



NEWSLETTER

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AUGUST 2019

Relative Finder and BYU Labs APPS (Bob Heck)
Genealogy Mapping (Cathy Dailey)

Next Meeting is August 14, 2019
7:00 PM -- Klemmer's Banquet Center
10401 West Oklahoma Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53227

MEETING BITS AND BYTES

Hey, a celebration was in order for our July 10th meeting at Klemmer's Banquet Center – NO RAIN! It was a beautiful sunny day, albeit a bit on the warm side at 94o. It seems rain had been predicted for the evening but when we left it was still a toasty 80o.

There were 81 in attendance with 4 new members/guests. We welcomed Dave from Mukwonago, Jeff from Greenfield, Joe from Wauwatosa via NY and Carol from Milwaukee. The new members/guests each received a remembrance poppy for coming to our World War I presentation. Poppies were also available on the opportunity table. Thank you to those who also made a poppy donation.

Bob Heck opened the meeting without any snappy comments about the weather for the first time in quite a while. He did ask how many of us had gotten his email with a downloadable version of our guest speaker's book "World War I Research Guide." A number of members raised their hands and some had even done the download. Member Gary Haas had gone the extra mile and printed all 100 pages. Bob estimated that you would go through about \$10 worth of ink to do that however. For those who felt lucky, there was a copy on the opportunity table. Bob reminded us that the proceeds from the raffle go to maintaining our meeting equipment and quizzed us on how much the projector light bulb costs. We all answered \$400 but the price has gone up to \$450.

One of our regular meeting attendees, Joyce, does win very consistently. She might not like it, but

Bob did give out her winning strategy which is to buy lots of tickets. She also buys in increments so the numbers aren't consecutive.

For the August meeting, Bob Heck will show us a really fun side to genealogy research. He will start with Relative Finder which shows your relationships to prominent people. Bob himself is related to 22 presidents. He will also be taking you into the BYU Labs Apps for genealogy games which uses data from FamilySearch. There may even be some live demonstrations.

Cathy Dailey is the second speaker for the August meeting and you already know she brings the fun to her presentations as well. She will be talking Genealogy Mapping and will show you how to put your ancestors on the map. She will cover such topics as metes & bounds, the federal grid system and plat maps.

WORLD WAR I GENEALOGY – WHERE DO I START?

Summarized by Louise Stack

Debra Dudek, Head of Adult and Teen Services at the Fountaindale Public Library District in Bolingbrook, IL, was our guest speaker for the entire meeting. She is a well-known authority on World War I research as well as in other areas. Hopefully, you did not have a pre-conceived notion about librarians being dry and boring because Debra was quite the live wire. If you enjoy Cathy Dailey's presentations, then you surely would have enjoyed Debra's fast-paced, humor-laced talk as well. It will be difficult to properly express all her enthusiasm here.

There was a bit of an issue with the sound system but Debra let us know right off that she is a LOUD person so perhaps did not even need the mic. She said it began the day she was born and, according to her mother, she has never gotten over being loud. Debra's favorite topic is World War I. She claims that because of that no man wants her and advises that talking about dead people at the dinner table is not a good idea. Debra even mentioned a date that went wrong because he mentioned Canada and she was off on her history tangent.

To get us started on the topic of WWI Debra asked how many in the audience had an ancestor who served in that war. An impressive number raised their hands which caused Debra to blurt out that this is "like Christmas!" She told us that if we had ever heard that all the records had burned up and there was nothing left, we should in essence ignore that because there is something left. That legendary fire at the National Personnel Records Center/National Archives did destroy many Army and Air Force records; however, Debra assured us that the Navy and Marines have amazing records. She wanted us to also know that Civil War and War of 1812 records have more info than WWI or WWII ever did. Her first suggestion was to search for World War rather than add the I. It only became World War I after there was the 2nd one. WWI laid the groundwork for how records were later handled in WWII.

According to Debra, everyone was part of the war effort with 1 in 4 Americans being in uniform. Women also served, some as nurses, some in canteens run by the YMCA (another place to look for records). She says you should not just look online, but really dig into the archives like Indiana Jones would. Debra has gone to the National Archives on numerous occasions but gets no preferential treatment even though she is a librarian with a list of achievements. She did admit that she will continue to pester them.

A good place to start is your family where you might find photos or documents. Debra had some great pictures and documents for 3 of her relatives who served. She had an interesting example of finding a piece of information in a woman's obit that listed a brother who was serving in the Army in France.

A couple of places you might not have thought to look are records for the Polar Bear Expedition in 1918-19. US troops were part of the Allied forces that intervened in the Russian Civil War and included troops from WI, MI and MN. Debra also mentioned transport lists because all those soldiers would have taken a ship to and from Europe. You might even find clues in documents relating to the Spanish flu epidemic.

Debra shared a really fun story about her Uncle Frank who went off to the war. He wanted 3 things during his service: to fly planes, see Paris and the Statue of Liberty. You can probably already guess that he didn't get to fly planes, however he did get a pass while in France and was excited to get the chance to finally see Paris. As luck would have it there was a VD epidemic in the city so it had become off-limits to the soldiers. Strike 2. His last chance was to see the Statue of Liberty upon his return to the US. Strike 3 – his ship docked in Hoboken, NJ.

Most of you are likely familiar with Fold3. Debra herself said that she has a love/hate relationship with it but she wanted to entice us to use it again. There are headstone applications found there which can hold quite a bit of information. Debra uses it for newspapers, but there are also Army registers for officers as well as other possible sources for your research. NY for instance has all their WWI records online. All state archives are not created equal though. Illinois records were destroyed by a fire in the 1930's. Debra has researched in Michigan and said that you have to strip naked and are not even allowed to bring a pencil. She did get some records after making a written request in blood. See, the humor went on throughout her talk but for any of you who have tried research at government offices it held a ring of truth.

Debra recommended 3 movies with a WWI theme for us to see this summer:

Sgt Stubby

The Hello Girls Documentary

They Shall Not Grow Old

After a 10-minute break Debra continued her presentation by first thanking us for staying. She commented that usually half the audience leaves at halftime.

Debra gave us a “straightforward narrative” of WWI: “America breaks up the world’s bar fight.” America was not in the fight at the beginning but did step in to side with the allies in 1917. One reason was that the Germans had begun attacking American ships. And, Germany wanted an alliance with Mexico. Of course, the war ultimately proved

profitable for the US as it took us out of a recession and greatly increased jobs and manufacturing.

To finish up her presentation Debra took us back to the research aspect. She again mentioned the National Archives in St. Louis but pointed out that 18 million Army and Air Force files were destroyed in that 1973 fire. They get 12-15 thousand requests per day for records. Makes you see where you would stand in that line. Regardless, Debra did not discourage us from giving it a shot. She did stress that you would need a strategy beforehand and gave tips on what to request. Try asking for the soldier’s final payroll voucher, files even if they are burnt (crispy around the edges as she put it), medical records and the full-service file. She specifically mentioned military petitions (naturalization petitions) as well as Air Force individual flight records, morning reports and muster rolls. Debra also mentioned the American Legion Digital Archive as a possible source as it was established just after the war. In addition, there is a US Army Heritage and Education Center you might want to try.

Debra really packed a lot of information into her presentation. Along with her meeting handout and the downloadable WWI Research guide you may be able to fully flesh out that doughboy in your family tree.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The Jane Orne Story

Jane became interested in her heritage about age 8 or 9. She would ask her grandfather “What am I?” He would tell her that she was German, Czech and English but sometimes he would add more just for fun. Jane then stopped asking for a while.

Later, when Jane was a teen-ager, she asked questions again. And then she stopped asking.

In her 20's Jane started filling out family group sheets with her grandmother. You know what's coming, she stopped asking again.

“About age 30 I became more involved and started collecting old pictures and doing some research on microfilm. I also started researching my husband’s side; Swedish was easier than German. Over the years I have worked with other relatives, shared a lot of information and put it on FamilySearch.”
“I took a trip to California to meet a cousin and we corresponded for many years, but now she has passed. My best trip was when I took my grandmother to her hometown of Lansing, Iowa. She showed me where she grew up and we were able to go into her old school – only the 1st floor though because it is no longer used. We went to Minnesota where we thought her mother may have been born. At the courthouse they would bring one book to the door; I was not allowed to search alone. While my grandmother sat on a bench, I looked through the book and when I found the birth record for her mother, she jumped up from the bench! Her mother had died when she (my grandmother) was 13 and she hadn’t known her mother’s full name. She also found out her mother was a twin and that her twin sister had died at birth.”

“I have hit many brick walls. Presently, I am looking for my great-grandfather who came from Germany when he was about 12. The story is that when his parents died an aunt went to Germany and brought him to America (no record). My grandmother did not know who the aunt was. Some stories that I have been told have proven to be correct, some have a little truth and some have proven completely false.”

Jane was told that there was Native American ancestry on her grandmother’s paternal line. At one point her brother had applied for benefits but was denied because the percentage was too low. She has not found proof yet.

Jane has been researching in Germany and Slovakia. On most of her lines she has gone back 7 generations. She also searches collateral lines because it helps give her clues to her direct ancestors. She has been a member of MPAFUG since about 2003.

Note from the editor: All of you have a family story within you so please consider sharing. 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.

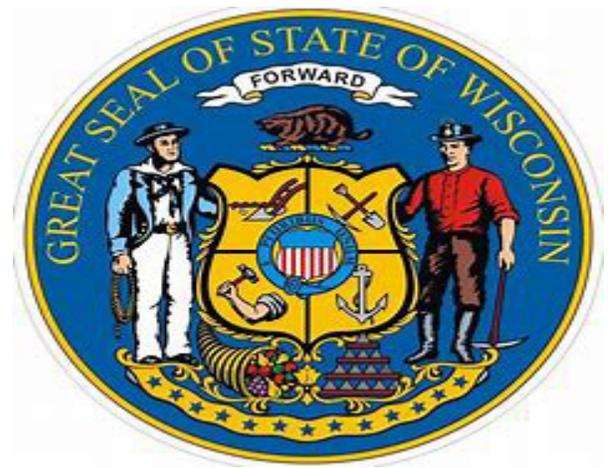
If you are interested, please see me at a meeting or email me with Member Spotlight in the subject line at:

kilostack@att.net. Hope to hear from you!

Louise Stack

History Lessons

LET’S TALK WISCONSIN.....



If you belong to MPAFUG chances are you either live in Wisconsin or have some tie to this state. You probably even have ancestors who came here for one reason or another. Do you know when and why or how they came? This column won’t answer any of those questions for you, but there might be some tidbits that will make sense for your family story.

Years before Wisconsin actually became a state lead mining was the industry here. We became known as the “badger” state because of the way the miners burrowed into the hillsides for shelter during the winters. This part of our history is even represented on the state seal by a shovel and pick axe as well as a miner and a badger. Lead ore is the state mineral. Do you have a miner in your family tree?

If you go back even farther in the state history, there was the fur trade which actually lasted about 200 years. Beavers were hunted for their fur because it was waterproof and was used to make hats. Do you have a fur trader, trapper or milliner in your family tree?

Wisconsin was initially a territory which also included Minnesota, Iowa and parts of North and South Dakota. At one time it was the western frontier. Being a frontier there were also encounters with Native Americans. Various tribes fought each other but also fought against settlers. The Blackhawk War is one example. Do you have Native Americans or soldiers in your family tree?

Logging in the central and northern parts of Wisconsin became another prosperous industry during the 1800's. In fact, Wisconsin was one of the largest lumber producing states in the US for a time. Do you have a lumberjack in your family tree?

Wisconsin became a state in 1848 and not long after that the railroads came, soon crisscrossing the state. Do you have a railroad worker in your family tree?

Going back to the state seal there is a plow representing farmers and a sailor representing the sailing and shipping industry on the Great Lakes. Do you have a farmer, a sailor or a fisherman in your family tree?

The 1850's were a busy time for Wisconsin as immigrants began to arrive. Only about 1/3 came from foreign countries with the most coming from Germany, but there were Irish and Norwegians as well. The other 2/3 came from the eastern United States. When did your ancestors arrive?

No matter where they came from, when they came or what they did your ancestors called Wisconsin home.

Upcoming Programs

September 11, 2019

Dating Old Photographs (Bob Heck)
Secrets Hidden in Old Photographs (Bruce Butterfield)

October 9, 2019

Researching an Old Cemetery (Gary Haas)
Cemetery Research at Wood National Cemetery (Lynn Thrasher)

October 19, 2019

All day workshop at the Family History Center.
Program will include:
Genealogy Basics I, II and III
Computer Security
Interviewing Techniques
Researching Your German Ancestors
Passenger Lists and Naturalization Papers
FamilySearch Digital Research
Demystifying DNA
Google – Beyond Basic Search
Polish Genealogy Research
Military Records

November 13, 2019

Civil War Research – guest speaker Tom Mueller
City Directories for Research (Bruce Butterfield)

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.

About This Newsletter

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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.

MPAFUG KEY INFORMATION

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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
PO Box 14222
West Allis, WI 53214-0222

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.