

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.

2017 Calendar

Monthly Meetings:

Wed Mar 15 General Meeting

Wed Apr 19 General Meeting

Wed May 17 General Meeting

Wed Jun 21 General Meeting

Wed Jul 19 General Meeting

Wed Aug 16 General Meeting

Wed Sep 20 General Meeting

Wed Oct 18 General Meeting

Wed Nov 8 General Meeting

See our online [Calendar of Events!](#)

Regular Projects:

Each Tuesday noon—5pm:

Probate Packet Scanning

2017 August Calendar

August 16th, Regular Meeting
Linnea Shaw: "Swedish Genealogy"
Social: 5:30pm Meeting: 7:00pm

**Writing Group: Sat August 26th,
2017 10a.m. — Noon**

Every Tuesday Afternoon:

Probate Packet Scanning (any time during 12-4)

Officers Jan 1, 2017 through Dec 31, 2017

President	Chuck Chamberlain
Past-President	Bill Haines
Vice President	Kent MacDonald
Treasurer	Sher Brown
Recording Secretary	Judy Chamberlain
Membership Secretary	Dianna Emerson
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
Trustees:	Liz Jones, Shirley Hodges, Becky Kendall

CONTACT US

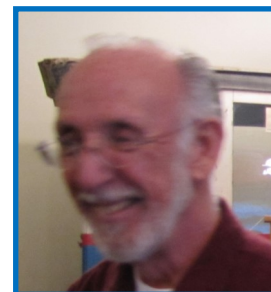
Phone: 517-543-8792

Email: ecgsnews@gmail.com

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

President's Message

ECGS Newsletter for August



Hi everyone, August is coming up soon and it promises to be an active month. Our general meeting will be focusing on people with Swedish descent. Also we're getting ready for the bake sale during Frontier Days. We need lots of help for setup, clean up, sales on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, marking the baked goods. If you can spare a few hours we could certainly use your help. This is our only fund raiser for the entire year and it keeps the society going. If you can bake cookies, brownies, cakes, pies etc. please plan to start baking really soon. Most of the cookies can be frozen and we can use everything. If you would like to know what sells the best contact the office.

On another note in the September general meeting the speaker will be Dan Earl. He is fantastic and that is a meeting you don't want to miss.

The end of our year is coming up soon and we will be looking for new members that are willing to serve on the ECGS board. Please consider how you can help and let us know how you can get involved.

Sherry Copenhaver has done a marvelous job producing the newsletter for ECGS. Due to lots of reasons she is giving up this area as of January 1, 2018. This is a life line to members and nonmembers alike and we need help to continue the newsletter. If you're interested in organizing and helping on this project please let us know soon. I'm sure Sherry would love to work with you to get a feel as to this transition.

I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer and please participate as often as you can with ECGS.

Chuck Chamberlain

Probate Packets

The website is updated about once a month with the list of probate packets that have been scanned (www.miegs.org/Files/ProbatePacketScanned.pdf). There are now about 15,175 names that are scanned and we are scanning the "S" probate packets.

If you believe there is a scanned probate packet you want to look at and you are a member, email us at ecgsprobates@gmail.com and request the file or files. If you are a non-member, see our Send A Request Page at <http://www.miegs.org/SendRequest.shtml>.

Join us on Tuesday afternoons when you can!

ECGS Librarian

Sharlene Thuma



Judy Liepins- Mini Theatre group: four newspaper articles (1978-1979), twenty-three color photos, and a 1978 thank you letter. The all-female group was organized Nov. 1972 and was directed by Dorothy **HUGHES**. They performed mostly for the elderly. Also, includes The Olivet Optic newspaper with a 1979 article about the group. Surnames mentioned- **ALBIN, GREGAREK, FIRMAN, GRAVES, WEBSTER, GERMAINE, WILTON, COLE, JACOBS, STALL, COPLIN, SATTERLEE, GREGG, RICHARDSON, & ESTELLE.**

David Doss- two Olivet College programs: Heliogabalus, May 22, 1893, includes list of class officers & the menu; Annual Public Exercises of the Adelpic Literary Society, Mar. 7, 1894.

Carol Freer- four black & white photos: baby in chair, Christmas photographer, Eaton Rapids, MI; baby laying down, A.V. Roehm photographer, Eaton Rapids, MI; Herbert **NEWT**H as a young boy with rabbit, Roehm photographer, Charlotte, MI; toddler in dress, La Rue photographer, Charlotte, MI.



Thank you all so much for your contributions to our library!

Thank You!

Treasurer's Report

Upcoming bills:

\$402 for July thru December telephone and internet

\$45 for Michigan Genealogical Council - annual dues

\$342 for Copy machine maintenance fee

\$1,630.92 Checking Acct

\$2,221.56 Snack Fund Savings Acct.

\$4,499.33 CD

\$3,151.98 Undesignated Donation Savings Acct

Sher Brown, Treasurer

EATON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
GENERAL MEETING
July 19, 2017



Folks met at the Lawrence Avenue United Methodist Church at 6:00 for a delicious potluck dinner. The president, Chuck Chamberlain, called the meeting to order at 7:00.

There were 22 people in attendance, including two visitors. One other person joined the Society—welcome Cheryl Lariviere.

Announcements:

- Marcy Cousino gave an update on the status of the Newspaper Project. Over 100 rolls of film have been digitized to date. A question was asked about the Dimondale papers. Marcy stated they will be working to get these. You may contact Marcy for a complete list of papers that have been digitized.
- Frontier Days bake sale - The following items are still needed:
 - A Coordinator or Coordinators to oversee the project.
 - Volunteers to work on Thursday evening (set up and pricing of items), Friday, Saturday and Sunday (including clean up).
 - Baked goods.
 - Folks were encouraged to consider volunteering to serve on the board for the next year. Elected positions include president, vice president, recording secretary and one trustee.

Sign-up forms are available for the bus trip to Allen County Public Library in November.

Upcoming events include:

The next Eaton County Genealogical Society General meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 16, 2017. The speaker will be Linnea Shaw.

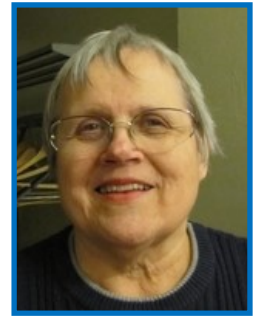
A very informative program was presented by Gail Junion-Metz on adding photos and documents to your Ancestry family tree. Gail also informed us that the Family History Centers will no longer be ordering microfilm from Salt Lake City as of August 18, 2017. If there is a film that you need, then you will need to contact them directly. This is due to the fact that so much of the information is now available online.

Respectfully Submitted, Judy Chamberlain, Recording Secretary

Writer's Group

Shirley Hodges

We had a small and very fun meeting. Sherry brought in one of her Graduation Scrapbooks and also several Facebook scrapbooks that are available to order from Facebook. These Facebook scrapbooks show photos and posts by year.



Sherry says she had a great time and has no idea why the glum face in this picture!



Prepare for your Allen County Library Bus Trip!

By Shirley Hodges



It is the time of year when we start to plan our research trip to the Allen County Library. I would like to touch briefly on how one goes about getting the most out of their research trips.

I realize that some of this is old news to many of you but, hopefully, we are going to have some people with us who have never been to the ACPL

I also want to talk a little about those things that can do to get ready for your trip. It doesn't matter how great the facility is if we haven't prepared adequately we won't accomplish as much as we might be able to.

We will have an orientation session when we arrive so that you can get the lay of the land and ask any questions that you might want answered.

Learning how to prepare for a genealogical research trip is extremely important. The success of your trip many times is directly related to the amount of preparation you have made. We all need to make the most of one of our most valuable assets, which is our time.

I know that some of these things will sound very elementary, but sometimes we need a refresher course.

Do your homework. Don't waste valuable research time at the library on things that you could find in your own attic. Exhaust all your home and family sources before you turn to the research facility. Everything that you can accomplish before you leave for your trip will allow you to spend your time at the facility doing things that can only be accomplished there. Don't waste that valuable time doing things that you could do at home or in research facilities near your home.

Review the material that you have accumulated over time. Recheck notes. It takes longer but saves time in the end. Now your offices may be totally organized. I know I have what I refer to as my "piles and files". Look through them for pertinent information.

Review both the abstracts that you have made from documents and the originals if you have them. I think that many of us discover that we sometimes have overlooked a clue that we have had in our possession all the time. Sometimes, it is simply because we have become a little more sophisticated in our research techniques and we recognize the significance of an item better. We might have abstracted the material when we were fatigued or perhaps we might have gotten distracted. We might not have been far enough along with our research in that line to realize that some of the other names in the document had real significance for us. It is well worth the time taken to review the item. Sometimes we make mistakes when we are extracting data because we write down what we are expecting to see. Always remain open-minded and don't be influenced by what you are expecting to find. Sometimes there is a wide gap between the actual facts and what we were expecting to discover.

Determine what you know and record the source of your information. The goal of every genealogist should be to have a record that is complete and verifiably correct. Another researcher should be able to go back to your sources and come up with the same conclusions.

Of course you will bring your personal research tools along with notepaper and writing utensils, but decide what else might be helpful?

Things to Bring:

- Laptop: If you have a laptop, bring it along. The library has Wi-Fi and you will be able to use your laptop to access the same information you can from the library computers including the library's extensive webpage, subscription databases and catalog without waiting for a library computer to become available.
- Cable Lock: Since it is easy to get distracted, the library staff suggests you bring a laptop cable lock if you will be using your computer at the library.
- Camera: The library allows the use of digital cameras to "copy" documents.
- Scanner: You may also use your personal scanner -- so bring your new Flip-Pal along.
- Flash Drive: All public computers have USB ports. Information may be downloaded to your flash drive rather than using the online printer.

Identification: You will need to get a Guest Pass to use the library's computers and identification sometimes is required.

You can pack your own lunch or there is a deli on the first floor.

When the trip is over your work has just begun. Organize all the wonderful material that you have found. In fact, go back to the beginning and repeat the process of what you did before. Our genealogical data is always in a state of being refined and improved.



THE ONE-ROOM SCHOOL

Genealogists become skilled in tracing data about ancestors. We learn the “who” and the “where” and the “when”. Don’t we often just wonder “what” their lives were really like on a day-to-day basis?

An important part of their everyday lives in their younger years was how they learned their readin’, ritin’, and ‘rithmetic so that they could become better functioning and more effective citizens. For myself and the parents or grandparents of many of you, the educational environment was very different from what we know today.

For many in your lineage, the educational process started and ended, sooner or later, in a one room country school. Many of them were fortunate to be able to stay in school beyond the fourth, fifth, or sixth grade. Eighth-grade graduation from a country school was an event less common than you may think.

Most country schools were taught by a single teacher. In earlier years, this might be a local girl who had herself recently completed the local school program. In about 1911, when my father started teaching, a candidate was required to complete an examination at the county level. If they passed the test, they could be licensed to teach. By about the time of World War II, a prospective teacher was required to complete one year of “county normal” training in order to be certified. Many of our state universities began as “normal schools” for the purpose of training teachers.

The teacher was required to supervise whatever number of school-age children lived within the boundaries of the district. This number could be ten or as many as thirty or forty. Subjects included reading, English, arithmetic, history, geography, possibly hygiene or health, penmanship, and hopefully a little music. Each grade, from kindergarten through eighth grade, had their own lessons in each subject. Teachers also had to help students individually with seat-work. All the while they had to maintain control of the rest of the classroom. This was often not easy when there were several big boys who could not make it through eighth grade but were too young to legally drop out, and who were not eager to be there. Fortunately the teacher was not burdened with all the reports and other red tape which interferes with preparation and teaching today. The teacher also usually had the solid backing of the parents.

The physical facilities were much different than we think of today. School was in session during fall, winter and spring. The building was constructed in whatever manner the district could afford and/or what the people knew how to build. Many were of frame and clapboard construction, usually with large windows for light. Of course all were uninsulated. This made the winter months especially interesting.

Buildings were heated by wood stoves, mostly of the style which we might call pot bellied. It took a while to get them heated up in the morning. Heat moved by two means, radiation and convection. At the people level, the stove surface gave off infrared

radiation. This meant that you baked on one side and froze on the other – for whoever could get close enough to the stove.. The air at the stove was heated, and then pushed upward by the cold air down closer to the floor. This warmer air then collected up near the ceiling. By lunchtime, the warmer air might fill the upper part of the room and begin to make its presence known down at people level.

Of course there were no electric fans to circulate the air. Lighting consisted of kerosene lamps. Later, schools might have a gas mantle lamp hanging from the center of the ceiling – a definite improvement when window light was insufficient or at night meetings.

However, things were the same at home. Indoor winter attire included warm underwear covering most of the body – plus possibly several petticoats for the girls. Snowpants or the earlier equivalent were a necessity for the long walk to school.

Desk of various sizes were provided. The school library might consist of a few shelves. In front of the desks was a six-foot-long recitation bench. Each class was called up to sit on the bench for their own particular class “recitations” – discussion of their lessons with the teacher.

Despite the apparent academic shortcomings of the situation, and how thinly the teacher was spread across too many grades and subjects, there were developmental advantages to attending such a school. You learned to work independently, since the teacher was usually busy with other classes. You learned many things ahead of your grade level by listening to the older students’ classes. Often, older students learned skills and responsibility by helping younger students. You learned to function with people with a wide range of ages and abilities.

My father once observed that, despite the advantages of graded classrooms in the town schools, high school valedictorians tended to come from the rural schools. It probably did not hurt that, by living and working on the home farm, children learned to work hard and carry a lot of responsibility at an early age.

The educational experiences of your forbears tended to be much different than your own, even as yours was rather different from what children experience today. Opinions may vary as to which was or is most effective. Realizing these differences in their backgrounds and environments may be of help in understanding the relationships, choices, moves, struggles, conflicts, and losses for which you find evidence in the records. They were real people, too. As we continue our searching, may we come to know them better.

Vernon Jones

The Search

I started out calmly
in tracing my tree
To find, if I could,
the meaning of me,
But all that I had
was grandfather's name,
Not knowing his wife
nor from whence he came.

I chased him across
a long line of states;
The upshot was pages
and pages of dates.
With all put together,
it made me forlorn...
I proved dear grandfather
never was born!

When hoping to turn
this confusion around,
I searched at Salt Lake
where records abound.
Then just when it seemed
to be turning to fun,
I found the old men
younger than his son!

When all of my hopes
were fast growing dim,
I came across records
for what must be him,
But the facts I collected
next made me quite sad,
For Grandpa, poor soul...
he was never a dad.

I think there is somebody
pulling my leg.
I'm sure that I wasn't
just hatched from an egg.
And, after hundreds spent
growing my "Tree",
I can't help but wonder
if I'm really me.

- Anonymous (but tam-
pered with by reader Ray
Eggers Jr. & editor Rose-
mary Bachelor)

BORN IN VIRGINIA - WHEN?

Did you know that a reference made to an individual having been born in Virginia as early as 1728 to as late as 1863 could indicate the person was born in what is now an entirely different geo-political division? Here are places that were once named as being in Virginia, with the applicable dates:

- ♦Any part of Illinois from 1781 to statehood in 1818.
- ♦Any part of Indiana from 1787 to statehood in 1816.
- ♦Any part of Kentucky from 1775 to statehood in 1792.
- ♦Any part of North Carolina from 1728 to 1779.
- ♦Any part of Ohio from 1778 to statehood in 1803.
- ♦Any part of Pennsylvania from 1752 to 1786.
- ♦Any part of Tennessee from 1760 to 1803.
- ♦Any part of West Virginia from 1769 to 1863.

(From Texas State Genealogical Society Newsletter, Aug., 1992.)



An Ancestral Connection--What do Clara Barton, Walt Disney, Joan Kennedy and U. S. Presidents Taft, Ford & Arthur have in common? All descend from accused witches in Salem, MA 300 years ago.

Thank you Jim Kendall!

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.