



Newsletter

July 2010
Volume 2010 Issue 7

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 CCC – Civilian Conservation Corps
- 1 WPS – Works Progress/Projects Administration
- 4 General Online Resources
- 4 Upcoming Meetings
- 5 Meeting Bits & Bytes
- 6 Tip of the Day: Rolled-up and Brittle Documents
- 7 Help with PAF

JULY'S MEETING

DNA Revisited

DNA Basics
(Roger Cobb)

*The Problem,
The DNA Tool Used, and
the Results*
(Guy Porth, Betty Storey & Bruce
Butterfield)

7:00 pm - 7/7/10
Root River Center
7220 W Rawson Ave.
Franklin, WI

CCC – Civilian Conservation Corps

Presentation Summarized by Bruce Butterfield

Betty Storey began her project involving the old Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) several months ago and was confronted at first a great deal of frustration. As she dug deeper, resources were revealed and she began to wonder if a single program space would be sufficient to discuss the subject. She concentrated her report on Wisconsin examples of CCC efforts that were similar to projects in all other states. Before she got started, Betty asked if anybody in the audience knew of family members or neighbors who had been involved in the CCC and got a surprising show of hands. Following are several items from Betty's handout.

The CCC was established on 21 March 1933. It became one of the most popular New Deal programs among the general public and

operated in every state of the Union and several territories.

The Labor Department's role was to enroll unemployed civilians (mainly men) as participants. The CCC camps were operated by the U.S. Army, using 3,000 reserve officers who became the camp directors. Each camp had a federal sponsor, usually the Department of the Interior.

Enrollment peaked in August 1935 with 505,000 enrollees in 2,650 camps. By the time the CCC disbanded in 1942, over 3 million men had participated. Throughout the CCC, more than 40,000 men were taught to read and write. Members lived in the camps, wore military uniforms and lived under quasi-military discipline. Early on, very many were malnourished and poorly

Please see CCC on page 2

WPA – Works Progress/Projects Administration

Presentation Summarized by Bruce Butterfield

Like Betty, Bob Miller discovered and learned a lot more than he thought might exist about the second huge New Deal enterprise; the WPA. For one thing, he learned that the WPA was actually two entities: the Works Progress Administration, established in 1935, and a successor, slightly differently organized Work Projects Administration, operating between April 1939 and 30 June 1943. The WPA was the largest component of the New Deal effort to combat the effects of the Great Depression and put to work needy employable Americans. Many projects overlapped with the CCC. By 1943, about 11

billion dollars had been committed, about 85% of which went to salaries and wages for the more than 8.5 million workers, about 13.5% of whom were women.

Bob pointed out that almost all WPA records concern WPA programs. Information gleaned from them will most often represent "life stories" rather than genealogical facts and figures. They will help to fill in the context of our families' experiences during that era. Every project needed people to make it go. If you had a family member who worked on public projects, you may be able to learn

Please see WPA on page 3

CCC from Page 1

clothed. Few had more than a year of high school education or work experience beyond occasional odd jobs. Vocational training was available in truck driving, mechanics, cooking, furniture building, forestry, masonry, road construction, dam building, fire fighting and conservation techniques.

The requirements were that a man be a U.S. citizen, be of reasonably sound physical condition, unemployed, and between the ages of 18 to 26 years. Enlistment was for a period of six months, extendable to two years. Here is an item that will astonish many: the pay was \$30 a month, of which \$25 was sent home to the family!

There existed a separate division of the CCC organized for Native Americans who were trained to be carpenters, truck drivers, radio operators, mechanics, surveyors and technicians and worked near their reservations on roads, bridges, schools, clinics, shelters and other public works. Enrollment totaled about 85,000 men.

National CCC projects included erection of more than 3,470 fire lookout towers, 97,000 miles of fire roads, the planting of more than 3 billion trees, drainage systems and other reclamation work on over 84 million acres of agricultural land, disease and insect control, forest improvement, building of campgrounds and parks (complete with picnic shelters, swimming pools, fireplaces and restrooms), over 4 million man-days fighting fires, over 7 million man-days expended on protecting natural wildlife habitats, and many other projects.

Wisconsin projects included reforestation and removal of debris from forest floors caused by severe lumbering, soil erosion control via retaining walls and dams, and enhancement of such State Parks as Rib Mountain at Wausau, Wyalusing near the confluence of the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers, Pattison at

Superior, Perrot at Trempeleau, Interstate at St. Croix Falls, Devil's Lake at Baraboo, and Copper State in Ashland County.

Betty discovered a CCC museum in Rhinelander and CCC information at the Three Lakes Historical Museum. By 1940, "relief workers" of the CCC had participated in the creation in Milwaukee County of Charles B. Whitnall's "pearl necklace" that is one of the finest park systems in the United States. A team including 2,000 workers from the CCC straightened a flood and erosion prone "S-curve" in the Milwaukee River. Many flood control dam and island projects and others to landscape parkways, and build park pavilions were done in cooperation with the WPA.

The onset of World War II led to work opportunities in various industries where many employers had special interest in the CCC alumnae who had learned the value of a full day's work and understood how to follow instructions in a disciplined way. The quasi-military experience in the camps also led many CCC members directly into the armed forces. In 1942 the service was disbanded.

Betty discovered that many CCC enrollment cards are available for study. There are also records of CCC applications and Discharge Notifications. Such documents will usually show the name and address of the enrollee, date and place of beginning service, camp assignments, discharge date and reason for discharge (usually completion of the term). The researcher may also find education information, physical attributes, trade or occupation in the CCC, place and date of discharge and quality of work performed.

Betty's handout was replete with lists of repositories and URL's to locate records. There were two full pages of references that we cannot reproduce here. If you had a family member who was involved in the CCC, you may find in the records a little more information to illuminate that person's life and the era of the Great Depression.

"The researcher may also find education information, physical attributes, trade or occupation in the CCC, place and date of discharge and quality of work performed."



"The National Archives holds records of many of the WPA programs ... There are lots of leads available at the State Historical Society Archive and Library in Madison."

WPA from page 1

what his/her experiences were by understanding the project itself.

WPA construction projects involved 651,000 miles of roads and streets, 124,000 bridges built or repaired, 125,000 public buildings, over 8,000 parks and 853 landing fields (we now call them airports) and a lot of other things.

In addition to all of the bricks, mortar, concrete and stone, there were innumerable "people" projects that employed artists to decorate buildings with murals, sculptures and canvasses. Actors and musicians were employed in bringing entertainment and education to many areas of the country. Historical research projects and newspaper indexing projects fed families and also planted the seeds that represent part of the harvest of social and genealogical information we enjoy today. Non-construction programs included the Federal Art Project (FAP), the Federal Music Project (FMP), the Federal Theater Project (FTP), the Federal Writers' Project (FWP), and the Historical Records Survey (HRS). Some of the results of those programs live on as memorable plays, music and stories as well as studies of the lore, music, colloquial language and mores of local populations around the country that now represent the basis of sociological study in most universities to this day.

Bob's talk was well laced with slides illustrating many of the points covered. His handout has many URL's that lead to

resources of study. The National Archives (archive.gov) holds records of many of the WPA programs in section 69.5-Records of WPA Projects 1934-43. There are lots of leads available at the State Historical Society Archive and Library in Madison.

Although the WPA was a project organization rather than a people organization, there were projects that produced genealogical data, such as the Soundex for the 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920 U.S. censuses and the Soundex for Naturalization Petitions for the Northern District of Illinois (including Wisconsin), New England and New York. Bob reiterated the point that the WPA represents a mixed bag for genealogists. There is relatively little data in digital format, meaning much "face time" at repositories looking for the good stuff – what Bob referred to as "good old-fashioned research techniques." But, many records can provide the historical information that may point to genealogically useful tidbits. Bob and Betty's handouts hold a lot of useful information. If you missed the meeting, be sure to check them out at the members-only page of our website (mpafug.org).

All in all, Betty and Bob looked hard, dug deep and found out that there is a whole lot of stuff that most of us didn't know exists. Sometimes the obscure or unrecognized resource can hold genealogical gold. It never hurts to learn something new each day!



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. 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 3rd Wednesday to be considered for inclusion in that same month. Credit will be given for your article.

General Online Resources

Sorting through the vast amounts of information available on the Internet can be overwhelming when you are first beginning. Noted genealogist Dick Eastman has made some suggestions.

The U.S. National Archives and Records and Records Administration maintains an excellent Web site that gives information about the many services they offer to genealogists. You will not find original records online here, but you will find a wealth of information about where to find that data.

<http://www.nara.gov/>

<http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/index.html>

The National Archives Information Locator (NAIL) is a pilot searchable database with limited National Archives and Records Administration genealogical data, including descriptions of 52,000 Cherokee, Chickasaw, Creek, and Seminole applications for enrollment to the Five Civilized Tribes (Dawes Commission), descriptions of

9,618 1896 Citizenship Applications received by the Dawes Commission and also descriptions of 50,000 Fort Smith Arkansas criminal case files. (Editor's Note: The NAIL pilot program is over & is now ARC – Archival Research Catalog).

<http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/>

The world's largest online genealogy library can be found at Ancestry, Inc.'s Web site. The free databases include a number of genealogy books, the Social Security Death records, old maps and the Ancestry World Tree (over 7 million names). In addition, for a fee you can search more than 450 volumes of data in Ancestry's other genealogy databases. These include such standard references as the PERiodical Source Index (PERSI), Daughters of the American Revolution Lineage Books, the 1790 Census Collection and the Early American Marriages Collection. Ancestry adds one database every business day.

<http://www.ancestry.com>



Upcoming Programs

August – Connecting To Your Relatives

Ethnic & Social Organizations, Facebook, Twitter (Gary Haas)

Great Phone Systems: SKYPE and Magic Jack (Bob Heck)

September – Migration Patterns (How did they get here)

Getting to this country (Bob Miller)

Getting from the Port to Here (Bob Heck)

October – Cemetery Night at MPAFUG

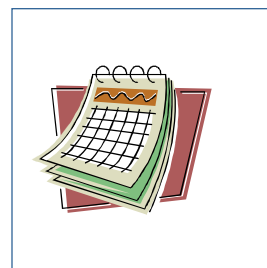
Find-a-Grave (Bob Heck)

Modern technology at the cemetery (Gary Haas)

November – Great Research Sites

Badger Link (Bob Miller)

Labs.FamilySearch.org (Jane Orne)



Meeting Bits and Bytes

Summarized by Bruce Butterfield

Our June meeting began on time-7PM- at the Root River Center in Franklin, WI. Bob Heck, presiding, welcomed an audience of 103, including three new members. The weather reminded many of the question asked in a famous poem, "What is so rare as a day in June?" because the high winds and rain matched so many rotten days this year that seem to become the new "normal" in Wisconsin.

Bob's quiz led off with a reference to a message Bob had sent about records of the Milwaukee Archdiocese. The question was: "How many counties are within the Archdiocese?" The correct answer is 10. So many people answered almost simultaneously that Bob needed help in determining who was first.

Bob likes to throw in odd facts from time to time to keep everyone on their toes, so this second question was about the length of the fish he had caught recently. He has trained us to be particularly alert to these tidbits, so almost everybody shouted "Seventeen inches!"

Bob then switched gears and referred to his presentation last month about starting a newsletter, asking how many issues of his newsletter he had sent out since beginning it. Tricky, as everybody remembered that he said he had sent 68 and was ready to send a new issue within a few days. The 68 stuck in memory, but everybody forgot about the "new" one that was pending back then. Boy, you have to watch that guy!

Bob's last question sought the name of the really neat voice recognition program that was being featured at our

"opportunity table" this evening (he had announced it from the lectern just minutes before). Some folks remembered the "Dragon" part of the name, some recalled that the title involved "speaking", some that it was "nature or national(?)", but it took a lot of hints from Bob to elicit the correct answer "Dragon Natural Speaking Version 10". It may have been hard to remember, but the lucky person taking home the program will have a ball learning to use it. A number of Steering Committee members can attest to the power of the program in converting spoken words into text in their word processor.

This Wednesday was dedicated to learning about two Depression Era government programs – the WPA and the CCC. Some may wonder at the choice of subjects and several questioned the genealogical value of the program. When he introduced the program, Bob Heck pointed out that while many people may view genealogy as a strict, scientific collection of time/place facts regarding lineages, most family historians - at least those in our group - would consider their work dry, most unsatisfactory and unfulfilling if they couldn't "flesh out" the family members they discover with information about the circumstances, challenges, heartaches and joys that their ancestors experienced. The Steering Committee unanimously agreed that these two government programs affected many American families, both directly and indirectly and warranted an examination and presentation.



Tip of the Day: Rolled Up & Brittle Documents

By Bob Heck

I got two requests for help in one week for the same problem. Here is the first: "I have found a marriage and birth certificate of my G-grandparents that has been rolled up and very brittle. Do you know a way to preserve and unroll them?" Here is the second request: "My husband found my parent's marriage certificate from 1926 all rolled up, brittle, discolored scotch tape, etc. He's trying to copy it to save it. If I bring it in to our meeting could you or one of the others on the Steering Committee take a look at it and offer some suggestions on how to copy and/or preserve it without ruining it? We'd really appreciate any help you can give!"

The technique that I learned from professional genealogists is as follows.

Do not attempt to unroll the document as is. It will crack and break apart. Remove any staples or paper clips.

1. Get a 5 gallon clean plastic bucket.
2. Place a clean brick in the bottom.
3. Place a clean screen on top of the brick.
4. Add distilled water to the bucket but well below the top of the brick. An inch of water should be enough. (Add the water before adding the screen.)
5. Place document in a vertical position on top of the dry screen. You can place the document in an open plastic container to keep it from falling over.
6. Cover top of bucket and let stand for one week at room temperature.

Check the document frequently to see if it will unroll. Do not force it. The document should easily unroll. If necessary keep in covered bucket for some additional time.

After the document is unfolded, place between two acid free sheets of paper (not newspaper) and place several books on top to press the document. Acid free blotter paper works well. Usually a few days is all that is required to take any roll out of the document.

Make a copy of the document to serve as your working document after it is flat and dry. Scanning works well. Scan in color at 300 dots per inch (dpi) resolution.

Place the original in an acid free top loading document holder and keep in a three ring binder.

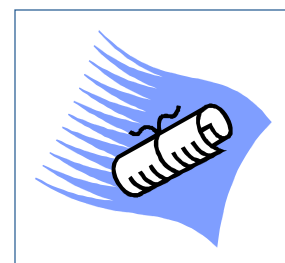
The key is to not get the original document wet. You can substitute other items for the brick but just be sure that it doesn't add chemicals to the water. The screen should be made of plastic or stainless steel.

There are faster methods that I have seen on the internet but they use hot water and I think that is a big mistake. That adds too much moisture to the document.

In the last case there is an additional problem of tape. Usually the old cellophane tape will be very dry and it will probably fall off by itself when the document is flat. If it is well bonded to the document you are better off just leaving it on.

Good luck,
Bob Heck
MPAFUG

"Do not attempt to unroll the document as is. It will crack and break apart."



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
Steve Arndt	414-327-3547	steven.arndt@att.net
Bruce Butterfield	414-462-6097	Babtrfld-mke@wi.rr.com
Sam Colon	414-327-2133	technogeek@wi.rr.com
Mary & Dale Graves	262-968-2044	mjwg@wi.rr.com
Gary Haas	<i>Use e-mail</i>	garylhaas2005@yahoo.com
Bob Heck	414-421-7143	bheck@voyager.net
Bob Miller	414-313-5855	fhc-helper@sbcglobal.net
Jane Orne	262-938-9371	orne@Rworld.net
Guy Porth	414-510-0563	guyporth9@yahoo.com
Betty Storey	414-425-1472	bastorey@execpc.com

MPAFUG Key Information

The Steering Committee

Steering committee meetings are held on the 3rd 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 Mary J. Graves - MPAFUG Treasurer, PO Box 773, Waukesha, WI 53187-0773.

- ◆ MPAFUG Newsletters – December 1991 thru December 2009
- ◆ MPAFUG Handouts – 1999 thru 2009
- ◆ MPAFUG Utilities CD – contains 17 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 30th. To join, send a check made payable to "MPAFUG" to: Mary J. Graves – MPAFUG Treasurer, PO Box 773, Waukesha, WI 53187-0773.

Questions about MPAFUG?

MPAFUG c/o Bob Heck
4910 Steeple Drive, Greendale WI 53129
Phone: 414-421-7143
E-mail: bheck@voyager.net