



# NEWSLETTER

October 2020  
Volume 2020 Issue 10

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## OCTOBER 2020

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*Live Find-a-Grave (Randy Ray)*  
*The New Family Tree Maker (Randy Ray)*

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*October 14, 2020*  
*7:00 PM – New Berlin Ale House*  
*16000 West Cleveland Avenue*  
*New Berlin, WI 52151*

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## MEETING BITS AND BYTES

We know fall is coming when the weather turns wet and nippy and daylight begins to disappear about the time our monthly meeting is about to start. The September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, #3 since we were allowed to gather a bit after the pandemic lockdown, was held at the New Berlin Ale House as usual. There were 32 in attendance including 1 guest, Lorraine Heck, visiting from Florida. Yes, she is one of those Heck's, Cheryl's mother to be precise. Besides Bob and Cheryl, Lorraine also knew another member who she used to work with so she had herself a mini-reunion of sorts.

This meeting was Member Show and Tell Night with 8 mini-presentations. A surprising amount of information can be shared in those 5-10-minute stories. Hopefully, all of you picked up a few tidbits of research tips and, most importantly, were inspired by the stories of your fellow members.

Bob Heck assures us that this annual event will continue so your assignment for the next year is to come up with your own mini-presentation to share. It is really not that scary up in front of the group, especially with it being only a very short presentation. Think about something you discovered about your ancestors, or where you traveled to see where your ancestors lived or emigrated from, or a research short cut you have learned. You can literally pick any topic. If this pandemic continues and you end up with lots of home-time this winter, it should be the easiest homework you have ever had.

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING NEWS/NOTES:

The MPAFUG steering committee held a Zoom meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Doesn't it look like we were really concentrating on the speaker?



Steering committee members in attendance:  
Top – Louise Stack, Bob Heck, Sam Colon  
Center – Bob Tatalovich, John Canapa, Bruce Butterfield  
Bottom – Guy Porth, Jane Orne

When Guy joined in, he was wearing a tie so the rest of us thought we were underdressed for the meeting. Sam took us back to casual then when he showed us his T-shirt which read: "I don't Need Google Because My Wife Knows Everything."

First up was feedback on the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. We concurred that the meeting went well and the speakers had been entertaining although Bruce admitted he had forgotten to mention a significant ancestor in his presentation. Bob pointed out that the microphones were sanitized between speakers so, in addition to social distancing, we are doing our best to keep members safe. Sam mentioned that there had been an issue in the back of the room with noise interference. Apparently, music and talking from the adjacent kitchen was louder than our speakers so it caused members to miss out on parts of the presentations. Bob Heck said that he will contact the Ale House to resolve that issue.

Bob advised us that there is a possibility that next month we won't be able to provide a video of the presentations. Randy Ray's presentations will be live on his computer so that may preclude Bob from also recording at the same time.

Also related to the last meeting, the MPAFUG steering committee would like to thank those who made donations to our organization. They are certainly appreciated and will be used for things such as replacement of equipment and purchases for the opportunity table.

Another accomplishment was making a schedule of topics for next year. Because of the uncertainty of the pandemic, we have stayed with mostly in-house speakers and not yet gone with guest speakers although we have made a list of those we would hope to see in the future. One of the upcoming presentations, Photomyne, led to a discussion of apps for smart phones. Would you believe that 2 of the steering committee members still use flip phones? You are in luck, as neither will be giving presentations that include apps for smart phones. Bob Heck, on the other hand, showed off his tool for checking his house gutters that uses either his phone or a tablet.

Keep your fingers crossed that the Family History Center will open soon. John Canapa said that he has started looking at staffing so they could re-open.

## TO DO TIPS FROM CATHY DAILEY

My name is Cathy Dailey – I’m the current vice president of the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society (WSGS). This month, my email message contains a couple of easy, yet effective “to do” tips to help further your genealogy research.

MPAFUG is an affiliate member of WSGS  
Cathy Dailey is also a member of MPAFUG

### 1) Schedule a 16-minute genealogy appointment with yourself

We’re all busy – and if you’re like me, you have a massive “*when I get around to it*” list sitting on your desk. Instead of becoming frustrated or thinking that your “to do” pile is insurmountable, try scheduling genealogy appointments with yourself each week.

Reserve this time to:

- Explore a free on-line database that you just discovered
- Read a genealogy article, newsletter or magazine
- Listen to a genealogy podcast or watch a webinar
- Take a second look at a “forgotten” branch of your family tree
- Join an ethnic genealogy group on Facebook and then post a comment or question
- Search for surnames on Find-a-Grave within a specific geographic area

A couple of guidelines: Make your appointment for the same time on pre-selected days – for instance: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday at 7pm. If you treat these as non-cancelable “appointments”, you’ll be surprised how much you can accomplish when you’re focused.

At the start of your appointment, set a timer on your smartphone for 16 minutes, then open your list and begin. Scheduling four (4) 16-minute appointments each week gives you over an hour of guaranteed, dedicated genealogy time. *This is your time – avoid taking phone calls or dealing with other interruptions.* It may not seem like a lot; however, an hour of quiet genealogy time can reap rewards.

### 2) Clean-up your email boxes

Clutter can be a genealogist’s worst nightmare – all that stuff piling up around you and on your computer. Instead of trying to tackle all of it at once, break it into small tasks. A good friend of mine reminded me: “*Yard by yard, it gets hard – inch by inch, it’s a cinch.*” In other words, “bite-sized” activities can make an overwhelming project manageable.

Your first “bite-sized” activity is to clean up your email folders:

- Unsubscribe from mailing lists and newsletters that you never use. However, before clicking on the “unsubscribe” link, check the sender email address to confirm it’s a legitimate company or organization and not a phishing scam.
  - If the actual email address is not visible on the “From” line, hover your mouse over the sender’s email “name” to confirm the address.
  - Double-check the provided “unsubscribe” link. If the hyperlink displayed when the cursor hovers over it is not identical to the URL in the trusted email address, don’t click on it.
- Delete old, “expired” messages that you no longer need from both *your inbox and send box*. Remember purging is a two-step process: After deleting the message, you need to empty the trash folder.
- Avoid using your email inbox as a filing system. How many times have you had to search through hundreds of emails to find a specific newsletter, document, file, photo, etc.? If it’s something that you want to keep for future use, download the attachment, name it, then save it to a designated folder for easy retrieval. You can now delete the email from your inbox.

**A quick reminder:** The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society’s Fall 2020 Conference will be held this year as a virtual event. The pre-conference workshop on Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> will feature Lori Bessler of the Wisconsin Historical Society Library Archives. On Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, Elizabeth Williams Gomoll, CG will discuss ancestors’ origins, passenger lists and DNA analysis. If you are unable to attend the live event, WSGS has made arrangements to record these Saturday sessions. To learn more, visit: [www.wsgs.org](http://www.wsgs.org)

Thank you for being a member of WSGS. If you have any questions about your membership or accessing our website, please contact the office at: [wsgs@wsgs.org](mailto:wsgs@wsgs.org).

Cathy Dailey  
Vice President  
Wisconsin State Genealogical Society  
[cathy@TrackThePast.com](mailto:cathy@TrackThePast.com)

*The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society provided this genealogy tip. To learn more about this organization, including how to join, visit: [www.wsgs.org](http://www.wsgs.org).*

## FROM BOB HECK'S MEMORY BANKS

### Things That We Did as Kids...

When I was a kid growing up on Jones Avenue in Racine, Wisconsin, we used to have a lot of fun playing in the neighborhood. When we moved into our house at 1306 Jones Avenue in 1944, I was just four years old. Right across the street from us were three empty lots. In the center lot a man dug a hole for the basement of a house that he was planning on building. We knew him as "Old Man Wally". We were always told that Old Man Wally dug that hole by hand but apparently ran out of money and never built a house on that property.

Erosion and a bunch of neighborhood kids soon rounded the edges of the hole until it was nothing more than a deep depression that looked like it was made by a small meteor. We always called the place, "The Hole".

In the winter we would slide down the sides of the hole with our sleds. Right after Christmas we would scrounge through the alleys in the neighborhood collecting used Christmas trees. We would trim the branches and build a fort every year. Our parents must have loved us a lot because we would come home every night covered with mud from the hole and well coated with sticky sap from the pine trees. I still remember how much it hurt to have a scrub brush put to the skin to get rid of that sap. Some of the sap would get into our hair and that was always the worst to get out. Sometimes my mother even had to use mineral spirits to get it out.

In the spring we would chase all over the three empty lots catching a lot of bugs, bees and butterflies. Every now and then we would catch a grass snake which instantly became one of our pets. Somehow or other they always seemed to get out of their cage when we were sleeping. Hmmm.

There were several large apple trees and one cherry tree on the three lots. We would spend a lot of time in the trees trying to make a tree house or just sitting there eating worm filled green apples. The cherries were always bitter and not very tasty. Now that I look back on those days it was probably

because we were always testing the cherries and none of them ever got to ripen on the tree.

The Rapp family bought the eastern most lot first and promptly built a house on it. I remember how disappointed we were to lose one third of our play area. Earl Rapp was my best friend for many years and all we ever talked about was opening some sort of repair business when we grew up. After four years in the Air Force, Earl and I both went to the Milwaukee School of Engineering. We both graduated with Electrical Engineering degrees.

Down the street was a grocery store called Morgenson's Grocery run by Elmer Morgenson. We just called it "Morgies" and we called the owner Mr. Morgenson. It wasn't a very big store but before the days of the supermarket it was all that we knew. The only supermarket around at that time was the local Atlantic and Pacific store known as the A&P store.

At the front of the store situated on the corner of the building was a large metal Coke sign and thermometer. The thermometer never worked but the sign became our home base for any games that we played at night. Whenever we would run to the home base, we would slap the tin sign and it would respond with a rather loud sound. I'm sure that everyone in the neighborhood could hear that loud thump.

Back to the Hole. Soon the western most lot was excavated and the Schoolcraft family built a house on the second third of our play area. Eventually the Goede family bought the hole and built a ranch home on the last third of our playground. Now we had to travel about two hundred yards to a huge park called Douglas Park in order to play.

**Next time – The Games We Played.**

## A LITTLE HUMOR TO PONDER

“The longest password ever...

We laugh – **but** her ID is safe.

During a recent password audit by a company, it was found that an employee was using the following password:

MickeyMinniePlutoHueyLouieDeweyDonaldGoofy  
Sacramento.

When asked why she had such a long password, she rolled her eyes and said:

Hello! It has to be at least 8 characters and include at least one capital.”

Contributed by Eileen Winger

**Not much has changed in 100 years -- except the clothes....**



## A LITTLE MPAFUG HISTORY

When Bob Heck gave his presentation on Newspaper Research at the August meeting, his power point cover page included a newspaper photo of an MPAFUG meeting held at the Greendale Library. Someone at the meeting asked what year that was and the steering committee members present were stumped. Steering committee member Steve Gulgowski later did a little detective work and compiled a list of our meeting sites since MPAFUG's inception in 1992.

**Family History Center** – February 1992 (1 month only)

**Hales Corners Library** – March 1992 - September 1998 (7years, 7 months)

**Greendale Library** – October 1998 – June 1999 (9 months)

**Root River Center** – July 1999 – June 2013 (14 years)

**Serb Hall** – July 2013 (1 month)

**Polish Community Center** – August 201 - November 2013 (4 months)

**Klemmer's Banquet Hall** – January 2014 – December 2019 (6 years)

**New Berlin Ale House** – January 2020 – current

Thanks to all you loyal members who have moved from place to place with us!

## WHAT'S ON THE OCTOBER SCHEDULE

Member Randy Ray will have the podium for both October presentations. His topics are: Find-a-Grave and The New Family Tree Maker. He will be doing live presentations so that he can walk you through how to use both.

If you have never used Find-a-Grave as a research tool, you will want to see what you are missing. You might be surprised at the information that can be found at cemeteries, on gravestones and in obits on that website.

Family Tree Maker is a genealogy software to help you keep track of your research and produce other records from it. This just might be the tool you need to organize your research.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Thanks to all of you who answered the call to submit your genealogy story! Everyone's story is unique with no one story being better than another's. I will be putting the stories in the newsletter in the order that I received them.

### The Hugh Simonsen Story

"I became interested in genealogy in the 1950's when my maternal grandmother of Massachusetts colonial descent gave me several old bibles and a family page written to the best of my knowledge before 1850. My interest is in my ancestry rather than descendants of surnames. Somehow, I find ancestors to be of more interest than cousins to the nth degree!

Early on I learned of the Family History Center in Hales Corners and ordered many films from SLC. I was there so often that I met the Hummells and ended up manning the library for some evenings and many Saturdays for many years. I had had 4 years of Latin in high school and 2 years of French in college so I could help with translations. I later learned Norwegian from a native speaker and German (for my wife's side) as an adult student at UWM and UW-Madison. I also spent several years as a Master's student at UWM with interest in Pre-Revolutionary War history. All very enjoyable experiences. I took several trips to New England, and to the SLC Library where I would spend two weeks at a time since I had more vacation time than my wife who you may remember as Judy Simonsen who was in charge of the Milwaukee County Historical Society's library for many years.

I set my Yankee research aside and did my Norwegians as I was the only one who could read the Norwegian Bygdeboks. After I learned German, I did my wife's German side and her Swedish side, using Norwegian as a guide. I had not taken German for medical school as I had a choice between German and French and I had heard that French was easier (and it is). My home and professional duties forced me to put aside genealogy for many years. But two years ago, I returned to it and being in a retirement community on Prospect Ave in Milwaukee, I have more free time. I find the internet to be most helpful especially for Massachusetts primary records.

I have a couple of relatives who are interested in genealogy and have done some work which they keep close to their chests and to whom I give some of my information when asked. But as they say 'genealogy is never done' and my records are in terrible shape. I realize I will never be able to bring things up to current information. I have tied up some loose ends but have a few ancestral lines that are still loose threads. I use The Master Genealogist and am terribly sorry that it is no longer active.

I joined MPAFUG about two years ago. Since I no longer drive and cannot ask my initial driver who is not interested in genealogy, to his and my sorrow, for rides I doubt that I will be able to attend in person. Also, the current plague and my chronological age and medical problems put a great barrier on future attendances.

To answer more of your questions, I can say that my Yankees from Mass & Conn were puritans and possibly a pilgrim. There are several interesting stories that I have found from primary records but decline to relate currently. No famous ancestors, crooks or politicians in my direct line, just ordinary folk. I can say that I have found an Englishman who indentured himself in Maine (Mass) in 1663 for 8 years. Published genealogies on this line have not found this fact or accepted it! Obviously, I have traced my lines back to long distant Englishmen and Norwegians, many before Henry VIII broke with Rome or Martin Luther found Scandinavia to be fertile ground (my Latin helped me for those ages). I did my DNA and found that I am more than 50% Norwegian. I know that my Norwegians were 100% Norwegian so that means my mother would be horrified at who supplied the other percentage and to whom it belonged. I'm not sure but I think it was Abigail (Smith) Bartlett who lived in New Jersey when she married Charles Bartlett in NY City. But that is a really blocked line as New Jersey records are not available due to the proverbial fire.

My work on genealogy has been a major factor in my life. It augmented my knowledge of languages and magnified my inborn interest in history. I just wish I had more time but am grateful that I have been able to spend so many years pursuing these fields."

Danke, Merci, Takk and Thanks Hugh!

**Note from the editor:** All of you have a family story within you so please consider sharing. There are 12 questions to answer that will be the same for everyone. You can give as much or as little of an answer as you want.

We have been doing these member spotlight stories for a while now and, if you have been reading them, you have probably noticed that they are all interesting and often encouraging. We don't all have the perfect ancestors and almost all of us struggle with brick walls or impossible-to-find ancestor.

If you are interested in sharing your family story, please email me with Member Spotlight in the subject line at:

[kilostack@att.net](mailto:kilostack@att.net). Hope to hear from you!

Louise Stack

## GOT GAME?

Here is your last chance to see how cute Bruce Butterfield was with a full head of curly hair. It is also the very last Got Game photo. Thanks to all of you who played along the last few months and reassured us that the newsletter is being read.

Six of you submitted a guess for who was in the picture with three correctly noting that it was Bruce. The other 3 guesses were interesting – Bob Tatalovich, John Canapa and Guy Porth. The tougher part was that we were also looking for the year of the photo. Karen Jegen picked up on Bob Heck's clues and got both the year and the subject of the photo correct. Congrats Karen! We know you'll be a member of MPAFUG at least until 2023 now.



## Upcoming Programs

### November 11, 2020 (moved from May)

A 24,000 Mile Journey for John Doe (Bob Heck)

DNA Completes the Story: Now That You Have the Test, What's Next? (Erika Zuehl)

### December – No Meeting

### January 13, 2021

What's New in Security (Bill Heck)

Password Security: Multi-factor Authentication (Sam Colon)

### February 10, 2021

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

Photomyne as a Tool (Bob Heck)

### March 10, 2021

Primary & Secondary Documentation and How to Source Them (Jane Orne)

MyHeritage (Guy Porth)

### April 14, 2021

Why Join DAR, Mayflower Society or SAR (Randy Ray)

Working on the 2<sup>nd</sup> presentation

### May 12, 2021

Reading Worn Headstones (Randy Ray)

Online Cemetery Research Beyond Find-A-Grave (Sam Colon)

### June 9, 2021

In the works

### July 14, 2021

From Start to Finish (Cathy Dailey)

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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414-421-7143

[bobheckmpafug@gmail.com](mailto:bobheckmpafug@gmail.com)

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 \$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>. Send a check made payable to MPAFUG to:

Lynn Thrasher – MPAFUG Treasurer

PO Box 14222

West Allis, WI 53214-0222

**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.