



# DAHS WINTER NEWSLETTER

November 2019



## Christmas at the Mansion

Woodland Wonderland  
Gordon Hall  
8311 Island Lake Rd.  
Dexter, Michigan

Friday, December 6, 2019  
6:30 p.m.

Hearty Hors d'oeuvres  
Spirits and Desserts

\$65 per person

For additional information  
[dexterhistory.org](http://dexterhistory.org) or  
Ina Germain 734-395-4106

## Katharine Dexter McCormick Christmas Tea Sunday, December 8

Our Christmas Tea this year will feature Katharine Dexter McCormick. Did you know that she was the granddaughter of Judge Dexter and that she was born at Gordon Hall? Also did you know that she played a large role in the Women's Suffrage movement, the 100th anniversary of which we will be celebrating in 2020? She was a remarkable lady. Come join us for our Christmas Tea, which will include a light lunch, and learn more about Katharine Dexter McCormick.



There will be two seatings, one at 1 pm and one at 4 pm. Each seating will accommodate 40 people. The cost is \$30 per person. Call Ina Germain for reservations at (734) 395-4106.

## 2019 Dexter Heritage Guild Bazaar

The annual Holiday Bazaar will be on Saturday, December 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Dexter Area Museum, 3443 Inverness Street. Visitors will find tables filled with a variety of handcrafted items: holiday wreaths and décor, ornaments, felted hats, one-of-a-kind shawls, winter hats and scarves, wonderful hanging hand towels, special treats, toys and comfy pillows for pets, the Guild's signature scrubbies and more! Also, be sure to see the items for sale at the Museum's Corner Gift Shop.



There will be a drawing the day of the bazaar. Drawing items include: a Limelight quilt, a Paul Cousins' multi-nut torte, a carved wooden Santa, a ceramic Christmas tree and a local gift certificate.

The Bake Sale will include a wonderful selection of delicious baked treats: cookies, Irish Soda bread, cakes, fudge, delicious jams/jellies and other canned garden specialties, plus other treats.

The success of the bake sale depends on **YOUR** participation and we could really use your help! See the next page for details on how you can help us.

As always, the revenue from the Holiday Bazaar and Baked Sale will support the Dexter Museum. For more details, visit our website: [www.dexterhistory.org](http://www.dexterhistory.org). Thank you!

## Christmas at the Mansion Saturday, December 7th



So many visitors have said that this event has become a family tradition. If you have yet to visit Gordon Hall at Christmas, this year would be a perfect time. If you have visited in the past, this year would may be the time to start your own family tradition. **We still feature the Christmas Village collection of lighted Department 56 houses.** but decorations in all of the other rooms will be new!!

We will again be making gingerbread houses (from 9am to 5pm) and Santa will be visiting (from 9am to 3pm). A visit to Gordon Hall would be a great way to start the holiday season. The suggested donation is \$5 per person.

Also, please note that the Christmas Village Collection at Gordon Hall will also be open on December 13, 14, 21, and 28 from 5 to 7:30 pm.



## Goodbye Summer - Hello Winter!



There have been many functions, activities, and visitors at the Museum and at Gordon Hall this beautiful summer, and we are now preparing for winter events at both of our buildings. We are just now finishing up our second grade tours at the Museum and Archaeology Day at Gordon Hall and are now decorating and preparing for our Christmas events. As you will see from the newsletter we are always busy and enjoying our work. We would love to have you join us at any of our events and would love to have you become a member of the Historical Society if you haven't joined already. Our group is making a difference and we are preserving history. Looking forward to seeing you this coming December. Bev Hill, DAHS President

### Help Needed for Bazaar Bake Sale

Our bake sale is a major source of revenue for the Holiday Bazaar. **On Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, Guild members will be at the Museum from 8:30am to 2:00pm to collect bake sale donations.**



We welcome any baked goods: cookies, breads, small cakes, fudge, any canned jams, jellies, pickles or any produce. All will be greatly appreciated! Individual serving sizes of cookies and desserts always sell well. Please make sure items are labeled, especially if they contain common allergens such as milk, eggs, or nuts.

### St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Chelsea Fundraising Dinner 2019

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Chelsea graciously sponsored another fundraising dinner in support of Gordon Hall on September 21st. It was a very successful event, generating over \$37,000 to continue the restoration of Gordon Hall. Nancy Graebner, CEO of Chelsea Hospital once again came forward to support the Dexter community and the DAHS vision of a restored Gordon Hall as an area wide historical venue.

A Live Auction with auctioneer Johnny Weber and many generously donated items as well as a Raffle with items donated by generous Dexter businesses, Sleeping Bear Press, Mona Walz and the DAHS Board helped to generate funds during the evening. The Bob & Jan Lyons Foundation, Dick Lundy, Jan Lyons and A.R. Brouwer Co. were major event sponsors in addition to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Chelsea. The event was chaired by Jan Lyons, Ina Germain, Dick Lundy, Caryl Burke and Bev Hill. We want to extend a sincere THANK YOU to all who attended or supported this wonderful evening in support of Gordon Hall!



### 2019 Dexter Heritage Guild Event

For the first time this year, the Dexter Heritage Guild participated in the Craft Show at the Webster Fall Festival. Our goals were to provide the community with a preview of our Holiday Bazaar items and to sell items appropriate for the fall season. We were very successful at both. If you get a chance to stop by the museum, you can still purchase fall decorations and hanging kitchen towels with a fall theme. Now we are gearing up for the Holiday Bazaar, on December 7th!



### Archeology Day

Over eighty people attended our Archeology Day at Gordon Hall this year. This event coincided with National Archeology Day throughout Michigan. The University of Michigan graduate students did a fantastic presentation and even more exciting they were able to positively locate the old stone privy. They



Jacques Pierrel

demonstrated the excavation process and how they carefully preserve their findings. In addition many of the visitors helped with the process of locating the sides of the privy. The weather was beautiful and it was a fun day with the dig and tours at Gordon Hall.



## Wanted

Please save your extra Halloween candy for our gingerbread houses. Please drop off at the Museum or call Bev Hill at (734) 426-4767 for pick up.



Also, do you have a pedestal cake dish that we could borrow for our Christmas Tea? Just call Bev Hill at (734) 426-4767 and make arrangements to pick it up.

## 2019 Museum Donations and Acquisitions

**Dexter Township Hall** - drawings, photographs, & documents

**Caryl Burke** - miscellaneous items & men's shaving tools

**Bill Arnold** - manual: Ford tractor/Ferguson system

**Jan Stagg** - household items, holiday decorations, 1932-34 garden party dress

**Kathy Canham** - Bissell's Grand Rapids sweeper

**Margaret Reynolds** - 1850 common lowbrow china doll

**Max Ziegler** - photo of Dexter High class trip 1932, warranty deed from 1858 & 1859

**Judi Stoll** - 1920's wooden child's rocking horse

**Wendy Russell** - 1870's women's clothing

**Marcia Lou Dresch** - French china doll

**Julia Janosi** - old chair with needlepoint seat

**George Wilkinson** - picture postcards with views of Dexter and Dexter-Huron Park

**Norma M. Smith** - 1924 36 inch Armand Marsailles doll

**Nancy Wheeler** - household, Dexter business advertising, Dexter fire dept. & sesquicentennial items

**Russ Brewster** - WWI items belonging to Marion Pratt of Dexter

## Second Grade Museum Tours

We have just completed two weeks of Second Grade Tours at the Museum. Five classes each from Anchor and Beacon Schools walked to the Museum for the tours. We had 57 adults and 261 children attending.

Thanks to the volunteers who helped to make the tours a success: Beverly Hill, Richard and Judy Ashley, and Bene Fusilier.

## Seventh Grade Students



Chris Hoelscher, a 7th grade English teacher at Mill Creek Middle School contacted us about bringing his students to the Museum for a site visit so they could do some information gathering about historically significant locations and landmarks in the Dexter Area. It was a great experience for all involved. The students came in 4 different groups on Thursday and Friday October 10th and 11th. We had a great time sharing information about the artifacts and pictures detailing the history of the Dexter area. We are looking forward to the

stories they are writing using their imaginations to produce stories about our local artifacts and/or buildings.

## Dexter Drugstores

In the July 18, 1998 *Chelsea Standard/The Dexter Leader* appeared an article by Norma McAllister on Drugstores in Dexter. We have copied much of the article with some updating of places and other information in brackets [ ].

The first drugstore in the village was built and stocked by Judge Samuel Dexter, who invited Dr. Cyril Nichols to come to his settlement on Mill Creek. Dr. Nichols was born in Middlebury, Vt. At age 23 he came to Michigan and studied medicine under Dr. Whitney in Detroit. He was a surgeon at Mackinaw Island for one year. For another year he practiced medicine in St. Clair and then went to Detroit. While there he was married to Mary Williams and they went to Ann Arbor. Here he and three other doctors were granted permission to form the Washtenaw County Medical Society. He came to Dexter in 1827, remaining until his death at age 49. Their daughter, Mary Nichols Bush, of Detroit, wrote in 1915 to a Dexter committee planning a homecoming saying, "I was born in 1829 on the banks of the Huron in a small wood-colored house. The first drugstore was built and stocked by Judge Dexter and presented to my father by him. I spun the first twine my father used to wrap up the bulky parcels in primitive drugs."

Not much is known of the early drugstores until *The Dexter Leader* began publication in 1869 and they began advertising their medicines and other items. They did a big business in the patent medicine trade. Tonics were advertised as cures for colds, coughs, the grippe and all sorts of ailments. It was not until 1885 that state law required druggists to register. Those who had been in business for three years could go before a board of examiners to obtain a certificate at a cost of \$2.

W. Irving Keal became a druggist in Dexter in 1863. He was in business with physician Dr. Alexander Ewing, remaining for six years when he sold to A. W. Gleason. Wirt W. Waite took over the business in 1875. Eight years later he sold to J. B. Miles. During the mid 1800s into the 1900s, there was more than one drugstore in the village.

Dr. Robert Honey opened his drugstore in 1895. He had erected his new home on Central Street near the parks and it is still standing today. He sold to Herman W. Schall in 1915 who shortly opened the Schall Drug Store in the building once occupying a part of the site where the First of America Bank is now located [2019 - PNC Bank]. Schall opened an office in his store for the examination of eyes and fitting of glasses. Along with drugs he sold candies, Dr. Hess' stocked remedies and school books and supplies, including used text books. In those days parents were required to furnish all books and supplies for their children. He moved his drug business in 1926 into the building formerly occupied by Roy Bruckner Grocery and today houses Dexter Cards & Office Supplies [2019 *The Creamery*].



Adolph Schaible of Manchester purchased Schall's business and moved into the same building. He continued selling school books and supplies as well as drugs, cosmetics and much more. Adolph and his wife closed the store in 1943 and two years later the Kunkles of Detroit and Base Lake purchased the stock and fixtures and opened a gift shop.



A new drugstore had opened in the Jaeger Building in Dexter in March 1914, Guinan & Tuffs Dexter Pharmacy. George Howe of Detroit was engaged as the pharmacist. They advertised chocolates, stationery, perfumes, cigars, poultry remedies, baseball supplies, school supplies and postcard views of Dexter. By that September, the Dexter Pharmacy had become a Rexall Store, handling Rexall products. A soda fountain was installed in 1917. In 1933 it was called Guinan Pharmacy. Jack McLeod became the proprietor and two years later the name was changed to McLeod Pharmacy.

Jack McLeod was killed in an auto accident in 1956. He and his wife, Camille, had three sons, John, Robert and Patrick. Following his death, his wife and Patrick, who had become a pharmacist, continued the business. In 1968 the McLeods moved their business into the building erected by Tom and Irene Bennett in 1950-51 next to the old Stebbins Hotel for a nickel and dollar store [2019 - The Beer Grotto].

In the meantime, Alfred Lavalli had opened a drugstore in Dexter. He had begun working for a drug firm at the age of 14, and eventually became a traveling salesman for McKesson & Robbins drug wholesalers. In 1952 Lavalli leased the Blanchard building located where Hearts and Flowers now stands [2019] and opened the Dexter Pharmacy.

On September 1, 1979, Lavalli sold the business to Fred Schmid, a pharmacist from Ypsilanti and a graduate of the University of Michigan. In March 1984 Schmid moved his Dexter Pharmacy into the building occupied by McLeod Drugs and here he remains today [1998], now the only drugstore in the village.

[An update on the Dexter Pharmacy from their old website: "We've grown over the years, moved into bigger buildings and opened new locations... including our 2820 Baker Road location." We were all sorry to learn of their closing this year - 2019.]



## **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 were 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. 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  
Hackney Hardware

Hosmer-Muehlig Funeral Chapel  
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

## **New Membership Form**

We have a new Membership Form! It is simple and makes it much easier to join and become part of 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)  
GORDON HALLSPECIAL EVENTS - Bene Fusilier: 734-426-8972  
HISTORICAL 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.