



DAHS Spring Newsletter

May 2023

President's Letter from Caryl Burke

Greetings in my first newsletter as the newly elected President of DAHS. While we've elected new formal leadership in accordance with our Bylaws, it is our dedicated leadership team, our membership, and our volunteers who make this wonderful organization work! Many thanks to all of you.

We are very busy preparing for the opening of the Museum on May 5. Read below about the other events this summer, beginning with the Museum opening day and the DuMouchelle's Appraisal Clinic at the Museum. Join us if you can.

Caryl Burke - 734-476-5232

Antique Appraisal Day **Saturday, May 13, 2023**

An appraiser from DuMouchelles Art Gallery located in Detroit, will be coming to the Dexter Area Museum on Saturday, May 13th from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Dexter Museum is located at 3443 Inverness St., Dexter, MI 48130.

Presented by the Dexter Heritage Guild, this will be a wonderful opportunity to speak with an appraiser to find out more information about your item. To make an appointment, call 734-424-9998. Each 15-minute appointment will include a verbal appraisal for one to two items. There is a fee of \$10 per appraised item. Proceeds support the preservation and operation of the Dexter Area Museum.

On the day of the event, please call the Museum at 734-426-2519 with any questions or to find out if there are any available appointment openings. Thank you.



Mark Your Calendar **2023 Events at DAHS**

- April 15 - Gordon Hall Raffle ticket sales began
- May 5 - Museum opens for the season. Open Fridays and Saturdays 1-3 pm
- May 13 - DuMouchelle's Appraisal Clinic
- May 29 - Dexter's Memorial Day Parade. We will be marching!
- June 1-2 - Museum Garage Sale
- August 11-12 - Dexter Daze, with the Gordon Hall Raffle drawing at the end
- September 8 - Fall Fundraiser at Gordon Hall
- September 9-10 - Gordon Hall Days
- September 9 - Tea at Gordon Hall
- November 25 - Museum closes for the season
- December 1-3 - Christmas at the Mansion
- December 2 - Dexter Heritage Guild Holiday Bazaar at the Museum

The Dexter Area Museum

The lighting project at the museum has been completed in the meeting room. We have added LED lights to improve the lighting where many projects are done by the Dexter Heritage Guild. They paid for this project as well as the Dexter Leader print shop display in the lower level. The LED lighting and a new



paint job shows off the antique printing presses. A group of expert printers from Detroit have volunteered to clean and arrange

the print area.

We are in the process of preparing for our opening May 5th, so plan a visit or better yet, come help us. There is always something exciting going on at the museum.

The Museum Corner Gift Shop



Spring is here and the Museum Corner Gift Shop has taken on a new look. A new arrangement has lightened it up with a focus on segregating the sale items by vintage, guild items, jewelry, Dexter memorabilia and

pottery. New items have been donated to earn money for the Museum.

Come visit when the Dexter Area Museum opens on May 5th and check out the new arrangement.

The Guild is in need of the following:

*Gold buttons, old looking

*Pine cones, the round ones

*Plastic containers with lids

Items can be brought to the Museum on the 3rd & 4th Wednesdays before noon or Fridays or Saturdays from 1-3.

Gordon Hall

At Gordon Hall flowers are starting to bloom and spring will be here soon.

At this time we are bringing the grounds and Gordon Hall back into shape for all of our future events after the long winter. We are excited to have weddings again this year and working on the many future events.

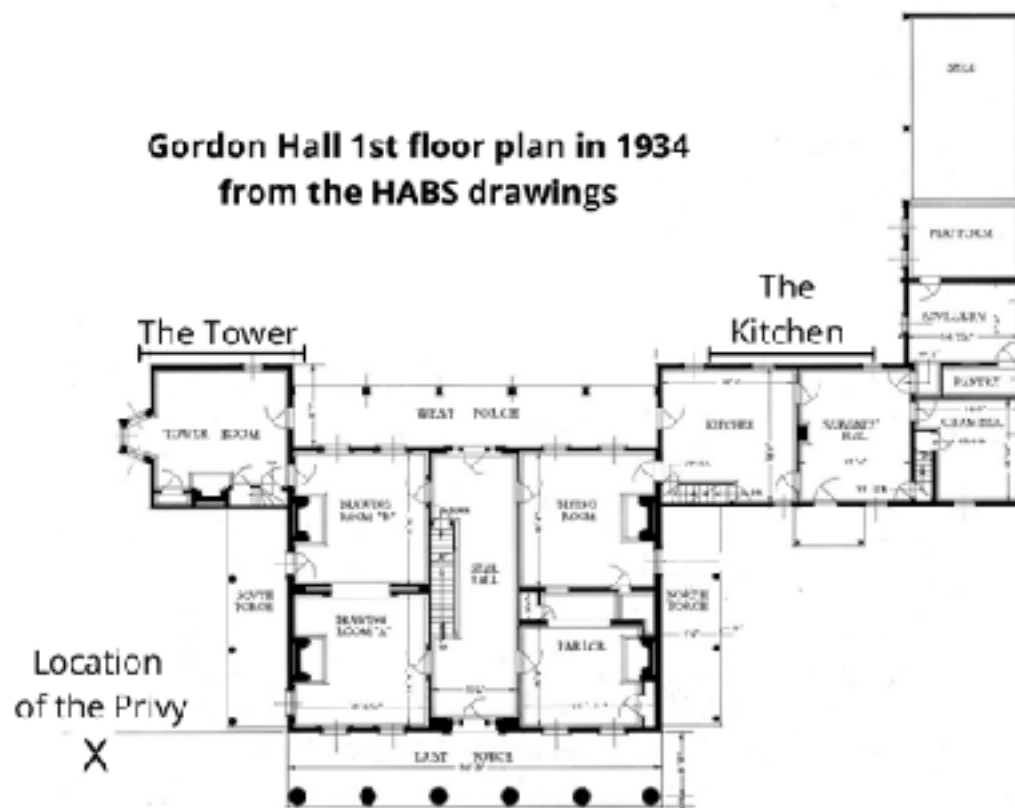
Also, our fundraising committee is continuing to work hard to restore Gordon Hall to its original condition to fulfill our mission of preserving Dexter's history. We have the historic Gordon Hall floor plans and are working on a goal for full restoration.



This is the seventh article from the large posters displayed at 2021 Gordon Hall Days. Each article highlights an aspect of the Dexter Area, Gordon Hall or the Dexter Family. Caryl Burke or Jan Weaver researched the different subjects and added relevant pictures. Nancy Van Blorikum edited and reorganized the articles to fit into this format.

Lost Treasures at Gordon Hall

Judge Dexter completed construction of his new home here on the hill overlooking Dexter in 1843. He named it Gordon Hall, in honor of his mother, Catherine Gordon Dexter. In this house, he and Millicent raised their family, ran the farm, conducted the family business, and entertained their friends and neighbors; all the things a prominent family did. Dexter died here in 1863 and Millicent stayed on until her death in 1899. Many additions and modifications were made to the house and grounds over those busy years including the tower added in about 1875; most of them are now gone.



The HABS Drawings

The oldest drawings we have date from 1934, when architects for the Historic American Building Survey (HABS) produced detailed drawings of Gordon Hall. The HABS drawings are a precious archive and provide us with a roadmap to restoration. It is believed that these drawings show the building mostly as it existed in Judge Dexter's time.

The Floor Plan

Major structural alteration of the interior by the University of Michigan (UM) in 1950 transformed Gordon Hall into four modern apartments; two on each floor. A few of the original features can still be seen when you tour the building.

The Ell

The northwest wing of the house was the service wing, with the kitchen and servants' quarters. It was razed when the University of Michigan (UM) renovated Gordon Hall in 1950. Today, the new bathrooms occupy the area where the original kitchen stood.

The Stone Privy

Before indoor plumbing, outhouses were built over a hole in the ground to provide privacy and to contain the smell. Often made of wood, they were moved when 'full', backfilling the hole with dirt.

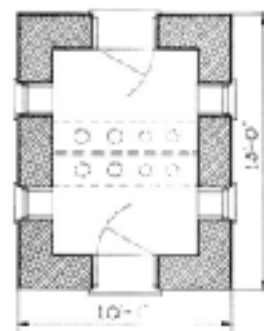
In 1865, 2 years after Judge Dexter's death, Millicent Dexter built an elegant stone privy south of the house. One side was for the ladies and the other was for the gents. Some seats were for adults and some were for children. Rather than try to move it when full, they would have hired someone to come and clean it out periodically - a gong farmer or honey-dipper. The privy was demolished in about 1950.



NORTH ELEVATION



FRONT



PLAN OF PRIVY

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 of those who have joined. If you are interested in joining us, please contact us at DexMuseum@aol.com. We are happy to have the following as DAHS Businesses:

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
Wallace & Wallace Properties
Whitetail Farm - Mary Baude

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:

Caryl Burke

Vice-President:

Beverly Hill

Secretary:

Ina Germain

Treasurer

Jan Weaver

DIRECTORS:

Sue Behnke

Carol Jones

Shawn Pierrel

Ceci Riecker

Nancy Van Blaricum

Gary Vander Haagan

Sharon Wheeler

CONTACT INFORMATION:

NEWSLETTER - Nancy J. Van Blaricum DexMuseum@aol.com

WEBMASTER - Jan Weaver weaver74@charter.net

GORDON HALLSPECIAL EVENTS - Bene Fusilier: 734-426-8972

HERITAGE GUILD - Pat Pudduck: patpudduck@gmail.com

MUSEUM DIRECTOR - Nina Rackham: NDRackham@aol.com

GORDON HALL DIRECTOR - Bev Hill: BeverlyHill6@gmail.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



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 Historical 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.