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**Next meeting:
 WEDNESDAY
 MARCH 11TH 2026**



6:40 PM – NEW BERLIN LIBRARY*

**15105 West Library Lane
 New Berlin ~ WI 53151**

Me: *Checks if my 30GB download was completed while I was asleep*

A pop-up window: would you like to confirm the download?

Me:



MARCH PRESENTATIONS

CLOUD STRUCTURE – IS IT RIGHT FOR YOU By Randy Ray (30 min)

- Randy will cover all of our topics tonight in three sessions that actually work together for the health of your data.
- First up will be exploration of cloud options. Cloud storage is a model where data is stored on remote servers and accessed via the internet, rather than on local hard drives. Managed by third-party providers, it offers benefits like scalability, automatic backups, and remote accessibility across multiple devices.

BACK-UP STRATEGIES FOR PROTECTING YOUR RESEARCH

By Randy Ray (30 min)

- Next, he'll explore various options for backing up your computer. From the process of creating a secure, secondary copy of your data—files, photos, or entire system settings—and then storing it in a separate location, such as an external drive or cloud storage. This will all help on how to protect against data loss from hardware failure, theft, or malware.

SHARING LARGE FILES

By Randy Ray (30 min)

- Final steps for tonight will be tips and tricks for when you try to send substantial data files and you get that error "file too large to send".

← See Mr. Bean

Looking forward to it!

FEBRUARY MEETING RECAP ***MATRICULA GREATLY EXPANDED*** ***By Bob Heck***

- Bob covered the recent updates that this **free** resource has to offer. See handout.
- Matricula Online is continually expanding its collection of digitized church records, primarily focusing on Catholic dioceses in Europe.
- <https://data.matricula-online.eu/en/>
- To find recent updates, go to the homepage and look for “What’s New” or “News” section.
- Massive updates all happening including Archdiocese of Wurtzburg added roughly 2000 volumes. Nearly all of Austria’s records have been added.
- Numbers on the map indicate number of parishes or archives.
- Bob showed amazing visual differences between images in Matricula and the LDS Microfilm. Clearer, brighter and less blackening of edges that you see on microfilm. Amazing!
- Most updates have an index - score!
- Using this tool, Bob said it helped to identify and clarify more and more records for him. So much so that it added 5 to 6 generations to his work. Impressive!
- One question that came up for the growth was “why so much and why now”? Turns out due to digital processing makes it far quicker. Being so widely used now also validates demand to keep growing.
- Got a glimpse into the **digital scanning process** and it is full of cameras, lasers and remarkably fast to scan a book in a matter of minutes. Worth checking it out on YouTube.
- **HUGE tip for any document (not just on here) is for getting translation is to RIGHT CLICK and select “Translate to English”!!!!!!**
- Lots of impressive update information and it encourages us to check often for more. Great job and thanks Bob!

ARCHION-ACCESSING GERMAN PROTESTANT CHURCH RECORDS ***By Randy Ray***

- Another resource with a plethora of information so please see Randy’s handout info. Primarily German Protestant church records.
- Access is through membership “pass”. Runs about \$25/month. If you want to do it for a limited time, go in ready with your list of names and records you want to run down. Cancel afterwards and this may be an economical way to approach. Learn sneaky-smart tips to find what you need without getting lost
- 175,000 church books online. Browsable but not indexed.
- Downloads are available with the images being very good. Able to zoom in and out.
- On the pages, you can communicate with other researchers. Very cool!
- You do need to know the village or parish in order to search by territory. You’ll need to find that information first from other research records first. It may be information you already have.
- Randy recommends using FamilySearch and Matricula as your starting point for free records, then Archion (paid) for detailed image research in specific Protestant areas.
- There’s a good “how to” guide on German Research on the site that helps guide you. See handout for full site address. It is from Instruction October 2018.
- You can bookmark any book to look at for later research. Nice touch.
- He listed pros and cons and if prepared, you can get some great records for a month of usage fee. Cancel when done.
- Randy also used Gemini AI to translate and it adds some interpretations into the searchable documents as well.
- Great insights Randy! Thanks & well done.



NEED YOUR HELP NOW **2 OPPORTUNITIES**

1. JPEG'S NEEDED NOW FOR JULY MEETING

- Randy will be working on another angle with AI and translation capabilities.
- Do you have a document needing translation or have one already translated and are willing to share with the group?
- Randy will use your docs in July's meeting to show how AI translates and interprets.
- Now's your chance - PLEASE, submit any document you are willing to share that can be featured as example.
- Send to Bob's MPAFUG email and he will get that to Randy to use.
bobheckmpafug@gmail.com
- MUST BE JPEG FORMAT – and go!

2. SHOW & TELL 2026 – OCTOBER

- Never too early to start lining up people to present for our annual show and tell 😊
- Do you have something in your family that represents your heritage, hobbies or history?
- Do you have a funny, quirky or mysterious tale you have discovered in your research and want to share?
- We need 6 volunteers to present in October's meeting for about 10-15 minutes about your *factinating* (spell check lol – pun intended)
- Bob can help or make your powerpoint for you to present. If needed, send him the text/wording you would like to use and any photos.
- **Please let Bob know if you are able to present – we would LOVE to hear your story.**

MUSINGS & MUTTERINGS:

As we march into March, some information came up in February meeting (good Q&A session) that is worth sharing. Also some discussions from Steering Committee meeting.

- **Need a family book scanned in?**
When we looked at the book scanning video, it was mentioned that you can send a book you want to have scanned in to Utah LDS Church to scan your book in for free.
 - They will scan and send the book back to you along with your digital copy.
 - Very good way to add to their records and get your digitization completed for your use.
- **Need a winter musical escape?** You heard how to protect your files and info online in January, now enjoy Bill Heck's band on **YouTube**. Very good! Booking weekly for the rest of the year, Bob's son is VERY busy. Go to YouTube.com and enter:
 - **RUSH TRIBUTE PROJECT**
- **ROOT'S TECH – 2026**
 - If you are not familiar (as I was not) – check out the world's premier family discovery event— March 5–7, 2026. Join in-person in Salt Lake City, Utah or **online world-wide. On-Line is FREE.**
 - You can access past presentations **(2024-2025) on YouTube for FREE.**
 - **MARCH 5-7 2026**
 - Discover Your Family Story
 - Join us online to experience:
 - 200+ new online sessions in over 26 languages
 - Join keynote sessions live from the comfort of your own home
 - Chat online with other attendees worldwide
 - Get digital syllabi and class handouts

considered for inclusion in that same month. Credit will be given for your article.

FEBRUARY meeting attendance



**WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU IN
MARCH – BRING A FRIEND!**

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Membership in MPAFUG is open to anyone interested in learning more about computer genealogy.

\$12 – the cost per calendar year membership that covers individual and family

**RENEW NOW FOR 2026 SO YOU DON'T MISS
ANY MEMBER-ONLY BENEFITS** ☺

Please send a check for \$12.00 made payable to MPAFUG or bring to the next meeting:

Include: name, address, email & phone number.

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

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 email 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

RESOURCES

The Family Search Center

9600 West Grange Avenue, Hales Corners

The Family Search Center Library hours:

Tuesday: 8:30AM – 3:30PM

Wednesday: 8:30AM – 12 Noon

Thursday: 8:30AM – 3:30PM and

6:30PM – 9:00PM

Saturday: 10:00AM – 1:00PM

Enter at the main doors facing West Grange Avenue and follow the signs to the library.

On Thursday evenings, Bob Heck and Randy Ray are the volunteers on duty who will assist you in your research.

For some extra special help from May through September, Cheryl Heck is there to help you. Cheryl is LDS Mormon and is the expert in the Family Search website and LDS issues.

There are numerous portal systems available for free use at the center.

Come enjoy this resource!

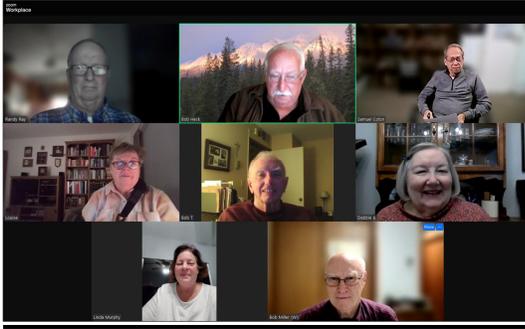
MPAFUG KEY INFORMATION

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bob Heck	Debbie Bluett	Randy Ray
Bob Miller	Linda Murphy	Sam Colon
Bob	Merilyn	Steve
Tatalovich	Romani	Gulgowski

Steering committee meetings are held via Zoom on the third Wednesday of the month except in December. The Steering Committee is an informal group of members who get together to plan topics for

future meetings.



**If you would like to make a presentation or have
a suggestion for a meeting topic**

Write, call or email:
MPAFUG c/o Bob Heck
4910 Steeple Dr.
Greendale, WI 53129
414-421-7143
bobheckmpafug@gmail.com

OUR WEB PAGE

<http://mpafug.org>

We invite you to visit our page, print a copy of this or last month's newsletter. You'll find 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.

***The New Berlin Public Library does not advocate for or endorse the viewpoints of meetings or meeting room users.**