



NEWSLETTER

November 2020
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NOVEMBER 2020

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)*

November 11, 2020
7:00 PM – New Berlin Ale House
16000 West Cleveland Avenue
New Berlin, WI 52151

MEETING BITS AND BYTES

Our October 16th MPAFUG meeting, the 4th since the pandemic lockdown, went on as usual at the New Berlin Ale House although we now have to drive in the dark both ways. Given that the pandemic is still in effect with WI seeing a surge in cases, it was worth noting that there was a slight increase in attendance with 34 members present. We must all be getting used to the masks, social distancing and sanitizing so feel more confident to venture out. Of course, the steering committee would like to think that the topics are just too intriguing to miss.

Randy Ray had 2 presentations for this meeting, both of which he did live. If you were able to attend the meeting, it was an interesting way of doing the presentations, but the downside to those who couldn't attend was that there was only a sound recording following the meeting. Now that we have gotten spoiled with the video recordings the last 2 months it was a distinct disadvantage not being able to "get the picture." There was good news however, because Randy later provided a web link for those who want to learn about Family Tree Maker on their own:

<https://www.ancestry.com/getting-the-most-out-of-family-tree-maker>

He also sent a link to his live Find-a-Grave presentation on YouTube. Please note that there is period between youtu and be and there is an underscore between the I and c although hard to see.

https://youtu.be/r-l_cNIqM2y

The November meeting is actually being held on Veterans Day this year. This holiday was originally called Armistice Day after WWI, but was renamed Veterans Day in 1954. Memorial Day honors military members who died while in service to their country, but Veterans Day celebrates all veterans. The past 2 years Bob Heck has played an Armed Forces song medley at the beginning of the meeting and encouraged any veterans to wear their military hat or facsimile to the meeting. MPAFUG counts a number of veterans as members so, although you may not be able to attend the meeting, WE SALUTE YOU! For those members who did not serve, please take a moment to remember any veterans in your life, past or present.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING NEWS/NOTES:

The MPAFUG steering committee held its monthly Zoom meeting on October 20th. Those who logged in were: Bob Heck, Louise Stack, Jane Orne, Sam Colon, Bob Tatalovich, Bruce Butterfield, Randy Ray, John Canapa and guest Erika Zuehl who will be giving a presentation at the November meeting. Apparently, there had been a Windows update a few days or so before this meeting which caused several members to have trouble with their camera. Bruce never did get his up and running, but could see and hear us while we could only hear him. There were only a couple of pop-in guests this time – Sam’s cat and one of Erika’s children who was just a blur as he raced past in the background.

The major topic of discussion was the upcoming schedule beginning with Erika weighing in on the substance of her presentation for November. Randy mentioned that he was looking forward to Erika’s presentation and that her work sounded similar to that done by CeCe Moore, a renowned Genetic Genealogist or Genetic Detective. (CeCe Moore has worked with police to help find suspects from cold cases using genealogy and DNA, one in particular being the Golden State killer. Most recently she was on the PBS show “Finding Your Roots” where she traced previously unknown grandparents for Tea Leoni and Joe Madison.)

Some changes and additions were made to the upcoming programs which have been scheduled up to August 2021 (see the Upcoming Programs section later in this newsletter). We have some exciting new topics for you in 2021 as well as some updates and follow-ups.

We also touched on membership. As has been reported previously, if you are an MPAFUG member in good standing in 2020, your membership will be free for 2021. New members are welcome but would have to pay the \$12 dues.

WHAT’S ON THE NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

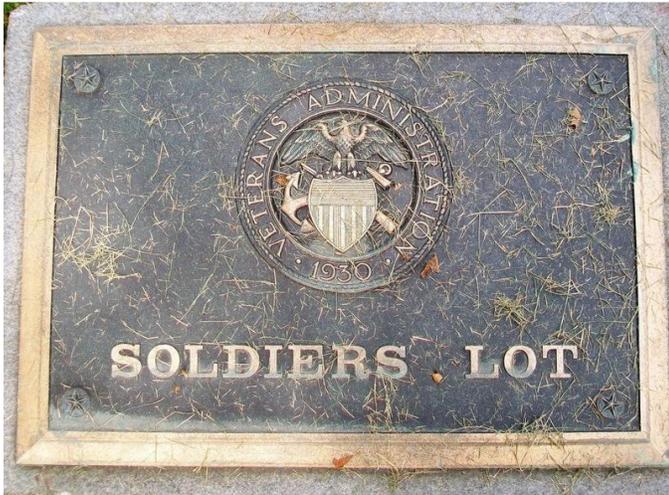
It sounds like the presentations in November will be a fascinating peek into one man’s genealogical history. Bob Heck will start off the meeting by telling about this man’s journey around the world as a 5-year old boy, alone for most of that journey, and how he finally arrived in Milwaukee. Bob will be followed by guest speaker Erika Zuehl who used DNA and genealogical detective work to trace his journey and discover his parents. Erika will begin with a lesson on how you can use DNA tests to further your genealogy work. This includes tools that the testing sites such as Ancestry, 23andMe, MyHeritage and others have to help solve mysteries in your ancestry.

A QUOTE TO PONDER:

“Think positive, but test negative.”
Norah O’Donnell, CBS News

HISTORY LESSONS

On September 30th Bob Heck sent out an email with a referral from Randy Ray about historical markers in Wisconsin. Did you take a look at the website? It has many interesting tidbits of history; some you may know of and others that will perhaps surprise you. You all are probably aware of the National Cemetery at Wood and some of its history, but did you know that Civil War veterans are also buried at Forest Home Cemetery? Following is an excerpt from the historical marker there.



Soldier's Lot

“Forest Home Cemetery was established by St. Paul's Episcopal Church in 1850 on 72 acres located about 4 miles southwest of downtown Milwaukee. It was the first rural-style cemetery in the region, and it would grow to nearly 200 acres.

An 1868 War Department inspection of national cemeteries detailed twenty-four Union troops buried in a soldier's lot here. All had died in the Milwaukee General Hospital. The report also listed forty-one soldiers in private lots. The federal government purchased the soldiers' lot (Block 5, Section 24) from St. Paul's for \$525 in 1872. There are twenty-one marked graves here today.

A second lot at Forest Home Cemetery contains the remains of veterans who died at the Milwaukee NHDVS (National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers) between 1867 and 1871. That year, a cemetery was established at the home. It became Wood National Cemetery in 1973.”

FROM BOB HECK'S MEMORY BANKS

Things That We Did as Kids Part II: The Games We Played....

Kick the Can was played by designating someone as being IT. All of the kids would run and hide while the IT person would cover their eyes by leaning up against the tin Coke sign and count to 50. He or she would then holler out, “Here I come, ready or not.” The IT person would start looking for the other kids and when he or she saw one would race back to the tin Coke sign and slap it hard while calling out the person's name that he had just spotted. Then the two of them would both be IT and would seek out the others. While they were searching, any of the other kids could sneak back to the home base and kick the can. That would free anyone caught and the IT person would have to start all over again.

Ally Ally Oxen Free, If, you don't come now you're it. That call could be heard every night during the summer. It was a signal to all of the other kids that they had to come to the home base. It usually meant that we were going to start a new game or play something else.

Some of the favorite hiding places included a chicken coop in the alley or under the porch of the corner house. There was a secret panel that we could remove in order to hide under the porch. Another place that I remember was in the second floor of one of the garages. There was a ladder going up to the loft of what used to be a small barn. Some of the players that I remember from the early days include Jerry B, Matt S, Johnny S, Chuck C, Gary and Bob Heck, Earl R, Joan and Kathy L, Linda and Ronnie K. In later years Don Heck, Jean R, Fred G, Ken and Kathy L, Jesse A, Arlene R and others joined us.

Back to the Hole (from part I). 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.

When we called for kids in the neighborhood, we would never think of ringing a doorbell or knocking on the door. Instead we would stand on the sidewalk and holler out as loud as we could, “Oh for Earl” or “Oh for Chuck” in a sing song voice. Somehow or other we turned those single syllable names into multiple syllable names in the process.

The night would end when our parents would stand on their porches and call out our names as loud as they could. We were taught to instantly respond to those calls to come home for the evening.

If we were going fishing in the morning, we would have sprinkled the lawn with the water sprinkler for about an hour. Then we would get our flashlights and go worm hunting. We always caught plenty of worms, which we kept in a coffee can. We learned that if you put a piece of red cellophane over the lens of the flashlight the worms couldn't see the light but we could see them. That vastly improved our worm hunting technique. The following morning several of us would hop on our bikes and make the five-mile trip to the Horlick's dam on the Root River. To this day I can't believe that our parents let us make that trip alone. Rapids Drive in Racine was a very busy street and we had to ride our bikes on the street. There were no sidewalks back then. When we reached the dam, we would walk our bikes along the river bank to a spot where the river widened. There we set up camp and started fishing. There was a natural artesian spring next to where we fished and that provided us with fresh cool water. In our knapsacks we usually had peanut butter sandwiches and an apple or two.

The fishing was usually good. We would catch some small bluegills, perch, bullheads, and every now and then even a huge carp. We would keep the fish on a stringer and haul them home with us at the end of the day. There was a small creek that crossed Rapids Drive where we would stop on the way home. There we would release the bullheads into the creek. Our thinking back then was that if the bullheads survived then we would start releasing the other fish there also. That way we wouldn't have to ride our bikes so far when we wanted to go fishing. Every week we would check the creek to see if the fish had survived but we never did see any.

Eventually someone built an office building on the land and the creek was no more. Apparently, it was just a drainage ditch of some sort. I wonder what ever happened to the bullheads?

Some days Earl R and I would go to the local bakery and just sit under their oven vent at the back of the store. We would just sit there and smell that fresh baked bakery. Boy, was it good. We never had enough money to buy any so since smelling was free, we did it often.

Sunday was movie day for most of us kids. After lunch, which we called dinner, we were given twenty cents for the movie. The movie cost fourteen cents so we had six cents to spend on candy. Candy at the theater was always very high priced so we never bought any there. Our first stop was at Morgies or at Minner's drug store. There we could buy six cents worth of candy which would last us through a double feature, news, previews, and a cartoon or two. In order to make it last, we usually bought root beer barrels which were two for a penny. Those things would last for a long time. The other favorite candy was the jaw breaker. They came in red or black and lasted a long time.

Well, that's about enough for now. I would like to invite you to write about your memories as a kid. Share it with your family. They will love it.

Bob Heck

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The Linda Marcinowski Story



Linda and her cousin John Johnson of Rib Lake, WI (both MPAFUG members) – 2012

“I became interested in finding out more about my family after watching Alex Haley’s ‘Roots’ on TV back in 1977. I started asking my parents what they knew about their parents and siblings. I wrote the names and birth dates, anniversaries and deaths on 3 x 5 index cards.

Other folks who influenced me were Johan Bratvold, from Norway and Reinmar Wilke, from Germany. They had written letters to my relatives here in Wisconsin asking if our families were connected. Their letters got passed on to me since my relatives all knew I was into genealogy.”

Linda’s interest began when her dad’s cousin, Jerrold Score, a member of the Milwaukee County Genealogical Society, encouraged her to join in the early 1980’s. She took their beginner’s classes and then began taking genealogy more seriously and “really got into it,” visiting the Family History Center, court houses and cemeteries. Linda had been going to MPAFUG’s annual fall workshop for many years before she actually joined the group. Originally, she thought MPAFUG was a computer-based genealogy group and since she didn’t have her own computer at the time, she never thought of joining.

Besides researching her and her husband’s families, Linda has helped other friends with their research. She has cousins on both sides of her family that

have also caught the genealogy bug so they are able to share their finds. John Johnson (pictured above with Linda) is a cousin on her dad’s side.

For over ten years Linda volunteered at Polish Fest in the Family History tent as a member of the Polish Genealogy Society of America.

“When I first was asked to help at the tent, I was afraid I didn’t know enough to be of any help. I was told not to worry, that I knew more than the folks that drop by with questions. I’ve really enjoyed doing it and missed doing it this year when Polish Fest was cancelled due to Covid-19.”

Linda has a wealth of travel experience in the name of genealogical research. She has been to all the places in Wisconsin where her great-grandparents settled after coming to America – Green Bay, Wisconsin Rapids, Wild Rose, Rhinelander and Port Washington. After many years of research, she was able to locate the names of the villages in Prussia and Norway that her family left in the 1870’s. She was able to travel there and walk in their footsteps so to speak. According to Linda, “It was amazing!” She didn’t do any actual research in either country, but did so at home before she left. In Norway, she was able to visit the Kongsberg silver mine where her ancestor worked in the 1630’s and the Sandsvaer Parish Church where an ancestor was parish clerk in 1796. In Poland, Linda was able to travel to the village where her Prussian great-grandfather was born. There she learned that the village was heavily damaged during WWII and the church had been bombed. Only the church bell survived.

The information she learned on her trips didn’t add any family documents, but it did add to her understanding of the life they lived before coming to America. Linda was surprised at how much information and how many ancestors she was able to find when her dad didn’t know where in Norway his father was born or even his grandparent’s names.

Linda’s best find was her great-grandfather’s second Declaration of Intent. He had signed his first one and filed it on 7 November 1876, but never completed the process to become a US citizen. During WWI he signed another Declaration of

Intent on 11 February 1918. At that time, he was a resident alien as he was considered a German. He had to renounce all allegiance to William II, the Emperor of Germany during a time when the US was at war with Germany. The prize for Linda was that this second Declaration of Intent gave her the exact name of her great-grandfather's village in Prussia.

Like most of us, Linda has brick walls impede her research. She was born after all her grandparents had died so was never able to meet any of them. Because of that she has had problems researching her maternal grandmother's parents. "I have not been able to find the names of the villages they came from. Documents I have found only listed the states in Germany of Hesse and Mecklenburg.

Norway, Germany and Poland are the countries Linda has been researching. She has gone back to the 1800's on her mother's side. With the help of distant Norwegian cousins and the "wonderful Norwegian 'Bygdeboker' or farm books," she has been able to go back to 1605 on her dad's side.

"I've done my DNA thanks to winning a test kit at an MPAFUG meeting so I continue to make new discoveries. I've always joked I haven't gotten my family back to Adam and Eve yet, so I have more work to do."

Great story Linda! You better bring a power point presentation to share when you finish your tree back to Adam and Eve.

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.

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

kilostack@att.net. Hope to hear from you!

Louise Stack

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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)
Using Photomyne to Colorize & Digitize Photos and Albums (Bob Heck)

March 10, 2021

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

April 14, 2021

Why Join DAR, Mayflower Society or SAR (Randy Ray)
Researching Your Revolutionary War Ancestor (guest speaker Brian Barrett)

May 12, 2021

Reading Worn Headstones (Randy Ray)
Follow-up for presentations on Cemeteries, Find-a-Grave and Family Tree Maker (Randy Ray)

June 9, 2021

Working on it

July 14, 2021

Catholic Cemeteries, Milwaukee Archdiocese, and Billion Graves (Sam Colon)
Divorce and Marriage (Randy Ray)

August 11, 2021

From Start to Finish (Cathy Dailey)
Understanding Street View in Google (Randy Ray)

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

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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 \$12 per calendar year for an individual or family. Dues are \$6 for the balance of a year if you join after June 30th. 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.