



March 2018 Newsletter

President's Letter -Welcome to Spring! (oops - wishful thinking for March!)

As you can see from the following newsletter, the Historical Society has been busy over the winter planning for the busy upcoming season. Both Gordon Hall and the Museum have many events planned for the spring and summer. Please mark your calendars for all of our events.

We are an all-volunteer group that works hard to preserve the history of Dexter. If you would like to join us for any of the upcoming events and/or with the Historical Society in general, please let us know - we would love to have you join us.

Thanks, Beverly Hill beverlyhill6@gmail.com

Museum Opens May 4th with “Wedding Dress Collection”



The Dexter Area Museum will open for the season on May 4th, 2018 featuring a collection of wedding attire donated by local persons. Our collection spans the years from 1865 to 1965. Our most complete wedding attire is from 1890: the wedding gown of Hattie Phelps and the groom's attire of Burt Kenny.

Wedding dress or gown styles have changed through the years. In Western cultures, the bride often chose a white wedding dress, which was made popular by Queen Victoria. After the turn of the century, wedding dresses often reflected the fashions of the day. This continued until the late 1960's when it became popular to revert to long, full-skirted designs reminiscent of the Victorian era.

Museum Open House and Tea Sunday, May 6

You are cordially invited to a presentation of period wedding gowns and attire on Sunday, May 6, 2018 beginning at 3 PM at the Dexter Area Museum located at 3443 Inverness Street in Dexter. Carol Jones will present the history of American Weddings, Nina Rackham and Sue Behnke, will present the Museum collection of gowns and garments from area families and Nancy Van Blaricum will discuss the genealogy of some of the families represented. Light refreshments of Coffee/Tea and dessert will be served.

Cost for this event is \$25 per person which goes to support the Museum. Please make your reservation by calling the Museum at 734-426-2519 or emailing us at DexMuseum@aol.com.

Antique Appraisal Day

Coming to Dexter

Saturday, May 12, 2018

9:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Have you ever wondered about an item you inherited or maybe bought at a sale? This would be a wonderful day to talk with an appraiser to find out about that item.



The Appraisers are from DuMouchelles Art Gallery in Detroit and will be evaluating antiques and family treasures at the Dexter Area Museum on Saturday, **May 12 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

To make an appointment, call 734-424-9998.



Each 15-minute appointment will include a verbal appraisal for one to three items. A donation of \$7.00 per appraised item is requested. Proceeds support the preservation and operation of the **Dexter Area Museum, located at 3443 Inverness St., Dexter, 48130.**



On the **day of the event**, please **call the Museum at 734-426-2519** with any questions. The Museum's website is: www.DexterHistory.org.

2018 Gordon Hall Days



Welcome to an exciting summer at Gordon Hall. Mark June 23rd and 24th on your calendar for our 2018 Gordon Hall Days, from 9 to 4 both days. This year we will have Antique and vintage booths, a car show, activities for children, tours of Gordon Hall, special music and

so much more.

On Saturday June 23rd at 6 pm, George Bedard and the King Pins will be at Gordon Hall. Tickets will go on sale in late April. The evening also includes tours of Gordon Hall and hearty appetizers. Further information will be available later at our website.

All proceeds will be used for the restoration of Gordon Hall and we can use all the help that we can get as we work towards this goal.

HELP WANTED FOR GORDON HALL DAYS

Please consider volunteering to help at this exciting event. We have many activities planned and would love to have your help to make the event a success. If you would like to help, please email DexMuseum@aol.com or call Bev Hill at [\(734\) 426-4767](tel:734-426-4767).

As a part of Gordon Hall Days this year, we are also planning to have a vintage and antique market. Call Bev Hill or check the Dexter Area Historical Society website for details if you would like a booth to sell your antiques or vintage items.



Looking forward to hearing from you!

Christmas At The Mansion

A special thank you to all of our visitors and helpers at our 2017 winter "Christmas At The Mansion". We had beautiful weather for all of the events, and we had over 800 visitors!! Our gingerbread houses and visits with Santa Claus seem to have become a family tradition for many families as they start their holiday season. Our Friday night social and Sunday tea were also enjoyed by many guests. It was so great to see so many new and familiar faces.



Thanks go out to the many wonderful volunteers and sponsors who made this event possible. We also want to thank everyone that attended and helped to make this a great ending for a prosperous year at Gordon Hall.

Notes from the Heritage Guild

Thank you to the Historical Society and community for their contributions to the museum through their support of the Holiday Bazaar on December 2, 2017. The Heritage Guild also held post Bazaar sales at the Museum and at Gordon Hall during the holiday season. This year, the Guild will try creating and selling kitchen items at Gordon Hall Days, so



look for us there.

The Heritage Guild would also like to thank all the members and friends of the Historical Society for their contribution in making the Holiday Bazaar Bake Sale a delicious success!

With the bazaar, the bake sale, and the drawing, the Guild raised over \$5,000 for the Museum.

To everyone who contributed wonderful baked goods, breads, pies, canned jams and more, to those who organized and worked at the sale and to everyone who purchased items, we send our thanks and appreciation.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Heritage Guild

Obed Taylor's House

By Ceci Riecker*



Photo: Courtesy of Pinterest

Until last fall, the Cobblestone House, located at the corner of Baker and Shield, had long been a historic landmark in Dexter. Casual observers may have noticed that it had not been occupied for years, obvious by the fact that its windows and doors were boarded up. Its walls were crumbling, and the South wall bowed precariously outward, revealing a gap of several feet between the walls at the back of the house. The original mortise and tenon joint on the Southwest corner had come completely uncoupled, exposing the interior to the elements and

pulling the structure slowly towards the ground. It was no longer safe to be used for housing. Its current owners took a careful look at the possibility of restoring it, but to no avail. There was no hope for the crumbling structure and they disassembled it last fall, saving what they could of the original house.

The house was built sometime in the 1840s, making it one of the earliest homes in the area. Its builder, a Massachusetts farmer named Obed Taylor, was given forty acres in exchange for digging out a mill race on Mill Creek for Vrelon Bates. Bates was one of the founding settlers in the area. Taylor dug the mill race by hand, which took two years.

The house was in the Greek Revival style, which is a common house type in this area (although **cobblestone** houses of this type are very rare). Greek Revival features include a symmetrical shape, pilasters, columns on some styles, a porch entry, and plain or highly decorated cornices and friezes. Chimneys were placed as far back as possible to make the home look more like a Greek temple. Most houses of this style are considered “gable fronters,” meaning the gable end faces front rather than to the side.

Though the foundation was built of fieldstone, the exterior walls were cobblestones picked up along the waters of Mill Creek and its surrounding fields. Cobblestones are typically the size of one's hand and are smoothed and rounded by water. Cobbles were laid in rows, called “courses,” sometimes using multicolored



Bowed Wall. Photo by Nancy Van Blaricum



Cobblestone pattern. Photo: Nancy Van Blaricum

stones to form a pattern. The cobbles were mortared together with quicklime, made from burning limestone from the creek in a kiln and mixing the ash with water.

Most of the walls were still stuck together with the original mortar from the 1840s, first put up over 175 years ago!

The mill, first a sawmill and later a flour mill, was at the intersection of Shield Rd. and Mill Creek itself. The public sidewalk from Dexter High School to Shield passes in front of the embankment that formed the mill pond. The embankment still exists. The stone from this mill, scored with use, is now displayed outside the Dexter Area Museum.

Time and the elements finally caught up with Obed Taylor's house and Dexter lost a unique landmark. Time marches on with the impending 2018 construction of a roundabout at that corner. As you whiz by on your way in or out of town, try to imagine Obed Taylor building the house, stone by stone, 175 years ago.



Mill Stone from Mill Creek

*Ceci Riecker studied Historic Preservation at Eastern Michigan University and is a new member of the Board of DAHS.

DEXTER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS

President - Bev Hill
Vice-President - Ina Germain
Secretary - Sharon Wheeler
Treasurer - Carol Jones

DIRECTORS

Neil Adams
Sue Behnke
Stephanie Bell
Caryl Burke
Shawn Pierre
Nina Rackham
Ceci Riecker
Nancy Van Blaricum
Sybil Vanhouten

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WEBMASTER - Rachel Szymanski: bassclefchick@gmail.com
GORDON HALL SPECIAL EVENTS - Bene Fusilier: 734-426-8972
DEXTER HERITAGE GUILD - Pat Pudduck: patpudduck@gmail.com
RESEARCH - Nancy J. Van Blaricum: DexMuseum@aol.com

FACILITIES:

DEXTER AREA MUSEUM - 3443 Inverness, Dexter, MI 48130
GORDON HALL - 8311 Island Lake Rd., Dexter, MI 48130

Provided to you by the Dexter Area Historical Society

PHONE - 734-426-2519

WEBSITE: www.DexterHistory.org

EMAIL: DexMuseum@aol.com

Please check your email or mailing label for your membership expiration date. All Fees are due in January of each year. Please printout, fill in, and return this form with your check made out to: DAHS and Mail to DAHS, 3443 Inverness, Dexter, MI 48130.

Dexter Area Historical Society

Check Membership Type
ACTIVE - Individual (age 18 or older; 1 vote)
 \$15 Annual
 \$200 Life
 \$150 Life (age 60 or older)

Date _____

ACTIVE - Family (2 adults) (age 18 or older; 2 votes)
 \$25 Annual
 \$300 Life
 \$250 Life (age 60 or older)

AUXILIARY - Family
 Children under 18 of Active Individual or Family Members (no additional dues; 0 votes)

AUXILIARY - Business
 \$50 Annual (0 votes)

New Member **Renewal**

Please Indicate Residence Location

City of Dexter Township Other

Contact Information (please print)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone #'s _____
Home _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Please make your check payable to
Dexter Area Historical Society
 Mail to: **3443 Inverness Street, Dexter MI 48130**
 First-time members will receive a membership card.

All Memberships, except Life, are up for renewal each January.

Opportunities for Participation

Please check those you want to be involved in or would like information about.

Historical Society	Gordon Hall
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> Housekeeping
<input type="checkbox"/> Programs	<input type="checkbox"/> Building Maintenance
<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Maintenance
	<input type="checkbox"/> Tour Guide
Museum	Activities/Events
<input type="checkbox"/> Displays	<input type="checkbox"/> Gordon Hall Days
<input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy	<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Bazaar
<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Research	<input type="checkbox"/> Gordon Hall Christmas Events
<input type="checkbox"/> Tour Guide	<input type="checkbox"/> Dexter Heritage Guild
<input type="checkbox"/> Curator Assistant	

Donations

DAHS is a 501(c)3 Organization

I would like to donate \$ _____ for the following purpose:

DAHS General Fund Society Programs

Museum Maintenance and Operation

Gordon Hall Maintenance and Operation

Gordon Hall Restoration

Contact Information

Museum Phone: 734-426-2519
 Museum Email: dexmuseum@aol.com
 DAHS Website: http://www.dexterhistory.org
 DAHS Facebook: www.facebook.com/dexterhistory/
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