



NEWSLETTER

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NOVEMBER 2023

Show and Tell Presentations by Our Members

Next meeting Wednesday, November 8, 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 October 11, 2023, meeting.

Bob Tatalovich began the evening's presentations with a verbal tour of Milwaukee's Polish East Side – A House History. With a map of the Polish East side, Bob pointed out the boundaries, including the bottom of the map at Brady Street, running from west to east.

On the corner of Brady Street and North Humboldt Avenue is St. Hedwig's Church. Founded in 1871 as a Polish-language parish, St. Hedwig's was the first daughter of St. Stanislaus Church, established five years earlier. Most of the Polish immigrants living in the vicinity of Brady Street had been members of St. Stanislaus on the South Side, but the distance of about three miles was inconvenient for attending religious services and impractical for schoolchildren. *(from Architecture of Faith ... [read more about St. Hedwig's here.](#))*

Bob's family lived largely on Warren Avenue, which is the right hand boundary on the map. Bob also had family, his other great grandfather, at corner of North Franklin Place and East Hamilton Street.

The map that Bob was using lists one of the 1929 Copyright holders as the Milwaukee Real Estate Board. The Polish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin published this map in 2000, and added notes at the top, including "Area of early Polish Settlement" and "Many Kashubian Poles". Kashubian Poles are a West Slavic ethnic group. *([Read more about them here.](#))*

Bob began his research of this area by reminiscing about the visits to his grandmother, Emily Kuffel, in this area where his mother grew up. From here, he asks himself, “Who is where in 1950?” Starting with the 1950 Census, Bob adds more neighborhood family addresses from Ancestry and Family Search. He also adds more information from various City Directory entries.

Bob has gleaned a lot of very interesting information from these sources, along with his own memories; for example, nicknames, relationships, photos, home structural quirks, and occupations.

Emily’s mother, Bob’s great grandmother, Martha Worzala lived across the street. Martha was married to Frank Worzala. Her son, Alphonse (*aka Uncle Bob*) never married, lived with his mother and took care of the property. Uncle Bob read gas meters for a living and always had an extra supply of batteries for Bob’s family. In the same building upstairs, lived another of Martha’s daughters, Angeline and family. Next door was the widowed Peter Stachlewicz, one of Martha’s brothers. His daughter Mamie lived with him. He rented to Beatrice, his other daughter.

The family home started as 922 Warren Avenue and later became 1834 North Warren Avenue.

Down the block at a double house, 1818 and 1820, lived married daughters of Martha’s, Helen (married to John) and Vivian (married to Joe).

This was the house that started it all. In the mid-1870s, Martin Stachlewicz purchased the residence, then numbered as 910 Doty, which becomes 910 Warren Avenue, and then is renumbered in the 1930s to 1818 and 1820 North Warren Avenue. Martin is a laborer, blacksmith, boiler maker, and laborer. He died in 1900.

Behind the double, in the cottage numbered 1820A North Warren Avenue, lived Bruno Ratzel and his wife Grace, with their son Kenny (Bob’s cousin). Grace is Emily’s daughter.

Bob’s mother grew up with these people, “the cousins”. They were very close and did everything together. If you wanted lunch, you could just walk

into any one of these places and the homemaker would offer you lunch. By the way, all of these houses are all still there.

Bob asks, “What does this look like on a Sanborn Map?” Randy Ray has done various presentations on these maps. Sanborn Maps are a separate map system used to evaluate insurance needs for a city and to determine fire department needs. They were also used for training and firefighting. [Read more about Sanborn Maps here.](#)

On the Sanborn Map, Bob’s family houses are all frame buildings. Bob identified each of the family houses, the cottage, and a shed on this map.

From here, Bob advises us to “Ask questions – did my ancestors purchase a home or buy a plot of land and build?”

With this question in mind, Bob went to visit the Register of Deeds, located at the Milwaukee County Courthouse to find the earliest purchase. This was the “starter” home, purchased in February of 1875. It was categorized as Lot #18 purchased by Martin Stachlewicz. He paid \$445, with \$95 down and the balance due within 3 years at 8% per annum. Seven years later, Martin bought Lots #21 and #22 for \$600 each. There were no garages, because of course, there were no cars at this time.

Bob asks, “Where to go next? – tax rolls on microfilm at the Milwaukee Central Library (Periodicals, Adult Desk Reference Collection) and tax rolls on microfilm at the Golda Meir Research Center.”

Bob exhibited the tax rolls from 1883 and 1899 (sixteen years later) to note the worth of Martin’s houses and land, along with the value of the subsequent improvements to only Lots #21 and #22, adding the cottage behind Lot #18. Martin lived and died at the first house, Lot #18, renting out the better places for better rent money.

From vital records and death records, Bob connects the details of what families are living at which addresses; deaths from typhoid, alcoholism, and death caused by falling from the steeple while building St. Hedwig’s Church; a record of divorce,

which was very uncommon in that era; and who was landlord over which relatives.

This is a historic neighborhood and its survey is online at the [Wisconsin Architecture & History Inventory pages](#). The buildings are listed by present street address, with earliest owners listed where available. Bob showed us photos of some of the homes, then and now.

Bob's conclusions were that until 1900, home improvements were undervalued. This was not a wealthy neighborhood, but today the houses are assessed at \$200,000-\$300,000 each. The workers were largely laborers and semi-skilled. You could build wealth by acquiring property (building rental units), especially doubles, and renting out the better properties.

Bob showed us a picture of the Stachlewicz plot at Calvary Cemetery, along with a plot map for the family.

Bob's tip ... Keep in mind, there is such a thing as "collateral genealogy" ... look for relatives nearby.

To illustrate how this is beneficial, Bob showed us a photo of a huge number of people at Mary Kleinowski's 75th birthday in 1945. This was Martha's cousin. Mary went to church on the other side of the river, to St. Casimir's. Both came from Poland. Both married and lived in this same neighborhood. Many of Bob's family is in the back row of this photo. Bob went to a reunion in LaCrosse to identify the Kleinowski's in the photo.

In closing, Bob showed us a four-generation photo of Mary Stachlewicz (great grandmother), Martha Worsala (grandmother), Emily Kuffel (mother) and child, Marie Kuffel (daughter and Bob's mother).



Bob Miller was next and presented BadgerLink for Genealogical Research (Celebrating 25 years – 1998-2023).

From personal interest to educational research, BadgerLink provides Wisconsin residents with licensed trustworthy resources. You can use

BadgerLink with any connection. There is no charge for the use of [BadgerLink](#), but it is required that you have a Wisconsin library card. Or you can select the Wisconsin branch by entering a zip code. BadgerLink is sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Abundant training and assistance is available, as each resource within BadgerLink has its own navigation and search techniques. A user is able to save most results as pdf, print or image. It is not, however, a place to store data.

Bob encourages us to practice and experiment beyond the items that he covered in his presentation. There is a vast amount of offerings.

Bob recommends watching the video on the homepage, [badgerlink.dpi.wi.gov](#), for a nice overview of BadgerLink.

BadgerLink is FREE! It is a bountiful, at-home access to genealogical and other resources. It is an unparalleled source for Wisconsin newspapers, excluding the Milwaukee Journal. There are many other types of content on BadgerLink, but Bob's focus was on genealogical and newspaper content and how to do this type of research. He showed us how to use the site, with the hopes that with practice, it should become easy enough for us.

BadgerLink gives you access to a very large magazine and periodical content.

One of Bob Miller's emphasis in the presentation was the archive of 289 Wisconsin Newspapers, with editions going back to 2005 and newspapers current to 60 days ago.

Included are newspapers from all 72 counties to search. You are able to browse the actual newspaper. [Click here](#) to watch the video on how to use the Archive of Wisconsin Newspaper site or click here for a [pdf cheat sheet](#) of the video. Get to it here – Main page > Newspapers > Archive of Wisconsin Newspapers > Click to Access - to filter, search and pick dates.

The second area of genealogical interest Bob presented was HeritageQuest, through BadgerLink. HeritageQuest contains the full US Census list from

1850s through current, 1950. It also includes the city directory. The Social Security Death Index is there, but dated. There is very limited availability for military and immigration records, but worth including in your searching.

Within HeritageQuest, Bob advises us to begin with a search of censuses and city directories for your most fruitful results.

The third branch of the genealogical resources is the Wisconsin Historical Society Family History Records. This is a free, very limited subset of records. It has state census for 1855-1905, birth, death and marriage indexes, wills and probate records, and employment records of professional organizations. Some are robust and some are so so.

The next branch of general interest includes such things as digital copies of Consumer Reports and Popular Mechanics. There are large lists of older archives and current newspapers, including the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, etc. You can find business information from The Business Journal. Bob also found archives from the program 60 Minutes, including transcripts and videos from 1997-2014.

A tip from Bob, sometimes libraries in other states have resources such as Newspapers.com for use. Sometimes you are able to get a library card from libraries in other states to use resources, even if you are not a resident. It's at least worth a call to check it out.

Another tip from an audience member ... Go to the Milwaukee Journal's downtown location. The Journal Sentinel's offices are located at 330 E. Kilbourn Ave. On the 2nd floor, in the Periodicals Department, you can use the computers for two hours of access.

Bob concludes by saying "Be adventuresome! What can it hurt?" Use all of the help links and tutorials. They are abundant and very useful; check them out.

WHAT'S ON THE NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

Entire Night of Show and Tell

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 include:

PRESENTER	TOPIC
<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>Slovakian Military Documents</i>
<i>Dorothy Boxhorn</i>	<i>Tracking Down Family Photos from Her Cousins</i>
<i>Mary Jo Carlson & Linda Mocnik</i>	<i>Presenting together</i>
<i>Debbie Verburgt</i>	<i>My Greatest Genealogy Find</i>
<i>Jo Kinzinger</i>	<i>Family Tree Books Published by Other Family Members</i>
<i>Randy Ray(Tentative)</i>	<i>The Hunt for Captain Ben Combs</i>

STEERING COMMITTEE NOTES

Your MPAFUG Steering Committee held its final meeting of 2023 over Zoom on October 18, 2023. In attendance were (top row; left to right) Debbie Bluett, Bob Heck, Bob Tatalovich, (middle row; left to right) Cheryl Sarasin, Louise Stack, Randy Ray, (bottom row) Bob Miller.

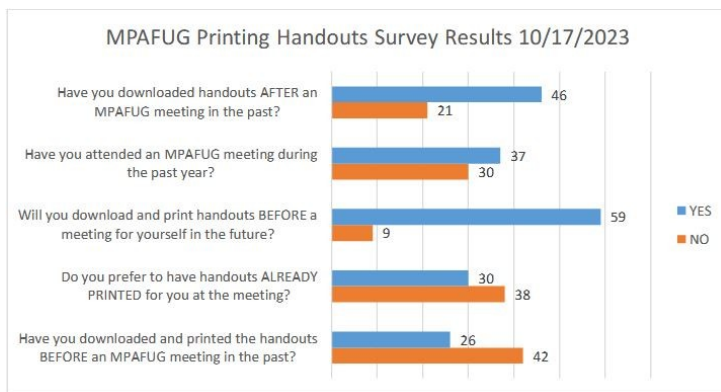


We discussed the agenda for the upcoming November meeting, which includes an entire night of Show and Tell presentations by our members. See **What's On the November Schedule** for a list of presenters and topics.

Since there is **NO MPAFUG meeting in December** to plan for, this was our final Steering Committee meeting of the year. In this meeting, we did complete the scheduling of subjects for next year's meetings, including January's program through the first presentation in July, 2024. See the **Upcoming Programs** section of this newsletter.

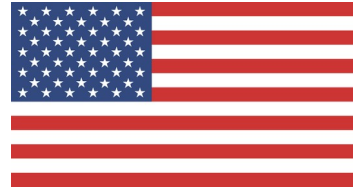
We discussed the survey results to our questions about handouts being available online before the meetings. The main purpose is to give our members more of an opportunity to think about questions to bring to meetings.

Our survey indicated that nearly all who responded would indeed print the handouts before a meeting. *(See the chart below.)* Comments generally stated that this was a good idea and didn't mind printing at home, and "Preparation is knowledge". Opinions also were that a few copies should be available at the meetings for those that were not able to print at home, or for those that might have forgotten to either print or bring with them.



VETERANS DAY QUOTES TO PONDER:

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." —**John Fitzgerald Kennedy**



free picture from pixabay.com/users/relentless

"Freedom makes a huge requirement of every human being. With freedom comes responsibility." —**Eleanor Roosevelt**

"Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened." —**Billy Graham**

IN HONOR OF VETERANS DAY A NUGGET OF WISCONSIN HISTORY by Louise Stack

If you have been in the military or seen the TV series *Band of Brothers*, then you surely have heard of the 101st Airborne Division. Their lineage traces back to the Wisconsin 8th Infantry Regiment during the Civil War.



The regiment had a mascot called Old Abe the War Eagle. Old Abe participated in over 30 battles and was wounded twice. According to 101st legend, he was fearless and would swoop down on the enemy with his terrifying screams.

This differs from Old Abe's history at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum slightly, but he was definitely a morale booster for the union troops. Confederate troops on the other hand set bounties on what they called the "Yankee Buzzard."

After the civil war Old Abe was assigned to the Wisconsin Capital building. He was also asked to attend civil war reunions and fundraisers.



Sadly, in 1881 Old Abe died of smoke inhalation following a fire at the state capital. The decision was made to call in a taxidermist and Old Abe still stands watch but at the WI Veterans Museum now.

The 101st Airborne Division shoulder patch features a bald eagle reminiscent of Old Abe. The division nickname is "The Screaming Eagles."

REMINDERS



free picture from pixabay.com/users/Chainver-gallery

- Finishing up our plan for the Opportunity Table through November, there will be a Windows 11 laptop computer as the main prize. This is the final month that we will be giving away a laptop computer.
- Continuing the experiment with posting our MPAFUG meeting handouts ahead of time, **the November 8, 2023, handouts have been POSTED.**

- One of our MPAFUG members, Cathy Dailey, a gifted speaker and most knowledgeable genealogists, has been selected to be the featured speaker for the Kalamazoo Valley Genealogical Society. Cathy has given many presentations to MPAFUG in the past. She is also a member of the Wisconsin Czech group and was a Regional Representative for the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society.

Cathy has invited MPAFUG and guests to attend virtually at the November 20th meeting on ZOOM. Just click on the link below for details and the FREE registration link.

Monday, November 20th @ 7pm (EST) /6pm (MKE Time) following their business meeting.

Topic: Using Alternative Resources to Fill in the Blanks

Program will be available on Zoom platform; free to attend.

Details and registration link:

<https://mikvgs.org/>

- Free WikiTree Day and Symposium. November 2-5. Lots of good webinars hosted on YouTube. Here is the link: https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Help:WikiTree_Day#Registration.
- Members in good standing as of September 1, 2023, are 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.)
- Registration is now open for RootsTech2024. The theme for 2024 is REMEMBER. 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!](#)

- **** 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.



UPCOMING MPAFUG PROGRAMS

No Meeting December, 2023

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

January 10, 2024

Security Meeting: Senior Scams (*Bill Heck*)

Security Software (*Sam Colon*)

February 14, 2024

Dating Photographs by Fashion (*Randy Ray*)

Other Sources for Finding Photos & Documents (*Bob Heck*)

March 13, 2024

Irish Church Records (*Bob Heck*)

Most Common Recent Ancestor (DNA) (*Randy Ray*)

April 10, 2024

Useful Hints to Expand Your Database (*Bob Miller*)

My German Research (*Bob Heck*)

May 8, 2024

Tentative Telling Your Story
(Judy Rockwell)

Military Story of Mom & Dad
(Linda Levenhagen)

June 12, 2024

Tentative Deep Story from My Dad's Letters
(Bob Miller)

Why You Can't Find Records on Ancestry
(Randy Ray)

July 10, 2024

Updated BYU: Resources Online
(Bob Heck)

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.