



# **DAHS** **MAY 2020** **NEWSLETTER**



## **President's Letter**

We would like to thank you, the community, for your tremendous support for our many fundraisers for our Museum and for Gordon Hall. The Museum has restored the wood flooring in the meeting room and will be reorganizing the exhibits throughout the museum. Gordon Hall has started construction on three new restrooms. We are fortunate that with your help and support we have been able to cover all these costs from our fundraisers and donations.

As you probably know, all of our projects have been put on hold. In addition, our summer fundraisers have been cancelled. We are saddened to have had to cancel both our annual Raffle and Gordon Hall Days, but it was necessary for the safety of the community. They will both be renewed next year. (Gordon Hall Days is scheduled to be held June 25th and 26th 2021).

Again, thank you so much for your tremendous support. If you would like to contribute in any way, please let us know. We would love to have you join our team as we work to preserve and maintain the history in Dexter.

Thanks,

Bev Hill

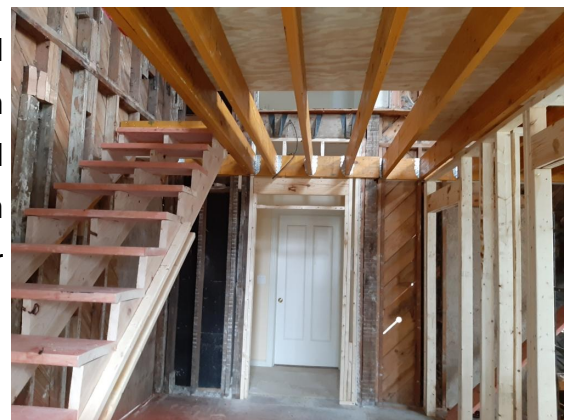
President of the Dexter Area Historical Society

## **2020 Gordon Hall Construction**

As you can see from this picture, the reconstruction of the west porch is well underway. When completed, the west porch will once again have the type of wood floor that it had back in the 1800's.



The north wing will be updated with three restrooms and a second floor room for meetings or storage



Construction should be completed this summer and we will be very excited to hold a grand opening event in the future.

We feel bad that we will not be able to show you our progress this summer during Gordon Hall Days and will not be able to hold our annual Raffle, but we will be back next year in full force.

## The Dexter Area Museum

Greetings from the Museum

The Dexter Area Museum is closed due to the Coronavirus outbreak and we will open as soon as it's allowed and safe. In the meantime, we can be reached at [DexMuseum@aol.com](mailto:DexMuseum@aol.com) or 734-426-2519.



The museum has a new look. As reported in the previous newsletter, we had the meeting room wood floors finished and we now have an open look.



The meeting room has been rearranged and the gift shop has been downsized.



Museum artifacts have also been introduced in the interior design.

The upper display area also has taken on a new design. Display cases have been rearranged with new artifact displays. We have incorporated some new artifacts with the old.



The kitchen display has been made somewhat larger with a new wood ice box and kitchen tools.



When the museum opens, we will feature a new display headlining women in business 100 years ago as part of the "Votes for Women 100" Suffragist Celebration. One of our displays will feature a Millinery Shop.

Other occupations highlighted include a blacksmith, a telephone operator, a teacher and a beautician.



Please come and check us out!

### Antique Appraisal Day Cancellation

The Dexter Heritage Guild has announced the cancellation of the Antique Appraisal Day scheduled for May 9, 2020 at the Dexter Area Museum. For more information, please contact: [DexterHeritageGuild@gmail.com](mailto:DexterHeritageGuild@gmail.com) or call (734) 358-0769. Thank you. Stay well and stay safe!

### Suffragist Hat Workshop Canceled

We have canceled the May 16, 2020 Suffragist Hat Decorating Workshop at the Dexter Area Museum. The Dexter Memorial Day Parade has also been canceled. For more information, please contact: [DexMuseum@aol.com](mailto:DexMuseum@aol.com) or call (734) 426-2519.

## Polio Once Caused Widespread Panic

In the late 1940s, polio outbreaks in the U.S. increased in frequency and size, crippling an average of more than 35,000 people each year. Parents were frightened to let their children go outside, especially in the summer when the virus seemed to peak. Public health officials imposed quarantines on homes and towns where polio cases were diagnosed. Thanks to the polio vaccine, dedicated health care professionals, and parents who vaccinate their children on schedule, polio has been eliminated in this country for more than 30 years.

Ginger Visel lived with her parents and ten siblings about 2 miles outside of Dexter. In the winter of 1950, 4 year old Ginger contracted polio and her life would never be the same! By the time the virus was through with her, she had a withered leg, weak muscles, and hip trouble that required multiple surgeries.

The University of Michigan Hospital became a second home, the March of Dimes a reliable support system, and leg braces an everyday part of her wardrobe. In the era before ramps and automatic doors, Ginger had to learn to adapt to a world not built for her.



In a beautifully written book, Ginger describes all the details from the time she entered the “isolation building” through the years of treatments, operations, physical therapy followed by college, marriage, children, teaching and retirement. In other words, a “normal” life with a few challenges! The title of her book tells it all: *Ginger Stands Her Ground: A Memoir of Faith, Family and Polio*. It is important to note that Polio comes last. Faith and Family has been the source of her strength as she overcame each hurdle.

Below is a URL that will take you to an interview done in January 2018 for “ChelseaUpdate” that gives even more information. If the link doesn’t work, just copy it and put it into your browser.

URL: <https://chelseaupdate.com/ginger-stands-ground-memoir-growing-polio-virginia-ford/>

If you are interested in the book, go to Amazon.com and put in the title *Ginger Stands Her Ground* and her name Virginia Ford. If you sign into AmazonSmile.com, you can designate an organization to receive a donation from Amazon. The Dexter Area Historical Society is on the list, but you may know of others you may want to support.

### 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 or 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)

GORDONHALLSPECIALEVENTS - Bene Fusilier: 734-426-8972

HERITAGE 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 TBD 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.