



DEXTER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPDATE – SUMMER 2015

The President's Report from the Annual Meeting

This has been an exciting year for the Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum.

The Board continues to work together in trying to put our new by-laws in place. This, hopefully, will be accomplished by the end of this year.

Many events have taken place at the Museum and Gordon Hall including the Gordon Hall Raffle and Tours of Gordon Hall, the Holiday Bazaar, Christmas at the Mansion, A Night at the Museum, and Civil War Days at Gordon Hall. These events continue to involve more of our community and to spark interest in the Museum and Gordon Hall.

The Museum and Gordon Hall continue to provide tours for all second grade students in Dexter with many parents accompanying them. Thanks to all our volunteers who help with these tours.

Our grant committee continues to work hard to acquire grants for Gordon Hall. Our most recent ones from the State Historic Preservation Commission and the Jeffris Foundation will allow us to move forward with the restoration on the outside of Gordon Hall and to start renovation on the inside.

A Historical Preservation Easement agreement has just recently been reached with Webster Township, which will allow us to move forward with our fundraising events held at Gordon Hall.

The future looks very bright for the Dexter Area Historical Society and its museum and Gordon Hall. Let's all work together to do what is best for the Society and the community.

Thank you for your support during the time I've been president. Good luck to the new president and to the newly elected board of directors.

Bene Fusilier, President



Board and Officers Elected

At its July meeting, the new board met to set terms and elect officers. The eleven new members were present and drew lots to determine their term of office. A vote was taken to accept the nomination of Sue Behnke to fill the 12th seat, the number set per the by-laws by the old board. The following terms were established.

1-Year

Neil Adams
Sue Behnke
Carol Jones
Nancy Van Blaricum

2-Year

Bev Hill
John Russell
Nina Rackham
Sharon Wheeler

3-Year

Stephanie Bell
Caryl Burke
Ina Germain
Sybil VanHouten

A Few Words from the Current President

Raffle - If you haven't already bought your raffle ticket, they are available at the museum, from any board member, and at many stores downtown. Also if you are interested in selling tickets please give either Bev (426- 4767), Caryl (476- 5232) or Ina (395 -4106) a call - we would love to have you be part of our great team. This year we are even selling at the Ann Arbor Art Fair in the non-profit section. We hope we see you there.

Grants - We are excited about the grants we recently received and hope to receive even more grants in the future. We are looking forward to construction next spring - how exciting. We will keep everyone informed about the construction timetable and our future fundraisers.

A Bit of Museum News

The Dexter Area Museum will be open during Dexter Daze only on Friday, August 14 from 1 to 3 PM. Currently the Museum features an exhibit of "Clothing Through the Ages" showing garments from the 1800's through



1970. This display has the oldest artifact from the Museum's collection, a cotton dress from 1810, which belongs to Mary Laney Steinbach's grandmother, Mrs. Jones. Added to this display, will be a collection of children's clothing items from the Museum's clothing. Also available will be the Museum's Gift Shop.

If you are not available to attend the Museum during Dexter Daze, the Museum is open on Fridays and Saturdays from 1-3 PM to give you the opportunity to view this display.

From 10 AM to 4 PM, there will be a 1/2 off sale of miscellaneous items from the Museum on the lawn in front of the Museum. From 10 AM to 4 PM, there will be a 1/2 off sale of miscellaneous items from the Museum on the lawn in front of the Museum.

It's Time for Tours of Gordon Hall!

The tour date is Saturday, August 15, 2015 during Dexter Days. Drive up to the Hall where there is parking on the grounds. There is a suggested donation of \$5 for adults and children under 12 are free with an adult. Proceeds go toward the rehabilitation of Gordon Hall. We will begin tours at 12 Noon and start new ones whenever we have a few persons gathered. The last group will begin the tour at 3PM. The tour can take from 30 to 35 minutes and includes the entire house. However, the tour will take you down 1 flight of stairs to the basement and up three flights to the Attic. If the stairs are a problem, there are chairs available on the main floor where you can wait for your group.

At the end of the tour James Parker will be available to sell and sign his 2012 book, "Voices of the Past: The Saga of Gordon Hall". The book is \$25 and proceeds now go to the rehabilitation of Gordon Hall. An information booth for any questions we have not answered will also be available at the end of the tour.

Any questions, please call 734-426-2519, check out our website: DexterMuseum.org or email at DexMuseum@aol.com. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, August 15th at Gordon Hall. We'll start your tour when you get there!

Gordon Hall Tour Guides

Please let us know if you are interested in being a guide for the tours on the 15th of August. We have different areas where we need help and hopefully we can find something for you to do. Please consider joining our group. If you are interested or have questions, please contact me, Nancy Van Blaricum, at 734-426-3341 or by e-mail at DexMuseum@aol.com soon. Thank you.

Civil War Days at Gordon Hall – 1865

In spite of the unrelenting rain on Sunday, which forced us to cancel the day's activities, the event realized just under \$5000 in profit. I am proud to have led during the 5-year U.S. observance of the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War. Once again I want thank all of you for your involvement in our success. It took lot of pie and cookie baking, playing with kids, phone calling and emailing, dinner tent decorations, annual planting and mowing, display assembly, sound arrangements, and tea planning, just to mention a few of the needed preparations. Please, feel both proud and appreciated! Donna Fisher



The Gordon Hall Report Presented at the Annual Meeting

This has been a tremendous year for Gordon Hall. Our Gordon Hall Raffle was a big success. The Dexter Daze tours of Gordon Hall brought many visitors to the mansion. Our greatest achievement was, with the help of the Fusilier matching donations, being able to pay off the mortgage on Gordon Hall on September 4, 2014. A special "Burning of the Mortgage" event was held to celebrate the occasion.

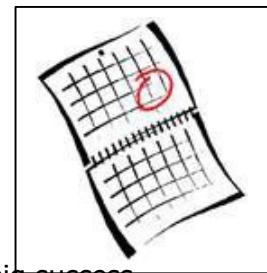
Two beautiful weddings were held in the fall. They both had sunny but cool days.

In October a movie was made at Gordon Hall, as a production company out of Detroit filmed "Swing Low". It was about two plantation owners in the 1850's in the south and their conflict over a slave. The front of Gordon Hall was used for the rich plantation owner and the back for the poorer one. It took about a week to film and several from the historical society and the community were involved in the filming. A special premier showing was held at the Encore Theatre in April.

New front sidewalks were put in place in late October.

Christmas at the Mansion, held the first week in December, was another huge success with many visitors to Gordon Hall to view the lovely decorated rooms.

The 2015 Civil War Days at Gordon Hall was the last of these events. Saturday of Civil War Days, brought many visitors to the grounds and the last fundraising dinner was a big success.



This summer, Gordon Hall will be the site of six weddings and one wedding reception.

Thanks to Bev Hill, Caryl Burke and our grant committee, we have just been awarded two grants to move forward with the restoration of Gordon Hall. The state historic preservation grant will allow us to start restoration on the outside of the Hall and the Jeffris grant will let us move forward in restoring the inside of Gordon Hall to the way it was in 1863 when Judge Dexter died.

Many thanks to Paul Bishop, Jim Wheeler, Jan Lyons, Jan Stagg and all others who help to keep Gordon Hall and its grounds looking beautiful.

Wanted: Newsletter Editor

How I have enjoyed being your editor for the past few years! However, it is time for me to look toward other areas of service and to yield to allow someone else to have the pleasure of producing the newsletter. I want to acknowledge Jim Smith for his support and for being the best proofreader around and thank you for submitting the info we needed. Please contact Bev Hill if you have an interest. Good communication keeps us working together. Donna Fisher

The Dexter Area Historical Society

Presents Its 9th Annual

GORDON HALL TOUR

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 15th 2015
12:00 PM to 3:00 PM**



Parking Available on the Grounds

**\$5 Suggested Donation
Children 12 and Under Free with an Adult**

Stairways Limit Access

For further information:

Phone: 734-426-2519

Website: www.DexterMuseum.org

E-Mail: DexMuseum@aol.com