you know the county your ancestors lived in, a point to note is that at one time in Wisconsin history there were only 4 counties in the state. And did you know that Wisconsin was once

part of Connecticut? And, of course, before becoming a state in 1848 Wisconsin was a territory. Bob always has plenty of examples to share so he showed a search he had done for his Burgess family in Kenosha County. The first one he found was an Amanda Burgess who was his 3X step-great grandmother, the second wife of his 3X great-grandfather although Bob is descended from the first wife. The records he found were from 1843 and he noticed that her property was listed as being in Racine County, Wisconsin Territory. Today that property is in Kenosha County. Naturally, Bob also has fun tidbits to share about what he finds. One was that another of his ancestors, Peter McNulty, Amanda's son-in-law, lived in the same section but in the farthest corner from her property. Another was that on the survey notes a "post by a mound" and a sluggish stream were mentioned, not landmarks readily found today. Also, at one point the surveyor noted that he measured no further and someone, his supervisor perhaps, wrote on the page "Why did you not"?

If you have been with MPAFUG for any length of time, you have most likely heard of the Bob Heck luck. Bob does seem to stumble onto amazing genealogical finds but in actuality he does a lot of research and goes exploring. One year on the 4th of July Bob took a drive into Petrifying Springs Park in Kenosha looking for the site of his ancestor Benjamin Burgess's sawmill. In the park he ran into a family who not only knew about the site but who had the abstracted land deed for it which they later sent him a copy of. Bob knew about that sawmill because he had notes from a 1936 family reunion. Another family example Bob shared was a search of land records for Peter McNulty (the one who lived as far away from his mother-in-law as possible.) From case file records he learned that Peter McNulty already owned the land in 1839 although the approval date was not until late 1840 and he had purchased 80 acres at \$1.25 an acre. According to Bob you can order these Land Entry files or case files online although they can be costly, but still a good source of information. In the case of Amanda Burgess, he learned the date that his 3X great-grandfather died making her a widow, that the sawmill was still in operation and that she had been on the land as a squatter.

Bob had great maps as well. He showed us the US Principal Meridians with WI being in the 4th PM included with MN, IA and IL. There was an excellent map of the grid system where he zoomed in to show townships, then went on to show sections all the way down to ½ and ¼ sections. That was for Wisconsin, but other states may not have such a grid system so then the plots of land are described by things such as trees and streams. An example Bob showed for this was property in KY which had measurements in poles which went from this tree to that and so on. Have you measured anything in poles lately? It is a legal measurement and translates to 16.5'.

Bob's tip: Go ahead, take a walk where your ancestors once walked.

Metes and Bounds Mapping & Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

Summarized by Louise Stack

The always energetic fast-talking Cathy Dailey was up next after the break to share her love of maps. She started though with an announcement and a couple of pleas. First, as the Milwaukee Rep for Wisconsin State Genealogical Society she wanted to let us know that the group is holding their fall seminar on October 13th in Marshfield and you do not have to be a member to attend. WSGS also needs a rep for the Racine/Kenosha/Walworth area so talk to Cathy if you would be willing to take on that role.

Now this is important, Cathy also made a plea for you members to let her or Bob know if there is a topic you are interested in having presented by MPAFUG. Furthermore, if you have such a topic call her and SHE WILL DO IT or you can partner with her to make the presentation. Sounds like a good deal.

Cathy always has oodles of information, especially about this map topic. She promised to talk slower for this presentation and she did to begin with but her enthusiasm got the better of her. No worries if you couldn't keep up because her handout was very precise and easy to follow with almost step-by-step instructions. There was one website in the Sanborn map presentation that is not on her handout. It is for Sanborn map abbreviations:

http://we.mit.edu/thecity/resources/abbreviations_for_sanborn_maps.pdf

There were 2 parts to Cathy's presentation both of which could help you further explore where your ancestors once lived. In her Metes and Bounds presentation Cathy reminded us that a physical description does not change although addresses can. She recommends that if you are having a hard time finding your ancestor's land description, try tax records. As Cathy put it, you are actually doing genealogy of the land.

One especially interesting research tool Cathy shared was Plat Plotter. She has really great instructions on how to use it and she assures us that it won't let you put in anything that is not correct. From there you can go to Google Earth and see what your ancestor's land looks like today. Cathy even did a plat plotter case study for a randomly chosen person in WV. As she has no relatives on the East Coast Cathy called Hardy County, made a new friend named Morgan, and got information about a property in the Lost River District. She did this just to be

able to demonstrate how to use plat plotter and get results on a map.

If you are curious about the distance options Cathy gave in her handout, here are the translations, but additional math is up to you. Poles, Rods and Perches all equal 16.5'. Chains equal 4 rods while furlongs equal 40 rods. Links equal 7.92" and there are 100 links in a chain. A varas is a Spanish measure and equals 33 1/2 inches. Aspens are a mystery.

Part 2 of Cathy's presentation was about Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, her second favorite thing. As with the prior presentation Cathy had ample information about this topic including the history and where to find the maps. There are a LOT of maps in the Sanborn collection. Cathy had some excellent examples of maps for a Dailey ancestor, her grandfather's brother, living in Erie, PA. He owned a saloon which was next to a cigar factory, important information for fire insurance. The map also showed doors and windows and that the saloon was made of brick. Cathy noted that he had moved to a different residence in 1920 and in 1921 there was a brick veneer on the house. See what kind of details you can find on a Sanborn map.

Cathy's tip: Put your ancestors on the map!

Upcoming Programs

October 10, 2018

Computer Deaths (Bruce Butterfield)
Colonial Wars & Colonial Records (Winnie Mading)

October 20, 2018

FREE Genealogy Workshop

November 14, 2018

GENUKI Irish & UK Research (Bob Tatalovich)
Irish Church Records On-line (Bob Heck)

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

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 (Bob Tatalovich)

March 13, 2019

TBA
TBA

April 10, 2019

A Full Night of Member Show and Tell

May 8, 2019

TBA
TBA

June 12, 2019

TBA
TBA

July 10, 2019

TBA
TBA

August 14, 2019

TBA
TBA

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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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

Our September meeting got started at 7:02PM in a chilly room at Klemmer's Banquet Hall with Bob Heck at the helm. He was wearing shorts but a number of the 87 attendees put sweaters or jackets on with one guest even retrieving a blanket from her car. No, it wasn't quite the arrival of fall, just that the air conditioning was set too cool which was remedied at the mid-meeting break. There was one new member/guest at this meeting. Perhaps the coolness also had something to do with Bob's microphone not working so there was a momentary lull while the equipment was checked and exchanged.

Bob started by making a couple of announcements about upcoming events. The first was an invitation to attend Scandinavian Fest on October 6th held at Ronald Reagan Elementary School on Calhoun Road in New Berlin. According to Bob the Scandinavian style sausages served at the event are unbelievably good and the genealogy isn't bad either. The second announcement was a reminder about the upcoming Genealogy Workshop on October 20th at the Family History Center for which you can register online.

Before moving on to the presentations, Bob held his traditional Q & A session. This month there were 6 questions none of which stumped this sharp group. In fact, this was the first time in quite a while that the majority of the questions were answered immediately without any prompting or clues. After the 3rd question Bob said they would get harder although only question 4 slowed the audience down briefly. The first question asked who our group's resident geek is and of course the answer was Sam Colon. For those of you who may not know Sam can even build a computer.

The next 2 questions were about last month's presentation on *My Heritage*. Question 2 asked for their home country with Israel being the correct answer. To get the correct answer for the 3rd question you did have to do a little math because Bob wanted to know how many more records than *Ancestry* were available at *My Heritage*. *My Heritage* has 9 billion while *Ancestry* has 3 billion so the answer was 6 billion.

The remaining 3 questions referred to Bob's presentation last month about writing a family newsletter. First, he asked for his greatest tip for doing a newsletter. As promised this question was a bit tougher so there were a couple wrong answers before the right one came along. The member who got this one had already answered a previous question correctly so passed on a prize, but she knew that Bob advised getting an envelope wetting device to avoid the terrible taste of glue. So that led to question 5 where Bob wanted to know what technique he used to get rid of the aftertaste of envelope glue. It seemed just about everyone knew

he washed his mouth out with beer. And for his last question Bob asked what else he avoided by using a wetting device and once again most of the audience knew the answer was paper cuts to the lips.

"What's on Your Tombstone?" Pepperoni, sausage, mushrooms. Think about it and see what happens at the October meeting.

Coming Soon!! A remake of this newsletter. If you have any ideas, please let the steering committee know.

FREE Genealogy Workshop Registration.

We are happy to announce that the registration system for the Family History Center and MPAFUG 2018 workshop is now available for you to register on-line. The genealogy workshop is FREE and very popular all over south eastern Wisconsin.

Just go to the following web address to register on-line and to read details of each program.

<http://familyhistoryworkshop.rworld.net>



I found some more ancestors! Now, if I could just remember where I found them!

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
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Bob Tatalovich	414-897-8280	bobt3725@gmail.com
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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 the Family History Center 9600 W. Grange Avenue, 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 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?

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