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## Preparation For A Research Trip

*Summarized by Louise Stack*

If you have heard one of MPAFUG member Winnie Mading's research presentations previously, then you know she has fabulous tips for planning your own trip. You also could have garnered a few more tidbits this time around. Now if this was your first time, you probably realized that Winnie is willing to share her mistakes so you can (hopefully) avoid them and that she makes a research trip look like an adventure worth taking as long as you plan ahead. For those members who couldn't attend the meeting you missed a fashion statement too. Winnie wore a tee shirt, which she wears on her research trips, that has her family tree on the front and a list of all the names she is researching on the back. By the way, that is in hopes of actually finding a relative on the trip although it hasn't happened yet.

Winnie began her presentation by giving a look at her beginnings as a genealogist. When her mother-in-law died, she left behind a box under the bed with family papers which got Winnie's husband started on his family research. Family vacations to Southern Illinois, Arkansas and Missouri included time spent at libraries, courthouses and museums. Winnie went along but didn't start her own research until after she retired in 2004. She decided that the next trip would be to New York where her family was from.

When Winnie started her genealogical research, she collected info from online family trees and from her sister which lulled her into thinking this was easy and that what she found was good. Before heading off to New York Winnie did call the Syracuse Library for hours and restrictions but otherwise her only plan was which way to turn at the end of their driveway. The plus side of the trip was that they were able to see some great scenic and historical sites. However, on the down side, Winnie found a local history library she wanted to visit in Geneva, NY where she had ancestors was only open "yesterday" and at another library she found info on an ancestor but she could not get copies. She did accidentally discover her grandmother's correct maiden name so some success, but she realized she had not prepared enough for the trip.

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JUNE 14, 2017

## WHAT'S IN THE ATTIC & PHOTO MAGIC

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*What's in the Attic*

*By*

*Louise Stack*

*Photo Magic*

*By*

*Bob Heck*

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*Next Meeting is July 12, 2017  
Klemmer's Banquet Center  
10401 West Oklahoma Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53227*

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Two years later Winnie traveled west but this time made plans well in advance. Since her previous trip, she had learned that 2 great grandfathers had been in Utah and Colorado. Winnie looked up and contacted resources, printed up relative portions of her family tree, listed specific questions she wanted answered and set up a tentative schedule. Winnie always includes time for fun since it is also a vacation so included a list of scenic areas they wanted to visit. The pre-planning paid off and Winnie was able to find lots of documentation on her great grandfathers. She was even able to walk on her great-great grandfather's land and see his gravestone as well as the remains of his farm buildings. And yes, she saw some great scenery too!

While on the way to Maryland in 2014 Winnie's husband decided to make stops in KY and TN to find info about the family of one of his great-grandmothers. There was no pre-planning so Winnie felt that there was much wasted time with little result. Winnie's husband did score 4 books with some info about his family at a college library. The records had already been digitized so the books were going to be discarded – now that was a treasure you don't usually stumble upon. They did have trouble finding motels so pre-planning would have helped in that regard.

To prepare for a research trip, Winnie had a number of suggestions beginning with asking yourself what information you are looking for. Your first steps would be to see what you can access long distance such as local history websites and newspaper archives. If there is a relative where you are going, see if they can or will do some research for you. You could also determine if it would be better to work with a local paid researcher. Winnie mentioned that you might want to consider joining a local historical society. She did that in Pittsfield, MA and was able to get 2 hours of free research time.

Do you want to “flesh out” an ancestor? Do you want more details on his/her life? Do you want to meet relatives and fellow researchers? Do you want to meet the FAN club (Friends, Associates and Neighbors)? It's up to you, but start with a plan and be flexible. Possible resources are libraries, both public and college, courthouses, local history centers, cemeteries, churches and museums. Don't underestimate college/university libraries as some can be a very valuable resource. According to Winnie, size does NOT matter as she found 2 of the smallest libraries she visited were gold mines of information. In Connecticut Winnie found that the local historical society was a room in the attic of an old home which was now a museum so a limited number of visitors could do research at one time.

Once you have your destination and know where you want to do your research, you will want to check the days and hours the resource is open as well as any costs for parking, admission and copies, etc. Know what

the procedures and rules are because they do vary. In the case of churches, Winnie recommends you do contact them ahead of time to know whether they have information you may be looking for. If you are able to get church records leaving a cash donation is always a good idea. When visiting a courthouse note that some screen visitors like an airport which means no pocketknives or other potential weapons. Remember to document what you did and did not find. Winnie suggested Family Tree Magazine online to obtain research forms or you can create your own as she did. Fun Stuff for Genealogists, where Winnie got her family tee shirt, also offers fill-in-the-blank post-it notes for citing sources.

Winnie had an impressive list of helpful items to take with you on your journey. It would be too lengthy to repeat here and some would be with you anyway – smart phone, camera, laptop and comfortable shoes. Some you may not have thought of are: snake bite kit, gloves, grass clippers (to snip around the family headstone), walking stick (to keep you from stumbling in cemetery gopher heaven) and plastic garbage bags (to sit or kneel on). It just so happened that Winnie also suggested taking a scanner of some sort and there happened to be a mouse scanner on the opportunity table. Perhaps the lucky winner is already gearing up for their research trip.

Winnie's tips: Planning ahead makes a huge difference in results and take time to have fun!

## Naturalization Records in Wisconsin

*Summarized by Louise Stack*

Bob Tatalovich gave the second presentation of the evening with the focus on naturalization records. The National Archives in Chicago and the Milwaukee County Historical Society are both sources for those records. In fact, a good portion of their work is locating naturalizations.

Why would you be interested in your ancestor's naturalization records? Early forms had very general information about your ancestor such as the month and year of birth, country of origin, city, month and year of immigration but it could still answer a question or two. A crucial date for naturalizations was September 1906 when new, more detailed forms were mandated. Those new forms also included the spouse, her place of origin and date of marriage along with the names and dates of birth of any children.

Although unusual, you might even be able to locate records for a female relative. Bob had one great example of a woman who was widowed and he was able to get information about the first and second husband as well as a son apparently born out of wedlock.

Four types of forms available are the Naturalization Index Card, Declaration of Intent, Petition for Naturalization and Certificate of Arrival although not all four are present in every case. It is important to know where your ancestor was naturalized – County or Federal court – because this determines where the records are. Federal records always end up in National Archives. Milwaukee County Historical Society has a monopoly on the records for Milwaukee County and those records are not digitized which means a search at their 910 N. Old World 3<sup>rd</sup> St location would be necessary. (Kevin Abing, Archivist for MCHS, informed us at the March meeting that they have an alphabetical card index for naturalizations and bound indexes for declarations of intents.)

Bob suggested that an excellent place to start your search is with either Ancestry or Family Search. Ancestry has records for the entire US under US Naturalization Record Indexes, 1791-1992 but you would probably want to search under smaller collections. On Ancestry, some naturalizations through Federal Courts are linked to the index cards. However, only the index cards for County Court naturalizations are provided on Ancestry. For Wisconsin naturalizations Ancestry may give you BOTH the index card and the papers. If your ancestor was naturalized there is a card for him (or her). At the least, index cards can give you the clues you need to find the papers. Usually all related documents are gathered together with the Petition for Naturalization.

Bob had a few striking sample documents. One was 5 pages and was very detailed including the names, birthdates and place born for each of the children. There was also a picture of the petitioner. Of the sample documents with pictures Bob had one of his grandfather who gave the camera a mean, defiant look, which he learned was characteristic of the man. Signatures of the person were typically on the picture in addition to being on the documents. It is almost like meeting your ancestor in person.

Family Search also has County Court naturalizations. Those collections are “browse images” so you would have to page through like using microfilm. Bob says not to worry though since it will be easy to zip through those million or so records. The Wisconsin County Naturalization Records under Family Search are for 1807-1992, although Bob did not find any for the year 1807. There are many other state naturalization records also available online at Family Search.

Simply stated, start with Ancestry for Federal Court records, Family Search for County Court records and Milwaukee County Historical Society for Milwaukee County records. Just note that not everyone completed the naturalization process.

Bob believes that your search for naturalization papers – Declaration of Intent and Petition for Naturalization -- are

worth the hunt. Think of it as a scavenger hunt and gather hints from census records and the index cards. Whatever you do find could help you learn a part of your ancestor’s story.

Bob’s tip: Try the easiest way first!

## Upcoming Programs

**June 20, 2017**

**Bus Trip to Madison**

**July 12, 2017**

External Storage, DVD Storage, Cloud Storage,  
Scanners (Sam Colon)  
Moving Data and Software (Bob Heck)

**August 9, 2017 – Terminology & Stuff**

Roots Magic (Bob Tatalovich)  
Legacy (Bruce Butterfield)

**September 13, 2017**

Victorian Mourning & Funeral Practices (Steve Person)  
Funeral Home Research (TBA)

**October 11, 2017 – Terminology & Stuff**

Whoa dn What You’ll Find in the US Census &  
City Directories (Cathy Dailey)  
Research Land Records (Gary Haas)

**October 21, 2017**

**FREE** Genealogy Workshop at the Family  
History Center, 9600 West Grange Avenue.  
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**November 8, 2017**

Courthouse Research (Guy Porth)  
Researching Will & Probate Records On-Line  
(Bob Heck)

**December, 2017 – No Meeting**

Do NOT forget, there is **NO** meeting in  
December

## MPAFUG is 25!

### ***MPAFUG Celebrates 25 Years as a Computer Genealogy Group in 2017.***

The History of MPAFUG: 1992 -2017

Original Founding Members: Larry and Katy Richardson, Cal and Doris Cummings, Joan Luetzow, Jim Shirey, Betty Storey, Bob Wiesian, and Bob Heck.

Cal Cummins was the Director from 1992 through 1997. Bob Heck became Director in 1997 and serves in that capacity to the present time.

Katy Richardson was the Newsletter Editor and Jim Shirey was Treasurer.

On 23 December 1991 the Steering Committee sent out a letter to 50 people who had expressed an interest in computer genealogy. The first meeting was held on 19 February 1992 at the Family History Center "Woman's Relief Society Room." The room had a capacity of 30 people and the attendance that night was 35 so it was a standing room only meeting. It was not to be the last.

The 35 members were dazzled by a new device that allowed projecting the image from a desk top computer onto a projection screen. The device was 8-1/2 X 11 inches and was about two inches thick. It projected the image in black and white which was fine because the genealogy program, Personal Ancestral File version 2.0 that was being demonstrated was a DOS based program. The name of the organization was established as MPAFUG which stood for "Milwaukee Personal Ancestral File Users Group." A close second was MAPAFUG which stood for "Milwaukee Area Personal Ancestral File Users Group."

The next meeting was held on 7 April 1992 at the Hales Corners Public Library. Membership grew to 50 families as word started to spread about MPAFUG. We remained at the Hales Corners Public Library until we out grew their conference room. While at the Hales Corners Public Library members of the Steering Committee would toss a few bucks into a hat in order to cover the cost of handouts and postage stamps. We later expanded the passing of the hat to all of the members attending the meetings. Dues were established at \$10.00 for an entire family under the same roof. This allowed MPAFUG to operate in the black.

In October 1998 our membership had grown to 180 families. We started meeting at the Greendale Public Library, however in less than one year we were again in a standing room only situation.

In July 1999 we moved our meetings to the Root River Center in Franklin, Wisconsin. By November 2001 our membership grew to over 300 families. The Root River Center went bankrupt in June 2013 and we moved to Serb Hall for one meeting in July 2013, and then to the Polish Center in Franklin, Wisconsin on 6 August 2013. The Polish Center was a great facility but they had a major problem with the acoustics in the meeting room. Some members were so frustrated with the sound quality that they said that they would quite if we didn't correct the problem. We even had an Acoustical Engineer evaluate the conference room and his conclusion was that there was nothing that could be done to correct the problem short of a major renovation of the room design.

Our next move was to Klemmer's Banquet Center in Milwaukee in January 2016. Our membership had grown to over 500 families and our attendance ranged from 140 to 230 people at each meeting.

The MPAFUG On-Line Bunch was formed by Bob Heck in July 1998, right after he retired. The On-Line Bunch is open to all members of MPAFUG at no cost. The On-Line Bunch started out with 55 members in 1998 and grew to 180 by July 2000. The On-Line Bunch now includes over 500 families with members in 18 States and three foreign countries. Some people join MPAFUG just to be members of the On-Line Bunch. E-mail messages are sent to the On-Line Bunch informing them of new research sites that have been evaluated by Bob Heck and are non-commercial. We average sending out about 110 messages per year to all 500 members.

### **Past Steering Committee Members (Deceased):**

Katy Richardson, Larry Richardson, Cal Cummins, Bob Wiesian, Bruce Walthers, Fred Riley, Diane Gray, Al Koester, Jerry Dominski

### **Past Steering Committee Members:**

John Vnuk, Joan Luetzow, Betty Storey, Dolly Mielke, Mark Vanderhei, Steve Arndt, Gary Haas, Jim Shirey, Bob Miller, Pat Mundstock, Mary Graves, Dale Graves,

### **Present Steering Committee Members:**

Jane Orne, Louise Stack, Lynn Thrasher, Steve Gulgowski, Guy Porth, Sam Colon, Earl Capps, Bruce Butterfield, Bob Tatalovich, Bob Heck



## Bus Trip Note

The upcoming bus trip to Madison will be \$20.00 per person. Registration is available so make sure to reserve your spot – they usually go pretty fast. The Trip is **20 June 2017**

## 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 [bheck@voyager.net](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday to be considered for inclusion in that same month. Credit will be given for your article.

## Opportunity Table

- Canon A1400 20 Megapixel Camera
- Kodak Portable Photo Scanner
- Kodak Digital Photo 7" Frame
- Refurbished Acer Aspire 10" Notebook Win 10
- Friends and Family Picture Tree
- Notebook Cable Lock

## Meeting Bits and Bytes

April showers continued on into May for our monthly meeting at Klemmer's Banquet Hall. Eighty-eight members, including one new member/guest, dodged the raindrops and cool weather to come to the meeting. With Bob Heck presiding the meeting got underway at 7:00PM. Bob started off with a serious statement that everyone should "check your cellphones" and cautioned that he would turn over the mic for you to share with everyone if you were found talking during the presentations. He followed that with "Now let's have some fun!" Bob also announced that the bus for the Madison trip was filling up so anyone interested should get their reservation in. Note that this is sometimes referred to as the bratwurst trip because of Bob's lunch preference.

Bob's monthly quiz began with reference to the cell phone and talking issues at the April meeting as question #1. Just about everyone knew that answer, but only one member was quick enough to stand to claim the prize. With the bus trip approaching next month Bob asked what time the bus would pick up at College Ave for his 2<sup>nd</sup> question. If you are getting on the bus there you should know it is 6:20AM. That was followed by what year US passports started (1795) and then how many Heck's Bob found when searching the Germans-to-America records. Heck there were a lot of Heck's! The answer to the last prize-worthy question was what little boys are made of.... if you can remember that old nursery rhyme, then you would also know your correspondent this month is made of "sugar and spice and everything nice". Just for the record, a gentleman with a sense of humor answered one of the questions and stated that he was a golfer. The last just-for-fun question involved hypochondriacs and 23 And Me DNA testing.



## Help with PAF

Call us if you need assistance in using PAF, or if you have question about MPAFUG  
We're here to help!

NAME	PHONE	E-MAIL Address
Bruce Butterfield	414-462-6097	Babtrfld-mke@wi.rr.com
Sam Colon	414-327-2133	genrschr@gmail.com
Bob Heck	414-421-7143	bheck@voyager.net
Bob Tatalovich	414-897-8280	bobt3725@gmail.com
Jane Orne	262-938-9371	orne@Rworld.net
Guy Porth	414-510-0563	guyporth9@yahoo.com
Earl Capps	414-327-4327	elcapps@yahoo.com

## MPAFUG Key Information

### The Steering Committee

Steering committee meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month except December. The meetings start at 7:00 pm at Bob Heck's house (4910 Steeple Drive, Greendale, 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 and participate in the meetings.

### 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 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.

### Resources Available:

In addition to our monthly meetings and website, we offer 3 CD's that are available to members for purchase. CD's are \$5 each if picked up at a meeting, or an additional \$2.50 for shipping/handling. Contact Lynn Thrasher - MPAFUG Treasurer, PO Box 14222, West Allis, WI 53214-0222.

- ◆ MPAFUG Newsletters – December 1991 thru December 2013
- ◆ MPAFUG Handouts – 1999 thru 2013
- ◆ MPAFUG Utilities CD – contains 16 useful programs including PAF, Picasa, GenViewer, Open Office, Adobe Reader, PDA to Palm OS, FastStone, IRFAN Viewer/Plugins, FamilySearcher and more

### 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 30<sup>th</sup>. To join, send a check made payable to "MPAFUG" to: Lynn Thrasher – MPAFUG Treasurer, PO Box 14222, West Allis, WI 53214-0222.

#### *Questions about MPAFUG?*

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