



Built In 1804

**Black Tavern
Historical Society
of
Dudley, Inc.
P.O. Box 143
138 - 142 Center Road
Dudley, MA 01571**

**NEWSLETTER
February 2013**

**Tel: 508-943-8782
Web: theblacktavern.com**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman: Linda Bazinet
Vice-Chair: Hugh Cushing
Treasurer: Peg Pedersen
Clerk: Linda Branniff

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Jayne Cacciapuoti
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Will Moseley
Sandy Peterson
David Proulx
Nancy Roy
John Vanderaa

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Mrs. E. Marion Moseley, former Director and a charter member of the Black Tavern. Her knowledge of Tavern history was invaluable. She will be remembered as an active and guiding member of the group

It is also with much regret that we note the loss of Mr. David Butler, Board of Director member. His great enthusiasm and active participation in the Tavern will not be forgotten. We will long be grateful for his untiring work on grants for our barn restoration project.

Former Board member Cornelius "Neil" Slack passed away in 2012. He gave many years in support of the Tavern and its activities.

EVENTS FOR 2013

Unless noted otherwise, all programs are held at the Black Tavern at 7 p.m. and are free and open to all.

March 21: Historic mini-melodrama directed by actor & historian, Ed Bazinet

April 18: "A History of the Black Tavern" by Black Tavern caretaker Bob Ducharme

May 16: PBS documentary film – "We Shall Remain" – Part 2

Sat, May 4: Yard Sale ; 8-2 p.m.

Friday, June 7: Third Grade Visit

Thurs, June 20 Strawberry Festival – Antiques and Collectibles Show & Sale, 4 p.m.

Sun, July 21 Summer Concert - an encore of "The Grey Whisker Pickers" – bring a picnic and enjoy the spirited sound of this group. 3-5 p.m.

Sat, August 10 Barn Dance - Join us for an old time contra dance – teaching and dancing by OSV contra dance group - 6-8 pm

September 19 Barn Concert given by Mark Mandeville and Raianne Richards

October (Date TBA): Enjoy the BlackTavern Society's 30th Anniversary with a celebration featuring authentic hearth cooking by Linda Oakley of OSV; period music, Tavern readings, and a variety of libations. Tickets and reservations will be required

November 21 "Victorian Christmas Traditions" – historic presentation by Anne Barrett

December TBA

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

We've had another busy and productive year at the Tavern. Last year I reported we were working toward finishing up handicap accessibility to the barn. Thanks to donations of services and materials by Ron Rheault, Mark Berthiaume, Hylka Construction and Miller Fence, this was accomplished in early June. We held our first barn event on June 13: A concert by Mass Walking Tour and The Grey Whisker Pickers. It was a fun-filled night of music and celebration.

With the barn useable, we turned our attention to the attached annex (formerly a shoe shop). Once again a generous grant from The Janet Malser Humanities Trust allowed us to strip and re-side the exterior walls and shore up a rotted floor. The work was done by Ron Rheault Construction Company--our knights in shining armor with hammers. But no project goes without "surprises." When the siding was removed, we found a rotted sill which needed replacement. It was an unexpected expense, but it needed to be done. The annex is now being used as Bob Ducharme's workshop, where he keeps busy on the never-ending projects for the Tavern.

Inside the Tavern, Hugh Cushing has painted the entryway, so the main floor is a welcoming place for all.

As everyone knows, grants alone can't keep a historic property viable. So over the year we have held several fundraisers. Thanks to the work done by Nancy Roy, our Membership Chairman, we had a very successful membership drive (please remember to renew your

membership), which not only added new members as well as longtime supporters, but added to our treasury. In May we held our Annual Yard Sale. A great day for us and a good clean-out for others. As they say “One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.” So if you’re cleaning out, downsizing, etc., remember our yard sale. Also in May we were able to partner with The Publick House in Sturbridge for a fundraising dinner. This historic inn serves these dinners for local nonprofit groups as fundraisers. All who attended not only ate a wonderful turkey dinner but helped the Tavern as well!

I don’t want you to think all we do is fund raise (although it is important); we share many social times also. Chris Ducharme hosted her Annual Memorial Day Breakfast on the Tavern porch. This is a “traditional New England” gathering to watch the Memorial Day services on the common—the parade with flags of the color guard approaching, patriotic oratories, and gun salute—following which all adjourn for a spectacular breakfast prepared by Chris.

Speaking of the porch, we again held our “Wednesdays on the Porch” during the summer; it was a time to gather, share some goodies and watch the sunset over Dudley Hill.

In June we all dressed in our Tavern-era costumes and hosted the local third graders for a look at life in Dudley in the 1800’s. This has become a wonderful tradition, enjoyed by us as much as by the students. Thanks to Joy Glynn & Sarah White for organizing this event.

If it’s June, it’s time for the Annual Grange Strawberry Festival, a highlight on the hill. I don’t know if you remember or weren’t in the northeast last June, but it was HOT. So hot, that our planned tours of the Tavern were canceled and we just enjoyed an evening eating our strawberries on the porch.

We continued our community outreach by holding our monthly programs, which are free and open to all. We covered such topics as Heirloom Gardening, Robert Frost, and Haunted History of New England. These events are enjoyed by many and often lead to interesting discussions.

Unfortunately we lost three former board members this year. Marion Moseley, who was a founding member of the BTHS and served on its board for many years; Cornelius Slack, who also served on the board for many years; and David Butler, who was an active board member, writing the Malser Grant Applications and overseeing the barn and annex restorations up until his death. We are grateful for their dedication and love of the Tavern through the years.

In closing, I am grateful to each and every member of the Board of Directors and to the Tavern membership for their continued support of the Tavern and its mission to remain a vital part of Dudley Hill and Dudley History. A special Thank You goes to Bob and Chris Ducharme for their loving care of the Tavern. Whether it’s managing rentals, fixing the many everyday things, planting flowers and always being there, I could not do it without them.

Linda A. Bazinet
Chairman Board of Directors.

Black Tavern Barn Report 2012

No new construction work was done on the barn this year. There are a few cosmetic details on the barn that still need to be completed; hopefully, we will get to them in 2013.

The Annex, however, saw a major amount of work done with financial help in the form of a grant from the Janet Malser Humanities Trust. The Black Tavern Board of Directors contracted with the R. C. Rheault Construction Company of

Oxford MA to perform some major renovations on the structure. A soft area in the lower rear floor, adjacent to the barn, which had been rotted by water leaks over the years from around the annex bathroom vent pipe was repaired. The East (rear) sill was replaced along with the bottoms of the two interior posts on this wall due to rot caused by rain infiltration. Several areas of the interior sheathing on the East wall that were also rotten were replaced as well. Finally the South, East and short North walls of the Annex were wrapped in Tyvec and resheathed using ship-lap pine siding to make them match the front (West) wall.

The work was expensive (we didn’t expect that the sill and posts would be so severely rotted) but the building is now structurally sound and its appearance is striking. It should last well into the future. If you haven’t seen this work, please come by and look at it.

One final note: While this work was being done we discovered that the barn was, at one time, painted a sort of brown mustard-like yellow and that the annex was painted a brilliant barn red. At some future time the Black Tavern board will consider if we want to paint these buildings these colors.

David Proulx
Barn Committee Chairman

Do Not Forget Our Annual Yard Sale!

May 4, 2013
8 am until 2 pm

Contributions now being accepted.
Just call Bob at 508-943-8782 or
Linda at 508-943-5509 for pick-up.
No electronics or clothing please.

Come rummage through our stuff!
You are bound to find something
you cannot live without.

Membership Report

As 2012 comes to an end, and we look forward to a brand new year, the Membership Committee (Bob and Chris Ducharme, Linda Bazinet and Nancy Roy) thanks you for your support of the Black Tavern Historical Society through your membership fees. In 2012 we were able to provide over \$7,400 to our treasury. These funds help to support informative and entertaining programs for the public, help with the barn restoration's unexpected costs, and also help with general upkeep and restoration of the Tavern, our "Gem on the Hill".

It is our hope that you will continue to support us in our quest to make the Tavern a center of culture and entertainment, as well as a gathering-place on Dudley Hill.

Memberships may be renewed or obtained by using the form included at the end of this newsletter or found online at www.theblacktavern.com.

We thank all our members for their generous support.

Nancy Roy, Chair
Membership Committee

From the Innkeepers

Again this year the Black Tavern was alive with rentals. We have hosted birthday and anniversary parties, family reunions, and many Nichols College events. Tours were also given to scouting groups, the Daughters of American Revolution, and to individual parties upon request. We also cannot forget that once again this year the Tavern participated in our "Annual Third Grade Visit to the Tavern" when four busloads of students from the Dudley Middle School toured the Tavern and 20 of our members acted as docents in each room of the Tavern and Barn. As has been their tradition in past years, The Dudley Board of

Selectmen have used the Tavern for their October meeting and the Tavern has also been made available to the Boy Scouts for the purpose of conducting several Eagle Scout Boards of Review.

As far as upgrades for our guests, in our ongoing effort to increase the flexibility of how the Tavern could be arranged for various functions, we have purchased more card tables. An additional table was purchased for presenters of our monthly programs to give needed space for projectors and presentation materials. In addition, a new ceiling fan/light was anonymously donated and installed in the kitchen area. The recently started traditions of the Memorial Day Breakfast and the Wednesdays on the Porch have continued over the past summer. Finally, we concluded the year with the Black Tavern Board of Directors' Christmas Party, an evening of good food and good friends in the beautifully decorated Tavern.

Thanks to all the workday groups who helped to clean the Tavern, Barn and grounds.

We are beginning to book rental dates for the 2013 season, so keep us in mind when you plan your next event.

Bob and Chris Ducharme

2012 Maintenance at the Black Tavern

As most would realize, the maintenance on a 208 year-old building and the property that surrounds it is a never-ending task, and this past year was no different in the ongoing maintenance at the Tavern.

Last December after a severe windstorm the property was cleaned of several downed trees, the wood to later be used for burning in our fireplaces during rentals. About this time a new dehumidifier for the Tavern cellar was purchased to replace the existing one that was no longer functioning. This was critical

in order to maintain the climate in the cellar that contributes to conditions in the Tavern upstairs. During the month, Maurice Healy of Up-Rite Construction donated his time, equipment and materials in removing 5 tree stumps that were located to the north end of the barn and then covering the area with 10 yards of loam. This enhanced the area next to the barn and also made mowing the lawns easier. Also during the month, using "Have a Heart" traps we were able to trap and remove 10 red squirrels that had set up home in the Tavern attic. Their entry access into the Tavern eaves was then sealed. Darin Bazinet took an old wrought iron railing that we found in the annex and reconfigured and repainted it before mounting it at the front entrance to the Tavern, making the Tavern more handicapped accessible.



John Vanderaa checks out the new railing

Storm doors in the apartment were reconditioned, the rear door to the Tavern was weather-stripped, and several areas of the Tavern were sealed in our ongoing attempt to conserve energy.

January 2012 began with my having knee replacement surgery: I would be able to look forward to doing maintenance at the Tavern while pain free. "Huzzah"

In light of our mild winter, spring seemed to be approaching earlier this year, and in March we were able to begin preparation for the warmer weather earlier. Raking of the

gardens was begun and the section of the lawn north of the barn where the stumps were removed was reseeded. All other lawns on the property were aerated and limed. Also in anticipation of warmer weather, window screens in need of repair were replaced. A “Thursday work-crew” installed railings on the ramp in front of the barn that were donated by Miller Fence. As April arrived, I constructed a reproduction outhouse for the back yard using recycled material from the barn. This “non-functioning” outhouse would not only enhance the experience of the third-graders during their annual visit while seeing what conditions were like in the 19th century, but it would serve as a present-day garden tool shed.



New Outhouse at the Black Tavern

During the entire month of March, and into the month of April, Hugh Cushing was busy scraping and repainting while renovating the front entrance and stairway of the Tavern. Hugh put over 120 hours of work into this phase of the repainting.

As the flowering season was approaching and the yard preparation was continuing, gardens were mulched and the lawns fertilized. Wrought iron chairs and table that were donated for our yard sale were repainted and added to the furniture on the front porch. Small kitchen vegetable gardens were added to the back yard. Finally, we gave the Tavern a spring-cleaning.

As May arrived the Tavern was beginning to come to “full-speed”. Flowers were hung on the front porch, morning glories were planted next to the “Healy’s Inn” sign-post, flower gardens throughout the property were updated, and hollyhocks were planted near the outhouse. (Note: In the 1800s, when a lady had to ask a man where his outhouse was she asked “Where are your hollyhocks planted?”) Finally the beginning of the summer season on the “Hill” was heralded once again with Chris Ducharme’s now famous “Memorial Day Breakfast on the Porch.”

In June a work-crew cleaned out the barn and stacked lumber that had been purchased for the Annex floor repair. This repair was part of the final phase of the Barn/Annex renovation project that was funded in part by the Janet Malser Humanities Trust. After finally receiving an occupancy permit for our barn, our first function in the barn was held with a very successful joint concert presented by “Massachusetts Walking Tour” and “The Grey Whisker Pickers” that was attended by 75 people.



The Grey Whisker Pickers



Massachusetts Walking Tour

The final phase of the Barn/Annex renovation was begun by R.S. Rheault Construction Co.

July saw the construction of the Barn and Annex progressing. It should be noted though, as is usually the case with renovation of old buildings, that our plan for the annex took a turn for the worse when the old siding was removed and the entire rotted wooden sill on the east side of the annex was exposed. This would cause us to reassess our plans as this was not included in the original funding that we received in the Malser grant. It was decided by the Board of Directors at an emergency meeting that since we had gone this far in the renovation of the building that we had to proceed and we would need to take the additional funds from our treasury. “Yikes” The additional repairs were made, and the final phase of the project was completed.



Rotten Sill



Rotten Sill



Annex Before



Annex After

As hard as it is to believe, in August we started thinking again of the cold weather months coming. Firewood was moved into the Tavern cellar for winter fires in the fireplaces and storm windows repaired. Snow removal machines and furnaces had to be serviced. The Tavern received an anonymous donation to purchase a ceiling light/fan for the kitchen.

In September stair treads in the Tavern apartment were replaced and repainted and storm windows in the Tavern needing attention were recaulked. Perennial gardens were redone. Perennials were then thinned and compost from last fall's leaves were spread in the gardens.

In October the Tavern was made ready for the winter season. A work day was held and the front gutters were cleaned, furniture from the front porch, picnic tables, arbor swing, and hoses were stored for the winter. All the metal removed from the annex during the construction project was brought to a recycler and we received \$210 in return.



Completed Job

Bob Ducharme
Caretaker

IN MEMORIAM

The Board of Directors would like to note the passing of the Black Tavern's oldest member.

Minnie Bateman was the oldest resident in Dudley and also the oldest member of the Black Tavern. She passed away in 2012 at the age of 102 years. She lived on Dudley Hill in a building that used to be the Barnes General Store as well as the post office, where she was postmistress many years.

Dudley has lost a valued citizen and the Tavern has lost a valued member.

**Do You Know Someone Who
Might Like To Become A
Member?**

**Please forward them the
attached Black Tavern
Membership Form.**

**Or better yet, give a one-year
membership as a gift.**

**Need A Venue For Your Next
Meeting, A Wedding Or
Shower ?**

Hezekiah Healy's Black Tavern and its newly restored barn are available for rent to small and medium size groups.

The barn and the Tavern are both handicap accessible. There is a modern kitchen with sink, microwave, standard stove and oven, and refrigerator with freezer. There are two working original fireplaces.

Have your next event at an authentic 209-year-old New England Tavern. Call Bob or Chris at 508-943-8782 for the details.

Looking Back At 2012

The Black Tavern program committee offered a wide variety of programs throughout 2023.

Beginning in March, Blackstone Valley Park Ranger Valerie Stone presented the art of maple sugaring, inspiring folks to get their sap buckets ready for the spring flow.

In April, local historian Ken Ethier's interview with John Boudreau inspired some fascinating stories of Boudreau's 50 years as a conductor on the old railroad.

In May, rousing folks for spring gardening, Christie Higginbottom of OSV gave an outstanding presentation on gardening with heirlooms.

In September, thanks to the generosity of the Cultural Council, the program committee was able to bring back actor Stephen Collins who, with his interactive story style, presented an insightful expose of Robert Frost and his poetry.

In recognition of Halloween, teacher/historian Chris Daley thrilled a packed audience with his documented tales of haunted places around New England.

November being Native American month, "We Shall Remain," a PBS documentary film was shown, moving everyone with its portrayal of the tragic events leading to the King Phillip's War.

The Tavern program committee is most grateful to all those who assisted with the planning, publicity, refreshments, and clean-up for each program. We look forward to another year of educational and entertaining events.

Sandy Peterson
Program Committee

Donations and Contributions

January 1, 2012 thru December 31, 2012

The **BLACK TAVERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY** is grateful to the following individuals who gave to a fund in honor of **David G. Butler**. His efforts, as a member of the Board of Directors and grant writer, resulted in the completion of the barn and shoeshop (Annex) restoration projects and the addition of these two buildings to the National Historic Register. Mr. Butler was able to see the results of his work prior to his November 27, 2012 death:

Edward & Linda Bazinet
Linda and Michael Branniff
Hugh A. & Catherine S. Cushing
Mr. & Mrs. Robert R. Ducharme
Susan Jameson
Margaret B. Pedersen
Nancy Roy
Mark D. Smith & Sandra A. Peterson

Benefactors:

Mr. & Mrs. John Bacon
Ronald & Peter Bannister
Ed & Linda Bazinet
Boy Scout Troop 273
Mr.* & Mrs. David G. Butler
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Carmignani
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Casavant
Alice Bateman Chase
Mr. Tim Cushing
Mr. & Mrs. David Diamond
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Fels
John, Joy, John & Megan Glynn
Mr. Charles Goodell
Ms. Mary H. Lonagan
Joan & Dudley Marsh
Marc & Meredith Moseley
Ms. Robin L. Petro
Mark Smith & Sandra Peterson
Nancy J. Vajcovec
Debbie & Kurt Warms
Philip & Mary Warbasse
WEBCO Chemical Company
Paul & Visha Wieloch

*Deceased

The **BLACK TAVERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY** is most grateful to the individuals and businesses who have supported it financially and/or "in kind." Every effort has been made to ensure these lists are accurate and complete. If there are, however, any errors or omissions, we apologize and ask that you notify the Society at P.O. Box 143, Dudley, MA 01571. Thank you.

Patrons:

Scott & Karen Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Beaudoin
David & Sarah Biron
Robert W. Bryan
Jayne G. Cacciapuoti
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Corkum
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Cushing
Mr. Tim Cushing
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Don & Eleanor Sellstrom
Tom & Sandra Smith
Ed Stochaj Insurance Agency
Jerry & Laurel Trier

** A matching gift.

Memorial Gifts To The Black Tavern Historical Society

December 18, 2011 - December 11, 2012

In Memory of **Sarah (Sally) Williams Banks**

Barbara Gurney

In Memory of **David G. Butler**

Mrs. Herman F. Becker
Linda & Michael Branniff
Peter E. Fox
Franklin Realty Advisors, Inc.
(Charles F. Morton)
Michael W. & Sallie K. Guskey
Mr. & Mrs. Edmund F. Kaczmarek
George D. & Elaine M Martin
William O'Brien & Family
Mark D. Smith & Sandra A. Peterson
Nancy J. Vajcovec
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Wielock

In memory of **Jeffrey Means:**

Jayne G. Cacciapuoti & Raymond Belsito
The John M. Glynn & Means Families

In Memory of **Marion Moseley**

Ronald Bannister
Edward B. & Linda Bazinet
Hugh A. & Catherine S. Cushing
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ducharme
Carolyn V. Earp
Linda M. & Matthew J. Foote
Elizabeth & Michael K. Fras (Golden Life Home Care)
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