



# Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum

July 2011

**Gordon Hall Tours scheduled for Saturday, August 13 from 12 to 3:30 as part of Dexter Daze.** These tours are offered each year and give others the opportunity to learn about our historic Gordon Hall. The WAVE Bus will be running from the DAHSAM Booth downtown near the flagpole to Gordon Hall. There is no charge for the bus, but we are asking for a donation of \$5 per person that will be collected in the house. The tour takes about 45 minutes and to fully enjoy it you will need to be able to manage flights of stairs. We have rest areas for those who need them.

However, to make the tours work, we need many volunteers willing to be there for at least 2 hours and guide visitors through various stations. We still need volunteers who can take small groups down to the basement, up to the attic and then back down. There are a number of our "regulars" who are not able to help this year, and we are looking for some new persons to fill in. **Please consider volunteering for an hour or two if you can on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August.** If the stairs are a problem, we have other positions where you can help us. Please email us at [DexMuseum@aol.com](mailto:DexMuseum@aol.com) or phone the Museum at (734) 426-2519 and leave a message. We will be setting up practice times in late July or early August for our volunteers. Please consider using this opportunity to volunteer to help your Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum, and also give yourself a chance to learn more about Gordon Hall.

Nancy J. Van Blaricum  
Gordon Hall Volunteer Coordinator

**The Museum lawn will be the site for yard sales during Dexter Daze in August.** The very popular and interesting Dexter Antiquarians sale will be held on the Museum lawn this year. Also, the Museum is inviting DAHSAM members who are interested to bring a table, their items, and conduct their own sale. The sale site will be listed on the Dexter Daze yard sale map. Call the Museum 426-2519 to save a space.

**The Heritage Guild** is making plans to hold an antiques appraisal clinic in October. Details will be published as soon as possible so that appointments can be made. Call Sue Schotts for further information, 424-9998.

**The Museum** is open on Fridays and Saturdays, 1-3 p.m. We are always interested in having you visit and see what is being done. If you would like to volunteer a few hours, there are always interesting and easy tasks that you could do. If you would like to be a docent for tours, the training is brief and also interesting. You are always welcome. Contact Nancy, Alice or Nina.

#### **New Book in Museum Gift Shop:**

*Sarah Ellen (Nixon) Bird, Her Life and Career* written by her daughter, Ellen Anne (Bird) Stamelos. In her introduction to her book, Ellen states: "Its purpose is to give an idea of what it was like to live during Sarah's lifetime. Sarah was a teacher." Ellen covers her mother's entire life from her birth in 1900 in Dexter Township to her death in 1994. There are very interesting stories, many of which involve the Dexter-Ann Arbor area. Please stop by to see this interesting book at the Gift Shop.

**We need to get more people signed up to receive the newsletter via E-mail.** Anything we can do to save money helps the Society. Please email Nancy Van Blaricum at [DexMuseum@aol.com](mailto:DexMuseum@aol.com) with your name. She can pick up your email from that.

**CIVIL WAR DAYS AT GORDON HALL**, June 10-12, was a very successful event for the Historical Society, and the community (both young and old) turned out for the event. Despite the cool weather, a number of people turned out for the Period Concert – The Towne Band and listened as the band played music composed by Stephen Foster. That evening a Military encampment of the 4<sup>th</sup> Michigan Regiment Company A was set up on the grounds of Gordon Hall, accompanied by a civilian encampment.

At 9:00 A.M. on June 11, the grounds were opened to the public with the sound of Artillery firing. Despite the cool weather, hundreds of visitors turned out for the events of the day. There were Military drills and artillery firing demonstrations. The military and civilian camps were open for visitors throughout the day. Living historians gave talks throughout the day. Family Civil War connection research was conducted by the Sons of Union Veterans (Bill Lowe and Bill McAfee) throughout the morning with much interest from the visitors. Activities for the children included Storytelling with Barb Locks and a Children's Game Corner with period games. Period meals were available for purchase. The Period tea and fashion show was very well attended.

The highlight of the day was the arrival of President and Mrs. Lincoln (aka, Fred and Bonnie Prebe) by horse and carriage to Gordon Hall. They were accompanied by their guards and another carriage with Sean Keough (Dexter's President) and Mark Ouimet (State Representative). This was followed by an evening with "President and Mrs. Lincoln" held in back of Gordon Hall in an 1861 setting. The fabulous fundraising dinner catered and provided by the Cedars of Dexter was attended by over 150 people. An 1861 White House Menu was served. There was a Period Quintet, followed by lantern tours of the Military and Civilian Encampments.

On June 12, the Encampment continued with a Sunday Service conducted by Bill McAfee and a period gospel sing. This was followed by a Community Pie Auction with over 40 homemade pies auctioned off, in style, by Ralph Dresch. This proved to be a huge success. **Thanks to all of you who provided the pies.** There were Horseshoe Games and a Pig Roast, followed by an 1860's Baseball Game with bags of peanuts to munch on. Throughout both days, there were Civil War Displays open for the public in the South Room on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Gordon Hall, as well as Kettle Corn and Old Time Wet Plate Photography with Martin Bertera.

Civil War Days 2011(1861) ended with a mock burning of Gordon Hall mortgage. There was recognition of Civil War Soldiers from the Dexter area who served in the Michigan 4<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks to Donna Fisher and Jennifer Colby for the great job they did in chairing this event and to all the many others who helped to make this such a success. We are planning to do this again in June of 2012(1862). We hope we can count on your help.



Daniel Lai photograph