



President's Letter:

Autumn has arrived with its beautiful colors and cold winds. But we at DAHS are warm inside and preparing eagerly for our holiday events. See the details below! In other news, we have adopted a new email address: dextermichhistory@gmail.com. This is close to our website address <dexterhistory.org>, and it is clear that we are not the Dexter in Maine or Wisconsin or Minnesota. We will continue to use the old address (dexmuseum@aol.com) for genealogy-related conversations.

One last thing: Take a look at our listing in MichiganVolunteers.org! This great site lists lots of opportunities to volunteer with us or any other area nonprofit!

Best, Caryl Burke, President

Christmas at the Mansion



Gordon Hall will welcome in the Christmas holidays with an "Angels Among Us" restoration fundraiser on Friday, December 1st. Beautiful angels will grace every room along with Department 56 houses that will light up the holidays. Hearty hors d'oeuvres, spirits, and desserts will all be part of the festivities.

Our event will continue on Saturday with a visit from Santa Claus and with children making gingerbread houses to take home for the holidays. Just to let you know that our favorite Santa will again be flying in just to join us at our event.

What wonderful festivities are being planned!

Then on Sunday there will be a unique tea featuring the amazing women from the Dexter family who will "visit" to tell us about their life and accomplishments. Dresses by Helen Welford will be featured, and you will be pleasantly surprised to hear more about these wonderful women.

All in one weekend! This first weekend in December is a time you won't want to miss!

If you are unable to attend on this weekend, Gordon Hall will also be opened on December the 9th, the 16th, and the 27th for you to see the wonderful decorations.



Mark your calendars and check the poster in this newsletter for detailed information to help you have a perfect way to start the holidays.

Heritage Guild Holiday Bazaar

The Dexter Heritage Guild's annual Holiday Bazaar will be on Saturday, December 2nd from 9a.m. to 3p.m. at the Dexter Area Museum, 3443 Inverness Street, plus unique items sold at the Museum's Gift Shop, like beautiful pottery. The bazaar will have handcrafted Christmas ornaments, decorated beautifully made pillows, wreaths, warm scarves (especially the "divided household scarf"), and kitchen accessories that would make wonderful gifts for everyone! This year, there will be knitted hats with a removable/rechargeable headlight, tote bags made from recycled plastic bags, beautifully lined fabric tote bags, and two handmade quilts: one king size and another queen size. Drawing tickets for wonderful treasures will be sold. The winner will be selected at 2pm and will be notified, so you don't need to be present to win.



Let's not forget our delicious Bake Sale. The success of the bake sale will depend on **ALL your** delicious donations, both baked goods and wonderful garden treasures: like canned pickled beets and jams! To donate items to the sale, please bring them to the Museum on Friday December 1st between 8:30a.m. and 3:00p.m. Ladies will be there to collect your donations.



Some guidelines for your baked goods: use clear wrappings or clear Ziplock bags, include a tag with the name of the item and list of ingredients people may be allergic to (ie: nuts, coconut, milk). The Bake Sale's success is due to all the wonderful donors! The Guild thanks everyone for their help!

If you have any questions please call: Pat Pudduck at 734-417-0772.

Hope to see you at the Heritage Guild Holiday Bazaar!

Gordon Hall Facilities Update

Gordon Hall restoration is on the move again . . . just as fast as our fund raising allows. Recent visitors will have noticed the restoration of the northwest wing to its original exterior and the addition of three modern restrooms and an upper room for meetings, all with period finishes. And, the new back porch area is also fully restored to its original character. For the next phase we are working with our construction manager, Phoenix Contractors, Inc. for installation of a completely new system to bring power into the building. The 5-existing electrical meters and



panels (for the building and 4-old apartments) will be replaced with a new 800-amp service capable of supplying all the building power needs of the future. This will include new buried supply lines from the DTE transformer, an all-new power service entrance capable of handling future power needs such as lighting, high efficiency heating and air conditioning, ADA lift, and planned outbuildings. Completion is planned for mid-summer 2024. This work is partially supported by a grant from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council. We are also making provisions for a future solar array located in the hidden back portion of the property.

We will also be initiating the final costing of the modifications to the basement and supporting structure required before the main house restoration can be started. The cost study should be complete this winter with construction following the completion of the new power service entrance.



The plans for the full Gordon Hall restoration are complete. We are now proceeding as fast as we can to raise the estimated \$3.5 million. Talk to us at regular open house events or give us a call and we'll be glad to show you the plans and share our progress.

Gary Vander Haagen - Facilities Manager

The Dexter Area Museum Update

The Dexter Area Museum has had many improvements, projects and changes through the past several years. This could not have been done without the help of many valued contributors to the museum like the DAHS Society, the Heritage Guild, the Museum Gift Shop, the Dexter Garden Club, garage sales and most of all independent donations.

The most recent project was the Street Scape on the parking lot side of the museum where the grass was replaced with stones and a border. The "Bat's in the Belfry" project to repair the belfry at the museum not only raised enough money to do the belfry repairs, but also, paint the exterior of the museum.



The museum yard drainage, which always was an issue after a heavy rain fall, was also taken care of and the basement is now water free.

Projects inside the museum continue: lighting and electrical upgrades with LED lights in the meeting room, the lower level display areas, the hallway and bathrooms. These lights are great for our many display areas. In the main display area, all 250 standard lights were replaced with LED lights too. Still to receive LED lighting is the office area.

The most noticeable project was pulling up the carpet in the meeting room and refinishing the Birch wood floor, downsizing the Museum Gift Shop and up-grading our display cabinets in the upper display area. The older display cabinets, which we put on wood stands, were replaced with large tall beautiful wood display cabinets for our collections. The old display cabinets were given to another startup museum.



Still ongoing projects are: finishing the Dexter Leader Display, completing the artifact inventory and upgrading changing display areas.

The next project which needs attention is to figure out a way of changing the entrance doors into the meeting room. The doors should open out not in. This causes a problem as the entrance to the stairway to the basement is in the same area.

Nina Rackham - Museum Director

Gordon Hall Challenge Grant

Gordon Hall is a majestic, iconic symbol of Dexter that embodies the area's link to its origins. DAHS has worked hard through the years to tell the stories of this historic building and of this area's founding families. Our vision is to restore Gordon Hall to its original grandeur and open it to the community as a venue for events, exhibits, and community activities. The \$3.5 million full restoration will restore the building to its original historic splendor and include structural restoration as well as all new heating, cooling, power, and universal access via a lift. In 2024 we will upgrade the electrical service to the house.

For this year's Gordon Hall Challenge Grant, a group of Gordon Hall supporters has offered to match every dollar donated for the historic manor's restoration up to \$15,000. We took the group up on its offer and set a goal to raise \$50,000 for renovations. The deadline for the campaign is January 31, 2024. Will you join our legacy of support? If you would like to donate, you can visit the DAHS website at www.dexterhistory.org and click the DONATE button to use a credit card. To use a check, make it payable to DAHS and note "Gordon Hall restoration" on the memo line, and mail it to DAHS, 3443 Inverness Street, Dexter, MI 48130."

You can also help us by becoming a volunteer or by spreading the word about our plans. Please contact us at dextermichhistory@gmail.com and join us as we recreate this beautiful historic space.

A Family Tradition at Gordon Hall



CHRISTMAS AT THE MANSION

Saturday December 2 9am-5pm

Featuring the Christmas Village Collection

Make and take gingerbread houses

Visit with Santa 9AM - 3PM

Suggested donation \$5 per person

Angels Among Us Fundraiser to Restore Gordon Hall

December 1, 6:30 PM

Strolling hearty hors d'oeuvres

Spirits and desserts

\$75/person

Call 734-395-4106

A Christmas Tea

December 3

1:00 and 4:00 Seatings

\$30 per person

(limit 40 per seating)

Reservations required

Call 734-395-4106

Gordon Hall
8311 Island Lake Road
Dexter, MI
dexterhistory.org and
[facebook.com/dexterhistory](https://www.facebook.com/dexterhistory)



Evening Open Houses

December 9, 16, and 27

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Featuring the

Christmas Village Collection

Suggested donation \$5/adult

Business Members

The Dexter Area Historical Society began a campaign to bring local Dexter businesses into the membership of the Society. Businesses are offered a lifetime, non-voting membership in the society and in return they will receive the newsletter, a membership emblem and recognition in the newsletter of those who have joined. If you are interested in joining us, please contact us at DexterMichHistory@gmail.com. We are happy to have the following as DAHS Businesses:

Beacon Dental - Dr. David Traynor
Chelsea Dexter Dental Group
Cindy Strang Insurance Agency
CMR Mechanical LLC
Dexter Family Dentistry - Brent Kolb
Dexter Oral Surgery and Implant Center
Dexter Riverside Cellar
Finn's JM&J Insurance Agency
Hackney Hardware

Hosmer-Muehlig Funeral Chapel
Huron Counseling Services
Main Street Optometry-Vision
Reed Barbering - Robin's
Spring Valley Trout Farm
St. Andrew's UCC Church
Village Animal Clinic of Dexter
Wallace & Wallace Properties
Whitetail Farm - Mary Baude

Membership Form

On the next page is our Membership Form! Please print it out and use it to join or renew your Membership in the Dexter Area Historical Society! We always need volunteers of all ages and diverse skill sets, but one of the areas missing from the 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. We have indicated in the note in your email or on your letter the status of your account according to our records. Please use the form on the next page to renew or begin a new membership. Mail the form and your check made out to DAHS to Dexter Area Historical Society, 3443 Inverness, Dexter, MI 48130.

DEXTER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS:

President:
Caryl Burke
Vice-President:
Beverly Hill
Secretary:
Ina Germain
Treasurer
Jan Weaver

DIRECTORS:

Sue Behnke
Carol Jones
Shawn Pierrel
Ceci Riecker
Nancy Van Blaricum
Gary Vander Haagan
Sharon Wheeler

CONTACT INFORMATION:

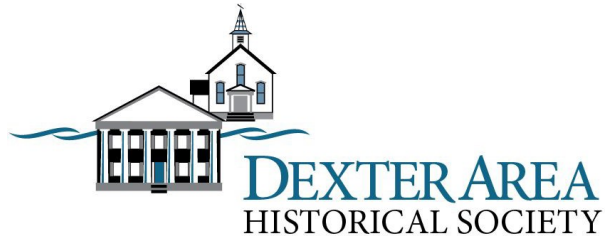
NEWSLETTER - Nancy J. Van Blaricum DexMuseum@aol.com
WEBMASTER - Jan Weaver weaver9113@gmail.com
GORDON HALLS SPECIAL EVENTS - Bene Fusilier: 734-426-8972
HERITAGE GUILD - Pat Pudduck. PatPudduck@gmail.com
MUSEUM DIRECTOR - Nina Rackham: NDRackham@aol.com
GORDON HALL DIRECTOR - Bev Hill: BeverlyHill6@gmail.com

FACILITIES:

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

PHONE - 734-426-2519 WEBSITE: DexterHistory.org EMAIL: DexterMichHistory@gmail.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 Historical Society (DAHS)**-----

Mail to:

Dexter Area Historical Society
3443 Inverness Street
Dexter, MI 48130

Contact:

Phone: 734.426.2519
Email: DexterMichHistory@gmail.com
Website: DexterHistory.org
Find us on Facebook@dexterhistory
Dexter Area Historical Society

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