

Continued from page 7

In memory of John E. Craver

Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Crawford
Friends of Pearle L. Crawford
Memorial Library
Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library,
Trustees and Director
Carol Ann Eaton
Jessie Hay Memorial Association
Deborah A. Keefe
Keegan Family
Mr. & Mrs. Philip McNulty
Mrs. Elizabeth Minarick
Mrs. Charles L. Moseley
Mr. & Mrs. William C. Moseley
David P. & Jill Seibert Murphy
Paula Murphy & Family
Dennis & Jane Neslusan
Evelyn Nieszczezewski
Margaret B. Pedersen
Mr. & Mrs. Larry J. Pepin
Cynthia Reed
Robert (Charlyn) Family
Florence M. Shaw
Pauline Sroczenski
Mr. & Mrs. Paul M. Sterczala
Wanda P. Toomey

**ITALIAN NIGHT AT THE
PUBLICK HOUSE**

Over two hundred dinners were served Monday evening, May 17th at the Historic Publick House in Sturbridge. Spaghetti, meatballs, lasagna, Italian bread, and salad with maple dressing all combined to make a scrumptious buffet for the Black Tavern Fundraising event. The banquet room was filled to capacity with hungry supporters who enjoyed not only the delicious meal, but also good conversation with friends and neighbors. In addition to the great food, there were basket raffles and Black Tavern items for sale. Winners of the various baskets were: Arthur Gomes - Toy Basket, Doris Bemis - Italian Basket, Linda Brink - Webco Basket of cleaning supplies, Nina Reilly - Coffee and Tea Basket, and Margaret Pedersen, Wine Basket. Congratulations to the lucky winners!

Profits from this fundraising event totaled \$1400.00. The Black Tavern Historical Society wishes to thank all who participated in making this event a huge success. Our hope is to be invited again by the Publick House after receiving many complements about the food and the wonderful time enjoyed by those who attended.

Nancy Roy

**Remembering
Our Longtime Members**

In 2010, the Black Tavern Historical Society lost two of its dedicated and longtime members, John E. Craver and Regina Mikolajczak. The Society extends its condolences to their families.

John Craver of Dudley died March 17 at the age of 85. He was a charter member of the Black Tavern Historical Society, its first Treasurer, and longtime supporter of it.

Regina (Reggie) Mikolajczak of Webster died April 20. Her husband of 63 years, Anthony (Tony) Mikolajczak, who died in January of 2008, was the longtime bell ringer for the Dudley 3rd grade field trips. They were both longtime supporters of the Black Tavern Historical Society.

The families of both John Craver and Regina Mikolajczak asked that donations be made in their names to the Black Tavern Historical Society for which the Society is most grateful.

**Footnotes of History at the Black
Tavern**

By Mike Branniff

Volume XV 3 34
Webster Times October 18, 1873

The work of grading the common is nearly completed. The other day a stone was turned up near the road which bore the letters "B. C." and the date "1816." This is thought by some to indicate the ancient boundary of the common, but others interpret it "Before Christ, 1816 years." Archeologists will notice. *Editors note- This stone is now in the garden in back of the Tavern*

Volume XIX # 44
Webster Times December 22, 1877

The residence of Warren Goodell is receiving a new coat of paint. We little thought that the shoe knife and the bible would come together, but so it has. Mr. A. P. Goodell is now the officiating pastor at the M. E. church.

Editors note- Warren Goodell was the son-in-law of Tavern builder Hezekiah Healy. His son Anson P Goodell referred to above was a shoe worker and it appears he was for a time pastor of the Methodist church located just to the north of the Black Tavern barn. Anson served with the 25th Massachusetts Infantry Regt. during the Civil War and wrote the Civil War letters that the Tavern now has in it's collection.

Volume 60 # 37
Webster Times December 12, 1918

About 100 pounds of honey were taken from the ell of Rev. Charles Goodell's house recently, where a swarm of bees had hived. They have swarmed in the same place for two summers, and have been watched over by Elmer Colburn, who has seen to the gathering of the honey.

Editors note- History repeats itself as a hive was found in the same area when the Tavern was restored in the 1980's

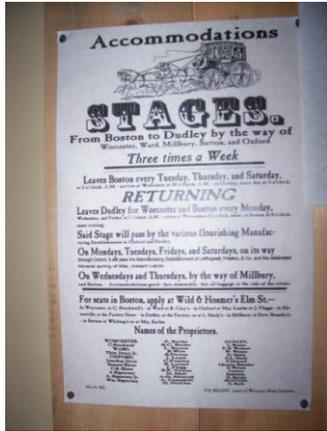
Volume 8 # 237
Webster Evening Times July 13, 1931
Dudley

Improvements At Goodell Residence

Dudley. July 13. Dr. Goodell is having several changes made at his summer home on the Hill where members of his family are enjoying the summer. Among other things, many improvements have been made in the backyard, adding to its attractiveness and increasing the possibilities of home recreation. He has also recently purchased the stone house which stands in close proximity to his grounds on Tanyard Hill thus developing the spaciousness of the estate. Dr. Goodell is spending this week with his family, his vacation period being limited on account of his numerous engagements during the summer.

Editors note- The backyard still looks great. One of the improvements stated above was probably the addition of a shuffleboard court, which still remains as can be seen in the backyard at the Tavern.

Stagecoach Poster



This past summer as we were completing the renovation of our taproom we were looking for period items that would be appropriate to hang on the walls. Joe Antos had told us of an original Dudley to Boston stagecoach poster that he had in his collection. When we checked it out it was in poor condition but it did provide us with some great information. Bob Ducharme was able to take the information that was available on the original and proceeded to make a reproduction on his computer. The end result printed on parchment paper looks great on the taproom billboard.

Some interesting points are that every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday one could take the stage from Boston to Dudley by way of Worcester, Ward, (now known as Auburn) Millbury, Sutton and Oxford. The stage would leave Boston at 2 A.M. arrive at Worcester at 10 o'clock and at Dudley the same day at 3 o'clock. It would leave Dudley for Worcester and Boston every Monday Wednesday and Friday. Once again taking 13 hours to complete the trip. Another interesting fact is that at the time of the date on the handbill (April 16, 1825) Webster was still part of Dudley and was known as Slatersville where the stage would stop at the Factory Store.

Black Tavern Historical Society Donor/Benefactor

Dec 26, 2009 through Dec. 31, 2010

Bacon, Mr. & Mrs. John
 Branniff, Linda & Michael
 Bayer, Mr. & Mrs. David
 Bazinet, Mr. & Mrs. Edward B.
 Bryon, Robert W.
 Butler, Mr. & Mrs. David G.
 Cacciapuoti, Jayne G.
 Casavant, Mr. & Mrs. Richard W.
 Cushing, Mr. & Mrs. Hugh A.
 DeRedon, Mr. & Mrs. George
 Dudley-Charlton Regional School District
 Ducharme, Mr. & Mrs. Robert
 Eaton, Carol A.
 Dukes' 21 Sports Bar
 Ebacher, Christopher & Gravell, Joanne
 Fras, Michael K. & Elizabeth (Golden Life Home Care, Inc.)
 Franke, Robyn
 Fyffe, William
 Gawle, Mr. & Mrs. Henry
 Glynn Family
 Goodell, Charles L.
 Goodell, Martha
 Gould, Mr. & Mrs. David
 Healy, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas L.
 Hill, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis
 Horsley, Mr. & Mrs. David
 Lonergan, Mary H.
 Lusignan, Theresa D.
 Martin, George & Elaine
 Marty's Liquors
 Moseley, Mrs. Charles
 Moseley, Mr. & Mrs. William C.
 Nevers, Mr. & Mrs. Richard
 Pedersen, Margaret B.
 Perzanoski, Charles & Zegara, Sonya
 Publick House
 Raymond, Donald E., CPA
 Roy, Nancy J.
 Smith, Barbara G.
 Southern N.E. Chapter of Industrial Archeology
 Stewart, Mr. & Mrs. William W.
 Universal Tag
 Warbasse, Mr. & Mrs. Phillip
 Ward, Mr. & Mrs. David H.
 Warms, Mr. & Mrs. Kurt G.
 Weatherwax, Loretta F.
 Webco Chemical
 White, Rev. John R. & Sara;

Charles L. Goodell was omitted , in error from the 2009 Donor/Benefactor List in the January 2010 NEWSLETTER. Our apologies for this oversight.

The Black Tavern Historical Society is most grateful to the above individuals and businesses that have supported, financially and/or "in kind", the Black Tavern Historical Society. Every effort has been made to ensure this list as, well as the one of Memorial Gifts to The Black Tavern Historical Society is accurate and complete. If there is, however, an error or omission, we apologize and ask that you notify The Black Tavern Historical Society at P. O. Box 143, Dudley, MA 01571.

Memorial Gifts to the Black Tavern Historical Society Dec. 26, 2009 through Dec. 31, 2010

**In memory of Sarah (Sally)
Williams Banks.**

Barbara Gurney of North Olmstead,
OH

*

In memory of Regina W. Mikolajczak

Albert T. & Dolores M. David
 Theresa A. Gwozdz
 Joan B. Williams

*

In memory of Andrew P. Thompson

Patricia Kelly

*

In memory of Genevieve Helt

Mr. & Mrs. John Glynn

*

In memory of John E. Craver

John C. Bayer
 Mr. & Mrs. Thompson Boyd & Lee M. Boyd

Mr. & Mrs. Brian T. Canty
 Chester Corbin Library, Trustees & Staff

Benjamin A. & Elizabeth C. Craver
 Mr. & Mrs. James Craver

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adventure requiring a lot of hours and way more money than anyone expected, but the final results will be a benefit to the society for many years to come. The restoration will give us a wonderful space for historical interpretation and collection display. It gives us additional space for functions. It makes the historical landscape of the Tavern much more complete and it keeps another historic Dudley building from demolition.

I would also like to thank Bob Ducharme for his work in chairing this committee for the past few years. And finally, I would like to thank the third graders and their teachers at the Dudley Elementary School for their steadfast financial support over the years. They mean a lot to us.

David Proulx

100 members have responded. We are hoping to double that number so if you have not yet responded please fill out the membership form at the end of the newsletter.

Thank you,
Membership Committee

New Lighting at the Tavern

The Tavern has received a generous donation from the Webster Five Cent Savings Bank for the purchase of lighting in the taproom. Three sconces have been installed, and their design mimics the antique style of candle sconces that were found in the tavern, with glass backs to reflect the light. The improvement in light levels, along with the new paint, tavern tables and "bars", has given the tap room a wonderful period feel. Come on by and check it out!

Ed Bazinet

evenings and folks walking by would stop and chat. Thinking how sad it has become that folks don't seem to connect like that anymore he thought that he would like to bring some of the old days back. He decided that he would start something called "Wednesdays on the Porch" where anyone who wished would just show up with their favorite beverage and maybe a treat to share and join together on the front porch of the Tavern for lively conversation or simply just to sit, watch the sunset, and share each other's company. It turned out to be a huge success where on some evenings we would see upward of 25 friends join us. It seems like this is a tradition that will continue in the coming summers so if you have a mind to join us for a leisurely Wednesday evening from June to September we look forward to seeing you on the porch.

Yard Sale!

Start looking around for items to donate to our May yard sale. Linda Bazinet will again drive this fun and important fund raiser. Again this year we will also do an antiques and collectables sale in the Tavern in June. So, keep this in mind as you scourer your basement, attic or junk room! Ed Bazinet runs this, and donors get $\frac{1}{2}$ the sale price of items. Give Ed or Linda a call for details at 508-943-5509.

New P.O. Box Number

Early in 2010, the Black Tavern Historical Society found it necessary to move their P.O. Box from Dudley Hill to the West Main Street Post Office in Dudley. Our address is now

**P.O. Box 143
Dudley, MA 01571**

Dudley Hill has been good about forwarding mail but before 2011 is out, they will no longer do so: mail will be returned to the sender. Please make changes in your address book, Rolodex, or wherever so that you can continue to get **BTHS** mail.

Do you have a seat for us?

The newly painted meeting room will be getting some lighting upgrades: sconces on the walls! It is becoming a charming place to linger, and we would love to have a few Windsor armchairs to place around the room to entice folks to nestle in for a good conversation. We have already been adding vintage thumbback style chairs in the tap room, and they lend a real charm paired with the new tavern tables. So, if you have an old chair that might fit the bill and you would be willing to donate, give Ed Bazinet a call (943-5509). He will evaluate the chairs to make sure they are sturdy enough for our use and fit into the historic theme. And remember, donations are tax deductible! If we accept the donation, a deed of gift and acknowledgement for tax purposes will be prepared for you. Then again, if you do not have a chair but would like to assist us in purchasing one, your donation would be gladly accepted.

Membership Drive

In December the membership committee consisting of chairman Nancy Roy, Bob & Chris Ducharme, and Linda Bazinet held a meeting to discuss ways to increase membership. A letter was composed and a separate membership form was sent out at the end of December. On the form was a place for dues and donation plus a questionnaire on how people could help to keep the Tavern running. As of this writing almost

"Wednesdays on the Porch"

This past summer the front porch at the Tavern has been alive with activity. After reading an article in Yankee Magazine about front porches, Bob Ducharme remembered how when he was a child his family would sit on his grandmother's front porch on summer

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Thanks to all volunteers who helped out to maintain "our gem on Dudley Hill" throughout the past year.

Bob Ducharme

Looking Back on the 2010 Tavern Programs

During this past year, The Black Tavern was teaming with activities and events. The program committee kicked off the year with the witty duo, Paul Macek and James Morrison, giving a digital presentation based on their recently published book, "Webster, Dudley, and Oxford During the 19th Century." The historic photographs and pertinent anecdotes from the two authors captivated those in attendance, and gave rise to spontaneous stories of days gone by.

The early spring event featured Linda Oakley, an herb historian of Old Sturbridge Village, who revealed some of the past practical and "not-so-practical" uses of herbs. Linda passed around a variety of samples for all to sniff, feel, and identify.

In May, a number of Black Tavern volunteers, adorned in 19th century attire, entertained and educated the Dudley third graders, as they toured the Tavern and barn. Each third grader was given a Joe Frogger cookie and told of the story of this prized staple for 19th seafarers. The third graders get a sense of what life was like in the early 1800's. The volunteers are doubly rewarded by the enthusiasm of these students when they return with their parents during the Strawberry Festival, and show off what they have learned about the Tavern. Over the years, the Black Tavern Historical Society has been most grateful for the generosity of third graders who diligently collect pennies throughout the school year and make a healthy donation to the restoration of the Tavern barn.

During the annual spring Strawberry Festival, many festival goers took part in the free tours at The Black Tavern lead by Tavern volunteers. For many visitors, this was their first time at the Tavern. This year's outdoor summer concert was held on the Grange lawn in conjunction with the Dudley Grange. Despite the threatening dark clouds, the Quintessential Brass played a bright and lively medley of tunes to an enthusiastic crowd. Many enjoyed the tasty hot dogs, hamburgers, and French fries from the Grange Snack Bar. The Black Tavern is grateful to the Cultural Council for helping to make this outdoor summer event possible.

On September 16th, the Tavern hosted two programs. Thanks to the collaboration of the Nichols College Fisher Institute, Professor Richard Hesse from Georgetown University gave a thought provoking presentation on the vast challenges for the delegates who gathered in Philadelphia in 1787 to create a charter for a new government. In the evening, Tom Boyd, our local historian, offered a riveting "blow-by-blow" slide depiction of the 1980's restoration of the Black Tavern. The audience was inspired by the ingenuity and determination of these Dudley volunteers, both men and women, who literally took hammers and saws in hand, and brought the Tavern back to life, giving Dudley Hill this magnificent centerpiece for all to enjoy.

In October, John Mrazik, thrilled the audience with "A Ride on the Webster & Dudley Street Railway Trolley in the late 1890's" using an 1892 panoramic map of Webster and Dudley, and classic photographs of the old storefronts and buildings of that time. The audience shared stories as they recognized vestiges of some of the storefronts.

The Program Committee extends thanks to all who helped to make each event a success. A special thanks to Chris and Bob Ducharme, who, for each event, decorate, set up, clean up, provide refreshments, create posters, and who, with their warmth and generosity, have made the Tavern a welcome place for all!

Sandy Peterson

2010 Black Tavern Barn Report

After spending \$9050.00 on a new roof in 2009, the historical society sort of took a year off on the restoration of the barn. However, two important steps in the process were taken. First, the Society, using our own labor, re-sided the south wall above the roof of the annex at a material cost of \$119.00. We still have a small area to finish in 2011 but the south side is now buttoned up and weatherproof. We also closed up what was the exterior door to the second floor bathroom making the area weatherproof also. What remains on the south wall is to repair two 7"X7" girts and to reface three of the nailers, along with possibly installing a new wooden ventilator near the peak.

The second area of accomplishment is the completion of our contract with Chenot Associates. This cost us \$1500.00 this year, with another \$400.00 due now that the contract is completed. In return we have a set of plans for finishing the east (rear) wall and.....drum roll please.....The barn and the annex/addition/shoe shop are now appended to the Tavern's listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The board of directors is planning a small celebration of this listing to coincide with the third grade visit.

Thank you Phil and Chenot Associates for making this happen, and thank you David Butler for coordinating this project.

2011 should see the society finishing the south wall and regarding the driveway to make the front doors handicap accessible, then starting the east (rear) wall. This should leave us with the lighting/electrical work to finish the project. I would like to thank the Black Tavern Historical Society and its board of directors for their courage and patience in undertaking this restoration. It has been an

Continued on next page...

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shabby. Bob and Chris Ducharme volunteered to repaint the woodwork in the hearthroom, and Hugh Cushing likewise volunteered to paint the ceiling. After the completion of the woodwork Bob & Chris also repainted the cabinet in the hearthroom thus completing the upgrade of the room. In November, the restoration of the main meeting room was undertaken. Hugh Cushing began the process by bleaching the stained ceiling and repainting it. Then Hugh with the assistance of Chris Ducharme, Nancy Roy, George Martin, Mike Branniff, and Will Moseley removed the aging wallpaper and washed all the walls in preparation to the painting. The walls were then spackled and painted by Hugh. At this point a work crew including Mike Branniff, Bob Ducharme, Hugh Cushing, George Martin, Dave Butler, Ken Butkiewicz, Ed and Linda Bazinet, and Nancy Roy, scrapped paint and prepared woodwork in the meeting room for final painting. Hugh then painted all the woodwork and Bob Ducharme constructed a new firewood box. This room presently is nearly finished, (*we plan to reproduce the original stenciling*) thus completing the renovation for the entire first floor except for the front stairway, which we plan to complete in the spring.

Also needed to be mentioned at this time was the fact that while the interior work was being completed, work crews were meeting on a mostly weekly basis and have completed much needed jobs on the outside of the Tavern as well. In February the porch roof was replaced. When the roofing contractor, Marek Rudnicki, completed the job we asked for an inspection of the main roof. Upon his inspection several areas of concern were noticed. We needed to decide on a course of action for the roof. In February an electrician from Bateman Electric was called in to address some electrical problems that we had identified. In March arborist Dennis Panu removed a

diseased ash tree located on Tanyard Rd. The wood was left on site and Will Moseley and Bob Ducharme cut it up and split it for firewood to be used in the Tavern fireplaces. In the rainy March storms several leaks in the Tavern roof were noticed reinforcing our belief that we needed to replace the roof. In April Bob Ducharme rebuilt the base of one of the support posts on the Tavern front porch and with the assistance of Will Moseley it was replaced. In May we finally bit the bullet and made a major expenditure of replacing the entire roof on the Tavern and ells as well as installing gutters on the front porch.



Rudnicki Roofing replaces the Tavern roof.

The gutters along with repairing the south drainpipes should alleviate the water problem in the cellar during wet seasons. Porch furniture was repainted, patriotic bunting was installed and flowers were purchased for the front porch in time for Memorial Day. A new sillcock was installed on the south end of the Tavern making watering plants and gardens at the south end of the Tavern easier. Using salvaged brick from the 1805 house Bob installed a small patio in the back yard.



Patio made from 1805 house bricks

Near the end of the month a major portion of the large maple tree in the backyard was blown down in a windstorm. Will Mosely, along with Bob and Chris Ducharme

removed the debris while some of the wood was salvaged for firewood to be used in the Tavern. Mulch was purchase and placed in all gardens on the property. In June after receiving several inquiries from passers by asking if the Tavern served food and drink, Bob Ducharme constructed and painted a new sign identifying the Black Tavern Historical Society that was placed in front of the Tavern. Over the summer months, the Thursday work crew did some major cleaning of the Tavern property including cleaning out the tavern cellar and attic, the annex, and the barn cellar and washing windows in the Tavern. They also removed the blocked south drainpipe, cleaned it out, dug a French drain and dry well and reinstalled the pipe to correct the drainage problem identified earlier. Bob Ducharme completed construction of an arbor and swing for the back garden that he had been working on and invited anyone looking for a cool peaceful place to sit and read a book, to "knock your socks off". In September with the assistance of Will Moseley, Bob Ducharme rebuilt, replaced and repainted the rotted south porch post. About this time the need for new appliances was identified, the old ones not maintaining proper temperature. New appliances have been purchased to replace the inefficient ones that have been in place for years providing better service for renters of the Tavern. Finally the last Tavern workday saw George Martin, Ed & Linda Bazinet, Mike Branniff, Will Moseley, Dave Proulx, Charlie Perzanowski, Ken Butkiewicz, John Vanderaa, Nancy Roy, Hugh Cushing, and Bob Ducharme button the place up and do what was needed to get the Tavern through the long winter months while Sandy Peterson along with her mother-in-law planted 100 daffodil bulbs which will herald the coming of spring in a few months.

Continued on next page...

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this past year. Our apartment, completely done over by the group, is like a "townhouse" and Bob is always working on new upgrades for it. The Tavern itself has seen numerous upgrades and function rentals have increased threefold. We love helping people plan for their functions and it is so nice to hear what a great time people had when their function is over. Everyone feels like they have entertained in their own home.

It has also been said that the Tavern is "alive". More activities are taking place now. We have started a Memorial Day breakfast after the parade and have held a few "pot luck" suppers. Thursday workday always finds coffee and pastry for our volunteers. Bob has started "Wednesdays On The Porch" where anyone can stop by to chat with old friends, meet new ones and share your favorite drink or treat. Some evenings we have had as many as 25 people join us.

We have made many good

friends and the door is always open, whether it is to just talk, laugh, or cry. Please feel free to join us any time, as we love the company.

The Second Restoration of the Tavern

2010 has been an eventful year in the second restoration of the Tavern.

Over the past 25 or so years since the original restoration of the Tavern by the charter members of the Black Tavern Historical Society the Tavern has seen much use and was beginning to show signs of wear. A renaissance of the Tavern has taken place with a facelift provided by a group of dedicated volunteers who meet one morning a week for workdays.

Beginning last April, Bob Ducharme and Ed Bazinet began the upgrading of our existing bathroom. Wallpaper was removed, wainscoting was installed, along with a new toilet, mirror and lighting. Hugh Cushing painted the ceiling and Bob & Ed repainted the walls and woodwork. To finish off the job, a cabinet was purchased and historical photos of Dudley Hill were hung on the walls.

Shortly thereafter Bob began working on the hallway that leads to the bathroom / kitchen area. The ceiling was repainted, repairs were made to woodwork and it was then completely repainted. A new bar top was constructed from leftover barn flooring and installed. Finally a new ship lapped wooden wall was installed behind the bar area in the hallway improving the appearance when viewed from the taproom. At this point one of the major restoration projects for the year, the complete renovation of the taproom, was undertaken. With the vision of Ed Bazinet and Hugh Cushing providing motivation, more vibrant colors were chosen to depict a room more in keeping with what a taproom would have looked like in days of old. Ed mentioned that we should have tavern tables and chairs in keeping

with the taproom décor. Bob Ducharme then designed plans for three tables using an original that Ed Bazinet had in his home. Bob turned 12 legs on his wood lathe and constructed the three tables, once again using leftover barn flooring provided by the third grade students. Hugh Cushing did an incredible job of removing the wallpaper, painting the room ceiling, walls, woodwork, and windows. In many cases two coats of paint were necessary. Bob & Chris Ducharme repainted the deacons bench with the same colors they used in painting the tables. Ed Bazinet wrote a grant for new lighting and submitted it to Webster Five Cent Savings Bank. Shortly thereafter we were awarded a grant with which we purchased new sconces for the walls. Ed and his son Darin installed the new lighting. Finishing touches added to the room were a new chandelier with candles, an antique appearing bulletin board upon which were affixed an old local stagecoach schedule from 1825, rules of the Tavern, and a handbill of an event taking place at Nichols Academy in 1828. The result is a taproom that we cannot only be



The new taproom at Christmas

proud of, but also one that truly looks appropriate for the time period depicted by the tavern. At this point the renovated rooms on the north end of the tavern made the remaining two rooms, the hearthroom and meeting room, look
continued on next page.....

Have your special occasion in a nineteenth century setting at the

Historic Black Tavern

Ideal for showers, wedding receptions, family get-togethers and meetings.

Accommodates up to 75 guests or 40 seated people with full kitchen facilities.

Call: Bob & Chris Ducharme @ 508-943-8782 for details. or email us at ABY15MA@aol.com

May 21, 2011 (1 to 4 P.M.)

- **"Open House at the Black Tavern"- Come and experience the newly renovated Tavern. Tours will be available.**

June 2011 (Date TBA)

- **"Third Graders to the Tavern"- Third Grade students from the Dudley Elementary School visit The Black Tavern.**

June 16, 2011

- **"Strawberry Festival"- Tavern to feature second annual "Antique Collectibles".**

July/August, 2011 (Date TBA)

- **Outdoor Summer Concert with the Dudley Grange.**

Sept. 15, 2011 7:00 P.M.

- **Dudley History Month "The Story of Abiel Williams-Dudley's Civil War Soldier" presented by Bob Ducharme.**

Oct. 2011 (Date TBA)

- **"Octoberfest" at the Tavern.**

Nov. 17, 2011 7:00 P.M.

- **Native History Month Nipmuc Documentary Film.**

For program information, contact Sandy Peterson (508) 949-2468 or Linda Bazinet (508)-943-5509

Most events begin at 7:00 pm, are Open to the Public & held at The Black Tavern, Dudley Hill, 138 Center Road. For concert times, check local papers or listen to the radio as times may vary.

To schedule the Black Tavern for functions/meetings, contact Bob & Chris Ducharme @ (508) 943 8782.

Please watch the local newspapers & listen to WESO or call (508)-949-2468 for any changes with these events

From the Chairman

Continued from Page 1

what is correct for a historic building has been such a help. Next we attacked the taproom. Again old wallpaper was stripped and more appropriate painting done. Ed Bazinet, was instrumental in getting a grant from The Webster Five Cents Savings Bank Foundation for new lighting for the taproom. With

the grant, we purchased three wall scones. Then Bob Ducharme, constructed three tavern tables to complete the rehab. The room looks fabulous! A room that in the past was just a walk through is now warm and cozy and has found new use as a gathering spot. Continuing on, our current project is the meeting room, which is our most used space. It's here that most programs are held. But it too was showing its age. Once again wallpaper was removed, new paint applied and we will be recreating the original stenciling... The other rooms on the first floor have had walls washed and trim repainted. As you can see, we have been busy. Thanks to our Tavern workdays and the many volunteers these projects have been accomplished. Another much needed maintenance project was the Tavern roof. It had been 20+ years since it had been done and was showing its age, (starting to leak). This project we did not do ourselves, (we knew better), once again we called on the services of Rudnicki Roofers who did a great job.

It's been just over a year since Bob & Chris Ducharme became the Tavern caretakers. It's impossible to list all that they have brought to the Tavern. They have given their total commitment to the tavern and are always willing to go the extra mile to make the Tavern welcoming. This is shown by the increase in use and rentals the tavern has experienced in the past year. One of their ideas has been to have "Wednesdays on the porch". Wednesdays during the summer, people would gather on the Tavern porch to share friendship, laughs and the sunsets.

Another big accomplishment this year has been the acceptance of the barn to the National Register of Historic Places. This was the result of a lot of work done by the Tavern's Dave Butler and Phil Warbasse from Chenot Associates. Their work to complete the many forms and meet the deadlines resulted in this

wonderful honor. The barn joins the Tavern on the register.

We continued our monthly programs open to the public. In September we were pleased to sponsor a program in conjunction with the Fisher Institute of Nichols College and hope to do more programs together, sharing the resources of the Hill. In June we hosted the Third Grade students of Dudley Elementary School for a day of local history. Once again they presented us with a check from their Pennies for Preservation Program of \$1,019.00. Their continued support has been instrumental in our on going barn renovations.

As you know, all these projects and improvements take money. To help fund some of the costs we held several fundraisers. Our Special Appeal last year certainly helped We also sponsored a dinner at the Public House Restaurant in Sturbridge. A night of not only good food, but a good cause. We held our Second Annual Yard Sale, which again proved to be a fun and profitable day. In conjunction with the Grange Strawberry Festival in June, we held an antique sale. All of these events helped, but as you might imagine the need is still there. In these times of many requests and appeals we hope you will continue to support the Black Tavern with your memberships and donations. I promise you if you give us your support we will keep our commitment to improving and keeping the Black Tavern an active part of Dudley Hill.

Linda Bazinet

Living at the Tavern

By Chris Ducharme

If someone told me five years ago that I would be living at the Black Tavern, I would have said that they were crazy. - History; that's not my thing- that is Bob's. But being here for over a year has really changed my mind. It has been one of the best years of my life. I have come to love this old house and am so proud to show people around and all that the group has accomplished in

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Newsletter

January 2011

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Editor - Bob Ducharme

The Black Tavern

Historical Society of Dudley
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From the Chairman

They say "It takes a village to raise a child", but it takes a lot of dedicated volunteers to keep a historic building viable. Thankfully the Black Tavern Historical Society has a lot of dedicated volunteers. It's been another busy year at the Tavern. In my letter last year I said we hoped to address some much needed paint and repairs inside the Tavern. Well those projects have begun. The first room to be "refreshed" was the bathroom. The wallpaper (which was held in place with tape), was stripped and historic period paint applied. It's amazing what paint can do for a room. At this point I would like to acknowledge the invaluable work done by Hugh Cushing. Hugh, a professional painter has been instrumental in our interior redo. Not only painting, but his knowledge of

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-Notice-

Due to the increase in cost of printing and mailing the newsletter we will no longer be able to send a newsletter to folks who are not members of the Black Tavern Historical Society. If you would like to continue receiving a newsletter and have not yet renewed your membership, please consider renewing it now. We have provided a renewal form for this purpose at the end of this newsletter.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Black Tavern Historical Society
Membership Committee

- ## *2011 List of Events*
- January & February
▪ No Programs*
- Mar. 17, 2011 7:00 P.M.
▪ "Steam Coffin" presentation by historian and author, John Laurence Busch, on the first steamship to cross the Atlantic.
- April 14, 2011 6:30 P.M.
▪ "A Day in the Life of a Civil War Soldier" outdoor reenactment by Civil War expert Bob Ducharme.
- * Due to the high cost of heating and unpredictable winter weather, there will be no monthly programs in January and February of 2011
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