



NEWSLETTER

February 2019
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FEBRUARY 13, 2019

Photo Magic: An Update presented by Bob Heck
What Can Go Wrong Digitizing Your Photos presented by
Bob Tatalovich

Next Meeting is February 13, 2019
7:00 PM -- Klemmer's Banquet Center
10401 West Oklahoma Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53227

MEETING BITS AND BYTES

After several days of almost spring-like weather our first meeting of the year turned out to be on the nippy side with a temp of 19o as we arrived for the 7:00 meeting at Klemmer's Banquet Center.

Bob Heck welcomed us with a Happy New Year greeting and stated that MPAFUG was beginning its 27th year which brought a round of applause. He also mentioned that in all those years we have only missed 2 meetings, both due to winter weather. For this meeting there were 100 people in attendance including 5 new members/guests. The first guest to stand and introduce himself was from Racine which prompted Bob to comment that it was "warmer down south." The other guests were from Brookfield, Greendale, Wauwatosa and Franklin via Hamburg, Germany.

There were 8 items to choose from on the opportunity table this time around. One member won several of them, as she routinely does, which you could say is because she is lucky. Bob, however, let us in on her secret winning strategy. This member buys \$40 worth of tickets and paces them out so the numbers are not sequential. Don't forget to bring your extra cash to the February meeting.

Our January meeting has been about cyber security the last several years with Bob's son Bill Heck being a presenter. Here is a little tidbit you may not know about Bill. Not only is he a security analyst/professional hacker who travels around the country but in his spare time he is the lead guitarist in a band called the Rush Tribute Project.

Our February meeting will be all about handling your old family photos. Bob Heck has told us to

use photo magic previously, but will be updating with new information and examples. He will also be giving us tips on what types of scanners to use. Bob Tatalovich will show us what can go wrong when working with those photos and help us to hopefully avoid mistakes. If you've got that old box of photos hanging around that you want to get uploaded on the computer and perhaps share with family, this meeting will inspire you to get started.

CYBER SECURITY

Summarized by Louise Stack

Back for his 5th January Bill Heck brought us the latest news in cyber security. He does not bring a handout but his presentation will be available on the MPAFUG website for you. Bill began with a review of what happened in 2018 with a small sample of companies that have been hacked. There was Equifax, which actually began in 2017 but still has repercussions today. Others he mentioned were Orbitz, SingHealth, Careem (similar to Uber), Facebook, MyHeritage, Marriott and a few others. You have probably been touched by at least one of them.

According to Bill the best hacks are the ones the company isn't even aware of. The duration of the attacks is the most stunning. Marriott for instance was a targeted attack with the hackers stealing info for years. Not all companies have strong security in place. Some like Walmart have a huge security presence and tech companies are much better at security than say clothing companies as it is not their main focus.

Phishing is a fairly prevalent form of cyber security so Bill spent some time on that topic with great examples. Robo calls are one type of phishing scam along with emails and texts. Whaling is a term used when the phishing targets C level managers (CEO's etc.). Spear phishing has a specific target and can be a little harder to identify. Bill even targeted us MPAFUG members 2 years ago by sending an email saying that we had won a Kindle Fire with 40% of the group falling for it. He tried again with an email about a family newsletter sent to 427 members, 13 of whom clicked on the link provided.

An interesting part of that was the map Bill had which showed where those 13 people lived. His advice is to not click on a link.

There are lots of scams out there. Bill touched on a few and gave some excellent advice. For charity scams he suggested that if you feel the need to donate, have them mail you something rather than give your info over the phone to an unknown entity. According to Bill, if you put your info out there it is a risk. An especially good quote was "the quieter you are the more you hear."

The most entertaining example Bill had was an IRS scam where the presumed IRS investigator left a message for a man whose name, address and phone number they knew along with the fact that he was an attorney. That in itself was scary enough. The man, who was in fact a tax attorney in Green Bay, decided to have a little fun so called the number back. The video and recording gave us all a laugh but showed how determined the scammers are. In the end, the scammer (Michael Jennings with a distinctly foreign accent) hung up when the man opted to send him a subpoena.

Bill has given us advice previously but it always bears repeating:

Keep coming to the January meeting for updates in cyber security.

Be aware.

DO NOT use password as a password.

Treat your password like your toothbrush – don't share and change often.

Be your own police.

Online banking is safe but if they offer 2-factor authentication, USE IT.

TECH SUPPORT SCAMS: HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

Summarized by Louise Stack

Our resident computer geek, Sam Colon, was the second presenter of the evening with his focus on tech support pop-ups. He touched briefly on phishing by advising that you should be careful and quoted the old adage "curiosity killed the cat." As you may know that can sometimes get the better of you. Remember to use DELETE and do not click

on unsubscribe if you are the target of a phishing scam. One of the phone scams out there is that the caller asks questions that require your answer to be yes which is then recorded. Never say yes!

According to Sam, hackers are working overtime to get your money. As for tech support scams look for them and know how to avoid being a victim. Do not fall for the scare tactic that you will “never, ever, ever recover your computer.” Google Chrome is particularly susceptible with a new trick being to freeze your browser. Sam advises that you use your power button to shut down and then restart.

The tech support scams work by telling you that your computer has a problem or needs an update like flash player. Sam advises that you do not update when it pops up on the screen. If you have been hit with a fake message: a) Do not panic, 2) Use Ctrl Alt Delete to shut down the fake message 3) Shut down the computer, then restart and 4) Run a complete system scan with your anti-virus and malware protection. Microsoft does have a help desk and offers free help for most issues. They do have a toll free number which Sam provided in his detailed handout. Do not use any numbers that come with the pop-ups.

Some other tidbits of advice Sam gave were to make sure you have a good firewall and make sure your wireless is secure and the router is up to date. If you use someone like Geek Squad make sure you turn off remote access when the problem is rectified. For further protection for your computer Sam recommends System Mechanic and Malwarebytes.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Bob Heck as told to Louise Stack

We are introducing a new column for the newsletter to get to know our members better, see what your areas of research are and perhaps connect you with other members who are researching the same country or culture. Bob Heck agreed to be the first to get us started so here is his story.

This is Bob’s 53rd year of being interested in family history and genealogy. In 1966 he sat down with

his maternal grandmother and asked her “You always talk about the ‘Old Country’, can you tell me about it?” His grandmother remembered her parents and grandparents and even remembered names and dates of her great grandparents. She talked about growing up and how she met Bob’s grandfather. She talked about immigrating to America in 1914 following Bob’s grandfather who immigrated in 1912. She talked about holding Bob’s mother when she was 11 months old on board that ship and the fear that she had in being processed through Ellis Island. She talked about the joy that she felt when saw her husband waiting on the train platform with a bunch of flowers in his hand at Racine, Wisconsin. From that day on Bob was bit by the genealogy bug.

Bob is an original member of MPAFUG starting with the very first meeting in February 1992 so this marks his 27th year. That is also how long he has been a member of the steering committee. He has been the director of our group for 22 years. In 1997 he was asked to become the director when then director Cal Cummins fell ill.

Bob researches both his and wife Gloria’s families, but he also assists in research for many others that come in to the Family History Center on Thursday evenings. He really enjoys helping others in their research and it gives him great satisfaction when he sees them learn the fundamentals of family history research.

Besides his immediate family research Bob collaborates with a distant cousin in Minneapolis on the Heck family and with one in Germany on the Henningfeld family. He has assisted both in writing books about their mutual families. He is also collaborating with his first cousin’s daughter, Cheryl Heck, on all of the branches of their family. He says that he and Cheryl are a team that volunteers at the Family History Center on Thursday evenings. Cheryl has become a very accomplished researcher and together they have helped many people.

Bob has even gone on a few road trips for his family research. In addition to Wisconsin, he has researched in New York, Vermont, Connecticut,

Rhode Island, Quebec Province, Canada, Germany, Minnesota, and Illinois.

He has had some good and not so good surprises. One of his biggest surprises is that he is related to 22 Presidents of the United States, to Thomas Edison and to King Henry I of England. One of the not so good surprises was finding out that one whole branch of the family was not connected because of an adoption that was kept secret. Thus, a branch that was thought to be French Canadian turned out to be Scandinavian.

Over the past 53 years Bob has had many “best finds.” He believes the best of the best had to be discovering a suitcase in a barn in Waterford, Wisconsin filled with rare family photos. He had never seen a picture of his paternal grandfather because he had died when Bob’s father was just 13 years old. In the suitcase were photos of his grandfather, all of his siblings, Bob’s great-grandparents, and his great-great-grandfather. One of the most significant photos was a large oval hand-colored photo of his great-grandfather, Henry Heck, in his Civil War Uniform.

Just like the rest of us, Bob has hit many brick walls. Many of those were broken down through some extensive research and by asking a lot of questions. He has one major brick wall remaining and that is to find where his great-great-grandfather, Peter McNulty, was born in Ireland. Bob knows the date in 1834 that he left Warren Point, Northern Ireland and he knows the dates he arrived in St. John, New Brunswick and then in Boston. His birth place remains the brick wall.

For his family Bob has been researching in the US, Canada, Ireland, Scotland, England, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Denmark and the Czech Republic. For others Bob has ventured into Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Austria and Switzerland.

Bob has most branches of his family going back to the early 1600’s through his own research. He also has research going back to the 700’s and 800’s through published genealogies or research done by others.

Even though Bob has done a considerable amount of research he still hopes to find Peter McNulty’s birthplace. He would also hope to find more information about his ancestors, how they lived and what they had to go through for their descendants to survive and end up in America. There is more to family research than just a birth, marriage and death date. Too many researchers stop their research after they get those three dates. Genealogy is more than that. Bob says, “I hope sincerely that MPAFUG has been able to influence our members to dig deeper and learn how great our ancestors really were.”

Note from the editor: Okay, before you get intimidated, just remember that Bob has been doing this for 53 years. Our hope is that many, if not all of you, will volunteer to be included in the Member Spotlight. 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, please see me at a meeting or email me with Member Spotlight in the subject line at: kilostack@att.net. Hope to hear from you!

Louise Stack

History Lessons

LET’S TALK IMMIGRATION.....

No, no, no certainly not engaging in that political affray even though immigration (illegal at least) is a hot topic at the moment. At some point, all of our ancestors did arrive here in the US as immigrants. Immigration laws have changed a number of times over the years so it helps to know when and where your ancestors arrived.

To start, what is the current immigration policy? If you google it, the first line tells you that the “US Immigration law is very complex and there is much confusion as to how it works.” Yikes – be sure to let us know if you found that helpful. It also said that “immigration to the United States is based upon the following principles: the reunification of families, admitting immigrants with skills that are valuable to the U.S. economy, protecting refugees, and promoting diversity.” As in other eras, there is

a cap on how many immigrants can be admitted to the US.

To be naturalized, you must be a permanent resident in the US for at least 5 years. Or you have qualifying service in the US armed forces. There are other ways as well and the caveat on each is that you meet all other eligibility requirements, too lengthy to mention here.

Following is information from previous MPAFUG meeting files that relate to immigration.

Castle Garden in New York was the first US Immigration Processing Station and was operated between 1855 and 1890. There was no official immigrant processing prior to that. Ellis Island opened in January 1892 and was operational until 1954. For ancestors arriving before 1855 in New York, the National Archives does have passenger lists of arrivals between 1820-1897. Just remember there were other ports of entry such as Boston, Baltimore and Canada.

A crucial date for naturalizations was September 1906. Prior to that the records contained just bare bones information such as name, date of entry and the port. After that date there was much more detailed information and you might even be lucky enough to get a picture with it. The Milwaukee County Historical Society has alphabetical card indexes of naturalizations and bound indexes for declarations of intent. Good sources to start with are FamilySearch and Ancestry. You can also try the National Archives.

Upcoming Programs

February 13, 2019

Photo Magic: An Update (Bob Heck)
What Can Go Wrong Digitizing Your Photos (Bob Tatalovich)

March 13, 2019

New Toys for the Genealogist (Gary Haas)
DNA an Update (Pat Mundstock)

April 10, 2019

A Full Night of Member Show and Tell
Contact Bob Heck if you would like to give a 5-10 minute presentation.

May 8, 2019

Finding the Trail to Europe (Bob Heck)
Faces Behind Memorial Day (Louise Stack)

June 12, 2019

Research Strategies (Jane Orne)

July 10, 2019

World War I Genealogy Research (Debra Dudek) Full evening presentation.

August 14, 2019

Relative Finder/BYU Labs (Bob Heck)
In the works

September 11, 2019

Dating Old Photographs (Bob Heck)
In the works

October 9, 2019

In the works

October 19, 2019

All day workshop at the Family History Center

November 13, 2019

In the works

No Meeting in December

If you would like to make a presentation or have a suggestion for a topic for a meeting, please contact Bob Heck

In Search Of

We are looking for an assistant reporter for the newsletter. As much as your current reporter would like to make every meeting, it is not always possible. It is just a matter of taking notes to supplement the meeting handouts and report any news from the meeting. Two meetings that need a

reporter are March and June. Please contact Bob Heck or Louise Stack if you want to help out.

About This Newsletter

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Members interested in submitting articles may e-mail them to bheck@voyager.net. 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.

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Steering committee meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month except December. The meetings start at 7:00PM and are held at the Family History Center located at 9600 W. Grange Ave., Hales Corners, WI. 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
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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.