

# DEXTER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

*As a reminder, we are repeating the following article that appeared in our November 2014 Newsletter:*

## **Saying Goodbye to the Artisan Fair**

Yes, it's true. Even good things come to an end. It is with both gratitude and regret that we announce the end of the Pioneer Arts/Dexter Artisan Fair, the spring fundraiser for the Museum for over forty years.

The Pioneer Arts Fair had a wonderful run. It brought together artists and crafters who were keeping old-time techniques alive and provided opportunities to see real time demonstrations. The fair itself changed over the years, of course, as it presented fewer pioneer crafts and competed with more activities for visitors.

Last year, in an effort to stem declining attendance and revenue, we converted the Pioneer Arts Fair into the Dexter Artisan Fair. While the new fair was successful in some respects, it fell short of the goals needed to continue.

If you attended one of the spring fairs or assisted as a committee member or volunteer, your help was greatly appreciated. It took many hours and many hands to sustain the event. It also took a lot of heart, namely from two devoted committee chairs, Alice Pastalan and Ginny Ryan. We thank them for their many years of steadfast support and look forward to future events in support of the Museum.

*Artisan Fair Committee, Sandra Matsco, Chair*

## **MUSEUM OPENING**

The Dexter Area Museum will re-open for the season on May 1, 2015. The Museum is open on Fridays and Saturdays from 1-3 PM and by appointment from May to December. This year's featured exhibit will be *Clothing Through the Ages*.

On Friday evening May 1st, the Dexter Area Historical Society will hold an Open House and Fund Raiser for the Dexter Area Museum.

There will be an opportunity to tour the Museum and ask questions about the many artifacts that are housed here. There will be additional information on this event in the next newsletter. The event will be from 7-9 PM with light refreshments. Cost is \$25 per ticket.

## **ANTIQUe APPRAISAL DAY PLANNED**

The Heritage Guild sponsored spring Antiques Appraisal Day will be Saturday, May 2, 2015, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Dexter Area Museum, located at 3443 Inverness Street in Dexter.

The certified appraisers from the Detroit DuMouchelles Art Gallery will give a verbal appraisal for 1 to 3 items during a 15-minute appointment. The fee is \$7.00 per item. For an appointment, please call Sue at 734-424-9998.

On May 2nd, if you have not made an appointment in advance, please call the Museum at 734-426-2519 for appointment availability and additional information. Proceeds benefit the preservation and operation of the Museum.

## **Dexter Daze Gordon Hall Raffle**

The DAHS is sponsoring the raffle again this year to support Gordon Hall. If you would like to be part of this great team just email or call Bev Hill at [beverlyhill6@gmail.com](mailto:beverlyhill6@gmail.com) or 734-426-4767. We would love to have you on our team and have a schedule that would meet your times - even for one time!!!

*Have you ever wanted to help restore a spectacular historic home? Here is your chance! The Gordon Hall Raffle offers a Grand Prize of \$10,000, a 2nd prize of \$1,000, and a 3rd prize of \$500. All proceeds from this raffle support Gordon Hall in Dexter. Gordon Hall was built in 1843 by Judge Samuel Dexter, the founder of Dexter, and is one of Michigan's most significant examples of Greek Revival architecture.*

*Raffle tickets will go on sale on Saturday, May 09, 2015. You can buy 1 raffle ticket for \$10, or 5 for \$40. Only 4000 tickets will be printed, so your chances of winning are great! From May through early August, tickets may be bought at several Dexter businesses or call 734-426-4767. During Dexter Daze on August 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> tickets will be available downtown at the Dexter Area Historical Society booth.*

*The drawing will take place on Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> between 7:00-8:00 p.m. at Monument Park in Dexter, Michigan. It is not necessary to be present at the drawing to win. Dexter Area Historical Society is a 501c3 organization operating the raffle with State of Michigan Raffle License #R-30562.*

*Thanks, Bev Hill*

### Thank You!

Thanks to all of you who brought in items for the Bake Sale during the Christmas Bazaar in December. As always, it was very successful!

### 2015 Civil War Days Historic Room

The "Grand Army of the Republic" was a fraternal organization composed of veterans of the Union Army, Union Navy, Marines and the U. S. Revenue Cutter Service who served in the American Civil War for the Northern/Federal forces. Founded in 1866 in Decatur, Illinois, it was dissolved in 1956 when its last member died. Although a Veterans organization, the G.A.R. was instrumental in supporting voting rights for black veterans and promoting patriotic education. They helped to make Memorial Day a national holiday, were instrumental in the establishment of regular veterans' pensions, and supported Republican political candidates. The peak of its membership was in 1890 with more than 490,000 members.

The Col. H. H. Jeffords Post #330 was organized November 5, 1885 in Dexter, Michigan. Thanks to the Bates Family, we are fortunate to have at the Museum three books from the H. H. Jeffords Post: The list of Soldiers who were members, and two Secretary Books (1886-1891 and 1912-1918). These books, pictures, and some artifacts from Post #330 will be the basis for a display in the South Living

Room of Gordon Hall during the 2015 Civil War Days, which will be held on June 12th to 14th.

Please let me know if you have any articles or pictures that you might like to have us include in our display. Contact me via email at [DexMuseum@aol.com](mailto:DexMuseum@aol.com) or call the Museum at 734-426-3341. Nancy J. Van Blaricum, Volunteer Genealogist, Dexter Area Historical Society.

### Annual Membership Meeting Election

Our Annual Membership Meeting will be held this spring. The Board of Directors will set the date at an upcoming month meeting.

Following the adoption of revised Bylaws last year, the process for filling out the Board of Directors has changed. Beginning this year, the Directors will be elected by the Members, with elected candidates serving staggered terms.

Those who have been a member for at least one year, and who are in good standing with the DAHS (current on dues), are now eligible to be considered as a candidate for the DAHS Board of Directors. We need members representing a wide range of interests while bringing a range of experiences and skills to the Board.

A member may nominate himself/herself, or be nominated by another member. A **letter or email declaring an interest** in being a candidate should be sent to the DAHS Nominating Committee. This **should include a brief paragraph bio**, which may include information on your experience and skills, along with your interests and why you feel being on the Board would be good for the organization.

The DAHS President has appointed a Nominating Committee. This committee will receive nominations and review them for eligibility. Information about the nominees will appear in a newsletter prior to the annual meeting.

DAHS Nominating Committee  
3443 Inverness Street  
Dexter MI 48130

[dexterareahistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:dexterareahistoricalsociety@gmail.com)