

EATON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
General Meeting Minutes  
March 19, 2014

**Call to Order** - 7:00 PM. The President, Vice-President and Recording Secretary were not present for the meeting. Sher Brown & Sherry Copenhaver teamed up to take their places for tonight.

We recognized several new people at our meeting. Joy Black is our new Publication Chairperson and she plans to learn how to do genealogy research by researching her Royston family. Rachel Greco was there as a reporter because she wanted to learn about the Maple Syrup history. Other people were new because they came for the Maple Syrup program.

We introduced Bruce Benedict and he gave a historical overview of processing maple syrup, often with some humor injected. When he was done, we took a break for snacks and after break, Bruce's sister Iris told us how the maple syrup is made now and the maple syrup business her brother runs. She demonstrated how squirrels have damaged some of their supplies. She passed around samples of maple candy. She also showed some of the products they sell, which some are unique, such as maple sugar granules.

For the business meeting, we flew through many items.

**Reports:**

- Membership Secretary - Barb Smith reported 107 Members this year so far. Also, extra donations of \$425.
- Treasurer - Sher Brown attached financial reports to the agenda. She reported that rent has been paid for the entire year. The quarterly savings accounts will be completed in time for the April monthly meeting as there is a discrepancy with one of the deposit slips.
- Quest Editor - Sher Brown reported the next Quest issue should be ready in May.
- Webmaster - Sherry Copenhaver reported the new Events Calendar on our website.

**OLD Business:**

1. Township records. Sherry reported that two townships have responded to the mass email sent about 3 months ago. Nothing has been done yet with these. We need volunteers to help.
2. Room assistance. Marcy gave the message that help is always needed and if we would like to open back up on Mondays again, we need more room volunteers.
3. Probate packet scanning project. Sherry reported the project is still running great and the project has grown. Slow and steady progress.
4. Computer system updates/approve expenditure. Sherry reported that John Evans has run some configuration reports on the two computers and he will need to study these. Because of family illness, he cannot devote much time right now. At the board meeting, we

decided to ask the *General Membership* if we could be authorized to spend up to \$1000.00 to upgrade to a more recent operating system. Barb Smith made a motion to approve up to \$1000.00 for this. Bruce Benedict seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Vote was "Yes" to approve.

5. Member "book". Sherry distributed a sample possible 'member book' . Some societies create a booklet that shows information about members. The ideas for this booklet would be to tell the ancestor surnames from Eaton County, from other areas, other organizations we belong to and skills we have, such as various software, or dating photos, or other type of info. There is a question of who this Member Book would be available to and while the book itself should be for members only, it would have to be decided whether to make it available for anyone or just members. Being part of this 'book' if we continue with it, of course, is entirely optional for members.

6. Events calendar. As mentioned above, there is a new Events Calendar on our website. There are many possible ideas of things we could do for activities during this year and a page with some ideas was given to everyone. Hopefully, some of these ideas can end up on the Events Calendar.

#### **NEW Business:**

1. Take-home mini projects. Our Librarian Sharlene Thuma created several mini take-home projects in hopes that we can get some volunteers to take them home to work on them. Some of these projects were simple "Place papers into sheet protectors and put them in a notebook". Others involve multiple steps such as pasting or taping clippings onto paper, making copies of them (because newspapers fade), then placing them in sheet protectors and a notebook. We stressed that one person does not have to do every step in the project... it will help so much if they can help with the different parts of a project. We had several volunteers take some projects home with them. Many thanks!

2. March 22 room volunteer training session. Sherry is holding a training session on Saturday at 11am. This is very informal and the goal is to share the knowledge we all have about various parts of volunteering.

3. Library scanning project. Sherry reported that we had our first scanning project with the Charlotte Community Library and began the Boyd Preston index card project. These scanned cards are already available for browsing on our website: see [www.miegs.org/CharlotteLibrary.shtml](http://www.miegs.org/CharlotteLibrary.shtml). We have 3 more evenings set up for March & April, alternating between Monday & Wednesday nights.

4. Nominations committee. We have a Nomination committee: Shirley Hodges, Liz Jones and Sue Thompson.

5. Meeting format (more interaction between attendees). We talked about possibly adding more social activities and asked people to give us some ideas of what they might like to do.

We had some freebies in the library room, which were donations that the library did not need and the donors did not want back.

Submitted by Sherry Copenhaver in place of Jan Shepler.