



NEWSLETTER

November 2021
Volume 2021 Issue 11

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

MEETING BITS AND BYTES
WHAT'S ON THE NOVEMBER SCHEDULE
STEERING COMMITTEE NOTES
UPDATES
A QUOTE TO PONDER
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT
WISCONSIN HISTORY
UPCOMING PROGRAMS
ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER
MPAFUG KEY INFORMATION

NOVEMBER 2021

Update on Find-A-Grave (Randy Ray)
Documenting Your Sources (Jane Orne)
Property Records: Discovering the Hidden Gems (Cathy Dailey)

November 10, 2021
7:00 PM – New Berlin Ale House
16000 West Cleveland Avenue
New Berlin, WI 52151

MEETING BITS AND BYTES

Has anyone else noticed that stormy weather is usually in the forecast for our monthly meeting date? Just like the last couple of months, it was rainy for our October 13th meeting and now it is dark when we arrive for a meeting as well as when we finish. Oh, the joys of our dark fall and winter months here in Wisconsin. There were no new members or guests but there were 31 members in attendance.

Bob Tatalovich began the evening's presentations with On-Line Death Records. He started off by saying that he had really delved into this topic because of the pandemic. With all our usual haunts, such as historical societies and libraries closed so we couldn't go anywhere, he had to do his research via computer. He did mention that WI vital records were available statewide, but not by in-person viewing so you could order a document at \$20 each. Of course, that could mean that it wasn't actually what you wanted. Bob gave a number of other options to search for your ancestor's death records, some with indexes only and others with lots of images. Bob's handout listed a website that he said was the most helpful he has found, Joe Beine & Death Records.

Randy Ray was up next and took us back to the Mayflower as well as the Revolutionary War with his topic of joining organizations that honor that history. If you have been to any of Randy's presentations recently, he always brings a few props from his extensive research collection. This time he had a list of ancestors going back to George Washington and a variety of documents. Randy's handout listed websites for all the organizations he discussed.

WHAT'S ON THE NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

Randy Ray will be up first to give a quick update on Find-A-Grave. He had given a presentation on this topic in October of 2020 and periodically updated us on any changes so this is a continuation.

Jane Orne will be the first presenter of the evening to guide us through Documenting Your Resources. Do all of you do that? If not, you might want to get started. It is important to cite your resources to basically help yourself. You will make it easier to pick up where you left off especially if you have long periods in between doing your research. It will help you not duplicate what you have already done and it gives you proof that you have the right line. And, most importantly, you will need to cite your sources if you ever want to publish your genealogy.

Cathy Dailey will finish the evening off by showing the benefits of researching in property records. She assures us this will be an interesting topic because there is more to property records than just land descriptions.

“In addition to owners’ names many (property records) contain the names of relatives including their marital status, spouse names, decedent’s date of death and possibly the name of the estate’s personal representative or executor/executrix. Property records can help condense spans of time to narrow timelines for locating marriage and death records. To better understand property record ‘mining,’ we’ll uncover: terminology, legal descriptions of land and how plat maps help locate relatives.”

STEERING COMMITTEE NOTES

Your steering committee held their monthly zoom meeting on October 20, 2021. The following 8 members attended:

Debbie Bluett, Bruce Butterfield, Sam Colon, Cathy Dailey, Bob Heck, Jane Orne, Louise Stack and Bob Tatalovich

There is no picture since apparently Cathy Dailey is camera shy and wasn't going to show her face

unless Bob Heck promised not to snap a pic. (FYI Cathy, none of us will win a beauty contest.)

Bob Heck started the meeting off by telling of an interesting experience he had had when he gave a virtual talk at the Czechoslovakian Genealogical Society International Conference recently. Because of his presentation he found a cousin in Australia. Bear in mind that this was a talk involving Bob’s Czech roots, (remember his grandmother from Rudimov?) but this was a cousin through his Irish ancestry. Just goes to show that you never know where you might have a cousin.

Bob also shared that he had learned something new when using FamilySearch. When he went under “Search” he clicked on “Images,” put in Rudimov and lo and behold got lots of pictures.

Bob Tatalovich later sent an email with a link to a BYU Webinar which gives an explanation of what images are available on FamilySearch and how to get them. Hey, worth a try, right?

<https://fh.lib.byu.edu/2020/01/18/discovering-the-unindexed-records-in-the-familysearch-catalog-with-james-tanner/>.

We had a fairly lengthy discussion about other genealogy groups/societies that have been struggling due to decline in membership and volunteers. We are thankful that our group, MPAFUG, is going strong and is continuously evolving.

There were some revisions made to the Upcoming Programs, particularly the titles of presentations. We also discussed the content of scheduled presentations.

Prior to the meeting our treasurer, Debbie Bluett, shared a compliment that she had received via email from members Jacque and Tom Liker who had mistakenly sent in dues for 2022. Debbie informed them that their membership was free for 2022 so they made it a donation instead.

“It’s such a small amount for ALL the time and talents every one of you on the board have given us

over the 20 years we have been members. Thanks for all you do.”

We always appreciate good news and compliments Jacque and Tom! And thanks for the donation 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:

“Sure I wave the American flag. Do you know a better flag to wave? Sure I love my country with all her faults. I’m not ashamed of that, never have been, never will be.

John Wayne

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The James Fiedler Story

James became interested in genealogy when his sister Nancy, who was very ill at the time, asked him to take her to the cemetery in Coldspring, WI where their grandparents are interned. James later met with the cemetery Sexton who happened to be related to him. He said there is more to that story, but for now he is evidently keeping that one to himself.

James has been a member of MPAFUG for about 7 years which is roughly the same amount of time he has been doing genealogy research. He is researching both sides of the family and will help

other family members when requested. He also collaborates with other relatives that have an interest in genealogy.

As for road trips, James has spent time visiting various churches and courthouses. One surprise, his best find actually, was that he found that his wife happens to be related to the Wampanoag Indians.

Of course, James has hit a brick wall like many of us. For him it is the Fiedler line in Germany. His main focus of research is the European countries, primarily Great Britain and Germany. He has been able to go back as far as the 16th century, but is hoping to find additional Fiedler lineage in Germany.

Thanks for sharing, James! We look forward to hearing the rest of the story about the cemetery Sexton at a later date.

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

As we celebrate Veterans Day this month, take a moment to think about the price of freedom. Our country has had veterans of military conflict right from the beginning with The Revolutionary War. But it was the Civil War which gave us a responsibility to care for injured and disabled veterans.

“Let us strive to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation’s wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan.”

Abraham Lincoln

During the Civil War many soldiers survived, but lost limbs due to gunshots because the medical procedures at the time prescribed amputation. This situation prompted the need for medical facilities beyond the battlefield.

Following is information from the Milwaukee Preservation Alliance about the Milwaukee Soldiers Home which is a National Historic Landmark.



“The Milwaukee Soldiers Home was established as a place for Civil War soldiers to recuperate and transition back into society.

A month before his assassination, President Lincoln signed legislation to create a national system of homes for disabled veterans. Established in 1867, the Soldiers Home is one of 3 original Soldiers Homes in the country, with some of the oldest buildings in the VA system.

The Milwaukee Soldiers Home is beloved by veterans today who believe its recuperative powers remain.”

The Zablocki Medical Center is a bustling place, but if you take a drive through the rest of grounds you will find it peaceful as well as historical. You will see Old Main as it is today as well as many other original buildings. You can also drive through the National Cemetery. Don't forget to visit the other side of the freeway where there is an additional section of graves, some even Confederate soldiers.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

December 2021

No meeting – Happy Holidays!

January 12, 2022

Security Presentation and Scams to Watch For (Bill Heck)
Security Software Considerations (Sam Colon)

February 9, 2022

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

March 9, 2022

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

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.

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.

About This Newsletter

This newsletter is the official monthly publication of the Milwaukee PAF Users Group. All rights are reserved. No articles herein may be reproduced for profit or commercial gain without the express written consent of the Publisher or the Milwaukee PAF Users Group. Other PAF Users Groups may republish articles freely, but must include credit to the authors and *for* the Milwaukee PAF Users Group Newsletter.

Members interested in submitting articles may e-mail them to 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 1st Wednesday to be considered for inclusion in that same month. Credit will be given for your article.

MPAFUG KEY INFORMATION

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bruce Butterfield:

414-462-6097

Babtrfld-mke@wi.rr.com

Sam Colon:

414-327-2133

genschr@gmail.com

Bob Heck:

414-421-7143

bobheckmpafug@gmail.com

Jane Orne:

262-938-9371

orne@Rworld.net

Guy Porth:

414-510-0563

guyporth9@yahoo.com

Louise Stack:

414-581-3978

kilostack@att.net

Bob Tatalovich:

414-897-8280

Bobt3725@gmail.com

Lynn Thrasher

John Canapa

Steve Gulgowski

Randy Ray

Debbie Bluett

Questions about MPAFUG?

Write, call or email:

MPAFUG c/o Bob Heck

4910 Steeple Dr.

Greendale, WI 53129

414-421-7143

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 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

P.O. Box 229

Delavan, WI 53115-0229