

Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum

News and Updates

April 2010

Special Events at the Museum

-Museum Quilt Show-
Saturday, May 1, 8am-5pm
 Featuring quilts from the Museum collection.

-Opening Day!-
Friday, May 7, 1-3pm
 Bring your family and invite your friends to the Museum's Opening Day. Wedding dresses from the 1920's will be on display.

-Antique Appraisal Clinic-
Saturday, May 8
10am-3:40 pm
 DuMochelle's Auctioneers and Estate Appraisers of Detroit will be at the Museum to verbally appraise hand carried items for a \$5 donation or a \$12 donation for items appraised at \$1,000 or more. All donations benefit the Dexter Area Museum. Call to make a 15 minute appointment:
 734-426-9287

-Pioneer Art Fair-
 April 17 at Creekside School
(flyer enclosed)

The museum will open for the season on
Friday, May 7th



Museum Hours

Friday 1-3pm
Saturday 1-3pm

-Please come to the-

Museum Quilt Show

Saturday, May 1, 2010
8am to 5pm
Dexter Area Museum

It all started when Nina Rackham showed Susan Behnke the contents of an archival box from the Museum. The box of squares was donated by Bruce Waggoner and had been stowed away since 1989. Within it were 25 of the most beautiful silk and velvet quilt squares Susan had ever seen! Now assembled, the Museum has an exquisite example of a turn-of-the-century crazy quilt; and that's how the idea of the Museum Quilt Show began.

The show includes many quilts from the Museum collection and many more lent by friends and collectors. Most of the quilts are old- all of them beautiful in their own way. Special effort has been made to display the quilts in an artful manner. The varied displays focus on pattern, color, technique and history.

Please spend some time with us viewing this collection at the Museum and then walk across the street to enjoy the quilt show at St. Andrew's Church.

Happenings at Gordon Hall

-Christmas in Action-
Saturday, April 24th
 Gordon Hall has again been selected to be on the list of projects for the Dexter Chapter of the Christmas in Action National Workday. Volunteers will be picking up the yard, cleaning the planting beds, washing windows and scrubbing siding. To volunteer, please contact Christmas In Action coordinator, Darrell Featheringill at
 734-475-9697.

-Mother & Daughter Tea-
Saturday, May 1
 Please visit the Dexter Community Ed website at www.onlinedexter.com to find out more!

- Member Tea -
Sunday, May 2, 3pm
 Please r.s.v.p. to the Museum.

Dexter Area Historical Society And Museum

3443 Inverness
Dexter, Michigan 48130
734.426.2519

NEW website: www.dextermuseum.org
 email: dexamuseum@aol.com

Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum Board

Normally meets the first Thursday of the month at 7:30pm. The next meeting will be at the Museum on **Thursday, May 6th.**



Docent Duty



Would you be interested in helping with tours or running the trains at the Museum or being a guide at Gordon Hall? Please contact the Museum.

Member Appreciation Tea

Sunday, May 2
3pm at Gordon Hall



This spring we will again be hosting a special Member Appreciation Tea at Gordon Hall. We had over 30 members enjoy a beautiful afternoon on the front porch of Gordon Hall last year. Those with their membership paid up to date will have an invitation enclosed in this newsletter.

The date on the mailing label next to your name tells you when your membership expires. There is still time to renew your membership and receive an invitation to the tea. Please use the membership form at the back of this newsletter.

We also encourage you to start getting the newsletter online. Just send your e-mail address to:
dexmuseum@aol.com

In Memoriam

Harold David Samuelson was born April 28, 1925 in Daggett, MI and died December 8, 2009 at his home in Scio Township. He came to Dexter as a teacher and after his retirement became involved with the Dexter Area Historical Society. Harold served on the board as our Secretary and became a Volunteer "Engineer" with the Model Train in the basement. He ran the train for many of the 2nd grade tours held in the Fall and Spring each year. He also ran the train for special events during the year. Harold helped in many ways in and out of the museum, including pruning the bushes each spring and was a special addition to our volunteer staff.

Fay G. Knapp passed away February 26th, 2010. He was born June 23, 1927 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. After High School Graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, and then he continued his education first at Grand Rapids Junior College and then the University of Michigan. His work took him to Detroit and South Eastern Michigan, but his retirement brought him to Dexter where his wife Barbara's family had spent their summer vacations.

Fay served the Dexter Area Historical Society as secretary and then as President. We are deeply indebted to him for his wonderful Calligraphy that was evident on various signs at the Pioneer Craft Fairs as well as our lists of Founding members which hangs at the Museum. He made himself available for many different jobs as long as he was able, and he was a significant addition to our volunteer staff.

The Dexter Area Historical Society Board would like to extend their condolences to Ethel, Barb and the Samuelson and Knapp families.



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.

Community Events At Gordon Hall

-Show of Hope- Community Picnic Saturday, May 22

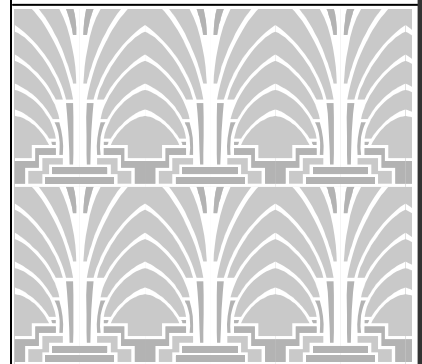
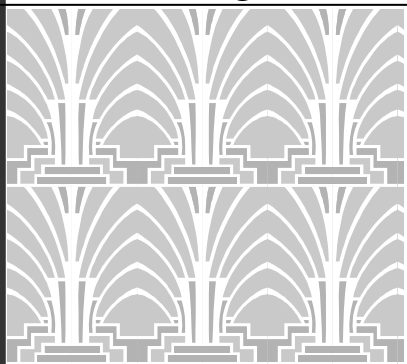
For more information on this American Cancer Society Relay for Life event, contact Juli Huddleston
jdexjazz@aol.com

-The Cedars- Community Picnic Sunday, May 23

For more information go to:
<http://www.umrc.com/umrc/events.html>

-Movies at the Mansion- Thursday nights

June 17, July 8 & July 12
Join us under the stars for movies on the back lawn of Gordon Hall. More info to follow at our new website:
www.dextermuseum.org





Volunteer Opportunities



The 2nd graders of Cornerstone will be visiting Gordon Hall on Tuesday, May 18. Please call Sybil VanHouten 426-8928 if you are able to help out.

excerpts:
from the

Dexter Leader

Thursday,
June 7, 1979

School Days Different in '20s

by Norma McAllister

During the 1920's and 30's many of the village children attended kindergarten through the 12th grade in the Union School on the hill on Ann Arbor Street. This two-story brick structure was erected in 1887, replacing the first brick Union school located on the same site.

Every day, Monday through Friday, promptly at 8:30am the first school bell rang, calling students to their classrooms. At noon, classes were dismissed for the lunch hour and most pupils, except for those from the country, walked home, returning to school and their respective classrooms by the time the bell rang at 1pm. At 4pm classes were dismissed for the day.

Reading, spelling, arithmetic, geography, the Palmer method of Penmanship, hygiene, music and art were some of the general subjects taught in the lower grades. There was no gymnasium or auditorium. Assemblies for special events were called and all students crowded into one room.

Advanced math, chemistry, algebra, trigonometry, literature and English were among the general subjects taught on the second floor for students from the 7th through the 12th grades.

Each family was required to purchase school books, paper, pencils, pen and ink and all materials necessary for each of their children. In 1928 the school board decided to raise the tuition to \$50 per school year for grades 1-8 and \$60 per school year for the junior and senior students, payable in advance. Some school revenues were received through voted taxes and very small millages. This same year the board offered teachers a salary of \$2,600 per year.

Senator Royal S. Copeland was guest speaker at commencement in 1935, celebrating 50 years since his class graduated from Dexter High. He was appalled because of the overcrowding and other conditions which led to the school being omitted from the accredited list of the University of Michigan. The following year, the Roscoe P. Copeland addition, named for the Senator's father, was begun under the Public Works Administration. The government supplied \$50,000 and local taxpayers \$44,000 for the cost of the new building. The old Union School was torn down in 1961. Gone is the clock with the beautiful faces [purchased with funds donated by Mrs. Samuel Dexter]. The old school bell that called the students to school was preserved and is located at the present high school on [Parker Road].

Fundraising Opportunity



Remember you can raise money for Gordon Hall just by buying groceries at Busch's. Rechargeable gift cards are available- please contact Gil Campbell at gilhcampbell@gmail.com

-Dexter's Doctor-

Born in 1868 in Dixboro, Dr. William C. Wylie practiced medicine in Dexter for 57 years. He married Julia Reade of Pinckney in 1893 and they had a daughter, Julia the following year, but five days later his wife died. Although William Wylie had begun his career as a schoolteacher, following his wife's death he decided to study medicine. He was a graduate of the Michigan College of Medicine and Surgery in Detroit.

In September 1900, Dr. Wylie married his first wife's sister, Esther Reade and they moved to Dexter where he started his practice.

Their second home in Dexter (torn down in 1962) was on Broad Street, near Main. Dr. Wylie practiced there until his death in 1957. Until 1910, house calls were made using a horse and buggy.

Esther Reade Wylie died in 1941 and the next year he married Lillian Evers Wylie, the widow of Dr. Wylie's brother John. She taught in Dexter for nineteen years.

Dr. Wylie served the community as a Director and president of the Dexter Savings Bank; he was Health Officer for the village; and served on the Dexter School Board. It was because of this last service and because of his wife's dedication as a teacher, that Wylie School was named for them.

Recent Acquisitions



Ephemera of Dr. William Wylie- Leather doctor's satchel with bottles and instruments, spectacles, photos of Dr. Wylie and his wife, death certificate, savings account books, 1898-1899 Michigan College of Medicine Surgery Catalog of Courses, handwritten diagnosis and medical instructions. Donated by Michael A. Wylie of Gregory, MI (step-grandson of Dr. Wylie).

-Join the- Gordon Hall Fundraising Committee

Sunday, April 11, 7-8pm
at the Museum

Where do we go from here!
We will try to finalize projects we are doing this year and possibly next year.

Dexter Heritage Guild

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



Dexter Area Historical Society & Museum

3443 Inverness Street

Dexter, Michigan 48130

Membership expiry date is located on your mailing label.

Would like to receive your newsletter by email?

dexamuseum@aol.com



Postmaster,
please send to:

Dexter Area Historical Society & Museum

3443 Inverness Street Dexter, Michigan 48130

Please check type of Membership:

(New or Renewal ?)

Student \$1.50

Individual \$10

Family \$15

Business \$25

Patron \$50 and up

Life \$150

Active

Inactive

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Twp: _____

Email: _____

Date:



I would like to donate: _____

for: _____

Please indicate your areas of interest:

Archives

Docent

Newsletter

Research

Artifacts

Fundraising

Oral History

Restoration

Board Member

Genealogy

Photography

Writing

Displays

Gordon Hall

Programs

Workshops

Membership

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 new members upon receipt of your dues.*

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dexamuseum@aol.com

www.dextermuseum.org