



# NEWSLETTER

September 2020  
Volume 2020 Issue 9

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SEPTEMBER 2020

*MEMBER SHOW and TELL NIGHT*

*September 9, 2020  
7:00 PM – New Berlin Ale House  
16000 West Cleveland Avenue  
New Berlin, WI 52151*

## MEETING BITS AND BYTES

The second post-pandemic-lockdown MPAFUG meeting was held on August 12<sup>th</sup> at The New Berlin Ale House abiding by the current social distancing and mask wearing restrictions. Attendance was up by 2 from last month with 31 present. There was even one new member. Welcome Jo Kinzinger from Greenfield!

Well, it seems like your newsletter editor may be looking for a new job soon as Bob Heck was able to film the August meeting presentations. That means there won't be any more written summarized notes in the newsletter. I know, some of you who came to meetings never even read that part as noted on our Monkey Survey of 2018 so surely you won't miss it. (Truth be told I won't miss writing it either.)

Just in case you missed the meeting and haven't yet gotten to the video presentations, here is a little tickler to entice you to get to it:

If you have never heard her speak before, you are in for a treat with Cathy Dailey's "Tips and Tricks to Further Your Research." She is a fast-talking, energetic speaker with lots of information to share. She enthusiastically admits that she loves maps so all of her presentations, including this one, involve a map or two. You'll learn such things as how to find ancestors in census records when they seem to have disappeared, the difference between a housekeeper and keeping house, the use of a paint stir stick in a cemetery, where to find necrology files and when to capitalize and use quotation marks during a search. Your ancestor can't hide for long when you apply Cathy's tips and tricks!

Bob Heck's video presentation was "Newspaper Research 2020." Even if you have tried newspaper research before and maybe not had any success, Bob shows many options of types of newspapers to

check. Farm newspapers (who knew?), local historical society collections and foreign newspapers are just a few he mentioned. You already know that any Heck presentation includes pictures and there were plenty. Did you know Bob Heck shows up in German newspapers? One pic of him next to a glider (airplane) was intriguing. A fun tidbit was an article on the WI Batchelor tax in 1905.

Time to sit back and enjoy the shows if you haven't already – don't forget the popcorn!

### WHAT YOU HAD TO SAY

Bob's experiment using OBS Studio Software seems to be a hit. Following is the feedback we have received thus far:

"Dear Bob,

Let me say this is wonderful. I so enjoyed seeing the screen during the presentation instead of guessing what might be on the screen during the verbal broadcast.

Thank you and your cohorts for all the hard work. Those of us who are unable to make the meeting so appreciate it."

Thanks again,  
Barb Olszewski

"Just watched the presentation on newspapers. Enjoyed it and learned a lot. Thank you."  
Ron Kaye

"Bob,

Thanks for the update. I have not attended in person due to health problems with members of my household, but I still value the information and help I have gotten over the years from MPAFUG."

Thanks,  
Karla M. Kazianka

"This is great! I listened to both while I was sewing. I also saved a lot of gas not making that long drive. Great presentations, and I can pause and go back over something I didn't quite get the first time. I can also save them and go over them again in the future. Keep doing this!"

Thanks,  
Karen Pauli

"Hi Bob,

You requested feedback on the videos taken at the last meeting and posted to YouTube.

I watched the two videos from the Aug 2020 meeting and was very pleased with the quality of the videos and audio, not to mention the content presented and the presenters!!!

I wish I could have been there. I would have commented on the newspaper article I found in a Baltimore newspaper reporting on the arrival of the bark Dr Falk – the ship that brought my great-grandfather to America in Dec 1873. It described the conditions they faced during the crossing. It better helped me to understand what the passengers went through and really added so much to his story, besides the date and port of entry. So, you are right. Newspapers are a great resource to add to our genealogy research!!!"

Linda Marcinowski

If you missed the meeting, Bob's email of August 13<sup>th</sup> has the direct links to both presentations. Now if you don't have that email, you can still find the presentations on the MPAFUG website under Sound Recording. Hopefully, you remember your password.

### STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING NEWS/NOTES



Steering Committee Zoom meeting August 19, 2020

Steering committee members who attended the Zoom meeting according to the above picture were: top row, L-R, Sam Colon, Bob Heck and \*Randy Ray  
2<sup>nd</sup> row, L-R, Lynn Thrasher, John Canapa and Bruce Butterfield  
3<sup>rd</sup> row, L-R, Louise Stack, Bob Tatalovich and Jane Orne  
bottom row, Guy Porth and Cathy Dailey trying her best to be invisible  
\*Randy Ray is a new member of the steering committee so this was his first meeting. Welcome Randy!

There were cats, there were dogs and there was even an unsuspecting wife who sauntered in to look over her husband's shoulder and then made a hasty retreat when she realized it was a live Zoom meeting. Was it something we said?

Despite having a little fun, we do actually get around to discuss business at our meetings. Naturally, the use of video for the meeting presentations was our first topic. We all thought that it went quite well and we hope to continue using that media. Cathy commented that it really was like our version of a webinar. The downside for those who cannot attend a meeting is that you can't ask a question or give any comments.

John Canapa, director of the Family History Center, has not received any word yet as to when they will be able to re-open. That prompted us to talk about the fact that many places we like to use for research, historical societies and libraries for instance, have not re-opened.

Our longest discussion was on meeting topics for next year. There were a *lot* of suggestions, but we do know that some will have to wait until the pandemic is completely over. We didn't actually schedule anything yet, but here are a few teasers for you:

Forest Home Cemetery  
WI State Historical Society  
Milwaukee Food Tours  
From Start to Finish  
Foreign Country Research  
WI Veterans Museum in Madison

Got ya thinking? Suggestions AND volunteer presenters are always welcome.

Sam mentioned that he has a special treat for the opportunity table in September. Hint: it is of Swiss ancestry.

Lastly, we discussed membership. As we have previously mentioned the 2021 dues are FREE. We are coming up on September so just 3 months left in our calendar year. If you have a friend or relative who has been on the fence about joining MPAFUG, tell them that now is the perfect time. The dues for the last part of the year is only \$6 and then they will get their 2021 membership for free too.

### A QUOTE TO PONDER

Author David Brook wrote that: **“joining a group that meets once a month produces the same amount of happiness in people as doubling their income does.”**

Quoted from the book *Women Rowing North* by Mary Pipher

### WHAT'S ON THE SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

It's member Show & Tell Night!

We've done these 5-10 minute talks the last couple of years and it has proven to be very fun, interesting and inspiring. You all have great stories and experiences in research so please consider doing one in the future.

The line-up for the September meeting is:

**Bob Heck** – Colorizing Photos on MyHeritage

**Bob Heck for \*Louise Stack** – My Civil War Connection

**Carl Micech** – An Update on Slovakia -Finding an Uncle

**Ed King** – An update on “Genealogy is Easy”

**Carol Evans** – Don't Ignore Those Twigs

**Sam Colon** – Making the Connection Back to Spain

**Bob Tatalovich** – Tagging in Group Photos

**Bruce Butterfield** – Recent Experiences with DNA Contacts

\*Louise Stack is unable to attend meetings due to a family health issue at home.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### The Sam Colon Story

Most, if not all of you, may know Sam as our resident computer geek in MPAFUG. He has done many presentations over the years mostly involving computers, tech gizmos and cyber security. Sam has, on occasion, filled in for Bill Heck during the January cyber security presentation or following up with additional information on the topic. He also does a lot of shopping for the meeting opportunity table.

History has always been Sam's favorite subject. His wife Sandie is the one who actually got him hooked on genealogy as a hobby. He was fascinated by all the history she had discovered and that then inspired him. Sam has been researching for about 15 years and has been a member of MPAFUG since 1998.

Sam is researching his family, but does occasionally help his wife with her research. He shares his family research with four cousins and three nephews.

Sam says that road trips are the best part of research. "Sandie and I have been on several fun road trips together while searching her history. When the pandemic is over, I hope to take a road trip to California to meet a cousin I have been corresponding with."

A surprise that both Sam and Sandie discovered was that they have several Centenarians in their family tree. "Both of us have discovered ancestors who lived to 100 or more. My most recent one was my Uncle (Mom's brother) who died in 2018 at the age of 102."

As for best finds said, "I was thrilled when I found my 4<sup>th</sup> Great Grandfather who was born in 1786." But that best find also brought him to a brick wall; that ancestor who was born in 1786 was born on the Island of St. Thomas which was a Dutch colony at the time. "He was a Spaniard; how did he get there???"

So far Sam's research has been focused on Puerto Rico and Cuba, but he has recently discovered a 2<sup>nd</sup>

cousin with ties directly to the mother country of Spain.

"At this point I am stuck at 1786. I hope I can go back further. I have a tantalizing clue to 1393 in Spain, but I need further research to pinpoint it. The 1393 clue is to a common ancestor who may have lived in Spain during the Moorish occupation of Spain which lasted from 700 AD to 1491 AD. I did a Y DNA test which suggested I might be linked to a 'genetic cousin' from Iraq. The Y DNA is passed along the paternal line without much change as opposed to the MTDNA which can change over the generations. The test suggests that this individual and I might share a common ancestor from 25 generations ago. A generation is commonly calculated as 25 years so 25 generations equals 625 years. Subtracted from 2018 when I took the test, that gives me a year of 1393. That fits into the time period of the occupation."

"Columbus sailed from Spain in 1492 on his journey of discovery and Puerto Rico became a Spanish Colony in 1493. Was my ancestor one of those colonists?????"

Thanks for sharing your family story, a little bit of history and a mini DNA lesson with us Sam!

**This could be the last Member Spotlight Story unless more members are willing to share their story.**

**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.

We have been doing these member spotlight stories for a while now and, if you have been reading them, you have probably noticed that they are all interesting and often encouraging. We don't all have the perfect ancestors and almost all of us struggle with brick walls or impossible-to-find ancestor.

If you are interested in sharing your family story, please email me with Member Spotlight in the subject line at:

[kilostack@att.net](mailto:kilostack@att.net). Hope to hear from you!

Louise Stack



## GOT GAME?

The handsome young man in the August newsletter was Sam Colon. Either you are getting smarter or our dwindling pool of possibilities has given you an edge, but 7 of you played along with 6 of you giving the correct answer. The ultimate winner was Jean Micech.



Here's another one for you. Should we make it a little harder? Name the steering committee member and the year of the photo. (What year was it taken?)

Send your answers along with your name to:  
[bobheckmpafug@gmail.com](mailto:bobheckmpafug@gmail.com)

## Upcoming Programs

### October 14, 2020

Live Find-A-Grave (Randy Ray)  
The New Family Tree Maker (Randy Ray)

### November 11, 2020 (moved from May)

A 24,000 Mile Journey for John Doe (Bob Heck)  
DNA Completes the Story: Now That You Have the Test, What's Next? (Erika Zuehl)

### December – No Meeting

If you would like to make a presentation or have a suggestion for a meeting topic, please contact Bob Heck at: [bobheckmpafug@gmail.com](mailto:bobheckmpafug@gmail.com).

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 third Wednesday of the month except in December. The meetings have historically been held at the Family History Center located at 9600 W. Grange Ave, Hales Corners, WI; however, due to the Covid 19 pandemic the meetings are currently being held via Zoom. 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 30<sup>th</sup>. 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.