



NEWSLETTER

October 2023
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OCTOBER 2023

Milwaukee's Polish East Side - House History
(Bob Tatalovich)

How to Use BadgerLink (Bob Miller)

Next meeting Wednesday, October 11, 2023

7:00 PM – New Berlin Ale House

16000 West Cleveland Avenue

New Berlin, WI 52151

MEETING BITS AND BYTES

There were 43 members who attended the September 13, 2023, meeting.

Randy began the evening with a “Before We Start” session. In other words, we want to keep you informed and update you on a few things.

First, the [Digital Public Library of America](#) (DPLA) is a gathering point for all types of information and collections from libraries across the country. From their website “DPLA is totally free to use and open to all – no library card, subscription, or sign-up required! Our collection, with items from many institutions, offers a unique research resource for family historians and genealogists.”

In Randy’s opinion, it does not have a very good search engine and is clumsy to use. Therefore, he suggests that you watch the [YouTube video](#) to learn how to use it. This video description states ... “In this hour-long workshop webinar, DPLA Community Reps and experienced genealogists Tamika Maddox Strong and Amy Johnson Crow introduce the Digital Public Library of America (<https://dp.la>) as a resource for family historians, genealogists, and anyone interested in learning about new research skills and cool collections in DPLA. This workshop will teach you new tips for searching for family names in DPLA and exploring resources in your family’s hometown or region. This workshop also takes a peek at some of the collections that may prove invaluable for your family research: yearbooks, letters, newspapers, military records, family Bibles and more! With content from 2,000 libraries, archives, and museums across the country, DPLA also offers a unique opportunity to dig deeper and add context to the lives of our ancestors.”

Next, Randy presented new rules for [Find A Grave](#). [Click here for a link](#) that will explain the new particulars that are imposed on managing a memorial. Most notably, new memorials added will be frozen for three months, unless you are a close family member. Randy reviewed some of the standard procedures of posting, including never to add or reference a living person. If an obituary includes living people, black out the reference. If a headstone includes a living person's information, block it out with a photo editor.

Last, but not least, Randy reminded us of his offer to help with dead ends or software help for Family Tree Maker. Email him at rayr4989@gmail.com or see him at the Family Search Center Library on Thursday nights. Bob Heck is also at the Family Search Center Library on Thursday nights and has offered with the [MyHeritage](#) site.



Randy also presented a quick recap of computer "Back to Basics". First up was some basics about photo programs and touching up photos. Ancestry and MyHeritage now have very good photo editing programs. There are also dozens of photo editing programs on the internet; most of them charging for their services. If you are using a free trial, be sure to cancel on time!

Windows Photo is free and comes with your original computer installation. Randy generally uses software that comes with the computer and this works well for his needs.

In Windows Photo, right click inside of the photo for a whole menu of options – resize (by % or #), mark up (to add text), cut, crop, tilt, adjust brightness or shadow, filter, black & white. Randy uses crop and resize to mostly reduce the size of large headstone pictures, usually using 300-450 pixels as a good resulting size. Be sure not to reduce to too small of a size. You will want to be sure to still be able to read the headstone.

Where to find old photos of your ancestors? There are numerous sites, but two that Randy successfully uses are [Ancient Faces](#) and [DPLA](#), and of course don't forget [Google](#). Be warned however, there are

many photos with no names. There are thousands of photos without names at any historical society.

What photo format is best for you? Below is a guideline only. It is completely up to you and how you work with photos.

JPEG or JPG - Joint Photographic Experts Group	<i>most common; holds resolution</i>
PNG - Portable Network Graphics	<i>web pages</i>
GIF - Graphics Interchange Format	<i>animation</i>
TIFF - Tagged Image File	<i>high quality; very large files</i>
PDF -Portable Document Format	<i>mostly for documents and combination files</i>
HEIC -Apple	<i>only opens on Apple devices unless PC authorized</i>

What's new in Ancestry? Right click on any person to find a whole new pop-out menu. Also, check out its photo editing program. Of particular interest is the page, "[Recently Added and Updated Collections](#)". Here you will find newly updated files. Ancestry loads approximately 5-15 million images per month! A phenomenal number!

Randy gave a brief tutorial of copy (Ctrl + c) and paste (Ctrl + v) along with drag and drop (hold left mouse, drag anywhere, and drop). *(At about 13 minutes into the video recording of this presentation, Randy demonstrates copy & paste, if you would like to see a visual step-by-step. At about 14:30 minutes in the video, find a demo of drag & drop.)* Windows 11 has moved the copy & paste commands in the right-click pop-out menu. You can now find the commands under "Show More Options".

Randy explained the different ways to create a PDF (Portable Document Format). A pdf file is used when you need to save files that should not be modified but need to be easily shared. There are multiple programs capable of turning your

document into a pdf file. Some will require payment; some are easy; some are full of spam.

Use what is easy for you. The free Adobe version is the most common. It has no spam and has a very advanced paid version. Bob Heck and Bob Miller prefer to use PDF995. They will answer questions you might have with that product. Google Docs will also convert to a pdf file.

Randy creates documents in Microsoft Word and then uses the “File” command, “Save As”, into a pdf file. *(At about 19:00 minutes in the session video, Randy demonstrates how to do this.)*

To create a new folder, right click on a blank spot under the place that you want to create a new folder. Click on Folder, then New Folder and give it a name. *(See the video at about 20:30 minutes for a visual.)*

While you are in an email, to attach a document, click on the paperclip icon and follow the menu choices to attach the document to the email message. *(See the video at 23:36 for a visual.)*

There are many different types of email system – Gmail, Outlook, etc. - they are all very similar. Randy prefers the free Gmail; it’s bulletproof for him. He hasn’t experienced spam or viruses. He can use it from any computer, anywhere in the world.

Randy reminds us ... “Practice makes perfect ... like any skill, the more you use it, the better you get at it.



Naturalization Records and How to Find Them

Randy has discovered new features regarding naturalization information on Family Search and updated us with the next presentation.

For many years, the only way to find naturalization documents was to go to County Courthouse in most states. Then we found we could go to most of the UW Libraries in Wisconsin.

Family Search now has almost every file for almost every state and county online. They are found in the

CATALOG tab of the Search Bar. They are arranged by state, county, and city. You will need to know the type of court to search by dates and volume numbers.

Randy gave us a quick preview using the Illinois, Northern District Petitions for Naturalization, 1906-1994. This is a massive collection containing a daunting 2 million images! You can search this collection using first name, last name, or date of birth. We looked at a certificate. Much information can be gotten for your family tree, including a photo and signature.

The collection on Ancestry shows the sources as having 706 rolls of microfilm. Looking at the state of Illinois, their collection listed 1,669 banker boxes full of documents.

The laws on immigration and naturalization have changed many times over the years, but the process has not changed. The mandates and rules have changed, but not the law. If you would like to know more use this link

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1921-1936/immigration-act>.

The real feature of the presentation was the 3”x5” immigration index card. They contain a lot of information and is one of the first results of a general search. The card used in demonstration had the following information.

On the first line, in the top left corner, was the Soundex code. This code is obsolete, in favor of computer algorithms. The Soundex is a coded surname index based on the way a name sounds rather than the way it's spelled. An algorithm is an is a finite sequence of rigorous instructions used to solve a specific problem.

The next line contained the exact spelling of the name that will be on the naturalization documents. The next line contained where he is living. The next line contained the court jurisdiction along with the certificate number, volume and page.

The certificates are beautiful documents, most in full color. Randy is investigating as to whether or not certificates are available either online or in

physical copies. It seems that many were destroyed after 1906.

The next line contained birthplace, where and when, exactly also as on the certificate. Next contained the arrival, when and where, along with the date of naturalization. The document number, most important, was also on this same line. Witnesses were either friends, but mostly it was two court employees.

Looking step by step on Ancestry for this record, finds the index card. We will use all of this information on Family Search. Randy found his Declaration of Intention (including his signature), his Petition (including his signature and the document number, volume and page). The hometown was included. The wife is automatically naturalized. Her name was found on the Petition. His occupation was butcher and Randy knew that later, he started a butcher shop and owned it for many years. A wealth of information!

Here is a tip Randy gave us. Once you have the naturalization index card, use a catalog search for US, Milwaukee, township of Granville (for example), the result will give all of the records Family Search has for that precise location. Click on the Naturalization collection and search the name or zero in on the document and document numbers. (The page number might not always match.)

Other tips that Randy had for us included the fact that Illinois records continued up into Wisconsin. Also, don't forget to move forward a few pages. You might find brothers next to each other. Also, searching the index card with only the first initial and last name, or the last name alone might give better results.

Read all documents twice for names that could contribute to the pieces of the puzzle. Keep notes of what and where you are finding records, so that you do not have to double back or redo your work.

Use Ancestry and Family Search together and follow the paper trail. Here are the steps:

- Index Card
- Naturalization Papers
- Names and dates and place of origin (passenger lists)
- Port leads to immigration documents

In general, naturalization was a two-step process that took a minimum of five years. After residing for two years, the "declaration of intention" ("first papers") could be filed. After an additional three years, a "petition for naturalization" ("second papers") could be filed. After granted, a "certificate of citizenship" was issued. The steps did not have to take place in the same court.

Randy also showed us the information on census records that could be had regarding naturalization. Census 1900 through 1930 included three questions about citizenship. The answers were A=Alien, PA=Petition Applied For and NA=Naturalized. 1940/1950 just included a Yes/No question. To understand some of the other codes found on the column headings, Google "1930 Census meaning of code". Also remember that when these census records were being filled out, people did not carry around their personal information like we do these days in our cell phones, purses, or wallets. It was at home in father's desk, or locked away in a safe. The dates could be way off, as they were from memory. Keep that in mind, if your other information does not match.

Hopefully this will give you new information to follow. If you get frustrated or cannot find the information that you need, Randy invites you to reach out to him by email at rayr4989@gmail.com.



WHAT'S ON THE OCTOBER SCHEDULE

Bob Tatalovich will give a presentation of House History, Milwaukee's Polish East Side. Before World War II, Milwaukee's Lower East Side was largely home to Polish immigrants. Learn about the interesting history of the homes in this area.

Bob Miller will give us instruction on How to Use [BadgerLink](#). According to the About BadgerLink page ... “From personal interest to educational research, BadgerLink is Wisconsin's Online Library, providing Wisconsin residents with licensed trustworthy resources” BadgerLink includes over 60 databases services, including the Wisconsin Newspaper Association.”

STEERING COMMITTEE NOTES

Your MPAFUG Steering Committee held a Zoom meeting on September 20, 2023. In attendance were Bob Tatalovich, Bob Heck, Sam Colon, Debbie Bluett, Louise Stack, Cheryl Sarasin, Bob Miller and Randy Ray.

We discussed the agenda for the upcoming October meeting, which includes presentations of Milwaukee’s Polish East Side House History and How to Use Badgerlink.

Show and Tell presentations are all set for the final meeting of the year, in November. Thank you in advance to all of the presenters. The presentations, in no particular order, include:

<i>Debbie Bluett</i>	<i>Grandma’s Hobbies</i>
<i>Louise Stack</i>	<i>Revolutionary War Ancestor & Mother’s skate guard</i>
<i>Linda Marcinowski</i>	<i>Great Grandfather’s Military Medal</i>
<i>Carl & Jean Micech</i>	<i>Karol Micech’s Slovakian Military Documents</i>
<i>Mary Jo Carlson & Linda Mocnik</i>	<i>Presenting together</i>
<i>Jo Kinzinger</i>	<i>Family Tree Books Published by Other Family Members</i>
<i>Dorothy Boxhorn</i>	<i>Tracking Down Family Photos from Her Cousins</i>
<i>Debbie Verburgt</i>	<i>Found in a Box Near the TV</i>
<i>Randy Ray</i>	<i>The Hunt for Captain Ben Combs</i>

The Steering Committee also continued the discussion of subjects for next year’s meetings. See the [Upcoming Programs](#) section of this newsletter

for those that have been decided upon so far.

We discussed having handouts available online before some of the meetings. The purpose is to give you more of an opportunity to think about questions to bring with you. We will keep you informed on any postings that might be available.

It was noted that registration is now open for RootsTech2024. The theme for 2024 is REMEMBER. This theme is to help us all think about the experiences and the ancestors who have built a legacy as to who we are, along with those experiences that we want to leave for our own legacy and those that will remember us in the future.

The dates are February 29 through March 2, 2024. Prices are \$69 for a 1-Day Pass and \$99 for a 3-Day Pass in Salt Lake City. Online attendance is **FREE!** [Check it out here and mark your calendars!](#)

Also, keep in mind that RootsTech keeps you informed and provides classes throughout the year on Facebook at this link facebook.com/RootsTech or on Instagram by following *rootstechofficial*. Some of the classes on Facebook, recorded in September and still available, for example, were:

- *Getting Started with researching in Mexico*
- *Focus on Research in New Zealand*
- *How to Begin Our Genealogy Journey*
- *Top 10 Tips for Beginners in Genealogy*

!!Announcing!!

The Steering Committee voted that a Member in good standing as of September 1, 2023, is exempt from paying dues for 2024. Your dues will be \$0 for 2024! (For anyone who sends a check anyway ... it will be considered a donation.)



free picture from pixabay.com/users/GraphicMama-team

AUTUMN QUOTES TO PONDER:

*"Never jump in a pile of leaves with a wet sucker."
– Linus, It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown*



free picture from pixabay.com/users/stux

*"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."
– L. M. Montgomery,
Anne of Green Gables*

*"It's the first day of autumn! A time of hot chocolatey mornings, and toasty marshmallow evenings, and, best of all, leaping into leaves!"
– Winnie the Pooh, Pooh's Grand Adventure*

REMINDERS



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- Our plan for the Opportunity Table, from now through November, is to have a laptop computer with either Windows 10 or Windows 11 as the main prize. This means that we will be giving away a laptop computer every month for the next two months!
- **** Send us your DeepStories!**
We would love to share them! (See the August meeting video for a refresher.) Submit your story links by email to Cheryl Sarasin, Editor at: cheryld@wi.rr.com.

- We are in need of more stories! Submit your **Member Spotlight Story** by email to Cheryl Sarasin, Editor at: cheryld@wi.rr.com.

The Member Spotlight questions are:

- 1) Who or what got you interested in genealogy?
- 2) How long have you been doing your genealogy research? How long have you been a member of MPAFUG?
- 3) How big is your family tree?
- 4) How many ancestors are you researching? Are you working with or sharing with another relative?
- 5) Do you have any special photographs or memorabilia?
- 6) Have you gone on any road trips for your research? Where? Did you find what you were looking for?
- 7) Have you had any surprises?
- 8) What is your best find?
- 9) Have you hit any brick walls?
- 10) What countries have you been researching?
- 11) How far back have you gone?
- 12) What are you hoping to find?

The Family Search Center

9600 West Grange Avenue, Hales Corners

(formerly known as The Family History Center)

The Family Search Center Library has expanded its service! **The library is now open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.**

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

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

Saturday hours: 10:00AM – 1:00PM

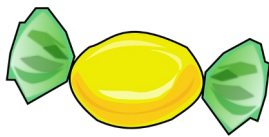
The library is in a different room now. Enter at the main doors facing West Grange Avenue and follow the signs to the library. The new room is much smaller than the old room, but is still functional.

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.

SWEETEST DAY 2023 – Saturday, October 21st!



*free picture from
pixabay.com/users/Clipart-Vectors*

Sweetest Day falls annually on the third Saturday of October. This year, on October 21st.

It was founded as a day to do something sweet for orphans and the unfortunate, with its roots in random acts of kindness. Today, it has come to be known as a second Valentine’s Day.

The first Sweetest Day was on October 10, 1921, in Cleveland, Ohio, as chronicled by the Cleveland *Plain Dealer* newspaper. According to the Plain Dealer, *The Sweetest Day in the Year Committee*, comprised of a committee of 12 confectioners, distributed 20,000 boxes of candy to “orphans, newsboys, old folks, and the poor” in Cleveland. They were assisted by Theda Bara and Ann Pennington, two of the most glamorous movie stars of the time.



*free picture from
pixabay.com/users/Clipart-Vectors*

There were other attempts to start Sweetest Day as a national holiday, including a 1937 campaign launched by the National Confectioners Association which tried to rank the day as high as Mother’s Day in the national eye. In 1940, another 10,000 boxes of candy was distributed among 26 charities, including the Big Sister groups of New York, by the *Sweetest Day Committee*.

The popularity in Detroit was driven by the promotions of the Sanders Candy Company. In general, the observance was described by Retail Confectioners International as “much more important for candy makers in some regions than others”, being most prevalent in the Great Lakes region.

Today, it has slowly spread throughout the country and has evolved into a romantic holiday, not aimed at either men or women, but both – doubling the commercial profits perhaps? Its growth has moved with a solid, national momentum. It is a nice way to share the Midwest culture – with love and sweets.



UPCOMING MPAFUG PROGRAMS

November 8, 2023

Entire Night of Show and Tell Night

No Meeting in December

******* 2024 *******

January 10, 2024

Computer Security (*Bill Heck*)

Security Software & Scams (*Sam Colon*)

February 14, 2024

Dating Photographs by Fashion (*Randy Ray*)

Best Sites for Finding Old Photos (*Bob Heck*)

March 13, 2024

Irish Ancestry (*Working on it*)

April 10, 2024 (*Working on it*)

May 8, 2024

Tentative Telling Your Story (*Judy Rockwell*)

June 12, 2024 (*Working on it*)

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 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.

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 Search Center located at 9600 W. Grange Ave, Hales Corners, WI; however, 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.

A Member in good standing as of September 1, 2023, is exempt from paying dues for 2024. Your dues will be \$0 for 2024! (For anyone who sends a check anyway ... it will be considered a donation.)

For 2024 NEW memberships:
Please send a check for \$12.00 made payable to MPAFUG to:

**Deborah A. Bluett
MPAFUG Treasurer
PO Box 229
Delavan, WI 53115-0229**

Please include with your check, your Name, Mailing Address, email Address and Phone Number.

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.