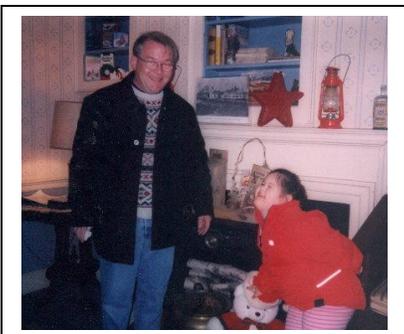
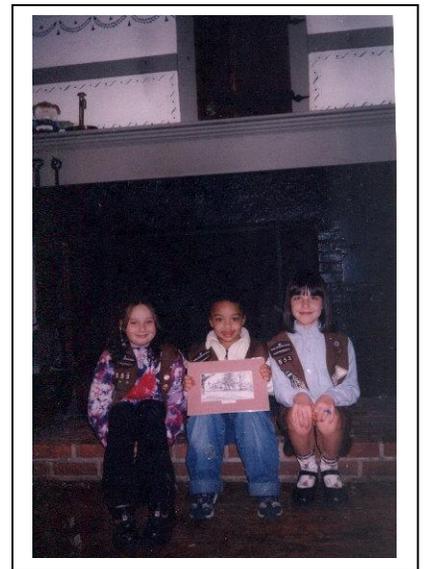


# Events from 2002



# Summer Concerts



Blessed with ideal weather, two early evening summer concerts were held in 2002. June 27<sup>th</sup>, the very popular HERITAGE STRING BAND made a return visit; July 11<sup>th</sup>, the HEFFERNAN/SABATINI JAZZ QUINTET made their first visit to The Tavern. Though the quintet was not from the area, ironically, one member, Jim Heffernan, spent the first 4 years of his life on Dudley Hill while his father taught economics at Nichols College. The Black Tavern Historical Society is again grateful to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which, in cooperation with the Dudley Cultural Council, helped to make these two very successful concerts possible.

We have scheduled one summer concert on June 26, 2003. From 6:00 p.m. to dusk, TARA'S THISTLE (consisting of two Celtic folk singers with a variety of instruments), will perform for the first time on the lawn of The Black Tavern.

Peg Pedersen



# Programs

The Society utilizes the following media to publicize our meetings and programs: The Patriot, Webster Times, Worcester Telegram & Gazette, Dudley Public Access Cable TV, posting on the front door of The Black Tavern and at local businesses.

In January 2002, Ed Hubbard presented the history of the Johnson-Foskett house in Dudley. This program drew a very large audience who listened intently to Ed's well-prepared discussion of the area. The program was well received.

During February we held our infamous Dudley recalls program. The list of speakers included a group of local folks: Tony DiDonato, Bob Ducharme, Joe Antos, Chet Kulisa, Janet Masler and Ed Patenaude. They enjoyed sharing some great old-time stories of how "it used to be" in the Webster-Dudley area.

The 2002 Annual Business Meeting was held on May 21<sup>st</sup> at which time The Black Tavern By-Laws were updated and revised.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students from Dudley Elementary School came to visit The Black Tavern on Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. A special note of thanks goes out to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, who in cooperation with the Dudley Cultural Council, assisted with funding for the buses to transport the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade children to and from the school. Volunteers are "always" needed at The Black Tavern for this daylong, educational event. Period costumes are available for anyone who can participate.

On Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, The Black Tavern Historical Society joined with the Friends of the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library to provide horse-drawn carriage rides at the Christmas Open House. It was a wonderful event and we appreciate your voluntary support, donations, and the beautiful ornaments that were hung on our Christmas tree at the Tavern.



*Open House guests boarding the horse drawn carriage*



*Singing Carols in the Tavern*

The Annual Business Meeting will be held this year on Thursday, May 15, 2003. This meeting will include planning the agenda of programs for the coming year. Anyone interested in becoming an active member within our historical community should plan to attend this meeting.

If you would like more information about The Black Tavern or becoming a member of The Black Tavern Historical Society, please contact Joy Glynn @ 508-943-9611.

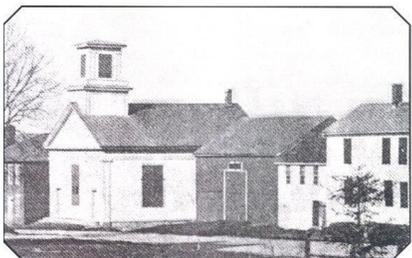
PLEASE SUPPORT  
**The Black Tavern**  
**BARN RESTORATION**  
 PROJECT

**The Barn**

*As it appears today -*



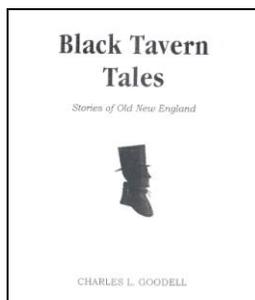
*As it was in the late 1800's -*



*To the left is the old Methodist Church which is no longer there.*

As part of the fund raising effort for The Black Tavern Barn Restoration Project, the Board of Directors voted to reprint the book, *Black Tavern Tales, Stories of Old New England*. The book, which was written in 1932 by Dr. Charles L. Goodell, is printed on acid-free paper, bound with a quality hard cover and comes complete with a dust jacket. *Black Tavern Tales* is available for \$30/each at The Black Tavern or we can mail a copy for \$35/each (\$5 additional charge is to cover the cost of shipping and handling). Please contact Peg Pedersen @ 508-943-8391 if you are interested in purchasing a copy of the *Black Tavern Tales*.

Joe Antos & Joy Glynn



Excerpt taken from the final page of *Black Tavern Tales*, written by Dr. Charles Goodell.

**"HANDS ACROSS THE YEARS"**

"Sit with me by the Homestead hearth  
 And stretch the hands of memory forth  
 To warm them at the wood-fire's blaze."

*Snow Bound- Whittier*

*Strong hands!* how eagerly they came  
 To drag the yule-log to the flame,  
 While showers of sparks went flying up  
 The chimney to its smokey top.

*Trained hands!* that filled the oven there  
 With all the housewife's thoughtful care,  
 Lest any one of all her brood  
 Should miss his meed of daily food.

*Deft hands!* that wrought the wool and flax  
 In fitting garments for the backs  
 Of man and maid and careless child,  
 And wrought with boundless love beguiled.

*Soft hands!* that bathed the baby's face  
 And felt the thrill of tender grace,  
 Which only Mothers understand,  
 Who give their all at love's demand.

*Sweet hands!* that made their "pat-a-cake,"  
 And laugh and crowed for Mother's sake.  
 Then fell asleep on Mother's breast;  
 As sleeps the birdling in its nest.

*Boy's hands!* with racket, bat and ball,  
 Impatient for the answering call  
 Of mates, who hasten to the game  
 To find their place and win their fame.

*Pale hands!* once stout and passing fair,  
 All emptied now of fretting care.  
 They kiss their old worn wedding ring,  
 And sweetly smile, and softly sing.

So, "*Memory's hands*," they come and go  
 In fading firelight's fitful glow.  
 They gleam, and fade, and pass away,  
 But pass to live in endless day!

**NEW FLAG  
 FOR THE  
 BLACK TAVERN**

As the result of generosity of Dick and Betty Nevers of Webster and Fort Pierce, Florida, The Black Tavern has a new United States flag. As frequent attendants of The Tavern's outdoor summer concerts, the Nevers saw the need for a new flag. It will be flown on the rear lawn flagpole. The Black Tavern Historical Society is most grateful for this gift.

Peg Pedersen

*Bread Pudding Recipe*  
*Served at the Black Tavern*

$\frac{1}{4}$  cup butter or margarine  
 1 cup dark brown sugar  
 3 slices bread (buttered)  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup raisins (or berries)

3 eggs  
 2 cups milk  
 1/8 tspn. Salt  
 1 tspn. Vanilla

Melt butter in the bottom of baking dish;  
 Sprinkle sugar over butter.

Butter bread and put over the sugar;  
 Add raisins.

Beat eggs, milk, salt & vanilla;  
 Pour over bread (do not stir).

Place baking dish over simmering water @ 350 degrees for one hour.

Serve warm with fresh cream, whipped cream or ice cream. Enjoy!

# The Memorial Print

This print has a meaning to The Black Tavern story far deeper than the surface value as primitive art work of antiquity. It is the foundation of the story of Dudley Hill and its interrelated people who founded and developed it. It is typical of the family memorial tablets of the era. There is a weeping willow symbol, pictures of the surviving family members, and a tablet memorial statement. These all relate to a quote from Whittier over the large fireplace, to Whittier's works such as "Telling it to the Bees" relevant to close family activities. Whittier was a frequent visitor to this area and lived close to the Maudsley Park developed by descendants of the Quinebaug Valley.

The family of the print built the Tavern in 1804 and members were residing on the hill for 100 years before the Tavern was built. While Nichols College has its own story, the land earlier was developed by the descendants of the Tavern antecedents. Except for the corridor of mill villages along the dams of the Quinebaug and its tributaries this watershed was developed into farms and their necessary supporting villages such as Dudley Hill with stage route connectors. Later water power and rail transportation developed the mill villages with different ethnic cultures. However the farm villages retained much of their character until the twentieth century. The great changes in science, business, technology, transportation, life styles, cultures beyond enumeration no longer make the rural life as we once knew it, a distinct and separate life style entity visible today. Sadness is the burden of those whose memories can recall through early life and contacts the rural stories, life styles, and mental

views prior to the twentieth century evolutions and influences from many lands and sources. Tracing the changes and family histories is beyond the casual inquirer of general historic curiosity but is deeply felt by those with involved connections.

Charles Moseley

## Tavern Miscellany

During the past year, a lot of time and energy was spent by the board on acquisition of the "Annex", the old, future "Barn". It has been a long and drawn-out process that would not have been crowned with success without the unrelenting efforts and legal assistance of Jim Whitney. A very special word of thanks and appreciation to Jim who volunteered a lot of his time, and had to deal with a lot of frustration while pushing the process forward. Big thanks again, Jim!!

I have been asked many times: "Why does the Tavern want that old building?" Fair question, until I explained the consequences of having a parking lot next door with "activities" going on late at night, etc....  
"Ah, yes, now I understand, you are right!" It would go far beyond merely changing the landscape!

But the landscape WILL change! The board has voted to demolish the section nearest the Tavern, #140 Center Road, and restore # 142, the original Barn/Carriage House. That way, the in-between space will increase from 28 inches now, to almost 40 feet, a significant safety improvement. I can see it already.... A rustic fence with a flower-and-herb garden where # 140 now is, gently sloping toward the backyard. It will look very attractive! Even Capt. Healy would, I think, nod approvingly, calling out to his wife Becca: "Come see what they did! Well, by golly!

And look at that barn! Who built that?" (He never saw it in his lifetime, as he passed away in 1817, and the barn wasn't built until the mid 1800's)  
Good chance "The Old Darnman", in his endless and desperate wanderings, trying to find his bride, crawled up to the hayloft for a good night's rest. And what a playground for the kids after attending class at Becca's Stone Schoolhouse on Tanyard Road.

A special word of thanks to Bob Ducharme for the "Barn Restoration" sign, an eye catcher, and for a new "Black Tavern" sign over the entrance of the Tavern itself. Also a special thanks to "The Iceman from Center Road", from way back then, Raymond Wieloch of "Wieloch Pond" fame, for donating his heavy, heavy-duty ice harvesting tools to the Tavern, 5 in all. It took a strong man to work those tools! Wow! We will safeguard them, and if Mass Electric ever goes out of business, well, Ray's son Paul will be more than welcome to pick up the old trade. One never knows! Thanks, Ray!

One more item of very historic importance. Thanks to Charles and Marion Moseley, a copy of the "Mourning Picture" is now on display in the Meeting Room. It shows Mrs. H. "Becca" Healy and her two daughters, Becca and Clarinda, mourning the death of the Captain, (+ 1817, 51 years old) and of Hezekiah Jr., (+ 1821, 11 years old, due to the accidental discharge of a gun). A willow tree, and white kerchiefs, traditional signs of mourning, can be seen. This picture represents the very essence of what the Tavern stands for. Thank you, Charley and Marion.

John Vanderaa



## Curator's Corner

The Black Tavern now has a Curator and an Assistant Curator. These positions were created, at the August Board of Directors meeting, after an inventory of the entire Tavern was completed. Appointed to these new positions were Tom Boyd, Curator, and Nancy Roberts, Assistant Curator. These positions are for one year while a job description is developed for each position.

During the inventory it was discovered just how many treasures the Black Tavern actually contains inside its walls. Items range from butter molds to spinning wheels, old pictures of Dudley's past to ledgers from businesses located in the Tavern, and clocks to a cobbler's bench. It really is an amazing array of items that brings our past to light.

Hopefully, future issues of the Black Tavern News will contain stories and legends about some of the items in this amazing collection of memorabilia.

If anyone would like to donate an item(s) to our collection or if you just have a question, please call Tom Boyd at 860-928-1969.

Tom Boyd

## "1861 Revisited"

On April 27<sup>th</sup> Bob Ducharme, and Joe Antos along with several other members of the 15<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment, a local civil war reenactment group, presented a "Living History Encampment" on the common across the street from the Tavern. Throughout the day the public toured the camp as soldiers cooked

breakfast, drilled, fired their rifles and sang period songs around the campfire. Many of the children present enjoyed visiting the civil war surgeon who had set up a field hospital inside the Tavern. Also on display were several artifacts from the civil war period as well as display entitled "Dudley in the Civil War" which included the names of all the men from Dudley who volunteered to defend the Union.

The warm sunny spring day was enjoyed by all present.

Bob Ducharme

## "A TRIP AROUND THE HILL"

On Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, as one of the 79 walks of its Walking Weekend 2002, the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor sponsored "A Trip Around the Hill" covering Dudley Hill. This walk was co-sponsored by the Dudley Historical Commission and the Black Tavern Historical Society. With Selena Reich, my assistant leader, we led a wonderful group of over sixty walkers around the Hill. On a truly beautiful day, we considered the historical and architectural backgrounds of a 19<sup>th</sup> century village stopping at the Dudley Hill Common, the First Congregational Church, the Grange Hall, the former Center School two-room school house (now the Currier Center at Nichols), the three Elbridge Boyden designed buildings of Nichols Academy (now Nichols College), the former Aaron Tufts House (now Nichols College Guest House) with the final stop at the Black Tavern. There our walkers were generously treated to cider and other little snacks, thanks to Tavern members.

Jim Conrad

## "Top O' the Hill"

In 1920 Bertha and Jesse Downing were married and moved to a farm on Dresser Hill Rd.

About a third of a mile north of the farmhouse was the highest point on the farm, which is the present location of Dudley's water tank. (the pavilion would have been directly in front of the tank)

After living there the first summer Bertha found so many people stopping to enjoy the view or for picnics. She decided to put a box with a cupboard on it and filled with jams and jelly and her special salted peanuts. As time went on Bertha and Jesse built a pavilion on Top O' the Hill complete with tables and benches. They also built a fireplace. They occasionally served "sunset suppers" and had neighborhood dances.



*The pavilion on "Top O' the Hill"*

In 1938 the hurricane wrecked the pavilion. They rebuilt it by popular demand but when the next big wind came along that was the end.



*View of Dudley Hill from "Top O' the Hill"*

Joe Antos



## Newsletter

January 2003

### Inside this Issue

1

Tavern membership

1

2002 -2003  
List of Events

2

Curator's corner

2

"1861 Revisited"

2

" A Trip Around the Hill"

2

"Top 'O' the Hill"

3

The Memorial Print

3

Tavern Miscellany

4

Barn Restoration  
Project

4

Black Tavern Tales

5

Summer Concerts

5

Programs

# The Black Tavern

Historical Society of Dudley

Dudley Hill P.O. Box 1804

Dudley, Massachusetts 01571

### OFFICERS

Chairman	Marilyn Whitney D.V.M.
Vice Chair	Peg Pedersen
Vice Chair	Joy Glynn
Clerk	Jean Lonergan
Treasurer	Luree Barber
Asst. Treasurer	Jean Williams

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joe Antos	Jean Lonergan
Faith Armstrong	Charles Moseley
Elliott Barber	Connie Nederoscik
Luree Barber	Peg Pedersen
Tom Boyd	Neal Slack
Louis Coccia	Raymond Stockley
James Conrad	John Vanderaa
Bob Ducharme	Marilyn Whitney D.V.M.
Joy Glynn	Jean Williams

### HONORARY DIRECTORS

John Craver	Robert Worrick
Ann Layton	

## TAVERN MEMBERSHIP

Presently our records show eighty-seven family memberships, 68 single members, and 26 large donors. Additions and deletions by movements, deaths, interest changes, make updating continuous. However there are still people who support effort to keep the history of life in Dudley from its settlement in the early 1700's to its current conditions available for remembrance. The Tavern and the history of its residents are unique symbols reminding us of the past events of Dudley Hill history. The support for keeping this symbol a key to such remembrance is very much appreciated.

Charles Moseley & Peggy Coccia

2003

### List of Events

- Feb.
- 13 (Thurs.) Valentine Musical from 7:00 – 9:00 pm / Mark Smith, flute, and Kirsten Lipkens, oboe, assisted by John Vanderaa, on keyboard, will perform a repertoire of literature from the era of the Black Tavern including classical and folk material.
- April
- 26 (Sat.) Victorian Lady 1:00 – 2:30 pm / Kandie Karle of East Haddam, CT will provide 1860's Civil War Entertainment.
- May
- 15 (Thurs.) Annual Business Program 7:00 – 9:00 pm / Annual Membership, Business & Program Meeting (to include arranging the Dudley 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student visit).
- May/June
- Dudley Elementary School 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Visit 8:00 – 2:00 pm
- June
- 19 (Thurs.) Strawberry Festival on Dudley Hill 3:30 – 8:00 pm.
- June
- 26 (Thurs.) Summer Concert on the Lawn 6:00 pm - dusk / Tara's Thistle
- Sept.
- 18 (Thurs.) Fall Harvest Program

For program information, contact Joy Glynn (508) 943-9611. Events are Open to the Public & held at The Black Tavern, Dudley Hill, Center Road.

To rent the Black Tavern for function/meetings, contact Eric & Sue Clearwater (508) 943 4579.

Please watch the local newspapers & listen to WESO for any changes with these events