

History and



Tour of the Black Tavern

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Compiled and edited by Robert Ducharme, with liberties from a presentation prepared and given by Charles and Marion Moseley during the restoration years of the Tavern, the Black Tavern Inventory, and Black Tavern Tales by Charles L. Goodell.

The Black Tavern was built in 1804 by Hezekiah Healy. As the story goes, Hezekiah, born in 1766, was the son of Joseph Healy, the first white male child born in Dudley. Hezekiah's grandfather, Joshua Healy, one of the original settlers of Dudley, owned a large tract of land now cut by Healy Road extending up to where Route 31 presently is and down into what is now Quinebaug. Joshua built a home at the corner of Healy Road and the present Route 31. The home is presently still standing. Joshua's son, Joseph, bought land from his father, and after marrying had 12 children, the seventh child being Hezekiah. In 1798, at the age of 32, Hezekiah married Becca Corbin. Hezekiah was a skilled cabinet maker and spent the first six years of his married life making and selling spinning wheels, chests and four posters until he had saved enough money to build, quoting his grandson, "a rather pretentious house big enough for an inn." He started construction in 1803 and completed it in 1804. This building was the genesis of the Black Tavern. Since the building, located at the intersection of the only two roads in the area, North to South and East to West, was near the half way point on the stage coach trip from Boston to Hartford, it became an inn that was an important stop for travelers of those days.

Hezekiah came to be a man of considerable importance in his hometown—Captain of the Militia, skilled cabinetmaker, innkeeper, and inventor. He invented one of the first power looms used in this country. He traveled to Washington to get it patented, but due to lack of funds he never succeeded.

The Black Tavern got its name because Hezekiah, in splitting up an old sign, found that the wood painted black was much better preserved than where it was painted any other color. Like the prudent Yankee that he was, he reasoned that if black paint was good for a sign board it would be equally good for his Inn. So he painted the entire building black with white trim around the windows. Imagine what a ghostly sight it must have been sitting there on the hilltop with two feet of snow around it!

As Hezekiah was Captain of the Militia, when he put up a sign for Healy's Inn as he called it, he had on it a fine painting of a trooper in full uniform, flanked with a cannon, a musket, and a flag. This sign, a replica of which now hangs in the taproom, swung for many years in front of the tavern. The posts to which the sign was fastened were just far enough apart to allow a wagon to drive between them. The passage could easily be negotiated if the driver was sober, but tradition has it that one of the tests for sobriety was the ability to drive at full speed through the posts. If the eye was keen as the hand steady no harm would follow, but now and again an unsteady hand brought the hub of one of the wheels against the post, and the horse went on, leaving the wagon and driver behind.



Since the Black Tavern was the halfway house between Boston and Hartford, very many famous men of those days were entertained there. Many guests stayed overnight, horses were changed, and food was always ready for guests. From the Tavern the stagecoach route went west across the Main Street (Center Road) near the corner of the church, down by the Foscett property, and on to West Dudley. Parts of the old stagecoach road are still visible and the old stone bridge, just beyond the Foscett property is just as sturdy as it was back then. Six years after the tavern was completed an ell was added to the east side of the building and it served as Hezekiah's workshop. An additional ell was added to the north end of the building in 1830 and it was used at various times as a general store and



Clarinda Healy Goodell



Becca Healy Williams

U.S. post office. The year Hezekiah finished the tavern, 1804, their first child was born and they named her Becca after her mother. A son, Hezekiah Jr., was born in 1809, and another daughter, Clarinda, was born in 1812. Things went along extremely well for a period of time – a flourishing tavern, a prosperous cabinet shop, and three young children – when, in 1817, at the age of 51, Hezekiah died. Becca continued to run the tavern and the record says that after a few years they were better off financially than when Hezekiah died. Unfortunately, in 1821, only four years after his father's death, Hezekiah Jr. died in a gun accident. He was only 12 years of age. In the meantime, young daughter Clarinda had been severely burned when her clothing caught fire from a candle. She lost use of her limbs and speech and it took her a long time to recover. About this time Becca ceased to operate the tavern and it became a family home. Travelers could still find lodging on "the Hill" as a hotel was built by the Larned family, at the top of Tanyard Road, directly across from the tavern.

Family records indicate that mother Becca was a great inspiration to her daughters. They both taught school for a while. The Main Street divided the village and a stone schoolhouse was built on either side of the street. The one on the west side, located on Healy Road, has been gone a long time, but the one on the east side, built in 1825, still stands. Town records state that it was voted to erect a stone schoolhouse on the land of Becca Healy. The first article was to see how cheaply a stone schoolhouse could be built. A committee of three, Col. Morris Larned, Col. William Hancock, and Daniel Dwight, was chosen and it was voted to raise \$400.00 to defray the expense of building the stone schoolhouse. The stone house on Tanyard Road adjacent to the tavern is that building.

To follow the daughters a bit farther, Becca, after teaching a few years, married in 1829, Albigeance Williams, the son of Rev. Abiel Williams, the Congregational minister on the Hill. At around this time the workshop was converted into an apartment and Becca and her husband lived for several years in this east (Tanyard) ell of the Black Tavern. When the family became too large to live in the ell, they later acquired some Healy land on Healy Road and lived the rest of their lives in the house. They would eventually have 7 children. This same house on Healy Road is presently owned and lived in by their descendants.



Albigeance Williams Daniel Goodell

The younger daughter, Clarinda, after teaching a few years, married an itinerant Methodist preacher, Warren Goodell. Her son, Charles, tells it thus—"One day in 1835 a young man with a fine physique and a kindly face hitched his horse to the sign post of the tavern and my John Alden met my Priscilla. He had never seen her before but a local preacher had told him that, "of many maids on many hilltops green and gray" she was the one girl for him. The same local preacher had told her that he knew a man who, devoted and true, of all men would satisfy her soul and make her happy. I suspect that the chairs were a long time in working their way across the room but make their way they did. Only a few months later there was a wedding in the Black Tavern and here in the home where she was born she began a wedded life that was to last for more than 50 years. Here in the Black Tavern their 5 sons were born and 4 of them grew up to pass the 70th milestone. Grandmother Becca would live alternately with the families of her two daughters- 3 months each.

One interesting account of life at that time came from the notes of Dr. Charles Goodell, Clarinda's youngest son, when he recollects that his older brother Waldo says, "in 1842 our family lived in the middle tenement. Aunt Becca lived in the ell. Raised silkworms. Picked mulberry leaves, spread about the house, laid on cloth, worms inside cocoon. Cocoon put in hot water killing the worm then silk wound off."

It is interesting to follow these two daughters still farther. Becca remained a staunch Congregationalist, and since in those days women were not supposed to have a voice she proceeded to organize the Female Prayer Meeting Society so that they could be heard. Of her 7 children—one (George Champion) lost his life in the Civil War at Petersburg, VA, one (Abiel Peyson) served 3 years and then came home to run the family farm, and another, much to the delight of his parents, became Reverend John Williams of California.



Abiel Peyson Williams



George Champion Williams

In the meantime, Becca's sister Clarinda became a very staunch Methodist. Her husband was an itinerant Methodist preacher and she followed his work with a great deal of interest. When it became evident that there were enough Methodists in the area to warrant a church she and her husband donated the land for it just beyond and to the north of the Black Tavern. Of her 5 children, like her sister Becca's family, two would also serve in the Civil War. Edwin Davis would lose his right leg as a result of a wound received at Cold Harbor, VA, and Anson Penniman would serve three years. Both would return home from the war to take up the same trade as their father and became active in the shoe making industry. Like her sister Becca's youngest, Dr Charles Goodell, the youngest son of Clarinda and her



Edwin Davis Goodell



Anson Penniman Goodell

husband Warren, also became a minister. He became a very well known minister and pastor of one of the largest Methodist congregation of that time, the Hanson Place Church in Brooklyn, NY. and was a famous radio preacher known as "The Shepard of the Air." He was the author of several books. One of his books, Black Tavern Tales, records much of the life beat of the Tavern as no one else could. He grew up there and loved it as a home. To quote a

little section of his notes, “In the early 1840’s there was bed in the kitchen, father worked on shoe bench in one corner, mother worked at a spinning wheel on the other side of the room—it was a case of roast one side and freeze the other. Warming pans were used to warm the beds. Anson and Edwin (two small children) slept in what had been the china closet in Tavern Days (It is as large as a small room and opened into the kitchen where the big fireplace was). In later years we boys usually pared apples or popped corn in the fireplace.”



In the following passage, Dr. Goodell expresses his feelings about the company they had, and the times, which they spent around the fireplace.

“There is a larger debt I can never pay to that company who used to sit with me around the fireplace in the Black Tavern in my childhood and youth. All these our hearts remember well- my father and mother, my brothers and cousins, and that cyclopedia of history, tradition, and folklore, Aunt Becca. I wave the wand of memory and we are all around the fireplace once more. The aroma of popcorn is in the air. There are pies and doughnuts from the pantry, and on the cellar stairs are the feet of those who bring us nuts and apples and cider from barrel and cask. The hickory and white birch are aflame in the great fireplace. We make a large circle and the wise blind man and the patient Darnman take their places with us around the hearth. There is fun and frolic by young and old, and wise saws and Yankee repartee and ancient oracle, and when grandfather’s clock in the corner strikes nine, my father says that an evening so full of fun and frolic might well, be closed with a word of thanks to Him who is the Giver of every good and perfect gift. So we sing the doxology and Father bows his gray head and thanks God for earthly fellowship, and prays that we may all be present one day around the table of our Lord and keep Holy Day in our father’s house! It is the same picture which Burns paints in his ‘Cotter’s Saturday Night’:

*“Then, kneeling down, to heaven’s eternal king
The saint, the father, and the husband prays:
Hope springs ‘exulting on triumphant wing;
And thus they all shall meet in future days:
There ever bask in uncreated rays,
No more to sigh, or shed the bitter tear,
Together hymning their Creator’s praise,
In such society, yet still so dear,
While circling times moves round in an eternal sphere.’*

Such are the memories, which cluster around the fireplace in the old Black Tavern. May coming generations throughout New England, and all over our broad land, preserve and perpetuate such traditions of home and pass them on to generations yet unborn.”

Can’t you imagine the lively, probably at times, heated discussions that took place between the staunch Congregationalists and the just as staunch Methodists?

The Black Tavern is one of the few historic buildings we have on the Hill. A survey of Dudley Historical Resources by American Landmarks in 1981 stressed that it is the finest surviving Georgian example there and “gives an irreplaceable nobility to Dudley Hill and Nichols College campus.” In addition to the historical significance of the building it reflects the characters and lives of the people. For over 200 years it has stood there on the corner of Tanyard Road, directly across from the town common and the church. What changes it has seen! Stagecoaches coming and going, militia men training on the common, townspeople coming to pick up their mail and to shop at the store. Over

the years it has seen furniture made and sold by Hezekiah Healy, a shoe shop run by Warren Goodell, harness making and the raising of silk worms. And imagine the activity on town meeting day when the men gathered for an all day meeting. How the horses and carriage must have collected. The church was the meetinghouse in those days, and all town meetings were held there. Imagine the voters that must have taken a break and gathered at the Tavern for refreshment and a chance to discuss the town business. Imagine the church people gathering at the Tavern between morning and afternoon session. With no heat in the church the warmth of the Tavern fireplaces must have been more welcome than food.

During the early days of the Tavern Dudley was growing fast. It was a thriving agricultural community. The Boston-Hartford stage came and went regularly. The town was busy enough to see another hotel built on the opposite corner of Tanyard Road. The tannery down the road was thriving. Nichols Academy was established and grew to be a highly recognized school. Day students came from Oxford, Thompson, Charlton, and Woodstock. Students coming from farther away found lodging in local homes or at the academy boarding house. Three dollars a week would cover room and board. Tuition was six dollars a term. Three churches were located on the Hill, Congregational, Methodist and Universalist. There were even stagecoach day trips from surrounding towns, one such started at Vernon Stiles Inn in Thompson, CT, stopped for a brief rest at Brick End Tavern, next to where Hubbard Hospital is now located, and then to the Black Tavern where the passengers could rest, get refreshment, and then have some time to shop, visit friends, and otherwise visit this very busy center. Hezekiah Conant wrote of his hometown thusly: “ I can remember when Dudley was a busy place with two stores selling dry goods and hardware, and serving as saloons, banks, brokerages, produce markets, military and police headquarters. There was a hotel entertaining man and beast. The Boston and Hartford stagecoach stopped there with the U.S. Mail, to change horses and feed its passengers. There were military companies, two blacksmith shops, the Elwell Furniture Factory, a hat factory, the Horn or Tufts Woolen Factory. There were military musters and Independence celebrations”



Dudley Hill looking north from the Black Tavern

Then, in 1832, the town of Webster was incorporated, taking a large portion of land and people from Dudley. The center of population began to shift away from the Hill. Industries grew in other areas attracting people away. By 1885 the village green was described as covered with weeds. The Academy had poor equipment and the Universalist church had been converted into classrooms and the Methodist church had closed. Hezekiah Conant, by then a prominent industrialist from Rhode Island became very disturbed by conditions in his hometown. It was a place he dearly loved. He began a revitalization program, building and donating four buildings, Conant Library and Observatory (now Nichols College Chapel), The Academy building, the Inn (now Conant Hall), and Conant



Memorial Church. The Inn served as a boarding house for the Academy students and later as a vacation spot for guests from surrounding cities. The Tavern is one of the few places that have remained unchanged through the endless changes around it. Until Nichols College bought the Tavern in 1946 it remained in the Healy family. Built and lived in by Hezekiah and Becca Healy, followed by daughter Clarinda and husband Warren Goodell, followed by their son Dr. Charles Goodell and family who loved it as their summer home. It is a symbol of our history from stagecoach days to today's planes and satellites and inspires valuable recollections of innumerable gatherings of people from our history: weary travelers being refreshed while exchanging many a story, militia men enjoying food and dancing after training sessions, church people enjoying the warmth on a wintry Sunday as they discuss (argue?) about the long morning session, town voters taking a break on town meeting day, scholars and teachers from the Academy engaging in learned conversation, and perhaps the most important of all, the Tavern was a home where early New England life was lived.

Nichols College used the building for over thirty years until in 1980 the College announced plans to demolish it. Not wanting to see this happen a group began to meet to discuss ways to save it. The group incorporated under the name of "Black Tavern Historical Society of Dudley", and received title to the building on April 13, 1984. They made applications to have the building registered on the State and National Historic Register and this was finalized on May 9, 1985. Work on restoring the building began at once with volunteer labor and donated material. Various fundraisers along with memorial gifts, and financial donations from members and friends supported the effort. After seven years of incredible effort on the part of many volunteers the restoration was completed and the building was officially open to the public with a celebration on May 6, 1991. Today the Tavern is used as a repository of historical artifacts and provides a meeting place for small groups and functions, as well as a venue where tours may be given in order to provide the public with a glimpse of what 19th century life was like on Dudley Hill.

The Black Tavern Barn was constructed sometime during the early 19th century and was the property of Hezekiah Healy, the builder of the Black Tavern. After Hezekiah's death, his wife, Becca, and two daughters, Clarinda and Becca, inherited the barn along with the rest of his estate. Around 1980, Nichols College converted the old barn and adjacent structure "the annex" into housing for students, and the building continued in this capacity until 2000. During the winter of 2001 it became apparent that the college intended to remove the building for expansion. At that point, the Black Tavern Historical Society once again approached the college and requested that the college sell the property to the society. After negotiations, the barn and the land surrounding it were purchased from Nichols College for \$17,000.00 on May 10, of 2002. In 2003 the society began the restoration process in phases over the next nine years as funding became available. To begin with, the interior of the barn was stripped of non-original material exposing the post and beam construction. During the next few years the front stone foundation and rotted sills were replaced, drainage problems corrected, and the grounds regraded to alleviate the water problems that contributed to the sill failure. In 2006 members of the society hand hewed and installed two tie beams to stabilize the structure. In 2007 work began on the barn restoration in earnest as a contractor was hired to replace the entire structural floor framing including main supporting beams, sills and

floor joists. Upon completion of this work, members began installing floorboards that were purchased with the funds raised by the 3rd graders. In each of the following years, the west, north, and east sides of the barn were reconstructed. At this point the barn was placed on the National Register of Historic Places and our first function in the completed barn was held in 2011. Finally, in the in the spring of 2012 the restoration of the barn and annex was completed with the reconstruction of the east and south walls of the “annex”.

Self-Guided Tour of the Black Tavern

1. Front Porch

As you begin your tour of the Tavern we start on the front porch. It is important to note that when originally built, the Tavern had no porch. Both the front and south porches were added by the builder's grandson about 1890, a reflection of the life in those times when so many buildings had a porch - piazza - veranda - where families gathered to sit and rock and rest and visit after the work of the day. Rebuilding of the porch was the first step when the Tavern renovation began in June 1984.



Photo taken prior to 1890. Note no front porch.

Today, in an attempt to bring back the leisurely evenings of by-gone eras, the current caretakers of the Tavern have instituted "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. Feel free to join us any summer Wednesday if the idea moves you.

Entering the main door with the lovely overhead glass surround and the numerals 1804 we turn to the right and enter into our present meeting room.

2. Meeting Room Parlor / Keeping Room

As you enter the present day meeting room you must use your imagination to see that this was most likely divided into two rooms (note the pattern of the floorboards and the protrusions in the walls where the partition once was.) The front part of the room was most likely the **Parlor**. It is easy to imagine travelers gathered in this room around the fireplace resting, exchanging news, and stories of their travels and warming up. This room would most likely have been used predominantly by the ladies, as they would not have frequented the Taproom / Barroom located to the opposite side of the entranceway.

The back part of this room was most likely a **Keeping room**. A keeping room is an area just off the kitchen of a home. Keeping rooms date back to Colonial times when families would sleep in that area when the rest of the house was cold. Since the area could be heated by the kitchen fireplace, it often provided the only heated place in the house. The grown-ups and the babies slept in the Keeping Room, while the older children slept upstairs.

When the original building was built in 1804 and before the addition of the east ell in 1810 there was a door in the rear left corner of this room to the outside of the building.

Points of interest in this room:

- Painting by Dudley artist Lynn Cook showing how the Tavern would have appeared when it was painted black.
- Sideboard- ca 1826, a wedding present for Clarinda Goodell.
- Victorian Card Table
- Healy family Mourning Picture.
- Example of original stenciling. (*examples of stenciling can be seen in several other rooms of the house.*)

Mr. Howard, who came over with Samuel Slater to set up his first cotton mill, brought these items from England. Later, Mr. Howard decided to return to England and dispose of his furniture, part of which Becca bought for her daughter Clarinda to begin housekeeping.

- Fireplace- Here is the first one of 6 fireplaces which all open into the central chimney.
- Portrait of Charles L. Goodell

3.Hearth Room (Kitchen)

As we enter the Hearth Room we enter into what would have been the kitchen. This room would have been the heart of the Goodell family home where most of the family activity would have taken place. Several of Anson Goodell's Civil War letters reflected on the goings on in this room as his mother prepared meals for past Thanksgiving feasts.

Points of interest in the hearth room (or kitchen):

- Fireplace- We can still see the huge fireplace where meals were prepared. This fireplace, which served as the cooking area, anchors the 12 foot square central chimney into which six of the houses' nine fireplaces open. In this fireplace one was able to burn 4-foot long firewood.
- Beehive oven- To the right of the fireplace we see the beehive oven in which fires were built in order to get enough heat to bake cakes, pies and loaves of bread that were shoved inside with a big wooden shovel and retrieved the same way
- Over the mantel- Wooden door with inscription from "Snowbound", by John Greenleaf Whittier, given to Dr. Charles Goodell by a parishioner from Brooklyn.

***"Sit with me by the homestead hearth
And stretch the hands of memory forth
To warm them by the wood fire's glow."***

- Andirons and Fireplace tools- To the left of the fireplace hang the large fireplace tools used to manage the cooking fires in the large fireplace. These are original to the Tavern.
- Loggerhead- To the right of the fireplace hangs a loggerhead. This was a metal rod heated by placing it in the fireplace coals for the purpose of making "flip." American flip was made in a great pewter mug or earthen pitcher filled two-thirds full of strong beer; sweetened with sugar, molasses, or dried pumpkin, according to individual taste or capabilities; and flavored with "a dash"--about a gill--of New England rum. Into this mixture was thrust and stirred a red-hot loggerhead, made of iron and shaped like a poker, and the seething iron made the liquor foam and bubble and mantle high, and gave it the burnt, bitter taste so dearly loved.
- Menard Painting- Hanging over one of the tables is a painting of "Old Dudley Hill" by Thomas Menard. Matted prints depicting old Dudley Hill with the Black Tavern & Barn, the Congregational Church and the Dudley Grange are available for sale here at the Tavern.
- 19th Century Artifacts- Various cooking, lighting and implements used in 19th century living are displayed throughout the Hearth Room.
- Tables- Two reproduction tavern tables were constructed on site with leftover barn flooring that was purchased with proceeds from the Dudley Elementary schoolchildren's penny drive.
- As we are about to exit this room we pass by a door on the right leading to the cellar. Although this is a restricted area, if one were to enter and go downstairs we

can still see the remnants of the original summer kitchen. Cooking on an open-hearth fireplace in the main kitchen would have been extremely hot in the summer time and this was a cooler area where food would have been prepared during the hot summer months. This would also have been an area where food supplies such as barrels of apples, cider, salt pork, smoked meats etc. would have been stored and where firewood would have been stacked in preparation for the long winter months.

4. Tap Room (Bar Room)

This room saw more activity than all the others. It was in here where weary male travelers would rest and talk, over their “mug of flip”, while waiting for the stagecoach to arrive or leave, or churchgoers would warm up between Sunday services, or where voters from town meeting took a break and gathered for refreshments while discussing town business or maybe even where militia men would gather after their training on the common across the street. Imagine the lively discussions that took place here.

Points of interest in this room:

- Fireplace- Although now bricked over, this fireplace provided heat on cold winter evenings. Now painted on the fireplace mantel is an enlarged reproduction signature of the builder Hezekiah Healy.
- Bar- Notice above the bar area the gate or bars that run to the ceiling. Another similar gate with bars would have been installed or lowered into place beneath these bars to secure the alcoholic spirits from the guests overnight. It is from these bars that the modern term barroom derives.
- Writing implements- On a table in the front corner of the room are writing implements of the period. Commonly in old taverns, guests would frequently write letters to be left with the proprietor to be picked up by the next stagecoach to be delivered.
- Billboard- On the billboard would be placed notices of stagecoach schedules, broadsides, advertising and news of the day. Notice- located on our billboard is a reproduction broadside of a stagecoach schedule that ran from Dudley to Boston. See how long it took to make the trip.
- Pantry area- As you sit in the Tap Room one can see through the bar area to what is today our modern kitchen. Back in the day this would have been the pantry and china closet. Imagine a large area where they would store barrels of flour, and sugar among the many other supplies needed to run a busy tavern and home combined.
- Pipe Box- The Tavern Pipe Box was an everyday item in Colonial America. Originally, these boxes held inexpensive long-stemmed clay pipes that the tavern owner provided; patrons would enjoy a pipe with friends and, when finished, break off the used tip of the mouthpiece and return the pipe to the box.
- Tall Clock built by Hezekiah Healy
- Deacons bench.
- Tavern Sign- A reproduction of the original sign that hung in front of the Black Tavern then known as H. Healy's Inn
- Plates from Dudley Inn.

5. Museum Room (South)

The present day Museum Room is located in the north ell that was added to the Tavern in 1830. For periods during the 19th century it served as both a post office and general store. For a time the store was operated by Moses Barnes. In the store and Post Office a gentleman by the name of Zeb Morris had a corner where he did custom harness work. Dr. Goodell, in his notes, stated that his father Warren Goodell kept the store before Barnes and after Barnes left.

Points of interest in this room: (South)

- The display case in this room contains many artifacts from the Healy family including Becca Healy's mechanical pencil. Two particularly interesting items are a Civil War sword manufactured by the Leland Bros of Charlton, MA. The factory was located at the end of Pierpont Rd., in the Lelandville section of Charlton, near the intersection of Partridge Hill Rd; and what is arguably one of the Tavern's most cherished possessions, Becca Healy's "wandering teapot."

The story of the "Wandering Teapot"

Becca already had some fine china that she had bought in Boston as well as some that had come down from her family but she wanted something special and a set was ordered from London. Evidently it caused quite a stir in town when it was learned that Becca Healy was too good to buy crockery from the local store or even from Boston, but had sent her order to London. A special order it was too! There were to be two teapots. On one side of the teapot to be printed in letters large enough to read easily the name of Becca Healy. On the other side was to be the map of the United States (*At that time it extended only to the Louisiana Purchase*), on one side of the map a likeness of George Washington, on the other side of the map a likeness of Benjamin Franklin and hovering over it all what looks like an angel. In due time the order was filled and shipped in an English boat but by that time the war of 1812 had broken out. As the boat neared the New England coast the English ship with the tea set on it was taken over by Yankee Privateers and taken into Boston Harbor as a prize. There all the ship's goods including Becca's crockery were sold to the highest bidder. The tea set happened to be bought by a Worcester merchant. When he discovered the two teapots with a name on them he thought no one would buy them so he stored them away on a top shelf. By some chance, and some time later Becca Healy's brother was in the store and spotted the teapots. Seeing the familiar name, he realized at once what had happened, bought the teapots, and presented them to his sister in the dining room of the Tavern where they remained proudly displayed as long as she lived. But their wanderings did not cease there—one went to each of her daughters. The one that went to Becca went on to her son, Rev. John Williams and went with him from Marblehead to Kansas City to California. It is now the property of his granddaughter in Colorado—to go next to her daughter in Iowa. At this writing we believe it is New Mexico, owned by Mary Leigh Healy Bacon who donates to the Tavern each year. The teapot that went to daughter Clarinda and her husband stayed in the Tavern through 1946 since Clarinda and her husband lived in the Tavern their entire lives and their son, Dr. Charles Goodell kept the Tavern as his summer home and there the teapot was allowed to remain. When the college obtained the Tavern in 1946 the teapot again began to wander. We lost all, track of it—and even lost touch with the entire Goodell family. Knowing that some of them lived in Hartford Ct. Marion Moseley began writing letters explaining her double reason for writing—her family connection and her feelings that they might be interested in doings at the Tavern. Shortly thereafter she received a letter from the widow of Earl Goodell, one of Dr. Goodell's sons. She told of how the teapot was in her home and her wish that it be returned to its originally intended home, The Black Tavern! So the teapot has wandered back to the Black Tavern once again.

- Painting of an early scene of Dudley from Pleasant Street looking east to the Slater south village mills.
- Seat (*part of wedding gift furniture which Becca bought for her daughter Clarinda.*)

5. Museum Room

(North)

Points of interest in this room: (North)

- Cobbler's Bench with tools-donated by Andrew Bates
(Includes tools, shoes of the period, shoe last, and stogies to secure sole to shoe uppers.)
- An 1880 sampler with record of the Marsh family including a photo in the Marsh home.
- Various "then and now" photos of Dudley Hill.
- The display case in this room contains the inkwell set used when the deed was transferred from Nichols College to the Black Tavern Historical Society, stereopticon and slides, autograph books, hatpins, songbooks, kitchen implements, and silkworm cocoons.
- China closet *(part of wedding gift furniture which Becca bought for her daughter Clarinda.)*
The china closet contains Dudley Hill souvenir dishes, and Hezekiah and Becca Healy's best china service with which they began housekeeping in 1798.

At this point the tour will progress to the second floor of the tavern. We access the second floor by climbing the stairway at the front hallway. As we climb the stairs you can see a small door in the wall. Looking in you can see several feet in front of you the dome or the back of the kitchen beehive oven. Immediately below, deep down to the cellar level was the liquor well where the chiest were kept. The bottles had stoppers with hooks so that they could be fished with wires when the occasion demanded. At the top of the stairs the room to the left was the dance hall or ballroom.

6. Ballroom

(Dance Hall)

This room was where many festivities were held. When dances or functions were held in this room a swinging partition fastened to the ceiling was raised to make a larger room. Captain Hezekiah Healy, after training the Militia on the common across the street, would end each training session with a dinner and dance. Hezekiah was known as a genial storyteller and a generous host. As expressed by one of those who had been there, "Care spread its wings and took a long vacation when Hezekiah Healy was the story teller. When the room was needed for sleeping quarters the partition was lowered making two rooms. We can still see the pintles where the hinges for these partitions were secured on the back of the beam that runs across the center of the room.

Points of interest in this room:

- Melodeon - *A melodeon (also known as a cabinet organ or American organ) is a type of 19th century reed organ with a foot-operated vacuum bellows, and a piano keyboard. It differs from the related harmonium, which uses a pressure bellows. Melodeons were manufactured in the United States sometime after 1812 until the Civil War era.*
- Tall Clock with wooden gears. *(date on gears states that clockworks were made in the 1700's)*

- Church Pew from Methodist Church located north of the Black Tavern. (*Note photo of church and Tavern*)
- Loom and 2 types of spinning wheels. These were typical of items used in cottage industries of the time.
- Yarn winders.
- Door to nowhere. The door you see in the left hand corner of the room was uncovered during the restoration in the 1980's. It was most likely an exit to the house prior to the addition of the east ell in 1810.

7.Childrens Bedroom

This is the room that the Tavern uses to depict what life was like for children of the 19th century.

Points of interest in this room:

- High Chair.
- Childs bed.
- Children's shoes.
- Doll.
- Child's Carriage.
- Goddard family cradle.
- Childs crib.
- Children's christening outfits.
- Children's rocking chairs.
- 1849 Parlor Stove (*found in Tavern*)
- School desk with inkwell.
- Children's toys.

8.Civil War Room

At the time of Healy's Inn this room would have been one of the bedrooms. Today, we use this room to tell the story about 4 men who were born and lived in the Black Tavern and left to serve in the Union Army during the Civil War from 1861 - 1865. Much of the record we have about their service is the result of nearly 75 letters written by these men. These letters are presently in the Black tavern archives as a result of a gift of the letters by descendants of the Goodell and Williams families.

For a time Tavern builder Hezekiah Healy's two daughters, Clarinda, who would marry Methodist minister Warren Goodell, and Becca, who would marry Albigen Williams the son of Priest Williams the Congregational minister, would all live at the Black Tavern as they started their families. Photos of each of them are shown in the display.

Clarinda and Warren had 5 children, Warren Waldo born in 1837, Anson Penniman born in 1839, Edwin Davis born in 1842, Charles Henry born in 1845 and died in 1849, and Charles Lee Roy born in 1854. Anson and his brother Edwin served with the 25th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment during the Civil War.

Becca and Albigen had 7 children, Sally Loretta, born in 1831, Hezekiah Waldo, born in 1833, George Champion, born in 1836, Abiel Peyson, born in 1838, Samuel Sewall,

born in 1841, John Healy, born in 1843, and Albert Cargill, born in 1847. Abiel like his cousins Anson and Edwin also served in the 25th Massachusetts while Abiel's brother George Champion served in the 1st Massachusetts Heavy Artillery Regiment.

The fate of each of the four "Black Tavern boys" was quite different. Anson was frequently sick as a result of poor food and water, and living conditions in camp. Although spending much time in hospitals in North Carolina he survived the war. His brother Edwin who seemed to have a stronger constitution and was not as frequently sick was wounded in the leg during a charge at Cold Harbor Virginia and as a result had his leg amputated. Abiel Williams seemed to be the most fortunate as he served throughout the course of the war without being wounded and rose to the rank of sergeant. Unfortunately, Abiel's brother, George Champion Williams, the older of the four boys and the last of them to enlist, and most probably the one least suited to army life, would die of wounds received at Petersburg Virginia.

All four of these American heroes were born and lived here at the Tavern for a period of time. We now know of their service because Anson had the presence of mind to ask his mother Clarinda to save the letters that he would send home. Likewise, Becca would do the same to the letters sent by Abiel and we now have in the Tavern's collection nearly 75 letters written by these two men that we use to keep the memory of their sacrifice for our nation fresh in the minds of all who visit the Tavern. These letters are presently in the Black Tavern archives as a result of a gift of the letters by the descendants of the Goodell and Williams families.

Upon their return home after the war Anson and Edwin would eventually settle in the Brookfields where they would take up the trade of shoe workers a trade that they obviously learned from their father Warren who had a shoe shop of his own next door in the building located between the barn and the tavern. Abiel would return to Dudley and work the farm on Healy Road that to this day still remains in the Williams family. Unfortunately his brother George Champion would return home "wrapped in the fold of the flag that he went to defend" only to be laid to rest in Village cemetery down the street from the Tavern.

Additional displays in this room record the service of all men of Dudley who served in the Civil War.

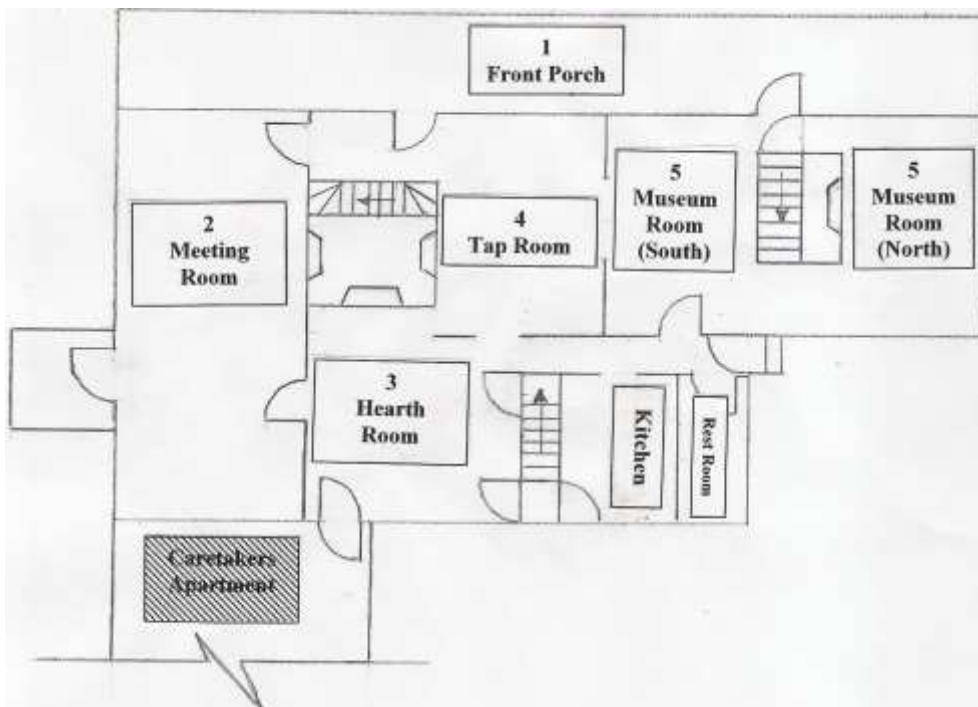
Points of interest in this room:

- Display on Civil War letter of Anson & Edwin Goodell and Abiel & George Williams including transcribed letters and photos of the Goodells and Williams'.
- Secretary desk with period newspapers and 25th Massachusetts Regimental History.
- Descriptive Book of Nathaniel Lyons GAR Post 61 of Webster.
- Recruitment Poster of the 15th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment.
- Secretary desk with reproduction period letter writing artifacts.
- Authentic Civil War bullets and artillery projectiles.
- Reproduction Civil War uniforms and flags.
- Display on Dudley in the Civil War including the records of every man who served from Dudley in the Civil War.

*Note- Although this is the end of the Black Tavern tour, there are additional areas of the Tavern that are not yet completed and they are **not open to the public**. The small door on the northeast corner of this room (Civil War Room) leads through a narrow (24 inch) corridor to two additional bedrooms. There is also a huge attic where the central chimney is much in evidence as it is in the cellar.*

As you leave the Tavern and go outside be sure to notice the building between the barn and Tavern that was moved in sometime after the barn was built circa 1825. It probably, at one time, served as a carriage house and was later used as Warren Goodell's shoe shop for a period of time during the mid 19th century. The barn, which was purchased by Nichols College in the mid 20th century and converted into a dormitory, has since been repurchased by the Black Tavern Historical Society and presently we are about 90% along into converting it back into our barn.

Black Tavern Tour Map (1st Floor)



Black Tavern Tour Map (2ndFloor)

