



DEXTER AREA  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DAHS November 2018

# Newsletter

## **Christmas at the Mansion - Friday Night**

**Trees, Trimmings and Toys at Gordon Hall**

**Friday, November 30 - 6:30 to 9:30 Open House**

**Spirits and Hearty Hors d'oeuvres in beautifully decorated Gordon Hall**

**\$65 per person**

**For additional information contact Ina Germain at 734-395-4106 or go to [dexterhistory.org](http://dexterhistory.org)**

### **CHRISTMAS AT THE MANSION**

Now that Christmas is nigh, Gordon Hall will once again come alive with beautiful decorations, our



Christmas village collection, Santa Claus, and the smell of sweets as gingerbread houses are being made to take home for the holidays.

Gordon Hall will be open for Christmas at the Mansion on Saturday, December 1st from 9 am to 5 pm. Note however that Santa Claus will have to leave at 3 pm to get back to the North Pole to get ready for Christmas! Donations of \$5 are suggested.

Gordon Hall will be also open on the evenings of December 8, 9, 15, 29 and 30 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. so you can all enjoy the village Christmas collection.

We hope that you can visit during one of these times. The holidays are coming and Gordon Hall will be ready to help you celebrate the holidays so please mark your calendars and we hope to see you at Gordon Hall.

### **CHRISTMAS TEA AT GORDON HALL** **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2nd**

What a more perfect way to start the holidays than with a tea at Gordon Hall that has been decorated for Christmas. Tea with tea sandwiches, light deserts, and a speaker on Greek Revival Architecture in Dexter will make for a special time. Servings will be at 1 and 4 in the afternoon with a limit of forty per seating. Please call Ina Germain for reservations at (734) 395-4106. (\$30 per seating)



## **2018 Holiday Bazaar**

The Dexter Heritage Guild will present its annual Holiday Bazaar from 9:00 am to 3 pm on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at the Dexter Area Museum, 3443 Inverness Street. Visitors will find tables full of a large variety of handcrafted items, everything from holiday ornaments and décor, winter apparel for everyone, decorative centerpieces, the Guild's signature scrubbies and more!

The drawing this year will include: a queen size Log Cabin design quilt, a gift certificate to the Encore Theater and to a local restaurant and a 24" ceramic lite Christmas tree.

Be sure to visit the Museum's Corner Gift Shop for more unique items. The Bazaar bake sale will have deliciously baked treats, home canned treasures, plus treats for our pets too. Santa will be at the bazaar from 11 - 1:00, bring your camera!



A friendly reminder to members and friends of the Museum: your wonderful donations to the Bazaar bake sale will add to the success of the sale. Anything you donate, will be greatly appreciate.

On Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, several ladies from the Heritage Guild will be at the Museum to collect the bake sale donations. The time for the drop-off will be 8:30 – 3:00. Please label your items, list if there are any nuts, and if gluten-free. If you have any questions, please call Sue Schotts, 734-424-9998. Thank you for your support.

## **Passport Bazaar Fun!**

This year we are teaming up for a fun Holiday Passport. Guests receive a paper passport at any of the 4 participating locations within Dexter:

- Winterberry Market at Dexter Methodist Church
- Holiday Bazaar at St. Andrews Church
- Senior Center Craft Show at the Senior Center
- Heritage Guild Holiday Bazaar at the Museum

Guests visiting the participating locations, will receive a stamp in their passport. Once they visit all 4 locations, they receive an entry form to win one of 4 baskets.

On Sunday, December 2nd, Jennifer Brassow will draw the winner's names and contact them to pick up their prize. You do not need to be present to win.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Jennifer Brassow at 734-717-1202 or email: [jhopebrassow@yahoo.com](mailto:jhopebrassow@yahoo.com)

## Presidents Letter

Welcome to the holidays!

Thank you for all of your great support throughout the year. As you will see from the newsletter we have been very busy and will be busy during the holidays. Please enjoy the newsletter and plan to visit the museum and Gordon Hall during the holidays.



I would also like to add a special thank you for our board. They are strong leaders in so many areas in helping make our museum and Gordon Hall a great addition to our community.

## CANDY NEEDED!!

Please save your extra Halloween candy, clean out your candy bin, or even buy some sale candy after Halloween for our annual gingerbread house project during Christmas at the Mansion. Please drop off any candy at the museum on Friday and Saturday afternoons or call Bev Hill at (734) 426-4767 for a pick up.



## ANTIQUARIANS VISIT "WEDDING GOWNS AND ATTIRE" DISPLAY

The Antiquarians and their guests visited the Museum in early October and learned about history, customs and traditions of weddings.



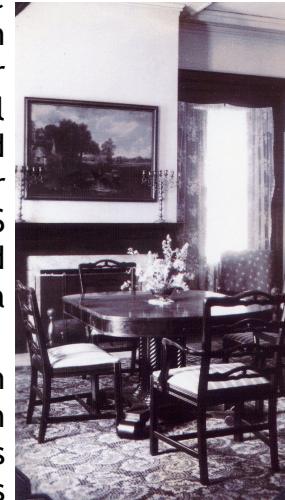
They viewed garments including bride's dresses, bridesmaid's dresses, men's suits, tuxedos and other wedding accessories. The display of beautiful old wedding certificates, photos and other documents were enjoyed by all.

Some of the wedding garments and documents will be displayed until mid-November during our regular hours.

## September 29th Fundraising Dinner

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Chelsea graciously sponsored a fundraising dinner in support of Gordon Hall on September 29th. It was a very successful event, generating over \$38,000 to continue the restoration of Gordon Hall. Nancy Graebner CEO of Chelsea Hospital once again came forward to support the Dexter community and the DAHS vision of a restored Gordon Hall as an area wide historical venue.

A Live Auction with auctioneer John Hansen and a Raffle with items donated by generous Dexter businesses and the DAHS Board helped to generate funds during the evening. The Bob & Jan Lyons Foundation and Jan Lyons were major event sponsors in addition to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Chelsea. The event was chaired by Jan Lyons, Ina Germain, Dick Lundy and John Thorhauer with additional support from Caryl Burke and Bev Hill. We want to extend a sincere THANK YOU to all who attended or supported this wonderful evening.



Gordon Hall Dining Room in 1941

## Gordon Hall Days 2019



The 2019 Gordon Hall Days will be on June 22nd and 23rd. We will be having the Antique vendors and vehicles again, but we are also working on other special activities which we will share in future newsletters. The kids games tent, Gordon Hall Tours, the tea, the special Saturday night event and other activities will continue during Gordon Hall Days 2019.

## The Museum Report

The Museum opened for the season on May 4th with a display of Wedding Attire from our collection. A booklet was created that told about the weddings and persons who wore the wedding gowns, bridesmaid dresses, tuxedoes and other attire. We had a tea on Sunday, May 6th to formally introduce our display.

Throughout the summer we had many visitors who came specifically to see the Bridal display. In early October, the Antiquarians Group came and enjoyed the Wedding Display. After the Antiquarians visit, we removed some of the dresses and mannequins so that the display room would be available for the second grade tours.

There were a total of 116 second graders and 32 adults who toured the museum on October 8th and 9th. Thanks to Bev, Bene, Joanne, Judy and Richard for hosting the tours.

The Eastern Michigan University students who were working on the Architecture of Gordon Hall, used the museum collections to learn more about the history of Gordon Hall.

We are always working on as needed projects including questions on the older homes as new people move into the area. Using the records we have and the memories of our staff and their families, we do our best to build histories of the homes.

Cindy continues to catalog and number items donated to the museum. Donations can be brought in when we are open on Friday and Saturday from 1 to 3 and it is necessary to fill out the paperwork so we can document the items. No items are to be left outside the Museum or Gordon Hall. Without documentation we will not be able to keep items.

Our 2019 display will be family Bibles from our collection. Nancy has already started working on this project, using our files and other records to try and figure out how the Bibles connect to the Dexter Area.

We are now preparing the Museum for the Historical Guild's Bazaar on December 1st.

## The Gordon Hall Report

Gordon Hall had many activities this year beginning with 2nd grade tours in May. The guides were Bev, Ina, Judy, Paul, Richard and Sharon. They shared with the 2nd graders, parents and teachers the history of Gordon Hall.

Weddings and receptions began on May 26th and the last for the year was on September 22nd. Scheduling for next year has already begun.

In June during Gordon Hall Days we introduced a new program with Antique Vendors and vehicles. We also had our first George Bedard Concert and Dance on Saturday evening. The children's games and Gordon Hall Tours offered activities for all ages. The Lions Club had their food wagon as well as a Vision Testing Truck which offered free testing for all.

In August we hosted the Washtenaw County Historical Consortium and provided tours of Gordon Hall. We shared the history with about 18 representatives. The group meets quarterly at different Historic sites and they share information and techniques that help them improve their various Museums or Historic sites. Students from both the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University have been doing research on Gordon Hall. Ceci has written information on both on the next page.

September 29th was the dinner at the Chelsea Hospital in support of Gordon Hall. This event has proven to be an opportunity to share information about Gordon Hall and make new friends. The article above further describes this event.

December will bring the Christmas At the Mansion activities mentioned on the first page above. We are always looking for volunteers willing to help us with all the events at Gordon Hall. If you are interest in Volunteering at Gordon Hall, please let us know. Our email is [DexMuseum@aol.com](mailto:DexMuseum@aol.com) or you can call Bev Hill at 734-426-4767.

We have had a number of items being left at Gordon Hall. As stated in the Museum article, we have a procedure that calls for us to determine if items are appropriate and usable and then we have you fill out a form so we can document them. If you have items to donate, please contact Bev Hill at 734-426-4767 or email us at [DexMuseum@aol.com](mailto:DexMuseum@aol.com) and we will discuss the items.

## Gordon Hall Hosts UM and EMU Students, by Ceci Riecker

Gordon Hall had some very special visitors this fall. The Dexter Historical Society hosted classes from UM and EMU at the mansion. We were thrilled to have these young scholars helping us uncover some more facts about our beloved Gordon Hall.

Archaeology students from a field methods course at the U-M Museum of Anthropological Archaeology conducted excavations at this historic nineteenth-century home, which was built in the 1840s by Judge Samuel W. Dexter and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The class was led by Blair Zaid. The students dug five pits around the outside of the house in their quest to discover and document artifacts that will illuminate the lives of the people who have lived there over the past 175 years. The students also shared their methods and talked about their discoveries to the public on Saturday, October 20th, which was International Archaeology Day. Their latest find, the 8-holer stone privy's foundation, has been the biggest to date, and it should provide the students with much more information. Watch for future newsletter articles about this exciting find!



The Dexter Historical Society hosted a 2-weekend class from the Historic Preservation Program at EMU, "Preservation Administration and Planning," taught by Dr. Ted Ligibel. These



students were assigned to write a Historic Structures Report, a document that provides a clear description of the building's architectural history, including its original appearance, what changes were made and when, and its present condition. In addition, it provides guidance and recommendations with respect to any proposed new work. DAHS will use this report to support grants and future new architectural work and renovations to Gordon Hall. The students were split into four teams to cover the vast property: Basement and first floor, second floor and attic, exterior and outbuildings, and an editorial team that will assemble the findings into a final report. These teams presented their findings on October 28th at the Museum to an appreciative audience.

Both classes' findings will be added to our archives for public research, and for our use. We hope to host classes from these 2 institutions again in the near future so that they might continue their valuable work at Gordon Hall. Look for announcements about public events at the mansion that will include their findings. *Ceci Riecker is a graduate of the EMU Historic Preservation Program and a member of the DAHS board of directors.*

## DEXTER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### OFFICERS

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

### DIRECTORS

Neil Adams  
Sue Behnke  
Caryl Burke  
Shawn Pierre  
Ceci Riecker  
Nancy Van Blaricum  
Jan Weaver

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**GORDON HALL SPECIAL EVENTS** - Bene Fusilier: **734-426-8972**  
**DEXTER HERITAGE GUILD** - Pat Pudduck: [patpudduck@gmail.com](mailto:patpudduck@gmail.com)  
**MUSEUM DIRECTOR** - Nina Rackham: [NDRackham@aol.com](mailto:NDRackham@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 EMAIL: [DexMuseum@aol.com](mailto:DexMuseum@aol.com) WEBSITE: [www.DexterHistory.org](http://www.DexterHistory.org)

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. Thank you!

## Dexter Area Historical Society

### Opportunities for Participation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### Check Membership Type

##### **ACTIVE - Individual**

(age 18 or older; 1 vote)  
 \$15 Annual  
 \$200 Life  
 \$150 Life (age 60 or older)

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

#### AUXILIARY - Family

#### AUXILIARY - Business

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

\$50 Annual  
(0 votes)

New Member       Renewal

Please Indicate Residence Location  
 City of Dexter       Township       Other

#### Contact Information (please print)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

DAHS is a 501(c)3 Organization

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

#### Gordon Hall

Housekeeping  
 Building Maintenance  
 Landscape Maintenance  
 Tour Guide

#### Activities/Events

Gordon Hall Days  
 Christmas Bazaar  
 Gordon Hall Christmas Events  
 Dexter Heritage Guild

#### Museum

Displays  
 Genealogy  
 Historical Research  
 Tour Guide  
 Curator Assistant

#### Donations

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

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.*

#### 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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