



NEWSLETTER

July 2021
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JULY 2021

Catholic Cemeteries, Milwaukee Archdiocese, and Billion Graves (Sam Colon)
Immigration and Departure Records Research (Randy Ray)

July 14, 2021
7:00 PM – New Berlin Ale House
16000 West Cleveland Avenue
New Berlin, WI 52151

MEETING BITS AND BYTES

Our June 9th meeting took place during a seemingly unending heat wave but the air conditioning was working overtime inside the New Berlin Ale House. So much so that some of the 46 members in attendance had to put on another layer of clothing. Bob Heck opened with, “Welcome to summer – at least this week. When are we going to get some rain?” That brought a few chuckles mixed with hopes that we will get rain soon.

We had a new member/guest at this meeting for the first time in a long time. We welcomed Shirley from Mt. Pleasant along with 2 members of distinction. Dave Komassa, who Bob Heck refers to as the Southwestern United States MPAFUG Director, joined us as did Pat Mundstock a former steering committee member who has shared her knowledge of DNA with us on a few occasions. FYI Pat also used to be the newsletter editor, but she emphatically turned down my offer to give it back.

Bob also brought up that our organization is still in search of a new treasurer. He emphasized that without a treasurer we will cease to exist. If you have had experience in financial matters, please, please consider stepping up to the treasurer position. The criteria for the position are listed later in this newsletter.

WHAT'S ON THE JULY SCHEDULE

Recently, we have learned how to research cemeteries, how to use Find-a-Grave and how to read worn headstones. In July Sam Colon is going to show us how to use another website, BillionGraves, and what we can learn from it. He will also give us information on Catholic cemeteries and the Milwaukee Archdiocese to further our research.

Switching topics for the 2nd half of the meeting, Randy Ray will show us how to research immigration records and police records. Police records? Your ancestor might not have been a criminal, but another step in the departure process was to have verification that there was no criminal record or that they were cleared to leave their home country.

STEERING COMMITTEE NOTES

Your MPAFUG steering committee held a zoom meeting on June 16, 2021. The following 9 members attended:

Randy Ray, Bob Heck, Jane Orne
John Canapa, Louise Stack, Sam Colon
Lynn Thrasher, Bob Tatalovich, Bruce Butterfield



As you can see in the above photo a couple members come to the zoom meeting from some interesting places. Naw, just kidding. Randy Ray has a Blue Angels background and Bob Heck has his ancestral village as his background. For the rest of us, you get a teensy peek into our inner sanctums. But we do get serious and discuss the business of MPAFUG.

We started off with a critique of the previous week's meeting and moved on to the topic of a fall workshop. In 2020, like just about everything, the workshop had been cancelled. It was decided that it would not be held in 2021 either as there was not enough planning and scheduling time between when the state was opened back up after the pandemic and when the workshop would have traditionally been held. It was further decided that going forward, the workshop would be held every 2 years instead of every year. Our next workshop is being planned for 2022.

We also had two significant topics to discuss for this meeting. One being the search for a new treasurer for our organization and the other being the temporary closure of the Family History Center. Updates are provided following the meeting notes.

As always, we reviewed the schedule of upcoming programs before closing.

UPDATES

Family History Center

Last month we announced the re-opening of the Family History Center. Unfortunately, there was an unanticipated maintenance issue that has caused the center to close as of 19 June 2021 with hopes of re-opening again by the end of summer. You will still be able to use FamilySearch.org from your home. The issue that would most affect those of us who did in-person research at the Family History Center is that the FamilySearch Portal is down. Portal gave users free access to 16 commercial databases that would normally require a paid subscription. If you never went to the FHC to use any of those databases, you might now realize what you have been missing. Fingers crossed that it gets up and running again soon – there is research to be done!

Portal gave access to:
19th Century British Library Newspapers (1800-1900)
Alexander Street Press (Civil War Research)
American Ancestors (NEHGS)
Ancestry.com (worldwide)
ArkivDigital Online (Swedish Church Records, etc.)

FamNet (New Zealand Research)
FindMyPast (UK Research)
Fold3 (Military records research)
Geneanet (France, Belgium, the Netherlands,
Sweden and Germany research)
KinPoint Premium (Family History helper)
MyHeritage
Newspapers.com (largest online newspaper archive)
Paper Trail (19th century westward migration
documents)
Puzzilla (research on descendants' lines in Family
Tree)

MPAFUG Treasurer

It has previously been mentioned that our organization is in need of a new treasurer and the requirements for that position had been previously posted. At the June 16th steering committee meeting, the requirements for that position were reviewed and revised. Please consider applying for the position if you have:

- Minimum of two years membership in MPAFUG
- Basic understanding of financial regulations
- Working knowledge of MS office spreadsheets
- Good communication and decision-making skills
- Southeast WI residency is required with the ability to attend most monthly MPAFUG meetings as well as Zoom steering committee meetings (Laptop computer will be provided if necessary)

- Good organizational and analytical skills a plus
- One or more years of experience as treasurer or similar position is a plus
- Banking knowledge a plus

Member Spotlight Column

We are looking for more members to submit their stories for the monthly Member Spotlight column. Don't be shy, all your stories are welcome! Everyone has a family history and stories about tracing that history. For further information and the member spotlight questions, email Louise Stack at: kilostack@att.net. Please put Member Spotlight in the subject line. We look forward to hearing *your* story!

A QUOTE TO PONDER:

"Tomorrow hopes that we have learned something from yesterday."

John Wayne

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The Jo Kinzinger Story

Although she has only been an MPAFUG member since August of 2020, you may have already met Jo Kinzinger either in person or on a meeting recording as she was a presenter at the June 9th meeting.

Or you could have asked for her help at one of the ethnic festivals in Milwaukee when she was with the Family History Center. She said Polish Fest and German Fest were the most fun and she enjoyed helping people find their roots. "The expression on their faces when I found someone was priceless."

Jo became interested in genealogy because her late friend, Mike, was working on his and telling her what he had found. She started asking herself, "Who am I really?" Off she went and has been doing it for about 28 years now. "Thanks Mike!"

So far Jo has an astounding 46,000 plus names in her data base. She also has at least 1,000 more names, currently in seven 5" ring binders, that need to be keyed in. And she has even more names to be researched! The binders are one branch of her Swiss side. She does research in Germany as well as Switzerland. Jo has traced her German roots back to the 1600's and her Swiss side back to the 1400-1500's.

Jo is researching just her family but will sometimes help others if they want. She does share her info and has her tree on FamilySearch. "I've found 3 new cousins thanks to that tree."

We have a troublemaker in our midst as Jo has gone on a couple of road trips and "caused a little trouble when I was there." She traveled once to Prescott and Ellsworth in Pierce County. While there she met a co-author of the book "History of Prescott" and "threw a wrench into some research."

“I found my 2nd great grandparents marriage record which was missed during research for the book. Met a cousin who didn’t know there was another line of his ancestors.”

Jo also traveled to St. Cloud, MN for a family reunion and found that no one there knew each other. She had been contacted by a cousin who found her family research at the Historical Museum. He in turn put her in touch with a couple of other cousins. One of them then got the family reunion started. With the connections she made there she now has a lot of family photos.

When asked if she has had any surprises in her research, Jo’s response was, “Boy have I!!!” Her biggest surprise was when she learned one of her 3rd great-grandparents had gone to Brazil with their youngest son in 1854. And, that she still has relatives living there which she found out by checking on her tree in FamilySearch. She now has pictures of her 2nd great-grandparents thanks to cousins she has found and is in touch with. Jo also learned that Stouffer’s Frozen Foods was founded by cousins and that Ben Roethlisberger, Pittsburg Steelers quarterback, is a 9th cousin once removed.

Jo’s best find so far has been coming across the passenger lists for 2 of her ancestors. She had passenger lists for other ancestors, but not those 2. Naturally, she has hit a couple of brick walls as well, but says she is “having too much fun with the folks I’ve found already so those are on the back burner.”

What is she hoping to find?
“My sanity. I’ve lost a lot over the years. Cousins marrying cousins makes for a nasty family tree. I have great-grandparents that are mine twice and one line that are mine three times. Bless my Swiss side!”

Who knew the Swiss were so frisky? Thanks for sharing your story, Jo!

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

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

August 11, 2021

From Start to Finish (Cathy Dailey)
Understanding Street View in Google Maps and Smart Phone Maps (Randy Ray)

September 8, 2021

Member Object Show & Tell Night
Sam Colon: Civil War Field Promotion
Bob Heck: Civil War Discharge Papers
Carl Micech: Note from Grandfather
Carol Poutain: Stuff Found in an Obituary
David Komassa: Polish Lancers Book
Karen Pauli: Her Mother’s Doll
Ken Artlip: Buried State Pauper
Randy Ray: Tin Type Photos
Wayne Ray: Note from His Father

October 13, 2021

On-line Vital Records of Birth, Marriage & Death (Bob Tatalovich)
Why Join the DAR, DAC, Mayflower Society or DAR? (Randy Ray)

November 10, 2021

Primary & Secondary Documentation and How to Source Them (Jane Orne)
Property Records in Genealogy (Cathy Dailey)

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

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bruce Butterfield:
414-462-6097
Babtrfld-mke@wi.rr.com

Sam Colon:
414-327-2133
genschr@gmail.com

Bob Heck:
414-421-7143
bobheckmpafug@gmail.com

Jane Orne:
262-938-9371
orne@Rworld.net

Guy Porth:
414-510-0563
guyporth9@yahoo.com

Louise Stack:
414-581-3978
kilostack@att.net

Bob Tatalovich:
414-897-8280
Bobt3725@gmail.com

Lynn Thrasher
John Canapa
Steve Gulgowski
Randy Ray

Questions about MPAFUG?
Write, call or email:
MPAFUG c/o Bob Heck
4910 Steeple Dr.
Greendale, WI 53129
414-421-7143
bobheckmpafug@gmail.com

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. New members would still be asked to pay dues. Please 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.