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 June Calendar

Sat Jun 6: Family History Writing Group from 10am—Noon at the 1885 Courthouse.

Mon Jun 15: Military Special Interest Group 7:00pm at the 1885 Courthouse. Room will be open by 6:30pm.

Wed Jun 17: General meeting 7:00pm. Social hour 5:30pm-7:00pm.

Sat Jun 20: Open for research 10am-2pm.

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
Recording Secretary
Membership Secretary
Corresponding Secretary
Librarian
Web Maintenance
Sher Brown
Jan Shepler
Barb Smith
Marcy Cousino
Sharlene Thuma
Sherry Copenhaver

Publicity

Computer Chair

Council Delegate

Council Delegate

John Evans

Jim Collins

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.

Your society leadership continues to work on ways to increase the value of your membership. One aspect of this effort is the progress being made to digitize the materials in our collection while another recent addition has been the creation of two special interest groups within the society (military research and writing family histories). We do value input from our members, however, regarding other ways we may better serve you. Please contact us if you have thoughts or suggestions.

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!

PUT THIS onyour calendar! 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

No report this month..



See our Membership page for 2015 membership dues and benefits and on-line application.

Treasurer: Sher Brown

\$ 3,904.52 Checking \$ 1,546.40 Savings

\$ 3,187.12 Save \$ 4,005.44 CD

\$12,643.48 Total

As Of 05/23/2015





Member Profile



ECGS MEMBERS STEVE & JOANN DE PEEL

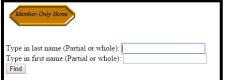
Steve & Joann (Hawkins) De Peel have been members of the Eaton County Genealogical Society for approximately 3 years. They volunteer on Tuesdays to scan Probate Court Packets. They enjoy this time to get to know other members of the society. They also belong to the Ingham County Genealogical Society and volunteer in the Research Room on Wednesdays from noon to 4 p.m. Every year Steve collects obituaries and puts them in a notebook for the research room. Joann is the ICGS Membership Secretary. Steve and Joann deliver 3 routes to a drop off point for the Meals on Wheels program once a week. Other volunteers pick up the meals from there and deliver them to individual clients. They sign up for 5 k races during the year and plan on participating in approximately 10 events this year. They are in a lottery to run the Mackinac Bridge on Labor Day. They ran the bridge once before and they hope their name is drawn to run this year. During the summer months, Steve and Joann enjoy working in their flower beds. Steve is very proud of the roses he grows each year for Joann to arrange in beautiful bouquets. The winter months are spent reading and doing genealogical research. Joann prepares Individual Tax returns for a CPA firm in East Lansing from February through April 15. They have resided in Dansville, Michigan since 1972 where they raised a niece, a nephew and 2 sons. They are very proud grandparents to Tryston and Trent.

Website: Sherry Copenhaver.

The Military Special Interest Group has had more information added to it and in addition, the database information is now on-line with a search option! There are still some individual lists that are available. Another type of list was added, which are materials we have collected that do not necessarily have names associated with them and provide some type of military information.

Database Search by Name

Click here for database search.



The database option provides for entry of a last name and first name, which can be partial names.

While the button says 'Member-Only Home', it actually returns to the Military page. This will be fixed soon.

See the Military page at www.miegs.org/MilitarySIG.shtml.

The Probate Packet Scanned list has been updated.

See our <u>Site Maps</u> page for help navigating our website and documents that describe the web site.

Probate Packets:

We now have about 7,700 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 welcome Jim & Jo back! They have returned from Arizona and we were so happy to have them join us!

One week, we discussed the 'Pot Hole' ice cream that is a fund-raiser to fix Michigan's pot holes. Steve & Joann found some in Dansville and brought in a quart to share with everyone. It is very good ice cream! Thanks Steve & Joann!











Now, back to work scanning!



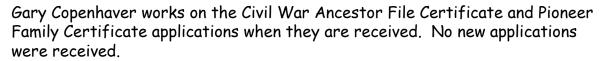




If you believe there is a scanned probate packet you want to look at and you are a member, email us at ecgsboard@gmail.com and request access to the files. The scanned files (pdf files) are stored on a separate cloud storage site and we will provide you with a link to them upon request.

Join us on Tuesday afternoons when you can!

<u>Certificates:</u>







Do you have an ancestor connected to Eaton County that served in the Civil War? See our <u>Civil War Ancestor</u> page for more information about Civil War Ancestor certificates.

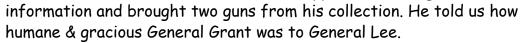
Do you have an Eaton County Pioneer ancestor? We have three options for Pioneer Family certificates.

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

See our <u>Pioneer Family Certificate</u> page for more information.

2015 May General Meeting

Our speaker for the May meeting was Dave Smith. He presented a fantastic program about the end of the Civil War; Surrender at Appomattox. He gave us a lot of





















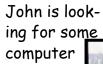
After the meeting, people visited and enjoyed some cookies.

















Before the meeting, during our social hour, Marcy demonstrated how the microfilm reader works for a small group of interested people. We want to offer some training for those who are interested in some of our equipment. For June's meeting, Gary will demonstrate the microfilm reader.



Eaton County Military Special Interest Group

The Military Group held their May meeting on May 18th, 2015. Troy was at his son's baseball game and Wendy led the meeting.



Bob brought in some more materials he collected since last month. Thanks Bob!







A stack of our flyers were available for people to take and spread around Eaton County. Stop down to the courthouse if you would like a few to distribute, or if you are not near us, please print the flyer and let people know about this project!

An on-line <u>Veteran Form</u> is available for people to complete, for either themselves or other veterans, and submit. The purpose of this form is to obtain information about veterans, such as when they served, and load the veteran into our Military Database. If a <u>printed Veteran Form</u> is preferred, please click on the printed Veteran Form link, fill out the form and mail to us. Feel free to share this form!

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 is now scanning photographs in their collection. We have not gotten very far with these and was very happy to find there are some military photos we can use for the Military Special Interest Group project.





The images of the Boyd Preston 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 and local club information that we would like to scan.

Our June scanning dates are:

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

Michigan Genealogical Council (MGC)

Membership Renewals should have been in the mail the week of May 18th.

Archives reported that MI death records 1921-1952 are on-line with a few exceptions—images for 1921-1939 and index only for 1940-1952.

Library reports all computers are new and new printers are coming in Aug-Sept.

The speaker presented a program about their society losing members. They decided to have software workshops about a genealogical program and gave training on various parts of research and how to use the software.

See their website at mimgc.org/.

See their Research page for helpful links!

<u>2015 Abrams Seminar</u>: The 2015 Abrams Foundation Family History Seminar will be held on Friday, July 10—Saturday, July 11. Archives will have tour of their **SCANNING** area! See details on their <u>Seminar</u> page.



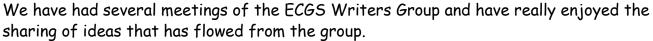
The MGC Delegate meetings are held in January, March, May, July, September and November each year. Check the MGC Community Calendar for the date, time and location. They publish newsletters four times a year. To see these newsletters, visit the MGC <u>Newsletters</u> page.

Next Meeting: Friday July 10th at 10:30 in The Forum prior to the Abrams Foundation Family History Seminar.

Eaton County Family History Writing Special Interest Group



By Shirley Hodges



The ECGS Writing Group has been formed to give support to genealogists who want to learn more about and exchange ideas on organizing and writing their own family history. Each meeting will take time to informally discuss questions relevant to each person's work, provide helpful feedback on current writing projects, and have fun learning about each other and our research. Those who attend are encouraged to bring copies of something they are currently working on, but it's certainly not a requirement and everyone is invited to participate in the discussion. Participants include those who are just starting to write and others who have been working on their genealogy for some time.

Everyone is welcome - newbies with fresh ideas, and seasoned individuals whose pens who have been writing for some time.

Invite your friends.....all are welcome.

Our next meetings are June 6, 2015 from 10:00 - 12:00 July 18, 2015 from 10:00 - 12:00

The ECGS office will also be open on July 18 until 2:00 so if you have any Eaton Co. ancestors we would be happy to help you look for information about them. We would also like to tell you a little about our collection so that you can understand the materials that are available.

Our email account for this writing group is ecgswriting@gmail.com. If you are interested in being added to this group for future communication, please send your email address.

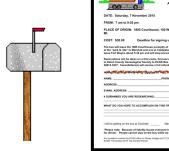
ECGS Bus Trip To Allen County Library

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.



Note: Everyone is welcome to join this bus trip! It is not necessary to be a member to enjoy this trip!

Family Search Eaton County Probates Online

By Sue Thompson



Thanks Sue!

LDS has Eaton Co. Old probate file images on their Family Search website dating to 1900. I have been playing around with using the index that was filmed and then trying to find the actual file in the list of probates filmed.

In the filmed probate index, the box after name under "file number" or the last number on the same line as name is the actual file number of probate and if there are TWO file numbers in that box it's the TOP number that is probate file number. (I went to courthouse and got that information from court clerks)

So look for the person index and then go over to number under file number box. Once you have the file number then leave index and look first at the years in probate images and the numbers after years are the probate file numbers. It can take a bit of looking to go through the many pages of images, but you can jump ahead and guess about where it will be and then I jump ahead or back 100 pages at a time, then 10 or so pages, then one at a time until you find probate file number and name.

If you find the person's file is not the right person you are looking for in those images even though the numbered file is right, go back to probate images then scroll down to the probate files with no years and the numbers behind them are also file numbers. So you might be looking in two different places for the probate file you are seeking, but basically remember you are looking for the file number in all those images.

I hope this helps, because the index is really confusing to use with images LDS filmed and put on Family Search.

Remember-Index>file number>years and numbers are file numbers>no years and numbers are file numbers.

This is the link to collection- https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2013878



Michigan Secret Marriages

More from Sue Thompson!

Detroit Free Press, 26 Sept 1887 page 2- "No More Secret Marriages- The Elopement season will close permanently at 12 o'clock tonight". In body of article it states, "Heretofore it has been comparatively an easy matter ... to quietly slip off to the justice or parson and in secrecy assume the matrimonial yoke". The rest of the article went on to explain that a new law was in effect to have two licenses to be taken to the person who would marry them and they would keep one license and the other license had to be taken back to county clerks to register the marriage and open to the public. Also the license would have several questions to be supplied on the form such as, age, color, place of residence, place of birth, occupation, and parent's names and if married before and how many times.

Ah, but the interesting part of the article was the statement "No More Secret Marriages".

Jump ahead 10 years to another article in the Detroit Free Press, 16 Sept 1896, page 3- "Licenses Were Suppressed- Curiosity Over Two Secret Marriages in Bay City". In this article it states, "Two marriage licenses were suppressed by the deputy county clerk today at the request of the parties. In answer to a question, the deputy said it was <u>customary to suppress marriage licenses from the public when the request was made.</u> Ah, again interesting that is was CUSTOMARY to keep secret marriage licenses from the public. Customary yes, but not legal.

Jump ahead a few months to 18 February 1897 a bill was introduced in the Michigan House of Representatives #477-1079 called, "A bill to provide for the protection of the reputation and good name of certain persons". This was approved and then sent on to Senate and it was approved 31 May 1897 and made law.

This bill outlines how to make a legal secret marriage in Michigan. There will be one license issued for the marriage couple and the couple will be married by a probate judge after giving good reason why it should be secret. After the marriage the probate judge will put the license in a private closed file in the county court files not open to the public, just like a closed adoption. The judge will also send a duplicate of the secret marriage record to the Secretary of State and it too will be held in a closed private file. Later the law was revised and the marriage couple would also get and keep a signed license to prove if necessary their marriage. Michigan and California are the only two states that have such a secret marriage law that is still in effect to this day.

So up to this new law made in 1897, it was a custom to hide the fact of a marriage if the person marrying a couple was requested to do so for a good reason in Michigan. I thought this very interesting as I have not been able to find several marriages in Eaton County and I know the couples lived before and after in the county. I even went to all the surrounding counties trying to find the marriages, but could not, but when I was explaining my problem to the Ingham county clerk, she mentioned this Michigan secret marriage law. So thus my research into this law and yes, the conclusion that my couples indeed had reason to have a secret marriages and must have found someone to accommodate them.

Of course the law has be tweaked a bit since 1897, so just Google Michigan secret marriage law to see it in full both in 1897 and the law now.

So, maybe this custom and law is why you can't find that marriage record for your relatives in Michigan.

(Article available from Proquest Historical Newspaper)

Librarian: Sharlene Thuma

Thank you to everyone for donating to our library!



No new donations processed this month... Need to get the gardening done while weather permits!





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 vou!

ECGS Queries

Marcy worked a query for Sue Stuart, who requested information about Adam Summers (born 1819 and died 1900) who married Elizabeth Stine. Adam moved to Eaton in 1853 and Sue wonders where the homestead was and if it remains today. She also wonders why one of their sons, Frank, moved to Chicago. Marcy found a great deal of information to send to her.

Gary worked on a query from Janet DeSimone, who requested additional information about Gardner Niles and his wife Percy/Persis (Porter) Hartwell Niles. She found Gardner Niles in our Cemetery database listing on the website in Union/Partlow/Johnson cemetery. We sent her a photo of the headstone. She is hoping to find where Percy/Persis is buried, and we do not have a record for her and cannot answer this for Janet.

Eaton County Historical Commission Rural School Project

The book is now in its second printing of an additional 250 books/DVDs.

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 at csamuseum@yahoo.com or phone 517-543-6999 for more information.

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 ecasschool@gmail.com to send your information and/or to arrange a time to meet.

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

Here are some photos from some Frontier Day events. Email us at ecgsnews@gmail.com if you know anything about these photos.







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 sub-

mit 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.

Note: Some clipart used in our newsletter was provided by MyCuteGraphics.

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.



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 | \$18.00 | |
| 18 Nov 1921 to 21 May 1932, 112 pp., indexed 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 | N | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------------|--|--|
| *** Note: Please add \$2.50 for each | "Burkhead-Green Funeral Hom | Total Due ne" book. | | |
| Send the above items to (please prin | t) | | | |
| Name | | Phone | | |
| Address | | | | |
| City | State | Zip Code | | |
| Amount enclosed | | Check No. | | |
| (Please make checks payable to: Fat | on County Genealogical Society | <u> </u> | | |

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.