



# Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum

## WINTER NEWSLETTER 2012

**SAVE THE DATE:** JUNE 8, 9, 10 for CIVIL WAR DAYS at Gordon Hall  
The date for DuMouchelles Antique Appraisal Clinic has not been set yet; watch for the date.

**DEXTER AREA MUSEUM - 2011 in Review - Annual Report:** The Museum opened for regular hours the first weekend in May with a DuMouchelles Antiques Appraisal Clinic arranged and conducted by the Heritage Guild. It was so successful the group held another clinic in the autumn. The Heritage Guild used some of the proceeds to pay for the spring cleaning of the Museum. Yet again, this loyal group worked year round to provide the materials and organize the Annual Christmas bazaar. Many thanks to that tireless group of ladies. Another tireless group of volunteers under the leadership of Ginny Ryan puts on the Pioneer Arts Fair in March. This function and the bazaar provide most of the operating funds for the Museum. Thanks for all your help!

Several hundred people visited the Museum this season including people from Oregon, Florida, Canada, Sweden and Russia. School Tours were again arranged by Sybil Van Houten. Seven second grade classes and 2 sixth grade classes toured the Museum consisting of 221 kids, 11 teachers, 53 parents, and 4 docents. Thanks to Sybil and the volunteer docents.

The Museum was open on Friday of Dexter Daze and a garage sale was held. The opportunity to hold individual sales was extended to members and to the Antiquarians. Several individuals held their sales and enjoyed the easy parking available here. A donation to the Museum was expected from those holding sales. Anyone interested, keep in mind that we will be doing the same thing during this year's Dexter Daze.

Volunteer hours recorded in the book total 2020 hours for the year. Mike Williams continued to take care of the lawn. One can see that volunteers are the life blood of this Museum.

There is always a need for volunteers with interest and enthusiasm. We heartily thank all who commit their efforts to help preserve the history of the families that built and sustained this community.

Realizing that the Museum building is a vital asset to the Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum, a constant attempt is made to keep it in repair. Luckily a repair group which would tackle the height of the building was found. The roof and belfry rain/water problem had to be addressed again with numerous repairs made to the exterior and interior belfry area. Some wall canvas repair and some painting was done in the loft area. There is more work to be done to make the area suitable again for storage of artifacts. To minimize the dampness on the alley wall of the building and to limit critter access to the roof, the trees have been trimmed again and the lilacs removed. Future plans include new protective coverings on the outside of the stained glass windows. We are careful to keep all safety devices up to date.

Among acquisitions to the archives and artifacts collections are family Bibles, classic school books, miscellaneous photographs, a Victorian baby carriage, and a wooden trunk.

Various projects are in progress and this season we have some unexpected help. Master degree students from the UM preservation course are helping the staff with new ideas and techniques for the caring and storage of artifacts and archives. The Museum staff is always receptive to new procedures that may be implemented within the constraints of the facilities and the budget. If you are interested in helping, please call the Museum to volunteer.

The Museum is now closed, but will reopen on May 4th for regular hours: 1-3 pm on Fridays and Saturdays, with special hours or tours by appointment. Questions or requests before that date, please call the Museum, 734.426.2519, leave a message and a staff member will return your call. Museum Directors: Nina Rackham, Director, Alice Pastalan, Co-Director

**NEXT ANNUAL MEETING, DEXTER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM** will be held Sunday, Feb. 12, at 4pm, at the Museum. The proposed slate for officers and representatives will be presented and the election of officers will be voted on.

Donovan Hill will give a special presentation on the 1860's Vintage Baseball Club coming to Dexter, which the Historical Society is sponsoring. Please come and join us in our special tribute and thanks to Gilbert Campbell and Ethel Samuelson for their many years of service to the Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum. Refreshments will be served.



**BAZAAR 2011:** The Dexter Heritage Guild's holiday bazaar and bake sale was a great success! Besides the many familiar faces, there were also many "new" visitors attending the Bazaar. The tables overflowed with crafts and baked goods (which were nearly gone by 1:30!), and the meeting room and museum were filled with happy shoppers. Thanks to Busch's for their donation of animal crackers; to the Dexter Village Cleaner's for keeping Santa's suit in tip-top shape; and The Dexter Leader, The Sun Times, and patch.com for advertising our event. Thanks to the Wiertellas for making Santa's visit magical. Many thanks to the members of the Historical Society and friends of the Museum who contributed baked goods, soup mixes, jams, and candies to the bake sale. And last, but not least, thank you to all who shopped at the bazaar and bake sale. We appreciate your on-going support!

**A NEW SEASON OF CRAFTING for the BAZAAR 2012 has begun:** The Heritage Guild meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month, January to September, at the Museum from 9am-

Noon. If you would like good companionship, and like to make crafts, join the Heritage Guild. New members are always welcome. The Heritage Guild would also like new ideas for future bazaars. We would appreciate your suggestions. Contact Carol Ann Emerick at 426-0477 or Cindy Henes at 426-0973.

**CHRISTMAS AT THE MANSION,** which was held on December 3 and 4 from 12:00-6:00 at Gordon Hall, was a huge success. Julie Knight and Terry Stacey did an outstanding job as committee chairs.

Local businesses volunteered for room and porch decorations. Everyone agreed that it looked great! Refreshments of cider and cookies were also donated and served on the back porch. Santa was there both days to greet children, and photo-ops were available with Santa in our decorated sleigh.

Music was provided by volunteer choirs from Peace Lutheran Church, United Methodist Church, and the Lesser Family.

An estimated 1200-1500 people visited Gordon Hall during the two day event. Sixteen gallons of cider and 30 dozen cookies were consumed. A good time was had by all. Despite the lack of snow, everyone was in the Holiday Spirit.

Special thanks go to: Hearts and Flowers, Dexter Flowers, Dexter Picture Frame Company, The Cedars/Jan Lyons, Mrs. Hill's 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Go Green Class, By Design Interiors, L & J Landscaping, Reclaimed Dreams, and Cheryl Doletzky. Thanks to the Lions Club for the greens donations which included 5 wreaths and 6 trees. Thanks to Busch's Market, Dexter Bakery and the Cedars for the cider and cookie donations. Thanks to all the Hostesses and workers for your time and effort. Let's do it again next year!

**THE PIONEER ARTS FAIR COMMITTEE** has been meeting monthly to get ready for the March 17, 2012 Fair. We have four exciting drawing prizes this year: Mac Buxton has donated a large wooden bowl, Pam O'Hara is donating a piece of her ceramic ware, Ron Lindgren is donating a hearth broom, and Cynthia High is preparing a basket of her homemade soaps and oils. We are currently receiving contracts from our artists and have sent a few applications. The Kettle Corn lady says she will be there, barring a snowstorm or high wind.



### **CALL FOR BAKED GOODS for the FAIR:**

Homemade jams, breads, cakes, cookies, bags of snacks like trail mix, small breads, etc, are very welcome. HINTS: Label the items, including ingredients. Small quantities work best-- then people buy a variety. Cupcakes don't package well. Someone made fruit cobbler that was a big hit! Please bring your items to Creekside school on Friday between 4-6:30 or Saturday between 8:30-9:30. Questions, call Sue Schotts at 424-9998. Thank you for your continued and appreciated support!

### **THE RAILROAD VIADUCT:**

*Have you seen the collection of boulders in the lot off of Jeffords Street? When they first started appearing, we wondered where they came from. Had they been taken from the river just as others were over 120 years ago for use in the Viaduct? The stories about the Viaduct often mentioned the use of stones from the riverbed. Of course, a call to Allison Bishop in the village office informed us that the new boulders came from Indiana, but it did remind us of the reason the Viaduct was built. In an article that appeared in the Dexter Leader December 20, 1979 we find the following information:*

*"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 1899, 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 Washtenaw 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 and Nancy J. Van Blaricum. It is important to know the history of our community and the reasons things were built to make our Village and the whole area safe for all of us today. Judge Dexter had no visions of grandeur as he opposed having his village grow with the suggestions that the County seat be here or the University of Michigan. Our loss was Ann Arbor's gain, but his vision has made us a quiet yet vibrant village.*

**Dexter Area Historical Society & Museum** 3443 Inverness Street Dexter, Michigan 48130

**Please check type of Membership:**


(  New or  Renewal ? )

- Student \$1.50
- Individual \$10
- Family \$15
- Business \$25
- Patron \$50 and up
- Life \$150

Active  Inactive

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City & State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Twp: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:

 I would like to donate: \_\_\_\_\_  
 for: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate your areas of interest:**

- |                                       |                                      |                                       |                                      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archives     | <input type="checkbox"/> Docent      | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter   | <input type="checkbox"/> Research    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Artifacts    | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Oral History | <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy   | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography  | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Displays     | <input type="checkbox"/> Gordon Hall | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs     | <input type="checkbox"/> Workshops   |
|                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership  | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other       |

Please make a check payable to **The Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum** and mail to the address above. A membership card will be sent to new members upon receipt of your dues.

734.426.2519

dexamuseum@aol.com

www.dextermuseum.org

**PLEASE GIVE US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS,**  
 so that we can **email** your Newsletters and save on  
 the high cost of postage. Thanks.

PUT THIS POSTER ON YOUR  
 REFRIGERATOR, OR GIVE TO A FRIEND.  
 THANKS!

# DEXTER PIONEER ARTS FAIR

Supporting  
Dexter Area Historical Society & Museum

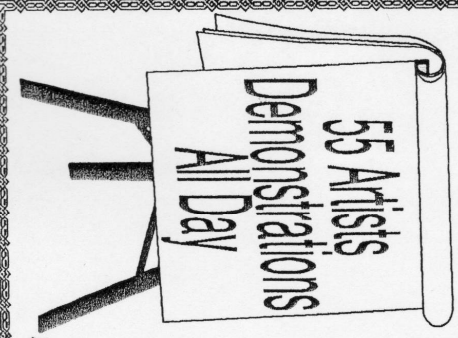
**SATURDAY**

**MARCH 17, 2012**

**10:00 - 4:00**

**CREEKSIDE SCHOOL**

**2615 BAKER RD.**



**Bake Sale**

- Basket Weaving
- Cross Stitch
- Egg Painting
- Fly Tying
- Jewelry
- Pottery
- Wood Carving
- Weaving
- Brooms

**ADMISSION \$3.00**

**STUDENTS (K-12) \$.50**