

DAHS 2020

August NEWSLETTER

Welcome to Summer!

We hope this finds you all safe and healthy. Due to Covid19, we have cancelled all of our fundraisers that require group gathering to protect all of our loyal supporters. Fortunately, the museum remains open on Fridays and Saturdays to provide everyone with a way to get out and enjoy history. We look forward to seeing you. When you visit we only request that you maintain proper social distancing and that you wear a mask to protect yourself and everyone else.

Special Thanks!

Special thanks goes out to all those who have helped with the great upkeep of the grounds at Gordon Hall. The flowers are in bloom, trees are trimmed, and our lawn is always mowed. Thanks to the garden crew - Jan Lyons for purchasing the flowers, Sue Koch and Caryl Burke for maintaining the beds, and Ina Germain, Ceci Riecker, and Sharon Wheeler for their weekly watering. And to our work crew of Neil Adams, Chet Hill. Jack Germain, Phil Jackson, Michael Burke, and Gary Vander Hagen for taking care of all of these outside projects. Also, a very special thanks should go out to Jim Wheeler who mows the grounds on a weekly basis - we appreciate you, Jim!



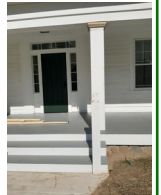
Thanks also to Mike Williams and Cindy Henes who help maintain the Museum grounds.

Gordon Hall Improvements!

Construction is continuing at Gordon Hall. We are excited to soon be able to share the new improvements - thanks to all of you for your support that made this all possible. We are unable to have Gordon Hall open just yet, but please check out our website for weekly updates on all the changes.



We have been very fortunate to work with Hopkins Burns as our architect and A.R. Brouwer Company who is in charge of the construction work. Both of these companies have made our new additions a very pleasant experience.



Workers have been busy each day. Finally a new porch deck with new steps and a new back door brings the back of Gordon Hall closer to the original! Three new bathrooms inside and accessible to all, are a welcome addition! We are so looking forward to completion and the day when we can once again open our Gordon Hall to the public!



Again stay safe and healthy and thanks for your great support,

Beverly Hill

President of the Dexter Area Historical Society

Gordon Hall Fall Fundraiser



Our fall fundraiser this year in support of Gordon Hall will be held on Sunday, October 11 and will, as with so much in our lives, look quite different. The Fillmore of Dexter has graciously agreed to provide carry out dinners from 5:00 to 7:00 for our Gordon Hall supporters.

Invitations will be arriving in mid-September but please plan on dinner from the Fillmore on Sunday, October 11th. It will be a lovely, delicious way to support our Gordon Hall while we stay safe.

Bats in the Belfry

Fundraising Campaign Going Strong!

We launched a new campaign this summer to fill an urgent need for the Dexter Area Museum.

WE HAVE BATS IN OUR BELFRY!

As you know, the museum is housed in an historic church, the former St. Andrew's United Church of Christ, built in 1883. Old buildings require constant maintenance, and during a recent routine inspection, we discovered a large hole in the belfry. We determined it needed immediate attention to preserve our historic building as well as our priceless artifacts.



We have set a goal of \$10,000 by Labor Day, and thanks to our loyal members and the Dexter community, **and we have exceeded that goal by more than \$5,000!!** We are celebrating this success by giving ourselves a second goal of **\$20,000** to complete even more repairs and painting on the building.

We also have a matching fund in place that was given to us by one of our very generous members. Will you help us complete work on other portions of the exterior as well?

Remember, all donations of \$50 or more will receive a surprise, handmade gift as a personalized thank you for supporting us.



You may make your donation on our webpage at dexterhistory.org, or by sending a check marked "Bats in the Belfry" made out to *Dexter Area Historical Society, 3443 Inverness, Dexter, Michigan, 48130*. Take a drive by the museum and look at our progress! Hope to see you there very soon.

DAHS Annual Meeting and Election Announcement

The DAHS Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, August 30 at 2pm via Zoom. Everyone is welcome to attend. The agenda will include:

- Brief reports on our finances and what we've been up to over the last year at the Dexter Area Museum and Gordon Hall;
- A talk about Katharine Dexter McCormick and her role in the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, giving women the right to vote;
- A video tour of the recently completed construction at Gordon Hall; and
- Election of Directors to the DAHS Board of Directors. The terms of 4 current Board members will expire in August, and all 4 have enthusiastically agreed to stand again for re-election. There are also 2 additional open positions on the Board.

A formal agenda and ballot for the election will be sent during the week of August 10. It will include instructions for joining the meeting and for returning your completed ballot, which must be received by DAHS by 8pm on August 29. Because we have chosen not to gather in person for our Annual Meeting, we have devised a remote election process that is fair and transparent. Note that our Bylaws specify that only ballots from *active DAHS members who are present at the Annual Meeting* will be counted.

Call for nominations – If you would like to nominate someone to stand for election to the Board of Directors, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee before Aug 10:

- Caryl Burke – 734-476-5232, caryleburke@aol.com
- Ina Germain – 734-395-4106, ina114@sbcglobal.net
- Nina Rackham – 734-426-2494, ndrackham@aol.com

We are always interested in talking with folks who would like to explore joining the Board or participating in some other way in the life of our Historical Society. There are many volunteer opportunities for all sorts of people, from professionals to students to families to retirees. And we make it a priority to have fun while we serve our community. We are probably the happiest and most productive bunch of volunteers you are likely to find. And in this wonderful small community, you will see immediately how visible and important your contribution is.

Call or email me to talk about volunteer opportunities, or contact the DAHS general email or phone number. We will get back to you.

Caryl Burke, DAHS Vice-President
734-476-5232

Seven Special Women

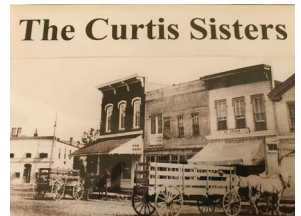
The 2020 Special Display at the Dexter Area Museum highlights seven local women who like thousands of women in the early 1900s, found employment outside of their homes. We checked the 1900 Census and found a few women who listed a job that took them outside the home, a noticeable increase in 1910 and many more in 1920. World War I was part of the reason as women replaced the men who went off to serve in the war!

Our display, which is available through November, highlights women from the area who were chosen for their professions as well as their importance in the Dexter Community. Although there are many more details available in our displays, we will attempt to give you a short synopsis of each woman.



Cornelia Alice Copeland was born in Webster Township in 1864 to Roscoe P. and Frances J. (Holmes) Copeland. She was educated at Olivet College and the University of Michigan. She taught in some local one-room schools before taking a position in Ovid, Michigan. She then taught in the Detroit area where she was head of the English department there until her retirement. Her father, Roscoe Copland served as Dexter Village President for 35 years and her brother, Royal S. Copeland was a physician and later a U.S. Senator.

Mary, Alice and Julia Curtis were the daughters of Munson and Betsy (Sanford) Curtis. They had developed an interest in the Millinery business while living in the Western part of Michigan, so it was natural for them to continue when the family moved to the Dexter area. The Dexter shop was located in the Old Wooden Row and they used the shop to support themselves as well as Mary and Julia's sons from earlier marriages. They all married local men, Mary to Fred Stoll, Alice to Albert Litchfield and Julia to Gailbraith Gorman.



Mary Jackson Roper was born in Dixboro in about 1849. Her parents had escaped from the south by the underground railroad. She married Benjamin Roper in 1863 in Washtenaw County and they came to Dexter in 1864. Ben Roper was a barber and opened up a shop in the Old Wooden Row and Mary Roper took up the trade along with her husband. Ben died in 1894 following a fall down the stairs in his home that was above the shop. Mary continued her business in Ben's shop for a number of years. Although she sold the shop to Henry Ormsby in 1914, she continued to offer her services until the early 1920s.

For 34 years Minnie Daley was the "operator" at the local switchboard of the Bell telephone Company that was located on the 2nd floor of the Gates building. She was the daughter of Thomas and Ellen (McDonald) Daley and a graduate of Dexter High School in the class of 1893. Her voice had probably been heard by more people than any other voice in Dexter and she was able to keep the community informed of all comings and goings in the Village. Known in her community as a willing worker, Miss Daley was active during the 1941 Railroad Centennial celebration.



Martha Drew was born in 1904 in Washtenaw County to Alfred and Margaret (Ferris) Drew. Her father was a blacksmith and by the age of 12 she was working with him at his shop in Dexter. In 1928 she went to New York City to visit her Uncle, also a blacksmith. Nothing more is found on Martha until an Associated Press Article is released on December 31, 1934 about the only woman blacksmith in New York City! She and her husband George Smith were working from their blacksmith shop in Greenwich Village where they shod the few remaining horses in New York City. Martha demonstrated her prowess in 1941 at the Centennial of the Railroad.

Susan Behnke, Nina Rackham and Nancy Van Blaricum worked together to create this display.

Many thanks to:

Wolverine Moore Glass Company for their advice on installing glass display case doors, cutting glass shelves and allowing us to recycle glass in their bin!

William Buller, Colin Brooks and Richard Dobson from the Michigan Tech Research Institute for the wonderful Drone pictures of the Belfry.

George Wilkinson for his many donations to the Museum, especially for his work on the "Civil War" display.

Tim & Tony, AKA the Richards Brothers for the special care they've taken of our Historic Museum.

In Memory:

We will miss our friend Frank Cianciolo who lent a helping hand and was a consultant on many projects at the Museum. He was an expert Cabinet maker and created and repaired all manner of hand made furniture and wooden items. He passed away unexpectedly on May 19, 2020.

The Dexter Area Museum is now OPEN on Friday and Saturday from 1 to 3. Please wear masks and practice Social Distancing!

We are following the guidelines and will remain open as long as we are allowed. Please come and safely enjoy our wonderful displays.

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. 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

WEBMASTER - Jan Weaver weaver74@charter.net

GORDONHALLSPECIALEVENTS - Bene Fusilier: 734-426-8972

HERITAGE GUILD - Pat Pudduck: patpudduck@gmail.com

MUSEUM DIRECTOR - Nina Rackham: NDRackham@aol.com

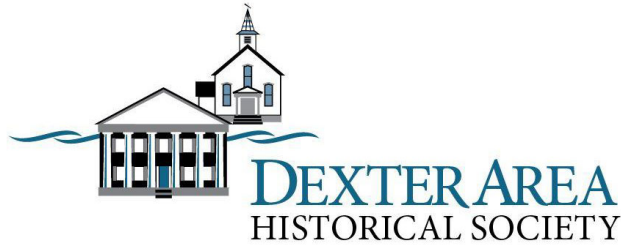
FACILITIES:

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 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 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.