



Dexter Area Historical Society

1824 to 2024 - Dexter's Bicentennial

President's Letter:

You can tell spring has arrived when the raucous calls of the sandhill cranes fill the air out at Gordon Hall. At the same time, activity at your Historical Society is heating up as preparations for a busy season enter their final stages. Read on for details on the many wonderful events presented by your Historical Society through the summer. We love volunteers, so if you have ever thought about helping out, you would be more than welcome. Hope to see you this summer! Caryl Burke, President

Below is a list of the May and June events for reference. For further information on each event, please go to the next two pages or DexterHistory.org for details.

May Events

The 2024 Gordon Hall Raffle

This is our 11th Annual Gordon Hall Raffle! Tickets will go on sale about May 3. The drawing will be held on August 10th at 7pm at the Gazebo.

May 3rd - The Dexter Area Museum

The Museum opens for the season on Friday, May 3rd and will be open from 1 to 3pm every Friday and Saturday through November.

May 4th - DuMouchelle Appraisal Clinic

Antique Appraisal Clinic will be held at the Dexter Museum on Saturday, May 4th.

There are a few spots available, so please call **734-424-9998** soon. On the day of the event, call 734-426-2519 .



May 18th - Time Capsule - News Flash!

We finally found the time capsule! We will raise and open it on May 18th at 1 pm. Exciting? Nerve wracking! Stay tuned.

May 19th - Forest Lawn Cemetery Tour

The May 19th tour highlighting the Dexter Family is done in connection with Forest Lawn Cemetery, DAHS and the Dexter District Library. As of now all the slots are full but in case of some cancellations, you get on the list by contacting Lisa Ryan at: <https://dexter.lib.mi.us/>

May 27th - The Memorial Day Parade

The traditional Memorial Day parade will be on Monday, May 27 at 10 am. We will carry our Gordon Hall Raffle banner and distribute handouts about our Bicentennial events.

June Events

June 6th & 7th - Museum Yard Sale

The sale will be held on June 6th and 7th from 10 to 4 each day inside the Dexter Area Museum, 3443 Inverness, Dexter, MI 48130.

Items for 2024-2074 Time Capsule

From May 31 to June 19, Dexter Area Historical Society will accept donations of items to be placed in the Dexter Bicentennial time capsule.

June 21st - Museum Open House

Ice Cream Social

& Time Capsule Dedication

Friday, June 21 from 3–7 PM. The Dexter Area Museum will be open and the Dexter Lions will host an ice cream social.

June 22nd - The Bicentennial Parade

The Bicentennial Parade will be on Saturday June 22 at 10 am. We would love to have you march with us in the parade.

June 22 - A Dexter Family Wedding in 1860

Saturday, June 22 at 1:00 pm - Please join us for tea and dessert and a fashion experience on the grounds of Gordon Hall.

June 22 - Gordon Hall Bicentennial Celebration

To celebrate our Bicentennial, Gordon Hall will hold a celebration on Saturday, June 22nd. Tours will be from 6-7 pm and dinner, open bar and dancing will be from 7-10 pm.

2024 Gordon Hall Raffle

2024 marks our 11th Annual Gordon Hall Raffle! It is a 50/50 raffle, meaning that the winner takes home half of what we make in ticket sales. Last year, we gave away just short of \$7000, and the prize can be as high as \$10,000. All of our proceeds from the raffle are used to support the restoration of Gordon Hall. Tickets are \$10 each or \$40 for 5 tickets. The drawing will be held on August 10th at 7 pm at the Gazebo in Monument Park in downtown Dexter.

The fine print: The winner is responsible for all taxes. Tickets will go on sale about May 3. You don't have to be present to win, but you do need to buy a ticket! Tickets will be for sale at these times and places beginning June 1:

- Dexter Buschs on Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to noon
- Dexter Area Museum on Friday and Saturday from 1-3 pm
- Visit our booth at the Dexter Summer Festival August 9 and 10
- [Call Caryl Burke at 734-476-5232](tel:734-476-5232)

Museum Yard Sale Information

Yard Sale - the sale will be on June 6 & 7 from 10:00 till 4:00 in the Dexter Area Museum Meeting Room. Donations will be accepted on June 3rd thru June 5th, they should be gently used clean items. No clothing please. To donate items, please call Sue Behnke at 734-426-4763. Also call her with any questions concerning the Yard Sale.

Ring Out Dexter's Sesquicentennial and Ring In the Bicentennial!

To celebrate Dexter's 150th birthday in 1974, the people of Dexter filled a Sesquicentennial time capsule and buried it at the Dexter Area Museum. On May 18 at 1:00 pm, we will dig it up and get a first glimpse at what is in there. After a brief viewing, the capsule will be moved to another location while we sort through and clean the contents. You will be able to view the contents on Friday June 21 from 3-7 pm. For details see the related event "Dexter's Time Capsule Dedication" in the next column.)

Guidelines for Donations to Dexter's Bicentennial Time Capsule

To celebrate Dexter's 200th birthday, we will fill our Bicentennial time capsule. From May 31 to June 19, the Dexter Area Historical Society will accept donations of items to be placed in the Dexter Bicentennial time capsule. Visit the Museum on May 31, June 1, 7, 8, 14 & 15 from 1-3 pm or June 16, 17, and 19 from 5-7 pm. Deadline for contributions is June 19 at 7 pm.

On June 21, these items will be buried in a vault at the Dexter Area Museum and they will not be seen again until 2074, when the vault is dug up. If you would like to contribute items to the time capsule, consider these guidelines:

- Maximum size about 18 x 18 inches
- No liquids, food, hazardous materials (eg, batteries, aerosols, chemicals, gases, anything flammable or corrosive)
- No portable electronic devices with batteries

Location: Dexter Area Museum, 3443 Inverness in Dexter. MI 48130. Call 734-426-2519 or visit DexterHistory.org to find out more.

Dexter's Time Capsule Dedication with Museum Open House and Ice Cream Social

Friday, June 21 from 3-7 PM. The Dexter Area Museum will be open and the Dexter Lions will host an ice cream social. The Dexter Heritage Guild will also offer free pieces of cake. The contents of the Sesquicentennial time capsule from 1974 will also be on display. If you put something into the 1974 time capsule and wish to claim it, this will be your chance! The dedication ceremony for the Bicentennial Time Capsule will be at 6:00 pm. After the ceremony, the capsule will be prepared for reburial, not to be seen again until 2074 when Dexter celebrates its Semiquincentennial (250th) birthday! Bring the kids! Dress up in your finest period costume and take lots of pictures. This will be a historic Dexter event. (Note, the deadline for contributions to the time capsule is June 19 at 7 pm.) This event is free. Location: Dexter Area Museum, 3443 Inverness in Dexter.

The Bicentennial Parade

On Saturday June 21 at 10 am, the Bicentennial Parade will be held. This parade is organized by date, beginning in 1824 when Dexter was founded. For this one, DAHS will represent 2 important dates in Dexter's history; 1843 when Gordon Hall was completed and 1971 when DAHS was founded. We will carry banners and dress appropriate to the eras.

We would love to have you march with us in the Bicentennial parade. Dig out your vintage clothing and join us to become a part of this historic event! It is great fun and really inspirational. Kids are welcome when accompanied by an adult. Sorry, no animals. To participate, please contact Caryl Burke at 734-476-5232 or caryllburke@gmail.com before June 19.

A Dexter Family Wedding in 1860

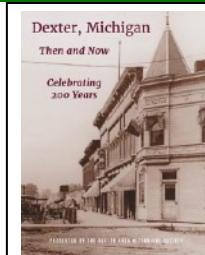
Saturday, June 22 at 1:00 p.m.
8311 Island Lake Rd. Dexter

Please join us for tea and dessert on the grounds of Gordon Hall while you enjoy fashions for women and men which could have been worn by guests at the 1860 wedding of Charlotte Dexter to Stephen Bingham. The ensembles are from the collection of local designer Helen Welford and will transport guests back to a lovely event at beautiful Gordon Hall. \$15 donation with reservations recommended. Please call 734-395-4106 or go to DexterHistory.org.

Gordon Hall Bicentennial Celebration

Saturday, June 22 at 7:00 p.m.
8311 Island Lake Rd. Dexter

To celebrate our Bicentennial, Gordon Hall will hold a celebration on Saturday, June 22nd. Tours will be from 6-7 pm and dinner, open bar and dancing will be from 7-10 pm. Our celebration will also be a fundraiser to support the renovation of Gordon Hall - come see what we have planned. Billy Mac and the Juke Joint Johnnies will once again be playing so come and dance the night away. For more information, go to DexterHistory.org. We are looking forward to a fabulous evening!



"Dexter, Michigan Then and Now Celebrating 200 Years" highlights 200 years of Dexter's history. The book, which sells for \$30, is available at the Dexter Area Museum and other places in Dexter and will be on sale during all DAHS special events. For more information, check our website: DexterHistory.org.

Support Gordon Hall and you could win



up to

\$10,000

Gordon Hall 50/50 Raffle

Maximum Prize: \$10,000

Tickets \$10 each or \$40 for 5
Only 2000 tickets were printed

**Drawing on August 10, 2024 at 7 pm
at Dexter's Monument Park**

Winner is responsible for all taxes - License #R12345

Dexter Area Historical Society - Proceeds support the restoration of Gordon Hall

Bicentennial Events at the Dexter Area Historical Society

Dexter's Time Capsule Dedication

with Museum Open House
and Ice Cream Social
June 21 from 3-7 PM - Dexter Area Museum
free
see dexterhistory.org for guidelines on contributions



Bicentennial Celebration Evening at Gordon Hall

Fundraiser to restore Gordon Hall with
Billy Mack and the Juke Joint Johnnies
June 22 6-10 PM - Gordon Hall
Music and dancing, Dinner and open bar
\$75 per person or \$350 for 6 people.
Reservations suggested, call 734-395-4106



A Dexter Family Wedding in 1860

Tea and Period Fashion Show
June 22 at 1 PM - Gordon Hall
\$15 per person
Reservations required, call 734-395-4106



Dexter Area Historical Society

Dexter Area Museum
3433 Inverness Street
Dexter

Gordon Hall
8311 Island Lake Road
Dexter

We are celebrating our 200 years of Dexter with some facts that we have found, but not shared in previous writings, including the Bicentennial Book, "Dexter Then and Now, Celebrating 200 years". In doing so, we will skip over those facts previously presented, with only slight mention of them when needed for continuity. We have divided the 200 years into 50 year blocks.

1874 to 1924 – The Second 50

At the end of the last article, the LONG DEPRESSION had begun in 1873 and lasted until 1879. During these years, 18,000 businesses went bankrupt, including 89 railroads. This even occurred though the SECOND INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION (1870 to 1914) was happening. Like the first industrial revolution (1770s to 1850s), it continued the transition from creating goods by hand, to using machines, and offered more industrialization, scientific industry, and mass production. Three of the major inventions of the 1870s include the telephone, electric lights and the typewriter.

During the 1880s, Americans experienced exceptional industrial development and economic growth. Railroads became more prevalent throughout the country allowing faster and more convenient means of travel. The depression of 1882 to 1885 was an economic downturn that came about gradually. It was preceded by a period of prosperity over the years 1879 to 1882, powered by the expansion of the American railroad industry and the opening of economic opportunities associated with the development of the transportation system. During this time, annual railroad construction quadrupled growing from 2665 miles in 1878 to 11,569 miles in 1882. The expansion represented a full 15% of American capital formation during the decade



Locally, John Bross, a boat builder, received a patent for oar tips, a way of protecting the edges of oars. He is pictured here in one of his smaller boats on a local lake. But he constructed boats of all sizes in his office in the old wooden row on North Main St., until he moved into a barn located behind his Baker Street home.



The GAY NINETIES is an American term referring to the decade of 1890s. One of the highlights was the witty plays of Oscar Wilde. In the midst of the era, the PANIC OF 1893, a widespread economic depression in the United States was set off and lasted until 1897. Beginning in 1896, the PROGRESSIVE ERA led to social activism, and political reform across the country that focused on defeating corruption, monopoly, waste, and inefficiency. This ended when the United States declared war on the German empire on April 6, 1917, nearly 3 years after World War I had started. A cease-fire and armistice were declared on November 11, 1918.

The world was changing, and some of our Dexter boys and girls moved to Detroit to work in the jobs created in the new industrial age. A prime example is William Yates Arnold, known as Will. He is pictured here with his brother, Ralph Arnold in about 1885. Their father, William Henry Arnold had purchased and/or inherited a large amount of farmland, which he continued to farm with the help of his sons.

The brothers married the daughters of Rha and Phoebe Burkhart Johnson, Ralph to Artena in 1893 and Will to Olie in 1894. After their marriage, Ralph and Artena settled in on the Johnson farm, but Will and Olie decided to go to Detroit because he wanted to work on the railroad.



Ralph & Will Arnold

By April of 1899, William Henry Arnold and his wife, Elizabeth Dancer moved to Detroit to live with their son Will. This caused a major change in the Dexter and Lima Township farming communities. This clipping shows how his move affected the agricultural community.

April 20, 1899 - Dexter Leader!

Lots of Moving.

Within three miles of the north, east and south sides of Four-mile lake, fourteen farmers are making changes as follows: Wm. Arnold goes to Detroit; Ralph Arnold from Mrs. Johnson's farm to Wm. Arnold's; G. Helber from Elmer Beach's to Mrs. Johnson's; Henry Hudson to Elmer Beach's; Charles Fisk to Mrs. Cooper's; Frank Nixon from Mrs. Cooper's to north of Dexter; J. Nixon from R. Buchanan's to east of Ann Arbor; E. Wilde to R. Buchanan's; A. C. Yereance from G. Yereance's to Alonzo Davis'; H. Neeb to G. Yereance's; E. Gentner to H. Baldwin's, A. Spiegelberg from Ohio to his own farm; J. Lucht from Pierce farm; W. Coe from New York to Pierce farm.

Two cyclones occurred in the Dexter area that are documented in the Dexter Leader. The first In the July 2, 1914 paper, the headline read:

"Cyclone in Dexter Township"

"Several People Injured, Houses and Barns Destroyed, Heavy Damage Done to Orchards, Crops and Timber."

This cyclone was first noted in Eaton, then Ingham and Livingston counties before moving into Washtenaw County at Big Silver Lake, and from there to Birkett (Dover), leaving a path marked with ruin and destruction. Although there were no deaths Mrs. William Eisle was critically injured, but did survive, as did others with various injuries.

The second cyclone was reported in the June 7, 1917 Dexter Leader in both Lima and Scio Townships. It struck the line of the electric



railway near the Parker schoolhouse and destroyed the buildings on the Sias, Clements and Parker Farms

among others.

In the June 14 paper, Salem, Freedom, and Northfield were added to the list of other townships hit by the same storm. There were two deaths, Ortie Heselschwerdt, a 17-year-old helping to bale hay on the Sias farm, and the eight month old son of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Rentschler of Salem Township.

Even as the United States was entering the war effort, the nation and the whole world was being invaded by a silent killer, often called erroneously the "Spanish influenza." This misnomer occurred as Spain was not involved in the war, and thus readily reported its flu deaths, while the other countries held back that information from their enemies! In the Dexter area, there are few actual reports on the flu. Two Dexter boys died at Camp Custer of pneumonia, following the Spanish influenza. Private Clay Arksey on October 17, 1918 and Private George Belfanz on October 16, 1918. Both had been home on leave and left for Camp Custer in the summer. Although they didn't get to the battlefield, they made the supreme sacrifice in the service of their country.

The Temperance movement led to the passage of the 18th Amendment and the PROHIBITION ERA (1920 to 1933). The United States prohibited the production, importation, transportation and sale of alcoholic beverages. The 19th Amendment gave white women the right to vote, but that wasn't the case for many women of color.

August 1921 to August 1929 – THE ROARING TWENTIES! As returning soldiers re-entered the labor force, there was a boom in construction, and the automobile, radio, film and other industries grew. It was a period of economic prosperity with a distinctive, cultural edge in the United States and Europe.

We are in a time of contradictions which ends abruptly with the Great Depression and the many changes that occur as we head towards World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Business Members

The Dexter Area Historical Society began a campaign to bring local Dexter businesses into the membership of the 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. If you are interested in joining us, please contact us at DexterMichHistory@gmail.com. We are happy to have the following as DAHS Businesses:

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
Mike Fitzpatrick of Edward Jones
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 to Dexter Area Historical Society, 3443 Inverness, Dexter, MI 48130.

Thank you.

DEXTER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS:

President:

Caryl Burke

Vice-President:

Beverly Hill

Secretary

Ina Germain

Treasurer

Jan Weaver

DIRECTORS:

Sue Behnke

Carol Jones

Shawn Pierrel

Ceci Riecker

Nancy Van Blaricum

Gary Vander Haagan

Sharon Wheeler

CONTACT INFORMATION:

NEWSLETTER - Nancy J. Van Blaricum DexMuseum@aol.com

WEBMASTER - Jan Weaver weaver9113@gmail.com

GORDON HALLSPECIAL EVENTS - Bene Fusilier: 734-426-8972

HERITAGE GUILD - Pat Pudduck. PatPudduck@gmail.com

MUSEUM DIRECTOR - Nina Rackham: NDRackham@aol.com

GORDON HALL DIRECTOR - Bev Hill: BeverlyHill6@gmail.com

FACILITIES:

DEXTER AREA MUSEUM - 3443 Inverness, Dexter, MI 48130

GORDON HALL - 8311 Island Lake Rd., Dexter, MI 48130

PHONE - 734-426-2519 WEBSITE: DexterHistory.org EMAIL: DexterMichHistory@gmail.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

\$_____ 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: DexterMichHistory@gmail.com
Website: DexterHistory.org
Find us on Facebook@dexterhistory
Dexter Area Historical Society

*All memberships except Life and Business are renewed each January.