



NEWSLETTER

June 2022
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MEETING BITS AND BYTES

It's a sure sign of Wisconsin weather when you don't know how to dress for a meeting – shorts or long pants, sweater or jacket, sandals or closed shoe. The bright side of spring and summer is that you can drive to the meeting in daylight. For the May 11th meeting there were 43 members who came and one new member/guest. We welcomed Joan Hepp from West Bend who happened to be Randy Ray's cousin through marriage.

The meeting got off to a rocky start with Bob Heck struggling to get the mic system working properly. It took a few minutes but he was successful so Randy Ray began the evening presentations with *How to Use Newspapers.com*. But, before he got started on that topic, Randy filled us in on his most recent train excursion to Kansas City to further his genealogy research. Not to be outdone by Bob Heck's past demonstration of his great-great-grandfather "talking" about his life, Randy showed an animated version of Thomas Jefferson singing. He also promised that next month it would be Napoleon singing "It's a Small World."

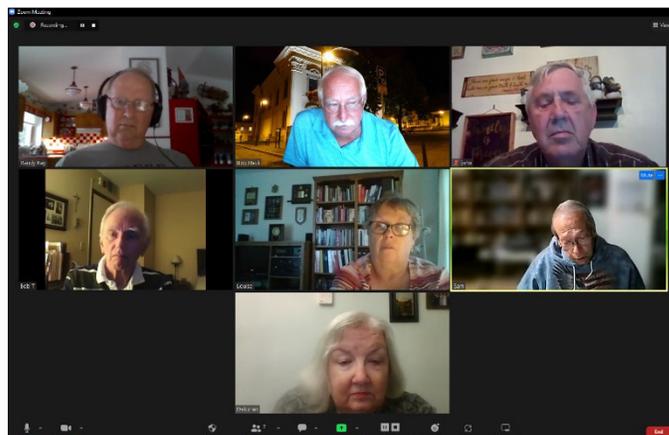
According to Randy, Newspapers.com is the place to go if you are looking for newspaper articles while researching your family. There are other sources as well, but Randy has found those to be more time consuming – too much clicking to get where you want. Randy had a number of samples of what he has found in newspapers including: an article about a relative who killed his parents, another who was murdered back in 1877 and a picture of his mother with her wedding announcement. Randy did warn us that we might find things we didn't want to know, but still a great research source.

JUNE 2022

*Free Resources at the Family History Center Library
(Bob Heck)*
*MyHeritage DNA Transfer and Voice Animation (Sam
Colon)*

*June 8, 2022
7:00 PM – New Berlin Ale House
16000 West Cleveland Avenue
New Berlin, WI 52151*

STEERING COMMITTEE NOTES



Your MPAFUG steering committee held a zoom meeting on May 18, 2022. The following members attended:

Randy Ray, Bob Heck, John Canapa
Bob Tatalovich, Louise Stack, Sam Colon
Debbie Bluett

The meeting began with finance updates. Bob Heck and Debbie Bluett informed the group that a payment had been made to Zoom and Debbie advised that the opportunity table proceeds for the May meeting were \$146. We also confirmed the upcoming reinstatement of dues for 2023.

Sam Colon gave a report on the opportunity table offerings for the June meeting:
Canon Lide Scanner
Olympus Digital Voice Recorder
Dlink WiFi Signal Extender

Sam also mentioned that MyHeritage is based in Tel Aviv, but has a large office in Ukraine. Due to the current situation, it could cause a problem for those using MyHeritage.

Bob Heck and Randy Ray commented that they had 5 people during their shift at the Family History Center on Thursday, May 12.

Louise Stack brought up the Member Spotlight column in the monthly newsletter. The last volunteer story will be in the June newsletter so, if the column is to continue, more volunteers are needed. Bob Heck will send out a request for more

Bob Heck gave the second presentation on *FamilySearch Unindexed Files*. This is another potential source for you to find your family or perhaps see where they came from. Although unindexed basically means unsearchable according to Bob, he says your ancestors are in there and managed to show us a few ways to find information. He concentrated mostly on the Images option under Search on FamilySearch, but did also touch on the Catalog option. Bob shared an example of finding the 1828 land tax records for his 3X great-grandfather. A great tip he shared was for naturalization records in Wisconsin between 1807-1992 listed by county other than Milwaukee. Bob demonstrated how he searched for a Polish town named Lesno, but found it listed as West Prussia. He did a search for his ancestral village in the Czech Republic and turned up 475 images. Bob did note that some images can only be viewed at a Family History Center, particularly certain records in Germany such as Jewish records. Certainly, worth looking into this underutilized resource.

WHAT'S ON THE JUNE SCHEDULE

Bob Heck will be stepping in for John Canapa, the Director of the Hales Corners Family History Center, to let us know all the resources that are available to you for free there. Some of those databases are free at the FHC, but would cost you if you were to subscribe to them from home such as Ancestry, Fold3 and Newspapers.com.

For the second part of the evening Sam Colon is going to give us step by step instructions on uploading your DNA to MyHeritage from other sites such as Ancestry. He will also be showing us the free services they have available for your research. Since Bob Heck has already given us a taste of how it would be to have an ancestor “talk” to us, Sam is also going to delve further into the topic of voice animation in MyHeritage.

volunteers to submit their stories. Louise will also make a notation in the newsletter.

Lastly, a couple of minor changes were made to the Upcoming Programs as well as a discussion of a potential guest speaker for October or November.

A QUOTE TO PONDER:

“The truth of the matter is that you always know the right thing to do. The hard part is doing it.”

Norman Schwartzkopf

REMINDERS

June 14th is Flag Day, a day when the American flag should be proudly displayed. It dates back to 1777 when the design was first approved for our national flag. Historically, it represents freedom.



June 14th, 2022 is also the United States Army's 247th birthday. For you Army veterans out there – don't forget to have a piece of cake!



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

*** This could be the last Member Spotlight Column as we have run out of volunteers to share their story. Please consider submitting your unique story.**

The Karen Johnson Story

Karen became interested in genealogy because there were so many relatives on her mother's side and the family spoke of them often. She has been researching for more than 20 years and has been a member of MPAFUG for about that same amount of time.

Although she is single so only has her family to research, Karen has shared her finds as well as helped many other family members.

“I have shared with my cousins on both sides of my family and have researched or helped them research the other side of their families. I also shared with cousins in Europe and cousins I found on the FamilySearch Tree and through Ancestry DNA.”

Karen has taken several road trips, here and in Europe. One trip was to New York where she found that there weren't many records available. She has been to Baden, Germany twice and visited with 3rd cousins there. She has been to the archives

in Liestal, Switzerland and researched at the War Archives in Vienna while on a non-genealogy trip. Karen also took a trip with German Bohemian Heritage Society to the Czech Republic.

According to Karen she has not had any especially big surprises, but has had a lot of little ones. She has also had some good finds, but says she doesn't think she can rank them.

"The first find was the Christening record of my great-grandmother's brother. When I received the film at the Family History Center, I wondered what I had gotten myself into because of the old script. I learned to read it and found the births of my great-grandmother and ten of her siblings.

I found the names of my father's grandparents by sending for his parents' social security application." Karen also discovered the portafontium.eu website which had the records from Bohemia.

"I spent a lot of time on that last summer when I could not access many of the German records."

Of course, brick walls come with any genealogical research so Karen has hit those too. One is information about her paternal grandmother's family. So far all she has found is her birth record in 1879 and the family on the 1880 census. Karen is also missing a birth record for her father's half-sister and a marriage record for his parents.

The countries that Karen has been researching for her family are Germany (Baden and West Prussia) and Bohemian Austria. The United States is her primary focus. For her cousin's families Karen has done a bit of research in Canada, Denmark and England. A few of her records have gone back to the 1600's.

What Karen still hopes to find is information about her paternal grandmother's family. She would also like to go further back with her paternal grandfather's side, but has not been able to find church records for western New York State.

Thanks Karen! Your travels are so inspiring and your family surely appreciates your research help. Good luck getting over those brick walls.

If you would like to submit your story, please email Louise Stack at: kilostack@att.net and put Member Spotlight in the subject line.

There are the 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.

The Member Spotlight questions have recently been updated:

1. Who or what got you interested in genealogy?
2. How long have you been doing your genealogy research? How long have you been a member of MPAFUG?
3. How big is your family tree?
4. How many ancestors are you researching? Are you working with or sharing with another relative?
5. Do you have any special photographs or memorabilia?
6. Have you gone on any road trips for your research? Where? Did you find what you were looking for?
7. Have you had any surprises?
8. What is your best find?
9. Have you hit any brick walls?
10. What countries have you been researching?
11. How far back have you gone?
12. What are you hoping to find?

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

July 13, 2022

How to Organize Your Photos (Randy Ray)
YouTube Videos for Genealogy Research
(Bob Tatalovich)

August 10, 2022

UW Milwaukee Golda Meir Library Digital Map
Collection, Microfilm and Archives (Randy Ray)
Stephen P. Morse Website (Bob Miller)

September 14, 2022

Simple Computer Tricks for Genealogy:
How to Keep Your Computer Clean of Junk Files.
Google, Google Translate, Zoom and Computer
Tricks (Randy Ray)
Open Discussion with Members: What would you
like us to present at MPAFUG meetings?

October 12, 2022

World War II Genealogy (Russell Horton)
Facebook Groups for Family History (Bob Heck)

November 9, 2022

Wisconsin Veterans Museum & Military History
(Russell Horton) – pending confirmation.

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

October 12, 2022 (1)

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

About This Newsletter

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1st Wednesday to be considered for inclusion in that
same month. Credit will be given for your article.

MPAFUG KEY INFORMATION

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Steve Gulgowski
Bob Miller
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.

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.

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.