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Next meeting:



MAY 14TH 2026



IMPORTANT NOTE: The meeting will be held on THURSDAY in the Community Room.

6:40 PM – NEW BERLIN LIBRARY*
15105 West Library Lane
New Berlin ~ WI 53151

MAY PRESENTATIONS

FULL-TEXT SEARCH ON FAMILY SEARCH

By Bob Heck

- Bob will cover this great tool that couples with AI to allow you to search almost 2 billion historical records that haven't been indexed yet. It uses the AI to read and interpret text directly from document images.
- There are 4 ways he will help us unfold this tool.
- According to FS website, the list of record collections available in Full-Text Search is extensive—and growing. These collections include nearly every type of historical record imaginable, from church registers and court documents to military files, newspapers, personal letters, land deeds, and more.
- Utilizing tools like this helps build your trees and definitely can help confirm details that may have been in question.
- Confidence builder - looking forward to it!

WINDOWS 11 BASICS *By Sam Colon*

- Sam has a tour of the basics and update changes in store for us with Windows 11.
- There is an update to the workaround to upgrade from Windows 10 that Sam will walk us through as well.
- To finish the update, he will cover a tip involving a flash drive and the Windows 11 update.
- Sam will help carry our research abilities into the next stage and help us keep current in the latest technology. Windows 11 – bring it on!

APRIL MEETING RECAP

GENEAOLOGY 201 – The Next Steps

By Randy Ray

- Randy gave us next steps to building on your research. Check out his handout for great details and updates.
- Here's some highlights: BASICS
 - Start with what you know.
 - Put it on paper if not savvy on the computer. 3-ring binders are a good organizer.
 - Use family group sheets.
 - Cite your sources-helps later
 - Talk to your cousins, Aunt, Uncles, and more. Ask them what they know and remember.
 - Scan and digitize your docs and pics. Invest in archivist supplies like acid-free paper, page protectors or laminating depending on needs.
- Helpful programs, sites and other ideas:
 - PAF – utilize Bob!!!
 - Family Tree Maker
 - Ancestry.com
 - Geneanet.org
 - Going to cemeteries
 - Find-A-Grave
 - Heraldry books
 - Census records
 - US GenWeb.org
 - Library of Congress Newspapers
 - Immigrant Ship Transcribers Guild
 - Join MPAFUG and other genealogy groups
- Visit Family Search Library – see info on page 4 under RESOURCES!
 - Bob and Randy volunteer there weekly and are great resources themselves.
 - Hours listed below as well and Randy is there Thursdays from 6:30-9:00 pm.
- So many wonderful tools and tips covered – thank you so much Randy – well done!

GOOGLE UPDATES

By Bob Heck

- Keep Bob's handout handy as it covers so many helpful sources.
- Started with Google tools. Primarily:

Google Maps	Google Books
Google Images	Gemini AI
Google Videos	Google Newspaper
Google Search	Google Translate
- Google Maps gives various views (map, satellite or street views) and is helpful in seeing where and what your ancestors lived in and the villages they experienced. Bob had a great photo of the exact house his ancestors occupied for many generations. Pic of Bob and his wife right outside the same home years later. Wonderful.
- Gemini AI can do so many things. Bob took a photo and had AI identify the age of the photo taken in the Czech Republic.
 - Not only did it nail it – AI also identified the cars in the pic by make, model and year, the Church by name and the horse and carriage as common in the transition time to vehicles. Amazing! Surprised it did not know the horse's name. LOL
- Also translated and identified docs Bob had signed by 3 of his ancestors!
- Some of the most used tools:
 - Google Earth Pro
 - Google Sheets
 - DNA Triangulation
 - County Histories
 - Google Translate
 - Google Alerts
 - Google Photos & Photoscan
 - Google Books
 - Google Images/Photos
 - Google Videos
 - Google Newspapers
 - Google search – general - use for everything!
 - Google Translate
- Many great examples from Bob's presentation. Watch twice as you will catch something new, I'm sure.
- Great job Bob – so much to know 😊

STILL NEED YOUR HELP

SHOW & TELL 2026 – OCTOBER

➤ MEMBERS SHOW & TELL



- We would like to fill the night with 6 volunteers – yes, you – are needed to present in October's meeting for 10-15 minutes about a treasure or story that is close to your heart.
- 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 have 4 scheduled and need 2 more – yes, you – can do it!
- Present in October's meeting for about 10-15 minutes.
- Bob can help or make your slides for you to present. If needed, send him the text/wording you would like to use and any photos.
- **Contact Bob now if you are able to present – we would enjoy hearing your story.**

MUSINGS & MUTTERINGS:

May continues our burst into Spring! Take a drive and see every tree on the way in bloom. Neighbors starting the mowing competitions with "Bob did his now I have to do mine!"

Let's take a peek at some Spring traditions over time that maybe your families enjoyed or you have even kept as a tradition.

- **BARBECUES** – although it is noted over 200,000 years ago, hominids were cooking

meat over fire, it took thousands of years to get refined. One of the earliest written records of pork barbecue dates back to December 1540 when Hernando de Soto attended a feast with the Chickasaw tribe in Mississippi. Although the account lacks specific cooking method details, it illustrates the cultural blending of Spanish pork and Indigenous practices. Yum!

- **SPRING BASEBALL** - Organized baseball spring training began in the late 19th century, with the earliest recorded instances dating back to the late 1860s and early 1870s as teams sought warmer climates to prepare for the season. Hot Springs, Arkansas, and New Orleans, Louisiana, were the primary, earliest hubs for these pre-season camps. Go Brewers go! Currently 4th in National League Central as of publishing. Loooong season ahead.
- **FLOWERS & PLANTING** - In spring 2026, the Wisconsin State Capitol grounds in Madison are featuring over 30,000 to 58,000+ tulip bulbs that were planted the previous fall. These tulips are in peak bloom around late April.
 - **Area Festivals to catch in MAY :**
 - Wisconsin Tulip Festivals & U-Pick (2026)
 - Rech Family Gardens (Lancaster): The 2nd Annual Tulip Fest is set for Sunday, May 3, 2026, with 30,000+ tulips, featuring U-pick options.
 - Happy Day Farmhaus (Germantown/Richfield): The 2026 Tulip Fest features over 22,000 hand-planted tulips with "Tulip Pickin' & Prosecco Sippin'" events from May 6–10, 2026.
 - Four Acres Flowers (Suamico): Over 50,000 tulips are expected to bloom, with the farm opening in early May 2026 for a three-week period.
 - Parrfection Produce (Monticello): A Tulip Fest is scheduled for May 8-9, 2026.

Enjoy getting out and seeing all the baby animals in Spring and get ready to welcome back the farmer's markets. May is aMAYzing!




APRIL meeting attendance ...

**WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU IN
MAY – 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

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

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.

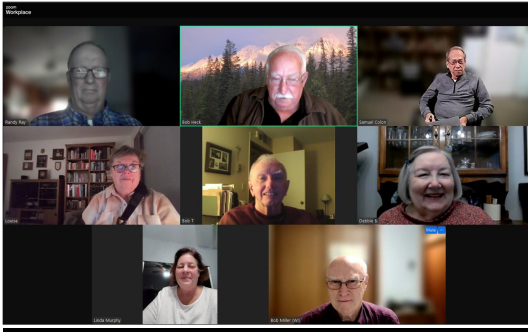
Come enjoy this resource!

MPAFUG KEY INFORMATION

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

Just so I can check if y'all read to the end, I want to make sure we look to the end of the month of May as well and get ready for Memorial Day.

Monday, May 25, 2026. As a U.S. federal holiday, it honors military personnel who died in service, with government offices closed. The holiday, which falls on the final weekend of the month, marks the unofficial start of summer and often features parades, ceremonies, and the flying of flags at half-staff until noon.

As the world gets more modern and the internet makes everything instant, take time to think about military presence in your family history. Thank you to all the men and women who died in service fighting to keep our freedoms free and protecting our nation and its people.

