

EATON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
JULY 17, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by President Bill Haines, with a welcome to members and visitors.

Joe Glasgow introduced visitors Debbie Herman and Amber Herman, also Jim Wilson from Charlotte, along with Horace Smith and June Wilson who are researching Smith, Bliss and Chafey.

Meeting was temporarily adjourned for refreshments and then to hear our Speaker for the evening, David Smith, who has an office in Charlotte and has studied the State of Michigan in the Civil War. His talk was on "Michigan at Gettysburg" This year was the Sesquicentennial of Gettysburg. It was a very informative talk on the "Iron Burgade".

Meeting resumed at 7:54pm.

Ken Fry from Potterville reported on the need for Eaton County to prepare for the Sesquicentennial of Potterville, Michigan.

Vice President Gary Copenhaver reported that the cemetery project is not doing much during the summer months and there are only about 3 cemeteries left to do.

Membership Chairman, Barb Smith, reported that we have 121 members. And we are getting 2 or 3 new members each month.

MGC Delegate Jim Collins reported on the July 10, 2013 meeting. They had installation of new officers. There was an update on the Abrams Historical Seminar and that there would be some good news coming. Also the newsletter was being assembled giving each societies special collections information and would be handed out at the FGS Conference in Ft. Wayne.

The War of 1812 One society passed a jar around their meeting and collected \$125. The board of that society matched those funds bring it to \$250 and then Ancestry matched that for a total of \$500 to help digitize the records and they will be free to the public.

Also, reported was the fact that 32 societies sent in \$24,000 to move the books at the State of Michigan library to the archive floor. Our society was part of that. Also, the cost of vital records may go up from \$26 to \$34 and we save our fight for age restrictions on vital records. Still free parking at the Michigan Historical Library. There is also a Family Festival at Detroit it is free, September 28th and free parking, Lisa Louise Cooke and Deborah Abbott are speakers. Next delegate meeting is in Grand Rapids at the GR Public Library, September 12th, 1:00pm.

Old Business : Bill Haines mentioned that the Video Projector (that speakers use) has pledged \$470 towards that projector, and that there are other things coming up that we will need contributions on. One being the up grading of our computer system software and making sure it is compatible with microfiche and printer in our office. We will have a donation basket at each meeting.

Shirley Hodges brought up the need for recipes for the Cookbook project. We need about 500 and you can e-mail them to Shirley, so start looking through those recipes.

Also the November 2, 2013 Bus trip to Fort Wayne Library, get in your registrations.

Also the Heritage Conference, Saturday, Oct. 12, 2013. We are hosting the event. We will have speakers there, Bill Atkinson and Shirley Hodges. It is also our Societies 25 Anniversary. Which we will celebrate at the Court House. Registrations forms are available.

New Business: Bill Haines and Sherry Copenhaver mentioned the need for ideas for the membership portion of our website. It was suggested including dates from cemetery headstones, or highlighting a cemetery a month with headstone pictures. Please contact any board member with your ideas.

Bill Haines reported on a need for the Audit committee, consisting of Bill Atkinson and other volunteer members get started on auditing the treasures books.

Bill Haines also reported that Marcie Cousino has volunteered to contact Eaton County Townships and find out what records each would let us copy. Such as property taxes, dog licenses and others.

Bill Haines also reported on another project that we are looking at if there is enough interest, and that is having a T-shirt or tab shirt with a our societies logo on it. Estimated cost would be T's \$15-\$20 and tab shirts \$25 plus. Bill asked for a hands count of those interested and there was enough interest so we will pursue costs and logo information.

Bill Haines also mentioned our concern for the probate records because of the humidifier problem. The humidifier needs to be emptied 2 or 3 times a day to keep it dry in the vault. There is no drain in the vault and we are in need of suggestions. Please contact any board member with your ideas.

Conferences coming up are:

FGS annual meeting in Fort Wayne, Ind. Aug 21-24.

Our Heritage and Anniversary, Charlotte, Mi Oct 12.

MGC Fall Seminar, State of Michigan Library, Oct 26.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Shepler, Recording Secretary