

YOUR EVENTS AT A GLANCE – DETAILS WITHIN

A Night at the Museum

Friday, November 18 - 7 to 9 pm
The Dexter Area Museum



Home for the Holidays

Friday, December 2
6:30 to 9:30 pm
Gordon Hall

Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, December 3
9 am to 3 pm
The Dexter Area Museum



Christmas at the Mansion

Saturday, December 3 - 9 am to 5 pm
Gordon Hall

Christmas Mansion Open House

December 10, 18, 27, & 28 from 6 pm to 8 pm
Gordon Hall

If Teapots Could Talk

Sunday, December 4, 2016 - 1pm and 4 pm
Gordon Hall



Addresses for all events



Gordon Hall, 8341 Island Lake Rd, Dexter



Dexter Area Museum, 3443 Inverness, Dexter

"A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM" A MUSEUM FUND RAISER



Join us at the Dexter Area Museum on Friday, November 18, 2016, from 7 – 9 PM for an entertaining evening and a chance to help the Museum raise funds for operations. The event will feature a visual tour of the architecture of the homes and buildings of Dexter, a chance to

check out the new look at the Museum and our new exhibits. We will provide an array of hearty hors d'oeuvres and adult beverages.

Reservations are required and can be made for the evening by calling the Museum at 734-426-2519 or by email at DexMuseum@aol.com. The cost for the evening is \$25 per person which will be payable at the door. Your entire ticket cost will be tax deductible.

Home for the Holidays

Please join us for this year's Holiday event, "Home for the Holidays" on Friday, December 2nd from 6:30 to 9:30 at Gordon Hall.

Spirits, hearty hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be served at Gordon Hall, beautifully decorated for the Holidays with Milt Campbell's extraordinary Christmas Village collection that was displayed annually at Huron Camera. Additional decorations will be provided by Dexter Area businesses and Historical Society supporters.

Tickets for this event are \$50 per person with a 100 person limit. Please contact Ina Germain at 734-395-4106 for further information.



CHRISTMAS AT THE MANSION

HAVE YOU HEARD?

MILT CAMPBELL'S CHRISTMAS VILLAGE COLLECTION THAT WAS DISPLAYED ANNUALLY AT HURON CAMERA WILL BE ON DISPLAY AT GORDON HALL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 14 YEARS!!!!

The Christmas at the Mansion program this year will be Milton Campbell's Christmas Village collection which will be available for viewing on both floors of Gordon Hall on Saturday, December 3, 2016.

Also on Saturday, December 3 Santa Claus will be visiting and children will be making their own gingerbread houses to take home. The Saturday hours will be 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and will include a \$5.00 donation.

So everyone is able to view the Christmas Village collection, Gordon Hall will also be open on December 10, 18, 27 and 28 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. All of the rooms in Gordon Hall will be decorated so this should make an excellent

start to your holiday season as well as providing a fun way to support the Dexter Area Historical Society.

Happiness is having the Christmas Village back!



A HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Presented by THE DEXTER HERITAGE GUILD



The holidays are coming and soon the snow will fly. It is time to mark your calendars for the Dexter Heritage Guild's Holiday Bazaar: Saturday, December 3, from 9 to 3 pm, at the Dexter Area Museum, 3443 Inverness, Dexter, Michigan.

To help you with your shopping, the Museum will be packed with handcrafted decorations, home goods, toys, and apparel along with tempting jams, jellies, and baked goods. You'll find our signature scrubbie dish-cloth gift sets, pinecone and paper bag fire starters, holiday potholders, and upcycled wreaths.

Our friends at the Cedars of Dexter have crafted polar fleece blankets, school-color pillowcases and frames for our cork trivets. There will be treats for winter birds and all-season dogs; warm winter hats, gloves, and scarves; soft-knitted animals and children's craft kits; and much, much more.



When you shop at the Heritage Guild's holiday bazaar - whether you stock up on hostess gifts, find a handmade treasure or just treat yourself to home baked goodies - you'll be supporting the operation of the Dexter Area Museum. You'll also have a chance to enter a drawing to win a rustic burlap Nativity handcrafted by Bea Christopherson or the Guild's colorful 'Christmas Tree' Advent calendar. As always, we will need your donations of baked goods for our Bake Sale. Further information will come out in November.

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, December 3rd. Be sure to check the Museum's website: www.DexterHistory.org or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/dexterhistory/>



If Teapots Could Talk

A Christmas Tea at Gordon Hall with our display of Christmas villages will be a delightful way to begin the holidays. A perfect gift for friends or a perfect gift for yourself to relax in a Christmas setting. A light lunch with tea sandwiches and desserts will be served with your tea. Tea times will be 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 4. Tickets are \$25 and only 50 will be sold per seating so you'll need to purchase your tickets as soon as possible to reserve a seat.

Please call Ina Germain at [\(734\) 395-4106](tel:734-395-4106) for tickets.

Gordon Hall Days 2017

For those who attended Gordon Hall Days 2016, the experience was wonderful. We had many good comments on the displays inside Gordon Hall, the Steam Engine Display, the train rides, the games for kids, the speakers and the dance on Saturday night. But what we were missing was something outside to draw people into the event. We did miss the soldiers and the cannon firing which were drawing cards for some, but the soldiers didn't feel they would fit into our theme of the coming of the Railroad in 1841. We need your help with ideas first for a theme, and then implementing those ideas.

We are looking for ideas for the June 16, 17 & 18, 2017 Gordon Hall Days. Last year we celebrated the 175th year of the coming of the railroad to Dexter, but we need to decide what theme we want to use this coming year. Some possible ideas are below:

- An event based on the Agriculture of the area
- An event based on World War I Soldiers and Dexter's involvement.
- Repeat the train event with some changes.
- An event based on the history of Gordon Hall.
- An event based on the Mills in the area.
- Other ideas?

Please let us know what you think at DexMuse@aol.com or leave a message at 734-426-2519.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Bev Hill

Welcome to Fall! Everyone at the Historical Society is busy and can you believe we are already planning for holiday events.

At the Museum we are planning for our Night at the Museum in November. New cabinets and many new displays have been added on both floors. If you haven't visited lately you should take a tour and enjoy our Dexter history. It is so interesting when the students on our school tours marvel at the phonograph records or at the big adding machine.

At Gordon Hall, hopefully you have seen our beautiful exterior improvements - removal of the aluminum siding and a new back porch. Many have told us that Gordon Hall gleams in the sunlight. Inside we are also preparing for the holidays. We have already started putting up Milt Campbell's Christmas collection (remember when it was an annual occurrence at Huron Camera?) and Milt himself is kindly helping us out. As soon as we fully understand how to set it up, we will gladly take additional volunteers to help! Please give me a call or send me an email if you would like to help out. We have two big events planned for the first weekend in December - Christmas at the Mansion at Gordon Hall and the wonderful Holiday Bazaar at the Museum. What a perfect way to start the Christmas season!

I so enjoy living in Dexter. Many people feel that we are growing too fast and that people don't know everyone in the community as they used to. But when I was selling raffle tickets this summer I was touched by the overwhelming support for the Museum and Gordon Hall by everyone, both new and old. So many people bought tickets just to support the Historical Society and it was amazing.

Thanks to everyone for volunteering in so many ways in support of the Dexter Area Historical Society. We make a good team!

I am so enjoying being president this year because of the great support of the Board and the community. I hope that you have a great fall!

Thanks, Beverly Hill — beverlyhill6@gmail.com — 734 426 4767

What's New at the Museum

- Our Kitchen area has been redecorated with wallpaper and many new pieces of china and glassware.
- The Pratt Bird Collection is now in a well lit display case showing off the birds nicely.
- In our new antique cases, Dr. Wylie's collection is now on display. Dr. Wylie practiced in Dexter from 1900 to 1957. Dr. A. G. Wall's Dentistry collection is displayed also. Dr. Wall practiced for many years and also served as president of the village for twenty-nine years. Come see how far medicine has progressed.
- We have just installed our collection of 19th century Kerosene lamps.
- And because of popular demand, the Underpinnings" display is still being shown.
Sue Behnke, Nina Rackham and Rhea Berry

Needed Items

We are in need of a sturdy 8 foot step-ladder for use at Gordon Hall - if you have an extra ladder that you could donate, please contact Bev Hill at 426-4767.

Don't know what to do with your extra Halloween candy? We would love to have your candy to use for the gingerbread houses that we are making at Christmas at the Mansion. We could use everything except chocolate bars. Just call me to pick up or drop off at the museum during their open hours.
Thanks, Bev Hill 426-4767

We need to borrow pedestal cake plates for the tea on Sunday, December 3rd. Please contact Bev Hill at 426-4767 if you can loan us one.

EASY WAYS TO DONATE TO GORDON HALL

Do you shop at Busch's or online at Amazon? Did you know that these two businesses will donate a portion of your purchase to the Dexter Area Historical Society for Gordon Hall?

How to sign up:

- ◆ Busch's – Talk to the store personnel at the Service Desk to get registered through the My Way program.
- ◆ Amazon – Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com) is the website operated by Amazon that lets customers use the same convenient shopping features as [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). By using Amazon Smile, the Amazon Smile Foundation donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchase to the Dexter Area Historical Society for Gordon Hall. It is easy to use by signing into smile.amazon.com and selecting the Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum as your charity, then follow directions to make purchases as you would usually do. This site has the same items as the Amazon site.



Milton A Campbell

Born in Minnesota, Milton A. Campbell's family moved from Minnesota to Michigan when he was a young boy. They lived in many communities including Detroit, Berkley, Anchorville, Ann Arbor and

Dexter. After graduating from Dexter High School in 1953, Campbell began his career at Argus, an Ann Arbor based camera company. He originally signed up for a summer internship in the repair services, and ended up the General Manager of that Department. Huron Camera was first started in 1970 with nine other people. The first office was located on Huron River Drive, near Mast Road, thus the name Huron Camera. They were there only a couple of years before moving into town into the old Movie House building, now the Dexter Commerce Building. The move to 8060 Main Street took place in 1984 after the Dancer's Store moved out of the building that had originally been built for the Kroger Store in 1941. The property was purchased from Leland and Alice Lesser on July 19, 1984.

Methodist Church, he discovered a company called the Department 56 Company which is headquartered in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. Campbell began buying various buildings from the Heritage Village collection including "Dickens Village", "New England Village", "Alpine Village", "Christmas in the City", "North Pole", "Disney Village" and many more. Each village tells a different story with appropriate pieces added to enhance the pictures. Each year as the company added new villages, Milt purchased them and added to his collection. If he was missing items from the collections, he found them through other collectors. By 2002, he had a complete collection of all the Villages available.

In 2003, Milt was inducted into the Dexter High School Alumni Association Hall of Fame. The DHSAA notes state: *"He has been a successful businessman with several photographic stores. He has served on several Committees for the Village of Dexter. For many years he displayed his large Dickens Village Dept56 collection at Christmas time in his store's front windows. People would come from many miles away to see this. Milt has been very supportive of the school activities and the Alumni Association."*

Yes, many people would drive miles to come view the display. There were even bus loads of viewers. For many it was a family tradition sometimes including taking their Christmas pictures in front of the displays. Milt reports that there were even bus loads at Midnight to see the displays. The last display was in 2002, the year Milt's wife Betty died. With great care, Milt repackaged the houses, buildings, people, trees and all of the background materials and stored them away. Huron Camera was sold to John Kingsley in about 2006, and Milt continued to help around for a few years, but Tuesday, December 30, 2014 the doors were closed for good.

We are thrilled to have many of these beautiful displays this year for Christmas At The Mansion at Gordon Hall. Bev Hill, Ina Germain, Caryl Burke and others have been working with Campbell at Gordon Hall rediscovering the beauty of the Christmas Village Collection. You are invited to see them during our many events starting on the weekend of Christmas at the Mansion and continuing on some special dates. See the articles earlier in this newsletter for details on dates and times.



Campbell had collected Argus Cameras during his years working for Argus Camera. His extensive collection is now part of the Argus Museum in Ann Arbor. Over the years he has collected many different items, so the Christmas display was a natural thing.

Campbell began decorating his windows with a Christmas Display in 1985. He used cardboard structures and cast iron figures to build a replica of the Village of Dexter complete with streets and well known buildings. In an effort to find a building that resembled the Old Dexter United

