



NEWSLETTER

August 2021
Volume 2021 Issue 8

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AUGUST 2021

Obituaries, Death Notices and Funeral Home Records
(Cathy Dailey)

*Understanding Street View in Google Maps & Smart Phone
Maps* (Randy Ray)

August 11, 2021
7:00 PM – New Berlin Ale House
16000 West Cleveland Avenue
New Berlin, WI 52151

MEETING BITS AND BYTES

In between some badly needed rain showers we managed to hold our July 14th meeting at the New Berlin Ale House. Bob Heck began the meeting by welcoming “the brave ones” as there were only 25 in attendance. There was also one guest, Jean, from the north side of town. She had come along with Randy Ray after exploring the Wisconsin Historical Society Library. Our new treasurer, Debbie Bluett, was in attendance as well so members were able to meet her in person and put a face to the name.

Sam Colon started off the evening with a two-fold presentation, the first being on how to use BillionGraves and the second on cemeteries within the Milwaukee Archdiocese. He said that he likes BillionGraves because the man who developed it is a genealogist himself and the site is specifically geared for helping genealogists. He reminded us that genealogy without documentation is mythology and that you should always “trust but verify” the information you gather during your research. Most work is done by volunteers and mistakes do happen. A good place to look if you haven’t found your ancestors elsewhere.

Sam’s presentation was somewhat short which gave Randy Ray some extra time for his presentation on immigration records. He actually ended at exactly 9:00PM. Randy started out with some rather bleak statements about how many of those records have been destroyed by fire or water or whatever. And perhaps you never even considered that 250,000 or more immigrants perished in the Atlantic on the way over. That would make tracing an ancestor a little tough. In any event, Randy gave lots of places to look for those elusive ancestors.

WHAT'S ON THE AUGUST SCHEDULE

Randy Ray will begin the evening with his presentation on how to use and understand Google and smart phone maps to our best advantage when doing research. Some of us might need a lot more help in that department. He says that “you will be amazed and confused.”

For the 2nd presentation Cathy Dailey will show us what you can find in obituaries, death notices and funeral home records that will add to your genealogical research. You may find other relatives, home addresses, interesting facts or surprises. Cathy always has a plethora of great research tips.



STEERING COMMITTEE NOTES

Your MPAFUG steering committee held a “spirited” zoom meeting on July 21, 2021. We’ve been meeting like this for over a year now but the computer gremlins were hard at work for this one. Bob Tatalovich couldn’t connect to the meeting so started sending emails. He finally was able to hear us but we could not see or hear him. Sam Colon joined in, but his camera did not work at first either. Louise Stack was fine until part way through the meeting when she disappeared but was able to come back several minutes later. And to top it off, Bob Heck’s screen shot of the group didn’t save. Sam commented that the problems were most likely on Zoom’s end as they have been experiencing an overload of usage. Or, the computer gremlins were having fun, you decide.

Here is file footage of those who attended.



Gremlins aside we did manage to get a little work done. Bob Heck started off by sharing comments from members about our new treasurer (which you can also read farther on in this newsletter). He also had a couple of notes from members who had received their “Got Game” prizes.

This was Debbie Bluett’s first steering committee meeting but she had met most of us at the previous week’s meeting. She has established a new PO Box for MPAFUG business and the old PO Box has been cancelled. The transition thus far has been smooth and Debbie said that she has learned a lot from Lynn and Sam.

The previous week’s meeting was discussed. Bob and Randy Ray learned that the recording of Randy’s presentation on Immigration had an issue when it was being transferred to YouTube. The video he showed about Ellis Island was rejected by YouTube because it was copyrighted. OOPS! Apparently, the video of the German Emigration Center (Auswanderer Museum) is also copyrighted, but wasn’t rejected. Not to worry if you missed the meeting though because Randy put the YouTube link in his handout so you can check out the Ellis Island video yourself.

Bob Heck mentioned that he had been at another venue and noticed that they were using a wireless boom microphone which didn’t cause any feedback (you know, that irritating *screech* if you make the wrong move). There was a discussion about purchasing that type of microphone instead of using

the Ale House microphone for our meetings and all were in favor.

Sam Colon brought up the opportunity table and introduced a new plan for distributing the prizes. Instead of winners waiting in line to choose a prize in the order of how the numbers were called, he proposed that each prize have a box where members could put the desired number of tickets for the prize they really wanted. So, if you bought \$20 worth of tickets you could put them all in one box or distribute them however you chose. All were in favor of this change.

Bob Heck mentioned that there will be construction on Cleveland Ave which will affect those who travel that route west to the New Berlin Ale House. Supposedly, there will be no road closures, just lane restrictions.

And as always, we worked on updating the Upcoming Programs. You'll see we even planned a couple for 2022.

UPDATES

Family History Center

Sorry to report that there is still no news from Salt Lake City as to when the Family History Center will reopen.

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!

MEET YOUR NEW MPAFUG TREASURER DEBBIE BLUETT



Debbie took up the challenge to be our treasurer and we are excited to have her. She has an exceptional financial background so we know Lynn can rest easy knowing that she has passed the baton to a worthy successor.

Here's What You Had to Say:

"Congratulations Debbie! Good job stepping up, and with an impressive background as well! Much different than the other little club I am a secretary for. To get another officer voted in, or to volunteer for a post, we almost have to have some scandal that we can threaten them with to keep quiet about, so they will "volunteer"!

I live in northern Wisconsin, so I don't get to meetings, but I really love this club. Take good care of her."

John Johnson

"We are very fortunate to have a person with those qualities as our treasurer!"

Chuck Johnson

"Congratulation Debbie and to the club."

John Phelan

"Thank you, Debbie! This is a good organization to contribute to and I am sure you will be a good addition.

Also, thank you, Lynn Thrasher for your many years of service!"

Annette Eliason

"I want to thank Lynn Thrasher for all of her hard work as our Treasurer and especially for her help in explaining responsibilities of the position to Debbie.

Lynn has agreed to remain a member of the Steering Committee and volunteered to help out in the transition to a new Treasurer. Her opinion and fresh ideas are a welcomed part of the Steering Committee. Please join me in congratulating Debbie and thanking all of those making MPAFUG a great organization.”

Bob Heck

“Lynn, Thank you for your service to this group. I wish you much luck in your years ahead and please stay safe and healthy.”

Randy Ray

“Lynn, Thanks for all of your hard work! You can pick a seat anywhere in the meeting room now.”

Louise Stack

“Done and done; congrats and thank you to all!”

Christine Marceille



Lynn Thrasher

Many thanks to outgoing treasurer Lynn Thrasher for her many years of keeping us in the black!

A QUOTE TO PONDER:

“Genealogists: We do precision work based on unreliable data provided by those of questionable knowledge.”

Unknown

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The Sam Bastian Story

“Growing up, there was no need to consider genealogy because you knew the expectations for someone of your ethnic background (bring no shame to the name and always have integrity). But when I got married (1974), I started a ‘Family History Book’ for my children and dutifully began questioning the grandparents. Fast forward and aunts and uncles are dying off and I come into possession of artifacts and family tree information. As my children left home, I got serious about putting together this puzzle where the German and Irish great grandparents came from where and why. So, I started traveling, first in the US and then in Europe and after about 10 years joined MPAFUG in 2017.

Although I work alone tracking my family of origin, I have met helpful relatives along the way both through research and DNA. For example, the woman from NY with minimal matching DNA who, when we compared notes, had a life almost exactly like mine including age, marriage, number of children, etc. She had heard about my relatives in a recent visit from relatives from Germany but they didn’t know where to look. My family left Germany in 1870. She shared the family history written in a journal before WWII. This contained pictures of the ancestors who stayed in Germany. AND she had had it translated to English! Or the man a genealogy friend kept bugging me to meet because she knew I would just love him; we had the same sense of humor and she knew I would love all his genealogy expertise. As an introvert, I was not interested in meeting this man just because she thought we were so alike. Until they were working on genealogy and she realized that he and I were second cousins.

The next year I would be in Luxembourg on a genealogy trip with him (he is an author and travel leader among other things). Through him I was able to have a private translator and driver take me to my ancestor towns, march in the National Day Parade, and attend a private party at the archbishop’s residence to watch fireworks from the palace with his group.

Although I knew I was German/Irish and that both my parents had come from a small town in MN, I would find out that actually my great grandfather first came to Port Washington homesteading in 1848. That another great grandfather was actually from Luxembourg. That another great grandfather when leaving Germany for NY, ended up in Cuba because they were blown off course. (So, I can say my ancestors came here from Cuba). And finally, that my Irish great grandfather (who I knew had come through Canada because it was cheaper to land there) had actually been born in Scotland to parents who lived there after being forced out of Ireland. So now I research Irish, Scottish, Luxembourg and German records and have some branches to 1604 while some stop at 1832.

The best find for me was when I found the church records and the pastor's sick call entries from Scotland where he is listed as visiting my 3rd great grandmother numerous times and then stops. Shortly after that he stops visiting my 3rd great grandfather and this confirms (based on the town and fever hospital records) their deaths and the departure of my 2nd great grandfather, age 16, as a cabin boy to Canada. This also gave me the marriage record which stated that the banns for my 3rd great grandparents had to be published in the parish in Scotland as well as their former parishes in Ireland. There was the piece that had eluded me so long in proving my wise grandmother correct when she insisted that her grandfather was from Scotland, but was an Irishman. The records were very interesting and a genealogist from Trinity College in Dublin requested them to use in her presentations.

I will never be done but the search is so much fun.”

Thanks for sharing Sam!

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

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
David Komassa: Polish Lancers Book
Carol Poutain: Stuff Found in an Obituary
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)

December 2021

No meeting

January 12, 2022

Cyber Security Updates (Bill Heck)

February 9, 2022

European Police Records (Randy Ray)

March 9, 2022

1950 Census Records: Determining
Enumeration Districts (Bob Tatalovich)

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. New members would still be asked to pay dues. Please send a check made payable to MPAFUG to:

Debbie Bluett– MPAFUG Treasurer
P.O. Box 229
Delavan, WI 53115-0229

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.