

# DAHSAM News



## Spring Events

Saturday  
May 11<sup>th</sup>  
10 AM to  
3:30 PM

**DuMochelles Antique Appraisal Clinic**  
Dexter Area Historical Museum

Saturday  
June 8th  
5:15 PM

**An Evening of Fine Arts**  
Reception and Dinner  
hosted by President and  
Mrs. Lincoln at Gordon  
Hall  
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Fri. – Sun.  
June 7 - 9

**Dexter's Civil War Days**  
at Gordon Hall



## An Evening of Fine Arts

### Hosted by President and Mrs. Lincoln

It's time to mark your calendar and get out your 1860's wear as . . .

The DAHSAM, in cooperation with The Cedars of Dexter, presents "An Evening of Fine Arts" at Gordon Hall.

This will be a special time of fine dining and artful entertainment. The dinner will be held Saturday, June 8, 2013. Valet parking from the Cedars Club House begins at 5:15 PM, followed by a mixer-reception and dinner at 6:30 PM. Tickets are \$135 per guest and are available by calling 724-649-5169 for reservations. Period dress is recommended.

For more information visit: [www.dexmuseum.org](http://www.dexmuseum.org) or find us on Facebook.

All proceeds are dedicated to Gordon Hall mortgage reduction and as the DAHSM is a 501(3)c organization, a large portion of your ticket price may be tax deductible.)

## There They Go Again

Did you know that of the total revenue raised during this year's Dexter Pioneer Arts Fair, the Heritage Guild Bake Sale raised \$675? Those folks are always up to something good in support of our Museum!

## Table of Contents

- 1 Spring Events,  
An Evening of Fine  
Arts
- 2 Dexter Daze Raffle,  
Letter from President
- 3 Dexter Pioneer Arts  
Fair  
Jeffords' Room at CWD
- 4 Antique Appraisal  
Clinic
- 5 Judge Dexter's Funeral
- 5-6 Judge Dexter's Third  
Family
- 7 Photo Page
- 8 Dexter's Civil War  
Days
- 9 2013 Events, Thanks,  
DAHSA Contacts
- 10 Cricket at CWD



## Museum Hours

The Museum will reopen on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> until early December. Hours are Friday and Saturday from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

## Society to operate Dexter Daze Raffle

At its February Board meeting, the Society accepted the offer from the disbanding Kiwanis Club to take on the raffle that they had operated at Dexter Daze. The raffle will be a Gordon Hall fundraiser. Ticket sales will begin May 11, 2013, with volunteers selling in downtown Dexter. Prices are \$10.00 per ticket or \$40 for a family pack of 5 tickets. They can also be purchased in several Dexter businesses and at events leading up to Dexter Daze in August. As the Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum is a 501(3) c organization, the purchase price of a ticket is tax deductible.

The Grand Prize will be \$10,000, with a \$1,000 second prize and \$500 third prize. The drawing of winning tickets will take place at the end of Dexter Daze.

Good luck to all buyers and sellers!

## A Letter from our Society President

The Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum continues to move forward. Our Annual meeting at the Library turned out to be a huge success with over 100 people attending the reenactment of the funeral of Judge Dexter. We were able to get a number of our younger members involved in portraying the roles of Judge Dexter's family.

Our Pioneer Arts Fair brought a number of people back to Creekside School for this year's event. The weather was good (no tornadoes) and the demonstrators felt that the crowd was very receptive. Dulcimer players were an added attraction.

We are taking over the Kiwanis Raffle for Dexter Daze. The Kiwanis has been a big help in getting us going on this project. The money we make for the Raffle will be used for Gordon Hall. Please help us out by spreading the word and purchasing a ticket for \$10. Watch for our ticket sales all over Dexter.

Our big event, Civil War Days at Gordon Hall, really needs your support. Please plan on helping out and attending the event.

We have several things planned at Gordon Hall for the summer, including a mother/daughter tea and a wedding.

Thank you for all the help and support you continue to give to our Museum and Gordon Hall.

Bene Fusilier, President

## Dexter Pioneer Arts Fair has Successful Return

Saturday, March 9, 2013, found the 40th Pioneer Art Fair and Bake Sale back in Dexter. This is an annual event that was cancelled in 2012 due to the devastating tornado hitting the Dexter area. The Society picked up this year's fair and brought it back to its marvelous original form. Revenues of \$3541 were deposited in the Museum account.

An added attraction was the performance of the talented Dexter Senior Center dulcimer players that was thoroughly enjoyed by attendees.

There was an impressive demonstration of skills displayed by the many exhibitors which included jewelry fabrication, stained glass construction, scrimshaw work, egg decoration, water color painting, wood carving and pottery work. Other mediums included quilting, knitting, weaving, felting, spinning, and caning. The Heritage Guild bake sale was terrific. Chaired by Sue Schotts, it earned a healthy

profit to benefit the Museum. (The Guild seems to believe that this bake sale success had a lot to do with Sibyl VanHouten and her "Calling all Bakers Phone Team." And then those bakers really got down to business!) There was a wonderful array of items including tortes baked by Mr. P. Cousins. Sue reports, "We tried to get all the names of people who donated, but in case we missed some, thank you to all who contributed to a wonderful Bake Sale!! We appreciate all your hard work and together we achieved a great sale."

For the raffle, there was a wooden bowl won by Lil Burby. It was donated by Mac Buxton and made from a tree that fell during the 2012 storm. Other lovely items included a crocheted "Lord's Prayer" tapestry from the Buxton family, a soap and oils basket from Cynthia High, and a ceramic pottery piece from Pam O'Hara..

---

## Jeffords' History Room planned for Civil War Days

A Dexter hero, Civil War Col. Harrison H. Jeffords, died 150 years ago in the Battle of the Wheatfield at Gettysburg, July 3, 1863. A special reenactment of his memorial service and burial will be held during Civil War Days. The funeral will be held on Saturday morning, June 8<sup>th</sup>. It is planned to begin at Gordon Hall and to end at Forest Lawn Cemetery.

As an extension of Col. Jeffords' funeral, the Museum will be decorating the south room in the Hall to honor those heroes from Dexter who served in the Civil War. The display will feature items that belonged to Col. Harrison H. Jeffords, acquired by a local collector, as well as other historic artifacts. We will present local burial information for those soldiers who died

during or after the war, including local cemetery information showing the burial places of these local heroes.

This will be a one-time display of these items. Make plans to come in the south door of Gordon Hall and step into the past.

We encourage others who would like to share their Civil War memorabilia for the display to contact Nancy or Nina at (734) 426-3341) or [DexMuseum@aol.com](mailto:DexMuseum@aol.com).

---

**Editor's Advice:** *As we all work very hard toward getting the Gordon Hall mortgage to go away, try to keep in mind that the \$1.5 million purchase price has been reduced to today's mortgage figure of \$247,486. That is truly something to "crow" about.*

## Looking for...

For the Heritage Guild:

- small gift boxes, preferably with no writing

For Dexter's Civil War Days:

- Volunteers to help with various activities
- Bakers for the CWD Saturday Tea. *Last year's cookies were amazing!*
- Friendly faces to greet our guests and direct them to our events and displays.

### Editor's Advice:

*It is rumored that this year's Civil War Fundraising Dinner will be a bit more "light-hearted" and fun and Chef Greg has planned his most delicious dinner ever. Seating is limited and due to tent size, we cannot add seating this year. Get your reservations early by calling 734-649-5169, so you will not be left out.*

*Bene is getting a new dress for the dinner. You will not want to miss it! Will she wear gloves and flutter a fan?*

## Antique Appraisal Clinic Coming in May

The annual spring Antique Appraisal Clinic, sponsored by the Heritage Guild, will be held Saturday, May 11, 2013 from 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Museum.

Admission is free. Verbal appraisals, by 15-minute appointments, are done with an asking donation of \$7.00. Proceeds benefit the operation and preservation of the Dexter Area Museum.

The appraisers will come from the DuMouchelles Art Gallery in Detroit and have extensive knowledge in many areas. Each has their area of expertise, which includes paintings, carvings, coins, watches, Chinese artwork, and dolls. They appraise collectables, china, firearms, swords, old toys, small pieces of furniture and more. *You can learn more about the DuMouchelles monthly international auctions online.*

Many different kinds of items have come through the museum doors, with our members being surprised to learn that some of them have been very valuable. As there are stairs at the Museum entry, entering with hand-carried items is best.

For additional information and to schedule an appointment, prior to May 11th, please, call 734-424-9998. If you need to make an appointment the morning of Saturday, May 11th, please call the Museum at 734-426-2519.

Coordinator Sue Schotts is already receiving calls for appointments. If you wish to participate in this appraisal clinic, it is recommended you call soon to schedule the time of your choice. Please note, Richard, whose specialty relates to paintings can be there only during the morning hours. Therefore, if you are interested in his opinion, you will want to schedule an early appointment, keeping in mind that his schedule generally fills quickly.

### Donations

Donations made to the Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum, a 501c(3) organization are typically tax-deductible and greatly appreciated. For further information, visit our website or email us at: [DexMuseum@aol.com](mailto:DexMuseum@aol.com) or call (734) 426-2519.



## Historical Gathering held at our Local Library

Sunday, February 24, 2013, saw a very special event at the Dexter District Library. The Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum presented a reenactment of the funeral of our founding father, Judge Samuel William Dexter. Over 100 appreciative guests were present. During the service, the members of his family who would have been at his original service were introduced.

A portion of the script, and some additional details about some of the family members, are included in the article below written by Nancy Van Blaricum. Realizing the skit was performed as if February 10, 1863, only the children and other family members who had been born by that time are mentioned.

---

## Our History – Judge Samuel W. Dexter’s Third Family

Samuel William Dexter was born in Boston on February 18, 1792, and was the eldest son of the distinguished statesman and advocate, Samuel Dexter. After graduating from Harvard, he removed to Athens, New York, on the Hudson River. There he married Amelia Prevost and they had two boys, however, he had lost his youngest son and his wife by 1822. His first son died 20 years later, but had no children. Samuel Dexter came to Michigan from Athens in August 1824. He located in the vicinity of the present Village of Dexter that same year, returned to Athens, and in 1826 came back with his second wife, Susan Dunham, to reside in a house that he had built on the bank of the Huron River. Susan Dunham Dexter died in 1828, followed by her infant son, one month later. Samuel married his third wife, Millicent Bond, in 1828 and they had 8 children.

The following is a listing of his third family:

The widow of Judge Dexter, Millicent (Bond) Dexter was born August 29, 1811, in Conway, MA. She was the daughter of Consider and Hannah (Harris) Bond. She came to Michigan in 1827 with her widowed Mother, two brothers and three sisters, as well as, a brother-in-law, Solomon Matthews, and a friend, Chauncey Goodrich. She was 16 years old, when as his 3rd wife, she married Samuel W. Dexter on August 3, 1828. Together they had eight children.

Mary Dexter, born in Dexter on January. 8, 1830, was the first child of Samuel and Millicent. On December 22, 1849, she married Lorenzo Hopkins Jones, the son of Ezra & Sarah (Calkins) Jones. They had a daughter Frances Emily, known as Fanny, who was born on December 6, 1850, at Gordon Hall. Their son Charles Wirt Jones was born in 1852, but he died in 1853.

The second child, and first son, was Wirt Dexter, born October 25 1831, in Dexter, MI. He was named after William Wirt, who was visiting the Dexter family at the time (later a presidential candidate with the Anti-Mason party). Following his father’s example, Wirt Dexter was a buyer of timber land in northwestern Michigan and became partner of the Dexter & Noble Companies, based in Elk Rapids, Michigan. By 1855, he was living in Chicago, where he continued marketing lumber and studying law. Passing the bar in 1858, he later became a partner in the Chicago firm, Walker-VanArman & Dexter. His success in the world can be directly attributed to the life ethics of his father. Wirt Dexter

married Kate Augusta Dusenberry on June 15, 1858, in Marshall, MI. She was the daughter of John & Elizabeth (Butler) Dusenberry.

The third child, Katharine Harris Dexter, was born March 11, 1833, in Dexter, MI. On September 1, 1851, she married Rev. Parke Shattuck Donelson, a Methodist preacher, who was born April 17, 1825, in Colerain, MA, the son of Ira & Mary Donelson. Rev. Donelson graduated from the University of Michigan in 1840 and then spent two years in the Presbyterian Seminary in Auburn New York. He returned to Michigan in 1854 and in 1856 became president of the Ohio Wesleyan Female College in Lima, OH. In 1863, they had had two children. Catharine Isabella Donelson was born June 23, 1852, and died November 27, 1853, and Dexter Parke Donelson who was born March 27, 1857. He was ill the day of the funeral so his father stayed in Ohio with him.

Hannah Augusta Dexter was born October 25, 1834, in Dexter, MI. She was married in Dexter to Dr. Moulton Crow on September 4, 1854, and they had a son, Frederick, born August 12, 1856 in Elk Rapids, MI, where the Crows lived while Moulton was a partner in the lumber business with Wirt Dexter. A daughter, Edith, was born in Mt. Clemens, MI, in April of 1859. She died the following February in Dexter. Dr. Moulton Crow died in Huntsville, AL, in 1861. We have no records that show his reason for being in Alabama, but Hannah was left a widow with a young son, Frederick.

Julia Gordon Dexter, the fifth child of Samuel and Millicent Dexter, was born March 6, 1837, in New Haven, CT. History tells us that the family was there because of the death of Andrew Dexter, Jr., the son of Judge Dexter's brother Andrew. In June of 1861, at Gordon Hall, Julia was married to Henry Dennison Stannard, the son of Zina D. and Betsey (Bowen) Stannard. Henry was born March 24, 1825, in VT. Julia and her sister Hannah were active in the National Women's Christian Temperance Union.

The sixth child, Charlotte Dexter, was born March 6, 1839 in Dexter. On May 26, 1860, she married Stephen Dewey Bingham in Dexter. He was the son of Stephen & Sophronia (Dewey) Bingham. They lived in Lansing where Stephen was Postmaster. Daughter Alice was born in June of 1861 and daughter Millicent Bond in October of 1862, both in Lansing.

The last daughter of Samuel & Millicent Dexter is Isabella Dexter, who was born February 2, 1841, in New Brunswick, NJ. Again, we understand that Judge Dexter's sister, Catherine Gordon (Dexter) McKay died that year in New Brunswick and they were there for that reason. Isabella was married to Robert Bostwick Devinney on June 14, 1862, in Dexter and is very pregnant. [Note: a daughter Millicent Devinney is born March 20, 1863, in Dexter]

Marshall Dexter, the last child born to Samuel & Millicent Dexter, was born January 18, 1858, at Gordon Hall. Marshall is the only one of their children born there. Judge Dexter's will was dated March 10, 1857, and so it was necessary to write a codicil to have Marshall receive an equal share of the estate. The codicil is dated May 10, 1860.

*Information for this article was gathered from Norma McAllister's book, "Judge Samuel William Dexter" and James Baldwin Parker's book "Voices of the Past: The Saga of Gordon Hall". Both books are available at the Dexter Area Museum gift shop.*





Michigan 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Co A (above, below)



Quartermaster Sargent Tom Patton



Dexter Pioneer Arts Fair Bake Sale (below)



Members of the Sons of Union Veterans look up family connections for CWD visitors.



Troop 477 supported the vendors at the DPAF

## Dexter Civil War Days Planning Heats Up

As the world has gotten warmer and more active, so have the CWD volunteers! The publicity committee has been working away on signs, flyers, postcards, and even a billboard. Expect to see the results of their hard work all over town soon! The planning committee has lots of good news.

We're pleased to add several new events and activities to this year's Civil War Days. When the event opens on Friday night, Hotel Hickman BBQ will be offering a period-style dinner for purchase starting at 5:00 p.m. The evening's concert will include Dexter school children singing period songs, the Peace Jubilee Band performing period music on antique period instruments, and your participation in group singing.

Saturday and Sunday are packed with activities and opportunities. There will be a re-dedication of the monument to Col. Harrison Jeffords at Dexter's Forest Lawn Cemetery on Saturday morning, as well as, a display of Jeffords artifacts throughout the event. As it is the 150th anniversary of the battle at Gettysburg, the battle in which Col. Jeffords perished, our DAHSAM historian has prepared an exhibit on mourning customs during the Civil War. The Fourth Michigan Infantry will skirmish with the Fourth Texas to reenact the battle at the "Bloody Wheatfield" that took place at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863. The battle will be recreated on both Saturday and Sunday. Read more about what our re-enactors will be portraying at this Wikipedia link:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Gettysburg,\\_Second\\_Day#Wheatfield](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Gettysburg,_Second_Day#Wheatfield).

Tom Melville, a renowned cricket expert and author, will be here all day Saturday to teach 1860s cricket to anyone who would like to learn! We're also pleased to be welcoming back last year's performers, authors, historians, and re-enactors. Much emphasis is being placed on the children's activities that were very popular last year.

There will be more to see and do than ever before. We look forward to seeing you there!

### CWD Volunteers Wanted

- Volunteers to help with various activities for Civil War Days. Take a look at past year's events at [www.dexmuseum.org](http://www.dexmuseum.org) or follow Dexter Civil War Days on Facebook. We are most fortunate to once again have volunteer co-coordination done by Carol Jones. Give her a call at 426-8114 or drop her a note at [dextercofc@aol.com](mailto:dextercofc@aol.com).
- Bakers to look up their favorite pie recipes, copy them to recipe cards and plan to attach them to the pie plates of the pies they will be baking for the Civil War Pie Auction.
- Friendly Faces - If you've got the gift of gab or a nice warm smile, put it to good use at this year's event. We would love to have some extra folks on hand to greet and direct our guests to some of our less obvious but equally wonderful events and displays during Civil War Days.



## 2013 Events

### MAY

- Antique Appraisal Clinic (5/11)
- Memorial Day Parade

### JUNE

- Dexter's Civil War Days (6/7-9)

### AUGUST

- Dexter Daze

### OCTOBER

- School Tours and Possible Fall Fundraiser

### DECEMBER

- Heritage Guild Christmas Bazaar
- Christmas at the Mansion
- Christmas Tea at Gordon Hall

#### Editor's Advice:

*Gil Campbell and Caryl Burke, you better begin to start saving your \$ in anticipation of this year's Civil War Pie Auction. You both have quite the reputation and this year's pie auction patron who tops last year's high figure will be permanently emblazoned on our Pie Auction Patron of the Year Board. You know "Bragging Rights" can be*

## Many thanks to the following people:

- The team responsible for the planning and performance of the Judge Dexter funeral reenactment in February.
- Our Museum Co-Directors for planning the new linens exhibit for our 2013 season opening.
- President Fusilier for the time she gives to working with the Board.
- The Board Members for sharing their time and talents.
- Paul Bishop and his dedication to the general "well-being" of Gordon Hall. (This includes trash removal!)
- All the folks working to make Dexter's Civil War Days at Gordon Hall - 1863 our best yet.
- Our grant writing team and their efforts applied to seeking funding.
- The committee that made this year's Dexter Pioneer Arts Fair another event of which we can be proud.
- Sally and the Dexter Senior Center dulcimer group for playing for us.
- All of our members for their ability to work together and their various contributions to our preservation of history.

## DAHSAM Contacts

### Board Officers

President	Bene Fusilier	426-8972
Vice-President	Jim Smith	426-8885
Vice-President	Bev Hill	426-4767
Treasurer	Julie Knight	426-4961
Secretary	Sharon Wheeler	878-3530
Past President	Gil Campbell	476-6263

### Board Representatives

Dexter Schools	Sybil Van Houten	426-8928
Dexter Township	Stephanie Bell	426-3007
Lima Township	Neil Adams	426-5086
Scio Township	Ina Germain	426-2079
Webster Township	Jon Russell	426-4347
GH Mgt. Team	Paul Bishop	476-0515
Genealogist	Nancy Van Blaricum	426-3341
Museum Co-Director	Sue Behnke	426-4763
Museum Co-Director	Carol Jones	426-8114
Museum Co-Director	Nina Rackham	426-2494

Newsletter	Donna Fisher	649-5169
Heritage Guild President	Cindy Henes	426-0973
Guild Craft Coordinator	Carol Ann Emerick	426-0477

## In Pre-Civil War America, the Sport of Cricket had a Solid Foundation

Do you know much about the game?

Do you know any of the rules?

How many play on a team?

You could find out by reading a book by Tom Melville, *Cricket for Americans: Playing and Understanding the Game* (Bowling Green State University Popular Press, 1993) or *The Tented Field: A history of Cricket in America* (Bowling Green State University Popular Press, 1998) available at Amazon.com or our local library.

Have you ever watched the sport? Would you like to participate in a game?

You could travel to Los Angeles County, California, to the Compton Cricket Club to take in a match. Or...

... Come out to Gordon Hall on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> for Dexter's Civil War Days 1863 and meet Tom Melville.

Chat with him or have him autograph your copy of one of his books. Learn a bit of history and how the game is played. Forget the drive to California, and watch a game or actually participate with your family, in the fields at Gordon Hall. Mr. Melville, cricket historian and expert, will be your coach himself. **HE'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU!**



## Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum

3443 Inverness Street

Dexter MI 48130