

January 2021

Hi Eaton County Genealogical Society members,
We wish you a happy, healthy, peaceful new year!

Wow!!! What a crazy, frustrating, challenging year 2020 was. Then again, thankfully, if you've made it through the year, what lessons we've learned. With the coming of a new year, we're all hoping for better times ahead.

For genealogical societies across the state, as well as for the Michigan Genealogical Council, it has been indeed a very disappointing year. We definitely weren't able to serve you as we desired and as you would have liked. Yet, despite the fact that the research room had to be closed due to Covid and the restrictions, we were able to provide three zoom membership meetings for you. Also, the Eaton County Vietnam War era committee did meet from time to time and did make some headway in gathering and filing information for folks to do research on our veterans.

With the new year, we are hoping to get some speakers this spring to do zoom meetings for you. By this summer or at least by the end of it, we hope to be able to meet in person and have the research room open and have monthly membership meetings. Along with that, if the Ft. Wayne library is open and we can arrange a bus trip, we hope to offer that opportunity to you.

To be honest with you, last year was a rough year for our society. Understandably, our membership was down and so our income was down. But as we've adjusted to the challenges of last year, we hope to serve you better this coming year. We hope you will consider joining us again and supporting your local genealogical society. We understand that today, with computers, folks can do much genealogical research online. Then again, we all know that local genealogical societies have lots of information for folks to research that isn't online. So, for people who have had families associated with Eaton County, it's critical that our society continues to exist.

Another challenge our genealogical society is facing this year is that as our officers are getting older, we need new members to take their places. As of December 31, 2020, due to age our president, vice-president and one trustee have resigned, and another trustee has died. So, we need four new officers. We are working to fill these positions with folks from our current membership. But we certainly do need more members. If you have friends who are interested in genealogy, please encourage them to join us as well as you renew your membership with us.

To renew your membership, please go online to our website, www.miegs.org and click on the membership form. Simply print it off, fill in the required information and mail it to our society along with your membership payment, \$25 per household, or \$20 per volunteer household.

ECGS, P.O. Box 337, Charlotte, Mi. 48813

You may also mail it directly to our membership secretary at

Diana Hayter, 605 Leonard St., Eaton Rapids, Mi. 48827-1632

Thanks for your continued, renewed support,

ECGS Executive Board