



NEWSLETTER

February 2022
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FEBRUARY 2022

Police Records in Europe (Randy Ray)
Permission to Leave Europe (Bob Heck)

February 9, 2022
7:00 PM – New Berlin Ale House
16000 West Cleveland Avenue
New Berlin, WI 52151

MEETING BITS AND BYTES

It seems that 2022 was off to an ominous start with the Omicron variant of Covid 19 running rampant. For our January 12th meeting you could have joined the meeting in the latest fashion accessory of N95 or KN95 masks. There were 25 members in attendance. We also had a new member join us, Dawn Pociask of Oak Creek. Welcome Dawn!

Keeping with past tradition the January meeting was about computers and cyber security. Sam Colon was the first speaker of 2022 and gave a 22-minute presentation on Windows 11 as well as antivirus software. Sam has been using Windows 11 since October because he is known as a “Windows Insider” so knows the good, the bad and the ugly about the system. Windows 11 is a free upgrade for home computers. He had a couple of hot tips. One was to watch out for Intel PC Health Check which is most likely a ploy to sell more computers as it alleges you can’t get the upgrade if your computer is older than 2016. Sam is using a 2014 computer. The other hot tip was not to necessarily go with the top 10 list of antivirus software when choosing a product as some manufacturers pay to have theirs on the list. In other words, do your homework beforehand.

Bob Heck’s son, Bill, was the second speaker with his topic of cyber security. This is the 5th or 6th year he has presented this topic and always brings the latest information on breaches and scams and what you should be on the lookout for. A fun fact he shared was that Bill Gates once said that if they (Microsoft) could fix the security issue they would never have to worry about it again. We all know the genius was wrong. Bill Heck reminded us that 2021 was a goldmine for hackers. Bill covered

Security Breaches, Passwords and Databases, Multi-factor Authentication, Scams, Phishing, SMS Text Messages, Advanced Scams and Credit Freeze. Hopefully, you haven't been caught by one of the most popular phishing scams – "Is this you in the video?"

A QUOTE TO PONDER:

"If you shake your family tree, watch for the nuts to fall."

Genealogybank.com

WHAT'S ON THE FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

The February topics are both about what your ancestors might have had to do before they could emigrate to the United States from their home country. Apparently, before they could just hop a ship they had to be cleared by the police and get permission to leave. The silver lining for you as a researcher is that there might be a paper trail you haven't explored yet.

STEERING COMMITTEE NOTES

Your MPAFUG steering committee held a zoom meeting on January 19, 2022, the first since last October. The following members attended:

Debbie Bluett, Bruce Butterfield, Sam Colon, John Canapa, Bob Heck, Randy Ray, Louise Stack and Bob Tatalovich

We always have a lot to say but our main topics of discussion were the previous week's meeting, upcoming programs, items for the opportunity table and the Family History Center. There are still some meeting dates in 2022 that do not have presentation topics, but we are working on that.

MPAFUG had received a bound book of our newsletters for the years 2016-2020 from the Allen County Public Library in Indiana so we discussed what would be the best disposition for it. One idea was to have it as a prize on the opportunity table. Newsletter editor Louise Stack volunteered to keep it for its historical value which was unanimously agreed upon.

REMINDERS

The Family History Center is open Thursdays and Saturdays.

Thursday hours: 8:30AM – 3:30PM and
6:30PM – 9:00PM

Saturday hours: 10:00AM – 1:00PM

On Thursday evenings Bob Heck and Randy Ray are the volunteers on duty who will assist you in your research.

There are numerous Portal systems available for free use at the center, some of which you may not have tried from home because they come with a cost but could be of use for your research.

Ancestry, Fold3, Newspapers.com among others that charge are available free at the center. If you need help with your research, this is the place to go.

The virtual **Roots Tech 2022** genealogy conference will be held March 3-5, 2022. There are over 1,000 sessions you can view from home; it is 100% virtual and 100% free. The theme this year is "Choose Connection." Here is the link for registration: <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/next/>

SPOTTED OUT AND ABOUT



The elf is a mystery, but do you recognize the lady on the left?

If you are a fan of Scandinavian Fest held in New Berlin every year, you might recognize her as Marge Jothen. She was spotted out on December 23, 2021 by member Bette Vangen. Marge will be turning 103 in March – she looks great, doesn't she?!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The Eileen Thrower Story

Eileen's genealogy story first began in 1998 when she received a binder of birth and death records from her brother. At that time, she put the binder away and forgot about it until 2005 when her mother asked if she could find information about her family. Because she was working, Eileen wasn't able to delve into her research until 2009 when she lost her job which left her with time on her hands. That's when she really started her genealogy journey.

Eileen has been a member of MPAFUG for approximately 5 or 6 years. "My cousin, Allen James Kreuger, suggested joining your genealogy group. I am so happy to be part of this group!"

She has fully jumped into her genealogy research and has done not only her family, but also her husband's. In addition, Eileen has helped friends with brick walls. This winter she plans to research her son-in-law's family as well as make binders for her grandchildren. She has worked and shared her research with many relatives. "I have been blessed to work with many cousins."

Prior to his death in April 2021, Eileen's father supported and aided her research. Since he lived in New Jersey, Eileen would either call or travel there to interview him. She and her husband also visited the State Library in Trenton, NJ where she found her Bates and Shivers ancestors from her paternal line dating back to the 1700's.

Besides traveling to New Jersey, Eileen has gone on a number of other road trips for her research. She has traveled with friends to the Massachusetts Archives. In 2013 she and her husband took a cross country road trip.

"We never made any plans or hotel reservations. We took clothes, cash and credit cards and just traveled state to state. We did visit Montana where my maternal grandfather Harvey was born. Then we quickly decided to visit Pincher Creek, Alberta, Canada to research Grandfather Harvey's immediate family. We also traveled to Stratford, Ontario, Canada to research Grandfather Harvey's grandparents. I had discovered that my great-grandparents Sampson and Hannah were born in Stratford, Canada."

Has Eileen had surprises? Her answer was an emphatic Yes! "We found cousins!" Eileen learned that she is related to Allen James Krueger and John Wayne through her father's line. Her mother, who passed away in 2013, thought that her father was one of 4 siblings. Eileen had gotten as far as 1900 where she lost track of her grandfather Harvey's family, but then found them all living in Pincher Creek, Alberta, Canada. Then she discovered that he was one of 10 siblings, not 4; six children had been born in Alberta, Canada. Not only was she surprised, but she immediately called her mother who was equally surprised to learn that.

Eileen as learned that her ancestry included many Revolutionary War soldiers. Her 7th great-grandfather was Lt. Col. George William Wilson. He had been born on a ship docked off the coast of Scotland in 1728. Lt. Col. Wilson accompanied General George Washington while crossing the Delaware River on Christmas morning 1776.

“My Very Great Grandfather Wilson later died at the Battle of Trenton 1777.”

“I think the best find is the many cousins that have been discovered and I was able to connect with. I love the family history that has been discovered.”

No genealogy research would be complete without a few brick walls so Eileen has a hit a few herself. She has some great-grandfathers that are difficult to trace.

“Great-grandfather Shivers may have immigrated from France. Grandfather Harvey’s grandparents may have arrived in Canada from County Cork, Ireland. We have had our DNA tested. We are related to a common ancestor of Napoleon Bonaparte. We are not able to construct the line. This is what makes genealogy so interesting, it’s the search and the great finds and great stories.”

Eileen’s research has been France, Germany, Poland, Russia, British Isles, Canada as well as the United States. She has gotten as far back as the 1600’s in some family lines.

There are still some brick walls that Eileen would like to conquer. One is verifying the link to Napoleon. Another is her father’s half-sister named Brenda who was born between 1948-1950 so she is hoping to find her in the upcoming 1950 census. Eileen would love to find and meet her. “I am open to all new finds. It makes life interesting.”

What an interesting family Eileen! You’ll have to let us know if you find that connection to Napoleon.

If you would like to submit your story, please email Louise Stack at: kilostack@att.net for the member spotlight questions.

There are 12 basic questions to answer about your genealogy story, but beyond that you are free to tell your story any way you wish. All the stories are unique and interesting, but also give other members research hints and hope that they too will find their ancestors.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

March 9, 2022

1950 U.S. Census Records (Bob Tatalovich)
Determining Enumeration Districts (Bob Tatalovich)

April 13, 2022

How to Organize Your Photos (Randy Ray)
Old World Wisconsin (Ken Artlip)

May 11, 2022

Free Resources at the Family History Center Library (John Canapa)
How to Use Newspapers.com (Randy Ray)

June 8, 2022

FamilySearch Unindexed Files Using Search Images Function (Bob Heck)

July 13, 2022

Facebook Groups (Bob Heck)
YouTube Videos for Genealogy Research (Bob Tatalovich)

The following are the dates for the remainder of 2022; however, we are still planning topics for the meetings. As always, volunteers are welcome to give presentations on any genealogical topic.

June 8, 2022 – need one presentation

August 10, 2022

September 14, 2022

October 12, 2022

November 9, 2022

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

About This Newsletter

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Members interested in submitting articles may e-mail 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.

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 usually \$12 per calendar year for an individual or family. Dues are \$6 for the balance of a year if you join after June 30th. The year 2020 changed things for us all so in July the steering committee made a decision to give free membership to all current member for 2021 and 2022. New members would still be asked to pay dues. Please send a check made payable to MPAFUG to:

Deborah A. Bluett – MPAFUG Treasurer
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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.