

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 December Calendar

PLEASE NOTE:

There is no meeting in December!

There is no Writing Group meeting nor will the room will be open for research on the third Saturday in December.

ECGS will be closed from Tuesday Dec 22 through Dec 31st. We will reopen Tuesday January 5th, 2016.

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: 517-543-8792

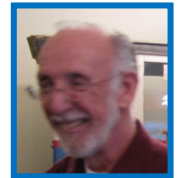
Email: ecgsnews@gmail.com

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

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

This Month's program was our last until the robins return in March. Thanks to Chuck for arranging the excellent programs we had this past year. With our 2016 budget having been approved, and elections completed for our board, the society is poised for another good year. I would like to wish all of our members a happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas.

Thank You Bill for your incredible leadership these past years!

Vice-President: Chuck Chamberlain.**Treasurer:** Sher Brown As of October 12, 2015

\$ 3,875.12	Checking Account
\$ 2,063.71	Snack Food Account
\$ 3,220.78	Undesignated Donations Account
\$ 4,474.64	CD updated annually
<u>\$ 13,634.25</u>	<u>Total</u>

**Membership:** Barb Smith

See our [Membership](#) page for 2016 membership dues and on-line application.

Thank You Barb for an outstanding run of Membership Secretary for so many years!

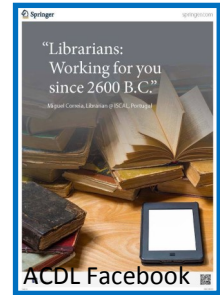
If you are a member of Facebook, we would invite you to check out our Facebook page. There are a lot of great items put out there that are of interest to those who have ancestors from Eaton County.



The Annual Bus Trip to Allen County Library



It was a great trip! There were people who joined the bus trip from all three locations; Charlotte, Marshall and Coldwater. Some people, who drove in their own vehicles, met them there.



Both experienced and novices made up the group and it was so nice to see how everyone worked together and helped each other. Brick walls came down for at least one person and maybe more! The librarians were great help! Shirley laughs when she recalls that some people in the library, who were not part of the bus trip, thought she worked for the library and were asking her questions! Clarence was able to help one lady who was researching his same family.

Dinner was challenging (and could actually be labeled as chaos) because the restaurant had only been open for one week. They tried really hard and the bus trip group did survive.

Thanks to Julie Blanchard for these photos, who says:

It was my first time with your fine group and visiting the library. I enjoyed the entire day. Meeting everyone on the trip and learning the library was truly a special time for me.



Did you find anything in your research?



Let us know! We would love to hear about it!



Courthouse Square Association Program Information

Mason explained several websites that have Eaton County information at the 2015 October Eaton County Historical Commission Heritage Award ceremony. The map sites were shared in last month's newsletter.

These are the Newspapers websites Mason talked about.

- ▶ Grand Ledge Independent 1874-1910: <http://grandledge.lib.mi.us/~grandlev/local-history/>
- ▶ genealog.bank.com – Subscription newspaper database that includes the Grand Rapids Press and Jackson Citizen Patriot among other newspapers
- ▶ newspapers.com – Subscription newspaper database expected to include Detroit Free Press and Lansing State Journal later this year
- ▶ Michigan Digital Newspaper Portal: http://libforms.cmich.edu/condor/newspaper_portal.php

These are the resources where various Eaton County books can be found on the internet.

- ▶ Available Freely Via the Hathitrust website: www.hathitrust.org And/Or Google Books: books.google.com

Pioneer history of Eaton County, Michigan, 1833-1866
1916 Eaton County Directory

History of Ingham and Eaton Counties by Samuel Durant
Portrait and Biographical Album of Barry and Eaton counties
The Only Eaton Rapids on Earth

Proposed charter for the city of Eaton Rapids – 1914
Souvenir and Official Program of the Eaton Rapids Centennial and Homecoming
Greater Eaton Rapids 125th Anniversary Celebration

Numerous Publications on Olivet College
Foundations of a century of progress 1833-1933 in Bellevue, Michigan.
The Book of the Chronicles of Vermontville

The Vermontville Colony : Its Genesis and History
False alarms and real dangers. An oration by Hon. George Willard at Vermontville. Mich, July 3d, 1875.
History and location of Eaton Rapids, Michigan - 1874

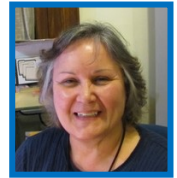
Souvenir Program : Grand Ledge, Michigan Centenary and Historical Pageant
"One hundred years, October 10, 1963, Charlotte, Michigan, was incorporated as a village"
First battalion, Michigan state troops, Barry and Eaton counties
Souvenir booklet of the ninetieth anniversary, 1851-1941, First Congregational Church of Charlotte, MI.
A brief history, compiled from information received from authentic sources by First Congregational Church (Charlotte, Mich)

One hundredth anniversary, 1851-1951 by First Congregational Church (Charlotte, Mich.)
Prohibition and woman suffrage. Speech of Hon. Albert Williams of Ionia, MI, made at Charlotte, MI, Oct9th, 1874

- ▶ Available at Michigan County Histories and Atlases website <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/mmicounty/>

1. The past and present of Eaton County, Michigan

Next month, the Genealogical Information and the Notable Historical Image Databases sections will conclude the presentation Mason presented.

ECGS Librarian: Sharlene Thuma

Thank you to the following people for their generous donation to our library:

Sue Thompson~ eleven cabinet photographs (one identified as surname **SHUMWAY**- taken at Bellevue, MI).

Leila Klaiss~ large family **KENT/SWAN** Bible with personal family items (8 tin-type photos, cradle roll certificate- **NEISWANDER**, genealogy chart, news clippings, etc.; & two picture postcards of Quantrell School, Benton Twp. (one of the exterior building, undated, & the other of group of children in front of the Quantrell building, 1916).

Unknown~ Clayton **HOAG** family group photograph, late 1800s.

Marilyn Harton & Harold Byrd~ seven Charlotte High School yearbooks (1923-1925, 1927-1930) donated in memory of their parents, Harold L. Byrd (1907-1985) & Hortense M. (Kline) Byrd (1913-1987).

Thanks to Jim Kendall for sharing this 'puzzle' from one of his newsletters!



*Note!
This is
not a re-
al con-
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our
newslet-
ter!*

A CONTEST: 24 RELATIVES, BUT ONLY 6 GRAVES

(The following genealogical puzzle comes from a curious epitaph printed in the *Old Virginia Gazette* in 1748. The tombstone upon which it appears was located near Arlington, Virginia.)

TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTION

Here Lies:

2 grandmothers with their 2 grand-
daughters;
2 husbands with their 2 wives;
2 fathers with their 2 daughters;
2 mothers with their 2 sons;
2 maidens with their 2 mothers;
2 sisters with their 2 brothers;

Yet but 6 corpses in all lie buried here,
All born legitimate, from incest clear.

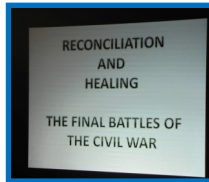
THE CONTEST

Your **SECOND BOAT** editors are offering a re-
ward to the first three readers who solve
this puzzle. It's a tricky one! So, list
a family of six people meeting all the re-
quirements outlined on this unusual epitaph
and claim your reward!

*Answer
will be
in next
month's
newslet-
ter.*



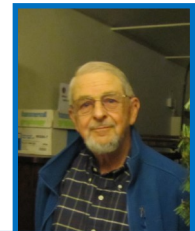
2015 November General Meeting



Chuck and Judy Chamberlain presented a wonderful slide show program on the end of the Civil War.



Chuck began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

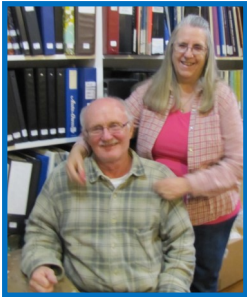


During the business meeting, Liz presented the candidates for office again and a vote was taken to accept all candidates! In addition, the 2016 budget was also approved.



Probate Packets

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). There are now about 9,200 names that are scanned and we are scanning the "K" files.



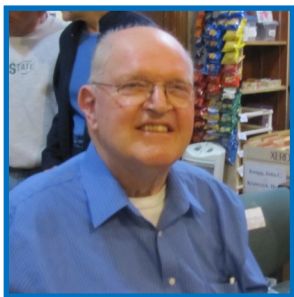
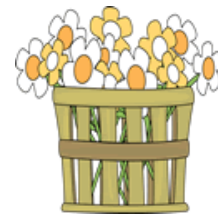
Frank and Sue traveled by train to Colorado for a vacation and they were gone for three weeks. They had a great time vacationing and visiting relatives. And of course, Sue got some genealogy time in as well! Welcome back Sue and Frank... we missed you even though we are really happy you had a great time! (Sue fixed Frank's hair for the picture first!)



One of the common topics on Tuesdays is flowers. We have several gardeners in the group and Phyllis was describing a rose plant clipping she had been given and was not quite sure exactly which flower it was. Steve thought he knew the flower she was talking about and he brought in a book the next week and sure enough, it was the same flower!



Frank and Jim work hard at preparing the file folders for scanning!



Jim very seldom misses a week!
He comes in and scans, scans
and scans some more!



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 files are stored on the cloud and members may request a link to the cloud site. The pdf files are stored alphabetically. (Note: While we are now scanning the K files, there are a few scattered files that begin with later letters because of misfiles folders or requested scans.)

Join us on Tuesday afternoons when you can!

Completing Indexes

Barb and Liz recently took a look at the books in our cupboards in Room 1, to see what needed to be done to finish the indexing of those books. They plan to come in when the can and complete these indexes. They happened to come in on a Tuesday morning the first time and joined in the conversation with the probate packet scanners that were there at the time.



Marcy is working on queries

Marcy was working on email queries Tuesday and this is one she received:

I happened to find your cemetery index online and it is a wealth of information and much appreciated. I did want to let you know that there are two errors in spellings that I know of.

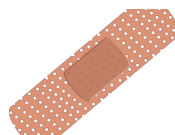
Munro, Orleo is really ORLOW. Munro, Mandy L is really MAUDY L

We always like to hear when people appreciate the information we provide on our web-site. We ALSO appreciate being informed of errors! Thanks so much for letting us know Patty! These will be corrected as soon as time allows!



Shirley—Heal Quickly!

Shirley took a tumble and broke her wrist! She stopped in on the same Tuesday, and while we were happy to see her, we were sorry to hear this and hope for a very quick healing time for her!



One very fun Tuesday

The Eaton County School Database Project



We always welcome school materials to add to the School Database! 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 ecgsschool@gmail.com to send your information and/or to arrange a time to meet.

The Schools database has now been combined with the Index System and is available with our regular Index System search in our ECGS library room. This includes ALL of the images that were scanned for the school project, such as the minutes, photos, census lists and cards, teacher attendance lists and grade lists, teacher contracts and more. The grades and birth dates have been removed from the records within the last 100 years.

The Index System has you enter the last name, then the first name.

In this case, I entered Smith, John.

He has record(s) in the Index System, Cemetery, Land and Schools databases.

When clicking on the Schools tab, the School detail for John Smith displays.

Last	First	Year	Person	Age	School	Twp	Source	File	Category	From School Project
Smith	John	1860	Officer		Eaton Rapids	Eaton Rapids	State of MI Archives - microfilm	Instruction-1860(Archives).pdf	#Name?	Yes
Smith	John	1866	Pupil	16	Lamie	Chester	ECGS Lamie Census copies	LamieCensus-1865(ECGS).pdf	#Name?	Yes
Smith	John	1866	Pupil	16	Lamie	Chester	ECGS Quest 52 Annual School Report for District #2	Quest-52.pdf	#Name?	Yes
Smith	John	1870	Pupil	20	Lamie	Chester	ECGS Lamie Census copies	LamieCensus-1865(ECGS).pdf	#Name?	Yes
Smith	John	1870	Pupil	20	Lamie	Chester	ECGS Quest 52 Annual School Report for District #9	Quest-52.pdf	#Name?	Yes
Smith	John	1877	Officer		Delta Center	Delta	School book/items scanned from Grand Ledee Historical Society, Oct 2014	DeltaCenterMinutes-1851(GLHist).pdf	#Name?	Yes
Smith	John	1894	Pupil	17	McLaughlin	Carmel	ECGS SC 504.MC.1 McLaughlin School Census	McLaughlinCen-1894(SC504MC1).jpg	#Name?	Yes
Smith	John	1895	Pupil	18	McLaughlin	Carmel	ECGS SC 504.MC.1 McLaughlin School Census	McLaughlinCen-1895(SC504MC1).jpg	#Name?	Yes
Smith	John	1896	Pupil	19	McLaughlin	Carmel	ECGS SC 504.MC.1 McLaughlin School Census	McLaughlinCen-1896(SC504MC1).jpg	#Name?	Yes
Smith	John	1904	Pupil	16	Hinkley	Kalamo	ECGS Census Lists donated from Eaton Intermediate School District	HinkleyCensus(SD).pdf	#Name?	Yes



Eaton County Historical Commission Rural School Project

The Rural School of Eaton County book, with more than 300 pages and a DVD 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. Contact them by email at csamuseum@yahoo.com or phone 517-543-6999 for more information.

Our Family Genealogies Section

Our research library contains a valuable section known as *Family Genealogies*. As time permits, we will scan the *Family Genealogies* and post excerpts from them in the newsletter.

If you haven't submitted your family genealogy to our library yet, you are welcome to do so. This is so helpful to researchers that may be researching your family name!

Family Genealogy 900.BA.08—. The description is: "Allen/Blaisdell/French Genealogy" (correspond, group sheets, etc. (assorted papers) Red notebook Author: Correspondences of Lyle French, group sheets, print outs, etc.

Note: There are 249 images in the folder for this family genealogy.

Genealogy

Among other items such as pedigree charts, there are many, many letters! These show just a very few portions of them.

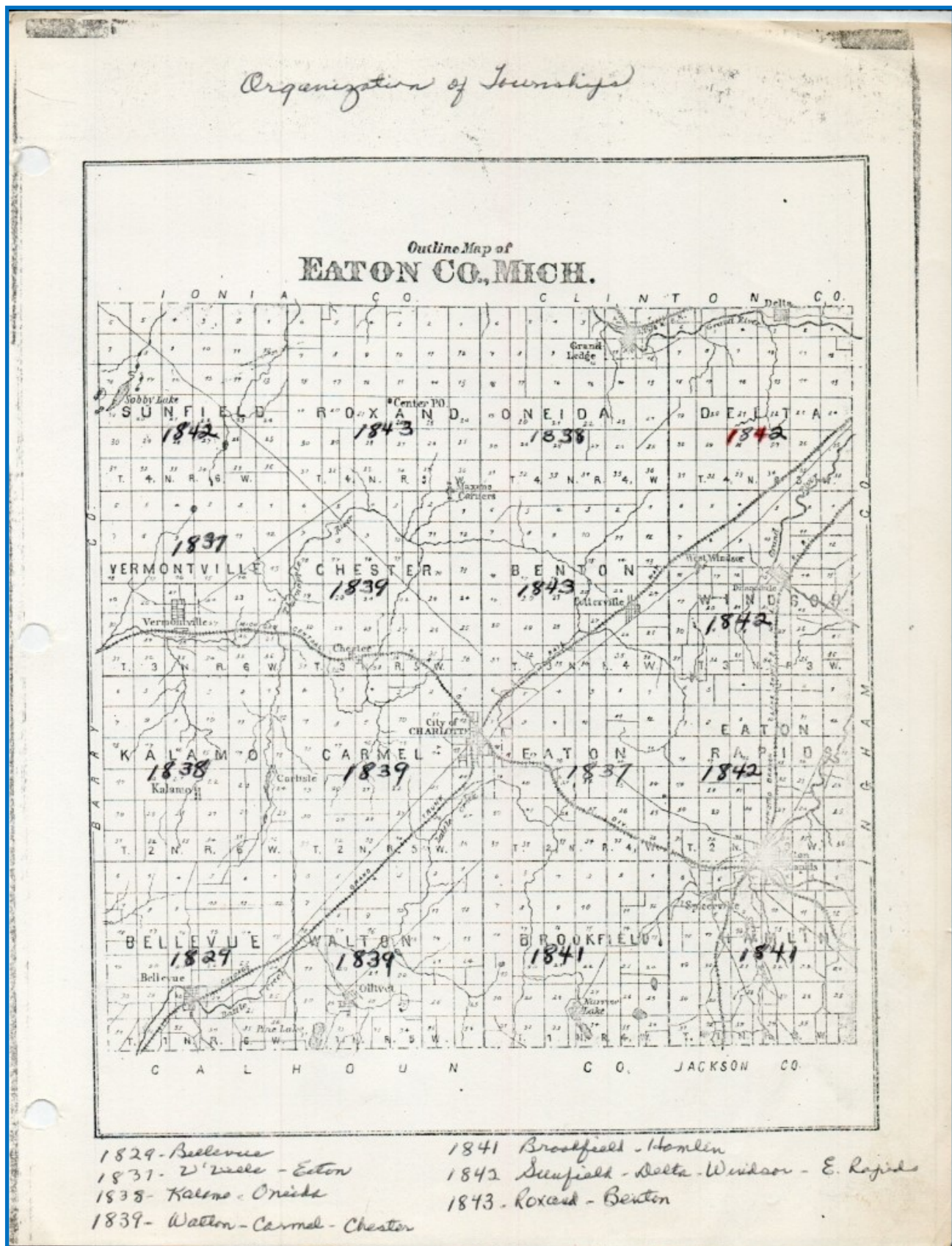
The collage includes the following items:

- ROSEMARY ALLEN STEENSTRA**: 641 Fendale Ct. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49548. A letter dated Oct 25, 1994, addressed to Lyle French, thanking him for a letter.
- Lyle W. French**: 704 Gregg St., Nashville, MI 49073. A letter dated Oct 25, 1994, addressed to Lyle French, mentioning a referral to the 21st genealogy group on the internet.
- GILMAN AND SHIRLEY GATES**: Fourteen Eleven Twenty Second Street, Niceville, Florida 32578-3320. A letter dated Thursday, February 29, 1996, addressed to Lyle French, mentioning a letter from Inathe who told her she had received my address.
- Dear Lyle**: A letter dated March 4, 1996, addressed to Mr. French, mentioning a letter from Inathe who told her she had received my address.
- Ms. MICHELLE J. TAUNTON**: A letter dated May 12, 1994, addressed to Lyle French, mentioning a letter from Inathe who told her she had received my address.
- Dear Mrs. French**: A letter dated Aug. 5, 1993, addressed to Mrs. French, mentioning a letter from Inathe who told her she had received my address.
- THIS COPY WAS SENT TO ME 18th MAR. 1994, FROM INATHE HORNING (MRS. LEE HORNING)**: PO BOX 215 PINEOLA, NC 28662.
- THIS IS HER GRANDPARENTS: EDWIN & FRANCES M. FRENCH**: EDWIN'S FATHER: GEORGE W. FRENCH BORN ca. 1842, marr. HELEN J. SEEGER 1864, RESIDED--PALMYRA, NY 1875, 1891 HE HAD CHILDREN-- EDWIN, CHARLES, BELLE, HELEN, LULU, GEORGIANA, & PLINY. GEORGE W. DIED 7 MAY 1911 AGE 70. HELEN J. FRENCH DIED 1 NOV 1928.
- 1861-1942 (revised)**: A photograph of a couple, likely Edwin and Frances M. French.

There is one photo included in this genealogy.

From our Library: VF-433 Outline Map of Eaton County, MI

This map shows when each township was organized.



From our Library: VF-287 Eaton Rapids Fire Department

This is a reproduction of an old postcard showing Eaton Rapids' First Volunteer Fire Department, donated by Jean McLean in 1991 October. Author: Old Time



Old-Time Post-Card Reproduction

From Miller Farms Collection

EATON RAPIDS' FIRST VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT was established in 1874 and members are shown here with their brand-new steam fire engine. Their first few fires resulted in total losses. Despite the bad luck, they were proud of their new gear and uniforms.



POST CARD

ADDRESS ONLY ON THIS SIDE

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.

Note: Some clipart used in our newsletter was provided by [MyCuteGraphics](http://MyCuteGraphics.com).

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.

Every effort is made to present authentic material; the Eaton County Genealogical Society cannot be held responsible for the accuracy or the publishing rights of material furnished by contributors.

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.