

President's Letter

As you will see in the newsletter, we have been very busy this year and will be even busier with the many exciting events scheduled to finish out the year.

Coming up in September is our fund raising dinner at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Chelsea to benefit the restoration of Gordon Hall. Chelsea Hospital has been an active supporter of the Historical Society and we once again thank them for their gracious hosting of this dinner.

In December we will finish the year with our annual Christmas At The Mansion event and our yearly Bazaar at the Museum - thanks to the Guild members. In addition to all of these events we will be busy with weddings and other special events.

We have a great team of volunteers who are working hard at the Museum and at Gordon Hall. Our Museum is open every Friday and Saturday from 1 to 3 pm. In addition to the numerous artifacts in the large display area areas, the Museum includes a genealogical library and a gift shop. With many new arrangements and exhibits, the Museum is ready for you to visit. Again thanks for all of your support!

Beverly Hill

President of the Dexter Area Historic Society

2019 DAHS Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting of the Dexter Area Historical Society will be held on

Saturday, September 14, 2019 at 2pm

at the Dexter District Library, 3255 Alpine St., Dexter, MI.

Special Presentations by:

Hopkins Burns Design Studio - Presenting our architectural plans for Gordon Hall
and also

Graduate Students from the University of Michigan - Presenting findings from the 2018 dig at Gordon Hall

September 21st Dinner to Benefit Gordon Hall

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Chelsea has graciously offered to once again sponsor a fundraising dinner at the hospital in support of Gordon Hall on Saturday, September 21st. They are providing a wonderful fall menu as well as the hospital dining room and wait staff.

The evening will begin at 6:00 with hors d'oeuvres and a wine/beer bar followed by a sit down dinner, raffles, a live auction, as well as a program featuring Gordon Hall and our restoration efforts thus far.

Tickets for the event are \$100 per person or \$500 for a table of 6 and of course the DAHS is a non-profit organization. Invitations have been mailed, but if you have not as yet received one, please contact Ina Germain at

734-395-4106 by text or phone.



Save the Date

An Evening in Support of Gordon Hall

Saturday, September 21, 2019, 6:00pm

*St Joseph Mercy Hospital Chelsea
775 S. Main St. ▪ Chelsea, MI 48118*

*Information- dexterhistory.org
or 734.395.4106*



2019 Gordon Hall Days



We had another successful Gordon Hall Days this year with two new events: the 3rd Graders at Wylie developed a "History Walk" which was made up of Historic posters highlighting many of our historic persons, businesses, buildings and other structures. Although 10 of the posters were placed on special holders made by an Eagle Scout candidate, the rest were placed in Gordon Hall where they

could be viewed by patrons who went on the Gordon Hall Tours. We had over 240 guests who went on the tour and learned the History of Gordon Hall. Another new event was the opportunity to help put together a small barn using the same techniques used by our ancestors. The beautiful weather brought out many of the Vintage Vehicles and the George Bedard Dance Band was enjoyed by all. Thank you to all who organized and volunteered to make this event a success.



2019 DAHS Raffle



We just finished our annual raffle during Dexter Daze with over \$21,000 in ticket sales! Our thanks to all who purchased tickets and special thanks to those who helped by selling them. Thanks to the whole community for your great support!



Heritage Guild Event September 28th



This is the first year the Dexter Heritage Guild will sell handmade apparel, household items and unique crafts at the **Webster Fall Festival** September 28th. Look for the Guild members inside the Crossroads Community Center. There will also be a drawing for a special, fall themed item.

Dexter Area Museum Bible Display

The Museum's current exhibit is of Family Bibles from our collection. The Bibles come in many different sizes from small hand held ones often given at Confirmation to large Family Bibles that often were gifts at a marriage. Most of the information on the family usually starts with the marriage, and the information provided tells the family story. We have studied the different Bibles and have done the best we could to explain how they may have been part of Dexter History. One large Bible on display is that of Wirt Dexter. It is on loan to us from the Elk Rapids Library and was donated to them by Wirt's daughter, Katharine Dexter McCormick.



CONTRIBUTING TO GORDON HALL OR THE DEXTER AREA MUSEUM

Did you know that if you shop with Amazon, Busch's or the Dexter Creamery, you can select the Dexter Historical Society to receive a percentage of your purchase? For Amazon shoppers you need to go to Amazon Smile to register, and then use Amazon Smile for your purchases. To register at Busch's, inquire at the Service Desk, and the Dexter Creamery folks will help you sign up to contribute to the Historical Society.

If you are required to take an IRA distribution, you can have part or all of that distribution sent to the Historical Society to benefit either Gordon Hall or the Museum and not have to pay income tax on that amount. Check with your financial institution or financial advisor to set this up. If there are additional questions, please call the Dexter Museum at 426-2519.

An Old Church Gets a New Life

The Dexter Area Historical Society was the first local society of its kind to organize in the State of Michigan. It was formed in 1971 with Norma McAllister and Frank Wilhelme as leaders. The first meeting was an attempt to get a group together with persons interested in the idea of forming a society. The good-sized group liked the idea of a society and agreed that we should include the Village of Dexter and the four surrounding townships of Dexter, Lima, Scio and Webster. A public meeting was held in July of 1971 and the large gathering unanimously approved the establishment of the Dexter Area Historical Society which would include the Village and the four surrounding townships.

The first board of the society consisted of a president, vice-president, secretary and a treasurer, plus one person to represent each of the four townships and one from the village. Soon after we had organized, we heard that St. Andrews Church was planning to build a new church building on the site of their original church. The board members met with the church board members to discuss the possibility of acquiring the old building for a museum. It was agreed that the church would give the building to the society to use for a museum providing the society moved the building. Thoughts of moving it to the grounds of the Bates School were dropped when the charges for the Edison Company to move wires along the route proved too costly. It was then that the church membership offered to allow us to move it across Fourth Street to a part of their parking lot. A seventy-five year lease on the portion of the parking lot was granted by the church.



The next concern was finding a suitable moving company to move the structure. The company we finally decided on, J. D. Porter of Westland, told us the building could be moved in its entirety, with sanctuary and addition, just as it stood, but the art glass windows would have to be covered with plywood. Measurements were taken and plans drawn for a new foundation and the building was finally moved across the street inching its way bit by bit and finally placed on the new foundation. By January, 1974 the building was on the new site when there were water problems in the basement from underground springs in the area. This problem finally solved, we were able to pour the basement floor. Soon after the gas and sewer lines were run into the building and Wally Fusilier installed the furnace for us. Our funds all during this time were very limited.

We filed for and received 501 (c) (3) Federal status and then the Dexter Area Historical Society could earn monies to support the museum and donated items to the museum or society could be deducted from the donor's Federal taxes according to its value.

The Dexter Sesquicentennial was celebrated in 1974 and some of the profits from the event went to the Dexter Area Historical Society. With these profits, along with some personal loans from members and help from a Kiwanis sale, we were able to pay all debts. From the beginning of organizing, discussions were held on ideas to raise money. It was decided that a Bazaar would be a good project and it was held the first weekend in December in 1971. A bit later, Joanne Hoeft asked if we would consider sponsoring a craft show. Norma presented the idea to the board for an arts and craft show whereby we would charge a small entrance fee and allow those craft people we contacted to sell some of their items, but they had to demonstrate their particular craft. The March Pioneer Art Fair was held very successfully until the 2012 Tornado forced us to cancel. We did hold the 2013 and 2014 shows, but they were dropped after that for various reasons.

Big changes to the Dexter Area Historical Society came in 2000 when the University of Michigan announced that they were going to sell Gordon Hall. We suddenly found ourselves with a new challenge and went to work to save the Mansion that was built from 1841 to 1843 for our village founder, Samuel William Dexter. Thanks to the work of many members and the community as a whole, we officially took possession of the Hall in March of 2006 and have worked since then to maintain this historic building. The future plans for Gordon Hall are to restore it historically to what we think it looked like in 1860s. We plan to continue to use it for special events as well as renting it for weddings or other special occasions.

The Dexter Area Historical Society has come a long way, but our purpose remains "to preserve our history and inspire our community to connect the past with the future".

Additional "Save the Date" Information

October 19th - Archeology Day at Gordon Hall - This is an opportunity to learn about the current work being done by the University of Michigan Archeological Students at Gordon Hall. There will be demonstrations by the students from 10 to 3 as well as informal tours of Gordon Hall. The public is invited.



December 7th - The Historical Guild Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday, December 7th from 9 to 3. An important part of the Bazaar is the Bake Sale and people love to make their selections from homemade baked goods and delicious jams/jellies or other canned garden specialities. Gardeners, as you are preparing canned items, please put some aside for the Bake Sale. Everyone's support is needed. Thank you.



December 6th, 7th and 8th - Christmas at the Mansion Events include our evening fundraising event on Friday, December 6th, Tours of the decorated Gordon Hall on Saturday, December 7th and our special Tea on Sunday, December 8th. As always, we welcome your help as a volunteer. There will be more details coming in the next newsletter.



New Membership Form

We now have a new Membership Form! It is simple and much easier to join and become part of the Dexter Area Historical Society! We always need volunteers of all ages and diverse skill sets, but one of the areas we have left off from this form is a place for you to indicate how you would like to volunteer to help us. Please let us know what you love to do by putting a note somewhere on the page! Membership fees are due January 1st each year. Please use the form on the next page to renew or begin a new membership. Return the form and your check made out to DAHS and mail to Dexter Area Historical Society, 3443 Inverness, Dexter, MI 48130. Thank you.

DEXTER DEXTER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

<p><u>OFFICERS:</u> President: Bev Hill Vice-President: Ina Germain Secretary: Sharon Wheeler Treasurer: Carol Jones</p>	<p><u>DIRECTORS:</u> Neil Adams Sue Behnke Caryl Burke Shawn Pierrel Ceci Riecker Nancy Van Blaricum Jan Weaver</p>	<p><u>CONTACT INFORMATION:</u> NEWSLETTER - Nancy J. Van Blaricum DexMuseum@aol.com WEBMASTER - Jan Weaver weaver74@charter.net GORDON HALL SPECIAL EVENTS - Bene Fusilier: 734-426-8972 HISTORICAL GUILD - Pat Pudduck: patpudduck@gmail.com MUSEUM DIRECTOR - Nina Rackham: NDRackham@aol.com <u>FACILITIES:</u> DEXTER AREA MUSEUM - 3443 Inverness, Dexter, MI 48130 GORDON HALL - 8311 Island Lake Rd., Dexter, MI 48130</p>
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PHONE - 734-426-2519 WEBSITE: www.DexterHistory.org EMAIL: DexMuseum@aol.com

Museum Hours: Friday and Saturday, 1 to 3 PM, May through November



Membership Form

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____
(home) (cell)

Email: _____

Membership Type* New member Renewal

\$_____ Individual \$15 yearly

\$_____ Family \$25 yearly

\$_____ Student \$2 yearly

\$_____ Business \$50

\$_____ Life \$200

Please indicate residence location:

City of Dexter

Township: _____

Other: _____

\$_____ Extra gift for Museum

\$_____ Extra gift for Gordon Hall

\$_____ **TOTAL**

-----Make checks payable to: **Dexter Area History Society (DAHS)**-----

Mail to:

Dexter Area Historical Society
3443 Inverness Street
Dexter, MI 48130

Contact:

Phone: 734.426.2519
Email: dexmuseum@aol.com
Website: dexterhistory.org
Find us on Facebook @dexterhistory
Dexter Area Historical Society

*All memberships except Life and Business are renewed each January.