

March 2019

## Dexter Area Museum 2019 Opening

The Dexter Area Museum will be opening on May 3rd with a special display of Bibles from our collection. The Bibles range in size from those that fit in your hand (usually just the New Testament) to large and very heavy ones most of which contain the history of families who lived in the Dexter Area.

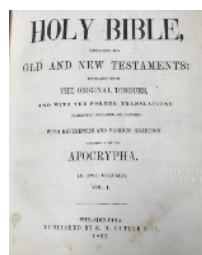


Every one of the Bibles tells a story once you look into the Genealogy of the family. The Bibles that include information from old Dexter names are Arnold, Copeland, Nordman, Parsons, and Pratt. The smaller Bibles usually only include one name, and we have been able to

learn more using genealogical resources. Some familiar names in the smaller Bibles include Toney, Elsasser, Steinbach, Jones, Porter and Bross.

We are fortunate to have the Wirt Dexter Bible on loan from the Elk Rapids Library in Elk Rapids, Michigan where Wirt was instrumental in establishing the logging industry. The Bible was a gift to the Library from Wirt's daughter, Katharine Dexter McCormick.

So come in beginning on May 3rd to see our display of the Bibles and learn about the families involved.



## Antique Appraisers

### Dexter Area Museum, Saturday, May 4th

Antique appraisers from DuMouchelles Art Gallery in Detroit will return to the Dexter Area Museum on **Saturday, May 4 from 9:30 - 3:30** for the Dexter Heritage Guild's Antique Appraisal Day. The fund-raiser is a unique opportunity to learn the history and possible value of a family heirloom or a unique thrift shop find.



Items that can be appraised at the Dexter Area Museum include collectibles, china, pewter, old books and toys, stained glass, paintings (artist's signature required), baseball and wartime memorabilia, and small pieces of furniture. Since each of the three DuMouchelles appraisers has his

or her own area of expertise, appointments will be scheduled according to the item being appraised.

Appointments for one to two items take approximately 15 minutes and include verbal appraisals. There is a fee of \$7 per item, which will be used to support special requests and needs of the Dexter Area Museum. In the past, the requests have included indoor and outdoor maintenance, display cabinets, and protective coverings for the Museum's stained-glass windows.

To make an appointment for May 4, call Sue Schotts at 734-424-9998. On the day of event, please call the Museum: 734-426-2519 for additional information.

## A Night at the Museum



Join us on May 10, 2019 from 7 to 9 pm at the Dexter Area Museum for an artifacts tour of the facility featuring our new Bible Display. You will have the opportunity to tour, view and ask question about the numerous items housed at the Museum and meet the hard working "staff". Richard Ashley will be present to run and discuss the Hoatlin Model Train, a big draw for many who come to the Museum.

This is a fund raising event for the Dexter Area Museum to assist with operating costs. A donation of \$25 per person is requested and reservations can be made by calling the Museum at 734-426-2519 or emailing [DexMuseum@aol.com](mailto:DexMuseum@aol.com) by May 6, 2019. Your donation is tax deductible for the full amount. If you have family or friends who have never had the opportunity to visit our great Museum, please invite them to attend.

## President's Letter

### Welcome to Spring?!

We have had a very hard winter, but our Historical Society has still been very busy. Our members at the Museum have been researching and planning for a new display that will open May 3rd. At Gordon Hall our members have been meeting with an architectural team to bring Gordon Hall back to its original condition. We are also planning for Gordon Hall Days and preparing for weddings and graduation celebrations. At both of our buildings we are looking forward to the coming season.

As you will see in our newsletter we have been very busy and would love to have you volunteer at any of our events. These are very exciting times for the Dexter Area Historical Society. We would love to see you at our events and are looking forward to a great season,

Bev Hill, President of the Dexter Area Historical Society

### Gordon Hall Days - June 22 and 23

10:00 AM to 4 PM

Donation \$5 per person or \$20/car

Join us for the expanded Gordon Hall Days 2019! New this year we are featuring barn raising demonstrations and the Dexter History Walk. Shop at the Antique and Vintage Market, tour historic Gordon Hall and enjoy the antique car show. Activities for the children include Colors the Clown, crafts, games and animal demonstrations. There will be music and food, and you are also invited to bring a picnic lunch and enjoy it on our lawn. Visit our website for specific times for each event. All proceeds support the Dexter Area Historical Society. Location, Gordon Hall, 8311 Island Lake Road, Dexter, Michigan, at the corner of Dexter Pinckney Road. For information call 734-426-2519 or visit our website: [www.dexterhistory.org/upcoming-events](http://www.dexterhistory.org/upcoming-events)

### George Bedard and the Kingpins

**SAVE THE DATE!** Don't miss your chance to boogie under the stars at Gordon Hall. Come join us and bring your friends for a night of great food, toe-tapping music, dance contests, celebrity guests, and Gordon Hall tours as we once again host **George Bedard and the Kingpins at Gordon Hall Days on Saturday, June 22, at 6 p.m.** George brought down the house (well, the tent) with his boogie-woogie tunes last year, and we don't want you to miss the fun this year. Watch this space for ticket information and sponsorship opportunities. **As always, all proceeds from this very special event will benefit our fabulous Gordon Hall.**

Please join us for

**Gordon Hall Days**

**Tea with a Flair at the Fair**

Saturday, June 22, 2019 at 1:00

Tea and light desserts provided

Fashions and commentary

presented by Helen Welford

**Save the Date**

**A Gordon Hall Fundraiser**

sponsored by

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Chelsea

Appetizers, Spirits, Dinner,

a Live Auction and Fun!

Saturday evening September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019

## The Family Bible

*The Dexter Area Museum will be presenting a display of Bibles from our collection for our 2019 season. In preparation, we thought we should share a little information on the History of the Family Bible in America from an article posted in the Appalachian History website by [Dave Tabler](#).*

“Prior to easily retrievable birth certificates, marriage licenses, death certificates, and digitized record keeping in general, the family Bible held the ultimate narrative of ancestral history. They’re a treasure trove for both genealogists and historians. More often than not, the family Bible was the only written record of births, marriages and deaths of loved ones. In addition, between the leaves of this precious possession one could expect to find a wealth of newspaper clippings, letters, photos, and other ephemera pressed for safekeeping over generations of forbears.

It was understood that the book was to be carefully guarded and passed along. Most family Bibles present dates without any embellishment, but every now and again a quirky personality shines through giving detailed information of places, times and places of burial.

An interesting fact is that it was illegal for any printer in the Colonies to produce the English Bible. Publication of the King James Version of Scripture was controlled by Oxford and Cambridge University Presses as well as other printers licensed by the king. In response, Colonial printers created a ‘family Bible’ with the addition of record keeping ability to circumvent the copyright restrictions of English law. They frequently included blank pages for multi-generational notes and commentary, as well as engravings and illustrations. These Bibles were sold in inexpensive serial editions. After the Revolutionary War, the budding American legislature wasn’t any more friendly to Bible printers. “An effort was made in its first Congress to restrict the printing of the [Bible] to licensed houses,” says the Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature. However, this political attempt to continue regulated distribution ‘was cut short by the first amendment to the Constitution, and the book was thrown into the hands of the trade at large, with anything but a beneficial effect on its general integrity.’

England refused to send its former colonies any more Bibles, so demand for the Good Book was high and supply was low. Isaac Collins rose to the challenge in his Trenton, NJ print shop. He pre-sold 3,000 copies before the project was even begun, and by the time the presses stopped, 5,000 copies awaited eager hands. Rag cotton linen paper was a precious commodity in early America, which forced Collins to resort to wood-pulp paper. His choice of stock was somewhat thicker than that used for books today. The resulting folio had the unintended benefit of more heft, greater durability, and a therefore a built-in likelihood of arriving at heirloom status. Isaac Collins produced the most influential American Bible from the late 1700’s until the mid 1800’s, originating the “Family Bible” format we’ve come to know today.”

Sources: “Imperial Bibles, Domestic Bodies: Women, Sexuality, and Religion in the Victorian Market” (review): *English Studies in Canada* – Volume 32, Issue 2-3, June/September 2006, pp. 203-206

*The First American Bible*, by Margaret T. Hills, American Bible Society, 1968

*Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature*, edited by John M’Clintock and James Strong, Vol. I, pg. 563, Baker Book House, 1981

*We have a variety of Bibles in our collection ranging from large Bibles with family information written in them to small Bibles, most apparently given out at the time of Confirmation. The smaller Bibles usually only*



*have the name of the person receiving the Bible, but we were able to find information on them and their families. Many begin with the marriage of a young couple and then go on to give us the births, marriages and deaths of the family members. There is no set rule on how the Bible was used and for how many generations. We hope you will enjoy our presentation of the Bibles from our collection as well as the Wirt Dexter Bible on loan to us by the Elk Rapids Library. For those whose families have been in the Dexter Area for a long time, you may find information on your ancestors.*

**TODAY’S FAMILY HISTORY**

## The Dexter Area Museum Report

Have you ever wondered what happens at the Dexter Area Museum when we are closed from December to the first week of May?

During the winter months, the volunteer staff is at the museum on Fridays and Saturdays working on projects which can't be done when we are open. For instance, we use the seasonal closing period for painting and repair of needed areas, the changing of displays and adding new ones, and organizing research material. The artifacts always need some sort of attention like cleaning, oiling, and wood repairs. The fabrics need cleaning, and some need mending. These items are very fragile and must be stored in special tissue and acid free boxes.



Items donated to the Museum are given a reference number, inventoried, labeled, put into categories and entered into our card catalog file before they are displayed or properly packed away. Inventory of existing items is a big part of the museum staff time, and the reference number is used to track who donated the artifacts. We are continually researching information on the artifacts.

Our staff at the museum is made up of five dedicated staff members. Many times we get help from friends and especially our husbands. We all have our areas of expertise and have a passion for the museum and the Dexter Area.

## Gordon Hall Report

Dexter's Gordon Hall is the recipient of a \$75,000 grant to develop the plans and specifications needed to renovate the interior of Gordon Hall. The Certified Local Government Grant was awarded to Washtenaw County and the Dexter Area Historical Society (DAHS) by the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on July 17, 2018. The total cost of the project will be \$125,000, with 60% provided by the Grant and 40% provided by DAHS. "Once we have these plans and specifications, we hope to be able to begin to do some work inside Gordon Hall. We'd like to renovate one room quickly, so everyone can see and be inspired by this beautiful building and its history", said Beverly Hill, President of DAHS.



DAHS and its many wonderful volunteers are keeping Gordon Hall in tip top shape and dreaming of the day when we can open the building fully to the community. It is our goal to complete that transformation in time for Dexter's bicentennial in 2024.

A special thanks to our grant committee with our board member Caryl Burke as chair in completing this grant. This group has worked very hard and have been awarded grants in helping to keep our goals in restoring Gordon Hall.

## The Dexter Heritage Guild Report

The Dexter Heritage Guild raised over \$5,200 for museum operations at its 2018 Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale. Shoppers at the Bazaar enjoyed a new table set-up that offered more display space for the Guild's wide variety of handcrafted items. The always popular Bake Sale tables were filled with delicious jams, preserved vegetables, chocolate treats, a wonderful selection of cookies and coffee cakes, plus special items for furry friends. Kids and adults alike enjoyed special time and photo opportunities with Santa Claus.



The Holiday Drawing was also very successful. Four happy winners took home a gift combo from Encore Musical Theatre Company and Red Brick Kitchen & Bar, a queen-size quilt, a ceramic Christmas Tree, and a multi-nut torte made by Paul Cousins. Shoppers also had the opportunity to collect special "Dexter Bazaar Passport" stamps. Participants who collected stamps at all four bazaars were entered in a drawing for gift baskets provided by the participating organizations. The Passport promotion was coordinated by the Dexter Girl Scouts.

The annual Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale wouldn't be possible without the efforts of so many – the bakers who filled our eyes and then our stomachs, the crafters who stay busy all year long, the volunteers who help the day go smoothly, and the shoppers who know that "made in Dexter" means made with love. To all of you, a big thank-you from the Dexter Heritage Guild and the Dexter Area Museum.

## Check your attic - Do you have any of the items or time requested below?

### Time to Check Your Craft Cupboard and Yarn Stash!

Was one of your New Year's resolutions organizing your craft cupboard or reducing your yarn stash? The Dexter Heritage Guild is here to help. Donate your extras and the Guild's crafters will cut and stitch, knit and crochet, recycle and upcycle, brainstorm and transform all of it into handcrafted delights. The Guild's particular needs for 2019 are listed below.

- 100% Wool Yarn for needle felted hats
- Polar fleece fabric
- 100 % Cotton Fabric – solids and prints

Also needed are:

Drop-in crafters – 9 to noon, third & fourth Wednesdays at the Museum

Home crafters – anytime, anywhere

For more information or if you have any questions, please write to: [DexterHeritageGuild@gmail.com](mailto:DexterHeritageGuild@gmail.com) or call 734-426-8952.

**Wanted for Gordon Hall:** Items for the milk house at Gordon Hall. Specifically, we are looking for metal milk cans, a milking stool, small garden and farm tools, crocks, wooden bowls, and utensils. Plus any other items that might be in a milk house that might have been used as a farm and garden store (1840-1880 era). Call Bev Hill at 734.426.4767 for additional information.

**Needed for the Museum:** As always, we are looking for volunteers to join us at the Museum. We need people interested in helping with the displays, cataloging, the Gift Shop, filing, assisting in the many different areas of research, maintenance, and much more. If you have an hour or two on Fridays or Saturdays from 1 to 3, we welcome you and will find something you would like to do! Just leave a message at 426-2519 or email at [DexMuseum@aol.com](mailto:DexMuseum@aol.com).

### Virginia Ann (Benneman) Ryan



Our dear friend Ginny Ryan passed away February 18, 2019. An active member of the Dexter Heritage Guild, Ginny was dedicated and devoted to our beloved Pioneer Arts Fair, where she served as Chairperson from 1996 to 2013. She loved working with the many vendors and making everything “just so” for them. Many phone calls were made until everything was satisfactory. The hours she put into preparing for the day of the event were endless. Because the Pioneer Arts Fair always took place in March, she had to contend with a power outage, changes in venue, and all kinds of weather including a tornado in 2012. Her strong-will and courage got her through it all. Ginny was a very “special” person and her warm smile will be missed by all.

## DEXTER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**OFFICERS:**

**President:**

Bev Hill

**Vice-President:**

Ina Germain

**Secretary:**

Sharon Wheeler

**Treasurer:**

Carol Jones

**DIRECTORS:**

Neil Adams

Sue Behnke

Caryl Burke

Shawn Pierrel

Ceci Riecker

Nancy Van Blaricum

Jan Weaver

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

NEWSLETTER - Nancy J. Van Blaricum [DexMuseum@aol.com](mailto:DexMuseum@aol.com)

WEBMASTER - Jan Weaver [weaver74@charter.net](mailto:weaver74@charter.net)

GORDON HALL SPECIAL EVENTS - Bene Fusilier: 734-426-8972

HISTORICAL GUILD - Pat Pudduck: [patpudduck@gmail.com](mailto:patpudduck@gmail.com)

MUSEUM DIRECTOR - Nina Rackham: [NDRackham@aol.com](mailto:NDRackham@aol.com)

**FACILITIES:**

DEXTER AREA MUSEUM - 3443 Inverness, Dexter, MI 48130

GORDON HALL - 8311 Island Lake Rd., Dexter, MI 48130

PHONE - 734-426-2519 WEBSITE: [www.DexterHistory.org](http://www.DexterHistory.org) EMAIL: [DexMuseum@aol.com](mailto:DexMuseum@aol.com)

Museum Hours: Friday and Saturday, 1 to 3 PM, May through November

**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)

\$50 Annual (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.

<b>Historical Society</b>	<b>Gordon Hall</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> Housekeeping
<input type="checkbox"/> Programs	<input type="checkbox"/> Building Maintenance
<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Maintenance
	<input type="checkbox"/> Tour Guide
<b>Museum</b>	<b>Activities/Events</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Displays	<input type="checkbox"/> Gordon Hall Days
<input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy	<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Bazaar
<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Research	<input type="checkbox"/> Gordon Hall Christmas Events
<input type="checkbox"/> Tour Guide	<input type="checkbox"/> Dexter Heritage Guild
<input type="checkbox"/> Curator Assistant	

**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/  
 v1.3 Mar 2016