



*August 2018*

# *Newsletter*

## **President's Letter**

This summer has been both hectic and productive. Gordon Hall has been busy with workdays, weddings, and Gordon Hall Days. The Museum has also been open to the public and our wedding display is still up until the end of September - please do not miss this display!

We are excited that our grant committee has just received word that we have been awarded a grant of \$75,000 to be used for the preparation of architectural drawings to begin the restoration process for the interior of Gordon Hall. Thanks to chairperson Caryl Burke and the grant committee for all of your hard work!

We are presently in the middle of our annual \$10,000 fundraising campaign - I trust that you have already bought your raffle tickets. The profits from this raffle will be used for our Gordon Hall restoration efforts.

As you have seen in our past newsletters there are so many areas that everyone has been working hard at both Gordon Hall and the Museum. It is truly a wonderful thing that we are able to own two beautiful buildings with the support of the Board, our many volunteers, and the community.

We thank you for all of your support,  
Bev Hill  
President of the  
Dexter Area Historical Society

Dear DAHS Members,

The Dexter Area Historical Society Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, August 5, 2018 at 2:00 at the Dexter Area Museum. Tours of the Museum and current exhibits will be available immediately following the meeting.

The DAHS Board

**Support Gordon Hall**  
and you could win  
**\$10,000**  
**Gordon Hall Raffle**  
Grand Prize: \$10,000  
2nd prize: \$1000 cash  
3rd prize: \$500 cash  
License 44420  
When: August 11, 2018 at 7 pm  
Where: Dexter Monument Park  
Tickets: \$10.00 each - Only 4000 tickets will be sold  
A drawing on August 11, 2018 at 7 pm  
will be conducted with a GRAND PRIZE of \$1,000  
Support Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum  
All proceeds will be used to support Gordon Hall. Tickets are non-refundable, no cash back.



Don't forget to buy your raffle tickets!!  
Tickets available at the museum and many  
downtown stores.

We will also be at the corner of Central and Main  
Street selling tickets on Friday and Saturday during  
Dexter Daze.

Thanks for your tremendous support!

# Coming Events:

## September 29, 2018 Dinner to Benefit Gordon Hall

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Chelsea has once again graciously offered to sponsor a fundraising dinner at the hospital in support of Gordon Hall on Saturday, September 29th. 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 with auctioneer John Hansen 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 Dexter Area Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Save the Date cards have been mailed with an invitation to follow in early September; however if you did not receive a Save the Date card and would like to receive an invitation we would be delighted to have you join us!

Please contact Ina Germain at 734-395-4106 for further information or to be added to the guest list.



*You are cordially invited to attend  
An Evening in Support of Gordon Hall*

*Saturday, September 29, 2018  
Six O'clock in the evening*

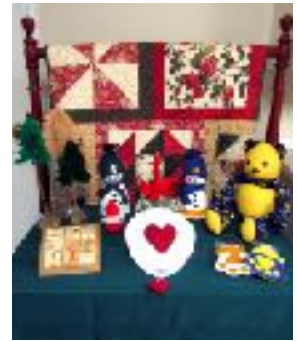
*St Joseph Mercy Chelsea  
775 S. Main St.  
Chelsea, MD 48118*



## 2018 Dexter Heritage Christmas Bazaar

The Annual Holiday Bazaar will be held on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Dexter Area Museum.

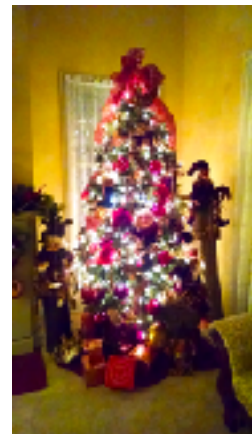
Please see our article on the next page for additional information.



## 2018 Christmas at the Mansion

The 2018 Christmas at the Mansion events will include a special event on Friday, November 30th, the tours of the decorated Gordon Hall on Saturday, December 1st and our special tea on Sunday, December 2nd.

As always, we welcome your help as a volunteer. More details will be coming in the next newsletter.



### The Dexter Heritage Guild

The Heritage Guild has been busy throughout the year preparing for the Annual bazaar. Some of the new items include: microwavable bowl holders, microwavable potato pockets, matching aprons (adult and child sizes), a variety of shawls, yardstick dusters and more.

Gardeners and Canners, please put aside some canned goods to donate to the Holiday Bazaar Bake Sale. In cold December, the delicious looking canned goods are the first items purchased. All would be greatly appreciated.

The Heritage Guild welcomes new members. Even if you are in Michigan part of the year, please come and join us. Gentlemen, if you enjoy wood making or any other crafts, that would be wonderful.

Our meetings from January to the beginning of September, will be the third and fourth Wednesdays of the months, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. From September until the Bazaar in December, we will meet every Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. We have met at the Museum and at the Dexter Library. If you are coming, please first call Pat Pudduck, president of the Heritage Guild (734) 426-8952 so you will be at the correct place.

If you have craft supplies not being used, please consider donating them to the Heritage Guild. Some items we are looking for include, large popcorn cans with Christmas or University themes, wool yarn (any color), bees wax (no candles), and 100% cotton fabric.

If you have any questions, please call Pat Pudduck. Thank you and hope to see you soon.

### What's happening at the Dexter Area Museum this Summer?

Museum patrons are still coming to view the elegant display of 100 years of wedding attire. It will be up until Mid-October. Please take some time to come view the display, it's an exciting display from the museum collection.

Driving by the museum, you may notice that areas are being scraped, primed and painted, this is a project that is being done though a joined project with the Heritage Guild and the Museum Gift Shop. The meeting room windows, porch railings and rough areas of the museum building are getting some attention from our summer helper Jeff Abel.

The Museum Gift Shop will be changing, Rhea Berry has retired from a fine four years of running the gift shop. Susan Behnke and Julie Wilkinson will take charge of the shop. They have inventoried all items and are selling items through Facebook and online. Hopefully, the inventory will move seeing it will have a better exposure.

The Museum Reading Room is also being inventoried, Cindi Henes with the help of our genealogist, Nancy Van Blaricum has been going through all the research materials and books to set up a better category and catalog system.

We are also putting all the original pictures of our museum collection in protective covers and storing them according to their categories.

During the Dexter Daze weekend, the museum will be open their usual hours of 1-3 on Friday and Saturday. Please come visit!

### The Grant Committee Report

Gordon Hall is the grand Greek Revival house on a hill overlooking Dexter from the west. Built in 1843 by Judge Samuel Dexter, it has watched over 175 years of Dexter's growth and development. Today, it stands as a symbol of our community and one of Dexter's defining locales. DAHS acquired Gordon Hall from the UM in 2006. In the fall of 2014, we burned the mortgage from that purchase after receiving many donations from the community including a large donation from Wally Fusilier. In 2016, a Grant from SHPO permitted us to remove the aluminum siding from the building and to restore the West porch to its original configuration. Grants from the Dexter Lions Club and the Rotary Club of Dexter funded the removal of asbestos pipe wrap from the basement. And the Dexter Lions Club also funded construction of a handicap ramp on the North side of the building. The \$75,000 provided by the new SHPO grant combined with the \$50,000 match provided by DAHS will let us take an important next step in realizing our goal to restore Gordon Hall. DAHS and its many wonderful volunteers and donors are keeping Gordon Hall in tip top shape and dreaming of the day when we can open the building fully to the community. It is our goal to complete that transformation in time for Dexter's bicentennial in 2024.

## 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 Pierrel  
Nina Rackham  
Ceci Riecker  
Nancy Van Blaricum  
Sybil Vanhouten

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

NEWSLETTER EDITOR - Nancy J. Van Blaricum [DexMuseum@aol.com](mailto:DexMuseum@aol.com)  
WEBMASTER - Jan Weaver: [weaver74@charter.net](mailto:weaver74@charter.net)  
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 WEBSITE: [www.DexterHistory.org](http://www.DexterHistory.org) EMAIL: [DexMuseum@aol.com](mailto:DexMuseum@aol.com)

## The Railroad Viaduct

With the recent interest of the Fourth Grade Students from Wylie Elementary School, the Train Viaduct has once again become a topic of interest. We have decided to rerun the article we published in our Newsletter a number of years ago. This article appeared in the Dexter Leader, December 20, 1979:



**Before, during and after construction**

“Before 1890, the old New York Central Railroad crossed the street at ground level. Such was the condition of the crossing that spring day in 1887 when Margaret Warner went visiting and never returned home. A contemporary account of the tragedy ran as follows:

‘A sad and fatal accident which has cast a pall of gloom over the entire community occurred in our village between the hours of three and four o’clock last Sunday afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Warner had started to call on their son Charles, whose residence is a short distance across the railroad track west of the village; as they reached the crossing the Limited Express (west), running at 45 miles an hour, came suddenly around the curve and signaled for the crossing. Mr. and Mrs. Warner were then crossing the track. Mr. Warner being slightly in the advance, passed over in safety, but Mrs. Warner evidently became slightly confused, hesitated an instant, and just as she stepped from the track was struck by the pilot of the locomotive, throwing her head against the cylinder, crushing her skull and killing her instantly.’

“In the wake of the accident, the friends and family of Mrs. Warner, who with her husband, a wealthy sawmill operator and Dexter pioneer, commenced a campaign to make the crossing safer by raising the tracks upon a bridge high and wide enough to allow pedestrians, horses and buggies to pass in safety.

“Two years later, in October 1889, the Mill Creek channel between the proposed site and the bridge at the foot of Main St. was straightened by men and teams of horses employed by New York Central with the idea of preventing water from wearing away the banks at the west end of the bridge. At that time, plans were begun in earnest for the tunnel-like structure, with the design of raising the grade five to six feet at an estimated cost of \$20,000.

“The proposal became an unintended lucky break for a young black engineer by the name of Fred B. Pelham, a Detroit native who had graduated from the University of Michigan in 1887 and was in the employ of the Michigan Central Railroad. Given the assignment of building the bridge, he planned what was to become the first skew arch bridge in W a s h t e n a w

County. All of the stones that went into its construction were dredged up from the Mill Creek bed, individually cut by a mason and snubbed together with a care that many think is lacking in more modern operations.

“The project was completed by 1890 and from that day to this no serious accidents have occurred at the crossing.”

Information for this article written in 1979 was gathered from Norma McAllister articles by Nancy J. Van Blaricum.

On the right is the poster that stands near the corner of Jeffords and Main Streets, placed there by the Wylie 4th graders, and dedicated on May 23, 2018.



**Wylie 4th Grade Project 2017-2018**

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**

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**  
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) \_\_\_\_\_

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.

<b>Historical Society</b>	<b>Gordon Hall</b>
<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
<b>Museum</b>	<b>Activities/Events</b>
<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/  
 v1.3 Mar 2016