

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Thank you for helping us in having another successful Civil War Days at Gordon Hall. The weather co-operated and we had an excellent turnout.

Our Raffle Committee is working hard on selling tickets for our Gordon Hall Raffle. We will announce the lucky winner of the \$10, 000 on August 10th at 7 PM. If you don't have your ticket yet, be sure to purchase one.

The Dexter Daze tours of Gordon Hall will be held on August 10th from 12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM. They are sure to bring a lot of visitors to see and learn about our unique home. If you have not already, be sure to visit Gordon Hall.

Our museum will be open during Dexter Daze with special displays. Richard Ashley will be there to run the model train on August 9th. Tables of antiques for sale will be set up outside on the lawn.

As a group we continue to make progress on the reduction of our Gordon Hall mortgage payment. Thank you for your help and support in this area.

Have a great summer.



Bene Fusilier, President DAHSAM

FALL APPRAISAL CLINIC SCHEDULED

The Heritage Guild has set a date for Saturday, September 28, 2013, for its fall appraisal clinic. Their spring clinic was very well attended and many patrons have asked for an opportunity to have additional possessions appraised. Three certified appraisers will give verbal appraisals by appointment from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Museum.

One can contact the Guild to schedule their 15-minute appointment for \$7.00 to have three items evaluated. Sue Schotts will be coordinating advance appointments and can be reached at 734-424-9998. If you cannot make an appointment in advance, you may call the Museum at 734-426-2519 on the day of the clinic to set a time, space permitting. In the meantime, look around your home to decide which items you would like to have evaluated.

The proceeds raised by the Guild are used to support the needs of Dexter Area Museum. Over the years this group has met a myriad of needs for the organization. We will ask them for a detailed list for a future publication. One might be surprised by the numerous accomplishments of this group.

The Dexter Heritage Guild meets from 9:00 AM to 12 Noon, on the third and fourth Wednesdays of every month. They work on projects needed for their annual Holiday Bazaar. In order to keep their bazaar items reasonably priced, they rely on and gladly accept donated craft supplies. They are always looking for items on this non-exclusive list: cotton fabric, buttons, batting, lace, wooden beads, 100% wool fabric, 100% cotton sweaters and wiggly eyes.

As always the Guild members welcome your participation. Just give Guild President Cindy Henes a call at 426-0973 if you have any questions.

WHAT CAME BEFORE

“HOTEL HICKMAN BARBEQUE”?

Prior to The Cookie Momster, Hazel's, Jake's Place and Hotel Hickman, the tiny building located downtown on Main Street, across from the point at Monument Park, has seen a variety of occupants. The following article was prepared by Nancy Van Blaricum using articles

written by Norma McAllister and published in the Dexter Leader, August 2, 1989 & February 8, 1995.

Judge Samuel W. Dexter originally built this building sometime before 1830 as a Post Office. In 1834 Nelson Wing moved in and became the Second Postmaster. He expanded the building and used it as a general store and Post Office. He was Postmaster until 1841 when another merchant took over. Other buildings were built nearby and the area was first known as "Peanut Row" and then as the "Old Wooden Row".

Following Wing many businesses located here. A shoe repairman, Al Lathrop, once plied his trade in this place. Jacob Roehm had a harness shop in this building a number of years. Around 1910 Flora Smith and Mrs. George Snyder opened the "Women's Exchange" in the Roehm building advertising any lady could exhibit needlework, baking, painting or anything saleable. In 1925 John Becker operated a barber shop in the Roehm building.

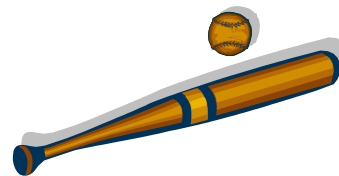
In 1927, Senator Royal S. Copeland who was very impressed with the work of the Dexter Women's Club wrote to them in part: "Dexter is an old community. It has monuments which should be preserved. Among them the original post office building put up by Judge Dexter more than a century ago. It has seemed to me more than a pity to permit such a priceless relic to fall on hopeless decay.... It seems to me that the library you sponsor should have a place to grow. I gladly tender your club and associated activities the free use of this building.... On my visits to Dexter the charming atmosphere of the "Alice-Frances House" as I desire to have it called, will be conducive to inspired writing I am sure."

A plaque was placed on the building naming it "The Alice-Francis House", and it is there today. At the death of Sen. Copeland in 1938

his widow presented the library building as a gift to the village and the Woman's Club. It was in 1962 a need was seen for a larger building to house the library. The library moved into its newly renovated home on Baker road on Oct. 31, 1964. The building was then used for the Village Council. The next use was as the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Substation.

Now it has returned to a commercial use. It has been carefully renovated and maintained by the different occupants. Presently the Hotel Hickman Chuck Wagon is located here.

SUPPORT OUR TEAM!



Check in with Captain "Mad Dog" Donovan Hill, at 734- 664-9132, to find out game dates for the Dexter Union Base Ball Team's season. Many enjoyed their game during Civil War Days.

A RAFFLE COMMITTEE MESSAGE

Please turn in all unsold tickets, sold ticket stubs and money to Bev Hill by Aug. 5th. This will allow for the accounting of all tickets before our "big selling rush" during Dexter Daze.

A NOTE OF THANKS FOR THE NOTES OF THANKS

Ina Germain has had a lovely picture of Gordon Hall made into thank you notes for the Society. It is both special and useful. We are grateful, Ina!



A MUSEUM UPDATE

During Dexter Daze, Friday and Saturday, August 9th and 10th, the Museum will be open from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. On Friday, the model railroad set-up in the basement will be in operation.

The Museum is featuring a collection of hand carved birds done by the late LeRoy Pratt. This collection contains forty birds of various sizes.

Both days, the Society will be holding a yard sale, as well. Be sure to take some time to stop by to support DAHSAM.

MANY HANDS WORKING TOGETHER REAP LARGE SUM TOWARD MORTGAGE REDUCTION

Following Civil War Days, the Dexter Leader offered the Civil War Days Committee an opportunity to submit an opinion piece. At that time we did not know that our earnings, following expenses, totaled approximately \$17,000. For those of you that have not seen that article, it is reprinted here.

“The stately Greek revival style mansion built by Dexter’s founding father, Judge Samuel Dexter, in 1841 that stands just outside the Village was named Gordon Hall after his mother’s family. It was officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. In 2005, the Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum learned of the University of Michigan’s plan to sell the Hall and submitted a winning bid of \$1.5 million for the purchase of the 9000 square foot Gordon Hall and its surrounding 67 acres.

It is difficult for non-profits to secure grant funding for preservation and restoration of

historic sites, if the site is under mortgage. And while the Society has applied for grants, developed a Master Plan, and has performed regular maintenance, until the debt is paid, it is difficult to realize the renovations of which many dream.

As the American Civil war took place over a 5-year span, 1861-1865, 2011 saw the kick-off of the Civil war Sesquicentennial around the country. Following discussions with Civil War re-enactors from the 4th Michigan Infantry, it was decided that Dexter should host a Civil War Days event with all proceeds dedicated to the reduction of the Gordon Hall mortgage. In January 2011, a set of Co-Chairs were recruited by Paul Bishop, Gordon Hall Management Team Chair, and as they traveled to many events throughout Michigan and Ohio, they began to plan what Civil War Days in Dexter might be.

As a guide and focus, they set a mission for themselves: The event should be as authentic as practical, affordable, educational, family oriented with programming for young and old, provide exposure for Gordon Hall and all proceeds should be dedicated to Gordon Hall mortgage reduction. Thus, the planning began.

In June of 2011, the night before Civil War Days - 1861 opened, many wondered if the proceeds would even cover event expenses. They did and in addition, a sizable bite was taken out of the mortgage balance. The Society was on a 5-year plan.

Last Sunday saw the closing of the third event, Civil War Days - 1863. With an emphasis on the Battle in the Wheat Field at Gettysburg, where Dexter’s own Colonel Harrison Jeffords was mortally wounded, the event once again raised a sizeable payment to apply to the Gordon Hall mortgage. It began with a Friday night barbecue provided by Dexter’s Hotel Hickman, and a patriotic concert lead by Jenny VanHouten’s second grade students and the

“Peace Jubilee Band” playing authentic civil war brass instruments. Other highlights for the weekend included, tours through Union and Confederate Camps, period musicians, children’s period games and stories, interactive Cricket, Horseshoe and Base Ball games, and an evening of Fine Dining and Fine Arts with living historians, the President and Mrs. Lincoln and Michigan’s Senator Howard. They also included artillery displays and firings, a narrated skirmish reenactment of The Wheat Field Battle, and a Sunday morning Church gospel sing, pie auction, pig roast and quilt raffle. The Michigan 4th infantry and their military invitees, the Cedars of Dexter and the Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum had once again partnered to provide a well-attended, enjoyable historical event.

Often big mention is made of the Chairs of such events, and while the development of a program and organizing and setting the scene is big work, I choose to concentrate on the multiple hands that work together to make the days run smoothly. Civil War Days -1863 was a great success.

Whether you baked a pie, worked at preparing the grounds, sold a ticket, paid an entry fee, attended the fundraising dinner, were listed on our sponsorship board, loaned your personal property, told a story, gave words of encouragement, or volunteered your time to be part of our event in any way, we are grateful. These are the things that matter the most.

Working together we held an event of which we can be very proud. We have not yet been able to finalize a financial report; however, if smiling faces and joyful noise can be used in the measure of our success, we can be certain we did indeed succeed.

We thank you for your participation, and extend an invitation for you to join us as we begin to plan for Civil War Days - 1864.”

Donna Fisher, Member of the Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum

THE BUSCH’S SCRIPT PROGRAM

Sharon Wheeler coordinates this income producing program for the Society, and has submitted the following:

“I would like to explain the Busch’s script program. When you purchase groceries at Busch’s store, the Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum will receive up to 5% of your total purchase when you show your script card at check out. As a result, the Society will receive a quarterly check from this grocer. This is a great fundraising opportunity and all you have to do is buy groceries. As the card is good at any Busch’s establishment, you can get your friends and family involved in raising monies for us.

In the first half of this year, we have received \$360. Please give me a call at 734-649-6750, if you would like to get started.”

Please take advantage of this opportunity right away!



to all those contributing to the Society newsletter.

Timely sharing of information helps to keep us connected and working together!

RAFFLE TICKETS SALES IN PROGRESS

At the July DAHSAM board meeting, Dexter Daze \$10,000 fundraising raffle Co-Chairs Caryl Burke, Ina Germain and Bev Hill reported that ticket sales are going well. First prize is \$10,000, with the drawing to take place on Saturday, August 10th. All proceeds are dedicated to Gordon Hall.

The raffle committee needs you to join them in selling tickets. To sign up go to:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C4EAAAE2CA13-gordon>

If you are unable to sign up online, call Caryl Burke at 476-5232, Ina Germain at 426- 2079 or Bev Hill at 426-4767.

CHRISTMAS PLANS UNDERWAY



At the July DAHSAM Board meeting it was announced this year’s festivities at Gordon Hall will include an open house planned for December 7th and 8th.

The committee is working on tentative plans and is hoping to partner with the Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club to provide a model train exhibit. Plans also include a holiday tea.

Keep in mind that from December 2nd through December 4th , decorated rooms are available for private parties at a rental rate of \$300 per night. This is a unique way to provide a special business or family party.

If you are willing to help on this fundraising project, please call Julie Knight 426-4961. This is a major source of revenue going toward Gordon Hall mortgage reduction.

**DAHSAM DEXTER DAZE ACTIVITIES
AUGUST 9TH AND 10TH**

The Society Booth will be located downtown near the Monument Park flag pole, next to the DAHSAM \$10,000 Raffle Booth. Members will be there to answer questions and give information related to the Museum and Gordon Hall. Hours of operation are 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM both Friday and Saturday.

Gordon Hall Tours will be on Saturday, August 10th from Noon to 3:00 PM. Tours are designed to show the house, from its basement to its attic, with 8 stations and informative guides. The full tour includes going up and down 3 flights of stairs, however, participants are not required to take the stair portions of the tour.

James Parker, author of “Voices of the Past: The Saga of Gordon Hall” will be present for book signing. The book sells for \$25 with proceeds from book sales used to support Gordon Hall.

Limited parking is available at Gordon Hall, and volunteers will be there to direct parking.

The suggested donation is \$5.00 per person.

CAN YOU HELP DURING DEXTER DAZE?

Are you able to help with any of the Dexter Daze events? If you would like to help on the 9th or 10th of August, please use our email address: DexMuseum@aol.com to contact us. Please indicate your area of interest. Committee Chairs will contact you with placement details.

1-6,2-A,3-D,4-E,5-B,6-F,7-C
Trivia Answers:

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU



Thanks to her generous gifts of time and plants, Jan Lyons got us off to a beautiful start again this year. The grounds are absolutely lovely. If you enjoy being outside, drop by Gordon Hall some evening and take a moment to water the flowers. It is such a peaceful place and makes a nice escape from a busy day.

You might want to wander through the garden plots maintained by residents of the Cedars. They have some thriving flowers and vegetables planted.

Though they do not need watering, the mowed areas also look terrific thanks to Paul Bishop and Jim Wheeler. Also, thanks to Mike Williams for the mowed areas at the Museum.

A BIT OF HISTORICAL TRIVIA

Can you match these old Michigan companies with their product?

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Kars | A. lithium ion batteries |
| 2. A123 | B. baking mixes |
| 3. Whirlpool | C. advertising inserts |
| 4. Stryker | D. appliances |
| 5. Jiffy | E. medical devices |
| 6. Dow | F. chemicals |
| 7. Valassis | G. snacks |

Answers at bottom of previous page.