

Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum

News and Updates

June 2007

2007 Special Events at the Museum:

- Dexter Daze -

August 10 and 11

The Museum will be open Friday from 12-3pm and Saturday from 12-4pm. The train will be running both days from 1-3pm, so bring the kids! Also, there will be an informational booth downtown about the Museum and Gordon Hall.



-Corsets Anyone?

Clothing from 1915 (Gibson style) and Victorian era will be on display at the Museum through Dexter Daze. The "Gibson Girl" was popularized by American artist Charles Dana Gibson. He satirized society with his image of 'The New Woman' who was competitive, sporty and emancipated as well as beautiful. Her clothes were fashionable in both America and Britain: setting the trend for skirts worn with embroidered blouses.

Rebuilding Together event is a great success!

Over 50 volunteers and professionals from the community spent a beautiful Saturday on April 28th cleaning, painting, scrubbing, scraping, building, repairing, weeding, raking, planting and eating at Gordon Hall.

Most repairs and improvements were finished that day and thanks to our membership and community members over \$600 was donated towards the effort. The DAHSM thanks the Dexter chapter of Rebuilding Together along with house captain Bev Hill for arranging a very successful event. Special projects included rebuilding the fence in the backyard, painting the garages and creating an event room on the main floor of the home.

Most of those 50 volunteers who showed up for the Rebuilding Together workday are not members of the DAHSM. The DAHSM has just over 60 dues paying members. In order to boost our membership we would like you to please encourage you friends, family and neighbors to become involved in the DAHSM and join us!

Happenings at Gordon Hall

-Dexter Daze -

August 11

On Saturday from 12-4pm, a **WAVE** bus (paid for by the Dexter Daze Committee) will shuttle the public to Gordon Hall for docent led tours of the home. Cars will be allowed to drive there as well. A "cleaner and brighter" Gordon Hall will be shown to the public!



Calling all Docents!

Please meet at Gordon Hall on July 11 at 10am for tour training if you are interested in becoming a docent at Gordon Hall and able to lead tours throughout the year for interested groups.



-Summer Picnics-

The Dexter Heritage Guild and the Dexter Rotary Club will be holding their annual meetings at Gordon Hall in July.

The Museum is now open through December



Museum Hours

Friday 1-3pm

Saturday 1-3pm

Dexter Area Historical Society And Museum

3443 Inverness

Dexter, Michigan 48130

734.426.2519 dexamuseum@aol.com
www.hvcn.org/info/dextermuseum

Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum Board

The Board meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7:30pm alternating between the Museum and Gordon Hall. The next meeting will be August 2nd at Gordon Hall. All members are invited to attend.



Newsletter submissions

If you have information you would like in the DAHSM newsletter, please put it in the newsletter box in the Museum office.

Volunteer opportunities

Gordon Hall Docent Training Session July 11 at 10am Gordon Hall

Information regarding the history of Gordon Hall and Judge Samuel Dexter will be shared with those interested in leading future tours at our founder's home. Call the Museum to sign up.



Gordon Hall Garden Group

Please join a few other DAHSM members in maintaining and improving the landscape at Gordon Hall. Please contact Jan and Mike Stagg at 426-2874 or Debi Samuels at 426-8667.



Dexter Daze Volunteers

If you are interested in staffing the downtown booth during Dexter Daze, leading tours at the Museum or Gordon Hall please call the museum.

Dexter Garden Club

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7pm at the Museum
September thru June

from the
Museum Archives 5 August 1915
-an article from The Dexter Leader

"My Recollections of the Fourth of July"
By Ebenezer Smith

The 4th of July was the day on which the first train of cars on the Michigan Central Railroad came into the Village of Dexter. I was then a boy eight years old. The day was a pleasant sunshiny summer day, and large numbers of the people gathered in the village to welcome the incoming train and celebrate the event in connection with the nation's natal day, and I was one of a load of people that Mr. George Stockford, then a young man, took from the southeast part of the township of Lima to the village. The conveyance was a common farm lumber wagon drawn by a yoke of oxen.

At that time Mr. Stockford was paying special attentions to my aunt, Miss Ann Peacock, who afterwards became his wife, and of course, she was one of the company together with her sister, Mary, and her brother Thomas. There were others in the company, for we had a full load, but these are all whose names I now remember. Mr. Stockford had a married sister, Mrs. William Hosler, living in the village, and the Hosler home was our headquarters for the day. It was a pleasant place with a beautiful rosebush by the side of the house. The oxen were secured by fastening them to a near by tree or post with the chain.

We were with the eager, expectant crowd that watched for the approaching train; and large numbers of the men ran to meet and welcome it as it come in. I was particularly interested in the orderly movements of the military company dressed in their uniforms and carrying their guns. These, I learn from the County History-1881, p. 835, were the Washtenaw Guards, about 50 strong under the command of Captain E. S. Cobb, and they were invited guests. I distinctly remember that they stood on the bank of the Huron River, I think just east of the bridge, and fired their salute toward the river. (Cont. on Page Three)

- Support -

The Museum receives generous support from the Dexter Area Historical Society, the Heritage Guild and from community and visitor donations. The DAHSM sponsors the Pioneer Art Fair each March and the DHG sponsors a Christmas Bazaar and annual Antique Appraisal Clinics. These events are important fundraisers for the museum.



Events at Gordon Hall

Are you interested in holding a special event at Gordon Hall? Please contact Jennifer Colby at 660-4083 or jennifercolby@hotmail.com to discuss arrangements.

Recent Acquisitions

Sofa- 19th century upholstered settee from the estate of Lois Moore of Chelsea, MI. On loan from Kurt Thoma and Janine Woods of Dexter, MI for use at Gordon Hall.



Military Documents- Docket regarding the military service of James Kennedy of Dexter, MI and his service in the 4th U.S. Artillery, Company "D". The letter is postmarked from Dexter dated June 24, 1843 and addressed to the Adjutant General in Washington, D.C. Donated by George Wilkinson of Dexter, MI.



Photographic Plates- Glass negative plates depicting E.S. Noble House, Episcopal Church, Union School, view of town from top of hill, Doctor Gray's old house and the road toward Chelsea. Donated by Nancy Walker of Dexter, MI.

Dexter Heritage Guild

Meets the 3rd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 9am to noon at the Museum



Touring Historic Gordon Hall

Over 125 Cornerstone second graders visited Gordon Hall in May to tour the historic home as part of their social studies curriculum. Bates second graders visited in the fall.

Highlights included learning about why Judge Dexter settled here and a trip to the basement where they learned his home harbored fugitive slaves on the Underground Railroad.

Editor's note: As part of this spring's tour a re-creation of Judge Dexter's Chamber (bedroom) on the first floor of the home was on display.

Artifacts from the Museum including Judge Dexter's bed and rocking chair and other period pieces were used to depict a typical chamber of a well-to-do gentleman of the 19th century. The room will be on display through Dexter Daze in August for the public to view. In addition, the attic is now more accessible with the wooden slat storage cages (added by the U of M) removed.

State Historical Marker Update

The staff at the State of Michigan is unwilling to correct misinformation they have created in the text for one side of the historical marker for Gordon Hall. The DAHSM will not pay for a marker that is incorrect. We hope to rectify the situation before we continue on with funding the project.

Located in the Village of Dexter, Michigan, the Dexter Area Historical Museum serves as western Washtenaw County's link with history. The museum is housed in the former St. Andrew's United Church of Christ, built in 1883. The Museum contains a large display area, a genealogical library, a local history library and the Corner Gift Shop.

Letter from Judge Dexter to his cousin dated August 6th, 1825

(continued from Page Two)

Another conspicuous object that attracted my boyish attention, was a man mounted on horseback- as I remember it, a white horse-whom I have since supposed was Col. A.D. Caane- later, our Hon. Judge A.D. Caane-acting as village marshal of the day. Yet of this I am not certain, but as he wrote the article in the County History pertaining to this day, perhaps personal modesty led him to omit giving the name of the Village Marshal of the day.

These are the principal points of my recollections of that day. It was a great day in my young life. The only thing that in any way marred its pleasure was an incident connected with the return home: As we passed out of the village my uncle Thomas Peacock stopped at a store to buy some candy expecting to overtake us as we went on, but there were two wagon tracks in the woods west of the village, and we took one and he took the other and passed us and got home first. Thus he had the hurried anxious and toilsome six and a half miles walk, and we were deprived of the pleasure of his company and of the anticipated candy.

Editor's note: On July 4, 1827 Judge Dexter's Independence Day oration predicted that the horse drawn railroad in some eastern states would become steam driven like those in Europe. On December 9, 1837 Judge Dexter deeded to the State of Michigan "certain parcels or pieces of land as surveyed by the state to establish a Central or Detroit or St. Joseph rail; to take 100 feet in breadth for the railroad." A few years later Julia Dexter Stannard's (the Judge's daughter) earliest recollection was of sitting on the stile and watching the men chop down and dig out the trees and level the roadbed for the Michigan Central Railroad. She said, "they put down the strap rails right through our pear and apple orchard." (McAllister, 1989)

Corner Gift Shop

Many very interesting books regarding Dexter history, including the biography of Judge Samuel W. Dexter by Norma McAllister are available for purchase at the gift shop. Please stop by the Museum to peruse these items and more!

Thank you to-

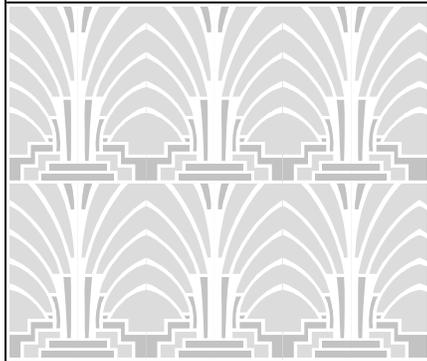
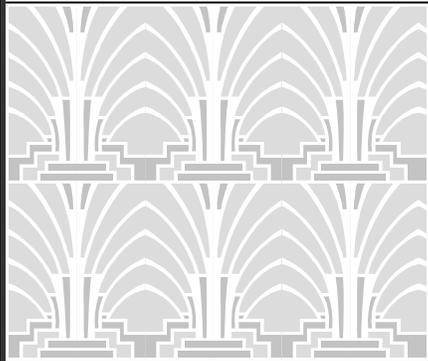
The **Pioneer Arts Fair Committee** for organizing a very successful Pioneer Arts Fair. Thank you to the **Heritage Guild** for a successful Appraisal Clinic which raised over \$400 for the Museum.

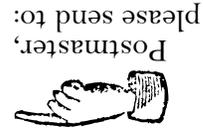
Political Beat

The Road Commission still needs to give their approval to the UMRC development at Gordon Hall for construction to start. Hopes are high!

A note from the Genealogist's Desk

We are working on some recent enquiries from e-mails, one from the Peters family. The request is from Australia where Frederick Augustus Bolles Peters went in the late 1890's and began manufacturing ice cream! The writer is a great-granddaughter of Fred and is wondering about the family here! Thanks to the work of Norma McAllister, we have much information to share with her.





Dexter Area Historical Society & Museum

3443 Inverness Street Dexter, Michigan 48130

Please check type of Membership:

First Name

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- Student \$1.50
- Individual \$10
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Displays

Membership

Programs

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Publicity

Other

Please make a check payable to **The Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum** and mail to the address above. A membership card will be sent to you upon receipt of your dues. Thank you for your support!

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<http://www.hvcn.org/info/dextermuseum>