



# NEWSLETTER

January 2022  
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## MEETING BITS AND BYTES

Upon reviewing the January 2021 newsletter in preparation for writing this 2022 edition, I realized that not much has changed. We are still in a pandemic with a scary new virus variant and bad things happening everywhere. Even the weather seems unusual.

Our wish is that our members are safe and healthy coming into the New Year and that you were able to celebrate the holidays with family and friends, even if more moderately than in the past.

## THE YEAR 2021 IN REVIEW

Unlike 2020 we were able to have scheduled meetings each month in 2021. Masks were still a necessary accessory for the first part of the year and then became more optional after members were vaccinated. We did notice attendance was up and down, the lowest at 16, the highest at 55 or 57, depending on whose count was most accurate. Our organization upgraded the sound system which included the use of handsfree headset microphones which Bob cleaned after each use. Each meeting was visually recorded and posted later so that if you weren't able to attend, you could still see and hear the presentations. We also welcomed Debbie Bluett as our new treasurer as well as several new members.

**January 13, 2021:** As has been tradition for a number of years, January is all about cyber security. The topics for this meeting were: **Password Security: Multi-factor Authentication** presented by **Sam Colon**. He did have some great advice, but who could forget that he started out his talk by singing "A Covid Christmas." **Bill Heck**, a

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JANUARY 2022

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*Security Presentation and Scams to Watch For (Bill Heck)*  
*Security Software Considerations (Sam Colon)*

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*January 12, 2022*  
*7:00 PM – New Berlin Ale House*  
*16000 West Cleveland Avenue*  
*New Berlin, WI 52151*

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professional cyber security specialist, gave the 2<sup>nd</sup> presentation on **What's New in Cyber Security**. With even hackers and criminals stuck at home because of the pandemic, 2020 saw a lot more cyber security hacks and attacks.

There were between 25-29 members in attendance plus one new member.

The Member Spotlight featured **Diane Christensen**.

**February 10, 2021:** The February meeting day was on the frigid side so there were only 16 members who braved the cold. For the first time, maybe ever, Bob Heck was not present since he had had cataract surgery. The topics for the evening were: **How to Convert Slides, Film and Video to Digital Images** presented by **Sam Colon** and **MyHeritage** presented by **Bruce Butterfield**. The Member Spotlight featured **Debbie Bluett**.

**March 10, 2021:** There were 34 members who came out for the March meeting to welcome **Bob Heck** back and learn about how to **Colorize, Enhance and Animate Photos**. Hey, the animation part was a bit creepy when Bob's GG grandfather started moving his lips, but it would be nice to meet our ancestors that way. **Randy Ray** gave the 2<sup>nd</sup> presentation on **Divorce and Marriage Records**.

The Member Spotlight featured **Mary Scopp**.

**April 14, 2021:** Our April meeting welcomed guest speaker **Brian Barrett** who came to show us how to **Research Our Revolutionary War Ancestors**. Brian came in a Revolutionary War style uniform like those worn by Federal troops. That always makes the topic seem more real and he had lots of information to share for the 38 members who attended.

The Member Spotlight featured **John Johnson**.

**May 12, 2021:** Our May meeting was the most well-attended of the year with either 55 or 57 members (depended on who counted). **Randy Ray** was the speaker for the evening first with his presentation on **Reading Worn Headstones** followed by **Updates on Previous Topics including Cemeteries, Find-A-Grave, Divorce and Marriage Records and Family Tree Maker**. He also had a list of Vintage Health Terms which would help with cause of death in your research.

The Member Spotlight featured **Carol Koty**.

**June 9, 2021:** Forty-six members attended the June meeting. **Jo Kinzinger** gave a presentation on **Family Tree Magazine and Genealogy.com**. **Cathy Dailey** followed with her presentation on **Alternative Resources to Fill in the Dash** which meant the time between an ancestor's birth and death. Both ladies gave us new perspectives on how to research with resources we may never have tried.

The Member Spotlight featured **Chuck Johnson**.

**July 14, 2021:** There were 25 members who came to the July meeting which had 2 varied presentations. **Sam Colon** took us into **Cemetery Research, Milwaukee Archdiocese Records and Billion Graves** while **Randy Ray** took us into **Immigration and Departure Records**.

The Member Spotlight featured **Jo Kinzinger**.

**August 11, 2021:** This meeting was the first one as our new treasurer for **Debbie Bluett**. There were 21 members on hand to meet her. Again, the presentations were somewhat varied. **Randy Ray** took us on a ride, literally, in **Understanding Street View in Google Maps and Smart Phone Maps**. **Cathy Dailey** then took us to research in **Obituaries, Death Notices and Funeral Homes**. Cathy can make any presentation come "alive," even death records, so no dozing when she's talking.

The Member Spotlight featured **Sam Bastian**.

**September 8, 2021:** A member favorite – Show and Tell night which drew in 44 members. The presenters and topics were:

**Sam Colon – Field Promotion**

**Randy Ray – Tintypes**

**Carl Micech – A Note from Grandfather**

**Carol Pountain – Stuff Found in an Obit**

**Bob Heck – Civil War Discharge Papers**

**Dave Komassa – Polish Lancers Book**

**Ken Artlip – Buried State Pauper**

All the presentations were excellent, but the fan favorite had to be the headstone Ken carted in. **Randy Ray** also had a hands-on display of tintypes. The Member Spotlight featured **June Rinka**.

**October 13, 2021:** Thirty-one members attended this meeting. Interestingly, both presentations for October were changed from the original schedule. It seems only grave markers are set in stone. **Bob Tatalovich** gave a presentation about researching **Online Death Records**. Originally, he was going to include other vital records available online, but realized there was so much that he stuck with just the death records.

The April meeting had a guest speaker who showed us how to research Revolutionary War ancestors. Originally, **Randy Ray** was going to give a presentation at that meeting on **How and Why Join the DAR, DAC, SAR or Mayflower Society**, but it was moved to this month because Brian Barrett's talk was so extensive.

**Sam Colon** also gave a 10-minute briefing on Windows 11 which was being launched this month. The Member Spotlight featured **Eileen Zinda Winger**.

**November 10, 2021:** There were 25 members who came to hear **Jane Orne's** presentation on **Documenting Your Sources** and **Cathy Dailey's** presentation on **Property Records: Discovering the Hidden Gems**. Both of these ladies have given many talks over the years and always have the best research tips and they always add a little something new to keep you on your toes.

**Randy Ray** also had an update on **Find-A-Grave**. The Member Spotlight featured **James Fiedler**.

**December 2021:** Historically there are no meetings in December so the newsletter was the holiday edition which did include **Traditional Holiday Greetings from Around the World**. Perhaps you even recognized or learned your family's greeting. The Member Spotlight featured **Sandy Zodrow**.

Bob Heck sent out an email on December 20<sup>th</sup> regarding the passing of member Carole Evans. You may remember her because she gave 2 Show and Tell presentations. There were 2 notable finds she mentioned; one was that a female relative had 3 Super Bowl rings from the Pittsburgh Steelers and the other was that she had a connection to the Roosevelt family. Her last presentation was in September titled "Don't Ignore Those Twigs" in which she had some wonderful advice. We'll miss her.

## WHAT'S ON THE JANUARY SCHEDULE

January has always been reserved for presentations on the various forms of cyber security and related issues. Bill Heck and Sam Colon have been our go to speakers for this topic and they will continue this year. Even if you have heard them in the past, they always have new and pertinent information to share. Bill Heck is going to focus on scams, which by the way, have been increasing and becoming more sophisticated. Sam Colon will give tips on what security systems might be the best for you and what might help keep you safe from scammers.

### A QUOTE TO PONDER:

"You know you're a genealogist when you've considered putting a family tree chart on your tombstone."

*Unknown*

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The Walt Hadcock Story

Walt Hadcock started his genealogy journey when he was young.

"I was a teenager, over 60 years ago, when my mother tried to tell me about her roots (Springfield, Massachusetts, 8+generations) and my grandfather tried to share with me the results of his efforts (England, post WWI) in tracing our surname roots (unsuccessful at that time). Grandfather had a presumed coat of arms in color and a print block I used to make my "own" letterhead stationery showing the presumed coat of arms.

At about the same time, a distant "shoestring" relative was pursuing his own personal family trees that intersected ours. He provided my parents a draft manuscript of his efforts to catalog "all" the Americans with the same surname.

So, I was hooked at an early age and pursued genealogy as a hobby on an intermittent basis for many decades thereafter."

Walt has been a longtime member of MPAFUG, but isn't sure specifically how long. He does have notes going back to 2002 so at least 20 years, although he is only able to attend a meeting about once a year. Walt finds our group interesting, but has a conflict with another activity on the same evening.

Like many of us, Walt began with simple paper records, but did graduate to using PAF. He isn't sure exactly how he heard about MPAFUG, but believes he came to his first meeting to gain some insight on using PAF. Although he started with PAF, Walt moved on to other fee-based products and now uses Legacy.

Besides his ancestors, Walt has done research on his wife's side so says he has complete records for 10+ generations of the combined 4x trees as well as several more trees of close in-laws.

"Additionally, I have done a dozen or so major 'projects' for others unrelated, but very interesting."

Walt had the experience of providing details of his genealogy with several relatives, but since he didn't receive much feedback, his sharing became minimal. Some of us have also had a similar experience.

"I do have a connection with an English family who emigrated to NYC as an intact group in the 1960's, who are still connected with their cousins 'back home.' We have attempted to find our common ancestor, to no avail (yet). We are back 10+ generations and feel we may be getting close. They have frequent interactions with their cousins still in England, and I have corresponded with several."

"Grandfather paid an English consultant he met while in England prior to WWI to search for a connection. They took his money, and later claimed by mail there was no known connection. It is now possible via internet searches to find church and other records with the same surname to early 1600."

"We have lived nearly 50 years in one of the early Mequon farmhouses. I'm still working on details of the original family and their descendants, with a few hundred names throughout SE Wisconsin. I recently began clarifying the ownership succession of all the properties in Section 20. We live on a

dead-end street, but know all the neighbors, so I think the result will have a small audience of interest."

Although not in his own ancestral line, Walt did get a surprise when he helped a friend who wanted to know where their father was born. It took a few years, but Walt was able to make a connection. Originally, it was thought he had lived in Yugoslavia, but with time, patience, language translations and a lot of research, Walt found that it was actually Slovenia. The success came when Walt made contact with a young lady whose grandmother was a first cousin of his friend. That young lady, Katarina, along with her parents and a younger sister, made a trip to America to visit so Walt was able to meet them. Katarina is now in medical school.

Before his Slovenia case, but again helping someone else, Walt had his "best find." He had been contacted by a man he had never met, but who shared a 12-point DNA match with him. That man was searching for his grandfather, who had been adopted as an orphan. The man's interest was to be able to share this with his own father who was a noted Air Force test pilot. In the end, Walt was successful in finding the test pilot's true blood relatives but not before discovering some sad details about the birth mother.

Like just about all of us, Walt has hit his share of brick walls. One involves both his father's (WWII) and his grandfather's (WWI) military service. They both served in the Canadian military and served in Europe.

"I have been unable to reconstruct their adventures, in part because they were both career YMCA leaders. The Brit/Canadian forces differ from what we find familiar in the notion of the USO – our efforts have them as a separate group of volunteers that travel alongside the military, but the English tradition has the equivalent group embedded within the active forces. So, it is a minor unit in the grand scheme of things, and records at that level of detail elude me."

Walt does go back to research English records every several years. He finds that the data does continue to grow and that his own research skills improve

over time. However, he has not been able to go back another generation for the NYC family. He also has not had any success using DNA in his work unlike his first cousin who has been able to make a connection between the ancestor who immigrated and their English clan.

Walt's research has mostly been in the US, Canada, England, Germany and lesser Slovenia. He has gone back to 1704 for his father's line and 1642 for his mother's. Both his wife and he have DAR connections on multiple lines. He even has a Mayflower connection as well as some crossover connections such as his wife's sister's husband being his 12th cousin. An interesting tidbit is that he has a Colonial Dames connection from his paternal grandmother whose name was Wyckoff. "The oldest manmade building within roughly a 30-mile radius of the Statue of Liberty is the original Wyckoff homestead circa 1652."

With all that he has already uncovered, Walt has now become more interested in the stories or characters in his family tree. He has found a copy of the text of his Great-Grand Aunt's diary with her experiences homesteading in NW Michigan during the Civil War. Her husband worked as a lumberjack and in construction of the transcontinental railroad.

"He is said to be in the famous photo from the Promontory Point/Golden Spike meeting: he came from California, allegedly driving the locomotive on the left of the photo."

Another interesting tidbit Walt shared is that one of his ancestor's received a pension for his work as a spy during the Revolutionary War.

Walt ended with a quote he saw on a t-shirt; "I think I shall never see ... a completed genealogy." And he says that there is always something new to pursue.

Walt also says:

"My compliments to Bob and the club leadership. The number of members remains high, and the activities draw interest nearly every month. The resources provided are an excellent value for the annual cost."

Thanks for the compliments, Walt – always good to know we are appreciated! Thanks also for sharing your genealogical adventures.

If you would like to submit your story, please email Louise Stack at: [kilostack@att.net](mailto: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 9, 2022

Police Records in Europe (Randy Ray)  
Permission to Leave Europe (Bob Heck)

### March 9, 2022

1950 U.S. Census Records (Bob Tatalovich)  
Determining Enumeration Districts (Bob Tatalovich)

### April 13, 2022

How to Organize Your Photos in Windows for Free (Randy Ray)  
Wisconsin's Past (Ken Artlip)

### May 11, 2022

Free Resources at the Family History Center (John Canapa)

The following are the dates for the remainder of 2022, however, we are still planning topics for the meetings. As always, volunteers are always welcome to give presentations on any genealogical topic.

### June 8, 2022

### July 13, 2022

### August 10, 2022

### September 14, 2022

### October 12, 2022

### November 9, 2022

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

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Lynn Thrasher  
John Canapa  
Steve Gulgowski  
Randy Ray

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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.

## 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

### STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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## 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 30<sup>th</sup>. 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 and 2022. New members would still be asked to pay dues. Please send a check made payable to MPAFUG to:

Deborah A. Bluett– MPAFUG Treasurer  
PO Box 229  
Delavan, WI 53115-0229

### **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.