

Eaton County Genealogical Society

Located in the 1885 Eaton County Historical Courthouse

100 W. Lawrence Ave., P.O. Box 337, Charlotte, MI 48813-0337

[Members]



Would you like to share your family history? Would you like to place a query in our newsletter? Perhaps someone who reads our newsletter may know something about your ancestors!

Submit your information to P.O. Box mailing address above, or email to ecgsnews@gmail.com.

2015 January Calendar

Mon Jan 19: Initial launch meeting of the Military Special Interest Group. 7:00pm at the 1885 Courthouse.

Every Tuesday Afternoon:

Probate Packet Scanning (any time during 12-5)

Charlotte Library Scanning (at the library):

Wed January 14th & 28th 6:30pm—8:00pm

2015 Calendar

Monthly Meetings:

Wed Jan 19 Special Interest Group

Wed Feb 16 Special Interest Group

Wed Mar 18 General Meeting

Wed Apr 15 General Meeting

Wed May 20 General Meeting

Wed Jun 17 General Meeting

Wed Jul 15 General Meeting

Wed Aug 19 General Meeting

Wed Sep 16 General Meeting

Wed Oct 21 General Meeting

Wed Nov 10 General Meeting

Regular Projects:

Each Tuesday noon—5pm:
Probate Packet Scanning

Officers Jan 1, 2015 through Dec 31, 2015

President	Bill Haines
Vice President	Chuck Chamberlain
Treasurer	Sher Brown
Recording Secretary	Jan Shepler
Membership Secretary	Barb Smith
Corresponding Secretary	Marcy Cousino
Librarian	Sharlene Thuma
Web Maintenance	Sherry Copenhaver
Publicity	Joy Black
Computer Chair	John Evans
Council Delegate	Jim Collins
Council Delegate	Jo Glasgow
FGS Delegate	Gary Copenhaver
Trustee	Shirley Hodges
Trustee	Sherry Copenhaver
Trustee	Liz Jones

CONTACT US

Phone: 517-543-5436

Email: ecgsnews@gmail.com

Open Room Hours: Tues-Thurs 10am-2pm

OFFICER & COMMITTEE REPORTS

President: Bill Haines. President's report December 2014:



As most of you are aware, the last issue of the ECGS "Quest" was published in December, and will be distributed shortly. I want to thank all who contributed material and assistance for the final two issues, especially to Carolyn Haines and Sue Bel-lows who served as ad-hoc editors for these two issues. I offer apologies to those who provided material in hard-copy form which we were unable to include. In the coming year this new e-newsletter will include officer and committee reports as a way of better serving our members who are unable to attend meetings; I invite your comments and feedback as we strive to provide more value to our members.

Vice-President: No report this month.



Membership: Membership - Happy New Year - Membership wise we did well in 2014. We ended the year with 135 members, 21 of which were new members. When we count members, we count a family as one member. Letters were sent to the membership mid-December to remind them to renew their membership for 2015. Hopefully, we will get a good response. Remember, you can now use Pay Pal to renew your membership.

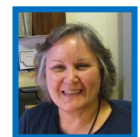


See our [Membership](#) page for 2015 membership dues and benefits.

Treasurer: No report this month.

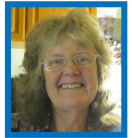
Librarian:

Thank you to those who donated the following recently.



- Lance Aldrich- photo album & large photos of Virgil Leroy SAURER during his military service.
- The Miller Farm- three photos of the BLAKESLEE family, all taken by Roehm Studio of Charlotte.
- Sandra McDonald- old photo album of the SPENCER family (many are unidentified).
- Robert Christensen- Eaton Rapids telephone directories 1948, 50, 52 & 55. Also, 1964 Eaton Rapids city directory.
- Jim Keesler- 1929 Grand Ledge H.S. yearbook.

Website: The 2015 Membership dues may now be paid on-line from our [Membership](#) page. An on-line application is available for submission of the member application, then another Pay Pal option is available for the actual membership dues payment. We have site maps available on the website that may help to find all of the various information and pages we have. See the www.miegs.org/SiteMaps.shtml for these maps, and also documents that describe the web site.



Volunteer Drawing: Our last Volunteer Drawing Winner was JoeAnn Nehmer, who often scans probate packets with Jan Sedore on Thursday mornings! Volunteer drawings will be held about every 3 months beginning in 2015. We appreciate our volunteers!



On December 23rd, we had a poinsettia plant to share at the Probate Packets Scanning project and we drew from the volunteer tickets and our winner was Jim Keesler; Congrats Jim!

Probate Packets: We are in process of scanning surnames beginning with G and are down to the Gillett names. There are in excess of 17,000 probate packet folders and we have about 5,800 files scanned. We do not have an exact number because some folders cover more than one name, and some names have multiple folders. The website is updated about once a month or so with the list of probate packets that have been scanned. You may want to look at this actual list (www.miegs.org/Files/ProbatePacketScanned.pdf) because there are times when a name is different than what the probate packet file name is. For example, one probate packet of missing persons has many names associated with the file name. Attention Members! You may request access to the cloud storage of these scanned packets by sending an email to ecgsboard@gmail.com.

At one of our December scanning days, Phyllis presented Steve & Joann with a gift of wheat art because Steve had baked some bread for us using wheat flour he had milled. We enjoyed bread, homemade peanut butter and local honey that day!



Certificates: No new certificate applications were submitted.

Family Tree Gedcom Files Received: None Received.

Member Profile

Sherry Copenhaver

I maintain the ECGS website and the various databases we use for research purposes. I am also collecting the information for this new digital newsletter. I retired from the Department of Information Technology (State of Michigan) in 2002 and now I spend time doing volunteer work.



Member Query

Members—

If you would like to post a query in the newsletter, please email the query to ecgsnews@gmail.com. For example, perhaps you are looking for information on an Eaton County ancestor. Please include as much information as you know when submitting your query.

Welcome New Members!

Elaine Lamb
Kent MacDonald
Sandra Mick
June Sommer
Lucinda Wilson
Mary Packard

January Birthdays

Vicki Dukes

We would love to acknowledge birthdays for our members! Email ecgsnews@gmail.com with your birthday month any time. The day and your age are not necessary.



January Anniversaries

We would love to acknowledge anniversaries for our members! Email ecgsnews@gmail.com with your anniversary and let us know how many years you have been married!

Member News

If you would like to share some news in the newsletter, please email the information to ecgsnews@gmail.com. For example, perhaps you have had a new grandchild, or you are recovering from an illness or accident, or you would like to let us know that there has been an illness or accident in your family.

Eaton County Special Interest Groups

These are being launched in 2015 and we invite people to join us in creating these groups, which will be open to the public. Since these are in process of being formed, there is not a lot of information available yet. The purpose and objectives are very general at this point. If you have questions or ideas, please contact us at ecgsnews@gmail.com.

Family History Writing Group: The purpose is to help each other learn how to write our family history.

History Group: The purpose is to research & discover more information about our history.

Military Group: The purpose is to document our Eaton County veterans.

Writing Group:

The Writing Group does not yet have an initial meeting set up.

History Group:

The History Group does not yet have an initial meeting set up.

Military Group:

The Military Group has an initial meeting set up for Monday, January 19th at 7:00pm at the 1885 Eaton County Courthouse, downtown Charlotte.

This group will consist of persons interested in researching and documenting people from Eaton County who served in the various U.S. military forces.

The objective of this group is to collect and document information on veterans and the units in which they served. This will include such items as:

- Soldier's name and whatever military information is available.

- Photos.

- Stories of soldiers.

- History of military events.

- Local Heroes.

While the group as a whole can decide on more details of what the goals are, the Eaton County Genealogical Society's goal is to document and honor our veterans by name. It is possible the group could divide into sub-groups if some are interested in specific time periods.

We plan to have an article in local papers soon about this group.

Special Projects

We have special projects we work on from time to time. One of them is the Probate Packet Scanning Project, which has been reported on. This is a very long-term project and we will report on the progress each month.

Two other projects we are working on is the Charlotte Library Scanning project and the Rural School project. The rural school project belongs to the Eaton County Historical Commission and we have helped them with this and we will end up with a rich source of information when it is completed.

Charlotte Library Scanning Project:

The Charlotte Library Scanning project was initiated in March of 2014 and we scanned twice a month at the Charlotte Community Library in the Michigan Room. We scanned the Boyd Preston index card collection and we have more than half of these scanned. The images of these index cards are available on our Charlotte Library page on the website. We scanned throughout July, then took a break until 2015. We are beginning the scanning again on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00pm. There are two exceptions to these; we will **NOT** be scanning on Feb 11th and Apr 8th. The following dates are scheduled at this time: Jan 14th & 28th, Feb 25th, Mar 11th & 25th and Apr 22nd. We will evaluate where we are in April and schedule more sessions if needed to complete the project.

Eaton County Historical Commission Rural School Project:

The Eaton County Historical Commission began a rural school project at the beginning of 2013 and we have been involved with this project by finding and scanning existing school information we have in our library, then scanning items from people who have been so generous to bring in their materials to share for this project. We have visited other places, such as the Bellevue Historical Museum and Vermontville Historical Museum and scanning information about schools from them. We have scanned information from townships and the Grand Ledge Historical Society. There are many more places and people who have shared what they have for this project. This project includes identifying as many of the Eaton County Rural Schools as we can and gathering information about these schools. We have a great deal of information for some of them, then almost nothing about others. The book will have an article about each school. Included with the book will be a dvd that will have indexes of teachers, school officers and pupils we have indexed from all the materials we have scanned. All class photos we collected will be on the dvd. Names that are connected with these photos will be linked and easy to access. The Historical Commission members are busy writing the articles for the schools at this time and the target date for the completion of this project is around Easter this spring. No information on the price of the book yet as we do not know how many pages it will have. A rough estimate could be as many as 300 pages, plus the dvd with much more information.

Michigan Genealogical Council:

Jim Collins and Jo Glasgow are our MGC Delegates and they faithfully attend meetings when they are in Michigan. Thanks Jim & Jo!

They report some news from Krys Rzepczynski about State Archives activities:

Detroit News:

Exciting partnership/donation with the Detroit News:

Newspaper card index spanning history of paper from 1870s up until 1990s; cards will be scanned and posted for free at Seeking Michigan; timetable next 3-6 months!

Donation also includes:

Newspaper clipping subject files that the card index points to

Nearly complete run of Detroit city directories - in pristine condition

Newspaper photo files/negatives from c.1930 to present

Set of Detroit Times microfilm

Full run of Detroit News newspaper in bound volumes

At same time the Archives took in the News material, we also accepted the Detroit Free Press clippings files.

The Detroit News card index represents the key access point for the newspaper and is an exciting development for Michigan historical and genealogical research.

Death records, 1921-1952:

Working with our friends at OCLC to get the images and index linked with our software. Hang in there, these images will be up soon!

New donations continue to come in for the Abrams Collection, including Maryland, Carroll County (OH), and more. It is truly an exciting time at the Archives of Michigan!

Excerpt from September 2014 minutes: Tom gave a report from Kris Rzepczynski that the Archives has sent the 1921-1938 Death Record digital scans to a different vendor to "make them work well with the database". Tom reported that Edwina sent a report stating that the WWI programs had been very successful. The Library of Michigan is preparing a presentation on the Underground Railroad to be presented, Valentine's Day, February 14, 2015.

Excerpt from September 2014 minutes: Next, we were reminded that many household materials should not be used to clean tombstones. Recently, Dick Eastman wrote about a citizen with good intentions who used a wire brush to clean tombstones. This action destroyed the writing and harmed the stone. He has been charged with a felony. There is a book about the cemetery preservation and includes a chapter on cleaning gravestones. Carolyn asked for the information for the next newsletter.

MGC Projects

FamilySearch Indexing have released a new Michigan project for indexing by the MGC Indexing Group.

The project is the "Muriel Links Obituaries" which are approximately 85,000 Obituaries clipped from Grand Rapids Newspapers covering the period 1930-1970 and pasted onto cards that are kept at the Grand Rapids Public Library. See more information on their <http://mimgc.org/projects.html> page.

Queries Processed



Here is one of the queries we received and processed recently:

Dear Genealogy Society Members:

I am helping the owner of the Ann Stevens Inn in Lake Helen, Florida to research the lady who built the home in 1895. She came from Charlotte and is buried at the Maple Hill Cemetery.

I am trying to locate a probate record for her husband Isaac Stevens who died Sept 1877 in Carmel or Charlotte. I would also like his obituary. He is also buried at Maple Hill.

His wife Ann C. (Bedell) Stevens died in Lake Helen, but most likely also has an obituary in Charlotte. She died Apr 23, 1908.

There is a mystery grave for a Katie Bedell Stevens that has "Unknown" for dates. I would like to know if it is possible to determine who she was and if related to Isaac and Ann. Pam

Our response:

We have found two probate packets for Ann C. Stevens in our holdings and we will scan these file folders for you.

We do find a probate packet for Isaac Stevens at the State Of Michigan Archives, which we do not have access to. You should be able to contact them to see what the process is for you to get a copy from them. The Probate Packet is Box 27 Case 1514.

Pam's Response:

With the information you gave me on Isaac, I was able to locate it on the FamilySearch website. (We did not know these probate packets were available on Family Search and after asking Pam for information on how she found the probate packet, she responded with these instructions.)

Go to <http://www.familysearch.org> and click on the catalog. The quickest way to the record is to do a keyword search for Eaton, Michigan probate packets. When you get the page, scroll down to under the Notes where it states: **Michigan, Probate Records are available online**, click [here](#). You can actually click now as I copied and paste.

Click on Browse through images. Click on Eaton County and you will see the list of items that have been scanned. The only problem is that I had to guess where #1514 was on the roll. It took a lot of clicking back and forth because the packet number is only listed at the beginning of the file. It was at microfilm page #557.

Query Results:

We did scan the two probate packets and emailed them to her. While we never did find any information on Katie Bedell Stevens, Pam was happy with our information and mailed a generous donation to our society. Thank you Pam!

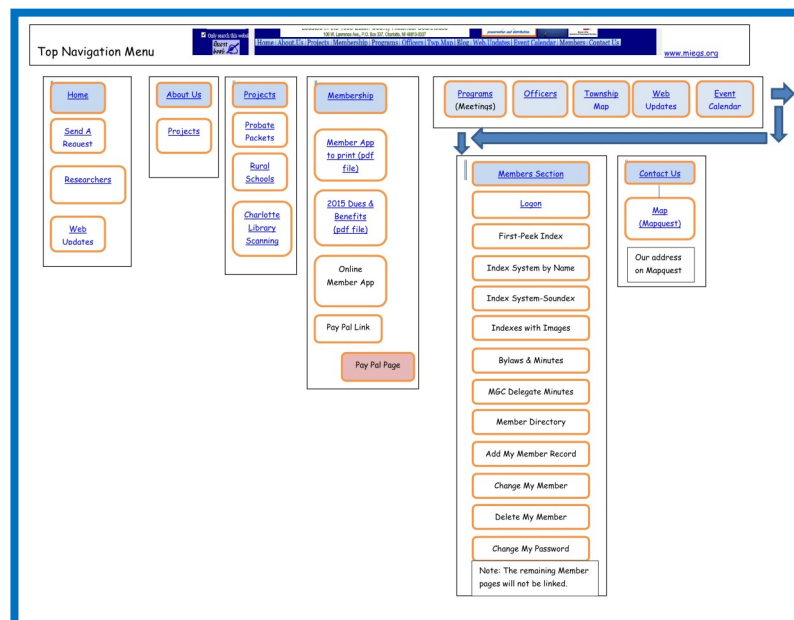
November 2014 Meeting

Janet Skipper presented a program about researching houses.



During the social hour, Sherry Copenhaver described how the ECGS website works and what information is on which pages.

Site maps are visual representations of where various pages are within a website and we now have site maps for our website. See www.miegs.org/SiteMaps.shtml for ours. Below is the picture of the first site map.



The 2014 Bus Trip to Allen County Library

From Shirley Hodges



Update on the ECGS Bus Trip

We had a terrific day on the bus trip to the Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne. We have had this bus trip annually for many years. This year the bus was almost completely full. It is always great that we have a mixture of experienced researchers as well as some who have not been at it as long as some of the others. On the way down we share names that we are researching. We always find some people who are working on the same names. Sometimes we even discover some new cousins. Upon arrival, we traditionally start the day with a tour of the facilities that gives people a chance to get the lay of the land. We at ECGS are a very social group so we always finish with dinner at the Golden Corral. It gives people a chance to unwind and share some of their great finds.

We hope that you will consider going with us next year if you were not able to go this year. It will be Saturday, Nov. 7, 2015. The bus is already reserved. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

The Duck Lake Historical Society Meets at ECGS

The Duck Lake Group met at our library on Sunday, December 7th for their meeting.

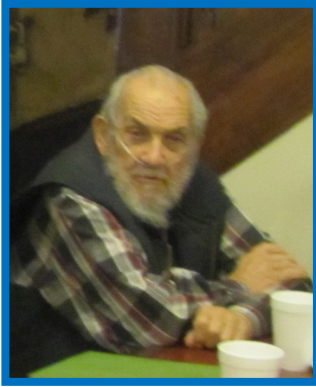
It was a small group and we were able to do plenty of research.

We had some delicious Christmas goodies to while we researched and chatted.



eat





From member Larry Randall

Brookfield was an early commerce center in early times.

It had a water powered sawmill on the Battle Creek river.

There were at least two brick yards within two miles. Beneath the sandy loam soil was clay perfect for bricks.

Brookfield boasted many stores, such as two farm supply stores and a millinery shop for ladies wear. Many of these stores were lost in a fire that swept through the village about 1900-1901.

Today all that remains is a Town hall, a Church and the Masonic Hall, other than residences.



Brookfield, Michigan Looking West
Masonic Hall is the Red Brick building

Ionia County				Clinton County			
B a r r y C o u n t y	<i>Sunfield</i> Sunfield Twp.	<i>Mulliken</i> Roxand Twp.	<i>Grand Ledge</i> Oneida Twp.	Delta Twp. <i>Lansing</i>	I n g h a m C o u n t y		
	Vermontville Twp. <i>Vermontville</i>	Chester Twp.	Benton Twp. <i>Pottersville</i>	<i>Dimondale</i> Windsor Twp.			
	Kalamo Twp.	Carmel Twp. <i>Charlotte</i>	Eaton Twp.	Eaton Rapids Twp. <i>Eaton Rapids</i>			
	Bellevue Twp. <i>Bellevue</i>	Walton Twp. <i>Olivet</i>	Brookfield Twp.	Hamlin Twp.			
Calhoun County				Jackson County			
<div>Eaton County Townships, Towns and Villages</div>							

This newsletter is created from people submitting information.

Anyone is welcome (and encouraged!) to submit Eaton

County family history information or articles. Please email these to ecgsnews@gmail.com and designate the information you would like included, such as your location and/or email address. Your submission must be signed. Pictures are welcome!

While the newsletter is available for all to read from our ECGS website, members only may post queries and member happenings.

All digital newsletter issues will be available on our website with a target date of posting them on the 1st of each month. See the www.miegs.org/Newsletters.shtml.

Ways You Can Help to Volunteer at (or for) ECGS

Please note: We appreciate any help we receive! We will never pressure you to help us! We only ask if you have volunteered for room duty and you cannot make it, that you call us and let us know and we will try to get it covered for you.

Room Volunteers: Room volunteers are here to help people who come in to research. While some of our room volunteers actually help do the research, this is not a requirement. The main tasks are to answer the phone and guide the researchers to our various areas they can research.

Probate Packet Scanning: This is an on-going project that meets regularly at the ECGS room to scan probate packets on Tuesday afternoons. However, anyone can scan when the room is open.

Indexing and/or proofreading at home: Using scanned images, we can show you how to index and/or proofread at your own leisure at home.

Mini Take-Home projects: This is a brand new type of project we are trying. People have taken home several projects and we will see how that goes.

Special Projects: Possibly set up an area in our room that will have special projects that you can work on when you come in. Again... new idea to try! More to come on this.

Thank You!

Thanks to all of you who donate to our Society! Our Society is run by volunteers and is funded by donations and fund-raisers.

Eaton County Genealogical Society Publications Order List

P.O. Box 337, Charlotte, MI 48813-0337 Phone 517-543-8792

As of January 1, 2015

Item	Cost per item	Total Cost
Cemeteries of Eaton County, MI:		
Brookfield Twp., 41 pp., indexed as of September 1991	\$ 8.00	
Chester Twp., 66 pp., indexed as of July 1990	\$ 8.00	
Roxand Twp., 86 pp., indexed as of January 1993	\$10.00	
Sunfield Twp., 44 pp., indexed as of April 1991	\$10.00	
Walton Twp., 119 pp., indexed as of March 1996	\$10.00	
Maple Hill Cemetery (Eaton Twp.), indexed as of 2009	\$20.00	
Kalamo Twp., 102 pp., indexed as of 2001	\$18.00	
Vermontville Twp., 122 pp., indexed as of 2001	\$18.00	
Burkhead-Green Funeral Home, Charlotte, MI 27 Mar, 1885 thru 29 Dec, 1947, 198 pp., indexed	*** \$18.00	
Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte, MI 18 Nov 1921 to 21 May 1932, 112 pp., indexed	\$18.00	
Naturalization Index for Eaton Co., MI 55 pp.	\$ 4.25	
Eaton County Quest, back issues, #1 through current available (please specify issue no.)	\$ 4.50	
Plat maps of Eaton County, MI, individual townships (please specify which townships). (Note: Shipping up to 16 townships count as one item.)		
1860 Price is \$.25 per Township (Hamlin Twp. Not available)	\$.25	
1873 Price is \$.25 per Township	\$.25	
1895 Price is \$.25 per Township	\$.25	
1913 Price is \$.25 per Township	\$.25	
	\$12.00	

Shipping & Handling

1-3 items - \$2.20

3-5 items - \$3.30

6 or more items - \$6.60

*** Note: Please add \$2.50 for each "Burkhead-Green Funeral Home" book.

Sub total _____

MI res. Add 6% sales tax _____

Shipping & Handling _____

Total Due _____

Send the above items to (please print)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Amount enclosed _____ Check No. _____

(Please make checks payable to: Eaton County Genealogical Society)

Please note: We plan to address publications in the next year and hopefully will be adding more to our selection. Also, we plan to offer these through the website using PayPal.