



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025
VOLUME 2025 ISSUE 12

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Next meeting:

WEDNESDAY

JANUARY 14TH 2026

**6:45 PM – New Berlin LIBRARY
15105 West Library Lane
New Berlin, WI 53151**

JANUARY PRESENTATIONS

• **CYBER SECURITY REFRESHER** **By Bill Heck**

- Kicking off the New Year, we welcome back Bill Heck to walk us through the latest in protecting your computer from the ever-crafty scam artists and fancy fraudsters that can take over your identity and more. Bill will open our eyes to some of the most recent methods people try on the phone and computer and how to be most diligent and best prepared to avoid a break in your fortress. So glad to see this subject and most recent armor from Bill. Can't wait!

• **MORE SECURITY CONCERNS** **By Sam Colon**

- Sam will be covering some additional topics on protecting your information. For every angle we will discuss, the maneuvers that criminals employ will be hard at work to scooch into your world and be triumphant in breaching your identification. Sam will cover more of the examples and tactics to train you to be your savviest. Security should be ever present and Sam will present the best options. Bring it on!



NOVEMBER MEETING RECAP

• **CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS** **By Cathy Dailey**

- Cathy gave a great presentation on the FDR-created job relief program that helped put America on the path toward a recovering, more stable economy.
- Designed to reduce unemployment during the Great Depression, the CCC not only made significant progress in that area but also created and supported infrastructure we didn't fully realize we needed.
- National parks and the preservation of natural resources were among its core areas of focus.
- Many of the structures and projects completed by the CCC still remain today including some right here in our local area.
- It was a different time, and while the CCC brought many benefits, it also came with controversies. Rules and qualifications were not the same for people of different races, ages, and backgrounds.
- Cathy's talk was filled with facts and served as a reminder of the importance of paying attention to history so we can learn from it and make better decisions for the future.
- Great talk, Cathy—well done!



• **WHERE WE ARE-AI & GENEALOGY** **By Randy Ray**

- “Superman Randy” introduced us to the future. AI is here, and it can do remarkable things. He demonstrated what this means for genealogy research.
- His presentation included examples from ChatGPT, Google Gemini, and the FamilySearch Labs experiment.
- Randy showed impressive examples of translating handwritten documents in other languages. AI even identified the context of one letter—written from a hotel to a guest staying there, helping to fill in historical gaps.
- Keep in mind that AI is fast-moving, powerful, and here to stay. Embrace it, but remember it isn't perfect—always check information for accuracy and make sure AI is conveying the message you intend.
- There's much more to come, and Randy will continue exploring and share AI in the coming year. AI is a remarkable advancement unlike anything we've seen.
- Fantastic job, Randy! We look forward to more as AI continues to shape documents and history in ways we never imagined.

Also, you can learn more from Legacy Family Tree Webinars offered on the below AI topics. Free.



MUSINGS & MUTTERINGS:



Nov 1, 2025 - our community had the privilege of welcoming home a group of extraordinary men and women who participated in an Honor Flight—an unforgettable journey that recognizes the courage, sacrifice, and service of America's veterans. The Honor Flight program, built on gratitude and respect, provides veterans with the opportunity to visit the memorials in Washington, D.C. that stand in tribute to their service.

From the moment they departed to the moment they returned, these veterans were surrounded by appreciation, applause, and heartfelt thanks from countless volunteers, guardians, and supporters. Each handshake, salute, and smile along the way served as a reminder that their sacrifices are not forgotten.

The Honor Flight is more than a trip - it is a gesture of deep gratitude from a nation that remains forever indebted to its heroes. We thank these veterans for their service, for their courage, and for the freedoms we enjoy because of them. Their stories inspire us, their resilience strengthens us, and their legacy continues to shape our nation for the better. To every veteran who was part of this Honor Flight, and to all who have served: **thank you**. Your dedication and bravery will always be honored.

Many of you know one special veteran on this flight – MPAFUG's own Louise Stack. Louise had been the Editor of the MPAFUG Newsletter and a Steering Committee member for many years. She served as a Military Police (MP) Officer in Germany for the United States Army.



Louise is shown with her best friend, Mary Karkow and two of her family members.



Here is Bob Heck and his younger brother, Don, at the airport getting ready to greet the returning veterans.

Don Heck, a Vietnam veteran, has been there to greet every returning flight from the Honor Flight for the past eight years.

Bob Heck had sent Louise a "Mail Call" letter thanking her for her service and offering a big thank you from all the members of MPAFUG. Bob's wife Gloria was also there to welcome Louise upon arrival. Super great support.



NOVEMBER meeting attendance

47

THAT'S FANTASTIC!!!!!!

WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU! **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

As we bid adieu to 2025 we also have a special announcement:

✨ MPAFUG Is Moving!
Come Enjoy Our New Cozy Home!

New Meeting Location:
New Berlin Public Library*
15105 W. Library Lane
New Berlin, WI 53151

- A warm, welcoming atmosphere; enjoy a comfortable, relaxed setting perfect for sharing stories, learning new research tips, and connecting with fellow family-history enthusiasts.
- Modern meeting room to spread out your notes, collaborate with others, and enjoy presentations without feeling crowded.
- Easy, convenient parking; accessible parking makes arriving and settling in a breeze.
- New meeting hours: **6:45 PM – 8:45 PM**
A cozy evening time slot—ideal for unwinding while diving into genealogy discoveries.
- A fresh chapter for our group. Join us as we make this warm, inviting space our new home and continue exploring the stories that connect us all.



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

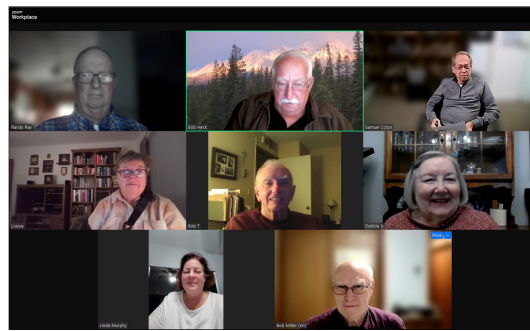
STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bob Heck	Jane Orne	Randy Ray
Bob Miller	John Canapa	Sam Colon
Bob		Steve
Tatalovich	Linda Murphy	Gulgowski

Merilyn

Debbie Bluett Romani

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.**