



NEWSLETTER

October 2021
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OCTOBER 2021

Online Death Records (Bob Tatalovich)
How and Why Join DAR, SAR, DAC and the Mayflower Society (Randy Ray)

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

MEETING BITS AND BYTES

Forty-four members (no new members or guests) came out to our September 8th meeting at the New Berlin Ale House to see what their fellow members had to share in the annual Show and Tell. This time members were asked to bring an object to present with their story. There were amazing and inspirational stories and some quite interesting objects including a grave marker. Yes, one of the presenters, Ken Artlip, had his GG grandfather's 150yr old headstone in a wheeled basket for everyone to see and touch. He usually carries it around in the trunk of his car so it was handy he said. Not to worry, though, a Civil War military marker replaced this one so Ken's GG grandfather's grave is properly marked.



Buried State Pauper marker that originally marked John Valentine Artlip's grave

Randy Ray's presentation was about tin type photos so he brought a large display, some of which was hands-on. He even provided white gloves to use when handling the fragile photos.



And Dave Komassa had a copy of the book “Napoleon’s Polish Lancers of the Imperial Guard” which he hoped would help him find some of his ancestors, but led him on quite a journey to just get the book.

All around great stories! Bruce Butterfield put it best when he noted that there was a thread of serendipity in each of the stories. (Serendipity: the occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way.) They were all inspiring in that each object led to more discoveries for each of those family genealogists.



WHAT’S ON THE OCTOBER SCHEDULE

Originally, Bob Tatalovich was scheduled to do a presentation on On-line Vital Records of Birth, Marriage and Death. Bob subsequently changed that to just Death Records as he found so much in that category that he had to drop the birth and marriage portion. Those will show up at a later time on our schedule.

Sam Colon will then give a 10-minute briefing on Windows 11 which is scheduled to roll out in October. He is a “beta-tester” so has some first-hand experience with it.

Randy Ray will finish off the evening with How and Why to Join the Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Colonists and the Mayflower Society. If you have roots going back to the birth of America and aren’t already a member of one of those groups, you will certainly want to learn about them.

Other presenters included Sam Colon who had a battlefield promotion certificate from his wife’s ancestor, Carl Micech who had a note in Slovakian from his grandfather which led him to more discoveries and Carol Pountain who had a 1976 obituary which opened up another branch of her husband’s family tree. Bob Heck had a Civil War discharge certificate from 1865 for an ancestor which had been found by a young girl on a pile of rubble on Milwaukee’s east side many years ago.

STEERING COMMITTEE NOTES

Your steering committee held their monthly zoom meeting on September 15, 2021. The following 8 members attended:

Bob Tatalovich (with a picture this month!), Bob Heck, Randy Ray, John Canapa, Debbie Bluett, Jane Orne, Bruce Butterfield and Sam Colon.



You'll notice that Sam's picture is sharper than most of the others which is because he is already using Windows 11.

Debbie Bluett, treasurer, had sent Bob Heck a financial balance sheet so the meeting began with a discussion of current finances. Bob reminded us that there will be no dues for MPAFUG members in 2022. Financially, our group is doing well, which prompted Bob to comment on what it was like in the early days. He said that originally a hat (a box in reality) was passed to pay for printing costs and postage. There was no hall rental because meetings were held at a library. We've come a long way since then.

Bob also mentioned that a member had passed away and MPAFUG had been notified that we were named in that person's will. Proceedings are scheduled for later in fall so we have not yet received any money.

The next topic of discussion was the previous week's Show and Tell meeting. All agreed that it had gone well and the presentations were excellent. Bob said that he had gotten a lot of comments about Ken Artlip's presentation, particularly because he

had wheeled in his GG grandfather's headstone which had left the audience dumbfounded. Bob further mentioned that Ken has a potential presentation for the upcoming year about Wisconsin's Past. Ken had worked for 10 seasons as an historical educator at Old World Wisconsin. We will look forward to that.

John Canapa gave an update on the Family History Center which had re-opened on September 9th. He reported that it went well and people were happy to be there although there had not been many the first 2 days. He also commented that software had been added which will make content available on Microsoft Edge. Because of these recent updates, Bob Heck asked John to do a presentation on the resources available at FHC. John agreed and this presentation was added to the schedule.

Sam Colon discussed the change of how the opportunity table is handled and that is going well. In addition, he mentioned items for future meetings.

Randy Ray said that he had attended a webinar through the Appleton Public Library on Irish records and learned mostly about the difficulty of researching them.

Most of the meeting involved work on the Upcoming Programs section. For example, one of the presentations for January, our traditional "security" meeting date, is usually done by Bob's son, Bill Heck. This coming year Bob asked him to focus on scams, due in no small part to Bob having gotten a call from Reader's Digest informing him that he had won 15 million dollars. (Wow! That would be nice if it was true,)

There was also lots of talk about personal genealogy experiences. As one steering committee member said, "Work is a 4-letter word," so yes, we throw in a little fun too.

UPDATES

Family History Center

The Family History Center has reopened with the following hours:

Thursdays 8:30AM-3:30PM
6:30PM-9:00PM

Saturdays 10:00AM-1:00PM

The FHC is located at:
9600 W. Grange Ave, Hales Corners.

A QUOTE TO PONDER:

“We need to haunt the house of history and listen anew to the ancestors’ wisdom.”

Maya Angelou

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The Eileen Zinda Winger Story

Eileen’s father had started the family story and when he died in 1974 her mother gave her all of his research. Eileen’s journey into genealogy began then so she has been working on it for over 40 years. She said she started out the hard way, but became more successful once she had a computer. Her husband, Don, joined MPAFUG back when the meetings were held in a library. She joined him not long after he began attending meetings so they have been with us almost from the beginning.

Don passed away 3 years ago so Eileen now does his research as well as hers. Eileen is originally from Stevens Point and still has a cousin living there who keeps her informed of obits in the local paper. (Obits are a great resource for genealogists.)

Eileen and her husband had taken a number of road trips within Wisconsin focusing on cemeteries and archives. They also travelled to Salt Lake City 3 times with the Milwaukee Genealogy Group.

As for surprises, Eileen said:

“I received a photo of my grandmother’s sister’s wedding. She died and her husband remarried and a friend was a granddaughter of the second marriage and she had the photo. I was working with her on a mutual surname, Lorbiecki, and when she shared her research, I was excited to see the photo of my grandmother’s sister in her album. She had a copy of the photo made for me and it is the only picture I have of Clara, my grandmother’s sister.”

Eileen’s best find:

“I am so happy with all the information I have found on Geni.com. One of the very active members who lives in Germany offered to help me and we are distantly related. When he adds anything new on Geni I receive a notice.”

Of course, there have been some brick walls that Eileen has encountered over the years, but she has been lucky enough to have her problems resolved when people contacted her with the information she was searching for. Her main objective right now is verifying information from Geni which is also available on a Polish church records site. Eileen is Polish so she has mainly been researching Poland as well as the USA after family members immigrated.

Amazingly Eileen has traced her maternal ancestors back to her 16th great grandparents.

“They were born between late 1200 and early 1300. The earliest grandparents often had coats of arms which are shown on their profile in color on Geni. I have information – again on Geni for some of my 8th great grandparents on my father’s side who were born in the late 1600’s and early 1700’s.”

What is Eileen hoping to find?

“I have pretty much connected all the dots, just keep adding to the families with information in their obits. Stevens Point is in Portage County and most of my family lived there.”

This past summer Eileen went to a Zinda family reunion in Portage County where she found and took a picture of her great-grandfather, Joseph Zynda’s monument. His monument was in a large cemetery in Polonia next to Sacred Heart Church. “I added him to the Find-a-Grave site so I was pleased with that find.”

*Note that the family name changed from Zynda to Zinda.

Thanks for sharing your wonderful story, Eileen.

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

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.

WISCONSIN HISTORY

Halloween is celebrated this month with spooky decorations and costumes for the little ghosts and goblins to wear trick or treating.

Speaking of ghosts, Milwaukee is supposedly the most haunted city in Wisconsin which, of course, makes sense because it also the largest city in the state. The top 5 haunted spots according to an internet site are:

- 1. The Pfister Hotel** where a number of guests have reported seeing ghosts. Charles Pfister himself is said to roam the halls.
- 2. 7 Bridges Trail, Grant Park** which is actually in South Milwaukee, but within Milwaukee County. There are reports of cold sections along the trail and the sounds of screaming. Some even say that the entire park is haunted.
- 3. North Point Lighthouse** which has been said to have a “very unwelcoming feeling” and, just like Grant Park, has cold areas and the sound of children screaming.
- 4. The Rave** which was built in 1927 and was originally the historic Eagles Ballroom. Besides the usual voices and cold spots, Buddy Holly is said to wander about the concert area. He began his “Winter Dance Party Tour” at the Eagles Ballroom on January 23, 1959 and then was tragically killed in a plane crash on February 3, 1959.

5. The Italian Community Center was built on the site of an old Irish Settlement which burned to the ground on October 28, 1892. Five people, including 2 firemen, died in the fire.

To explore more ghostly tales about Milwaukee or other places in Wisconsin try either www.Milwaukeehauntedhotel.com (then click on Visit Haunted Milwaukee) OR check out the book “Weird Wisconsin” written by Linda S. Godfrey and Richard A. Hendricks. Spooky!!!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

November 10, 2021

Primary & Secondary Documentation and How to Source Them (Jane Orne)
Property Records in Genealogy (Cathy Dailey)

December 2021

No meeting – Happy Holidays!

January 12, 2022

Scams (Bill Heck)
Security Software Considerations (Sam Colon)

February 9, 2022

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

March 9, 2022

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

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)

June 8, 2022

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.

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 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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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:

Debbie Bluett– MPAFUG Treasurer

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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.