

Eaton County Genealogical Society

Located in the 1885 Eaton County Historical Courthouse

100 W. Lawrence Ave., P.O. Box 337, Charlotte, MI 48813-0337



Cemetery Symbols & Flagstands from Eaton County (Michigan) Cemeteries

This cemetery project consists of collecting various cemetery headstones, symbols and flagstand photos by the Eaton County Genealogical Society Cemetery Project team. This began as a project for our own research and grew as we began to collect photos and information. At least one photo from each Eaton County cemetery is included.

Photos are included on the cd along with the document. The photos in this project are all thumbnail size and detail does not show well when zoomed larger in photo software.

Use your pdf reader page view size feature to increase the display size of the file to read and see the photos better.

2011

Disclaimer:

This is not a professional publication! It is work done by a group of people who enjoy preserving history and genealogy and honoring people in our cemeteries. Some of the symbols we identify may not have been created on the headstone for the reason we are guessing it is. We have used research for the most likely descriptions. There may be some symbols we have identified incorrectly. If there are errors in this project, please contact ECGS at e-mail <mailto:cemeteryproject@miegs.org> and future issues will be corrected.

All rights reserved. This may not be reproduced in any form without the express written permission of Eaton County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 337, Charlotte, MI 48813-0337.

© ISSN 1075-881X

Table of Contents




CEMETERY LOCATIONS AND ENTRANCES.....	4
GENERAL SECTION.....	4
Anchors	4
Animals	4
Birds.....	5
Books.....	5
Candle	5
Child	6
Columns.....	6
Crown	6
Fire Department & Ladies Auxiliary	6
Flowers	7
Family.....	7
Marriage	7
Occupation, Music & Hobbies.....	7
Plants	8
Rope.....	8
Scroll.....	8
Sun.....	9
Torch.....	9
Trees.....	9
Urns.....	10

<i>RELIGION</i>	10
Angel:.....	10
Religious Symbols	10
Bible	10
Cross	11
Drapery	11
Gates.....	11
Hands	11
Jesus/Shepherd.....	12
Rosary Beads & Mary	12
ORGANIZATIONS	13
Eaton County Cemetery Organization Examples	13
American Legion & Legion Auxiliary	13
<i>VETERANS</i>	13
General	13
GAR - Grand Army of the Republic.....	13
<i>SHAPES AND UNIQUE HEADSTONES</i>	13
NOTABLE PEOPLE OF EATON COUNTY	14
CEMETERY NAMED AFTER FAMILIES	14

Cemetery Locations and Entrances




(Note: Hyperlinks of cemetery names are to ECGS Cemetery Information Pages)

(A Special Thanks to Jerry & Vicki for the vast majority of these Information Pages)

<i>Cemetery</i>	<i>Township</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Photo</i>
Bentley	Eaton Rapids	2 miles west of Eaton Rapids on M-50, then 1 1/2 miles north on Canfield Road, then 1 1/2 miles east ?????	
Benton Twp/Potterville	Benton	1 1/2 miles west of Potterville on Vermontville Hwy	
Bosworth	Walton	2 miles northeast of Olivet on I-27, then 1/2 mile north on Stine Rd.	

General Section

Anchors: Anchors are often found on sailor's gravestones. The anchor can also be found on Mason's gravestones. Early Christians used the anchor as a disguised cross, and as a marker to guide the way to secret meeting places. A Christian symbol of hope, it is found as funerary symbolism in the art of the catacombs. Often set amongst rocks. It can also be an occupational symbol in sea-faring areas or the attribute of Saint Nicholas, patron saint of seamen, symbolized hope and steadfastness. An anchor with a broken chain stands for the cessation of life.

	(Anchor1) Hamlin Oakwood. Hosmer Perry Beebe. Anchor with rope etched on stone.		(Anchor2) Hamlin Oakwood. Joseph S. Fisher. Anchor flagstand with "N M C A" around outside.		(Anchor20) Millerburg. Snyder family monument. Gates with anchor.
---	--	---	--	--	--

Animals (Butterflies, Fish):

Butterfly	Short life.
Dog	Loyalty, fidelity, watchfulness, vigilance.
Fish	Christianity.
Horse	Death. White horse: Good. Black horse: Evil. Usually marks the grave of a child. Symbolizes Christ in his sacrificial role
Lamb	& symbolizes innocence, gentleness & humility
Lion	Strength. Courage
Owl	Wisdom, watchfulness.
Ox	Patience, strength

- Rabbit Humility, Gentleness, self-sacrifice.
- Rooster Awakening. Calling attention to person's death. Vigilance.
- Snake, hooped Eternal life - no beginning, no end
- Winged Lion Represents Saint Mark, one of the 4 evangelists.
- Winged Ox Represents Saint Luke, one of the 4 evangelists.




 <p>(Animal30) Hamlin Oakwood. Marion & Maudie Colestock. Sheep/Lamb</p>	 <p>(Animal31) Hamlin Oakwood. Melissa Sharpe. Elephant</p>	 <p>(Animal32) Hamlin Oakwood. Renee S. DeWater Butterfly</p>
--	---	---

Birds: Eternal Life or resurrection.




- Dove - Innocence, peace. Seen in both Christian and Jewish cemeteries.
- Eagle - Often Civil War veteran.
- Hummingbird - Often on child's gravestone. Decorative.

 <p>(Bird1) Bosworth. Hummingbird ???</p>	 <p>(Bird2) Hamlin Oakwood. Betty M. Holland Bursley. Peace Dove and Cross.</p>	 <p>(Bird3) Hamlin Oakwood. Mary B. & Albert C. Verhelle. Doves.</p>
---	--	---

Books: A book on a gravestone may depict learning, a scholar, a prayer, memory, or someone who worked as a writer, book seller, or publisher. Books and scrolls can also represent the Evangelists. A single Holy Bible is often found on Christian stones. Books remind us that tombstones are documents, bearing vital statistics and epitaphs concerning the deceased. Books may be open, possibly to signify that the stone is a kind of biography, or closed in recognition of the fact that the story of the dead is over. The book on a tombstone may be The Book or The Bible. This identification can be clinched by the presence of a citation (e.g. John 19:14) or an actual line of scripture. Arabic characters identify the book as the Koran.




 <p>(Book1) Bosworth. Open Book.</p>	 <p>(Book20) Rose Hill. Brunton family monument. Closed Book & Open Gates</p>	 <p>(Book30) Hamlin Oakwood. Pierson family monument. Book of Life & ??????</p>
--	---	--

Candle: Candles stand for the spirit or the soul. In Christian contexts, candles can symbolize Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. Catholics often leave candles on the grave to show that prayers have been said for the deceased.




	<p>(Candle30) Union/John son/Partlow. Bertha & Guy Skinner.</p>		<p>(Candle80) West Windsor. Kelly monument.</p>	 <p>(Candle90) Bunker. H. L. Bud Johnson</p>
---	---	---	---	--

Child: Children gravestones often have lambs and angels.


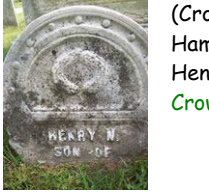

Empty shoes symbolize the loss of a child. Usually one shoe is overturned.

	<p>(Child1) Bosworth. Lamb on top of stone.</p>		<p>(Child2) Bosworth. Franklin H. & Wm. O. Moore. Two Lambs.</p>	 <p>(Child20) Millerburg Connie Sue Cooley. Baby Angel with lamb.</p>
---	---	---	--	--

Columns: A broken column signifies the loss of a head of family.

	<p>(Column1) Center Eaton. J. D. Bryan</p>		<p>(Broken1) Fox. Philip Bush. Broken Pillar.</p>	 <p>(Column15) Deepdale. Phalen family monument.</p>
---	--	---	---	--

Crown: Victory or triumph over death. immortality, righteousness, victory, triumph, resurrection, symbolic of honor or glory, glory of life after death

	<p>(Crown20) Rosehill. William Smith. Crown with Cross</p>		<p>(Crown30) Hamlin Oakwood. Henry Blodgett. Crown of Victory?</p>	 <p>(Crown90) Haner. Alice & Loretta Barrett.</p>
---	--	---	--	---

Fire Department & Ladies Auxiliary:

 <p>(Fire2 & 4) Hamlin Oakwood. Everett M. Brandt. "In Line of Duty" Eaton Rapids</p>	 <p>(Fire3, 3a, 3b) Hamlin Oakwood. Robert & Juanita Brenke. Fire Department Flag & Vet.</p>	 <p>(Fire154) Rosehill Vernice T. & Robert H. Trescott. Lansing Fire Dept.</p>
--	---	--

Flowers: flowers symbolize human life and beauty, but also have individual associations. Often associated with the Virgin Mary and resurrection.

Broken bud/branch	Untimely or premature death. usually young person.
Broken Flower	life terminated
Calla Lily	Beauty and often marriage or resurrection
Daisy	Innocence, usually child.
Easter Lily	Purity, Chastity
Lily of the Valley	Purity, innocence, virginity
Lotus	Creation & rebirth.
Morning Glory	Resurrection. Also beauty, youth & love.
Pansy	Remembrance & humility
Passion Flower	Symbolizes Christ's passion.
Poppy	Eternal sleep.
Rose	Beauty.
Sunflower	Devotion to God.
Tulip	Love & passion.

 <p>(Flower2) Hamlin Oakwood. James Smith.</p>	 <p>(Flower20) Hamlin Oakwood H. P. Onderdonk.</p>	 <p>(Flower21) Spaulding. George Gamble. Rose bud hanging down.</p>
--	--	--

Family:

 <p>(Family1) Woodlawn. Lori Lynn Remes</p>	 <p>(Family2) Maple Hill. Marilyn L. Gibson</p>	 <p>(Family3) Bosworth. Donald R. & Margaret E. Bradley</p>
--	--	--

Marriage: There are many popular symbols for marriage.




 <p>(Marriage1) Center Eaton. Robert Jr. & Yvonne Hicks.</p>	 <p>(Marriage2) Patterson. Raymond & Bernita Hine.</p>	 <p>(Marriage3) Perry. Seward & Alfa Ball.</p>
---	---	---

Occupation, Music & Hobbies: Symbols and sayings on these headstones may or may not indicate their profession, occupation and/or hobby.

	(Music90) Center Eaton. Charles W. Schaffer. Saxophone		(Music91) Bunker. Michael Jay Williams. Guitar		(Bread1) Center Eaton. Irene I. Carter Whitaker. Loaf of Bread
 Thomas A. Garland Michigan State Police	(Hobby208 & 209) Dimondale.		(Occupation1) Courter-Pray. Jane Pray Bruner Fell. RN		(Occupation2) Rosehill. Dr. John Henderson. Doctor, Anchor
	(Occupation30) Union. Patrick Glover. Carpenter		(Occupation90) Center Eaton. Karen J. Spedowski. Professional Legal Secretary		(Plane1) Perry. Jack I. Stevens. Flying

Plants:




- Century Plant Immortality; everlasting life
- Corn Rebirth, fertility.
- Fern Humilty & sincerity
- Ivy Friendship, fidelity and immortality
- Laurel Memory of deceased. Victory, distinction, eternity, immortality.
- Oak Leaf Longevity (long life).
- Palm Military victory. Victory over death. Martydom & eternal peace.
- Thistle Earthly sorrow. Crown of thorns. Scottish graves.
- Wheat A sheaf represents harvest, usually on older people

	(Plant1) Hamlin Oakwood. Arnold monument. Looks like thistle		(Plant2) Hamlin Oakwood. Bradford/Martin monument. Shaft of wheat		(Plant3) Fox. Melissa D. McDonald. Wheat & sycle & anchor
---	---	---	---	---	---




Rope:

	(Rope80) West Windsor. Whitney family monument.		(Rope90) Strange. Pollard family monument.		(Rope50) Olivet. Galusha family stone.
---	---	---	--	--	--

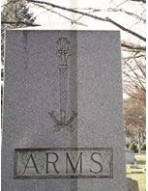


Scroll:

	(Scroll1) Moyer. Adam Boyer.		(Scroll2) Perry. Charles & Libbie Dahlem.		(Wreath80) West Windsor. Clara E. Brandeberry Scroll within wreath.
---	---------------------------------------	---	--	--	---

Sun:

	(Sun1) Hamlin Oakwood. Harry D. Thuma. Setting Sun		(Sun2) Rose Hill. Benson family monument. Viking Ship with setting sun. (snake???)		(Photo18) Rosehill. Anthony David Gibson.
---	---	---	--	--	---

Torch:

	(Torch60) Oakwood Oneida. Arms family stone.		(Torch80) West Windsor. Wm. Frank & Ella E. North.		(Torch90) Center Eaton. Edick family monument.
---	--	---	--	--	---

Trees:

Dogwood
Fallen Tree

Resurrection, sacrifice, eternal life.
Mortality, death

Oak Tree

The mighty oak tree, often represented as oak leaves and acorns, signifies strength, honor, longevity and steadfastness.

Olive Branch

The olive branch, often depicted in the mouth of a dove, symbolizes peace - that the soul has departed in the peace of God.

Palm Tree or Frond

Victory over death.

Tree Trunk/Stump



Usually Woodmen of the World member. Broken branches means a life cut short.

Weeping Willow

Sadness, sorrow & mourning

	(Tree1) Hamlin Oakwood. Willow tree, but broken.		(Tree3) Hamlin Oakwood. Josiah Pierson. Willow tree		(Tree4) Union. Nancy Compton. Willow tree.
	(Tree2) Hamlin Oakwood. DePue monument. Tree Stump with ferns		(Tree20) Courter-Pray. Koon, Addison family. Two tall trees with branches together.		(Tree21) Millerburg. Rebecca McLaughlin.

Urns:

	<p>(Urn60) Oakwood Oneida. Brown Anderson</p>		<p>(Urn90) Rosehill. Russell Ware.</p>		<p>(Urn91) Center Eaton. Benjamin & Sarah Butler.</p>
	<p>(Urn50) Rosehill. Fairbanks family monument</p>				

Religion

Angel: An angel is a religious symbol. A guide to heaven. "Messengers of God", often depicted escorting the deceased to heaven or mourning untimely death. Often on a child's gravestone. The agent of God, often pointing towards heaven; guardians of the dead, symbolizing spirituality. Angels are shown in all types of poses with different symbolism. Two angels can be named, and are identified by the objects they carry: Michael, who bears a sword and Gabriel, who is depicted with a horn.

	<p>(Angel1) Hamlin Oakwood Cemetery.</p>		<p>(Angel30) Pioneer. Hugh & Stephen Hamilton.</p>		<p>(Angel60) Oakwood Oneida. Cora L. Foster</p>
<p>John A. Hipshire.</p>		<p>Face with wings.</p>			

Religious Symbols:

	<p>(R100) Maple Hill. O'Neal (Mother & Father)</p>		<p>(R101) Benton Twp. Michael Rounds & Mabel Hamman</p>		<p>(R102) Maple Hill. Reuben F. Saurer</p>
---	--	---	---	---	--




Bible:

	(Religion1) Hamlin Oakwood. Gerald A. Kikendall. Bible		(Bible15) Delta Center. Ellazar Waterman		(Bible50) Olivet. Joseph C. Parsons
---	---	---	---	--	---




Cross: the Cross is an emblem of faith. There are many different types of crosses and each may mean something different. Christianity. Usually mounted on three steps, signifying 'faith, hope and charity'. The most potent symbol of the Christian faith, the cross has been used for religious and ornamental purposes since time immemorial. To the Aztecs it symbolized the god of rain, the Scandinavians set them up as boundary markers, and two buns marked with a cross were found at the ancient Egyptian site of Herculaneum.

	(Cross1) Bosworth. Julia A. Spicer.		(Cross2) Hamlin Oakwood. Daniel C. Arnold. Triangles, making a cross.		(Cross21) Millerburg. Walter Amburn Benson. Military Cross with vet flag.
---	--	---	---	---	--

Draperies: Mourning.

	(Religion81.) West Windsor. SEP Albro.		(Religion60) Oakwood Onieda. McDaniels family stone.		(Religion66) Oakwood Oneida. Robert Esler.
---	--	---	--	--	--

Gates: Passage from earth to heaven.

	(Religion20) Spaulding. McConnell family monument. Gate to heaven with bird		(Religion5) Hamlin Oakwood. Frank & Emma Boatman. Gate to heaven		(Religion6) Hamlin Oakwood. William & Sophronia McAllister. Gate with bird
---	---	---	--	--	---

Hands: There are several positions of hands and fingers.

- Hand, Pointing Up - Pathway to heaven.
- Hand, Finger pointing down - God reaching down
- Hands, Clasped - Farewells or the bond of marriage
- Hands, Praying - Asking God for Eternal life.
- Hands, Blessing - Blessing of those left behind.

-Hands, Reaching -

 <p>(Religion2) Hamlin Oakwood. Prudence Gilman. Gone Home hand with finger pointing up</p>	 <p>(Religion3) Mason, Maryette King. Left hand with finger pointing up</p>	 <p>(Religion34) Pioneer, Catherine Sattler. Hand & leaves and ????</p>
--	--	---

Jesus/Shepherd:

 <p>(Religion 38) Union. Megan Candice Little. Jesus holding children etched on stone.</p>	 <p>(Religion9) Hamlin Oakwood. Rose & Forest Smith. Christ kneeling</p>	 <p>(Religion85) West Windsor. Marvin V. Kelly. Grapes - 'Blood of Christ'.</p>
---	---	---

Rosary Beads & Mary:

 <p>(Religion3 2) Pioneer. Edward G. Jurstik. Rosary beads & Cross.</p>	 <p>(Religion7) Hamlin Oakwood. Francis Joan Miller. Rosary beads</p>	 <p>(Religion100) Maple Hill. Pantelitsa Nicolaou</p>
---	---	--

Organizations





Eaton County Cemetery Organization Examples

American Legion & Legion Auxiliary: A Veteran organization....

 <p>(Legion30) Hamlin Oakwood. Walter Howard.</p>	 <p>(Legion1) Hamlin Oakwood. Jay Conklin. American Legion with FLT.</p>	 <p>(Legion2) Hamlin Oakwood. George Wesley Egan. American Legion with 40/8</p>
--	---	---

Veterans




General:

 <p>(Vet308 & 309) Rosehill.</p>  <p>Richard L. Guy WWII, Korea, Vietnam Veteran</p>	 <p>(Vet93) Kalamo. Elston D. Morris.</p>	 <p>(Vet95) Kalamo. Orlo E. Stewart.</p>
--	--	--

GAR - Grand Army of the Republic: An organization of Civil War Veterans.

 <p>(Gar45 & 46) Delta Center.</p>  <p>Wardell family stone.</p>	 <p>(GAR11,12,13,14) Oakwood Oneida.</p>	 <p>(Gar16) Oakwood Oneida.</p>
 <p>(GAR2) Bosworth. Thos. W. B. Williams. GAR with date & extra stars.</p>	  <p>(Gar22a & 22) Follett. William & Lucena Pixley</p>	 <p>(GAR9) Hamlin Oakwood. Isaac Shaul. G A R etched on stone</p>

Shapes and Unique Headstones

 <p>(Shape2) Millerburg. Daniel Miller. Urn on top.</p>	 <p>(Shape61) Oakwood Oneida. Gallup monument.</p>	 <p>(Shape60) Oneida Oakwood. Jas. H., Nancy A. & Dick Spencer</p>
--	---	---



(Shape30)
Pioneer. Pansy & Clifford Parsons. Barn-shaped.





(Shape5)
Rosehill. Andrew & Clarissa Winn.



(Shape4)
Rosehill. Sarah Kellogg.

Notable People of Eaton County

Location	Name	Information	Buried	Photo
Vermontville	Simeon (& James Howard) McCotter	One of the first Vermontville Colonists.	Woodlawn	 <p style="text-align: right;">(Notable2)</p>
Bellevue	Rev. Henry Robinson	First structure built on north side of Battle Creek River in Bellevue. (House with cupola)	Maple Hill	 <p style="text-align: right;">(Notable6)</p>

Cemetery Named After Families

Freemire	 <p>(Freemire1) Willard L. Freemire</p>	 <p>(Freemire2) Elsie M. & Roy W. Freemire</p>	
----------	--	--	--