

Built In 1804

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

**NEWSLETTER
February 2014**

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

Chairman: Linda Bazinet
Vice-Chair: Hugh Cushing
Treasurer: Will Moseley
Clerk: Linda Branniff

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Tom Boyd
Michael Branniff
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Robert Ducharme
Carolyn Earp
George Martin
Marc Moseley
Peg Pedersen
Sandy Peterson
David Proulx
Nancy Roy
John Vanderaa

John Vanderaa, long-time Board of Directors member, recently resigned from the Board. His good humor, willingness to pitch in and help, and his particular talent for keeping the Tavern clocks running have marked his years on the Board. He hopefully will visit us (and our clocks) often. Thank you, John, for all your good work.

EVENTS FOR 2014

March 20: "Tavern Artifacts" – Historian/educator Bob Ducharme presents historical significance of some precious and unusual Tavern artifacts.

April 17: "Lincoln Assassination"– Historian Chris Daley gives a riveting presentation of events around Lincoln's assassination

May 10: Annual Tavern Yard Sale 8:00 a.m.until 2:00 p.m., on the grounds.

May 15: "Rural Landscapes" Local artist Laureen Hylla Wondolowski talks of her painting inspirations from the local countryside

June 3: Third Grade Visit

June 19: Strawberry Festival & "Antiques and Collectibles" in the barn at 4 p.m.

Aug TBA: Summer Concert—In The Barn. Return of Mark Mandeville & Rianne Richards

Sept 18: "Remember When" – personal tales of days gone by from local folks

Oct 4: Tavern Craft Fair--Time TBA.

Nov 20: "Susan B. Anthony – The Invincible" – Actor/educator Sally Matson gives the inside stories of this amazing woman and her accomplishments

All programs, unless noted otherwise are at 7 p.m. at the Tavern.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

If it's January, it must be time for "The Chairman" to write her annual letter. Bob Ducharme has kept many of you informed of what's going on at the Tavern during the year with his email updates. So, if you have an email address, please include it with your membership renewal. Then you can receive Bob's updates throughout the year.

The year started out on a sad note. Cindy Boyd, wife of Board of Directors member and original Tavern caretaker Tom Boyd, passed away in January. Cindy was an integral part of the Tavern family and is missed by all.

The winter months of January and February are quiet months as we don't hold monthly programs. But in March things pick up with the first monthly program. As in the past, in May we held our "5th Annual Yard Sale." We want to thank all those who donated "treasures" and all those who supported us by buying the "treasures".

Another fundraising event was our Antiques & Collectible Sale held in conjunction with the Annual Grange Strawberry Festival in June.



Antiques & Collectibles Sale

This was an opportunity for people to split “50-50” with the Tavern any sale of their item. Like the yard sale, we like to think of it as doing a service for people to divest of things, yet help the Tavern.

In June we also hosted the Third Graders from Dudley Elementary School for their Annual visit to the Tavern.



Ed Bazinet Speaks to 3rd Graders

Despite the rainy weather we managed to entertain them with Tavern and Dudley history.

In July we partnered with The Dudley Woman’s Club and The Dudley Historical Commission for a Historic Scavenger Hunt. This proved to be a fun family day. Teams were given a list of 12 historic sites in Dudley and the teams who found them in the least amount of time won prizes. The fun part was people found places in Dudley they had never known existed! The money raised has been used to install a sign that explains the Stevens Linen monument in front of the barn.

On a Sunday afternoon In August the “Hill” was filled with the sounds of The Grey Whisker Pickers, a local group of banjo playing, storytelling guys, who captivated everyone with their talents.

In October we held our First Annual Craft Fair. I can say First Annual because it was such a success that we are sure to do it again. 21 crafters showcased primitive



Ready For The Craft Fair

paintings, quilts, maple products, knitted items, wood carvings, and other handcrafted items. We even had local people who raise alpacas and process their wool! It was truly a great day. I want to acknowledge Karen Moseley for all the work she did to make this such a great event.

We also held a raffle of two antique chairs, donated by Peg Pedersen, which were given new rush seats by Ed Bazinet and a hand painted scene of early Dudley done by Deborah Bazinet.

If you are sensing a theme here, you are right. Fundraising is an important part of keeping the Tavern going. Your membership is crucial, and we thank you who have supported us over the years, but never knowing what a 210 year old building will need, it’s always necessary to add to the coffers. Fortunately, we didn’t have any major repairs this year, just the usual maintenance to contend with.

Speaking of the history of the Tavern, we celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the Black Tavern Historical Society this year. It was 30 years ago that a dedicated group of people formed to save the Tavern from the wrecking ball. We can never thank these historic minded people enough for their work and dedication, except to honor them by carrying on their dreams and keeping the Tavern a special place on Dudley Hill.

Like any organization, change is inevitable. There have

been 2 changes to the Board of Directors this year. After many years of keeping us on the financial straight and narrow, Peg Pedersen stepped down as Treasurer, but remains on the Board. Will Mosely has taken over these duties. Also, John Vanderaa, has retired from the Board. We thank these two individuals for the many years they have given to the Board of Directors and the Tavern.

Every year as I sit down to do this letter, I tell myself to be brief, but somehow it’s hard to contain all I want to acknowledge in just a few sentences. Plus I always miss someone or some event.

Once again I want to say “We couldn’t have done it without you.” The “you”, is everyone who has supported the Tavern, helped with events, workdays, baked for events, renewed their memberships or took a new membership, donated, you name it. Many, many thanks. As always a special thanks to Bob & Chris Ducharme, I really couldn’t have done it without them. These are the two people who truly keep the Tavern going with their day to day dedication. Bob not only maintains the grounds, but his “building stuff” for the Tavern is unbelievable. And Chris is always there to help those who rent the Tavern, and always goes the extra step to make everyone welcome and comfortable.

From the Chair, I say Happy 2014, with Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy Year.

Linda Bazinet
Chairman, Board of Directors

An Early Christmas Present For The Black Tavern

Blair Goodell Patch, a direct descendent of Hezekiah Healy, builder of the Black Tavern, and of Reverend Charles Goodell, who grew

up in the Tavern, stopped en route from her home in Michigan to Connecticut on October 29 to present the Tavern with some early Christmas gifts.

The first was an original manuscript of a publication written by Reverend Goodell entitled "My Ministry." The second item was an antique brass kettle that had originally resided in the Tavern. Representatives of the Tavern's Board of Directors were on hand to thank Ms. Patch. A photo of her standing beneath the portrait of Reverend Goodell was taken and Ms. Patch was also given a tour of the Tavern by caretaker Bob Ducharme.



Blair Goodell Patch & Brass Kettle

Looking Back on the 2013 Programs

During the past year, the program committee offered a wide array of events beginning with our own actor/historian Ed Bazinet who discussed melodramas/plays of the 19th century, focusing on "Uncle Tom's Cabin", and an excerpt from "The Drunkard," with members taking parts and finally the audience participating in the "you will pay the rent" skit. Not having attended, I am unable to offer my own critique but hearsay has it that it was a most entertaining evening.

In April, caretaker, cabinetmaking and civil war expert Bob Ducharme, gave a fascinating history of the Black Tavern from 1804 to the present, enhanced with old photographs and stories of folks who lived at the Tavern.

The May event was a bit of a bust, as it was not until we were half way through the Native American documentary that we realized it was not the one advertised and then, as if protesting, the video began to skip and stop and skip and stop...so it ended prematurely with a good laugh and some relief, allowing those present to take advantage of the moment by catching up with one another on local matters of great importance.

The annual Third Grade field trip to the Tavern, once again offered students a real feel into the hardships, inconveniences and joys of early 19th century life, including those of an outhouse (located behind the Tavern)...when even the most distracted students suddenly became attentive on the subject, stifling giggles, as they tried to imagine life without indoor plumbing!

Due to the generosity of the Dudley Cultural Council, folks were able to enjoy two spirited barn concerts from local musicians. "The Grey Whisker Pickers" had everyone singing and tapping their feet to old



Grey Whisker Pickers at the Barn

favorites and Mark Mandeville and Raianne Richards lulled folks into

tears and then laughter with their beautiful repertoire.

In August, for those daring enough, folks joined in for an old time contra dance, led by the Old Sturbridge Village Contra Dance Group who were dressed in full vintage costumes, complete with their own musician. Even those who declined to shake a leg, enjoyed watching all the saching and swinging of the reels and squares.

October 2013 was the 30th anniversary of the Black Tavern Historical Society and was celebrated with an authentic hearth-cooked feast, beautifully prepared and presented by Old Sturbridge Village historian, Linda Oakley. All enjoyed the period music played by Linda's husband,



Linda Oakley At The Hearth

Peter, on a fiddle he made from a cigar box. Some attendees spoke reminiscently about the challenges and joys of having been part of the initial restoration of our great gem on the hill.

The holiday season was ushered in, as actor/historian, Anne Barrett, delighted all with "her" memories, traditions, gifts, treasures, and family stories of a Victorian Christmas. Her rich and witty

presentation was generously donated by Board member, Carolyn Earp, in memory of Cynthia Boyd.

A Christmas Open House was planned for all members but had to be cancelled due to...you guessed it – snow!

Thanks to all those who offered their services to make the programs such a success. A special thanks to Bob Ducharme who created all the publicity posters, to Chris Ducharme and Hugh Cushing who orchestrated the set-up, refreshments, and clean-up of events, to all the bakers who provided delectable refreshments, to Chuck Squire who updated our Facebook page and videotaped programs, to Scott Roy who updated the website, and to our Chair, Linda Bazinet, who was always there when I needed her.

After ten years as Program Chair, I am stepping down to give someone else a chance at the helm. The responsibilities have given me pleasure (most of the time) but the people at the Tavern have been the very best all of the time.

Sandy Peterson
Program Chair

Barn Committee Report

The barn is now being used by the Tavern to hold some of its programs throughout the good months and is a venue for our Antiques & Collectibles Sale and Craft Fair.



There are a few cosmetic repairs to be done to the barn. We will get together

and complete them when the weather gets warmer. It is gratifying to see the barn being used for so many different events.

Dave Proulx
Chairman

2013 Maintenance at the Black Tavern

As we look back on the maintenance efforts this past year at the Black Tavern, we see that for the first time in several years we have needed no major repairs such as roof replacement, furnace replacement or sill replacement. . Nevertheless. our stewardship of this wonderful old building has continued with many smaller upgrading projects, as well as numerous projects that contribute to making the Tavern the active and welcoming building that it is.

Last December, as part of our ongoing effort to reduce heating costs, temporary storm windows were constructed and installed in the kitchen area of the Tavern and numerous air leaks were sealed in an attempt to reduce winter heat loss in the cold north end of the building. Additional moldings were also constructed and installed along with caulking to help seal the cold air leaking in around the 208-year-old windows in the meeting room.

During the winter months , work on the Tavern proper is difficult as folks who rent the Tavern for functions are frequently using the Tavern making inside work difficult. The cold weather precludes working outside, so our caretaker Bob uses this time to work on items to upgrade the apartment. Recent upgrades this past winter include rebuilding five door frames and replacing those doors in January. In February, wainscoting was added to two rooms.

With the arrival of spring, yard cleanup was started. Yard

machines were serviced, gardens were raked and mulched, and lawns aerated, limed, and fertilized. The yard and porch furniture were repainted and the picnic tables were brought out of winter storage.

In May, flowers were planted in the gardens and our traditional hanging baskets were hung on the front porch. A drainage pipe was installed to divert water away from the foundation; the water was seeping into the cellar.

The Tavern was given a good spring-cleaning in preparation for our annual Third Grade Visit and several of the windows were washed. (*See trivia question about Tavern windows at the end of this article*). Patriotic bunting was installed on the front of the Tavern and the annex/shoe-shop in preparation for Memorial Day and summer activities.

In June a much-needed renovation of the Tavern kitchen was undertaken. This was the last room on the first floor to be redone as part of our ongoing 3-year renovation project. These rooms had not been repainted or upgraded since the original Tavern restoration in the 1980's. Hugh Cushing repainted the entire kitchen including walls, woodwork, and ceiling.

A big thanks to Paul Cournoyer of Central Floor Covering of Dudley for his donation and installation of new flooring in the kitchen and the bathroom as well. Thanks also go out to Jay Spahl of Spahl plumbing, who donated the necessary plumbing work so that the new flooring could be installed under the present bathroom fixtures.

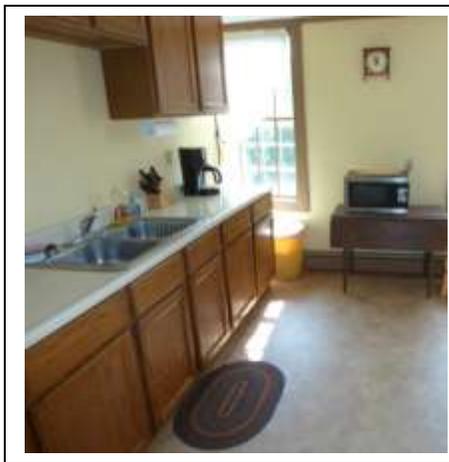
The rest of the kitchen was completed by Bob Ducharme, using some of the several hundred feet of wood donated by his brother Walter. Bob constructed additional cabinets, which provided much-needed storage. A new microwave oven cabinet was also created.

To cap off the restoration, John Vanderaa, our own clock aficionado, presented us with a new kitchen clock he made bearing an image of Hezekiah Healy's original Tavern sign.

This new kitchen area is not only a pleasant visual upgrade but also makes life easier for renters and caterers who use it.



John Vanderaa's Clock



Our Renovated Kitchen

In July we received a donation of an air conditioner from Chuck Squier. It was installed in the Taproom and was a nice addition to the one we presently have in the Meeting room. Although the air conditioners are not used on a regular basis they make renting of the Tavern

more feasible for those wishing to rent it in extremely hot summer weather.

July is also the time many perennials on the property need to be divided and either replanted elsewhere or given away. The gardens were also given uplift with the addition of compost recycled from last years fall leaf removal.

In September, we start to think of the upcoming winter season. All our outdoor furniture along with picnic tables were put in storage for the winter. A successful workday was held and many volunteers finished scraping and repainting the front porch floor. This had not been done in about ten years. At the same time the barn was emptied of tables and stored materials in preparation for our fall concert. Later in the month repairs were made to the concrete sidewalk and railings at the rear entrance to the Tavern, and firewood was brought in and stored for use during winter rentals. Bob Ducharme designed and constructed a new settle/wood-storage box for the hearth room to replace the old wooden crate being used.

In November, before the cold settled in his workshop, Bob used more of the donated wood to construct his final Tavern projects for the season. First was the construction of two trash containers that would cover the unsightly plastic wastebaskets used in the hearth room during functions and rentals.

About the same time Ed and Linda Bazinet donated the antique top to a stand-up desk similar to the one that Bob had wanted to make for quite some time. With the top now in hand, Bob designed and constructed a matching base. The completed piece is presently located in the taproom and holds our guest book.

Finally, in closing out our year on December 3, a dedication ceremony took place, noting a new sign funded by the Dudley Women's Club that describes the Stevens Mill complex cornerstones now displayed on our front lawn.

Bob Ducharme
Tavern Caretaker

Trivia Question- The windows in the Black Tavern are 12 over 12 windows. How many total individual window panes are in the Black Tavern windows? (Answer at the end of the newsletter)

Powder Puff Carpentry

Last summer Sandy Peterson, knowing that I am a retired woodworking teacher, asked if some day I would be willing to teach some woodworking skills to a small group of ladies. After giving it a thought, I said why not? So this past fall, Sandy, Elaine Martin, and Sarah White embarked on a woodworking adventure in the Black Tavern Annex/Woodshop. Initially, I suggested that we start with a small project of their own choosing made of pine in order to learn the basic skills. After I asked for suggestions, Sandy suggested building potting benches. Yikes! A pretty ambitious project for a group of novices with no woodworking experience. After giving it some thought, I decided that it would probably work since it would not require the finesse of building a piece of furniture yet would still involve constructing a variety of woodworking joints while using several different power tools. The only drawback that I could see would be the need for a large amount of materials to complete 4 projects. We then received a pleasant surprise when during conversation one

evening at a “Wednesday on the Porch”, Charlie Perzanowski offered to donate some rough sawn oak that he had cut on his sawmill for our use. After drawing a plan, I constructed a prototype for the ladies to follow and we began construction in early September, meeting one morning a week. I must say that I was impressed with the skills that the ladies developed while using such power tools as surfacer, radial arm saw, power miter saw, drill press, router in addition to the expertise learned in using several hand tools. After 6 Thursday morning classes the new woodworkers completed their projects and took them home hopefully to be used during the coming spring planting season.

Bob Ducharme

From the Innkeepers

We have once again seen a successful year relating to rental use of the Black Tavern. The rental of the Tavern not only continues to be one of our major fundraisers, but also gives us an opportunity to showcase this “Gem on the Hill” to folks from near and far not familiar with it on an ongoing basis.

Over the past year the Tavern has been the venue for graduation parties, birthday parties, Christmas parties, and baby and bridal showers. It has also been used by organizations such as the Dudley Woman’s Club, the French River Connection, and the Dudley Grange for meetings. The Fischer Institute of Nichols College has rented the facility for many guest speaker programs. The Tavern has also conducted community outreach by making the facility available to the Dudley Historical Commission for an informational meeting, the Dudley Board of Selectmen for their annual meeting on the Hill, and Dudley Boy Scout Troop 273 for the use of conducting five eagle-scout boards of review.

Several tours of this historical building have been conducted during the year as well. FYI should you ever wish to have a private tour of the Tavern our resident caretaker/innkeeper Bob Ducharme is always available to give tours. Just give him a call.

Another area of community outreach is the annual 3rd grade visit at the end of the school year when 4 busloads of students descend on Dudley Hill to visit the Tavern and learn what life was like back in the 1800’s.

Shortly after the kids’ visit, the Tavern is open for free guided tours at the Dudley Grange’s Annual Strawberry Festival. It’s always great to see the kids come back with their parents in tow so they can show them what they learned earlier in the month.

In addition to its use for rentals and meetings, the Tavern comes alive in the fall with our monthly speaker programs held on the third Thursday of each month.

Also this past fall we held for the first time a very successful Craft Fair in conjunction with the Grange’s Annual Apple Festival. We hope this will be an ongoing event in the future.

In order to keep the Tavern looking fresh for those who use it, we continue to make upgrades to the interior. This past year we completed a total renovation of the kitchen area, including additional cabinets made by Bob.

Several new pieces of furniture were also constructed for the hearth-room and the taproom. An additional air conditioner was added to make summer rentals more pleasant for those wishing to rent in warm weather. Finally, new chairs were purchased to replace those originally purchased during the Tavern renovation in the 1980’s.

The “Inkeepers” are beginning to book rentals for the 2014 season, so keep us in mind when you plan your next event.

Call Chris or Bob for the rental details at 508-943-8782.

Bob and Chris
The Innkeepers

2013 Membership Report

Once again we are pleased to report that the membership drive in 2013 was a tremendous success!

We thank all who renewed their membership or joined “our family” for the first time this past year.

Because of your generosity, we were able to continue our public programs and also help defray maintenance costs for the Tavern

Your continued membership will enable us to provide more programs in the future and help maintain this historic building. (Its unique atmosphere would be ideal for your next shower, wedding, or family reunion.)

Tavern memberships also make thoughtful gifts for birthdays, weddings, and anniversaries!

Memberships may be renewed or obtained by using the forms mailed to current members, the form at the end of this newsletter or online at www.theblacktavern.com.

Nancy Roy, Chairman
Membership Committee

(Note: Black Tavern membership cards will no longer be issued.)

Like to become a member of the Board of Directors? Ask any member of the Board if there are vacancies. We would welcome new members when vacancies need to be filled !

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.

BENEFACTORS

Scott & Karen Anderson
Mary Leigh Bacon
Ed & Linda Bazinet
Hugh & Susan Briody
Priscilla Butler
Hugh & Cathy Cushing
Timothy Cushing
David & Katherine Diamond
Gerald & Marylyn Fels
FM Global Foundation Charitable
John, Joy, John & Meghan Glynn
Charles Goodell
Jim & Allison Jolda
Mary H. Lonergan
Sandra Peterson & Mark Smith
Scott W. Roy
Mary Stewart
E.J. Stochaj Insurance Agency, Inc
Laurel Trier
Nancy J. Vajcovec
Kurt & Debbie Warmes
WEBCO Chemical Company
Visha & Paul Wieloch

“IN-KIND” DONATIONS

Mary Leigh Bacon
Debbie Bazinet
Ed & Linda Bazinet
Paul Cournoyer
Carolyn Earp
Robert R. Ducharme
Walter Ducharme
Blair Goodell Patch
Margaret Pedersen
Sandra Peterson
Jay Spahl
Charles Squire
John Vanderaa

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Ann M. Peterson
Mr. & Mrs. George deRedon
Joanne Reed
Nancy J. Roy
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Sellstrom
Tom & Sandra Smith
David J. Tonkin
Williams-Davis Families

IN MEMORY OF:

Andre P. Thompson by Patricia M. Kelly

Answer to trivia question: There are 1,388 individual panes of glass in the Tavern windows. (Does anyone do windows?)



Artifact From the 2013 Yard Sale



Tavern Circa 1920



Civil War Reenactors, 2007



Remember What We Started With?



Bob's Tavern Outhouse



Christmas in the Hearth Room



Huldah Healy Davis (Hezekiah Healy's Cousin)
c.1840



2013 Cornerstone Monument Dedication



Fun at the Tavern, Circa 1910



Chicken on a Tractor, 275th Anniversary Parade
2007



Militiamen Return to the Tavern 2010



Member Ed Bazinet in Period Attire