

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 May Calendar

Sat May 2: Family History Writing Group 10am-Noon

Sat May 16: Open for research 10am-2pm.

Mon May 18: Military Special Interest Group 7:00pm at the 1885 Courthouse. Room will be open by 6:30pm.

Wed May 20: General meeting 7:00pm. Social hour 5:30pm-7:00pm.

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

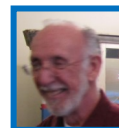
Open Room Hours: Tues-Thurs 10am-2pm

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

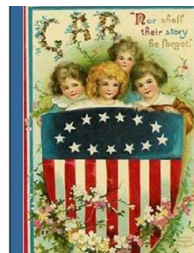
With the March and April meetings your society is back in full swing, with regular meetings planned for the third Wednesday of each month for May, June, July, August, September and October. November's meeting, as in the past, will be on the second Wednesday. We hope you can attend as many of these meetings as possible, and if you haven't been able to attend recently, you can reconnect with fellow members. In addition, the society is planning additional special events this coming year. Please let your leaders know of any program sessions in which you would be especially interested.

**Vice-President:** Chuck Chamberlain.

No report this month.



Notice: Our July 2015 General Meeting: will be hosted by and held at the Eaton Rapids GAR Hall on July 15th. **Social Hour** will begin at 5:30pm at this hall!



The Grand Army of the Republic
Memorial Hall & Museum
224 S. Main St.
Eaton Rapids MI 48827
James B. Brainerd Post #111

Membership: Barb Smith

We now have 119 members, with 17 new members.



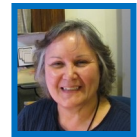
See our [Membership](#) page for 2015 membership dues and benefits.

Treasurer: Sher Brown

As Of 03/31/2015

\$ 4,551.31	Checking
\$ 1,546.40	Savings
\$ 3,187.12	Save
\$ 4,005.44	CD
<u>\$13,290.27</u>	Total



Librarian: Sharlene Thuma

Thank you to everyone for donating to our library!



- Philip Rolfe~ undated map of Kalamo Cemetery.
- unknown~ 1885 diary of Carlita **SPAFFORD** of Kalamo Twp.
- unknown~ Children of John & Mary **ROLLINS ADAMS** (13 pp.); Joseph Peter **CESSNA**, M.D. (7 pp.); Lucy S. **MERRIAM** Family (14 pp.).
- Sheryl Hemstreet/Leslie Area Historical Society~ 1967 General Highway Map, Eaton Co., MI, Department of State Highway.

During the summer, please keep us in mind while you are visiting yard sales. We are in need of three-ring (.5" to 1.5" thick) hardcover notebooks to use in our library. Thank you!

Genealogists Disease: Very Contagious (found in WMGS newsletter)

Symptoms:

- Continuous complaints: need for names, places & dates
- Patient has no taste for work of any kind except feverishly looking through records at libraries & courthouses
- Has compulsion to write letters, swears at postman when he doesn't leave appropriate mail
- Frequents strange places such as cemeteries, ruins, basements/attics of courthouses & desolate country areas.
- Makes secret night phone calls – hides phone bill from spouse

Hee-Hee

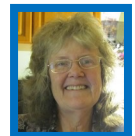


Treatment

- Disease is not fatal
- Patient should join local genealogical society support group
- Patient should attend genealogical workshops, subscribe to genealogical magazines, and be given a quiet corner in the house where (s)he can be alone

Remarks

The unusual feature of this disease is that the sicker the patient becomes, the more (s)he enjoys it.

Website: Sherry Copenhaver.

The Military Special Interest Group has had more information added to it. For the time being, this will be alphabetic lists of records we are collecting in the new Military database, with links to images and files when available. Eventually, these will be loaded into a database on the website when time permits for the webmaster to create it. See the Military page at www.miegs.org/MilitarySIG.shtml.

The annual bus trip to Allen County Library application form has been added. (Also see the link to the form in this newsletter issue.)

The Probate Packet Scanned list has been updated.

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

Probate Packets:



We now have about 6,700 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).

We had a volunteer drawing and the winner was not there to receive the \$25.00 Meijer's Gift Card. She will be presented with it next time she comes in! Everyone took turns shuffling the cards before drawing the winner.



We welcome Steve & Joann back after a few weeks of absence. Joann worked the tax season and I'm sure she, along with the rest of us, are happy that April 15th is now in the past.

We have had the help of Sue's husband, Frank, lately. Thanks Frank! I know Phyllis sure appreciates the help!

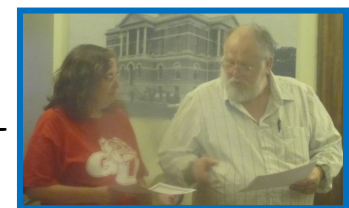


If you believe there is a scanned probate packet you want to look at and you are a member, email us at ecgs-board@gmail.com and request access to the files. The scanned files (pdf files) are stored on a separate cloud storage site and we will provide you with a link to them upon request. Join us on Tuesday afternoons when you can!

Certificates: One new certificate application for the Civil War Ancestor was submitted and approved from Vicki Mott Friddle. A certificate has been prepared for Julie Meyers for her ancestor Amos Beeman. Vicki Mott Friddle was presented with two certificates for ancestors John Graham Estelle & Thomas L. G. Conant at the Military SIG meeting April 20th.



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.

Member Profile

Phyllis Whidden

Phyllis has been a member of the Eaton County Genealogical Society since 2006. She has spent countless hours reading and taking photos of cemetery headstones. She volunteers the entire Charlotte Frontier Days weekend for our annual bake sale. She is dedicated to the Probate Packet Scanning Project and is there every Tuesday from 10am-5pm. She researches and puts together family histories, then donates them to ECGS. She has take-home projects she works on and often brings in scrapbooks to add to our collection. Not only does she volunteer for many things for the Eaton County Genealogical Society, she also volunteers at least one day a week at the Ingham County Genealogical Society.



She lives with her husband Jim and enjoys spending time with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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!

Ron Case	Laura Druker
Peter Caputo	Sharon Briggs
Shelley Murphy	Nancy Achenbach
Becky Rolfe	Kathy Gordon
Phyllis Evans	

Welcome!

May Birthdays



Happy Birthday!

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

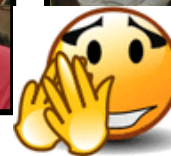
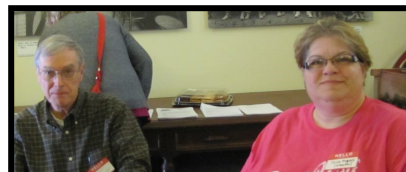
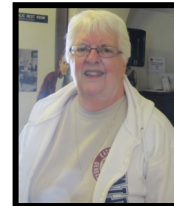
Member News

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.

2015 April General Meeting



Shirley Hodges was our 2015 April Meeting speaker. She gave a very informational and humorous program on Women In The Civil War. We had a full house!



Our social hour time was in conjunction with the Courthouse Square Association Museum Rural School book signing and exhibit.

Sue helped with people who came in to purchase a school book before and during the Social Hour.



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.

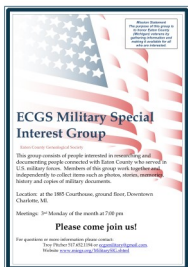
Eaton County Military Special Interest Group

The Military Group held their April meeting on April 20th, 2015. Troy Pitcher led the meeting.



Bob brought in some videos of Veteran Interviews, several copies of lists he researched on-line and Eaton County obituaries for veterans. Thanks Bob!

Sherry created an on-line [Veteran Form](#) for people to fill out for either themselves or other veterans. The purpose of this form is to obtain whatever information they want to share and to get the veteran's name into our Military Database. This form is available now and several people have already submitted veteran information, both for themselves and for others. Click on the above link to submit your veteran information! There was also a printed version of the form to distribute anywhere we can to collect veteran information and a couple of changes were suggested. As a group, we would like to get our new flyer distributed wherever we can, and publicize the Veteran Form. It is now on the website and has been published on several Facebook group pages. If you see this posting, please feel free to share the posting to help get the word out to everyone we can.

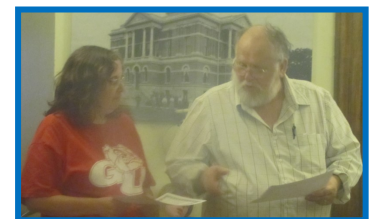


Wendy created a flyer for our group to comment on and after several comments, this is now our new flyer. (Click on the flyer for full-size image.)



Gary presented Vicki with two Civil War Ancestor Certificates at the end of the meeting. Thank you for the information Vicki!

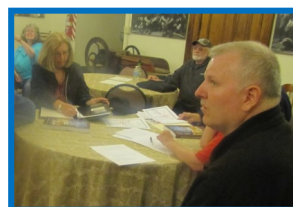
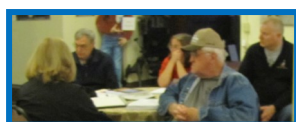
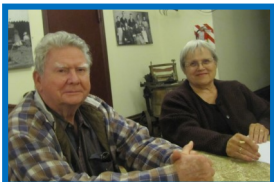
We have an email group to provide communication and anyone may request to be added to this group by sending an email to ecgsmilitary@gmail.com.



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.

Visit our Military website at www.miegs.org/Military.shtml.

The room is 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.



Charlotte Library Scanning Project

The Charlotte Library Scanning project group has completed the Boyd Preston index card collection. Sue & Sherry share smiles at this accomplishment!



We appreciate all of the help we've had over the past year with this project. Some of the people who helped scan are Sherry, Sue, Sheila, Jo, Stacy, Kent and two Mormon members.



The images of these index cards are available on our Charlotte Library page on the website at www.miegs.org/CharlotteLibrary.shtml.

We looked at other items in the Michigan room and found many items such as history information and photos that we would like to scan next.



We have scheduled two more months of scanning and these dates are:

May 13th and May 27th from 6:00pm—7:45pm.

June 10th and June 24th from 6:00pm-7:45pm.

Michigan Genealogical Council (MGC)

See their website at mimgc.org/.

Genealogists' Declaration of Rights: Society members are being asked to sign a petition to endorse the view of public records when restrictions are being considered. More information and the petition are available on their website on the [Legislative Items](#) page.

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

2015 Abrams Seminar: The 2015 Abrams Foundation Family History Seminar will be held on Friday, July 10—Saturday, July 11. See details on their [Seminar](#) page.

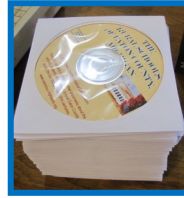
The MGC Delegate meetings are held in January, March, May, July, September and November each year. Check the MGC Community Calendar for the date, time and location. They publish newsletters four times a year. To see these newsletters, visit the MGC [Newsletters](#) page.

Eaton County Historical Commission Rural School Project

The book has been printed and most copies have been sold!



Jan, Sherry & Joy prepared the DVDs for the books, along with Sherry's granddaughters Megan & Cassidy.

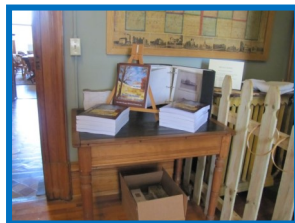


The Rural School of Eaton County book, with more than 300 pages, includes a DVD with many indexes and images at a price of \$25.00 plus \$7.50 shipping & handling if mailed. Books may be purchased from the Eaton County Historical Commission by mailing a check (PO Box 411, Charlotte, MI 48813) or stopping by the Courthouse Square Association Museum. Contact them by email to csamuseum@yahoo.com or phoning 517-543-6999 for more information.

The Book Signing open house at Courthouse Square Association Museum was a busy afternoon/evening! The book printer only provided 25 copies of the book on April 15th (much to everyone's disappointment) and they sold out within an hour.



The Rural School Exhibit is great! Some pictures of the various exhibits were shown on a slide show on the ground floor for those people who could not climb the stairs to the museum easily. Sherry & her grandson Michael greeted people as they come in to the open house.



Congratulations to the Historical Commission!

Please Note: While the Rural School Project is now completed:

The Eaton County School Database now takes over!

School information is very valuable for genealogy research. We will always welcome school materials to scan for the School Database! All of the information collected and scanned and indexed will be available for research within a few months. We will continue to add to this database, although there will be no book associated with it. Also, it will include all schools and not just rural schools. If you have school information you would like to share, we can scan your items on Tuesday afternoons (noon-5pm) or you may contact us at ecgss-school@gmail.com to send your information and/or to arrange a time to meet.

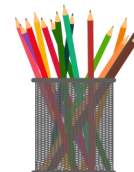


Eaton County Family History Writing Special Interest Group

By Shirley Hodges - This and That

We had our second meeting of the ECGS Writers Special Interest Group. If you are interested in writing your family history, we hope that you will consider joining the group. We have brought some great examples and are sharing some great ideas about how to go about the task. It is always interesting to get some new perspectives on ways to preserve your history.

The next meeting will be Saturday, May 2 at 10:00. We hope that you can join us. Please be sure to invite your friends.



ECGS Bus Trip - 7 November 2015

Be sure and mark your calendars. We will be taking our annual bus trip to the Allen County Public Library. See below for the reservation form.

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. If you are interested in being added to this group, please send your email address.

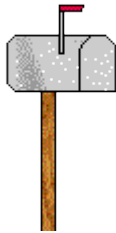
ECGS Bus Trip To Allen County Library

As Eaton County Genealogical Society's tradition, the annual bus trip to the Allen County Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2015.

The cost of the trip is \$30.00. The deadline for signing up is October 24, 2015.

Click on the flyer image for full-size image for more detailed information and to print and submit with payment to ECGS.

A Day of Research!



EATON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS A BUS TRIP TO ALLEN COUNTY LIBRARY FORT WAYNE, INDIANA	
DATE: Saturday, 7 November 2015	
FROM: 7 am to 9:30 pm	
PLACE OF ORIGIN: 1885 Courthouse, 100 W. Lawrence Avenue, Charlotte, MI	
COST: \$30.00	Deadline for signing up: 24 October 2015
<p>The bus will leave the 1885 Courthouse promptly at 7:00 am. There will also be a pick-up at the "park & ride" in Marshall and one at Coldwater. Lunch is on your own. We will leave Fort Wayne about 5:30 pm and will stop enroute for dinner at the Golden Corral.</p> <p>Reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Mail your check made out to Eaton County Genealogical Society to ECGS Bus Trip, P.O. Box 357, Charlotte, MI 48813-8537. Cancellations will receive a full refund with replacement only.</p>	
NAME: _____	PHONE: _____
ADDRESS: _____	
E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____	
SURNAME(S) YOU ARE RESEARCHING: _____	
WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH ON THIS TRIP: _____	
<p>I will be getting on the bus at Charlotte _____ Marshall _____ Coldwater _____</p> <p><small>*Please note: Because of liability issues everyone has to leave the bus when we stop for dinner. People cannot stay on the bus while we are having dinner.</small></p> <p><small>Any questions contact the ECGS office at Shirley Hodges at (517) 635-0345 or ecgsoffice@earthlink.net</small></p> <p><small>©2015 November 2015 The Golden Corral</small></p>	

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

Here are some postcards from Sue Thompson's collection. Email us at ecgsnews@gmail.com if you know anything about these photos.

Hawthorne School with students outside.



St. Mary's Catholic Church—Does anyone know where this was

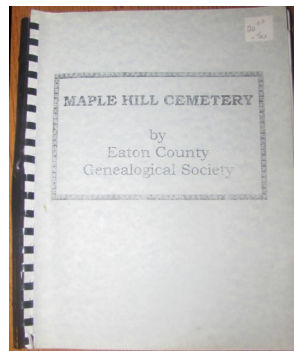


Eaton County Genealogical Society- Publishing Committee

We are in need of help with publishing our materials. We do have publications available now for purchase. It has been several years since a publication has been developed and we do have information that could be used to create new publications. For example, we have cemetery headstone readings and photos and township records for Benton Township. We have cemetery headstone readings and photos for Oneida Township. While headstone photos cannot be printed in a book, perhaps a digital book could be created with thumbnail-size photos.

Do you know anything about creating publications? Are you interested in learning about how to create publications? Do you know of other ways to sell our publications? If so: WE NEED YOU! We have a great deal of information and it would be great to bring it together for people to benefit from.

Following are photos of a few of our existing publications. Many of these could be updated because we have new material.



We are open to new ideas for the types of material we publish and the method we use to publish and sell the finished publications. We may be proposing some innovative ways to publish, including potentially electronic publications.



If you have any ideas for us to think about, even if you cannot serve on a committee, please send your ideas and/or websites that we could use for ideas at ecgsboard@gmail.com.



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, call (phone numbers provided) us and let us know to get coverage.

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.