

The Dexter Area Historical Society

May 2018 Newsletter

2018 GORDON HALL DAYS

June 23rd and 24th



Gordon Hall Days **Antiques and Vintage Market**

Saturday and Sunday, June 23-24, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Donation \$5/person or \$20/car.

Spend a leisurely day shopping for remarkable antiques and vintage treasures, touring historic Gordon Hall, and enjoying an Antique and Classic Car Show. Kids of all ages will have fun playing old time midway games. Enjoy lunch at the Dexter Lions food wagon, or popcorn, snow cones, and the Dexter Senior Center's famous homemade pretzels.

On Saturday, look for Colors the Clown and her kid's magic show. Dexter Dulcimers, and the Dexter Community Brass Quintet will provide musical entertainment.

See the website below for specific times for each event. All proceeds support the Dexter Area Historical Society. Location: Gordon Hall, 8311 Island Lake Rd, at the corner of Dexter-Pinckney Rd, Dexter, MI. For more information please call 734-426-2519, or visit www.dexterhistory.org/upcoming-events

A Special Evening Event

George Bedard and the Kingpins **A Benefit for the Restoration of Gordon Hall**

Saturday, June 23 at 6:00 pm

If you like to dance to rhythm and bluesy swing, surf, blues, or rock and roll, you'll love George Bedard and the Kingpins.

Doors and the bar open at 6:00 pm.

Tours of historic Gordon Hall from 6-7:00 pm.

Gourmet small plates by Westside BBQ and desserts by Paul Cousins begin at 6:30 pm.

The show starts at 7:00 pm.

Tickets are \$75 general admission or \$100 for reserved seating, and must be purchased in advance. Go to dexterhistory.org/kingpins-order-page.html or call 734-426-4767. All proceeds benefit the Dexter Area Historical Society and its work to restore Gordon Hall. Location: Gordon Hall, 8311 Island Lake Rd, at the corner of Dexter-Pinckney Rd, Dexter, MI. Free onsite parking.

All events will be held at Gordon Hall which is located at 8311 Island Lake Rd, Dexter, MI. For more information call 734-426-2519, or visit www.dexterhistory.org/upcoming-events
All proceeds support the Dexter Area Historical Society

Tea With Flair

Saturday, June 23 at 1:00 pm. Donation \$10.

You are cordially invited to pass the afternoon on the grounds of Gordon Hall, sipping hot or iced tea and nibbling on elegant desserts with your best friends and/or new friends.

Prolific local author Cynthia Furlong Reynolds, who has recently published *The Purple Rose of Chelsea*, will join with actress Susan Craves to tell on-stage and behind-the-scenes stories about the theater and its founder, actor Jeff Daniels.



Cynthia Furlong Reynolds



Susan Craves

Ms. Reynolds is the author of numerous children's books, including *Grammie's Secret Cupboard*, *S is for Star: A Christmas Alphabet*, *Across the Reach*, and the *Oliver's Travels* series, as well as books documenting local histories, among them *Jiffy*, *A Family Tradition* and *Parks for the People: A History of the Huron-Clinton Metroparks System*.

Reservations are recommended; call 734-395-4106. All proceeds support the Dexter Area Historical Society.



Antique and Classic Car Show

June 23, 11:00 to 4:00 - raindate June 24

You'll love admiring and talking about the beloved prized possessions of some of our area's most enthusiastic antique and classic car collectors. To show a car, contact Dennis Berry at 734-424-0678 or 56skyhawk@att.net. No registration fee, but donations will be accepted. All proceeds support the Dexter Area Historical Society.



Other Vehicles

You will find some other vehicles parked on the grounds including the Tally-Ho from the 1941 Centennial and the Doletzky Oil Pull. Depending on the weather, we hope that there will be more antique vehicles for you to enjoy.

Food Areas

Open 9 to 3 both days

Lions Food Wagon



Popcorn & Snow Cones

Open 9 till all sold Saturday

Senior Citizens Pretzels



Special Music

Dexter Community Brass Quintet

Saturday 11 to 12
Sunday 12 to 1



Dexter Dulcimers

Saturday 2 to 3



Gordon Hall Tours

Tours of Gordon Hall are scheduled to run from 9am to 3pm. each day. There is no charge for the tours as your wrist bands will show that you have paid the entrance fee. They will begin in front of the Hall near the ramp.



Tours will begin about every 15 minutes, or whenever there is a group ready to go through. The tours take 30 to 45 minutes to complete. There are 3 flights of stairs on the complete tour, but it is possible to simply do the main floor and go back down the ramp. The basement, 2nd floor and attic do require stairs.

Your Help Is Needed

As you can see, we have wonderful plans for the 2018 Gordon Hall Days, however, we are still in need of volunteers to help make this come to fruition. We are looking for persons from teens to adults to help with the setup on Friday and early Saturday, the parking, the children's games, the food services, the tours of Gordon Hall, the tea, the George Bedard & the Kingpins concert and of course the cleanup on Sunday afternoon. If you can volunteer for an hour or more please contact us at 734-426-2519 or DexMuseum@aol.com. Thank you in advance for your help.

Children's Activities

The Midway games will be under or near a large tent and will include games for toddlers to adults. Limited Prizes will be awarded to those who participate in the games. The tent will be open from 9 to 4 each day, however there will be times they will be closed while other things are happening.

On Saturday, June 23, from 11 to 1 in the Children's tent we will present "Colors the Clown". She will present an interactive animal-based magic show as a part of Gordon Hall Days. Children of all ages will be entwined with a unique



animal-themed show featuring juggling, colorful animal balloons, and a whole lot of mooing. Your children will enjoy an interactive experience with farm animals they normally only see in cartoons! Colors the Clown isn't a scary clown, but instead uses humor, magic, and her love of animals to entertain children – as well as their parents and grandparents. Don't miss this opportunity to support a local artist and enjoy a one-of-a-kind family experience you can only find in Dexter!.

On Sunday we are going to be having some animals from the local 4-H clubs from 1 to 4. They will be displaying their animals and be able to share what they have learned about the care of their animals.

Welcome to Spring - finally!

It seems like a long winter but our Historical Society did not go into hibernation. We have been busy all winter preparing for the opening of the Museum and for the many events at Gordon Hall.

Thank you to all of you and the Dexter Community for your great support - having two beautiful buildings owned by the Historical Society is amazing.

At the Museum you will find a new display that you do not want to miss - check out the newsletter for details! At Gordon Hall we are preparing for our many summer events - again you will find more details in the newsletter. Also check out our website and our Facebook page to keep updated of all of our events.

We have a great Board and many volunteers who make this spring and summer very exciting. We are thrilled to begin our many events. I really hope that after reading this newsletter you will find an area that excites you and you will jump on board to help the Historical Society.

I hope to welcome you on board soon,

Bev Hill

President of the Dexter Area Historical Society



Raffle Sales 2018

The Dexter Area Historical Society will again this year hold our raffle fundraiser to help preserve Gordon Hall. This is our fifth year selling tickets for our \$10,000 drawing which will be announced during Dexter Daze on August 11, 2018.

We have printed 4,000 tickets and we have from May until August to sell these tickets. Most of our sales will be around Dexter with personal contact. Many businesses will be selling tickets and the businesses that will not be selling we have personally met with to tell them about this fundraiser.

Our first time selling downtown will be Saturday, May 19th and then continuing all Saturdays and some Fridays until Dexter Daze. We will also be selling at Farmers Market, and many community events.

We would like you to join us in selling tickets. Would you like to sell with us downtown? Or just to family and friends? Please contact us and we can even deliver tickets to you. Another great way to volunteer and help the society. Contact the museum or any board member for tickets or to help sell - love to have you join us!!

Dexter Heritage Guild Hosts Successful Antique Appraisal Day

Three expert appraisers from DuMouchelles Art Gallery in Detroit examined nearly 100 family treasures and collectibles on Saturday, May 12 in the Heritage Guild's annual Antique Appraisal Day. Over 60 people from Dexter and neighboring communities brought paintings, tapestries, swords, vases, tables, lamps, dolls, books, and much more to the Dexter Area Museum. Many of the items had been passed down from parents and grandparents, even from great-great-grandparents.



The day went smoothly, thanks to the appointment system operated by event co-chairs Sue Schotts and Carol Michaels. The few cancellations were quickly filled from the waiting list or by same-day callers. Participants paid \$7 for each verbal appraisal. The Heritage Guild will use the funds to fulfill special Museum requests, which in the past

have ranged from display cabinets to museum cleaning.



The Heritage Guild would like to thank the DuMouchelles appraisers, the Museum staff, the Guild cookie-bakers, and all the participants who shared the stories behind their treasures.

There are more than 30 people already on the waiting list for next year's Antique Appraisal Day. Please watch for an announcement next spring and then call to reserve your spot!

Look for the Heritage Guild booth at Gordon Hall Days this year. We will have a few items for sale including scrubbies, washcloths, pot holders, aprons for both adult and children, knitted spring shawls, microwaveable potato pockets and bowls.

The Museum Gift Shop will also have a few items available for sale including some tote bags and coffee cups showing scenes of Dexter that have been donated to us by Julie and George Wilkinson.



The Museum Report

The Dexter Area Museum opened May 4th with a beautiful display of one hundred years of wedding attire from 1865-1965.

On Sunday, May 6th the museum hosted a tea with many museum supporters enjoying the wedding display created by the museum staff. The tea was set up with vintage tablecloths, flower arrangements and delicious cheesecake for desserts. A presentation of the history of American weddings was given and then all viewed the wedding attire display.

Although many of the actual weddings were held in other localities, the wedding attire displayed has a link to Dexter. In some cases the couple came here to live, but in most cases their children or grandchildren actually moved into the Dexter Area much later. A few were permanent life long residents. Two of the wedding dresses had been worn several times though the years.

A genealogy presentation was created for all wedding attire giving the names of the bride and groom, their parents, and the date and place where they were married.

Please make time to stop by the museum some Friday or Saturday between 1-3 to view the display. The wedding display will be available until October 13, 2018.



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

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Newsletter - Nancy 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

FACILITIES:

Dexter Area Museum - 3443Inverness, Dexter, MI 48130
 Gordon Hall - 8311 Island Lake Rd., Dexter, MI 48130

PHONE - 734-426-2519 WEBSITE: www.DexterHistory.org EMAIL: DexMuseum@aol.com

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

Archiving Dexter's Past

By Ceci Riecker*

The Dexter Area Historical Society (DAHS) is a non-profit organization that supports the preservation of the history of the Dexter area. Its stated mission is to, "Preserve our history and inspire our community to connect the past with the future." We are often asked what resources are available to help us educate the community about its history. We will highlight a few of these institutions below.

We are fortunate to have several organizations here in Washtenaw County that are available to us for local research. The DAHS owns two of the best resources - Gordon Hall, Judge Samuel Dexter's 1840's Greek Revival Mansion just west of town, and the Dexter Area Historical Museum in the village itself, housed in the former 1883 St. Andrew's United Church of Christ. The



Dexter Area Historical Museum.
Photo by Ron Raiford, used
with permission.

Museum houses an extensive archival collection about the history of Dexter and its founding families, along with a large collection of artifacts from Dexter's past. Our expert genealogist is also available to help you trace your Dexter roots. Gordon Hall is an excellent visual illustration of our past and a constant reminder of our community's origins. Knowledgeable docents are available in both the museum and in Gordon Hall to teach you about our artifacts and the Dexter family.

Other local resources include the Dexter District Library, the Washtenaw Country Historical Society, the Williams L. Clements Historical Library, and the Bentley Historical Library on the University of Michigan campus. Dexter's researchers depend on these institutions to supplement their research about the Dexter area.

For example, the Bentley Historical Library, located on U-M's north campus, collects the materials for and promotes the study of the histories of two great, intertwined institutions, the State of Michigan and the University of Michigan. The Library is open without fee to the public, and welcomes researchers regardless of academic or professional affiliation. Their services include reference staff that can assist you in person, by phone, and by email.

The Bentley houses over 150 collections that pertain to Dexter which help inform us about our past. Their collections include, among other things, early census' of the area, old plat maps, historical church archives, copies of 1800's newspapers *The Emigrant* and the *Dexter Leader*, photographs that cover every decade of Dexter's past and present, some of Samuel Dexter's family papers, and many more historical items that our researchers rely on. Check out their website at bentley.umich.edu for more information.

We are fortunate to have so many institutions devoted to the study of the history of the area in such close proximity to the Dexter community. Gathering information from a myriad of sources helps us tell the story of our city, its roots, and its future. Take a stroll through the local history section of your nearest historical archive! You will never know what you will find that will add to your understanding of Dexter's history.

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

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

Date _____

Check Membership Type

ACTIVE - Individual
(age 13 or older; 1 vote)
 \$15 Annual
 \$200 Life
 \$150 Life (age 60 or older)

ACTIVE - Family (2 adults)
(age 13 or older; 2 votes)
 \$25 Annual
 \$300 Life
 \$250 Life (age 60 or older)

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

AUXILIARY - Business
Individual or Family Members (0 votes)
 \$50 Annual

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: cexmuseum@aohs.com
 DAHS Website: http://www.dexterhistory.org
 DAHS FaceBook: www.facebook.com/dexterhistory/ version 3 2016