



NEWSLETTER

January 2021
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JANUARY 2021

What's New in Cyber Security (Bill Heck)
Password Security: Multi-factor Authentication (Sam Colon)

January 13, 2021
7:00 PM – New Berlin Ale House
16000 West Cleveland Avenue
New Berlin, WI 52151

MEETING BITS AND BYTES

We hope that you all were able to get through the holidays with a bit of cheer even if you weren't able to celebrate as usual. And, of course, we hope that all of you stayed healthy and continue to do so in this new year.

THE YEAR 2020 IN REVIEW

Ick, do we really have to look back?? Yes, we really should because we still did keep our organization alive. We were able to have meetings for 7 months of the year and did try to keep an active presence with newsletters and emails in between. We also introduced video recorded meetings because of meeting size restrictions. So here is a look back.

January 8, 2020: Our new year started out at a new home, the New Berlin Ale House. Bob Heck and the steering committee were happy to see that 92 members found the new place. As we have done the last several years, the January meeting is all about cyber security. Historically, **Bill Heck**, a professional hacker as well as Bob's son, has given the first presentation but was not available this time around so **Bob Heck** jumped in to present **Cyber Security** for 2020. Robo calls were the top of Bob's naughty list which we all could relate to. **Sam Colon** gave the second presentation on **Basic Security for Your Computer** and started out by saying that 2019 had been the year of the hack. Lots of great information in both presentations.

February 12, 2020: The topics for the evening were: **FamilySearch Memories** presented by **Jane Orne** and **Finding Documents and Photos on Ancestry.com and Other Internet Sites** by **Bob**

Heck. As a lead-in to Jane's presentation and his own, Bob told how he had set Alexa for 1 hour at home to see what he could find out about Jane. Quite a bit as it turned out. Jane showed us how to use the Memories option at FamilySearch where you can add stories, pictures and other finds for your family tree.

March 11, 2020: It's not every day that you can have a meeting on the very day that a global pandemic is proclaimed, but we did. To the surprise of Bob Heck and the steering committee members there were actually 72 of you who came to the meeting. Even Bob's wife didn't think anyone would come.

Scanning Basics for Genealogy. Sam believes that scanners are a valuable tool for genealogists and can help you give more life to your ancestors by adding other documents to their history such as newspaper articles. Sam was followed by **Bob Heck** whose presentation was **Preserving Old Movies.** He started out by showing a 1940 home movie of his family. Bob always has lots of examples which really helps guide you to do it yourself.

April 8, 2020: All meetings had officially been cancelled per an order from the governor due to the pandemic. MPAFUG did continue to work behind the scenes (at home of course) so **Bob Heck** made a test video on **Digitizing Movies** which he made available for members. The April newsletter included feedback on the test video as well as an **Encore Presentation on Webinars for Genealogy** which Lynn Thrasher had done for the April 11, 2018 meeting.

May 13, 2020: This meeting was also cancelled. The steering committee began Zoom meetings with the first one being held on May 6th. For the subsequent newsletter **Bob Heck** shared a few entertaining yet historical stories – **Grandpa, John Mikel, Missed the Iceberg That Sank the Titanic, How Much Did It Cost in 1912?** and **Rules Onboard Sailing Ships in 1853.** We also started **Got Game?** as a bit of fun.

June 10, 2020: Again, the meeting was cancelled. The steering committee did hold a Zoom meeting on June 17th which would have been their normal meeting date. The good news was that MPAFUG

would be able to hold the July meeting as scheduled; however, there were rules put in place for precautions due to the pandemic. For the newsletter there was a **Meeting Rewind** on the topic of **File Storage** which **Bob Heck** had presented on July 12, 2017.

July 11, 2020: Yeah! Meetings resumed. There were 29 members who ventured out for the July meeting which had the usual format of two presentations. **Sam Colon** had sent a preview YouTube video in June on his topic of **Backing Up (Archiving) Your Data on the Cloud or at Home. What Are Your Options?** The preview was good, but the live meeting was ultimately better because you could ask questions. **Bob Tatalovich** did the second presentation on **Organizing Documents and Photos.** It seemed the perfect topic since the virus is still keeping us at home so we should have lots of time to work on genealogy. In addition, the following newsletter also shared an article from **Cathy Dailey**, a member of MPAFUG as well as WSGS, titled **The Name Game** which was all about surnames.

At the July 15th steering committee meeting it was decided that there would be no dues for 2021.

August 12, 2020: There were 2 presentations for this meeting, but because there is still a pandemic making for lower meeting attendance, **Bob Heck** began filming the meetings. The video recordings were shared shortly after the monthly meeting. **Bob Heck** showed us **Newspaper Research in 2020** and **Cathy Dailey** gave us **Tips and Tricks to Further Your Research.** Both were excellent topics especially since we were still asked to spend more time at home.

September 9, 2020: It was Member Show and Tell Night which had been moved from April. There were 8 mini presentations each lasting 5-10 minutes or so. The presenters were:
Bob Heck – Colorizing Photos on MyHeritage
Bob Heck (for Louise Stack) – My Civil War Connection
Carl Micech – An Update on Slovakia – Finding an Uncle
Ed King – An Update on “Genealogy is Easy”
Carole Evans – “Don’t Ignore Those Twigs”

Sam Colon – Making the Connection Back to Spain

Bob Tatalovich – Tagging in Group Photos

Bruce Butterfield -- Recent Experiences in DNA Contacts

Since the meetings are now video recorded, the newsletter no longer included presentation summaries and was replaced by Steering Committee minutes and articles of interest. **Cathy Dailey** shared one of her articles from the WSGS newsletter **To Do Tips from Cathy Dailey**. Also included was “**Things We Did as Kids Part I**” by **Bob Heck**.

October 14, 2020: The October presentations were both done by member **Randy Ray** who actually did them live. He showed how to use **Find-A-Grave** and **Family Tree Maker**. Although they could not be video recorded that night, he did later post them on the internet so you could still get the full presentations. The following newsletter had “**The Things We Did as Kids Part II: The Games We Played**” from **Bob Heck**. There was also an article about **The Soldier’s Lot** at Forest Home Cemetery from the Wisconsin Historical Markers website.

November 11, 2020: Originally scheduled for the May meeting, the presentations for this month were both related. **Bob Heck** did **A 24,000 Mile Journey for John Doe** which told the story of a man who literally was transported around the world as a child during WWII and as an adult wanted to learn who his parents were. The second presentation, **DNA Completes the Story: Now That You Have the Test, What’s Next?** by **Erika Zuehl** further researched the man’s story.

December 2020: Historically there are no meetings in December so the newsletter was the holiday edition which carried the story of **The Christmas Tree Ship** published originally by the National Archives.

Member Spotlight stories were featured in the February through November newsletters. We hope that you learned a few tidbits and got inspired by all of their stories.

February – Bruce Butterfield

March – Joan Romens

April – Joyce Stutzriem and Lila Roberts

May – Bob Gersonde

June – Randy Ray

July – Deborah M. Tewes

August – Tomi Fay Forbes

September – Sam Colon

October – Hugh Simonsen

November – Linda Marcinowski

WHAT’S ON THE JANUARY SCHEDULE

Have you been noticing how many scams, hacks and hoaxes have been going on since this pandemic started? Apparently, the scammers who have been staying at home like us, have all that extra time to think up new scams and hacks or to improve on the old ones. It seems like there is a news report or a printed article about these every day. Whether it is a puppy scam or a government hack by Russia, someone is out there to try to get your money and information.

A great time then for us to hear about **What’s New in Cyber Security** from Bill Heck. He has done presentations for us in the past and always has the latest and scariest of cyber tricks for you to be wary of. Sam Colon will be giving the 2nd presentation on **Password Security: Multi-factor Authentication**. For those of you who are AARP members, there was an article in the October bulletin titled “Stop the Password Madness” so a hot topic at the moment.

A QUOTE TO PONDER:

“If you could see your ancestors
All standing in a row
Would you be proud of them or not?
Or don’t you really know?...
But here’s another question
Which requires a different view
If you could meet your ancestors
Would they be proud of you?”

Nellie Winslow Simmons Randall

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The Diane Christensen Story

“No one specific got me interested in genealogy. I always wanted to take pictures since I was say, 10 years old. I always gathered family together for photos during holidays or parties, etc. Eventually I began writing down who everyone was, dates of birth, etc. After college I started actually researching and looking for family information. I remember being at my grandmother’s and asking her for some information & she took me upstairs and showed me a detailed family tree she had mapped out from her memory of her family who came from Germany. I had never known she was interested in genealogy until then. I believe she was very happy to know I was interested in our family tree and gave me her hand written tree.”

Diane thinks she officially began doing genealogy around the age of 17, but had stopped for over 25 years as career and raising a family took over.

“When I retired to help care for my parents, I had time on my hands and started again after seeing a sale on DNA through Ancestry.com. I asked my parents if they would be willing to provide samples and they agreed. I was hooked again! My original tree containing over 500 people I had on a floppy disk using Family Tree Maker (FTM). I had that put onto a CD at one point, but I could not find it in 2017. It was sad to realize all the obituaries I was looking up to start over, of all the great aunts and great uncles I had personally known who had passed/died by then. I started over with my tree on Ancestry.com and later actually found my original FTM tree saved onto my computer! Woohoo!”

Diane is not exactly sure how long she has been a member of MPAFUG, but thinks it may have been since 2018 or 2019. She had started a book club after retiring and learned that 2 of the ladies were also interested in genealogy. One of those ladies heard about the free genealogy workshop held in October at the Family History Center which is how they learned about MPAFUG.

“I live in the Racine area and sure wish they had a genealogy group too, so it would be closer, but MPAFUG is so informative.”

Diane is researching both sides of her family as well as her husband’s. She is also researching her father-in-law’s biological family.

“Through DNA matches I have spoken with and met some new relatives and we have happily shared with each other what we have. This has helped me fill in a family line of a sibling of my 3rd great-grandfather as well as a sibling line of my 2nd great-grandfather!”

Diane was also given the name and contact information of her father’s first cousin and learned that he had been “bequeathed” the family tree researched by his aunt, her great aunt. That aunt had traveled to Ireland several times in researching Diane’s paternal line, McKenna, as well as the cousin’s paternal line. Diane and her dad’s cousin, Tom W, had tried for 8 months to arrange a weekend get together, with the agreeable date set for March 2020, but of course Covid changed that. Diane learned that a niece is interested in the family history as well and through her met another woman who had researched Diane’s great-grandmother’s full line and shared it with her.

According to Diane, “There are just not enough hours in the day to get all the pictures and family information done!”

Although she has not traveled far, Diane has gone on a few road trips. In the summer of 2019, she was able to visit her paternal 3rd great-grandfather’s original homestead as well as gravesites in the Town of Moscow in Iowa County, WI. In October of 2019, she also found her maternal 3rd great-grandfather’s homestead in Manitowoc County, WI and was able to walk through it only a few weeks before it was torn down.

As for surprises, Diane said that while growing up her father and his siblings always talked about their grandfather (Diane’s paternal great-grandfather) having run away with the upstairs maid/nanny for the 4 children. According to Tom W, Diane’s great-grandfather actually had a baby girl with that upstairs maid, but was still living in the same house as the man’s wife and children in 1911. The following year her great-grandfather moved all 8 of them to St. Louis. Her great-grandmother suspected that the plan was to leave her and her children in this new town with no other family nearby and run

off with the nanny so she returned to Wisconsin. Diane's great-grandmother moved into a home on her father's property and sold bread she made to try to support herself and her children. Tom W knew that Diane's great-grandfather and the nanny had 2 more children, boys, but no one knew where the family had moved to.

That was quite the surprise, but thanks to Ancestry.com DNA Diane got another when she was messaged by a woman who was a match to her father, herself and her brother. The woman asked if Diane recognized the name Francis E. McKenna or Madge Leyland. Of course, that was her great-grandfather and the nanny. Francis, who went by Eugene, and Madge were this woman's grandparents. Diane spoke to her and learned that her great-grandfather had changed his name to Francis E. McKay, known as Frank. That was in 1912 so Diane doubts that it was a legal name change, but did learn that he had another daughter and two sons who had the McKay surname. She does not know the name on the oldest daughter's birth certificate but believes she went by McKay as well. Diane's new half-cousin, Patricia M, had heard from her uncle Jimmy, one of the sons, that they might be McKenna's. That is why Patricia reached out after the DNA match. Since then, Diane has filled in most of her paternal great-grandfather's second family, although they are "illegitimate" as he and his first wife never divorced.

Obviously, that was a great find but Diane also found the biological family of her husband's grandfather through a DNA match to him. Her father-in-law was the product of an affair his father had. To complicate matters he was born 10 days before one of his father's grandchildren.

Like most of us, Diane has hit brick walls. She has not been able to find her 3rd great-grandfather or his wife before they left Ireland for America. She admits that she has difficulty reading most of the Irish records. Her hope is that when she can get together with her cousin Tom, he has some physical information to share from that family tree and won't just be relying on memory.

Diane has done some research in Ireland, but also has German ancestry which she has not started to explore yet. She has gone back to the late 1700's and early 1800's mostly researching her 3rd great-grandparents. She hopes to find the birth and marriage records for those 3rd great-grandparents in Ireland and Germany. She would also like to find records for their parents and siblings as well as find where they lived and any pictures. Information on the sibling lines of her 2nd great-grandfather would be another area Diane would hope to uncover.

When talking about discovering her great-grandfather's second family, Diane said it was "mind-blowing" to have found all of it out. It truly was an amazing and fascinating story and just goes to show what might be lurking in a family history. Thanks so much for sharing that Diane!!

If you would like to submit your story, please email Louise Stack at: kilostack@att.net for the member spotlight questions.

There are 12 basic questions to answer about your genealogy story, but beyond that you are free to tell your story any way you wish. All the stories are unique and interesting, but also give other members research hints and hope that they too will find their ancestors.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

February 10, 2021

How to Convert Slides, Film and Video to Digital Images (Sam Colon)
MyHeritage (Bruce Butterfield)

March 10, 2021

Colorize and Enhance Photos (Bob Heck)
Divorce and Marriage (Randy Ray)

April 14, 2021

Why Join DAR, Mayflower Society or SAR (Randy Ray)
Researching Your Revolutionary War Ancestor (guest speaker Brian Barrett)

May 12, 2021

Reading Worn Headstones (Randy Ray)
Follow-up for presentations on Cemeteries,
Find-a-Grave and Family Tree Maker
(Randy Ray)

June 9, 2021

NOTE: We need to add two programs here.
Any volunteers?

July 14, 2021

Catholic Cemeteries, Milwaukee
Archdiocese, and Billion Graves
(Sam Colon)
Working on It (Randy Ray)

August 11, 2021

From Start to Finish (Cathy Dailey)
Understanding Street View in Google
(Randy Ray)

September 8, 2021

Primary & Secondary Documentation and
How to Source Them (Jane Orne)
NOTE: We need to add a program here.
Any volunteers?

If you would like to make a presentation or have a
suggestion for a meeting topic, please contact Bob
Heck at: bobheckmpafug@gmail.com.

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Steering committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month except in December. The meetings have historically been held at the Family History Center located at 9600 W. Grange Ave, Hales Corners, WI; however, due to the Covid 19 pandemic the meetings are currently being held via Zoom. 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 usually \$12 per calendar year for an individual or family. Dues are \$6 for the balance of a year if you join after June 30th. The year 2020 changed things for us all so in July the steering committee made a decision to give free membership to all current member for 2021. New members would still be asked to pay dues. Please send a check made payable to MPAFUG to:

Lynn Thrasher – MPAFUG Treasurer
PO Box 14222
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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.