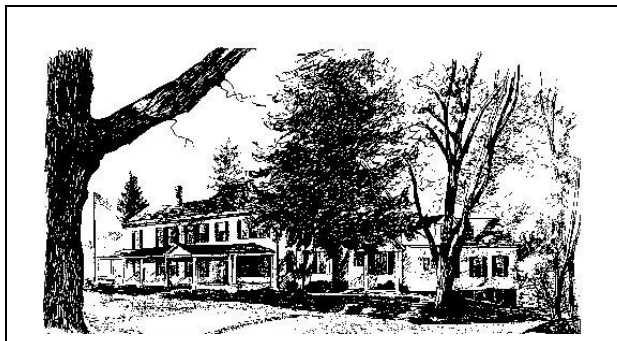




The Black Tavern

Historical Society of Dudley

Dudley Hill P.O. Box 143

Dudley, Massachusetts 01571

<http://www.theblacktavern.com/>

Tel. 508-943-8782

Newsletter January 2018

Board of Directors

Officers

Chairman: Linda Bazinet
Vice-Chair: Robert Ducharme
Treasurer: William Moseley
Clerk: Linda Branniff

Members of the Board

Tom Boyd
Michael Branniff
Ken Butkiewicz
Carolyn Earp
Joy Glynn
Marc Moseley
Sandy Peterson
David Proulx
Nancy Roy
Scott Roy

Thank You

As I take over the task of editing the newsletter once again, I would like to thank Linda Branniff who had volunteered to put together the newsletter over the past 6 years, allowing me to take a break. During my hiatus, Linda has done a great job keeping our membership up to date on all the happenings here at the Tavern and we thank her for a job well done.

Bob Ducharme

Events for 2018

(All programs held at 7 P.M. at the Tavern unless otherwise specified, with light refreshments to follow.)

March 15: "Dudley Hill's 1805 House."

April 19: "The Creation of Quabbin Reservoir."

May 5: Annual Yard Sale, 8 A.M. to 2 P.M.

May 17: "Golden Age of Radio," presented by Patricia Perry.

June 8: Annual Third Grade Visit.

June 21: Grange Strawberry Festival & Tavern Tours. 4 P.M.

September 20: "I Now Pronounce You Lucy Stone." Presented by Judith Kalaora.

October 6: Black Tavern Craft Fair, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. Rain or Shine.

October 18: "Haunted New England" with Tom D'Agostino.

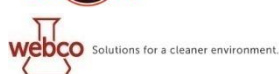
November 15: "Early 19th Century Dance."

Message from the Chair

2018 WOW! Where does the time go? This is my 10th "Letter From The Chair" (I counted). I had thought last year would be my last after 9 years as chair of the Board of Directors, but in June the board saw fit to elect me to another 3-year term. So once again, due to the efforts of a lot of people, I am pleased to report the Tavern is doing well. In order to maintain the Tavern, every year we try to make a major improvement. This past year it was the renovation of the museum room. This is the room that houses our historical artifacts. Thanks once again to a grant from The Janet Malser Humanities Trust we were able to remove the peeling wallpaper & replace large cumbersome display cases. Hugh Cushing painted the walls and new lighted display cabinets were purchased. Now, as people go through the room, their comments of "I never saw that before" are testament to what paint, light and uncluttering can do. So if you are on the Hill, do stop in to take a look. If Bob is around he'd be pleased to give you a tour.

As a part of Dudley Hill, in August we were pleased to participate with the Dudley Historic Commission in the dedication of the Andersonville Monument on the Dudley Town Common across

Please support our program sponsors



Center Road from the Tavern. This is the Heart of Dudley and essentially where it all began. The monument is dedicated to 6 Dudley soldiers, "boys," who were imprisoned at Andersonville Prison during the Civil War. The side facing the road has "Dudley Town Common" inscribed on it. Also, signage showing what the Common would have looked like in the late 1800's was installed in the newly created paved surround for the new monument, flagpole and Founding Families monument. With these in place there is no question that this is where Dudley began.

In keeping with the look of the early Tavern, Bob Grzyb of Dudley made and installed a new flagpole for us! We now have a historically correct flagpole that can be lowered to change the flag (always a problem) or in windy weather. We are grateful to Bob for this wonderful addition and gift.

What would my letter be without noting our fundraising efforts? We once again held a very successful Yard Sale in May. As we sent our unsold articles off with the Boy Scouts for their yard sale I said "no more yard sales." But somehow in a moment of weakness I was convinced to do one more. So in May we will hold Yard Sale #10. If you have any goodies you would like to donate, give a board member a call. We can take things at any time and store them in the barn. PLEASE NO CLOTHES OR ELECTRONICS. In June we held another successful "Upscale Barn Sale" in conjunction with the Grange Strawberry Festival. These two events have become popular to everyone involved. In October,

the 5th Annual Craft Fair was held. Wonders of wonders, no rain this year. We had a beautiful fall day on the Hill. Deborah Bazinet again donated a painted antique table for the raffle. This is another example of the many people who give to the success of the Tavern.

These events, plus Tavern rentals, help support the Tavern. However, your continued support with your membership renewal is vital to our ongoing success. So please get your membership renewal in and be a part of the Black Tavern Historical Society. We haven't increased our membership in years, so why not get friends and family to join too. If you aren't a member, you'll find a Membership Form at the end of this newsletter. Be sure to include your Email, so you can receive Bob's Tavern Updates.

A couple of traditions that we continued this year were the Third Grade visit (it's always fun to dress up and show the students what life was like in Dudley in the 1800's) and in October we hosted the Dudley Selectmen's meeting on the Hill. Once a year they come back to where it all began. We also continued our monthly programs. These are always informative and cover a wide range of topics, some to standing-room only crowds.

As the saying goes, "nothing ever stays the same." We had two resignations from the Board of Directors this year. Peg Pedersen, a long time board member and former treasurer, decided it was time to step down. Her long time wisdom to the board will be missed. Also, Sarah White resigned to give more time to family and other commitments. Both gave much to the Tavern and we wish

them well. Bob & Chris Ducharme have kept up their spectacular care of the Tavern and grounds. As I've said over and over, I couldn't do it without their support. But even they couldn't compete with an October wind and rain storm which took down a maple tree in front of the barn and annex. Fortunately, it missed the barn, annex and sign post.

As usual, I have rattled on too long. But I want to keep you up to date and informed on all that has gone on at the Tavern over the past year. I know I have forgotten to cover everything, but I tried. The bottom line is, the Tavern is here, doing well and with luck and work it will be for years to come. Have a wonderful 2018.

Linda Bazinet
Chair

BTHS Board of Directors Resignations

The Black Tavern's Board of Directors in June 2017 accepted with deep and sincere regrets the resignation of long-time Board member Margaret B. Pedersen. Peg is a charter member of the Black Tavern, joining in 1982. After joining the Board, she became our Treasurer for many, many years. Her fundraising for the Tavern was enthusiastic, tireless, and productive. Peg is nearing 90 and understandably feels it is time to step down. She will be very much missed by all. Thank you, Peg!

We also accepted with regret the resignation of Board member Sarah White who had to step down due to family commitments.

Caretakers Report

Wow! I can't believe another year has come to a close and it has been 15 years since I was appointed to the BTHS board of directors and Chris and I are starting our ninth year living here as caretakers of this very special little piece of heaven.

2017 began as most do with the normal winter maintenance chores of chasing down drafts and buttoning up the leaky spaces around doors and windows of this 213-year-old building in an attempt to minimize the annual heating cost of the Tavern. Along with these improvements we are always attempting to keep up with mother-nature with snow removal in order to keep the Tavern accessible to the numerous rental patrons that we have throughout the winter season.

In late February, with little snow on the ground, I did my spring walk-around the property (*early this year*) and assessed the needs of work to be done. As you would expect in New England, we then got snow. Although we did not expect any major expenditures this year several minor upgrades were needed such as replacing worn out lamp shades in the meeting room and replacing our tattered star spangled banner in front of the Tavern. Work needed to be done on both the Tavern and apartment furnaces. Rain gutters were installed on the back of the Tavern annex. Annual maintenance of yard machines was completed. With the advent of better weather, I was able to get into the workshop and construct a signboard to recognize our sponsors of our monthly programs. With the arrival of

warmer weather, the annual task of preparing the grounds and gardens commenced once again. If you are a homeowner you know that a well-groomed yard does not just happen but that lawns need to be thatched, raked, aerated, limed and fertilized and gardens need to be raked so that flowers can flourish.

In preparation to our Annual Third Grade visit, the Tavern needed a good cleaning. A great work-crew made a daunting task much easier and to Chris' delight Scott Roy and Bob Ducharme washed the widows on the first floor, some of which hadn't been cleaned since we've moved to the Tavern. (*Editor's note- we have 1400 panes of glass in the Tavern, so we didn't do them all.*)

Summer was upon us and the event of the year on Dudley Hill, the Annual Dudley Grange Strawberry Festival, saw the usual crowds on the hill. The Tavern was open to tours and as usual we had many folks come through and witness this remarkable building. Immediately after the festival, we began dismantling our museum room in preparation for the renovation project.

In mid-July the Tavern received some great publicity when Rod Lee interviewed both Linda Bazinet and myself for an article he wrote in the Yankee Shopper. By the end of that month, the renovation of our new museum room was completed and all the artifacts were placed in the new display cases. Thanks to the artistic placement of displays by Ed and Linda Bazinet the room looks beautiful. We no longer have to say you can't see the forest for the

trees, but everything has a place and is visible for all to appreciate. Shortly after the completion of the museum room, Robert W. Grzyb donated and installed a beautiful new flagpole for our front lawn. The old flagpole held the Black Tavern sign, so I repainted the sign and constructed a new sign-post for it and located it in the corner garden near Tanyard Rd.

As fall arrived we began reversing the spring procedures and started buttoning up the Tavern for the cold weather season. In the middle of this preparation an October windstorm blew down a very large old maple tree on the lawn in front of the barn. Thanks to another willing work-crew we were able to make short order of a large job and we now have enough firewood to feed the Tavern fireplaces for several years.

Bob Ducharme
Caretaker

Addition of New Artifacts to the Tavern

In addition to my normal maintenance duties here at the Tavern, I have taken on an additional responsibility of adding to and improving our collection of historical artifacts. With this in mind, late last year I decided to try to purchase original copies of the many books written by Rev. Charles Goodell, the last member of tavern builder Hezekiah Healy's family to live here at the Tavern. I was successful in finding and purchasing 17 books, several of them bearing the autograph of the author, and they are now on display in our renovated museum room. In addition to these books,

Will and Marc Moseley, both members of our board of directors, donated several original Civil War books written in the late 1800's that were the property of Abiel P. Williams, Will's great-grandfather and grandson of the Tavern builder. Among these books was an original copy of "Wearing the Blue", the regimental history of the 25th Massachusetts Infantry regiment. The same regiment that Abiel served in during the Civil War. In addition to these books that have been added to our collection, I have donated a complete set of "Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors and Marines in the Civil War" written by Adjutant General William Schooler and published in 1937. This set lists the names and record of every Massachusetts man who served in the Civil War. I have also donated "The Orations of General Charles Devens." Charles Devens was commander of the 15th Massachusetts Regiment, a Worcester County regiment in which many Dudley and Webster men served during the Civil War. Devens later went on to serve as Attorney General in the cabinet of Rutherford B. Hayes. In October, Joe Antos donated an original 1831 Harpers Ferry flintlock converted to percussion musket. This .69 caliber smoothbore musket was converted to percussion from an earlier 1816 flintlock model quite possibly at either the federal arsenal in Harpers Ferry or in Springfield. It probably was used during the Civil War and after the war it was most likely altered by its owner, who cut it down for use as a shotgun for hunting. The musket and all the donated books are now on display in our renovated museum room. In February, I applied to the National

Archives to secure copies of military and pension records of the four Civil War soldiers, Anson P. Goodell, Edwin D. Goodell, Abiel P. Williams, and George C. Williams, who were born and lived here at the Tavern. I have since received all these records and have placed them in appropriate binders and they are now on display in our Civil War room. Other additions that have been added to our collections over this past year and that may be found in the Civil War room are:

- 1861 hard pack knapsack. Several years ago Joe Antos gave me an original civil war hard-pack knapsack. It was in very bad shape. This past summer I restored it to reasonable and displayable condition and it is now on display in the Civil War room. A significant note relating to this knapsack is that it belonged to a member of the 11th New York Fire Zouaves. This regiment was led early on in the war by Elmer Ellsworth, a personal friend of Abraham Lincoln, who was the first officer killed in the Civil War.
- Several copies of the New York Herald newspapers from 1861-1863 and a large 40 lb. canon ball. Both donated by Chet Kulisa.
- A document honoring Winsor Corbin, a member of the 51st Massachusetts Regiment, for his service during the Civil War.

We thank all of those who have kindly donated these items that enhance our collection of artifacts. These items not only help us tell the story of the Tavern but also of our community in general during the 1800's. Should you or anyone you know of be willing to donate any artifact that would improve our mission of telling the story of early Dudley history, please contact any member of our board of directors.

Bob Ducharme



1831 Harpers Ferry Musket



Original Civil War Hard-pack Knapsack

-Tavern Tours-

Any time you are interested in scheduling a tour of the Tavern, contact Bob Ducharme at 508-943-8782. He would be most happy to take you around.

Museum Room Renovation

Each year the BTHS attempts to complete one major project to improve the maintenance of the Tavern. This past year we had decided to renovate the museum room, the only room on the first floor of the Tavern that had not been redone since the original restoration of the Tavern in the 1980's. The Museum Room is the primary area of the Tavern in which historical artifacts pertaining to the Tavern and local history are displayed.

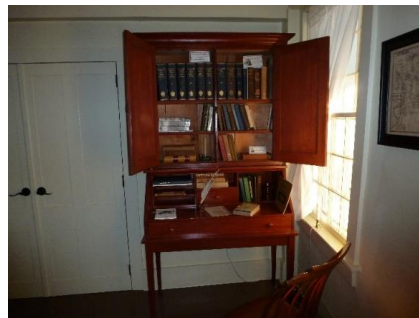
We began by assessing our needs for restoring the room. This included meeting with painter Hugh Cushing concerning decisions on repainting the room with period colors, researching with Wayfair concerning the purchase of new and appropriate cabinets to replace the antiquated ones we presently had, and meeting with Bateman Electric to assess what we would need for additional wiring to provide lighting to our new display cabinets.

After determining our needs, we applied for and were awarded a grant from the Janet Malser Humanities Trust. Work on the room began in July. Bateman Electric installed additional wiring and outlets that would allow us to use the lighting provided with the new display cabinets. Hugh Cushing and his grandkids removed all the old wallpaper and painted the entire room including walls, ceiling, floors, and woodwork. Bob Ducharme constructed a desk base for the secretary top found in the old room in which we would

display books and written material and with the assistance of our resident strongman, Daren Bazinet, we were able to move in the three new display cabinets purchased from Wayfair. Finally with all the furniture in place the time had come to return all the artifacts to the room. Thanks to the artistic placement of the artifacts by Ed and Linda Bazinet, the room looks beautiful and we no longer need to say we can't see the forest for the trees.

With this upgrade of our museum room, the entire interior historical displays of the Black Tavern have been brought up date so that visitors to the Tavern are now better able to view and understand life on Dudley Hill in the 19th century.

Bob Ducharme



New desk and Historical Tavern Books



One of the three new display cases in our recently renovated museum room

A New Flagpole

Over a year ago at the Antiques and Collectible sale in our barn, Ed Bazinet was approached by Robert

W. Grzyb who told Ed that he handcrafts wooden flagpoles and he offered to build a new one for the Black Tavern to replace our present metal pole that had fallen into disrepair. Long story short, Bob showed up at the Tavern one Saturday in July and commenced to cut down the old flagpole and dig out the enormous concrete base that held it up. It seems that over the past spring he had been constructing the new flagpole and it was ready to be put in place. Shortly thereafter, he returned to install the bracket that would hold the new flagpole in place by setting it into new concrete. A couple of weeks later after the new concrete had cured, Bob and his son returned with the brand new beautiful handcrafted flagpole. Bob, with the help of his son and Daren Bazinet, proceeded to install the new flagpole into its bracket and raise it into place. The new flagpole is so constructed to allow us to raise and lower the entire pole to service it in the event the pole or hardware holding the flag should need maintenance. The new flagpole looks awesome and the Black Tavern Historical Society will forever be indebted to Bob for his generous donation of his time and talent.

Bob Ducharme



Bob Grzyb and his son
finish installing our new flagpole

Black Tavern Scholarship

The BTHS will once again be offering a scholarship to one student of Shepherd Hill Regional High School who resides in either Dudley or Charlton. It will be in the amount of \$1,000. The recipient will be selected by a committee composed of BTHS Board of Directors members, with selection criteria to be weighed towards students with an interest in history.

Scholarship applications will be available in the SHRHS guidance department and should be remitted to the BTHS mailing address prior to the first Friday in April of this year.

Marc Moseley
Scholarship Committee

Membership

Once again the Black Tavern Membership Committee wishes to thank you for your generous support. Donations have enabled us to maintain the Tavern and to continually engage professional speakers, actors, and musicians for your entertainment. Our programs have been attended by wonderful crowds filling our barn and tavern to capacity.

We thank you for a very successful year. Please consider renewing your membership again for 2018.

Nancy Roy,
Membership Committee Chair

The Black Tavern is available for small function rentals. For information call Bob or Chris at 508-943-8782

5th Annual Black Tavern Craft Fair

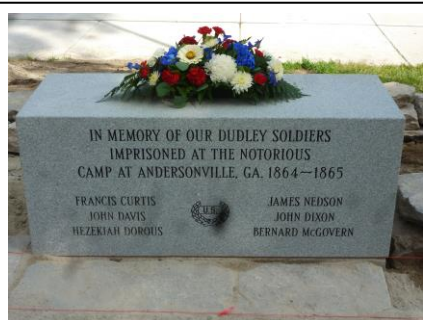
The 5th annual Black Tavern Craft Fair was held on Saturday, October 7, 2017 under ideal weather conditions. Nearly 30 crafters met visitors with a variety of handmade items such as doll clothes, jewelry, wood décor, honey, maple products, alpaca socks, quilted table runners, soaps and lotions, walking canes, and hand crafted greeting cards. Shepherd Hill National Honor Society students aided crafters by unloading bins and later retrieving lunches from the Grange's Apple Festival.



Crafters on the front lawn of the Black Tavern

If you know of someone who would like to participate with their crafts in 2018 (the first Saturday in October), email karenmoseley2134@gmail.com There is always room for more!

Karen Moseley
Craft Fair Chair



On August 12th the Dudley Historical Commission dedicated a monument on Dudley Common

to the six Dudley Boys who perished at the notorious Civil War prison at Andersonville, GA. The Black Tavern was open for tours throughout the day and the Grey Whisker Pickers finished up the afternoon with a concert in our barn.

In Appreciation of Our Business Sponsors

The Black Tavern Board of Directors is most grateful to all the businesses who generously donated to support our publicly offered programs. Your contributions not only allow us to continue to offer high quality events to the community, but they also support our mission to promote the rich heritage of Dudley and surrounding areas. We heartily thank:

bankHometown
Dippin' Donuts
Grey Ghost Auctions & Appraisals
O'Connor Insurance
Oxford Insurance
Stochaj Insurance
Universal Tag
Webco Corporation
Webster Five Cents Savings Bank

Review of 2017 Programs "Peddling Your Wares"

Hosted by Tom Boyd & Sarah White Tom Kelleher, historian and curator of Mechanical Arts at Old Sturbridge Village, presented "Peddling Your Wares: A Look at Itinerant Merchants in Early 19th Century New England" for our March 2017 program. The program took place in our main meeting room with a capacity crowd.

These travelling salesmen brought goods from around the world along with news, stories and

conversation to farm families who were not instantly tied to the outside world as people are today. He also included stories of merchants who would have traveled throughout the south central Worcester county area as a local history touch.

Tom Boyd

“Major Taylor, The Worcester Whirlwind”

Hosted by Marc and Will Moseley
Lynn Tolman spoke about the life of Marshal “Major” Taylor, a black cyclist and public figure who trained in Worcester, MA during the peak of his cycling career in the late 19th century, at a time when blacks were banned from competing in many forms of cycle racing in the United States. Aside from the worldwide fame he gained by accumulating palmares in cycling that included a national and world title, Taylor was also remembered for his grace and comportment off the bike, becoming well known for espousing that “life is too short for a man to hold bitterness in his heart.”

Marc Moseley

“The 1893 World’s Fair”

Hosted by Linda & Mike Branniff
On a very warm May evening in the Tavern’s barn, a goodly crowd was entertained by Pat Perry of Sneak Peek Productions. Dressed in period costume, she took the group on a tour of the 1893 Columbian Exposition (the Chicago World’s Fair). We learned of the wonderful inventions on display, all the way from the first widespread use of electricity to illuminate the fairgrounds to the introduction of chewing gum. It was an enjoyable and educational program.
Linda Branniff

Summer Concert

On a sunny summer afternoon, folks gathered to tap their feet to the spirited music of the “Grey Whisker Pickers.” Once again, the group regaled the audience with a medley of familiar tunes and a few of their own songs. Everyone seemed to enjoy this outdoor concert, generously sponsored by the Dudley Cultural Council.

Sandy Peterson



Grey Whisker Pickers in concert

“Eleanor Roosevelt “The First Lady of the World”

Hosted by
Bob Ducharme and Peg Pedersen

On the evening of September 21st in our Black Tavern barn which was filled to capacity, we were treated to a wonderful performance by Sheryl Faye as she presented a one woman show in which she portrayed Eleanor Roosevelt. Ms. Fay humanized Mrs. Roosevelt, by bringing the viewer through the stages of her life, and was still able to capture the strength and courage of Eleanor, which made her the “First Lady of the World”.
Bob Ducharme

“Panic in Connecticut, Accused Witches Have Their Say”

Hosted by
Nancy Roy and Carolyn Earp
Another enlightening program,
“Panic in Connecticut, Accused

Witches Have Their Say”, was held on October 19 when Virginia Wolf visited the barn. She talked about five women from Connecticut who were accused of witchcraft even before the trials in Salem Massachusetts. These women were brought to life expertly portrayed by Virginia through several costume changes as she set forth to explain their plight.

Following her presentation, Virginia interacted with several members of the audience to answer any questions they had. We look forward to having her return to the Tavern again.

Nancy Roy

“Revolution of 1774 – The Quest for Liberty”

Hosted by
Ken Butkiewicz & Dave Proulx
James Moran of the American Antiquarian Society presented “The Quest for Liberty 1774”. Massachusetts colony was in open revolt. The militia company from every town marched on their county courthouses and would not let the courts be seated. The largest group was from Worcester County, 4,622 militia from 37 towns were in open revolt. The crown had taken the position that the colonies were not Englishman, they were colonials. The crown suspended home rule and appointed Army Generals as Royal Governors and Parliament was given the right to levy taxes without representation from the colonies. The quest for liberty ended September 6th, 1783.

Ken Butkiewicz

**A special thank you to all the people
who volunteered to bake for our
monthly program meetings.**

Healy Society

Peggy Collins

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2017 Donations Black Tavern Historical Society

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.

In Memory Of:

Andrew P. Thompson by Patricia
Kelly
Melinda Healy Moffit Rose Garden
by John & Mary Leigh Bacon
Sarah Williams Banks by Barbara
Gurney

Corrections from 2017 newsletter:

In memory of James L. Conrad by
Carol Ann Eaton.
In memory of Sarah Williams
Banks by Barbara Gurney

In Kind Donations

Joe Antos
Darin & Deb Bazinet
Ed & Linda Bazinet
Bob & Chris Ducharme
Carolyn Earp
Robert W. Grzyb
Chet Kulisa
Marc Moseley
Will & Karen Moseley
Sandy Peterson & Mark Smith
Dave Proulx
Scott Roy

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BLACK TAVERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2018 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Your generous annual contribution helps support the Black Tavern Historical Society initiatives

Individual \$10 ____ Family \$15 ____ Patron \$50+ ____ Benefactor \$100+ ____ Healy Society \$500+ ____

Please correct your personal information, if necessary, to update our records for newsletters, announcements and mailings throughout the year:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Please check if you would like to:

Bake for a meeting _____ Help on workdays _____ Help at Third Grade Visit _____

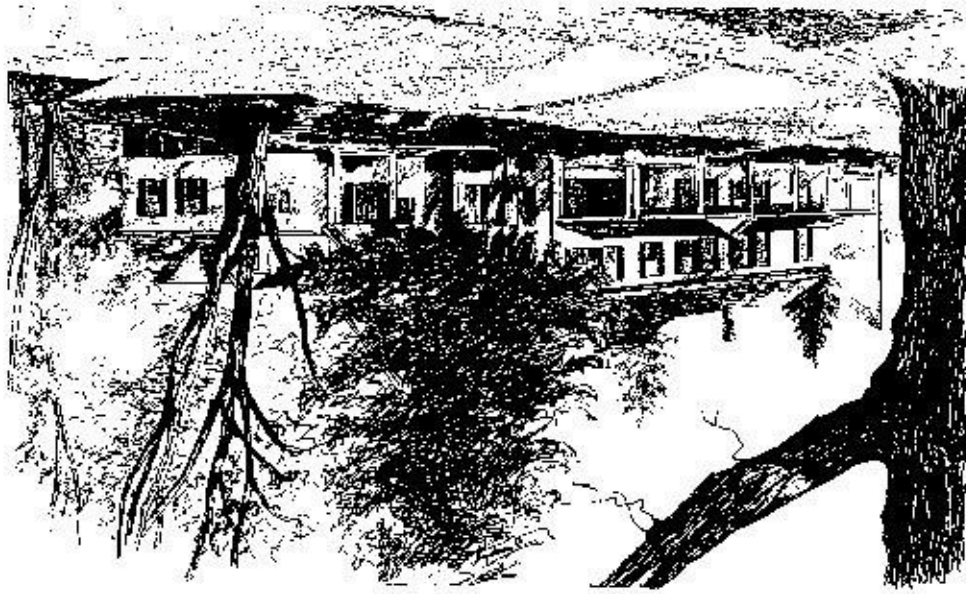
Checks payable to: **Black Tavern Historical Society**

Black Tavern Historical Society of Dudley, Inc. is a tax exempt 501 (c) (3) organization.

Please return **entire** form to:

Membership Committee
Black Tavern Historical Society
P O Box 143
Dudley, MA 01571

Visit us on the web at: ***www.theblacktavern.com***



Black Tavern Historical Society

P.O. Box 143

Dudley, MA 01571

Like to receive updates about the Tavern via email? Go to www.theblacktavern.com and then to "contact us" and let Bob Ducharme know your email address.