



## Presidents Message

By: Beverly Hill

**W**

e have had a very busy and productive 2016 and now we are preparing for a fantastic 2017 at our Museum and at Gordon Hall. The dedication of our members and the community to help the Historical Society achieve its goals has been amazing.

If you visit the museum you will note the new changes with lighted cabinets and brightly painted rooms. Also at Gordon Hall you will note the outside has been painted and glistens in the sun.

We are looking to complete more of our goals this coming year in both of our buildings. To do so, we are planning many events for the community to visit and support both the Museum and Gordon Hall.

I want to again give thanks to all of our members, volunteers, and supporters. We are excited about the coming year and are looking forward to achieving all of our goals to all of the new and exciting projects and fundraisers that we are planning.

Thank you for all of your support and I am looking forward in seeing you at our events and volunteering to support the Historical Society.

## Welcome to the New Year!

### Dexter Area Museum Opening — May 5 100 Years of Lace

The Dexter Area Museum will open for the season on May 5, 2017 with a display of some of our many Lace articles. The Museum is located at 3443 Inverness in Dexter, and will be open every Friday and Saturday from 1:00 to 3:00 pm beginning May 5 and running through November.

Lace is a delicate fabric made of yarn or thread in an open web like pattern, made by machine or by hand. Originally linen, silk, gold, or silver threads were used. Now lace is often made with cotton thread and man made fibers, although linen and silk threads are still available.

There are many types of lace, classified by how they are made. The museum has many of the following classifications:

- **Needle lace**, such as Venetian Gros Point, is made using a needle and thread. This is the most flexible of the lace-making arts. While some types can be made more quickly than the finest of bobbin laces, others are very time-consuming. Some purists regard needle lace as the height of lace-making. The finest antique needle laces were made from a very fine thread that is not manufactured today.
- **Cutwork, or whitework**, is lace constructed by removing threads from a woven background, and the remaining threads wrapped or filled with embroidery.
- **Bobbin lace**, as the name suggests, is made with



bobbins and a pillow. The bobbins, turned from wood, bone, or plastic, hold threads which are woven together and held in place with pins stuck in the pattern on the pillow. The pillow contains straw, preferably oat straw or other materials such as sawdust, insulation styrofoam, or ethafoam. Also known as Bone-lace. Chantilly lace is a type of bobbin lace.

- **Tape lace** makes the tape in the lace as it is worked, or uses a machine- or hand-made

textile strip formed into a design, then joined and embellished with needle or bobbin lace.

- **Knotted lace** includes macramé and tatting. Tatted lace is made with a shuttle or a tatting needle.
- **Crocheted lace** includes Irish crochet, pineapple crochet, and filet crochet.
- **Knitted lace** includes Shetland lace, such as the "wedding ring shawl", a lace shawl so fine that it can be pulled through a wedding ring.
- **Machine-made** lace is any style of lace created or replicated using mechanical means.
- **Chemical lace**: the stitching area is stitched with embroidery threads that form a continuous motif. Afterwards, the stitching areas are removed and only the embroidery remains. The stitching ground is made of a water-soluble or non-heat-resistant material.

## Antique Appraisal Day at Dexter Area Museum

The Dexter Heritage Guild will present their annual Antique Appraisal Day on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 – 3:30 at the Dexter Area Museum, 3443 Inverness Street, Dexter, 48130.

Three certified appraisers from DuMouchelles Art Gallery in Detroit will explain and give individual verbal appraisals. The appraisers' areas of interest range from sports

memorabilia, historical pieces, war-time memorabilia, toys, trains, paintings, oriental rugs, quilts, fiber arts, silver, pottery, porcelain, collectible figurines and crystal.

Appointments are 15 minutes for 1-3 items and there is a fee of \$7.00 per item appraised.

**For appointments call  
734-424-9998**



On the day of the event, call the Museum at the below number for directions or to see if any openings are available

**734-426-2519**

All proceeds benefit the preservation and operation of the Dexter Area Museum.

See the Dexter Area Museum's website: [www.dexterhistory.org](http://www.dexterhistory.org) for more information about the Museum.



## 2017 Dexter Gordon Hall Days A Country Fair

Our 2017 2nd annual Gordon.Hall Days will be held on Saturday June 17th and Sunday June 18th. We will be open from 10 to 5 both days with the Country Dance on Saturday from 6:30 to 9 pm. A committee has been meeting since mid-January on Tuesday nights to come up with ideas and ways to implement them. We welcome anyone who would like to join us as we go from the idea stage into the planning stage.

This year's theme will be a Country Fair and we are planning an event reminiscent of the past.



We are looking into a "Midway" with booths full of games for all ages, a threshing demonstration, the Lions Food Wagon, popcorn booth, Cotton Candy, train rides, a petting zoo, and other activities. Special

events include Gordon Hall tours, a Tea and Fashion show, a Country Dance and our famous Pie Auction. Further details will be coming as we work out the details.

As we have done in the past, we will be seeking Sponsors for some of the events to help us defray costs. We are looking for local merchants or groups interested in supporting our efforts. Perhaps you work at a company that would be willing to help us so that our "profits" can all go to the restoration of Gordon Hall.

We need your help to make this experience work. Volunteers are needed for 2 to 4 hour shifts in all areas from manning the booths to working with the grounds committee to helping with the special events and everything in between. Volunteering is one way you can help us in our quest to restore Gordon Hall. To let us know when and how you can help us, just reply to [DexMuseum@aol.com](mailto:DexMuseum@aol.com) or leave a message at 734-426-2519. Thank you.



## What would you do with \$10,000?



It is time to start dreaming about the possibility of winning the Dexter Area Historical Society raffle. Your dreams will also help the Dexter Area Historical Society achieve their dreams of restoring Gordon Hall!

Last year all three winners were from Dexter. Our \$10,000 winner took his young family on a trip to Alaska. So what would you do? Start dreaming because the tickets will soon be on sale this spring. Just look for us downtown in our green shirts or check the many stores or at the museum where they will also be sold. We'll see you soon

## END OF THE YEAR CHALLENGE

At the end of 2016, the Dexter Area Historical Society initiated a challenge to members and the community to raise \$45,000 based on \$15,000 given by three individuals. These funds were designated to be used for Gordon Hall, including partial repayment of a bank loan for the exterior rehabilitation work done on Gordon Hall in the Spring of 2016, asbestos removal from the basement, construction of a handicap accessible ramp to the first floor of the Hall, and allocation toward the \$800,000 that we must raise to match the \$400,000 that the Jeffris Family Foundation will give us for the interior rehabilitation of Gordon Hall. To date \$54,214 has been raised or pledged toward the end of year challenge, which includes the original \$15,000 that was donated as the basis of the challenge.

**OUR SINCERE THANKS** to all of you who responded to the Challenge and contributed to this successful outcome. If you planned to respond but have not yet, it is not too late to contribute to the Challenge! We are formulating plans for the next phase of Gordon Hall and its rehabilitation into the grand home of Judge Dexter, and there is

### The Dexter Area Museum Gift Shop

During 2016 the DAHM Gift Shop made \$1,702.00. Thanks to everyone that gave their time and support to make it a successful year. I'm looking forward to another great year in 2017. **Rhea Berry — DAHM Gift Shop Manager"**

## Cedars Craft Club Presentation

Our thanks to the Cedars Craft Club for this beautiful miniature of Gordon Hall. The Certificate of Achievement on the top acknowledges the following contributors: Russ Mynning was the General Contractor and he was assisted by Bill Cain, Dave Howard, Tim Larsen and Bob Parker with Mona Walz as the Consultant. Chris Riecker, a Woodworker did the front columns on this Cedars Craft Club Project.

The Dollhouse has been donated to the Dexter Area Historical Society for display during events. It is based on the 1934 plans which we have thanks to the Historic Architectural Building Survey drawings. It gives us an idea of the layout that we plan to return the Hall to in the future.



### Notes from the Dexter Heritage Guild

The Heritage Guild appreciates all the donations the membership has given, from the delicious Bake Sale items to materials we use for our projects. If you have the following to donate, we could use canning jars, both 4 and 8 ounces, pinking sheers, fabric scissors and fleece fabrics. Thank you for your continued support.

The Heritage Guild meets at the Museum on the third and fourth Wednesday mornings each month. We are always looking for volunteers who enjoy crafting and fellowship. Please stop by for a visit or contact us at [DexterHeritage-Guild@gmail.com](mailto:DexterHeritage-Guild@gmail.com) for more information.

### Special events at Gordon Hall

If you are interested in scheduling a wedding or other special event at Gordon Hall, please call Bene at 734-426-8972. Tours of Gordon Hall this year will be during Gordon Hall Days on June 17 and 18. Once you have paid your \$5 entrance fee, there is no additional charge for this experience.

### The Dexter Area Museum

The Dexter Area Museum is located at 3443 Inverness in Dexter, Michigan and will be open every Friday and Saturday from 1:00 to 3:00 May 5th through November. To reach us concerning donations or with genealogy questions, email us at [DexMuseum@aol.com](mailto:DexMuseum@aol.com) or call us at 734-426-2519 and we will get back to you.

## DEXTER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

President - Bev Hill  
Vice-President - Jon Russell  
Secretary - Sharon Wheeler  
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### DIRECTORS

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Nina Rackham  
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### CONTACT INFORMATION:

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GORDON HALL SPECIAL EVENTS - Bene Fusilier - 734-426-8972  
DEXTER HISTORICAL GUILD - Cindy Henes - [cdhenes@gmail.com](mailto:cdhenes@gmail.com)  
RESEARCH - Nancy J. Van Blaricum - [DexMuseum@aol.com](mailto:DexMuseum@aol.com)

### FACILITIES:

DEXTER AREA MUSEUM - 3443 Inverness, Dexter, MI 48130  
GORDON HALL - 8341 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)  
Museum Hours: May to November, Friday and Saturday, 1 to 3 pm

## Dexter Cottage History



**DEXTER COTTAGE**—Built by Mrs. Samuel W. Dexter of Dexter, Michigan, on Middle Beach in 1867. It stood alone on the beach for 16 years with no road from East Wharf except the beach at low tide. It was a Prairie House, framed in Chicago and shipped by rail to Madison.

The picture above is from a Post Card in the collection of George Wilkinson. He sent it with the following note: "I have attached the image of the Dexter cottage taken from a postcard in my collection. I thought you might enjoy looking into its history. Enjoy the day, George". I accepted the challenge and this article hopefully explains the house.

The caption says: *"DEXTER COTTAGE—Built by Mrs. Samuel W. Dexter of Dexter, Michigan, on Middle Beach in 1867. It stood alone on the beach for 14 years with no road from East Wharf except the beach at low tide. It was a Prairie House, framed in Chicago and shipped by rail to Madison."*

The first thought was Madison, Wisconsin, but that didn't make sense, so a google search for Madison showed a Madison, Connecticut on the ocean. So I found the Madison Historical Society web site and wrote the following: *"We have just received the attached picture and believe it is associated with your area. Samuel W. Dexter settled Dexter, Michigan in 1824 and the caption refers to his 3rd wife, Millicent Bond Dexter. Their son Wirt Dexter was a lawyer in Chicago and probably arranged for the "Prairie House". Millicent was known to travel, especially after Samuel's death in 1863. She died in Dexter in 1899 and is buried here. We know of one connection to your area, as a daughter, Julia Gordon Dexter was born in New Haven in 1837 (a nephew of Samuel Dexter had died there around that time). Anyway, we were wondering if you had any information on the house or notes on the family."*

A couple of weeks later I received the following from Nancy Bastian, Archivist, Charlotte L. Evarts Memorial Archives, Inc., Madison, CT: *"Paula Schonewald of the Madison (CT) Historical Society forwarded your inquiry to me. As an introduction, I am the Archivist of the Charlotte L. Evarts Memorial Archives in Madison, CT. Established in 1995, CLEMA is an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to collecting and preserving archival material related to the history of Madison, CT. I wanted to thank you for sharing the photo of the Dexter*

*cottage. The photo is indeed connected to Madison, Connecticut, and, it is of historical significance.*

*Evidently, both Millicent and Samuel Dexter were connected to the neighboring town of Guilford, CT, having vacationed at a hotel there several times. Upon becoming a widow, Millicent decided to search for shore front property where she could construct a summer home.*

*Even though she may not have realized it at the time, Millicent was a trend setter. Up until then, shore front property in Madison was considered a place mainly for commercial activity such as fishing, shell fishing, ship building, shipping, fish oil processing and salt hay harvesting. Millicent saw the shore differently. She understood its value as a place to enjoy sea breezes & beautiful scenery.*

*Eventually, her search for property took her to Madison where she bought a lot (now 84 Middle Beach Road) and situated a prefabricated home (seen in your photo!). Over time, Millicent was joined by others who built seaside cottages of their own. The result was the establishment of what became known as Madison's "summer colony."*

*Unfortunately, the Dexter cottage no longer exists. It was a victim of fire back in the late 1800s. However, the landscape of Madison forever changed thanks to Millicent's foresight.*

*Our genealogical information on Millicent Dexter is scant. Her lineage includes the Bond and Masters families of Massachusetts. Millicent's granddaughter is Inez Godman who founded scouting organizations in Madison.*

*Hope this helps. If possible, we would enjoy receiving any information you might have about Samuel, Millicent or Wirt. Do you have images of the family? We have never seen an image of Millicent or her husband. Best regards, Nancy Bastian, Archivist"*

I eagerly replied first by email sending pictures and then mailing to her the following note and items: *"Enclosed are some papers pertaining to Samuel & Millicent Bond Dexter. The first article is from our Sesquicentennial Celebration held in 1974. Second is an article by Norma McAllister on Gordon Hall, built by Judge Dexter from 1841-1843 and at that time in 1997 owned by the University of Michigan. The 3rd article written in 2001 tells of the University's plans to sell the hall. The Dexter Area Historical Society purchased the hall in 2006. The last article is about our Mortgage Burning in 2014.*

*I have also included a small book on Judge Samuel William Dexter which was published in 1989 and was written by Norma McAllister who was one of the founders of the Dexter Area Historical Society in 1971. This will give you information on the families of Samuel W. Dexter. I hope this gives you the information you were looking for on Samuel & Millicent. We would appreciate any more mention of the Dexters in your records."*

*Nancy Arnold Van Blaricum, Volunteer Genealogist, Dexter Area Museum*

## Dexter Area Historical Society Membership

Do you have friends, relatives or neighbors who are interested in what is happening at

Gordon Hall and the Dexter Area Museum? Would they be great Historical Society members and volunteers as we move forward with the next steps for Gordon Hall?

An application for membership is included in this newsletter. Please pass it on to anyone you feel would be a great member of the Historical Society. And if you haven't as of yet renewed your membership, please do so with the form. You might want to consider becoming a life member and avoid the yearly renewal process.

### 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)

##### AUXILIARY - Business

\$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.

#### Historical Society

Newsletter

Programs

Publicity

#### Gordon Hall

Housekeeping

Building Maintenance

Landscape Maintenance

Tour Guide

#### Museum

Displays

Genealogy

Historical Research

Tour Guide

Curator Assistant

#### Activities/Events

Gordon Hall Days

Christmas Bazaar

Gordon Hall Christmas Events

Dexter Heritage Guild

#### 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/](http://www.facebook.com/dexterhistory/)

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