

# Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum

News and Updates

October 2006

## 2006 Special Events at the Museum:

### -Tree Trimming & Potluck-

The Annual Christmas Tree Trimming and Potluck will be on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at 6:30pm at the Museum.

Spiral ham will be provided; please bring a dish to pass and your own table service. We'll eat first and then decorate the Museum Christmas tree. All members, family friends and neighbors are invited.

### -Christmas Sing-

The Annual Christmas Sing will be held on Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at 7pm at the Museum.

### -Holiday Bazaar-

The Heritage Guild Holiday Bazaar will be held December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006 from 9am and 3pm at the Museum.

## About the Heritage Guild...



The Heritage Guild has been in existence for over 30 years and of 30 total members there are a few original members still active in the Guild!

Throughout the year members participate in about 25 workshops to create the many beautiful holiday decorations sold at the annual Holiday Bazaar. At each of the workshops, about fifteen members contribute 75 hours of work totaling 1,000 womanhours. The impressive amount of holiday gifts and decorations the Guild makes in a year's time net roughly \$4,000 at the bazaar.

The Guild also sponsors an annual antique appraisal clinic with appraisers from DuMouchelle's on hand to evaluate (for a fee) items brought in by the community.

The Heritage Guild invites everyone to shop at this year's Holiday Bazaar on December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9am to 3pm- featured are a drawing and bake sale with items donated by DAHSM members. If you have any questions, please contact Evelyn Crist at 426-9287.

## Happenings at Gordon Hall

The DAHSM welcomed 2nd graders from Bates Elementary School for the first ever school tours of the interior of Gordon Hall! Museum docents guided the children throughout the home. Ask any 2nd grader and they'll tell you their favorite part was the basement; or the attic, or maybe it was running around outside afterwards!

The home was opened to the public again for tours during Apple Daze. We welcomed many excited people just waiting for their chance to look at Gordon Hall and \$144 was collected in our donation jar! Public tours of the home will be available again during Victorian Christmas in December.

## Events at Gordon Hall

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

## Fall Museum Hours

Friday 1-3pm

Saturday 1-3pm

-until Dec 15-

Museum will be closed until the first weekend in May

## Dexter Area Historical Society And Museum

3443 Inverness  
Dexter, Michigan 48130  
734.426.3352

[www.hvcn.org/info/dextermuseum](http://www.hvcn.org/info/dextermuseum)

## Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum Board

Meets the first Thursday of the month at 7:30pm alternating between the Museum and Gordon Hall, Nov. 2 will be at the Museum. All members are welcomed to attend.



## Pioneer Arts Fair

Preliminary planning for the fair starts in October.

If you know of any interesting artist or craftsman who might want to demonstrate and/or sell their craft, please contact Ginny Ryan at 426-8846.

## Volunteer opportunities

Gordon Hall needs your help!

The DAHSM needs to prepare the outside of the home and grounds for events next spring and summer. A list of jobs to be done has been created to achieve this goal. Please contact Jennifer Colby at 660-4083 if you or your group could contribute just a few hours.



The Museum needs people who are interested in being Docents at Gordon Hall. Please call the Museum and leave your name and telephone number and you will be contacted. An informational class will be held for those interested in being a Docent and learning the history of Gordon Hall and its inhabitants.



Please contact the Museum if you interested in tracking down evidence of Gordon Hall as a station on the "Underground Railroad".

from the

## *Dexter Leader*

Thursday,  
June 7, 1917

### *Scio Township Hit by Cyclone*

*A cyclone, in many respects similar to that which passed through Dexter township in June 1914, struck Scio township early yesterday afternoon, coming from the west, injuring several people and doing thousands of dollars of damage. At this writing there are many conflicting reports and it is difficult to get the exact details, but the catastrophe is certainly appalling. Of the damage in Lima township we have not learned. The storm struck the line of the electric railway near the Parker schoolhouse, destroying the buildings on the Sias, Clements and C.O. Parker farms. Mrs. Clements had a rib broken and one of Mr. Parker's daughters was slightly injured. On Jacob Schairer's and the Hoffman farms the buildings were badly damaged. At Jay Smith's the four large barns and farm house were destroyed but none of the family was injured. A man named Ott from Albion, who was passing in an auto, stopped for the storm and in attempting to reach the house had his leg broken in two places. A traveling man named O'Brien who was in the D. J. & C. waiting room at Dexter road was blown about half a mile. He was picked up by T.J. Eag and brought to town. His arm was broken and nose crushed. For a mile or more the poles along the electric roads were blown flat and Dexter road was blocked for a half mile and much valuable timber destroyed.*

*The track of the storm was to the north east. The buildings on John Helber's farm were completely wiped out but the family, who sought refuge in the cellar, were uninjured. Two young men who were driving new Ford cars through were struck by the storm at this point. One car was badly wrecked and both men somewhat injured, but they were able to get to town in the other car. Some of the barns on the L.D. Ailey farm are said to be twisted on their foundation and on Ed. Wagner's farm some sheds were blown down, the barn on Morris Nash's farm and the barns on A.T. Hughes' farm were also blown down. Reports place heavy damage at Delhi-the brick school house blown down, highway bridge into the river, and nearly every dwelling house more or less seriously damaged. At the Outwater and Welch farms serious damage is reported and all*

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## New Exhibits: "On the Town"

A glamorous collection of 19th century evening wear will be on display at the Museum thru Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>.



## Recent Acquisitions

**WWI Infantry Uniform-** Jacket, pants, field cap, puttees (leggings), wool blanket, gas mask and sewing kit.

Donated by John R. Anderson of Chelsea, MI

### **Teacher's Chair-**

From the Spiegleburg School in Dexter Township near the intersection of Island Lake Road and Lima Center Road.

Donated by Neil Beach of Gettysburg, PA

### **Stoffer Family Items -**

Postcards, letter from Wm. Stoffer, Genealogy of Stoffer family, newspaper obituary of Wm. Stoffer, picture of Charles Stoffer. Donated by

Joan M. Weber of Ann Arbor, MI

### **Grand Piano and Stool-**

1860 Grand piano and stool built by Dunham and Sons.

Donated by Doug and Dorene Shirey of Dexter, MI

## Dexter Garden Club

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7pm at the Museum  
September thru June

## - 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 semiannual Antique Appraisal Clinics. These events are important fundraisers for the museum.



## Dexter Heritage Guild

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



**Available at the museum:**

**“Historical Washtenaw Area Attractions”**

A beautiful color brochure describing historical sites in our area including, the Dexter Museum, the Huron Valley Railroad Museum and Webster Township Historical Society.

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.

**The Katherine Dexter McCormick Room?**

As an initial interior project at Gordon Hall, we hope to convert a downstairs apartment into an event rental space. If you would like to be on the committee please contact Jennifer Colby at 660-4083.

**Thank you to-**

**Spears Fire & Safety, Inc.  
Fire Fighters Association  
Electrical Workers IBEW  
Local 252**

Because of their efforts and those of other individuals the two ranch homes on the property have been repaired and rented. We plan to apply the rental income towards winter's massive utility bills!



Work has been progressing through the summer and now into fall at our founder's home. Thank you to all the volunteers who have been maintaining the grounds by doing lots of tree trimming, lawn mowing and gardening.



**Congrats are in order!**

The American Heritage Home Trust has awarded the DAHSM a \$5,000 grant for porch restoration at Gordon Hall. Thank you to all who helped put together the grant application and to the Dexter Daze Committee for the \$5,000 match!

**Scio Township Hit by Cyclone**

*(continued from Page Two)*

*along the track of the storm. At the time of going to press our reports are necessarily meager but sufficient to establish the storm as the greatest calamity this section has ever suffered.*

**Cyclone Was Worst Storm That Ever Visited This Section**

*Thursday, June 14, 1917*

*That the cyclone which swept across this county June 6, was the worst storm this section has ever experienced is beyond question. Not only is the property loss enormous but two lives were lost, Ortie Heselshwerdt, 17 years of age, who was crushed and probably instantly killed by the heavy timbers on the Sias farm, where he was helping bale hay; the other death was that of the eight months old son of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Rentschler of Salem township, and Mrs. Rentschler was seriously injured. Miss Amanda Grau of Freedom township was also terribly injured. Many miraculous escapes are also reported and when one views the remains of the awful work of the storm it seems most wonderful that the loss of life was not far greater.*

*The storm track was about half a mile in width extending diagonally across the county from Sharon Hollow to Salem township and traversing Sharon, Freedom, Lima, Scio and Northfield townships. Little was left standing in the storm track and the buildings that remain are most of them badly wrecked and torn. Many orchards were completely destroyed and much fine timber ruined.*

*Thousands of persons have visited the track of the storm, hundreds of autos passing through this village Sunday.*

*The people of the county are responding nobly in the assistance of the stricken ones and the County Red Cross Society has taken up the relief work.*

*(Editors note: Wondering how “thousands of dollars of damage” in 1917 would compare to today, we checked out the “original inflation calculator” at [www.westegg.com/inflation](http://www.westegg.com/inflation) and found out that \$1,000 in 1917 would equal about \$16,952 in 2005!)*

**Corner Gift Shop**

We have exciting news! Working with artist Jay Kauffman (a new resident of Dexter), the Corner Gift Shop hopes to create a series of commemorative slip molds of Gordon Hall. Jay has worked with many other community organizations before to create collectable series. We thank Jay for approaching the DAHSM with this wonderful and unique fundraising opportunity. We hope to have the pieces available at next year's Pioneer Arts Fair. The Corner Gift Shop is open when the Museum is open or for special requests, call 426-3352.

**Spring Museum Tours**

School tours for next spring are being arranged now by Susan Walsh and Sybil VanHouten. Please contact Sybil at 426-8928.



**Newsletter submissions**

If you have information you would like in the DAHSM newsletter, please put it in the newsletter box in the museum office or contact Jennifer Colby at 660-4083.

**Just so you know**

**The Museum will be closed the week of Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup> as the Heritage Guild sets up for the Holiday Bazaar.**



**Dexter Area Historical Society & Museum**

3443 Inverness Street

Dexter, Michigan 48130

*Membership expiry date is located on your mailing label.*



Postmaster,  
please send to: