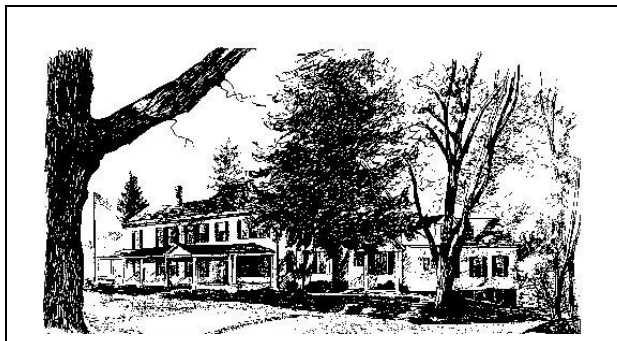




The Black Tavern

Historical Society of Dudley

Dudley Hill P.O. Box 143

Dudley, Massachusetts 01571

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

Tel. 508-943-8782

Newsletter January 2019

Board of Directors

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

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Michael Branniff
Ken Butkiewicz
Carolyn Earp
Joy Glynn
Robert Grzyb
Marc Moseley
Sandy Peterson
David Proulx
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Scott Roy

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Events for 2019

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

March 21: "The return of Bald Eagles to the area of the Last Green Valley". Presented by Ranger Bill Reid of the Last Green Valley.

April 18: "The influence of AO in the Region, in Science and Society". Presented by Dick Whitney, Executive Director of the Optical Heritage Museum.

May 16: "Life Aboard a Whaling Ship." A performance by Anne Barrett.

June 7: Annual Third Grade Visit.

June 20: Grange Strawberry Festival & Tavern Tours. 4 P.M.

September 19: "Abigail Adams". A performance by Sheryl Faye.

October 5: Black Tavern Craft Fair, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. Rain or Shine.

October 17: "Beck 'n' Call". A musical group from Woodstock CT.

November 21: "The Granite Kiss". Traditions and Techniques of Building New England Stone Walls. Presented by Kevin Gardner.

Message from the Chair

Another year has passed on Dudley Hill and at the Black Tavern. I would like to note that 2018 marked the 35th anniversary of the establishment of the Black Tavern Historical Society. If it wasn't for the foresight and dedication of

those early visionaries, it's doubtful the Black Tavern would still be standing. I'm pleased to report it's been a good year. This is the result of the many people who are committed to see that the Tavern remains a presence on the Hill to inform & inspire future generations. No one is more committed to the Tavern's success than our caretakers, Bob and Chris Ducharme, and their side kick & grandson, Tristan. Bob and Tris see to it that the grass is mowed, flowers planted, leaves raked & snow removed. So if you drive by and admire how nice the Tavern looks, it's thanks to Bob & Tris.

As you know it's not just the outward appearance that makes the Tavern so special, it's the continued work to raise money to cover all the necessary repairs and upkeep. Once again our Membership Chair, Nancy Roy, and her never ending work to track memberships, play a major role in our budget. So please renew your membership and get your friends & family to become members too.

Other efforts we undertook to enhance the budget were a successful yard sale in May and an antique sale in June. In October we held our 6th Annual Craft Fair. This event has grown every year, with crafters now on the Dudley Common as well as the Tavern

grounds. Thanks to a grant to the Dudley Historic Commission by the Janet Malser Humanities Trust, we had 7 crafters from Old Sturbridge Village demonstrating their early American crafts on the common. This was an added highlight, enjoyed by all, especially the kids. Once again in conjunction with the Craft Fair, we held a raffle of a hand painted table, done and donated by Deborah Bazinet. Not to be forgotten in our fundraising efforts are our Tavern rentals. Thanks to the hard work of keeping contracts and requests for special layouts etc. done by Chris Ducharme, these too add to our bottom line. We also reached out to local businesses for donations to support our programming and I'm pleased to report they generously answered our requests. So when I say thanks to the commitment of many people to keep the Tavern viable, you are part of the committed people!

As mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter, we were honored by a bequest from the estate of Mildred Zuckerman, in memory of her sister, Sarah Cohen. This was a very nice remembrance and a help to the Tavern's resources.

We had another first this year. We awarded our first Black Tavern Scholarship to a graduating Shepherd Hill Senior, who plans to continue his education in the study of history.

We continued our mission statement to promote Dudley's rich history and heritage by our monthly program offerings. In June we held our Annual Third Grade visit. No one seems to remember when these started, but they are enjoyed each year by not only the

students, and chaperones, but by the costumed interpreters as well. It's always nice to show and tell Dudley's history to the students.

I mentioned earlier about the day to day maintenance of a 214 year old building, but there are some projects just too large for us to tackle. Once again The Janet Malser Humanities Trust awarded us a grant to update the entrance on the north side of the building. This entrance was always a problem in wet & winter weather. Thanks to the grant the landing of the porch was enlarged and a roof constructed over it to keep the snow away. This work was done by R.C. Rheault Construction of Oxford. These guys have been our "go to" for the projects that are just too big for us to tackle, and we're always glad when they answer our call.

As you can see I've rambled on too long again, (Bob is always saying "keep it short"), but I feel responsible to keep you informed of the Tavern activities. Almost forgot, we have a new Board of Directors member, Bob Grzyb. You might remember he donated a flagpole for the front of the Tavern last year. Not to let a good deed go unrewarded, we asked him to join our board. He is a wonderful addition.

As plans begin to form for 2019, we expect to be busy as usual. Once again we will be participating in a Publick House of Sturbridge fundraising dinner on June 10. So please mark your calendars & join us for a turkey feast. These dinners are always a fun evening and the good news is you don't have to cook or clean up. So I leave you

with Well Wishes for a Happy & Healthy 2019. Please remember to include your email with your membership form, so you can receive Bob's updates on the Tavern.

Linda Bazinet, Chair

Caretakers Report

Well, as Chris and I are starting our tenth year as caretakers of this wonderful building on top of old Dudley Hill, I look back on the accomplishments that have taken place over this past year.

As is the case each year, we keep occupied with the seasonal chores of maintaining not only the Tavern, but its grounds as well. This includes snow-blowing after storms to allow access to our guests who rent the Tavern for their functions, and in warmer seasons, taking care of the lawns and gardens.

This past year, upgrades have been made to our maintenance equipment with the purchase of a new chainsaw, and the addition of new lighting in our museum room and two upstairs rooms in the Tavern. In early spring we also purchased 3 new flowering bushes to add to our beautiful backyard gardens.

The maintenance committee met in early June and prioritized projects that we wished to accomplish over the summer. Our first project was to purchase and install an antique stone hitching post with an attached handle near the front entrance to the Tavern in order to help some of our "senior" visitors step up to the curbing from

the street as they approach the front porch. This addition is not only practical, but adds to the curb appeal of the Tavern. The team of Bob Ducharme and Ed Bazinet who were working on this project could not have accomplished it without the help of our resident strong-man Darin Bazinet who drove down to Connecticut to pick up this heavy stone with his truck and trailer and upon returning got it off his trailer and into the hole for us.



New hitching post in front of the Tavern.

Shortly after completing this project, we removed and reconstructed the sign-post for Healy's Inn, located in front of the Tavern barn. The large post which was constructed by David Proulx some years back was made of pine, and had begun to decay near its base. We were concerned that it would fall and injure someone, so we removed it and rebuilt it by scarfing pressure treated material to it at its base. At the same time our favorite artist, Deborah Bazinet, repainted the sign and the schedule is to return both to their original position when the ground thaws in the spring. Local mason, Jason Hall was hired to rebuild the meeting-room fireplace that had deteriorated over the years and after he completed the job we had both fireplace chimneys cleaned. Other items completed were the replacement of the nearly 100 feet of rotted split rail fence

in the back yard of the Tavern and the installation of lattice under the front porch to deny access to the "critters" that were entering that area. The list was completed when after our June meeting, a crew of board of director members banged cut-nails into the barn siding that had worked their way out over the years. I would be remiss if I did not mention that purchasing the materials for completing the above jobs as well as other expenditures needed for the Tavern maintenance throughout the year would not be possible without the strong financial support from our membership. Thank you for your support.

Our largest project for this past year was the major renovation to the back entrance to the Tavern. For several years we recognized the need to upgrade the dangerous steps at the rear exit to the Tavern. These steps made of stone sloped downward and were uncovered, thus presenting a safety hazard during inclement weather when wet or covered with snow. It was decided over the past year that we would apply for a grant from the Janet Malser Humanities Trust to remedy the situation. This past October after being awarded a grant from the Trust, the Tavern board of directors hired R.C. Rheault Construction Co. to construct a new landing with railings, new steps, and all covered by a roof. We now not only have a safe and beautiful secondary exit from the Tavern but one that appears to have been there forever.

Finally, I would like to say, as caretaker of the Tavern, one of the

perks that I enjoy is to be able to meet so many wonderful people and get to share this awesome place with so many of them. This past year I have had the privilege to give tours of "our little piece of heaven" to groups of cub scouts and their parents, students from Nichols College, visitors from California, Alabama, and Virginia and over 100 guests during the Annual Dudley Grange Strawberry festival. I truly am blessed!

Bob Ducharme

-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.

Thank You

The Black Tavern Historical Society of Dudley recently received a bequest from the estate of R. Mildred Zukerman in memory of her sister Sarah Cohen.

This expression of generosity from a former Dudley school teacher is very meaningful. Not only did Mildred remember her town in her many bequests, but she in turn is remembered by her many former students who now sit on the board of the Black Tavern!

It is always rewarding to receive support for our efforts to provide the community with educational programs and maintain an historic structure. We urge those with means to consider making bequests to local organizations, as they draft their estate plans.

Mildred did, and we appreciate it!

Receipt of grant from Janet Malser Humanities Trust

The Janet Malser Humanities Trust has generously supported our efforts again, with funding for a revamped north exit from the Tavern. This had been a little used area because of the old uneven step configuration and lack of shelter at the doorway. It is now a wonderful little porch area with a roof and solid stairs and railings and can now function safely for use when doing outside and barn events. The work was completed by R. C. Rheault Company of Oxford, and is well integrated with the original Tavern style.

Ed Bazinet



New upgrade to the rear entrance/exit of the Tavern.

Membership

It is with pleasure that I report that last year was one of our most successful membership drives. We thank all members who have renewed and also newcomers, especially those who attended our programs and found it worthwhile to support our endeavors. We are looking to have the Tavern painted, to keep up with the excellent programs, and to provide for the usual upkeep of the Tavern itself. Won't you please renew

your membership? And of course, tell your friends and family, or neighbors about our free programs all arranged to provide entertainment and information to you. Thank you so much!

Nancy Roy,
Chair of the membership committee.

BTHS Scholarship

The Black Tavern Historical Society Scholarship committee had the daunting task of selecting our first scholarship recipient from over a dozen applicants. After careful deliberation, the scholarship was awarded to Jared Tetreau of Dudley. Jared will be attending George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

We would like congratulate him and wish him the best of luck.



Jared Tetreau, scholarship recipient, and members of the BTHS board of directors.

We will once again be offering a scholarship to one student of SHRHS 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 weighted towards students with an interest in history or the social studies.

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

Marc Moseley
Chair of the Scholarship Committee

2018 Black Tavern Craft Fair

The sixth annual craft fair was held on October 6, 2018 under perfect weather conditions. Not only was the sun shining, but the crafters and customers were smiling and enjoying the variety of goods available. There were forty-one talented crafters who set up their displays in the Tavern, on the porch, in the barn, on the lawns on the east side of the road, and eight tents on the town common, along with participants from Old Sturbridge Village who were demonstrating their crafts.



A record number of crafters participated in our 6th Annual Craft Fair.

Wooden items, quilted pieces, honey, maple syrup products, jewelry, alpaca socks, doll clothes, greeting cards, banks from old post office boxes, hand braided rugs, wreaths, knitted and crocheted hats, scarves, etc. and chocolate delights were on sale, something for everyone! A special thank you

goes to the SHRHS National Honor Society students who were instrumental in assisting the crafters in unloading and loading their cars as well as delivering lunches for them from the Grange, doing all with efficiency and smiles.

Plans are already underway for the seventh annual craft fair to be held on Saturday, October 5, 2019! If you are a crafter (or know someone who is) and would like to participate in this fun event, contact karenmoseley2134@gmail.com

Karen Moseley
Craft Fair Chair

Review of 2018 Programs

"Dudley Hill's 1805 House"

Hosted by
Sandy Peterson & Bob Ducharme

In March, board member Sandy Peterson, presented "Dudley Hill's 1805 House." Using old photographs and documentation, she spoke of its historic significance. The house once sat next to the Tavern and served as a residence for several families, as well as a summer place, and lastly as a dormitory for Nichols students. Phineas Bemis and his wife, Mary, were the first occupants of the grand edifice, living there until their deaths in 1866 and 1886 respectively. Built in the traditional Federalist style (similar to the Black Tavern) with a Palladian front entrance, white clapboards, true divided light windows, the house was surrounded by old Elms, Copper Beech, and Chestnut trees, as well as a traditional picket fence. The inside hallway and parlor walls



Dudley Hill's 1805 House.

were decorated with the famous "Bay of Naples" wallpaper. The kitchen was equipped with a large hearth and bee hive oven, very similar to the Tavern hearth room. An upstairs bedroom was lavishly furnished with a large canopy bed and an Empire dresser. After sitting grandly on Dudley Hill for almost 200 years, and despite many efforts to preserve it, the house was demolished on Dec 2, 2005 in a single day, leaving many bereft by the loss of this historic treasure.

Sandy Peterson

"The Creation of Quabbin Reservoir,"

Hosted by Will and Marc Moseley

The April 19th program was "The Creation of Quabbin Reservoir". The speaker was J.R. Greene who has written numerous books on the Quabbin Reservoir. Mr. Greene showed slides of many of the towns that were taken over by eminent domain to make the reservoir and in that provide a lasting supply of water to Boston and the surrounding communities. He brought to life those towns that no longer exist and made us all think about what it would have been like to find out that your home and town would no longer exist.

Will Moseley

"Taverns and Tavern Life in Early New England"

Hosted by Linda & Mike Branniff

"Linda and Mike Branniff planned the May 17, 2018 Tavern presentation. Mr. Tom Kelleher of Old Sturbridge Village presented a program called "Taverns and Tavern Life in New England." The taverns of early New England were discussed and examples given of what would have gone on at these businesses that dotted the landscape earlier in history. These were places of shelter for travelers, a place to stay for the night or obtain warm food and drink, a place where horses could be accommodated if need be and places of much local society. It was a fascinating and informative look at how things were done earlier in our history. Mr. Kelleher was well received by the Tavern's appreciative audience. Linda Bazinet also lent a much appreciated hand with this program."

Linda Branniff

"I Now Pronounce You: Lucy Stone"

Hosted by
Nancy Roy and Scott Roy

On September 20, we were entertained once again by actress Judith Kalaora, this time as Lucy Stone. Lucy was born in the nearby town of West Brookfield and would have celebrated her 200th birthday this year. She became a women's rights activist and an abolitionist. Lucy was the first woman from Massachusetts to earn a college degree, and most likely the first who refused to take her husband's name after their marriage. Judith presented an informative and

exciting program and held the attention of all who attended her performance. We were pleased to have Judith back at the Black Tavern.

Nancy Roy

"Haunted New England"

Hosted by Tom Boyd & Carolyn Earp

The Tavern's October program featured Thomas D'Agostino and Arlene Nicholson doing a presentation on the paranormal entitled "A Haunting in New England". The program featured slides and stories of the paranormal throughout the New England region.

Tom and Arlene are authors of numerous books on this subject and have appeared on many television shows, documentaries, radio shows, and featured in several publications and magazines.

Our program was moved into the tavern instead of the barn due to cold weather. As a result, we were filled to capacity by 6:45 and had to turn away many due to lack of space. The program was well received by all in attendance.

Tom Boyd

"Early 19th Century Dance"

Hosted by

Ken Butkiewicz & Dave Proulx

Unfortunately, what was expected to be a very interesting program had to be cancelled at the last moment because of an early winter snow-storm.

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

The Black Tavern Annual Dudley Third Grade Visit

In an on-going effort to teach our future generations the significance of this Dudley historical landmark, the Black Tavern Historical Society has been coordinating the Dudley third grade visit to the Black Tavern for over 25 years. On June 8th, 2018 several members and volunteers of the Black Tavern Historical Society provided tours to the Dudley Third Graders where students are given a brief lesson of what it was like to live back in the 1800's. The students, teachers, and chaperones arrive at the tavern just after 9 am to begin the 1 ½ hour tour. The tour includes several rooms within the tavern and then ventures outside to the barn. The second tour begins at 12:30 pm and ends at 2 pm.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for the Annual Dudley Third Grade Visit to the Black Tavern on June 7th, 2019 please contact Joy Glynn at joy.g.glynn@gmail.com.

Joy Glynn,
Chair of the 3rd Grade visit program.



BTHS volunteers greeting Dudley 3rd grade students as they arrive.

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

In Appreciation of Our 2018 and 2019

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:

2018

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In addition to the above corporate sponsors, two of our upcoming 2019 programs, "Life Aboard A Whaling Ship", and "The Granite Kiss" are supported in part by a grant from the Dudley Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



The End of an Era

Last BTHS Yard Sale

Last April, while getting ready for our yard sale, our chairperson and Yard Sale coordinator, Linda Bazinet, informed us that this would be her final one (ten and done). Linda, for the past ten years, has spent endless hours cleaning, marking, and organizing a barn full of "stuff" from large furniture to the smallest treasures.



Our last Yard Sale

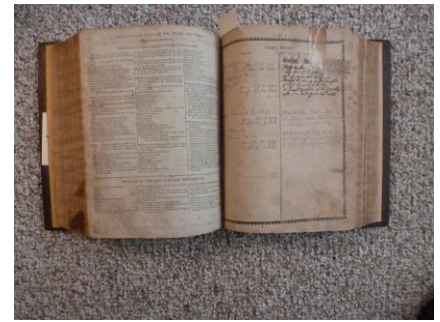
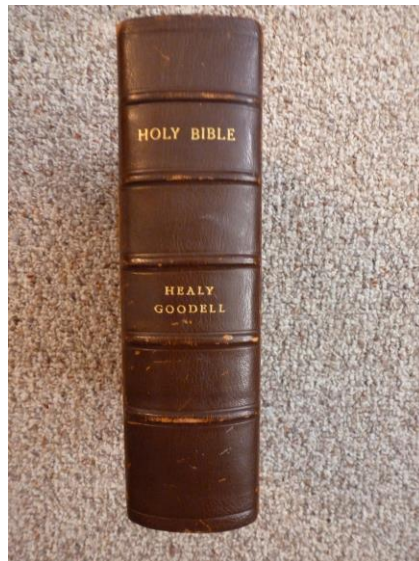
We wish to thank all the people who donated to this worthy cause over the past years and all of the Board members and friends who hauled all of the "stuff" in and out of the barn and worked tirelessly on yard sale days. But the truth be told, none of this would have happened without our fearless leader Linda Bazinet. Thank you, thank you, and thank you!



Linda Bazinet marking yard sale items

The Return of the Healy Bible to the Black Tavern

Hezekiah Healy, the builder of the Black Tavern, 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. In 1812 Hezekiah traveled to Washington to get the loom patented, but due to lack of funds he never succeeded. On his return back home from Washington, Hezekiah stopped in Philadelphia and purchased the Healy Family Bible. A few years back, the bible was displayed in the Black Tavern Museum room, but because we had no place to properly secure it, it was removed and placed in the Dudley town hall vault for safe keeping. Last year, as you may be aware, we received a grant from the Janet Malser Humanities Trust to renovate the museum room and purchase secure display cases for our artifacts. Over this past year the Healy Family Bible has now been returned to its place of honor and is once again displayed in our museum room.



Healy Family Bible

The Healy Family Bible is only one of the many artifacts that we currently have on display at the Tavern that tell the story of Dudley Hill in the 1800's. If you would like to see the Bible and the many other artifacts that we have on display or simply would like a personal tour of the Tavern, give Bob Ducharme a call at 508-943-8782 and schedule an appointment for a free personal tour.

Bob Ducharme

Save the Dates

Once again we have been selected for a fundraising dinner on **June 10th** at the Publick House of Sturbridge. This year the menu will be a turkey dinner which is always great. As time gets closer you can contact any board member for tickets or they will be for sale at the door. These dinners are always a fun evening, so we hope you can join us for "Thanksgiving in June."

The date for the "Fall Apple Festival and Craft Fair" is **October 5**. Over the past six years the event has grown and as it continues to grow, the Black Tavern is looking for additional crafters. So if you know of any who might be interested, Please contact Karen Moseley at karenmoseley2134@gmail.com.

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2018 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.

Donations In Memory Of:

Andrew P. Thompson by Patricia Kelly
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BLACK TAVERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2019 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: _____

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Please check if you would like to:

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

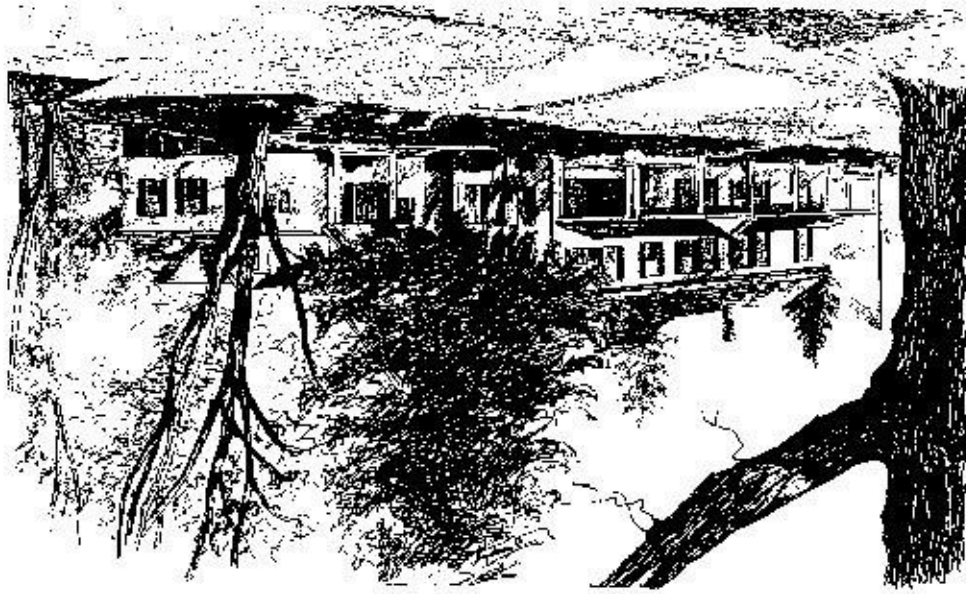
Checks payable to: **Black Tavern Historical Society**

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.