

EATON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SEPTEMBER 18, 2013

The meeting of the Eaton County Genealogical Society was called to order at 7:00pm by President Bill Haines.

Joe Glasgow introduce our visitor, Marjie Evarians who has moved back from California and has some Eaton County connections. We also had 36 people in attendance.

Regular meeting was suspended at 7:05 for refreshments and then our speaker Mary Butler from the Battle Creek Historical Society, where she works in the archives. Her topic was "Tools for the Photograph Detective"

The regular meeting was resumed at 8:10pm by President Bill Haines.

Membership Secretary Barb Smith reported that we had 125 members.

Treasurer Sher Brown and also **Quest Editor** reported Treasurer's report available on table and that the Quest will be coming out the end of this month.

Webmaster Sherry Copenhaver is still in need of ideas to put on our web site. Also, she has submitted our web site to FGS for critiquing. She has also up dated our member site index.

Michigan Genealogical Council representative Jim Collins and Joan Glasgow attended the meeting last week held in the Grand Rapids Library. They were given a lot of information about the Grand Rapids area and they have a lot of genealogical information available at the library. They had scrap books from the Hartford Times(Connecticut) where people send in questions and someone would research it and report the results in the paper. A lot of Old England information. First hour of parking is free next to the Library and make sure you get your ticket validated on way out.

It was reported by FGS that because we are members we can get discounts from Dell on computers.

Also it is the one year anniversary for moving materials from downstairs up to the Archives at the State of Michigan Library and that they are indexing 88 counties of Naturalization material.

Several counties have shared records with the Archives as has Eaton County, and our dues is paid.

Saturday, Sept. 21st Rails program the State Library will be open.

PBS is having a 4 part series, Genealogy Road Show, one was filmed in Detroit. Check your TV listing. Detroit is either the first or second one.

"Who Do You Think You Are" will have 10 new shows on TLC.

Detroit Public Health is closing and will not have death and birth certificates any more, but Wayne County will be doing it at some increased cost.

Also a reminder from FGS that the 1812 project is still going and \$1.00 = \$4.00.
There were 59 attendees at the breakfast meeting and FGS put in \$700.00.

FGS in 2014 will be in San Antonio, TX in August.
FGS in 2015 along with Roots Web will be in Utah.

October 19th the Polish Seminar is 9-4 at Troy American Polish Center and cost is \$35.00.

Debbie Abbott and Louise May Cook are speakers at the Burton Center, free parking at employee parking lot.

In addition the speaker at FGS was Jim Jackson, who gave a talk and hints on Self Publishing on line and the cost is very minimal and is print on demand. Companies on line doing this are Scribod, LuLu Creatspaced. First 120 pages are free. Check it out, because it could be used for Society publications.

Michigan Genealogical Society meeting is in November.

Cemetery Project, Gary Copenhaver reported that Welch Cemetery in Sunfield Twp. Was complete and would be available soon.

Old Business: Frontier Days Bake Sale, Sher Brown reported a net of \$1,087.00 with money still coming in. Bill Haines thanked all who contributed and worked to make it a success. Thank you Shirley!

It was noted that Court House Square contributed some of the refreshments this evening.

Shirley Hodges reported that the **bus trip to Fort Wayne, Nov. 2nd** still has some seats available and to get your reservations in.

Bill Haines reported the **Heritage Conference, Oct 12th**, is coming quickly and we need to get our reservations in for \$10.00 and help us celebrate **our Societies 25th Anniversary**. We are in conjunction with the Eaton County Historical Commission, who will be giving out some special awards.

Treasurer's review is still pending because Bill Haines needs a volunteer to help with it. Call Bill if you can help.

ECGS Cookbook, Shirley Hodges reported we are still in need of recipes, and to go along with them if you have a story or family history behind the recipes, please include them. We are looking at getting it ready by next year's Frontier Days.

Room assistance for our Library is need, please consider volunteering for one day a month or more. The knowledgeable people in the office will be glad to show you where things are and how to use the index and help people with their research. Room hours are 10:00-2:00pm Monday-Thursday.

Vice President, Gary Copenhaver wanted to thank the Court House Square for resolving the humidifier situation in the Probate Packet room. It is now dry and warm and will keep the records from getting musty.

Township records, Marcie Couisno reported she contacted Carmel Twp. And they were very helpful and interested in having records preserved. We need to know how big each Twp. Project is and where the records are kept. Sam Pardee mentioned that when Ingham County Genealogical Society did this project the gave one copy to the Twp., one to the State Archives and one to Fort Wayne Library.

ECGS shirts, Bill Haines reported that the cost for the T-shirts would be \$9.00 and 2x or larger size would be \$11.00. The Polo or Tab Shirts would be \$13.50 and 2x or larger would be \$15.50. Order sheets were passed around at this time.

Motion made by Gary Copenhaver that, if needed, the initial order cost could be taken from our treasury, seconded by Barb Smith, motion carried.

Video projector, we have it and Bill Haines reported we used it tonight for our speaker and it worked great. **Thank you to everyone who donated funds to get this projector.**

Probate Packets, there is still a need for scanning volunteers. Contact Sherry Copenhaver if any questions.

NEW BUSINESS: Publicity Chairman is needed and Bill Haines, Jim Collins and Joan Glasgow suggested we look into this position and its responsibilities before deciding.

Strategic Planning, Bill Haines reported on the need for our Society to decide it's future and what we need to do to insure we are here another 25 years, and the need for a master plan, and a formal process and maybe a moderator to accomplish this. The Society as a whole should participate to make it better and stronger. There is a need for a lot of involvement and ideas. Sherry Copenhaver reported on the information she received after attending the FGS conference, and mentioned she attended workshops that have to do with organization planning and as a Society we have a lot to be proud of, but if you do the same thing today as you did yesterday, you are just sustaining and you will go backwards. Barb Smith asked if anyone knew of someone who had a strategic planning background?? Bill Haines mentioned we need to get this process moving forward.

Bill Haines mentioned the Board needed to meet after the meeting for short time.

Randy from the Eaton County Historical Commission reported that the **Cemetery Walk will be the same day as the Home Tour**. Also Pictures are needed of Eaton County one room school houses

Up coming Seminars and Conferences:

GAR Hall Eaton Rapids, Sept. 26th
Heritage Conference Oct 12th
Polish Genealogical Soc. Seminar Oct. 19th
Mid Michigan Book show, Lansing Center, Oct 13th.
MGC Fall Seminar, Oct. 26th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:59pm.

Respectfully submitted, Janyce Shepler, Recording Secretary