

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 March Calendar

Mon Mar 16: Military Special Interest Group 7:00pm at the 1885 Courthouse. Room will be open by 6:30pm.

Wed Mar 18: General meeting 7:00pm. Social hour 5:30pm-7:00pm.

Sat Mar 21: ECGS room open for research 10am-2pm.

Charlotte Library Scanning (at the library):
Wed Mar 11 & Mar 28 6:30pm-8:00pm

Every Tuesday Afternoon:

Probate Packet Scanning (any time during 12-5)

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 11 General Meeting

Regular Projects:

Each Tuesday noon-5pm:

Probate Packet Scanning

See our Calendar of Events at www.miegs.org/Events.shtml.

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, Sherry Copenhaver, Liz Jones	

CONTACT US

Phone: 517-543-5436

Email: ecgsnews@gmail.com

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

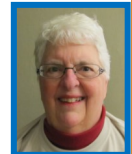
OFFICER & COMMITTEE REPORTS**President:** Bill Haines.

We are coming (hopefully) to the end of another Michigan winter, and next month we will resume our regular member meetings on the third Wednesday of each month through October (our November meeting will be on the second Wednesday).

We hope many of you will be able to attend our next meeting on March 18 and learn what has been happening in the society since our last regular meeting.

Vice-President: Chuck Chamberlain.

Harold Holcomb will be our speaker in March talking about sharpshooters in the Civil War. April will be Shirley Hodges talking about women in the Civil War. May will be Dave Smith Michigan in the Civil War, June will be Barb Wright talking about growing up in Vermontville and Potterville. Obviously the main theme will be the 150th anniversary of the end of the War between the States. i'm working on July, August, September, October and November.

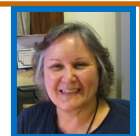
Membership: Barb Smith

JACKIE BURNS, who now lives in California, has been a member of ECGS since 1999. She informed us in her 2015 membership renewal application that she turned 90 last October. Happy belated birthday Jackie.

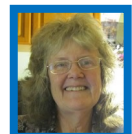
To date, we have 95 members. If you have not renewed your membership for 2015, it is not too late. Remember, you can do it on-line and pay with Pay Pal. See our [Membership](#) page for 2015 membership dues and benefits.

Treasurer: Sher Brown Income As Of 01/31/2015

\$ 3,185.32	Capital Expense Account
\$ 4,472.17	Checking
\$ 1,545.59	Snack Fund
\$ 4,005.44	CD
<u>\$13,208.52</u>	Total

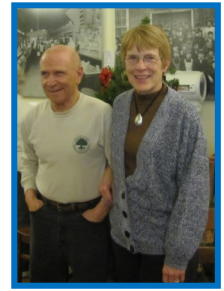
Librarian: No report this month.

Website: Sherry Copenhaver. The Probate Packet Scanned list has been updated. The password for the Members Section has been changed for 2015. Please see your membership card information for new password.



See our [Site Maps](#) for page for help navigating our website and documents that describe the web site.

Probate Packets: We are missing our regulars Steve & Joann as Joann works during the tax season. We will all be happy when tax season is over!



We now have about 6,350 files scanned. The website is updated about once a month or so with the list of probate packets that have been scanned (www.miegs.org/Files/ProbatePacketScanned.pdf). If you believe there is a scanned probate packet you want to look at and you are a member, email us at ecgsboard@gmail.com and request access to the files.

The scanned files (pdf files) are stored on a separate cloud storage site and we will provide you with a link to them upon request.

Join us on Tuesday afternoons when you can; you will usually find us laughing about something!

There are three types of people in this world:

1. Those who make things happen.
2. Those who watch things happen.
3. Those who ask "What Happened?"

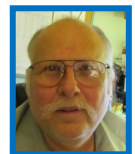
-
1. Those who can count.
 2. Those who cannot count.



A little humor

Certificates: No new certificate applications were submitted. Gary Copenhaver works on the Civil War Ancestor File Certificate and Pioneer Family Certificate applications when they are received.

Do you have an ancestor connected to Eaton County that served in the Civil War? See our [Civil War Ancestor](#) page for more information about Civil War Ancestor certificates.



Do you have an Eaton County Pioneer ancestor? We have three options for Pioneer Family certificates.

Pioneers -- pre 1850 Settler -- 1851 - 1900 Builder -- 1901 - 1910

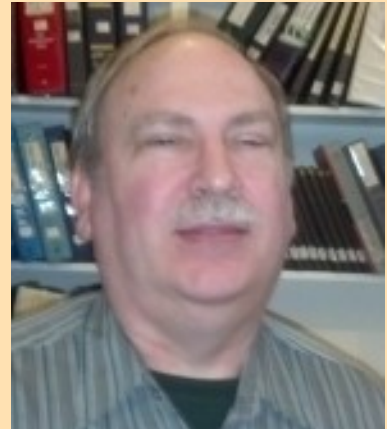
See our [Pioneer Family Certificate](#) page for more information.

Family Tree Gedcom Files Received: None Received.

Member Profile

John Evans

Although a member of the ECGS for several years, I began serving as the Technology Chairman last year. We are looking at ways to improve technology in use by the group. Feel free to contact us with your suggestions. Professionally, I am a systems and network administrator for Michigan State University's Residential and Hospitality Services (RHS) Information Services department.



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!

March Birth-days



Barb Smith

Let us acknowledge your birthday month! Email ecgsnews@gmail.com with your birthday month.

March 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 Family History Writing Special Interest Group

A Family History Writing seminar was held Saturday, February 28th, 2015 from 10:00am through noon and ten people enjoyed Shirley's presentation. She presented many ideas for us to think about in preserving our memories. There is interest in continuing this group and more meetings will be set up in the future.



Everyone spoke about their own ideas and plans for their writing projects and what they have collected so far. There was some great discussion about Facebook and how that is a great method to connect with family and get cousins (for example) more in touch with each other and interested in family background.

We have set up a new email account for this writing group and the new email is ecgswriting@gmail.com. People who provided their email address will be added to an email group for future communication and if you are interested in being added to this group, please send your email address.



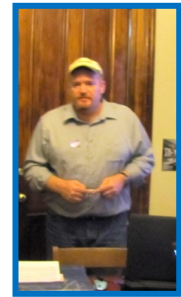
Future meetings will be set up for the all interested people and we will publicize when they are determined. The meetings will be work groups to begin with and perhaps we can find

Eaton County History Special Interest Group

The Eaton County History Group does not yet have an initial meeting set up. If anyone is interested in helping to set this group up, please contact us at ecgsboard@gmail.com.

Eaton County Military Special Interest Group

The Military Group held their second meeting on February 16th, 2015 and we had many from the initial meeting, plus two new faces. Welcome Jack & Dave! Several people from the first meeting could not attend this meeting although they are very interested in this project.



Troy Pitcher volunteered to be the chairperson/leader of the group. He is a past-commander of the American Legion Post 42 and we welcome his help and leadership!

Sherry gave a computer demonstration on how we can find and index information from scanned documents and pdf files. She also showed how easy it is to scan with a portable scanner.

Bill brought in some information about the Grand Ledge VFW and library, and he will be working with them to identify items that can be scanned for the project.

Sherry will work on a list, using some of our existing genealogy records, of veterans whom we have records. We want to work toward a master list of the various war times.

Several people volunteered to do research to find websites with military information for us to use to add to our list.



We have an email group to provide communication and anyone may request to be added to this group by sending an email to ecgsmilitary@gmail.com. When joining this email group, you will be provided a link to access documents pertaining to this group. The initial handouts are available on the internet now.

We have a Facebook page called "Eaton County Michigan—Military Special Interest Group". We encourage people to like this page and to post Eaton County military information.

We now have the room reserved for a meeting on the third Monday of each month at 7:00pm at the 1885 Eaton County Courthouse, downtown Charlotte. The room will be open by 6:30pm.

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 is back in full swing! We are scanning 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 at www.miegs.org/CharlotteLibrary.shtml. The upcoming dates scheduled to scan are *Mar 11th & 25th* and Apr 22nd, from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. We have discovered some of these cards contain military information and we will be using these for the Military Project.

We will evaluate where we are in April and schedule more sessions if needed to complete the project. When the Boyd Preston collection is completed, we will determine what we scan next, which will most likely be photographs.

Eaton County Historical Commission Rural School Project

Materials are still being brought in to scan. The Historical Commission members writing the stories are busy working to get these stories ready. It is still too early to tell if we will make the target date of Easter time for the completed book.

From the ECGS standpoint, Sherry is working on the data and images that will be included on the DVD, which will be included with the book. The DVD will contain several Name indexes and many school and class photo images. Work continues to complete DVD.

Since school information is very valuable for genealogy research, we will always welcome school materials to scan!

Michigan Genealogical Council (MGC)

See their website at mimgc.org/.

The MGC Delegate meetings are held in January, March, May, July, September and November each year. Check the MGC Community Calendar for the date, time and location.

Because of the weather, the January 2015 meeting was cancelled.

They publish newsletters four times a year. To see these newsletters, visit the MGC [Newsletters](#) page.

See their [Research](#) page for helpful links!

MGC Projects

FamilySearch Indexing has 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 MGC [Projects](#) page.

We are collecting articles!

If you notice an interesting article concerning Eaton County people, consider clipping it for our Newspaper Clippings box. We are collecting these because today's news is tomorrow's past and our descendants might enjoy finding these! Feel free to put the entire page in if that is easier than cutting the article out. If you do cut it, it would be best to make sure the paper and date is included with it, or jot that information on the clipping.. Obituaries, weddings, births and anniversaries are great sources of information. However, school items, organization news, employee articles and anything that talks about our Eaton County people is great!



There is a box to put your clippings in directly behind the desk as you walk into the room.



A Tour of our Library

Our library has an extensive collection, that continues to grow as people donate items.

This is the view walking into the room, This is Room 1.



See our 'Room 2' next month!

Books

These shelves line the left side of the room.
side of the room.

Obits

Scrapbooks

M

A

P

S



These shelves and drawers line the right side of the room.



Unidentified Photos - Do you know Who, What, Where and When?

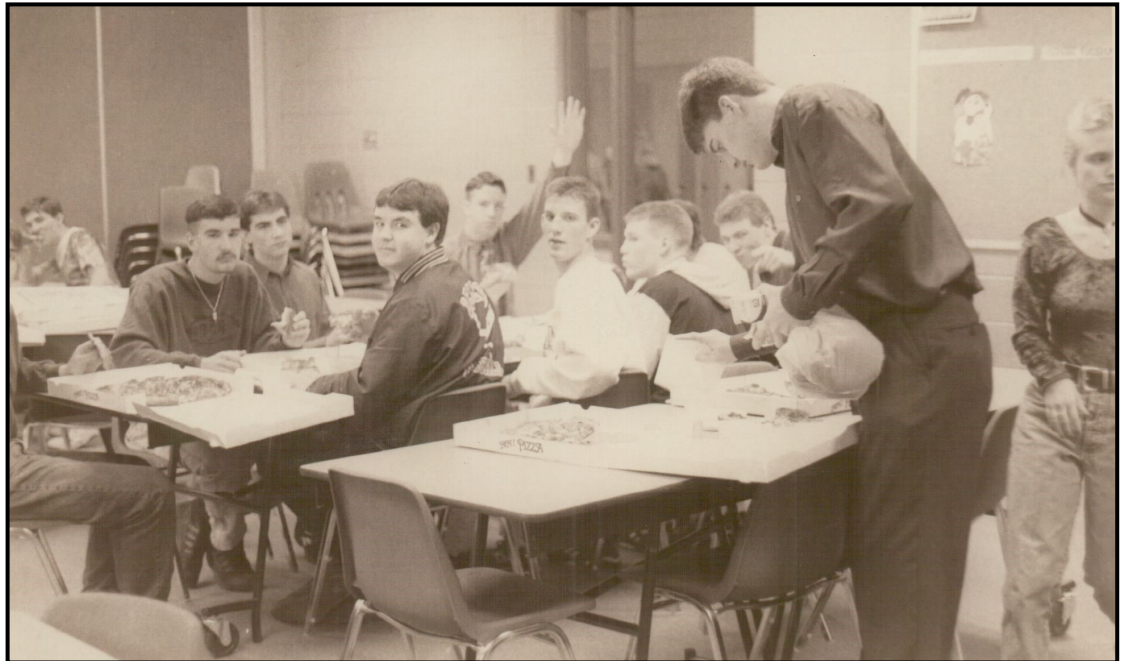
Here are some more recent photos from our collection. Email us at ecgsnews@gmail.com if you know anything about these photos.



Tending
flowers at
American
Legion about
1993



Four Orioles from Band



Bellevue Food Drive picnic



A Query — From Marcy Cousino



I received a letter from a fellow from Brockville, Ontario who purchased an old diary/journal written by Hiram Hutchings from 1878 to 1890. The gentleman was looking for photographs and any descendants or historical societies that would be interested in a transcription. I scrambled around the genealogy library and learned a few things about Hiram Hutchings.

Hiram was born in New Troy, PA on September 9, 1806. He lost his mother at age 4 and at age 7 he was "bound out" for 10 years. When he became free at age 17, he apparently had nothing but the clothes on his back. He had not been trained in a trade, except farming perhaps. He married and started a family and eventually they settled in Eaton County, Michigan in 1843. Hiram purchased land in Chester Township on Wheaton and Bollock Road.

In 1859, Eaton County had to address its' obligation to provide for the poor. Hiram stepped up to be one of the supervisors of the poor. He served in that office from 1860 to 1876. Property adjoining his property on Wheaton Road became the County Poor Farm. Today the buildings of the County Poor Farm no longer exist, but the house built by Hiram Hutchings is still there. It is the first house North of Bollock Road on the West side of Wheaton Road. It appears the house has had several additions over the years, but I could see a fieldstone basement wall on a small section toward the back of the house.

Hiram Hutchings was an active member of the Universalist Church. Perhaps his faith motivated him to so actively help the poor. Perhaps it was personal experience that gave him the drive to serve.

The Universalist Church is a very liberal church. In Charlotte it started sometime around the Civil War. The congregation was able to build a beautiful little church. It survived until just after the turn of the century when loss of members and income brought the congregation to an end. I found the little church on the corner of Lovett and Oliver Streets. The beautiful little church is now home to The Church of The Nazarene.

Luckily for me, one of Hiram Hutching's descendants, Carroll Briggs, had contributed some genealogy to our collection. I was able to put the two gentlemen into contact with each other and we now have an electronic transcription of Hiram Hutching's diary for family history scholars to enjoy. The work has been indexed.

Of course, I still wanted to know how the diary end up so far away from Eaton County. I found the answer in Eaton County Pioneer Records, Volume 2, page 72. It states: Hiram Hutchings died at Gainsville, N.Y., March 16, 1891, aged 84 years. An old pioneer resident of Chester where he has lived until the last few years. Has held the office of overseer of the poor for several years and filled many offices of trust in the township.

Hiram went to New York to live with a daughter in his last years and that is where the journal stopped. Probably in more recent history, it was part of an estate sale when the significance of the journal had lost its' meaning. I think it is really great that it has come back to where it had started.

A Helpful Website

We had an email from a retired social studies teacher who works with the youth department of his library. In their work, they found a very helpful website and wrote to us to share it, and now we can share it here!

Just wanted to shoot you a quick thank you note (or email haha?) for making your genealogy reference page - <http://miegs.org/Links.shtml> - As a retired social studies teacher, I'm keeping busy by volunteering in the youth department of my library; We started holding educational sessions open to all members, which have been a huge success! We're covering family history at the moment; your page has been a big help! We've referenced it quite a bit!

Last week the group found another good guide (I just love seeing kids excited about their heritage!): <http://www.homeadvisor.com/article.show.History-at-Home-A-Guide-to-Genealogy.17370.html>.

Everyone loved it - including me! I know you're probably busy (who isn't these days?) but I was wondering if you could include it somewhere on your website for me?

If there is anything that I've learned in my years of working with the youth, it's that encouragement is such a powerful thing! I'd love to show the group they're on the right track! I'll be meeting with them tomorrow!

Keep up the good work!



This information resides on the Andrea Davis.



Home Advisor website and is written by

History at Home: A Guide to Genealogy

by Andrea Davis

The article discusses the term genealogy and various reasons why people may want to research their family roots. There are then many links for further research!

Basic Genealogy

Starting Your Genealogy Research.
 Top Ten Tips for Starting Your Family History
 Be a Family History Detective
 Genealogy 101: Family History and More
 Ancestry Charts and Forms
 Genealogy Research in Military Records
 Personnel Records, Muster Rolls, and Genealogical Research
 Researching Individual Immigrant Records
 Genealogical Research Tips
 Genealogical Research at the Library of Congress
 Ellis Island Immigration Records
 Compiling a Family Medical History
 Learning About Genetic Health

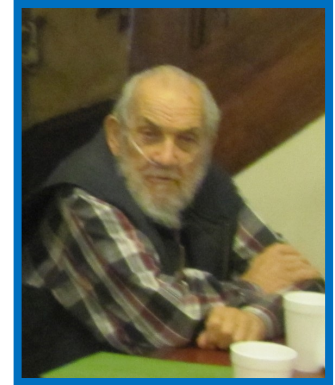
What is Genealogy?:

Public Health Genomics: Frequently Asked Questions
 The Surgeon General's Family Health History Initiative
 Using Maps in Genealogy
 Take a Genealogy Quiz
 Oral History Interview, Questions, and Topics
 Step-by-Step Guide to Oral History
 Genealogy and Homestead Records
 Ten Things You May Not Know About the Roosevelts
 Family History Research
 Caring for Your Family Papers
 Family Business: How You Find It and How You Keep It
 History of Genealogy and Family History
 How to Trace A House Genealogy
 Preserving Your Photographs: Windows to the Past
 Preservation of Artifacts

From member Larry Randall



The photo with all the people is the church in Brookfield. The big guy on the end is Rev. Richendoffer, a hells fire and brimstone country preacher. Also in the photo are the Founders, Vern and Freda Dowding. Two of their sons became industrials both here in Eaton County and in other states.



History of the Verplank School

The first school house was built on the banks of Narrow Lake in the year of 1853. A log shanty was built by Uncle Jerry Thomas, who lived there for a few years, and then returned to the East. It was then remodeled for a school house. The furniture consisted of one broken chair, a few boards nailed together for a teacher's desk, and two benches made of white-wood slabs with holes bored through each for legs to be driven in. The benches were the children's seats. They also had a writing desk built of rough lumber. The first teacher was Mrs. Wm. Soule.

This log shanty was used until they moved a shanty from Mr. Carrier's farm onto the corner where the Carrier cemetery is now located. Mrs. Soule and Miss Olive Farran taught the first few years. This school house was used until they built the frame school house, just east of the present brick one. The material for the building was mostly donated. The lumber that was used was white-wood and ash, finished with black cherry. The logs were cut and drawn from the surrounding woods at Dutton's saw mill at Duttonville, now Brookfield Center.

The new school house was built in the late winter so they could have a sufficient summer school. The interior was not finished until sometime later. The window sashes and paneled doors were all made by hand. Nearly all of the work was donated. The furniture consisted of benches made from rough slabs turned with the smooth side up. Holes were bored in ends for legs to be driven in. One good lady donated a sewing chair with the rockers broken off for the teacher.



VERPLANK SCHOOL BROOKFIELD EATON CO, MI

This newsletter is created from information members have submitted. *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 welcomed!

While the newsletter is available for all to read from our ECGS website, only members 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 (phone numbers provided) us and let us know 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 in any way 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	
Cemetery Symbols CD (see www.miegs.org/Symbols.shtml for more information)	\$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.