



# DAHS NEWSLETTER

## November 2021

### ***Letter from the President: New Challenge Grant!***

We are very fortunate to have received a \$20,500 challenge grant. This exciting news is yet another important step towards reaching our goal of restoring Gordon Hall by the year 2024. We hope that everyone will be able to help us with our fundraising challenge. Any donation, large or small will help. We are so fortunate to receive this grant and we hope that you will be able to help us meet this goal by the end of January 2022.

Note that if you have an IRA and are over the age of 72, this would be wonderful time to make a donation. Remember that if you and your spouse have your own IRAs, both of you can use the IRA charitable rollover.

You can also make a donation either by using the PayPal button found on our website: [DexterHistory.org](http://DexterHistory.org) or by mailing a check to: Dexter Area Historical Society, 3443 Inverness Street, Dexter, Michigan 48130

Thank you to all of our members and the community for your tremendous support.

Beverly Hill, President of the Dexter Area Historical Society

DAHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your donation is therefore tax deductible to the extent provided by law. We are run entirely by volunteers, so your full donation is applied to the work that we do.

### **Christmas at the Mansion**

#### **A Family Tradition at Gordon Hall**

**Friday December 3rd from 6pm to 8pm**  
**Saturday December 4th from 1pm to 4pm**

Covid has forced us to make adjustments to our traditional events. For this reason, we are moving our Christmas at the Mansion events outdoors this year.

Join us at Gordon Hall to kick off the Christmas season. Santa will be outside in our antique sleigh and will welcome kids of all ages, so bring your camera! Attendees will enjoy a Christmas tree lighting (Friday night), hot drinks, and cookies.



The front porch of Gordon Hall will be beautifully decorated for Christmas through January 3, 2022, including lighted Christmas trees, wreaths, and a sleigh. This is a favorite spot for

holiday photos, and we welcome you to stop by and enjoy it. However, the house itself will be closed. This event is free, but all donations will be matched, and will support Gordon Hall.

Thank you for your support as we work toward our fundraising goal. Location: Gordon Hall, 8311 Island Lake Rd, Dexter, MI.

If you have questions, visit our website at [www.dexterhistory.org](http://www.dexterhistory.org), email us at [DexMuseum@aol.com](mailto:DexMuseum@aol.com) or call (734) 426-2519.

### **The 2021 Holiday Bazaar**

The Heritage Guild will be having their annual Holiday Bazaar along with the Museum's Gift shop on **Saturday, December 4th from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.** The Museum is located at 3443 Inverness Street, across the street from St. Andrews Church. We accept Cash or checks only.

Tables will be filled with a variety of handcrafted items: holiday décor, ornaments, felted hats, winter hats, 1-of-a-kind shawls, socks and double layered slippers, skin creams and scrubs, special craft activity boxes for kids, squeaky pillows and treats for pets, Guild's signature scrubbies and much more.



The Museum's Corner Gift Shop will have their own unique variety of items for sale. There will be a drawing the day of the bazaar. Drawing items include: a quilted throw, a "Night's Out" gift certificate and more. The Bake Sale will include a variety of baked goods, delicious jams/jellies and other canned garden specialties.

On Friday, December 3rd from 8:30 – 2:30, there will be several Guild members at the Museum to collect bake sale donations. We ask that all items are wrapped in clear plastic or inside clear food storage bags. Please include labels identifying the item and labeling any ingredients that could be allergens, such as nuts, eggs, etc.

We are following the CDC recommendations closely and will post our requirements at the door of the Museum on the day of the event.

Thank you all for your support.

## The Dexter Area Museum and Gift Shop

The Dexter Area Museum and Gift Shop are open on Fridays and Saturdays from 1 to 3pm through November. Genealogical research is available during our regular hours, or you may request research at our email address: [DexMuseum@aol.com](mailto:DexMuseum@aol.com).

NEW "DEPRESSION GLASSWARE" DISPLAY at the Museum We would like to thank Charlie Haas for his very generous donation of Depression Glassware. The display shows just a few of the patterns and colors produced from 1925 to the early 1940s. Thank you Charlie for adding color and beauty to our display room.

## 2021 Gordon Hall Days Report

Covid has forced us to make adjustments to how we handle our traditional events.

On Friday, September 10th, we celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the Dexter Area Historical Society in a safe and enjoyable environment. Those attending included some of our former presidents and many friends who enjoyed a tour of the Hall before the evening program. We want to thank all who supported this event. The 50th plaque can be seen at the Museum.



During Gordon Hall Days we felt that the precautions that we took to keep everyone safe were successful. We had many vendors outside - blacksmithing, weaving, sock making, crafts and more - and they were enjoyed by all. There were activities for children and live animals. Music was provided by the Dexter Dulcimers on Saturday and a Clarinet Quartet from the Community Band on Sunday. We had a car show on Saturday and a cannon firing to make people aware that Gordon Hall Days were back. Our tours inside of Gordon Hall were held with masks and one guide leading a very small group of people through the hall. The tour ended with a beautiful Quilt Show with quilts from the Museum collection. With all of our precautions, this was an enjoyable two days.

Below are pictures of some of the vendors, musicians, and animals as well as some of the rooms inside the hall that are shown on the tours.



*This is the first article in a collection highlighting the posters displayed at the 2021 Gordon Hall Days. Each article highlights a different aspect of Gordon Hall or the Dexter Family. Caryl Burke or Jan Weaver researched the different subjects and added relevant pictures. Nancy Van Blaricum edited and reorganized the articles to fit into this format.*

## ***Judge Dexter's Farm***

We don't really know exactly how Judge Dexter's farm was laid out. The Historic American Building Survey (HABS) drawings show the buildings that existed in 1934, but it is believed that there had been many alterations by then. The only structures that remain today are Gordon Hall and the Milk House. In many cases, it is believed that the foundations of the lost buildings are still present underground. University of Michigan Archaeology students conducted digs in 2018 and 2019, and they located the northeast corner of the Ell's foundation as well as the Privy's foundation.



**Gordon Hall grounds in 1934  
from the HABS drawings**



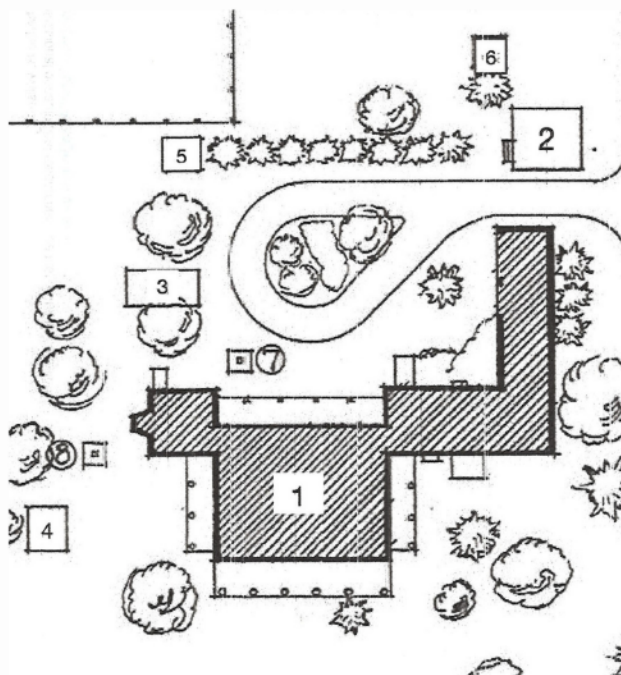
Gordon Hall in about 1900

**#1 Gordon Hall and the Tower**  
 Gordon Hall was built from 1841 to 1843. The tower was added after the death of Judge Dexter in 1863. His 3rd wife, Millicent, added the tower which held 4 "sitting rooms", perhaps for her daughters. It was torn down in 1940 by Emil Lorch as it didn't fit with the Greek Revival architecture.

**#2 The Milk House**  
 Called the Milk House on the 1934 drawings, it appears to have been the "refrigerator" for Gordon Hall. DAHS has recently restored the Milk House.

**#3 The Garage**  
 A single-car garage, built in about 1916 according to Webster Township tax records, probably built for the new owner, Dr. Charles Crumrine.

**#4 & #5 The Privys**  
 Millicent Dexter had an elaborate "Privy" built in 1865, two years after Judge Dexter's death. This stone building had two entrances with four holes on each side! The "Privy" in the back was much more conventional and was probably for the hired help.



**#6 The Wind Mill**  
 There is still some evidence of this just west of the door to the Milk House. The wind mill itself was torn down in 1948.

**#7 & #8 The Pumps**  
 Before indoor plumbing, a hand pump was the family's only access to water. Gordon Hall had a pump near the back door for easy access from the house. There was also a pump near the privy and probably another one inside the kitchen.

**The Old Barn (#9 on 1st page)**  
 In 1934 this area held a barn. But originally, it was a private family cemetery. The remains of Judge Dexter and the others buried there were moved to Forest Lawn Cemetery in Dexter in the early 1900s. You can still find this foundation in the trees southwest of the house.

Information from "Voices of the Past: The Saga of Gordon Hall"  
 by James Baldwin Parker 2012 Thomson-Shore

## **New Business Members**

Recently the Historical Society began a campaign to bring local Dexter businesses into the membership of the Dexter Area Historical Society. Businesses are offered a lifetime, non-voting membership in the society and in return they will receive the newsletter, a membership emblem and recognition in the newsletter. We are happy to have the following as DAHS Members.

Beacon Dental - Dr. David Traynor  
Chelsea Dexter Dental Group  
Cindy Strang Insurance Agency  
CMR Mechanical LLC  
Dexter Family Dentistry - Brent Kolb  
Dexter Oral Surgery and Implant Center  
Dexter Riverside Cellar  
Finn's JM&J Insurance Agency

Hackney Hardware  
Hosmer-Muehlig Funeral Chapel  
Huron Counseling Services  
Main Street Optometry-Vision  
Reed Barbering - Robin's  
Spring Valley Trout Farm  
St. Andrew's UCC Church  
Village Animal Clinic of Dexter

## **Membership Form**

On the next page is our Membership Form! Please print it out and use it to join or renew your Membership in the Dexter Area Historical Society! We always need volunteers of all ages and diverse skill sets, but one of the areas missing from the form is a place for you to indicate how you would like to volunteer to help us. Please let us know what you love to do by putting a note somewhere on the page!

Membership fees are due January 1st each year. We have indicated in the note in your email or on your letter the status of your account according to our records. Please use the form on the next page to renew or begin a new membership. Mail the form and your check made out to DAHS to Dexter Area Historical Society, 3443 Inverness, Dexter, MI 48130.

Thank you.

# **DEXTER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

### **OFFICERS:**

**President:**  
Beverly Hill  
**Vice-President:**  
Caryl Burke  
**Secretary:**  
Sharon Wheeler  
**Treasurer:**  
Carol Jones

### **DIRECTORS:**

Neil Adams  
Sue Behnke  
Ina Germain  
Shawn Pierrel  
Ceci Riecker  
Nancy Van Blaricum  
Gary Vander Haagan  
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)  
GORDONHALLSPECIALEVENTS - Bene Fusilier: 734-426-8972  
HERITAGE 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



## Membership Form

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

(home)

(cell)

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Type\***       New member     Renewal

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Individual    \$15 yearly

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Family        \$25 yearly

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Student       \$2 yearly

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Business      \$50

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Life             \$200

**Please indicate residence location:**

City of Dexter

Township: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Extra gift for Museum

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Extra gift for Gordon Hall

\$\_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL**

-----Make checks payable to: **Dexter Area History Society (DAHS)**-----

### Mail to:

Dexter Area Historical Society

3443 Inverness Street

Dexter, MI 48130

### Contact:

Phone: 734.426.2519

Email: dexmuseum@aol.com

Website: dexterhistory.org

Find us on Facebook @dexterhistory

Dexter Area Historical Society

\*All memberships except Life and Business are renewed each January.