



# NEWSLETTER

January 2023  
Volume 2023 Issue 1

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## JANUARY 2023

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*Computer Security – What You Should or Should Not Be  
Doing (Bill Heck)*

*Latest Recommendations on Security Software  
(Sam Colon)*

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*Next meeting January 11, 2023  
7:00 PM – New Berlin Ale House  
16000 West Cleveland Avenue  
New Berlin, WI 52151*

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## MEETING BITS AND BYTES

We hope that all our members had a happy and healthy start to the new year of 2023. The holidays are over and the decorations put away. Are you ready to get back to genealogy and our monthly meetings?

## THE YEAR 2022 IN REVIEW

### January 12, 2022:

Covid wasn't quite done with us yet as a new variant had emerged – Omicron. That might have affected attendance as there were only 25 members present.

We started our new meeting year off with the usual cyber security updates. Sam Colon first gave a presentation on **Windows 11**. He was followed by Bill Heck who had a lot to share on: **Security breaches, passwords & databases, multi-factor authentication, scams, phishing, sms text messages, advanced scams and credit freezes**. The Member Spotlight shone on Walt Hadcock.

### February 9, 2022:

This meeting was devoted to what people needed to do to leave Europe. Twenty-seven members came to hear Randy Ray's presentation on **Police Records in Europe** followed by Bob Heck with **Permission to Leave Europe**.

As a bonus Randy gave a wedding photo slideshow. The Member Spotlight shone on Eileen Thrower.

### March 16, 2022:

This meeting was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday instead of the usual 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday due to a booking error on the part of the New Berlin Ale House. Despite that, 50 members made it to the meeting to hear about the upcoming release of the 1950 census. Bob Tatalovich had the entire

meeting, first with the general topic of **1950 Census Records** followed by **Determining Enumeration Districts in the 1950 Census**.

Bob Heck started off the meeting by demonstrating a new technology available through MyHeritage which had his long-deceased great-grandfather “talking” about his life.

The Member Spotlight shone on Scott Sterry.

#### **April 13, 2022:**

Member Ken Artlip was the guest speaker for the April meeting with his presentation on **Old World Wisconsin**. There were 29 members who attended. Ken had been a full-time employee at Old World Wisconsin so was very knowledgeable about its history and what there is to see and do there. Even Bob Heck who has been there several times said he learned a lot.

The Member Spotlight shone on Ken Artlip.

#### **May 11, 2022:**

Forty-three members attended the May meeting. Randy Ray was the first presenter with **How to Use Newspapers.com**. His tip was not to overlook this resource when researching your family history.

Bob Heck then took us to **FamilySearch Unindexed Files**. Of course, unindexed really means unsearchable, but Bob was able to show us how to use Images or Catalog to find your ancestors or where they lived.

The Member Spotlight shone on Karen Johnson.

#### **June 8, 2022:**

Sam Colon was the first speaker taking us into **MyHeritage DNA.com Options** which included DNA transfer and voice animation. Sam is a fan of MyHeritage because it has an extremely large database. Bob Heck also made a presentation on **Free Resources at the Family History Center**.

Thirty-four members attended this meeting.

The Member Spotlight shone on Janet Geronime.

#### **July 13, 2022:**

Bob Tatalovich and Randy Ray were the presenters for this meeting. There were 45 members who came to hear Bob’s advice for using **YouTube Videos for Genealogy**. He used the 1950 census as an example and also suggested FamilySearch and Ancestry webinars. Randy Ray’s presentation was

#### **How to Organize Your Photos Without Spending a Dime.**

The Member Spotlight shone on Annette Eliason.

#### **August 10, 2022:**

An odd occurrence, a solar storm, had occurred on August 7<sup>th</sup> which affected communications. Luckily, nothing dramatic happened at our meeting. Forty members attended this meeting which featured Randy Ray showing us what resources are available at the **UW Milwaukee Gold Meir Library**. Bob Miller followed Randy with his presentation on the **Stephen Morse Website for Genealogy**.

The Member Spotlight shone on Jean Micech

#### **September 14, 2022:**

The first half of this meeting was a presentation by Randy Ray on **Computer Tricks and Hacks** which included lots of suggestions for using Google for your genealogy. The 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the meeting was devoted to our members for suggestions of what types of programs/presentations they would like. Thirty-five members came to share their ideas. The Member Spotlight shone on Jeri Jackson.

#### **October 12, 2022:**

It was a weird day all around as there had been tornadoes earlier in the day. Then Russell Horton from the WI Veterans Museum in Madison was scheduled to speak at this meeting; however, he called in sick with Covid-like symptoms. Bob Heck moved up from his 2<sup>nd</sup> place spot to share how to use **Facebook Groups for Genealogy**. To fill in the time for the rest of the meeting, Randy Ray shared some of his research tales. Thirty-nine members attended.

The Member Spotlight shone on Luan Kurriger.

#### **November 9, 2022:**

This was our annual **Member Show and Tell** meeting. There were 35 members for this meeting.

The presenters were:

Randy Ray – Tyrolean Bells

Debbie Bluett – Great-grandma Willich’s Quilt

Susie Staats – Lumberjack Ancestors

Joan Hepp – Historical Maps

Louise Stack – Grandma’s Autograph Book

Bob Heck – Photos Found in Strange Places

The Member Spotlight shone on Lynne Jossart.

## WHAT'S ON THE JANUARY SCHEDULE

Our January meeting has always been all about computer security so we will continue the tradition this year. Bob Heck's son, Bill Heck, will be here again to tell us some do's and don'ts when it comes to your computer security. He is a professional hacker so has a wealth of information to share. Sam Colon is our member geek so will follow Bill Heck and get us up to date on security software. Even if you think your system is doing well, you could still learn a few new tricks from these 2 speakers.

## STEERING COMMITTEE NOTES

The steering committee meetings will resume on January 18, 2023.

## COMMENTS AND THANK YOU'S

Thanks to all of you members who have renewed your dues for 2023. So far, our treasurer, Debbie Bluett, has received 186 renewals.

## A QUOTE TO PONDER:

*"A clean home is a sign of a wasted day of genealogy."*

*Unknown*

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

Have you renewed yet? MPAFUG membership dues for 2023 should be sent in to Treasurer Debbie Bluett. Please note that although Debbie has been the treasurer for a while now, this is her **first-time** collecting dues so please **BE KIND** and **PATIENT**. Dues are \$12 for the year and can be sent to Debbie at the address listed at the end of this newsletter.

If you have been enjoying the video recordings of the monthly meetings or periodic genealogical notes from Bob Heck, just be aware that if you do not

renew your dues, your name would be removed from the email list.

## REMINDERS

**The Family History Center** is open Thursdays and Saturdays.

Thursday hours: 8:30AM – 3:30PM and  
6:30PM – 9:00PM

Saturday hours: 10:00AM – 1:00PM

On Thursday evenings Bob Heck and Randy Ray are the volunteers on duty who will assist you in your research.

There are numerous Portal systems available for free use at the center, some of which you may not have tried from home because they come with a cost but could be of use for your research. Ancestry, Fold3, Newspapers.com among others that charge, are available free at the center. If you need help with your research, this is the place to go.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The Joan Hepp Story

Joan began her genealogy story in 1977, basically pushed into it when her son was diagnosed with a medical condition and the doctors wanted to know the family history. She didn't know anything so had to start "digging."

Although she is a newer member of MPAFUG, Joan is a charter member of the Waukesha Genealogy group and a group in Milwaukee. She has actually gone to Salt Lake City 5 times for her research as the Milwaukee group would go every other year to Salt Lake and the National Archives.

According to Joan, her family trees are "immense." She has 8 trees for her mother's family, 10 for her father's family. "Each grandmother, maternal and paternal, came from families of 13 each. "I have 51 ring binders in my workroom – all but 11 are from my families."

Joan is currently researching many, many ancestors. She recently received a notice via Ancestry DNA that she has 8,185 persons throughout the world that connect to her. Now she is trying to get her late husband's family in Ancestry.com and some of his cousins are helping with that. She is also working on her father's family, both maternal and paternal. Joan has a little extra help when she needs it as she is related to MPAFUG member Randy Ray through marriage.

"I have many photos, maps, name descriptions, old German scripts from films the Mormons have. The Mormons let me copy almost 5 films because they were all of my Ziemer family."

Surprises? "Discovering new cousins, some I don't care to know."

Joan's best find came during a complaint about a certain hospital. The clinical director interviewed Joan and afterwards Joan learned that she and the other woman, also named Joan, had common relatives in the Oconto, WI area.

On a sadder note, Joan learned that her husband's great-great-grandfather lost 6 or 7 of his 13 children within 2 weeks due to scarlet fever in the late 1800's. This ancestor was instrumental in starting Waukesha, WI.

The countries that Joan is searching are Pommern, Germany and Ireland. So far, she has gone back to 1633 on her mother's side in Germany, 1764 on her father's side in Germany and 1815 on her husband's side in Germany.

The names Joan is researching are:  
Ziemer, Kittler, Bergin, Prochnow, Tiegs, Timm, Hasselfeld, Schroeder/Schrader, Schluz, Nete, Hepp, Ross, Petry, Sallade/Lalade, Blattner, Spregner, Eber, Beebe.

Joan is hoping to find the connection between 5 Hepps who she suspects are uncles or nephews. She would also like to prove that her 2 grandmothers were distant cousins from the 1700's when her Tieg and Ziemer ancestors intermarried. One of her ancestor's names, Hasselfeld, was changed five times and Joan would like to prove if they were of Jewish descent.

"I think I have my work cut out for me until the day I die – I hope to live to 100 still doing this genealogy."

Good luck with that research Joan and making it to your milestone 100<sup>th</sup> birthday!

An amusing branch of the family tree from Ellen Kuchta:

"I have been working on my family tree since the mid-eighties. I have been a member of MPAFUG for a good, long time too, and have learned a lot about computers and genealogy in this friendly group.

With many family lines going back to colonial New England, I have found some interesting ancestors, and this is one line that came out of Salem, Massachusetts.

Reverend Samuel Skelton and wife Susanna are the parents of Mary Skelton who married Lt. Nathaniel Felton and became the parents of Nathaniel Felton, Jr. Nathaniel Felton Jr. married wife Ann Horne, and they had a son they named Skelton Felton. Skelton Felton married Hepzibah Sheldon, and they were the parents of Lydia. The next generation, going through Lydia, who married Ebenezer Foster, named one of their children Skelton Foster. That was the last I ever heard of the Skeltons."

That's a lot of Skeltons Ellen! Thanks for sharing.

John Johnson shared his Member Spotlight story in April 2021. Recently he sent in a couple of comments and a request for help.

John finds it interesting to read all the other stories that have been published in the MPAFUG newsletter. BUT he has found himself in a conundrum and is looking for advice on how and what to do with all that he has accumulated during his gathering and searching for ancestors. He thinks he can fill a small room with everything he has. He

has already made 3 binders, but has much more to do and is finding it overwhelming.

“No one can do it for me because I want to include stories from all that I can, to let the generations or the generations after, get to know the people I write about, and me and my family. I just need the motivation to start.”

“Does this sound familiar to anyone else? If so, please share your story so I may find out just what I must do to get me off my rear and get the project started. It will be a huge project, but time is running out. I need to know what you did to get the ball rolling and your determination to finish the project. Help!”

If you can offer John Johnson any advice, please contact him at: [4jolicito@tds.net](mailto:4jolicito@tds.net)

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### February 2023

Plat Maps (Randy Ray) (#12 on member suggested topics)

What You Can Learn from Roots Tech 2023\* (Bob Miller)

\*Please note the actual virtual conference is March 2-4,2023; however, you are now able to register for free at:

<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/event/rt2023>

### March 8, 2023

Flash drives, Auto Backup on External Drives and How to Upload & Download (Randy Ray) (#1,3 & 4 on member suggested topics)

Ship Records, Images, Passenger Lists, Other Ports in the USA and Canada and Where to Find Them (Bob Heck) (#11 &14 on member suggested topics)

### April 12, 2023

Understanding DNA in Simple Terms (Randy Ray) (#16 on member suggested topics)

Canadian and French-Canadian Research (Bob Heck) (#8 on member suggested topics)

### May 10, 2023

System Mechanics with live demo (Sam Colon) (#7 on member suggested topics)

GEDCOM: How to create one branch, how to Share with Others and how to view it with a GED Viewer type program (Randy Ray) (#10 on member suggested topics)

### June 14, 2023 (Working on It)

### July 12, 2023 (Working on It)

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).

## About This Newsletter

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Members interested in submitting articles may e-mail them to [bobheckmpafug@gmail.com](mailto:bobheckmpafug@gmail.com). 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

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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.**

**For 2023 new membership or renewal:**

**Please send a check for \$12.00 made payable to MPAFUG to:**

**Deborah A. Bluett – MPAFUG Treasurer  
PO Box 229**

**Delavan, WI 53115-0229**

**Please include with your check, your Name, Mailing Address, email Address and Phone Number.**

**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.