



NEWSLETTER

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DECEMBER 2021

MERRY CHRISTMAS

And

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Next meeting:

January 12, 2022

7:00 PM – New Berlin Ale House

16000 West Cleveland Avenue

New Berlin, WI 52151

MEETING BITS AND BYTES

Our last meeting of 2021 was held on November 10th as usual at the New Berlin Ale House. There were 25 members in attendance including 2 surprise guests according to Bob Heck. Pat Mundstock and Bob Miller, both past steering committee members, came to this meeting. Bob Miller had moved to Denver, CO a number of years ago but remained a member of MPAFUG. However, he has now moved back to this area and plans to get active again in MPAFUG as well as volunteer at the Family History Center. It was great to have them both back at a meeting!

There were 2 presentations for the evening: *Documenting Your Sources* given by Jane Orne and *Property Records: Discovering the Hidden Gems* given by Cathy Dailey. If you think you know what you need to about these topics, or have heard them before, let's just say that these ladies always have a few tidbits that you don't know.

Did you know that without documentation anything you have found is just a myth? All families have "myths" and Jane gave examples of this from her own family in her presentation. One she is still striving to prove or disprove is that she is related to the 1st president of Czechoslovakia. She explained the difference between primary and secondary sources and told us what sources might not be as accurate as we thought or hoped. Who would have thought a military record or even a family bible could be inaccurate? Jane recommends using a research file or log and to document as you go.

If you have been in MPAFUG long enough you know that Cathy Dailey loves maps. Property records fit right into that category as well and, according to Cathy they are an often-overlooked

genealogy source for surnames, marital status and identifying other family members. Something to remember is that it was your ancestor's dream to own land in America because it provided roots and security. Finding where they lived can let you walk in their footsteps.

WHAT'S ON THE DECEMBER SCHEDULE

No meeting – see you next year!



TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

In the United States we wish you a **Merry Christmas**, **Happy Holidays** or **Seasons Greetings**.

You would also be wished a **Merry Christmas** in Canada, Christmas Island, Jamaica, Fiji and Antarctica.

In the United Kingdom the traditional greeting is **Happy Christmas** with the traditional Irish (Gaelic) being **Nollaig Shona Dhuit**. **Merry Christmas** is also used.

Spanish speaking countries will wish you **Feliz Navidad!**

France, Canada and some African nations will wish you **Joyeux Noël!**

Dutch speaking countries will wish you **Zalig Kerstfeest!**

Germany and Liechtenstein will wish you **Fröhliche Weihnachten**. German speaking Switzerland will wish you **Fröhlich Wienact** while Austria will wish you **Fröhe Weihnachten!**

Poland will wish you **Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia!**

Czechoslovakia will wish you **Vesele Vanoce!**

Italy will wish you **Buon Natale!**

Norway and Sweden will wish you **God Jul** while Denmark will say **Glaedelig Jul!**

Greece will wish you **Kala Christougenna!**

Israel will wish you **Mo'adim Lesimkha**. Christians in the middle east will wish you **Milad Mubarak** and India will offer a similar greeting with **Natal Mubarak!** Pakistan will wish you **Bara Din Mubarrak Ho!**

For those of the Jewish faith the greeting is **Happy Hanukkah**.

Can you imagine what your ancestors said or is it still a tradition for your family today? For those of you who have Russian ancestors, they are not forgotten, but your reporter could not type the Cyrillic letters.

Whatever your tradition your MPAFUG Steering Committee wishes you a **Very Merry Christmas** and **Happy New Year!**

STEERING COMMITTEE NOTES

No steering committee meetings in November or December. Wow, we feel like we are on an extended vacation!

A QUOTE TO PONDER:

"The beginning is the most important part of the work."

Plato

MEMBER COMMENTS

As you may remember one of the October presentations was given by Randy Ray on joining various groups including the Mayflower Society. Shortly after we received an email from member Sandy Zodrow sharing an experience she had.

“I was unable to attend the meeting and presentation by Ray – but – I have just finished my application with the Mayflower Society and wanted to send along some comments.

I first began my application in the middle of May 2021 after visiting the website. The website directs you to contact your state coordinator which I did. I discovered that you are not allowed to view or fill out the application form – that is done by the state coordinator. She asked for a summary of the direct descent from the Mayflower person. She then contacts the society in Massachusetts and they return to her the lineage that has already been certified by them. In my case the first five generations had already been cleared – leaving nine generations to prove. She, however, already had other applications in process to work on – so it was actually about August/September before I came up on the list. I had thought I was organized for this – but – I discovered that you have to prove birth, marriage and death for BOTH spouses – not just for the line of descent – including any second marriages. The proof has to be birth, marriage and death certificates when available, showing parents, husbands, etc. They do not accept published genealogies without additional backup nor do they accept documentation from DAR or SAR or other societies. I was able to use town records of BMD, and the Barbour collection as well as pre-1907 vital records from the Wisconsin Historical Society. Copies of all documents were emailed to the state coordinator and she completed the application. I reviewed the application in October and sent her a check for \$195 to the Mayflower Society. She then mailed the completed application to the Society. From January to July of 2021 the Society received 1087 applications -- so she estimated I am about member 1300 in line. Therefore, it is estimated that it will take six to eight months before the Society is able to process the application.

So, in summary –the process is both slow and rigorous – which it probably needs to be – but just be patient.”

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The Sandy Zodrow Story

Sandy became interested in genealogy when she was in the 3rd or 4th grade and as part of social studies, had to tell where she was from.

“My parents told me we were English, French Canadian and German and then did one of those ‘parent’ looks. I always wanted to know what the look was about. Then about thirty years later my sister’s children came home with the same question and we still did not have the answer so I said ‘enough of this,’ I’m going to figure this out.”

Since about 1974 Sandy has been collecting information and storing it in her basement. She was too busy in the beginning to actually work with it and hated writing letters to try to get information. Then she took a free class offered by the Waukesha Genealogy Society and later, after computers came along, she took another free class at the Waukesha Library given by Bob Heck. Sandy got serious about genealogy after retiring about 10 years ago. She has been a member of MPAFUG since finding out about it during that class.

Sandy’s husband Bob does his own genealogy. They had both retired about the same time so she took him to that Waukesha Genealogy Society class. However, they each have their own approach to doing genealogy research.

“He has developed an extensive email correspondence with many of his relatives. His interests are Irish (Conway and O’Brien) and German (Zodrow and Schneider).”

Sandy shares her research with her sister and her children as well as a few others.

A particularly memorable road trip for Sandy was when she went to the Wisconsin Highland Games (normally held in September) at the Waukesha Expo Center. There she discovered what that parent “look” was about – it was about Scotland. She experienced great marching bands, singing, the

highland games, clan tents, and special displays including one on Cornwall. There she heard people speaking Cornish and she discovered the local Cornish Society.

There have been several surprises for Sandy. One was that her “French Canadian” clue turned out to actually be an ancestor from Cornwall who emigrated to Canada, then to the UP (Michigan) and finally into Wisconsin.

“James Goodman from Salt Lake City has been working on the Goodman line for a long time and has an Ancestry tree of 8,400 people so has provided a lot of information.”

Sandy’s “English” clue was correct and she was able to get quite a lot of information through Jeff Bassett of bassettbranches.org who has 184,000 Bassett’s on his website. By using that information and expanding on it, Sandy was able to find her Mayflower connection. It also led her to an Australian cousin whom she has been in email contact with weekly for years.

Sandy’s “German” clue was also correct and she learned that the Christoph family came to Waukesha in 1872 and has been there ever since. She has obtained help and information from the Waukesha Historical Society on that line.

Now for that “parent look” which Sandy learned was a connection to Scotland. That was her Johnston line and she learned that her second great-grandfather came to Wisconsin in 1842 and is mentioned on a Wisconsin Historical Society marker as a settler of Saylesville. He was born illegitimately in Glamis, Forfarshire, Scotland in 1818. Sandy does have the kirk records regarding his birth. Her best find might be that the Johnston line also has a book published called “Three Pioneers Stark.” In that book it has the descendants of John Shaul who settled in Stark, Herkimer County, New York before 1775 and lists her grandmother.

Currently, Sandy is working on the Wood family who came from New York. She knows they were in Ohio in 1850 and has traced them and their seven children (including 3 Civil War sons) to Wisconsin. Her brick wall is that none of their documents

mention where they lived in New York. “It turns out that ‘Wood’ is one of the most common surnames in New York before 1850.”

Sandy has a lot of genealogical lines she is researching. She has traced her Cornish line back to 1720 in Cornwall, England, but found there are no further records available. She also discovered that Cornish is not really English, but is closer to Welsh and its base is Celtic.

Sandy’s English line goes back to 1620 and the Mayflower.

As for her German line, Sandy has traced that back to 1830 to the Opole District in Silesia which is now in Poland. She learned that the Christoph name goes back to 1550 in that area, but unfortunately due to wars and resettlements of the population, most of the records have been lost or destroyed. And, of course, Sandy has traced her Scottish line back to 1766 in Glamis, Forfarshire, Scotland.

Some things that Sandy is hoping to find include a connection perhaps to the pirate Billy Kidd so she is looking for clan connections.

She is working on finding evidence to connect her Bassett line to the Bassett’s of Claybrooke, Leicester, England in 1593. She would like to go back even further and connect her Bassett line that came with the Norman invasion of England in 1066. Sandy’s Johnston side has been in the Waukesha area since 1842 and her Christoph side has also been in that area since 1872 so she has a lot of local history to explore. Fortunately, she lives in Waukesha so already walks in her ancestor’s footsteps.

“Conclusion – Genealogy has taught me to be tolerant and very, very, grateful. Our ancestors did amazing things and we should not be embarrassed nor intolerant of their lives or the choices they made.”

Well said Sandy. We can all learn from the amount of research you have done – thanks for sharing!

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.

FROM THE WISCONSIN STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

My name is Cathy Dailey – I’m the current vice president of the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society (WSGS). Due to a couple of unforeseen issues, there’s been a brief interruption to the WSGS monthly genealogy “quick tips.” *Good news!* We’re back with a new tip.

Traditional Nicknames: It was not uncommon for our ancestors to use their “nicknames” rather than their “formal” names in old documents, including the US Census. In my family, my great grandmother, Bridget Callahan Dunkel, primarily used her “nickname” throughout her life – a fact that my mother did not know or was reluctant to believe.

My mom had always known her grandmother as “Dell.” However, I found multiple names listed for her, not to mention a variety of birth years....
Hmmm....

She’s been identified as:

1880 Census: Bridget
1903 Marriage Registry: Della
1910 Census: Della J
1910 City Directory (Appleton): Della
Headstone (1954): Della B.

Perhaps you’ve located records that you’re pretty confident are for the same individual, but different given/first names have been used. You may think that you’re tracking multiple people – however, it’s possible that it’s the same person using an alternate name in the documentation.

FamilySearch has compiled an extensive list of traditional nicknames. Here’s a link to the webpage – the names are alphabetized by nickname:
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Traditional_Nicknames_in_Old_Documents_-_A_Wiki_List

You may be surprised at the variety of nicknames. For instance, the name “Sarah” has been known to be recorded as: Sadie, Sal, Sally, Sattie, Sena and Susan. How about “Alexander” with its traditional nicknames of: Al, Alec, Alex, Sandy and Xander

Instead of thinking that you hit a brick wall, that unknown name in your family tree may actually be someone you know.

Cathy Dailey
Vice President
Wisconsin State Genealogical Society
cathy@TrackThePast.com

The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society provided this genealogy tip. To learn more about this organization, including how to join, visit:
www.wsgs.org.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

January 12, 2022

Security Presentation and Scams to Watch For (Bill Heck)
Security Software Considerations (Sam Colon)

February 9, 2022

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

March 9, 2022

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

April 13, 2022

How to Organize Your Photos in Windows for Free (Randy Ray)
Wisconsin's Past (Ken Artlip)

May 11, 2022

Free Resources at the Family History Center (John Canapa)

June 8, 2022

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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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

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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.