

Welcome to another Michigan winter!

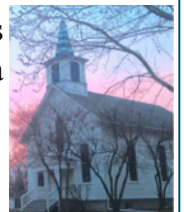
We had a very successful “Christmas At The Mansion” event and are already planning for future events like our famous raffle during Dexter Daze and Gordon Hall Days in September.

The 2022 special challenge grant ended on January 31st and we raised **\$67,013** from our generous donors! Our tremendous community support for the challenge grant and our other events gives us encouragement that we will be able to meet our goal. There is more information on the next page on Gordon Hall rehabilitation.



We continue to celebrate our two beautiful buildings that are wonderful additions to our community. We thank everyone for helping us maintain the Dexter Area Museum and Gordon Hall.

Looking forward to a great 2022! Beverly Hill, DAHS President



2021 Christmas At The Mansion

Held on December 3rd & 4th, “Christmas At The Mansion” was outdoors this year!! Our favorite Santa and Elf Cindy love Gordon Hall and met their favorite children outdoors on our antique sleigh. Lines were long on Friday night as Santa spent time talking to each child and family. The Dexter Community Youth Theater Players, under the leadership of Abby Briggs, sang Christmas carols and that put everyone in a festive mood. Hot chocolate and cookies were an added treat for everyone. It was a beautiful night!

Our front porch was decorated with many trees and wreaths to add to the joyous event. The driveway was lit by Quest Productions which also added to the festivities.

Santa and Cindy the Elf were back again on Saturday and it was also a delightful day for everyone. Laura Retter of *Pure Photography* hosted an event with games and activities in our back yard.

On both days many Historical Society members, National Honor Society students, and other volunteers helped make our first outdoor “Christmas At The Mansion” memorable. Thank you to all the volunteers as well as to the community members who came in support of Gordon Hall.

Santa said he would never miss coming to Gordon Hall and plans to be back next year!!



2021 Heritage Guild Holiday Bazaar

The 2021 Heritage Guild’s Holiday Bazaar was the most successful bazaar on record. There were beautifully crafted items made by guild members and friends of the museum. Buyers eagerly sought out the very creative Christmas tree ornaments, some one of a kind. The Gift baskets, which included several gift cards, were a big seller. We had the support of guild family members who participated throughout the day.

We thank our generous local contributors for items in the annual drawing and Silent Auction: Busch’s Market, Dexter Bakery, Dexter Creamery, Encore Theater, Fillmore Bar & Grill, Huron Pet Supply, Whitetail Farms and Suzanne Van Natter.

Let’s not forget the Bake Sale! The Friday before the bazaar, there was a steady stream of bakers and “garden canners” who donated a wonderful variety of delicious items. On the day of the bazaar, people had a lot to choose from: cookies, coffee cakes, breads, freeze-dried treats, canned jams and pickled beets, gluten-free cookies, special treats and more.



The Heritage Guild welcomes all who would like to join the guild. Our meetings are held at the Museum on Wednesdays. Everyone is welcome! If interested, please call Pat Pudduck: 734-426-8952.

All the donations, for both the Holiday bazaar and the Bake sale, were greatly appreciated. This helped make the bazaar a success and helps with the preservation of our Dexter Area Museum.

Happy 2022 New Year!

The Dexter Area Museum

The Dexter Area Museum is closed for the winter, and we are at work preparing for next season.



Under the direction of our director Nina Rackham, displays are being updated by Sue Behnke in the kitchen and advertising display downstairs, Cindy Henes continues to organize and inventory the office area, Carol Jones is researching businesses in Dexter providing a historical description for each display, Nancy Van Blaricum is doing genealogical and historical research and Rhea Berry is refreshing the Gift Shop.

New LED lighting has been put up in the lower level hallway and bathrooms. The farm and railroad area and the meeting room is scheduled next.

We will be opening on May 6th for the 2022 season.

SAVE THE DATE!

We have started planning for **Gordon Hall Days!** Friday, September 9th will be our fundraiser celebration



Saturday, September 10th and Sunday September 11th, Gordon Hall will be open and our grounds will be full of vendors and exhibitors.

Fundraiser Dinner?

Plans are on the way for a possible Fundraiser Dinner in April? or May? Details will come when plans are finalized.

Our Annual Raffle will be held during Dexter Daze - August 12th and 13th.

You've been asking when ticket sales will start and we will be ready with our hats to greet you in the spring!

We are looking forward to another great year!



2021 Gordon Hall Challenge Grant a Great Success!

Holiday Campaign in Support of Gordon Hall



Total 1/31/22	\$67,013
	\$65,000
	\$60,000
1/15/22 - \$52,256	\$55,000
Goal - \$50,000	\$50,000
12/27/21 - \$42,161	\$45,000
12/13/21 - \$37,261	\$40,000
11/27/21 - \$31,961	\$35,000
11/13/21 - \$29,836	\$30,000
10/31/21 - \$26,795	\$25,000
10/12/21 - \$20,500 Challenge Grant!	\$20,000



We began our end-of-year fundraising toward the rehabilitation of Gordon Hall with a bang this year. In October, a small group of generous donors pledged to match up to \$20,500 in donations made through the end of January 2022. With an overall goal of \$50,000, we set out to make sure everyone knew about this great opportunity. Even though it was a larger goal than we have attempted in past years, we knew our community would come through. And did they ever!! As of January 31, 2022, we have raised a total of **\$67,013!** This is a wonderful confirmation of how much this community loves Gordon Hall and supports our plan to restore it.

The restoration project itself moves forward a little every year. In 2021, we were thrilled to discover that the original flooring on the ground floor of Gordon Hall still existed under the

multiple layers of subfloor, tile, padding, and carpet that had been installed over the years by the U of M. With the help of our wonderful volunteers, all of those layers were removed in both ground floor parlors. The floor underneath was repaired where needed and lightly refinished, and now shines warmly in the north parlor. The south parlor is still in progress but will be completed soon. Look for the marks in this flooring that show where the walls, doorways, and cupboards originally stood when Gordon Hall was built!



Our plan in 2022 is to complete Phase 1 - installation of a geothermal heating and cooling system, which will be supported by this year's Challenge Grant funds. In this phase, an underground system of ground loops will be installed and connected to one geothermal heating unit in Gordon Hall's basement. This will be sufficient to heat and cool the northwest wing with some extra capacity. The heating and cooling for the rest of the building will come when the full rehabilitation of Gordon Hall is completed and the remaining geothermal units and ductwork are installed.

We are still targeting 2024, the year of Dexter's Bicentennial, for the full restoration of Gordon Hall. We are completing every project we can along the way to get us to that goal, but our biggest challenge now is fundraising. The next 2 years will be critical. If you would like to join us or have ideas, please contact us at DexMuseum@aol.com or call 734-426-2519. New perspectives are always welcome! Join us to enrich our community of today, tomorrow, and 100 years from now.

Early Inhabitants

For many centuries this area was populated by Indian tribes, mostly of the Algonquin and Iroquoian language groups. The Algonquins included the Potawatomi, Ottawa, Ojibway also known as the Chippewa, Miami, and Sauk. The Iroquoians included the Hurons also known as Wyandots, Fox, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca.

European explorers arrived in the early 1600's followed by missionaries and fur traders who were mostly French. The English controlled the area after the French and Indian War and then the Americans gained control after the American Revolution. But the native settlements here did not change substantially until the area was opened up for settlement in the 1820s. As settlers moved in, many of the native peoples moved West or North to Canada.

Many of our place names came from the language of these tribes.

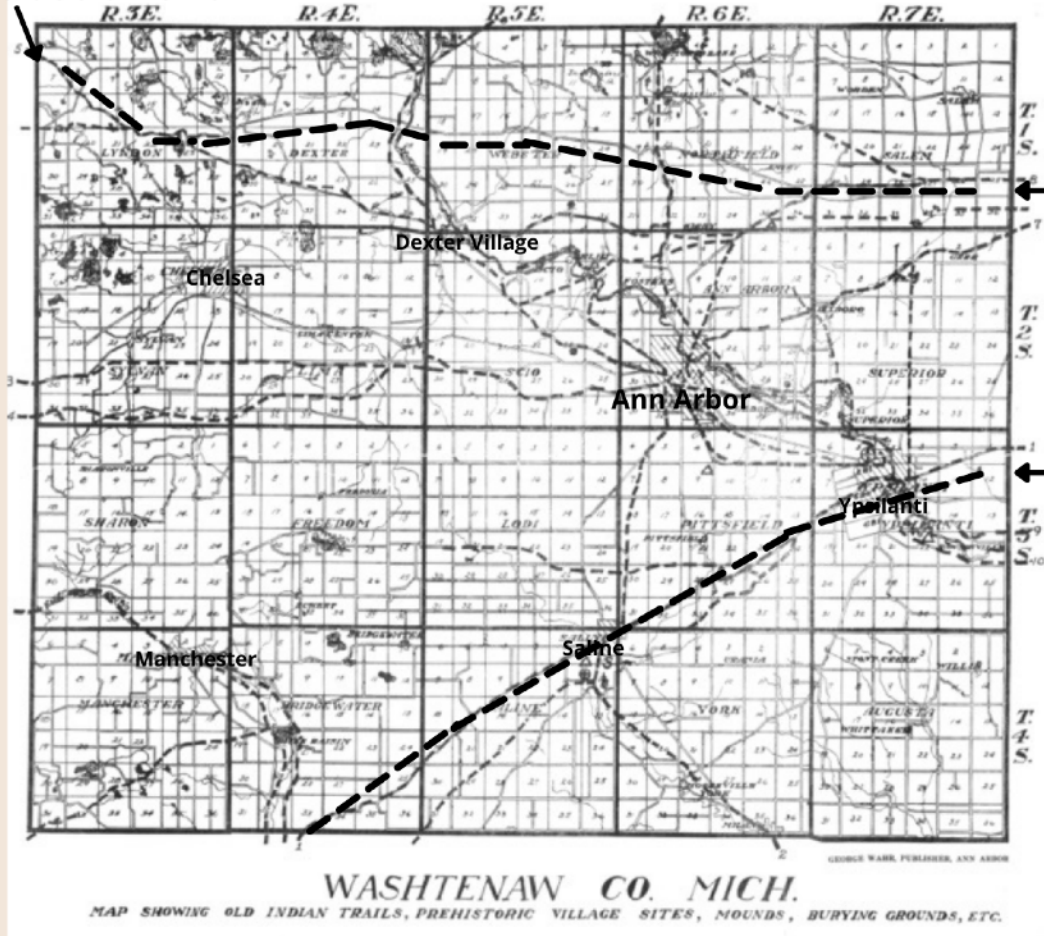
- **Michigan comes from the Ottawa "Mishigami" meaning large water or great water**
- **Washtenaw comes from the Ojibwe word Wash-ten-ong meaning "far off in the interior",**
- **Saginaw comes from the Chippewa word Sak-e-nong meaning "place of the Sauks"**
- **Many cities, towns, counties and townships are named for Native Chiefs - Tecumseh, Pontiac, Ogemaw, Sanilac**
- **Can you name some others?**

These native people were the first surveyors of the area, and many of the roads that traverse lower Michigan were originally Indian trails. The early settlers used these trails to travel west from Detroit and many became parts of the roads we still use today.

The Sauk Trail was used as a military road between Detroit and Chicago and eventually became parts of U.S. 12.

North Territorial was built from the Plymouth Trail to the east and the Dexter and Grand River Trail to the west.

Dexter and Grand River Trail



Plymouth Trail

Sauk Trail

The Indians Of Washtenaw County Michigan by W. B. Hinsdale
University of Michigan Copyright, 1927 By George Wahr

INDIANS OF WASHTENAW COUNTY

Old Indian Trails designated by dotted lines.

1. Detroit and Chicago trail, also called Sauk Trail.
2. Trail to Monroe, Toledo and Sandusky Bay.
3. St. Joseph trail.
4. Washtenaw trail.
5. Dexter and Grand River trail.
6. Shiawassee trail.
7. North trail to Detroit River.
8. Plymouth trail.
9. Potawatomi trail.
10. Trail down Huron River.

Indian villages designated by triangle,
Mounds by dots, Burying
grounds by cross inside circle,
Salt springs by S, Highways by double lines.



**Chicago Road
Historical Marker**

This marker is in Detroit, Michigan, in Wayne County at the intersection of Michigan Avenue (U.S. 12) and Washington Boulevard, on the right when traveling east on Michigan Avenue.

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 are 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. Use the form on the last page of this newsletter to join this group.

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
Finn's JM&J Insurance Agency
Hackney Hardware

Hosmer-Muehlig Funeral Chapel
Huron Counseling Services
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

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, 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 and mail 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 Haagen

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 Historical 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.