



# Dexter Area Historical Society

April 2016 Edition



## President's Message

Welcome to Spring!

As you will see from this newsletter the Historical Society has been busy all year and are now planning for many big events. Now that we have paid off the Gordon Hall mortgage we are now starting on the restoration. As you may have already seen, the aluminum siding has been fully removed and repairs are now underway. At the museum, the meeting room has been repainted and we are creating new displays in the Museum room. Everyone has been very busy.

One of our big events this summer will be our first ever Gordon Hall Days. This special event will take place on June 10, 11, and 12, 2016. Held in conjunction with the Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club, we will be highlighting the railroad which came to Dexter 175 years ago. It was on July 4, 1841 that Judge Samuel W. Dexter and the residents of Dexter, welcomed the first train to Dexter. 100 years later, in July of 1941, the Village of Dexter held a grand celebration to commemorate the Centennial of this event. As a part of that event, Gordon Hall was opened to the public. It had fallen into disrepair for many years but Katherine Dexter McCormick, granddaughter of Judge Dexter, purchased the historic structure and subsequently employed Emil Lorch to renovate it.

Now, seventy-five years later, we are once again celebrating the arrival of the railroad in Dexter. At Gordon Hall we will have speakers, musical events, historical displays, children's activities, and much more. The Ann Arbor Railroad Club will have displays in Gordon Hall as well as at the old depot.

Much as Katherine McCormick did before us, we are, as a community, displaying our love for Gordon Hall by planning events and fundraisers to help in its restoration as well as to maintain our beautiful museum. We have a great Board of Directors and I am excited as we get started on our many events.

Information on the special people and the events that we have planned for Gordon Hall and the Museum can be found on our website at [www.dexterhistory.org](http://www.dexterhistory.org) and on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/dexterhistory/](http://www.facebook.com/dexterhistory/).

It is my hope that after reading this newsletter and checking out our on-line resources, you will find an area that excites you and encourages you to jump onboard to help the Historical Society with one or more of these events.

Thank you for all that you do!

Bev Hill

President of the Dexter Area Historical Society

## Spring Antique Appraisal Day

The Dexter Heritage Guild will host a day of appraisals with certified appraisers from *DuMouchelles* Art Gallery. The event is scheduled for Saturday, **May 7th, 9:30 to 4:00 p.m.**,



at the **Dexter Area Museum**, 3443 Inverness

St., Dexter, located across from St. Andrews Church. Appointments are 15-minutes for 1-3 items with a fee of \$7 per item for verbal appraisals. Please call **734-424-9998** to make an appointment.

On the day of the event, call the Museum for additional information: **734-426-2519**.

All proceeds benefit the operation of the Dexter Museum.



## The Dexter Area Museum

Have you ever wondered what ladies wore under those beautiful gowns in the 1800's and early 1900's? What are a "chemise", "drawers" and "pantaloons"? How were women able to create the shape of their gowns, especially the skirts?

The Dexter Area Museum is featuring an exhibit this spring titled *Under Garments*. The Museum will open on Friday, May 6. Museum hours are Fridays and Saturdays from 1-3 PM until early December. The Meeting Room has been freshened up with new paint and décor and the Gift Shop is stocked with many new items. If you haven't been to the Museum recently, you are invited to come and view the featured exhibit as well as the new items added to the collection.



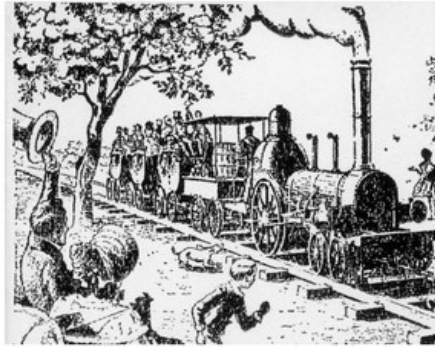
The Dexter Area Historical Society and  
The Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club  
present

## Gordon Hall Days

Celebrating the 175th anniversary of the  
train's arrival in Dexter

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday

June 10, 11, and 12, 2016



Friday Night: Free

Saturday & Sunday: Donation \$5/person or \$15/car

Free onsite parking

Gordon Hall, 8341 Island Lake Rd., Dexter, MI

For more information call 734-426-3341, or  
[www.dexterhistory.org](http://www.dexterhistory.org) and [www.facebook.com/dexterhistory/](https://www.facebook.com/dexterhistory/)

## Volunteers Needed

*We are in need of many volunteers for our upcoming event "Gordon Hall Days" - A Celebration of 175 Years of Trains in Dexter. There are many events occurring over two and a half days and we could sure use your help as a volunteer. Please email me at [theladyinpurplesb@gmail.com](mailto:theladyinpurplesb@gmail.com) if you can volunteer OR you can leave a message at the Dexter Area Museum at 734-426-2519. Push # 4 to volunteer and please leave your name and a phone number where you can be reached. This event is a fund raiser and the proceeds will go toward matching grants to help rehabilitate Gordon Hall back to the way it was in the 1860's.*

*We need volunteers on Friday evening, June 10th, from about 6:00 to 10:00. On Saturday, June 11th, we need volunteers from 9:00 until 10:00 p.m. On Sunday, June 12th, volunteers are needed from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Volunteer times will be set at 1 1/2 to 2 hours each. However, if the times on the sheet don't work for you, please let me know and we will work something out that matches your schedule. You will be given a pass for free admission to the event. Once you have called or emailed me, I will contact you. A separate email will be sent with the complete Volunteer list so watch for it!*

*Stephanie Bell, Board Member and Volunteer Coordinator*

## Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club

A highlight of the 2016 Gordon Hall Days, June 11th & 12th, will be the Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club. Seventy years ago, a group of model railroaders got together to form the Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club. For 34 years the club moved all around Ann Arbor trying to find a permanent home. Finally in 1980 they read in the paper that the Dexter Youth Club wanted to sell the Dexter Depot. The Huron Valley Railroad Historical Society was formed as a 501(c)(3) organization in order to purchase the depot.



The club holds a huge flea market every year as their means of raising funds to be able to operate. These funds have permitted the organization to do extensive work on the depot to bring it back to its original glory. After all this hard work, the depot was designated a state historical site in 1986. One of the club's goals is to promote model railroading, and at the present time a layout in the depot recreates the railroad from Ann Arbor to Jackson.

This year the club will participate in Gordon Hall Days by bringing many items from the depot to Gordon Hall and showing them off to the public. These items will include an operating layout, photographs of days gone by, artifacts recovered over the years, and a switching layout where visitors can try their skills running trains. As an added attraction, the club will open and staff the Depot for visitors to come and see their permanent display during Gordon Hall Days. We will be open on Saturday, June 11th and Sunday, June 12th from 1-5 PM. The Depot is located on Broad Street at the railroad.

Pictured is the original Depot built in 1841 and one view of its replacement that was built in 1887. The pictures are part of the Flora Bostwick Smith Collection at the Dexter Area Museum.



## Katharine Dexter McCormick Tea and Fashion Show Gordon Hall Saturday, June 11, 2016 at 1:00 PM

A short talk and conversation about the life of Katharine Dexter McCormick, Judge Dexter's granddaughter, will be presented by Alice Ralph, local architect and member of the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission. Ms. Ralph has worked with the Dexter Area Historical Society since 2001 when the property was first being considered for local historic district designation. Ms. Ralph continues to provide support and liaison from her home in Ann Arbor. Her talk honors Mrs. McCormick, the Dexter community, and the legacy of Gordon Hall.



The 96 years of Mrs. McCormick's remarkable life will be presented, revealing intriguing connections between the past and the present. At least three major areas of national and even global importance were strongly influenced by the advocacy and philanthropy of Katharine Dexter McCormick: women's suffrage, family planning, and educational opportunities for women.

Along with the talk, costumes that span the decades from 1830 to 1920 will be modeled at the tea. The gowns are from Helen Welford's collection and have been designed and constructed in the style of the period they represent.



The ball gowns have danced in some wonderful ballrooms; the day dress will be on the dance floor for the first time at the Railroad Workers Ball held on Saturday night. Ms. Welford is involved in 19th and early 20th century ballroom dancing and has found that studying, designing, and constructing gowns of these eras has become a fascinating and absorbing pursuit.

Hot and cold tea along with a small dessert will be served. A small donation of \$5.00 will be needed to reserve a seat with seating limited to 50.

Please call Ina Germain (734-395-4106) for reservations.

## The Railroad Workers Ball with Dance Master Robin Warner and the Whistle Stop Players

On Saturday, June 11, 2016 the Dexter Area Historical Society will be hosting the first Dexter Area Historical Society Dance at Gordon Hall. Dance Master Robin Warner will walk the dancers through easy and fun old-time dances. You will then dance to the music of the Whistle Stop Players as he prompts the movements.

Robin Warner began calling with the Cobblestone Farm Country Dancers. This group is now sponsored by the Pittsfield Grange for contra dancing. In 1992, Robin joined another historic performance group, the Pleasant Moments Vintage Dances. He has also led dancing at weddings, anniversaries, and community dances. The Whistle Stop Players will accompany Robin Warner. We are delighted to be able to have this great caller and this outstanding live band at our initial dance at Gordon Hall.

Hearty appetizers and drinks will be served. Reservation will be required since space is limited. Ticket prices are \$50 per person or \$125 per family with children ages 12 and older. The dance will be held at Gordon Hall on Saturday June 11th at 7pm. To make a reservation please call Bev Hill at 734-426-4767.



As part of Gordon Hall Days, June 11th & 12th, we will have a special room inside Gordon Hall to show our collection of items from the 1941 Centennial Celebration of the Railroad's coming to Dexter. Judge Samuel Dexter was a proponent of the Railroad and gave much of the land for the railroad to come through Dexter. We will have many pictures, a 1941 video, and artifacts from the Centennial celebration. An added feature will be the presence of some community members who were at the celebration. We have made contact with Robert Mast, Barbara Bradbury Wing, and Jack Blanchard so far, and we hope there will be others willing to share their memories. That's young Jack Blanchard in the picture with his parents in 1941 below.



Mr. and Mrs. Jack Blanchard & son, Jackie.

## The Tally-Ho

Long-time Dexter residents fondly remember seeing the Hoey's Tally-Ho in many of the yearly parades and events in Dexter. But do you know the circumstances of how the Tally-Ho came into the Hoey family's possession? In June of 1941, there was an auction at Mullison's Stables. The stables were located at Jackson and Maple Roads where Veterans Park is today and across the street from farm lands which today is Maple Village and Westgate shopping centers. Leo Hoey purchased the Tally-Ho, harnesses and other items at the auction just about a month before the 1941 Railroad Centennial. A Tally-Ho is a combination wagon and buggy that may be drawn by 2 or 4 horses and the reins rigged to be handled by a single driver. It has four rows of seats and can seat up to 15 people. The Dexter Area Museum acquired the Tally-Ho from the Estate of Frances Hoey in 2012 and it will be on exhibit at Gordon Hall during Railroad Days, June 11th and 12th, 2016.



Do you know what a track pan is? No you can't fry eggs in it. How about a frog? I don't mean the kind you find in a pond. Where did the term "Highball" come from? Why are railroad tracks 4 foot 8 1/2 inches wide? Be sure to attend Railroad days at Gordon Hall June 11th and 12th to learn the answers to these and other questions. There will be examples of locomotive types that used to pull trains through Dexter. There will be a number of pictures that show what the area around the depot looked like many years ago. If you like model trains, there will be operating layouts for you to observe. There will also be people on hand to attempt to answer all your questions. Come and enjoy a great weekend, and take home a lot of memories. **DON'T FORGET YOUR CAMERA!**

Richard Ashley, shown working with the Hoatlin Train in the basement of the Dexter Area Museum, is in charge of the Railroad History room at Gordon Hall for Gordon Hall Days. The room will be open from 10-5 both days."



## Dulcimers

An important part of Gordon Hall Days is the entertainment, and we would like to tell you about a group that has already agreed to perform for us. The Dexter Dulcimer players meet on Thursday mornings at the Senior Center. They will be playing some Railroad tunes on Saturday, June 11, 2016 at 11 AM in front of Gordon Hall. Then on Sunday, June 12, 2016 also at 11 AM the Dexter Dulcimers will be accompanying the old-time Hymn sing. You are invited to share some of the old-time Hymns with us. There will be speakers and music both Saturday and Sunday to educate and entertain you.



### Music Groups for Gordon Hall Days

On Friday night, June 10th, from 6:30 to 7:30, the Dexter Community Band will be performing a free concert in front of Gordon Hall. This group of clarinet players have been playing together for over twenty-five years. For your listening enjoyment they will play songs related to the railroad that cover a music span of about one hundred seventy-five years. Songs from Gershwin as well as a Gay 90's medley will be performed.

Then from 7:30 - 8:00 PM, Ms. Jenny VanHouten's first grade class will sing Patriotic Songs.

On Saturday, June 11th, once again some Dexter Community Band members who play the trumpet, trombone, and tuba will be playing from 2:00 to 3:00 in front of Gordon Hall. Following them at 4:00 under the direction of Gordon Darr will be some amazing and talented youth in the Summer Rising Stars program.

On Sunday, June 12th, the Dexter Community Orchestra will perform in front of Gordon Hall from 1:00 to 2:00. They will have some 19th century instruments as well.

## The Dexter Ringers Horseshoe Club

The Gordon Hall Days event welcomes the popular Dexter Ringers Horse Shoe Club to our 2016 event. The club will give lessons to acquaint people with the sport of pitching horseshoes on Sunday, June 12th from 1 to 3 on the Gordon Hall grounds.

Founded in 1978, the Dexter Ringers Horseshoe Club is a competitive horseshoe club that plays its annual season every summer at Dexter's First Street Park. The public park is located on Edison Street, and features twelve horseshoe pits.

Come enjoy the afternoon at the Gordon Hall Days event and the club members will show you how to play horseshoes, or if you already play, enjoy a competitive game of pitching.



## 2016 Raffle Sales

The Dexter Area Historical Society will be holding our 4th annual raffle to benefit Gordon Hall this year. Tickets will once again be sold for a \$10,000 grand prize, a \$1,000 second prize, and a \$500 third prize. The drawing for the raffle prizes will be held during Dexter Daze on August 13, 2016. 4,000 tickets have been printed and we have from May until August to sell these tickets. Most of our tickets will be sold by volunteers in and around



the City of Dexter. Many businesses will also be selling tickets for us and we have personally met with the other businesses to inform them about this fundraiser to gain their support.

Our first downtown selling day will be Saturday, May 21 and after that, we will be selling on every Saturday and some Fridays until Dexter Daze. We will also be selling at the Dexter Farmer's Market, at the Ann Arbor Art Fair, and at many other community events.

We need additional volunteers to join us in selling tickets. This is another great way to volunteer and help the Society. Perhaps you could help us sell downtown? Or maybe just to family and friends? If you are interested, please contact the museum or any board member for tickets to sell – or we can even deliver tickets directly to you. Please contact Bev Hill (734-426- 4767) or Caryl Burke ( 734 -476- 5232) for further information. We would love to have you join us!!

## EAGLE PROJECT AT THE MUSEUM

Over the winter months, the Dexter Area Museum received a renovation in the Curator's Room. Tommy McWilliams organized and carried out the painting and building of new shelving as his Eagle Project. Tommy is a member of Dexter Boy Scout Troop 448. The project expenses were covered by the Dexter Heritage Guild. The Museum Staff is grateful to Tommy and his work crew



for making this space more functional as well as to the Guild for their continued goal to help the Museum.

We have given you a lot of information about Gordon Hall Days, but there are many other events during Gordon Hall Days. We will have speakers sharing their expertise on the various aspects of the Railroad, from the past to the future and we will also have a speaker on the Underground Railroad.

There will be fun activities for the kids of all ages including rides on the Little Conductors Trackless Train from 12-4 on Saturday and Sunday (\$1 per ride).

The annual 1860's Base Ball game between the Dexter Union Base Ball Club and the Chelsea Monitor Base Ball Club will be on Sunday at 2PM.



We have your food needs covered with Hotel Hickman on Saturday and Dexter Riverview Cafe on Sunday. There will be a Lemonade Stand with water and popcorn. We will also feature our famous Pie Auction on Sunday at 12:30.

The Museum Gift Shop will have kids railroad related toys, some books and the Dexter Coverlet, and more for sale.

At the Information booth you will find special gift we will have for paid up members or those who join or pay at the booth. (\$15 single, \$25 family). These booths will be out in front of the Hall.

The best way to learn about Gordon Hall Days is through our Website: [DexterHistory.org](http://DexterHistory.org) or on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/dexterhistory/](http://www.facebook.com/dexterhistory/) . We will publish a list of all the special activities in late May with their times and places at Gordon Hall to help you decide what interests you.

## Wanted

Looking for card table sized White tablecloths and white napkins for our Christmas Tea.  
Call Bev Hill 426-4767.

# DAHS Membership 2016 Dues—Due NOW!!!

Membership Dues for the Dexter Area Historical Society are due on January 1st of each year. If you receive your Newsletter by Email, we have let you know if your membership has expired in the notes before the attachment. If you receive your Newsletter by Mail, look for your expiration date by your mailing label. If you are behind with your dues, please use the Membership form below to update your information and remit it with your check. Thank you.

Dexter Area Historical Society		Opportunities for Participation	
Date _____		Please check those you want to be involved in or would like information about.	
<b>Check Membership Type</b> <b>ACTIVE - Individual</b> (age 18 or older; 1 vote)	<b>ACTIVE - Family (2 adults)</b> (age 18 or older; 2 votes)	<b>Historical Society</b>	<b>Gordon Hall</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Annual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Annual	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> Housekeeping
<input type="checkbox"/> \$200 Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300 Life	<input type="checkbox"/> Programs	<input type="checkbox"/> Building Maintenance
<input type="checkbox"/> \$150 Life (age 60 or older)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Life (age 60 or older)	<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Maintenance
<b>AUXILIARY - Family</b>	<b>AUXILIARY - Business</b>	<b>Museum</b>	<b>Activities/Events</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Children under 18 of Active Individual or Family Members (no additional dues; 0 votes)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Annual (0 votes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Displays	<input type="checkbox"/> Civil War Days
<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy	<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Bazaar
<b>Please Indicate Residence Location</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Research	<input type="checkbox"/> Gordon Hall Christmas Events
<input type="checkbox"/> City of Dexter	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ Township	<input type="checkbox"/> Tour Guide	<input type="checkbox"/> Dexter Heritage Guild
<b>Contact Information (please print)</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> Curator Assistant	
Name(s) _____			
Address _____			
City _____ State _____ Zip _____			
Phone #'s _____	Home _____ Cell _____		
Email _____			
<p>Please make your check payable to <b>Dexter Area Historical Society</b> Mail to: <b>3443 Inverness Street, Dexter MI 48130</b> First-time members will receive a membership card. All Memberships, except Life, are up for renewal each January.</p>		<b>Donations</b> DAHS is a 501(c)3 Organization	I would like to donate \$_____ for the following purpose:
		<input type="checkbox"/> DAHS General Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Society Programs
		<input type="checkbox"/> Museum Maintenance and Operation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Gordon Hall Maintenance and Operation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Gordon Hall Restoration	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	
		<b>Contact Information</b>	
		Museum Phone: 734-426-2519	
		Museum Email: dexmuseum@aol.com	
		DAHS Website: http://www.dexterhistory.org	

v1.2 Nov-2015

## DEXTER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

President - Bev Hill  
Vice-President - Jon Russell  
Secretary - Sharon Wheeler  
Treasurer - Carol Jones

### DIRECTORS

Neil Adams  
Sue Behnke  
Stephanie Bell  
Caryl Burke  
Ina Germain  
Nina Rackham  
Nancy VanBlaricum  
Sybil VanHouten

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR** - Alice Ehn - [aeahn@charter.net](mailto:aeahn@charter.net)  
**WEBMASTER** - Rachel Szymanski - [bassclefchick@gmail.com](mailto:bassclefchick@gmail.com)  
**GORDON HALL SPECIAL EVENTS** - Bene Fuslier - 734-426-8972  
**DEXTER HISTORICAL GUILD** - Cindy Henes - [cdhenes@gmail.com](mailto:cdhenes@gmail.com)  
**RESEARCH** - Nancy J. Van Blaricum - [DexMuseum@aol.com](mailto:DexMuseum@aol.com)

### FACILITIES:

**DEXTER AREA MUSEUM** - 3443 Inverness, Dexter, MI 48130  
**GORDON HALL** - 8341 Island Lake Rd., Dexter, MI 48130

Provided to you by the Dexter Area Historical Society  
PHONE - 734 426-2519 \* WEBSITE: <http://www.dexterhistory.org/>  
EMAIL: [DexMuseum@aol.com](mailto:DexMuseum@aol.com)

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

