

May 2019

Gordon Hall Days

**June 22nd and 23rd, 2019
10:00 AM to 4 PM**

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

Come and join us for the expanded Gordon Hall Days 2019! This year we are featuring barn raising demonstrations. See how barns were constructed in the past and even lend a hand to assist. Follow the self guided Dexter Heritage Walk created by Dexter third graders which is a series of signs depicting Dexter history. 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 visit our website:

www.dexterhistory.org/upcoming-events or call 734 426-4767.

We welcome donations of Antique or Vintage items for our Sale during Gordon Hall Days. Please contact Bev at 734-426-4767 to arrange a time to bring your donation to the Hall.

George Bedard Concert

June 22nd, 2019 at 6PM

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**. 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.



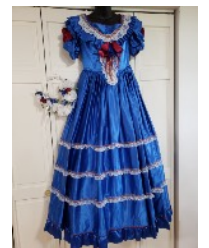
Tickets are \$50 for general admission, \$75 for reserved seating and \$550 for a reserved table for 8. For more information visit: www.dexterhistory.org/upcoming-events or call (734) 972-9556.

As always, all proceeds from this very special event will benefit our fabulous Gordon Hall.

**"Tea with a Flair at the Fair" Saturday, June 22 at 1:00 p.m.
Location: Gordon Hall, 8311 Island Lake Rd. Dexter, MI
Donation \$15**

Bring your mom, best friends or a new acquaintance to enjoy hot or iced tea and light desserts while you view fashions from the extensive collection of Helen Welford. This year's interpretive program will feature several Renaissance inspired gowns, one from the Regency period and several from the mid-19th century.

Reservations are strongly suggested by calling Ina Germain at 734-395-4106. All proceeds support Gordon Hall.



President's Letter - Welcome to Spring!

The trees and flowers are in leaf and bloom at both the Museum and Gordon Hall. Inside we are also set for our spring and summer events. In the Museum the Dexter Bible display is very interesting and, in addition, there are many other new items - a must see! At Gordon Hall we are ready for tours and events.

As you will see in the newsletter we will be very busy this summer. We hope that you can join us at the Museum and Gordon Hall. This is an exciting time for all of us in the Historical Society. We feel that all members can contribute towards meeting our goals and recruiting new members. We hope you will be part of these endeavors.. We are fortunate to live in an area where the community loves to be involved and has great pride in our history. We can use the help of everyone to meet our goals, so please feel free to contact me or any board member if you have any questions or want to be part of our great organization.

These are exciting times!

Beverly Hill - President of the Dexter Area Historical Society

Raffle Sales 2019

The Dexter Area Historical Society will again hold our raffle fundraiser to help preserve Gordon Hall. This is our sixth year selling tickets for our \$10,000 drawing which will be announced during Dexter Daze on August 10, 2019.

We have printed 4,000 tickets and we have from May until August to sell these tickets.



Most of our sales will be around Dexter with personal contact. Many businesses will be selling tickets and the businesses that will not be selling we have personally met with to tell them about this fundraiser.

Our first time selling downtown was on Saturday, May 11th and we will continue selling on all Saturdays and some Fridays until Dexter Daze. We will also be selling at Farmers Market, and many community events.

We would like you to join us in selling tickets. Would you like to sell with us downtown? Or just to family and friends? Please contact us and we can even deliver tickets to you. Another great way to volunteer and help the society. Contact the museum or any board member for tickets or to help sell - love to have you join us!!

Gordon Hall Cleanup Day

Saturday, June 1st from 9 a.m. till 1 p.m.

Please join us for all or some of the day!

We are hoping to check as much off the list as possible:

- Clean gardens, apply topsoil, seeds and mulch
- Fix loose boards in the attic, fix side door locks, fix back steps
- Clean out first garage and basement
- Scrape and paint a few areas, not much here though
- Remove cement post next to driveway

Please let us know by phone or email if you can join or just show up.....that's good too!

Bring gloves or tools you may need but we'll have supplies at Gordon Hall as well.

Thanks!

Questions? Call Chet at 734-358-9202 or Ina at 734-395-4106.

Save The Date

DAHS Annual Meeting

September 14th , 2019

Speakers:

University of Michigan Archeology Class

- will present their survey and excavations at Gordon Hall.

Hopkins Burns Architectural Design Studio

- will present their plans for the renovation of Gordon Hall.

A Night at the Museum

The Dexter Area Museum opened the 2019 season with a fund raising event, "A Night at the Museum" on May 10, 2019. The event was attended by 33 people who were able to view the Museum's new exhibit of Family Bibles including the actual bible from Judge Dexter's son Wirt. Bibles come in different sizes from small hand held ones to large Bibles with family information located right before the New Testament. Other popular exhibits during the evening included the pictures of the Dexter Family, memorabilia from the Dexter Community, farm and household items from the past, and the Hoatlin model train. Museum staff members furnished sumptuous snack items for the evening.



The display will be available through November during regular hours - Friday & Saturday 1 to 3.

Dexter Heritage Guild's Appraisal Day Nets \$700

Here's how the results of the 2019 Antique Appraisal Day added up to a big success for both the Heritage Guild and the Museum.

- 144 scrumptious cookies
- 65 fifteen-minute appointments
- 27 paintings, prints, and pictures
- 12 figurines, vases, and other decorative items
- 11 advertising outlets
- 10 cookie jars, decanters, and other china and glassware
- 9 watches, necklaces, and other jewelry
- 8 dolls, teddy bears, and other toys
- 7 desks, lamps, rocking chairs, and other furnishings
- 6 signed baseballs, Coca-Cola trays, and other collectibles
- 5 cheery cashiers
- 4 quilts, samplers, and wall-hangings
- 3 expert DuMouchelles Art Gallery appraisers
- 2 key people - chairperson Sue Schotts and her assistant Carol Michaels
- 1 waiting list for next year!

All this = \$700 for the Dexter Area Museum

Dinner to Benefit Gordon Hall September 21, 2019

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Chelsea has once again graciously offered to sponsor a fundraising dinner in support of Gordon Hall on Saturday, September 21st. The evening will begin at 6:00 with hors d'oeuvres and a wine/beer bar followed by a sit down dinner, raffles, a live auction and a program featuring Gordon Hall and an update on our restoration efforts thus far.



Save the Date cards will be mailed soon or feel free to contact Ina Germain at 734-395-4106 for more information or for sponsorship opportunities.

2nd Graders Tour Gordon Hall

Some of the Dexter Second grade students visiting Gordon Hall in May.



Paul Cousins greets the group on the front porch and begins their history lessons.

Ina Germain continues telling about the South Parlor and its history.



Richard Ashley is in the Attic sharing his knowledge of this historic area.

Memorials

Thank you to the family and friends of Barbara Bradbury Wing for remembering Barb and the Dexter Historical Society with their donations. DAHS is very appreciative of these gifts which help to continue the work of the organization.

The Second graders also visited the Dexter Area Museum last Fall. They toured the main floor display room as well as the basement where they saw the Keith Hoatlin Model Train running thanks to Richard Ashley.

DEXTER CENTENNIAL BUSINESSES

We have a number of Centennial Farms in the area which are farms that have been in the same family for 100 years or longer. Dexter also has a number of businesses that have been in the same location for 100 years or nearly 100 years. Currently the Dexter Area Museum is featuring two of these businesses: LaRosa's Confectionary and the Dexter Cooperative.

LaRosa's to The Red Brick



Joe LaRosa was born in 1897 in Sicily and came to the United States at age 15. Joe opened the LaRosa Confectionery with a partner on March 21, 1921 renting a space at 8093 Main Street from Daniel Hoey. By 1925 Joe was the sole owner of the business and the building. He was married to local girl Susan Marshall in February of 1925 and all of Joe and Suz's children worked in the store as well as Suz's sisters Betty Steinaway and Amy Sortor and many other family members.

The building at 8093 Main Street was built in 1869 following a destructive fire along this block of stores. It was occupied for some time by various drug stores. Since Joe began the confectionery in 1921, this site has continued to be a restaurant. In 1993 a fire caused considerable damage to the building next door and to this building as well. Following the fire it was completely renovated.



Joe LaRosa Sign @ 1940

LaRosa's was a place where you could buy a hamburger, the kids could have an ice cream soda, and following the repeal of prohibition in 1933, Dad could enjoy a beer. It was the place where teens would hang out after school or sports events to wait for a ride home. All customers were well treated. LaRosa's operated until 1974 when the business and building were sold and became The Captain's Table. Some of the other restaurants that operated at this location were Second Cousins, Loreen's Village Café, Mary T's, and currently Red Brick.

The Dexter Cooperative to The Dexter Mill



The old house

The Dexter Agriculture Association was organized in November of 1919 for the purpose of eliminating the middleman who they felt charged high prices for farm supplies, but were underpaid for purchasing their grain, produce and livestock. Each farmer put up \$50, a considerable some in 1919, and signed a note for an additional \$50 to fund the association.

The association bought an old house and five lots on a triangle of land bordered by what currently is Central Street, Third Street and the railroad tracks. The old house on the property was converted into a feed production facility where oats and corn, brought to the mill by local farmers, was ground in the basement. Upstairs, employees shelled corn and produced feed for hogs, chickens and cows. They opened for business on January 1, 1920.



The new building started in 1940

In March of 1927 the association became a stock company and changed the name to the Dexter Co-op Company. The Co-op did well even during the depression and started to outgrow their facilities. In 1940 they broke ground on a new building. The new building gave them room to stock more agricultural supplies as well as hardware, dishes and kitchen cabinets. In 1949 a fire destroyed the wooden grain elevator. A new fire resistant elevator was built where the old house had stood.



The Dexter Mill Today

In 1969, due to a decline in family agriculture in the area, the business was sold to Ray McCalla and renamed the Washtenaw Farm and Garden Center. They sold feed, farming supplies, fencing and gates, lawn and garden products, fertilizer and insecticides.

In 1979 Washtenaw Farm and Garden was sold and the name changed to The Dexter Mill. By 1980 the land contract on the property was payed off and the Co-op met for the last time to close the books and pay off the share holders. At first the Dexter Mill was owned by Bill Millar, Chuck and John Cares and at some point the Cares' bought out Millar. The business was expanded to include a greenhouse in 2008. Today the business is owned by Keri Bushaw and the property by the Cares.



WANTED!

LOOKING FOR



Wanted for Gordon Hall: Items for the Milk House

- 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.

Time to Check Your Craft Cupboard!

The Dexter Heritage Guild is looking for items that you no longer need. 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 call 734-426-8952 or write to: DexterHeritageGuild@gmail.com.

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,
- 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 us at DexMuseum@aol.com.

DEXTER 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

WEBMASTER - Jan Weaver weaver74@charter.net

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

HISTORICAL GUILD - Pat Pudduck: patpudduck@gmail.com

MUSEUM DIRECTOR - Nina Rackham: 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 EMAIL: 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

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	Gordon Hall
<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
Museum	Activities/Events
<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