

DAHSAM News



Winter & Spring Events

Sunday Feb. 24 th 2:00 PM	The Funeral of Judge Samuel Dexter Dexter District Library at the Museum
Saturday March 9 th 10 AM to 4 PM	Dexter Pioneer Arts Fair at Creekside Inter. School on Baker Road
Early May 2013	Antique Appraisal Clinic at the Museum
Fri. – Sun. June 7 - 9	Dexter's Civil War Days at Gordon Hall

Dexter Daze Raffle

Upon deciding to cease existence, the Dexter Kiwanis Club recommended the Historical Society as the organization they would like to see take over the annual Dexter Daze Raffle. On February 5th a meeting to discuss the opportunity was held with Joe Scheuring representing the Kiwanis.

A need to act fast was apparent due to the time it will take to get a raffle license. The DAHSAM Executive Board met on February 6th and voted to begin the process of applying for the raffle license and planning the "DAHSAM/Gordon Hall Dexter Daze Raffle".

We look forward to the raffle being among the fundraising activities used as we work to pay off the Gordon Hall mortgage.

Bake Sale Items Needed

Members and friends of the Historical Society, please consider contributing one of your homemade baked goods to support the Bake Sale in conjunction with the Dexter Pioneer Arts Fair on Saturday, March 9th.

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Museum Hours

The Museum will be closed for the winter.

It will reopen in early May 2013.

Service to Honor Judge Samuel Dexter

In honor of the 150th anniversary of the death of Judge Samuel Dexter, founder of the Village of Dexter, the Dexter Area Historical Society & Museum is presenting a memorial reenactment of his funeral. There will be discussions centered on issues taking place in 1863. These include the events surrounding the Civil War, states' rights and anti-slavery and the how our knowledge of Judge Dexter relates to these activities and the role he may have played. In addition, there will be actors portraying members of the family, a minister, the Village undertaker and other local characters from this time period.

This service will be held in the lower level of the Dexter District Library on Sunday, February 24, 2013, at 2:00 PM. Light refreshments will follow. This is a free event and all are welcome.

If you would like to be involved, please contact Nancy Van Blaricum at the Museum (DexMuseum@aol.com). We need both actors and staging assistance and would like to work with you.

Christmas Bazaar – The Best Ever!

People were waiting in a long line on the pavement outside of the Museum and as soon as the doors were opened, there was a "rush" of people who crowded into to the Bake Sale before shopping in the main room!

This affirmed the words the Guild members have often said and heard: *Many, many people come for the Bake Sale!* Greatly appreciated is all the help from both members and friends of the Museum. Your making of baked items and treats and festively labeling and decorating them is greatly appreciated. We even had special treats for four-legged family members!

We further thank members and friends of the Museum for the finished items you have made at home and donated to the Bazaar. Those items are most welcome. We had an absolutely lovely variety of items to sell this year. We are grateful!

The Heritage Guild's two fundraisers, the Holiday Bazaar and the Antique Appraisal Clinic support the operation of our Museum. The proceeds keep the heat and lights on for the museum we love. The Heritage Guild extends its sincere thanks to everyone who participated in so many ways.

Come to the Dexter Pioneer Arts Fair

One of the Historical Society's most prestigious events will be held Saturday, March 9, 2013, at Creekside Intermediate School, 2615 Baker Road in Dexter. This will be the 40th anniversary of the annual Dexter Pioneer Arts Fair, sponsored by the Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum. Hours will be from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. This juried show features over 50 local and area artisans who demonstrate their traditional folk crafts and offer them for purchase.

There will be jewelry fabrication, stained glass construction, scrimshaw work, egg decoration, watercolor painting, woodcarving and pottery work. Other mediums include quilting, knitting, weaving, felting, spinning, and caning.

Chances on drawing items will be available. These include the following donated items: a **carved wooden bowl** from Mac Buxton, a **"Lord's Prayer" crocheted tapestry** from the Buxton family, a **soap and oils basket** from Cynthia High, and a **ceramic**

pottery piece from Pam O'Hara. Children will find a craft art table just for them and an always-luscious DAHSAM Bake Sale will be in operation. The Society bakers are known for their special homemade goodies and this is a wonderful way to warm up on a winter day. Sandwiches will also be available.

The very low admission fee remains at \$3.00 for adults and \$.50 for K-12 students. Proceeds support the work of the Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum and the maintenance of the Dexter Area Historical Museum located at 3335 Inverness, Dexter. Friends and members of the Society please pull out your most treasured recipes and gather your delicious ingredients as you make plans for your homemade contribution to this event. See you in March! Should you need more information about the Fair or the Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum, please visit our website at: www.dextermuseum.org. A list of participating artists is available on the website.

Christmas at the Mansion

Co-Chairs Julie Knight and Terry Stacey and their committee, saw two days of success at a holiday open house. The rooms of Gordon Hall were gloriously decorated by the following: Cedars/Jan Lyons, Hearts & Flowers, Dexter Garden Club, Dexter Mill, Castlerock Landscaping, Lions Club, Museum Staff, Cobblestone Rose/Carol Duncan Poore. Activities included Christmas caroling, a visit from Santa, photos and a raffle of a five-foot tall Old World Santa, designed and donated by Jan Lyons.

The generosity of the Dexter community is key to the success of this happening. Country Market, Busch's Market, Josh Warner, and the Dexter Bakery provided donations of food. Society members performed a host of services including parking cars, serving cider and cookies, and operating a holiday gift shop. This is truly an

example of the great things that can happen through working together.

The days of Christmas at the Mansion were filled with many happy faces and donations. Including the rentals of the Hall, nearly \$7000 was applied to the reduction of the Gordon Hall mortgage. Many thanks from the Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum to all participants!

Donations

Donations made to the Dexter Area Historical Society, a 501c(3) organization are typically tax deductible and greatly appreciated. For further information, visit our website or email us at:

DexMuseum@aol.com or call (734) 426-2519.

Looking for...

For the Heritage Guild:

- small gift boxes, preferably with no writing
- fabrics (Christmas is very desirable)
- wool or wool blend sweaters (holes are no problem)
- Christmas wired ribbon
- Christmas cards
- scrapbooking items with Christmas or winter themes
- yarn
- wooden beads
- buttons - especially yellow, blue, green, black and white
- mailing tubes (can have labels on them or even dented as they will be covered)
- fiber stuffing (can be old as we have had success in washing it)
- Modge Podge

For Dexter's Civil War Days:

- wrought iron plant hangers (shepherd's crook type)

For Gordon Hall:

- china teacups
- table linens

Dexter's Civil War Days - 1863

The snow might be flying, but some members of the Historical Society and Museum are already preparing for an exciting summer event. After working closely with my mother and Paul Bishop for two years I am pleased to take on the role of Chair for this year's Civil War Days event to be held June 7-9, 2013 at Gordon Hall and I'm thrilled that this project is in motion. Meetings have been held, plans have been composed, and enthusiasm is high. Teams are focusing on publicity and scheduling right now.

The event will open on Friday night with a welcome concert of period music. We are pleased to say that President and Mrs. Lincoln will again be hosting An Evening With The Lincolns on Saturday night, June 8th. This year's Civil War Days will feature Confederate troops as well as Union troops, and they will skirmish on the grounds of Gordon hall. We are planning demonstrations of daily life in the 1860s, which will take place inside the civilian camps, and preparing a children's games corner with lots of activities for the little ones.

Civil War Days will include a feature on mourning customs of the Victorian period, with a focus on Colonel Harrison Jeffords, who led the 4th Michigan at Gettysburg in 1863, and fell during the battle.

We are looking for and are pleased to accept, eager volunteers to help in many different ways. We have a place for everyone. Contact me at abigailfisher@gmail.com or [517-420-4281](tel:517-420-4281) to find out what we're up to and how you might join us!

Abby

Donations

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

Our History – Rev. Elijah Holmes Pilcher

The following is an extract, by Nancy Van Blaricum, from an article by Rev. Ronald A. Brunger on Rev. Elijah H. Pilcher. Rev. Pilcher will be the Minister who will be in our reenactment of the Funeral of Judge Samuel W. Dexter, our Village founder on Sunday, February 24, 2013 at 2 PM at the Dexter District Library

With a horse, a few books in his saddlebags, and only 12 cents in his pocket, a young Methodist circuit rider, on his way to the Ann Arbor Circuit, reached Detroit on Saturday evening, October 2, 1830. This was Elijah Holmes Pilcher, who was beginning a long and notable career in Michigan Methodism. Rev. Pilcher, sent up by the Ohio Conference, to this frontier circuit as junior preacher, was only 20 years old. The senior preacher, Henry Colclazer, was but one year his senior.

Elijah H. Pilcher was born near Athens, Ohio, June 2, 1810. He was brought up on a pioneer farm. Influenced by the religious atmosphere of his boyhood home and by the Methodist circuit riders that his parents had welcomed, he became convinced that he was duty bound to become a preacher of the gospel. At the age of 19 Elijah Pilcher was licensed to preach and was recommended for on trial admission into the Ohio Annual Conference. After one year of arduous labor in the Nicholas Circuit (now West Virginia), Pilcher went to Michigan.

In the fall of 1830, the Ann Arbor Circuit included the country from a point six miles west of Detroit to five miles west of Ann Arbor. One of the first settlements he visited was Jacksonburg, located 40 miles west of Ann Arbor. On his return trip to Ann Arbor, he preached in what is now Grass Lake. Before the year was out Pilcher and Colclazer had twenty-six appointments on their frontier circuit, embracing the settlements on either side of the territorial road from Dearbornville to Jacksonburg, and they made their rounds every four weeks.

In 1831 Pilcher was appointed to the Tecumseh Circuit, with Ezekiel S. Gavit as junior preacher. This circuit, as arranged by Pilcher, covered six counties: Lenawee, Washtenaw, Jackson, Calhoun, Branch, and Hillsdale, and was nearly 400 miles in length. Pilcher often rode his circuit when his feet and legs were wet, and his legs would become so chafed that it was necessary to wind a silk handkerchief around them so that he could go on in some degree of comfort. It is interesting to note that game was plentiful on the Tecumseh Circuit, and the young circuit rider "often wished for a gun, but could not have one," for he explains, "I would have to carry it on the Sabbath as well as other days, because there was no returning on my route." It was against his religious principles to carry a gun on the Sabbath.

In 1837 the Conference treated Pilcher kindly and sent him to Ann Arbor, one of the three station appointments in Michigan. From 1838 to 1842 Pilcher served as presiding elder of the new Marshall District. After 1842 Pilcher served in repeated presiding elder assignments, as well as in stations, and he became more and more a leader in Michigan Methodism. His religious experience was not as emotional as that of many of the early Methodists, but the apostolic spirit burned within him and revivals often sprang up in his wake. He brought about 3,000 persons a day into the Church when church and population figures were much smaller. He founded at least 14 churches and probably more. According to his son, the list includes Jackson, Grass Lake, Marshall, Coldwater, Manchester,

Dexter, Chelsea, Saline, Leslie, Hastings, Sharon and three churches in Detroit.

In the great struggle over the slavery question, Elijah Pilcher, like his father before him, stood on the side of humanity and freedom. His views were positive and his logic convincing.

Elijah Pilcher is justly famous in Michigan Methodism as one of the three founders of Albion College. In 1833 Henry Colclazer, Benjamin Packard, and Pilcher agreed that there ought to be an academy of higher learning in Michigan under the patronage of the church.

Pilcher himself had an insatiable hunger for knowledge. When first appointed presiding elder, Pilcher concluded that knowledge of the law would be helpful to him. After years of study, he was admitted to the bar in 1846. Later Pilcher decided that he would be a more helpful pastor if he had knowledge of medicine. In 1859 he received his medical degree. Pilcher had a keen interest in agriculture. He wrote a series of strong editorials calling "attention to the advantage of agricultural education." Pilcher provided the spark that led to the establishment of Michigan Agricultural College in 1855 (now Michigan State University), the first such college in the land.

One of Pilcher's greatest contributions to Michigan Methodism came in 1878, when he published his 464-page history entitled, *Protestantism in Michigan: Being a Special History of the Methodist Episcopal Church*. Through this and other articles written by him through the years, he deserves praise for largely preserving the early heritage of Michigan Methodism.

When near the end of his life, Pilcher had his grandchildren brought to his bedside and he blessed them, as did the patriarchs of old. Then bidding his family an affectionate adieu, he peacefully passed on to the higher life on April 7, 1887. He was buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York.

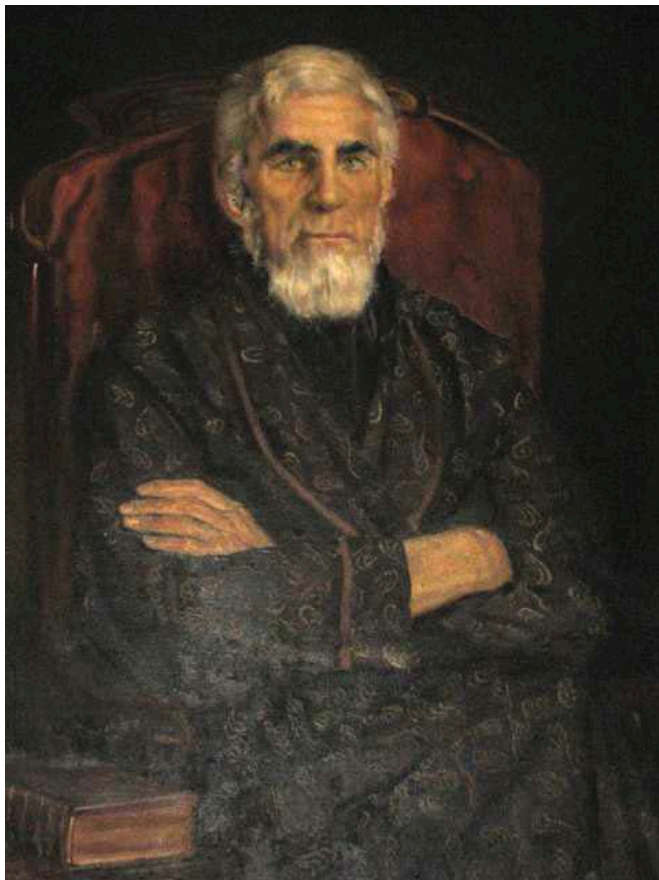
Christmas Benefit Tea

Under the leadership of Committee Chair Pat Albright, December 8, 2012, saw another successful fundraising event dedicated to the reduction of the Gordon Hall mortgage. Each of the Tea's two sittings served 50 guests. The menu was served as three courses that included nut breads, tea sandwiches, and cookies. Hot tea and warm spiced cider were served as beverages.

Committee members Julie Knight, Terri Stacey, Carol Duncan-Poore, Julie Dotts, Bev Hill, and a host of additional volunteers, assisted Pat.

Some baked cookies, some donated sandwiches, some loaned equipment, some made favors, some did publicity, some gave an oral history of the Hall, and the Mussi & the Bos families provided chamber music. Others cleaned before and after the event, tidied the grounds, set tables or volunteered as servers. The success of the event was wrapped in a host of volunteers performing a myriad of activities. Sincere thanks are sent out to all involved.

All foods were donated and the event yielded a profit of approximately \$1700.



Judge Samuel Dexter



Antique Appraisal Clinic



Alice Pastalan, Nancy Van Blaricum and Bene Fusilier at Dexter Pioneer Arts Fair

DAHSAM 2012 Recap by President Bene Fusillier

In February, at our Annual Meeting Past President Gil Campbell stepped down, after serving as president for over ten years. He turned the gavel over to current president, Bene Fusillier. Thank you Gil, for your many years of service to the Historical Society.

In March, the tornado, which came through Dexter on March 15, devastated much of the area, fortunately, our Museum escaped damage. However, our March 17th, Annual Pioneer Arts Fair had to be cancelled. As this is one of our major fundraisers for the Museum, it was a big loss.

In May, the Museum was opened to the public for the year. May also saw another successful DuMouchelles Antique Appraisal clinic.

Despite the humid 90-degree weather in June, many turned out for our Civil War Days at Gordon Hall and it was another successful event. The Lincoln Dinner was again, another huge success.

Dexter Daze in August brought many visitors for our tours of Gordon Hall. Jim Parker was there to sign his newly published book "Voices of the Past: The Saga of Gordon Hall".

We were saddened at the death this year of two of our long time members, Norma McAllister and Bea Christopherson. Norma was one of the founders of our Historical Society. Bea has been described by many, to be "the backbone" of our Heritage Guild and its annual Holiday Bazaar.

In December, the Holiday Bazaar was carried forward and did very well, with this year being one of its most successful years.

Christmas at the Mansion, with its lovely decorated rooms, brought many visitors to Gordon Hall. A Holiday Tea was added this year and was enjoyed by all who attended. The revenues raised from these events, plus Civil War Days, contribute to the progress we are making in paying off the Gordon Hall mortgage. Yet, we still have a long way to go.



**2012
Christmas Bazaar
Bake Sale**

2013 Events

FEBRUARY

- Annual Members Meeting

MARCH

- Dexter Pioneer Arts Fair (3/9)

MAY

- Possible Spring Fundraiser

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

DuMochelles Antique Appraisal Clinic

In early May, the Heritage Guild will again host an antique appraisal clinic with the DuMouchelles Art Gallery. In the past several of our members, along with the public, have submitted items for evaluation and were very pleased to learn more about their treasures. Many different kinds of items have come through the Museum doors and some have turned out to be very valuable.

Three appraisers, each with their own area of expertise will be present to look at your item. Appraisals are done by appointment. One appraiser, 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. Keep in mind that the schedule generally fills quickly. More information, related fees and setting appointments, is forthcoming. Please call the Museum or watch our website for more details.

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	Brian Diskin	323-3491
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

Museum Co-Director

Museum Co-Director	Nina Rackham	426-2494
<u>Genealogist</u>	Alice Pastalan	810-231-2511
	Nancy Van Blaricum	426-3341

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

What is the Heritage Guild?

Some people have wondered about the Heritage Guild group. We enjoy getting together to share our interests in creating various craft items while at the same time providing support for the Dexter Area Historical Museum.

The Guild's two fundraisers, the Holiday Bazaar and the Antique Appraisal Clinic support the operation of the Museum, with proceeds used to keep the heat and lights on. The Heritage Guild extends its sincere thanks to everyone who participated in so many ways.

Our group meets at the Museum the third and fourth Wednesdays of each month.

Beginning in September, the group meets every Wednesday to provide additional time dedicated to making items for our Holiday Bazaar in early December.

We always welcome new members! We need a variety of skills and work on an array of projects. Thus, we need and have a place for everyone!

Craft items assembled at home and donated to the Guild are welcomed, too. If you have items you wish to give, please call: Carol Ann at 426-0477. We have good storage for next year's inventory and she can answer your questions.

We hope you will join us next month!

Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum

3443 Inverness Street
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