



NEWSLETTER

November 2022
Volume 2022 Issue 11

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- MEETING BITS AND BYTES
- WHAT'S ON THE NOVEMBER SCHEDULE
- STEERING COMMITTEE NOTES
- COMMENTS AND THANK YOU'S
- A QUOTE TO PONDER
- MEMBERSHIP DUES
- REMINDERS
- MEMBER SPOTLIGHT
- UPCOMING PROGRAMS
- ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2022

Member Show and Tell

November 9, 2022

7:00 PM – New Berlin Ale House

16000 West Cleveland Avenue

New Berlin, WI 52151

MEETING BITS AND BYTES

Our October 12th meeting went on as scheduled but not without a couple of curve balls. The previous evening, we were notified that our guest speaker, Russell Horton from the Veterans Museum in Madison, had covid-like symptoms so would not be joining us. Then at lunchtime tornado warnings were issued. A strong storm and yes, at least one confirmed tornado, did bowl through and there was damage and power outages in some areas. Hopefully, no one reading this had any serious damage.

Thirty-nine people did manage to make it to the New Berlin Ale House for the meeting with one being a former member, Mary Lynn from Brookfield. Welcome Back Mary Lynn!

Bob Heck had already been scheduled for a presentation so stepped up first with his topic on Facebook Groups & Genealogy. Bob had many great examples of groups he is involved with including his Heck family Facebook page. One example he shared from that group was a movie of his brother learning to roller skate with a pillow tied to his butt and a video of a drive through his ancestral village of Rudimov, Czech Republic. Another was how Bob's cousin Cheryl found pictures of her dad after connecting with someone who had been in the military with him. Bob even showed us how to create an account if you don't already have one. There are probably many different groups you could join to further your genealogy research or share what you have found with others. Who knows what treasure you might find.

Since Russell Horton had to cancel, Randy Ray jumped in to fill the second half of the meeting. Another one of those curveballs popped up when Randy was unable to use his laptop so had to switch over to Bob's. Randy shared a number of things he is working on – Family history involving multiple violent deaths, Ancestry Thru Lines/Family Trees, Ancestry New Photo Scanning, Ancestry DNA and Family Search Images.

WHAT'S ON THE NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

November's meeting will be our annual Member Show & Tell night this time with an object of genealogical significance.

Joan Hepp – USA County Map, German Map, Quick Tips, Artistic Explanation of Family Names
Debbie Bluett – A Quilt from Great-grandmother
Randy Ray – Belled Tyrolian Trumpets from Great-great-grandfather in-law
Susie Staats – Photo of Lumberjacks in MN
Louise Stack – Grandma's Autograph Book
Bob Heck – Items Found in the Strangest Places

STEERING COMMITTEE NOTES

Your steering committee held a Zoom meeting at 7:00PM on October 19, 2022. The following members attended:

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

The first topic of discussion was membership renewals. Debbie said that renewals are going well and she has also received 4 donations along with the renewals.

Scheduling and upcoming programs was our longest discussion. Our guest speaker for the October meeting, Russell Horton, had cancelled due to illness so Louise is to try and reschedule him for June or July of 2023.

Bob H and Randy had plugged in presentations between February and May 2023 using topics suggested by members from the September meeting so we are still in need of topics from June to November 2023.

Louise suggested author Angela Bier who recently had a book published titled *The Accidental Archivist*. It is a "genealogical journey to uncover a family's hidden past."

Debbie suggested Judy Rockwell as a guest speaker. She had recently attended a talk given by her on writing about one of your ancestors.

Louise and Debbie will look into potentially scheduling these two speakers.

COMMENTS AND THANK YOU'S

From time, to time we receive comments or thank you's so here is one to share. We do appreciate your comments.

"Thanks to Bob and all of the Steering Committee Members for the great computer genealogy group. We appreciate all of the work you put into the programs!"
Peg & Steve Schellin

THANK YOU to the members who made a donation along with their dues renewal.

A QUOTE TO PONDER:

"The turkey. The sweet potatoes. The stuffing. The pumpkin pie. Is there anything else we all can agree so vehemently about? I don't think so."

Nora Ephron

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Have you renewed yet? MPAFUG membership dues for 2023 should be sent in to Treasurer Debbie Bluett. Please note that although Debbie has been the treasurer for a while now, this is her **first-time** collecting dues so please **BE KIND** and **PATIENT**. Dues are \$12 for the year and can be sent to Debbie at the address listed at the end of this newsletter.

If you have been enjoying the video recordings of the monthly meetings or periodic genealogical notes from Bob Heck, just be aware that if you do not renew your dues, your name would be removed from the email list.

REMINDERS

November 11th – Veterans Day



November 24th – Thanksgiving



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, Cheryl 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

The Luan Kurriger Story

Luan has an impressive family tree with over 4,360 people and has been doing her family research since 8th grade, approximately 46 years. She says that she has been a member of MPAFUG “off and on” for about 15 years.

“I think I was always interested in my family history. There were always 2nd cousins and extra parents and grandparents to keep track of. My mother liked to say her sister married her brother. My grandmother’s daughter by her first husband married my grandfather’s son by his first wife. I’ve had to keep that straight for years alongside assorted cousins, etc. However, the biggest push came in 8th grade when we were asked to do our family genealogy for German class.”

Currently, Luan’s focus is on her father’s family in Muscatine, IA, but is not working with other relatives at the moment. She said she will when she starts to focus on her father’s maternal side. Luan has made road trips to Muscatine, IA as well as Richland Center, WI and the general area of Milwaukee. Because of time limitations, Luan

wasn't able to do as much as she hoped, but has made several trips to cemeteries.

Luan has a number of wonderful pictures and memorabilia from her family history.

"I found pictures in my parents' basement during the lockdown. I found quite a few pics I hadn't seen before. My GG Grandfather wrote a lot of articles for the Waukesha Freeman about his trip from Donegal, Ireland, his time during the Civil War and when he lived in Dodge County. His Civil War letters to his wife were printed by the Wisconsin Magazine of History in the 1970's I believe. I also have my great-grandmother's lapel pins from Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War and past secretary and past president of the American Legion Auxiliary. My great-grandfather was the architect of the library in Waukesha as well as the old high school; his name is C.C. Anderson."

Of course, Luan has had surprises with the biggest being an aunt no one knew about and who actually found Luan.

"My mother's mother had a child that no one told us about. By the time my aunt found us, anyone who might have known was already dead. My grandmother had a baby with her first husband who died within a year from the effects of mustard gas poisoning. She married a second time but divorced him because he was beating her. She had another baby (my new aunt) after this time. She shipped her daughter from her first marriage to live with her sister in Alabama. We're not even sure she ever knew there was another child. My mother and her younger sister were born to her and her third husband in the late 30's."

"My best find was when I was researching back into the 1700's when everyone seemed to have the same death date. I thought they had this wrong until I searched for that date in history and found that my ancestor had survived the Deerfield Massacre*. I'm still trying to complete and verify the tree directly back to that spot in time. I also have ancestors who were Daughters of the American Revolution which I would love to join some day. I may have found a reason for the death of my grandfather's namesake, his uncle who, according to the Coroner's Inquiry accidentally shot his own head off. He may have

been shot by someone who had stolen his buggy in the month before."

Luan has hit a brick wall or two. She can't seem to place her Kurriger family on a boat from Germany to America although they are here. She also believes that her Wallace side supposedly from Donegal, Ireland are actually from Scotland so is trying to prove that.

"I am German (in the corner where Germany meets France and Switzerland), Irish, Scottish, Danish, Norwegian and English and my children are also Polish. I also do research for my cousin's side which is also Japanese in Hawaii and Japan."

Luan has gone back as far as the 1600's in Connecticut. She is hoping to flesh out her ancestors – Who they were and what they were like as people. "I like the mystery of it all."

An amazing story Luan! It's not every day an unknown relative finds you. Hopefully, you will break down those brick walls.

*The Deerfield Massacre occurred in 1704 in Deerfield, MA.

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

No Meeting in December

January 11, 2023

Computer Security – What You Should or Shouldn't Be Doing (Bill Heck)
 Latest Recommendations on Security Software (Sam Colon)

February 2023

Plat Maps (Randy Ray) (#12 on member suggested topics)
 What You Can Learn from Roots Tech 2023* (Bob Miller)

*Please note the actual virtual conference is March 2-4, 2023; however, you are now able to register for free at:

<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/event/rt2023>

March 8, 2023

Flash drives, Auto Backup on External Drives and How to Upload & Download (Randy Ray) (#1,3 & 4 on member suggested topics)
 Ship Records, Images, Passenger Lists, Other Ports in the USA and Canada and Where to Find Them (Bob Heck) (#11 & 14 on member suggested topics)

April 12, 2023

Understanding DNA in Simple Terms (Randy Ray) (#16 on member suggested topics)
 Canadian and French-Canadian Research (Bob Heck) (#8 on member suggested topics)

May 10, 2023

System Mechanics with live demo (Sam Colon) (#7 on member suggested topics)
 GEDCOM: How to create one branch, how to Share with Others and how to view it with a GED Viewer type program (Randy Ray) (#10 on member suggested topics)

June 14, 2023 (Working on It)

July 12, 2023 (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

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

Sam Colon:
414-327-2133
genschr@gmail.com

Bob Heck:
414-421-7143
bobheckmpafug@gmail.com

Randy Ray:
262-674-4756
rayr4989@gmail.com

Louise Stack:
414-581-3978
kilostack@att.net

Bob Tatalovich:
414-897-8280
Bobt3725@gmail.com

Debbie Bluett
John Canapa
Steve Gulgowski
Bob Miller
Jane Orne

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.

For 2023 new membership or renewal:

Please send a check for \$12.00 made payable to MPAFUG to:

**Deborah A. Bluett – MPAFUG Treasurer
PO Box 229
Delavan, WI 53115-0229**

Please include with your check, your Name, Mailing Address, email Address and Phone Number.

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.