



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 2020

Board of Directors

Officers

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

Members of the Board

Deborah Bazinet
Tom Boyd
Michael Branniff
Tim Cushing
Robert Ducharme
Marc Moseley
Sandy Peterson
David Proulx
Nancy Roy
Scott Roy

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

Events for 2020

*(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 19: "History of the Nipmuc
Tribe". Presented by Larry "Spotted
Crow" Mann.

April 16: "Ice Harvesting". Presented
by Ken Ethier.

May 21: "Nellie Twardzik, Dudley's
First Lady of Baseball". Presented by
Pat Biron Thompson.

June 2: Annual Third Grade Visit.

June 18: Grange Strawberry Festival
& Tavern Tours. 4 P.M.

September 17: "Harriet Tubman". A
performance presented by Gwendolyn
Quezaire-Presutti.

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

October 15: "Pirates of the New
England Coast". Presented by David
Jennings.

November 19: "Historic Gardening".
Presented by Christie Higgenbottom.

Message from the Chair

As always there are many
volunteers who give their time and
talents to keep this grand building
up and running. As in the past, the
greatest thanks go to Bob & Chris
Ducharme who keep on top of the
day to day running of the Tavern.

Whether it is maintenance issues or
the rental calendar, they are the
true face of the Black Tavern. And
the face got painted! We were
fortunate to once again receive a
grant from the Janet Malser
Humanities Trust, this time to paint
the front of the Tavern. Like
everything in today's world it takes
money in the form of
memberships, donations,
fundraising and our corporate
sponsors to maintain the Tavern.
When you send in your
membership renewal, a first time
membership, or a donation, you
may not think your \$10.00 or
\$15.00 is much, but it adds up. This
year's total was over \$9,000.
Thanks to Nancy Roy, our
Membership Chair, for keeping
track of all these memberships. We
also held some successful
fundraisers. In June, we were part
of the Dinners for Nonprofits at the
Publick House in Sturbridge, MA
where participants enjoyed a roast
turkey dinner with all the fixings. In
October, we held our Seventh
Annual Craft Fair. This event has
grown from year to year in the
number of talented and diverse
crafters and attendees. Joining us
again this year were the Dudley
Historic Commission sponsored
Artisans on the Common,
showcasing early American crafts
The Grange held their Apple
Festival, and farmers sold produce

on the common. We also held our annual raffle, a hand painted window of "Old Dudley Hill", donated by Deborah Bazinet.

We continued our community outreach by offering monthly programs covering a variety of topics. Attendance has increased at these events. One outstanding program was medium, Gary McKinstry, who entertained a sold out audience. What would the Black Tavern be without the Annual Third Grade visit? In June, the yellow school buses arrived and the costumed interpreters explained to the students what life was like in Dudley and at the Tavern in the early 1800's. This is always a fun event for all involved.

Speaking of Dudley Hill, this was the original center of Dudley, where it all began in 1732. Now, after a decade of work, the Dudley Historical Commission finally got Dudley Hill and the common designated as the **Dudley Hill National Historic District**. There will be a town celebration in 2020 to acknowledge its placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Board of Directors was pleased to award their Second Annual Scholarship to Cameron Cushing, who is attending Brandeis University. If the name Cushing sounds familiar, it is because his grandfather, Hugh Cushing, served on the board for many years and is our resident resource for historic paints and preservation.

Like any organization, things evolve. Joy Glynn and Carolyn Earp, both active board members, stepped down this year. To our great sadness, board member Ken Butkiewicz passed away unexpectedly in November.

Their commitment to the Tavern was enormous, spanning many years, and we appreciate their efforts.

We have two new Board of Directors members, whose names may sound familiar. Deborah Bazinet, my daughter-in-law, who has graciously donated raffle items and time over the years, and Tim Cushing, son of Hugh Cushing. You might say the family traditions carry on, which is a wonderful legacy to the Tavern.

As is usually the case, I have gone on too long, but once you get me going on the Tavern there is no stopping me. As you read the Newsletter you'll get a fuller picture of all that goes on at the Tavern in one year.

Finally, I want to give a shout out to Bob Ducharme who puts the newsletter together and makes us look good!

I will leave you with well wishes for 2020 and the hope that the Black Tavern Historical Society of Dudley and the Tavern carries on for another 215 years.

Linda Bazinet, Chair

Caretakers Report

Recently, as Chris and I were reminiscing over our past ten years as the resident caretakers of the Black Tavern, we were struck by all that the Black Tavern Historical Society has accomplished in maintaining and upgrading the properties under the leadership of our wonderful chairman Linda Bazinet. If I was to compile and write about all these accomplishments it would take the entire space in this newsletter, so

I will shorten this missive by attempting to relate to you what our current board has done this year while we continue our role of being stewards of this wonderful gem on old Dudley Hill.

As I begin this report each year, I mention the mundane items that need to be performed around the property each and every year with the changes of seasons. Just as in each of your homes, here at the Tavern, the snow has to be shoveled, firewood split, the lawns mowed, the gardens tended to, the leaves raked, the driveways sealed, the fences painted, the rooms dusted, the floors swept, the curtains and tablecloths washed etc. In addition to these routine chores, we have to meet with prospective renters, keep rental and event schedules, send out contracts, clean the Tavern, set up tables and chairs, set the fireplaces, and after the rentals conclude, the whole process gets reversed. This process also takes place each time the Tavern has a program or fundraising function.

Over the past year, the board of directors has also approved several upgrades which required expenditures, and I would be remiss in not mentioning that without the continued support of our membership, these upgrades would not be possible. We have purchased additional smoke alarms to be placed in areas not presently covered. In preparation for last year's winter months, we had the roof gutters cleaned and had several holes in the eaves sealed where the squirrels were getting into the building. During the winter months, we began painting rooms in the apartment area. As spring

Dawned, we began the process of restoring the front lawn. Two years ago, the Center Road reconstruction project caused much damage to the front lawn and it had not recovered since, so we roto-tilled the lawn, spread new loam, and reseeded the area to restore the lawn. In late spring, our maintenance committee began attacking the first item on our checklist of major upgrades that we attempt to accomplish each year, when we had the south, front and east sides of the Tavern painted, including the front porch. This project completed by John Sielawa of Reliable Painters of Dudley, was funded by a grant from the Janet Malser Humanities Trust. As the warm weather arrived, we purchased two new energy efficient air conditioners for the Tavern to replace the ancient ones that we were currently using. About the same time, we replaced all the window curtains on the first floor of the Tavern. The old ones had not been replaced since the Tavern was restored in the 1980's. In preparation for our summer season, Chris' signature geraniums that hang on the Tavern front porch were purchased along with annual flowers located around the flagpole and monuments. In June, the second item on the maintenance committee's checklist was completed when the sign-post that held the Healy's Inn sign, located in front of the barn, was finally re-set in place. You may recall that it was taken down last fall after the base had rotted. Over the past fall, Dave Proulx repaired the post and later, over the winter, Deb Bazinet restored and repainted the sign. Both the post and sign are now in place to let all

know that the Black Tavern was once called Healy's Inn. As is always the case each summer, lawn tractors and yard machines had to be serviced in order to keep up with the demanding use in maintaining all areas of the property. In September, the third item on the checklist was completed when we replaced the main water service line to the apartment. The previous water line, which ran underground in the Tavern cellar, was in danger of failing and we suspected might be leaking, so we received quotes to have it replaced and a new water line was installed by Quail Services of Dudley. About the same time, the next item on the checklist was completed when, under the direction of board member Bob Grzyb, a crew of board members painted the front of the "ANNEX". In October, new carpeting donated by Paul Cournoyer of Central Flooring in Dudley was installed in the living room of the caretaker's apartment, and all the fire extinguishers at the Tavern were inspected, serviced, and approved. The fourth item on the maintenance committee checklist agenda for this year was completed when an old storage shed, that was falling apart, was removed from the property. The storage shed was placed on the property years ago to store lawn tools and gasoline before the society had purchased the barn. Over the years, the shed had fallen into disrepair and the roof had caved in after a winter storm two years ago. We rented a dumpster from R.C. Rheault Construction of Oxford and Darin and Debbie Bazinet took the shed down and loaded it into the dumpster. The following day, another work crew consisting of

members of the board of directors finished loading the rest of the dumpster with unwanted articles found throughout the Tavern storage rooms, the annex attic, and the cellar under the barn, a cleaning that we have been needing to do for quite some time. We closed out October by finishing the final item on our checklist when we replaced the old undersized Tavern hot water heater. Both plumbing jobs previously listed were completed by Quail Services of Dudley. Finally, at our last BOD meeting for the 2019 year, the group decorated the Tavern for the Christmas season using newly purchased lighted garland and decorations along with new table centerpieces made by Bob Ducharme. In closing, a big thank you goes out to each and every one of our members. As stated earlier, none of this could happen without your continued support.

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.

Receipt of grant from Janet Malser Humanities Trust

Once again the Black Tavern Historical Society is thankful for the continued support shown by the Janet Malser Humanities Trust in the generous award of a grant that was used in the funding to complete the exterior painting of

three sides of the Black Tavern and front porch and the window shutters located on these sides. Maintenance of the exterior of the Black Tavern is a never ending task for a two-hundred and fifteen year old building. In an effort to keep up with this maintenance over the last decade, we have started to paint the exterior of the building in phases in order to spread out the cost over time. The work was completed by John Sielawa of Reliable Painters of Dudley, MA.

Bob Ducharme

Membership

Once again, the Membership Committee, Bob and Chris Ducharme, Nancy Roy & Scott Roy and Linda Bazinet, wish to thank all who made this past year's membership drive the most successful ever! We appreciate all members who graciously support our request to help us keep the Tavern open, help with repairs, and offer a place for entertainment for our neighbors. With your support and our sponsors, we are able to bring quality entertainment for your enjoyment. Remember, our programs are free and open to the public. We hope you will continue your memberships and encourage your friends and neighbors to join us in our efforts. Thank you so much!

Nancy Roy, Chair of the Membership Committee

If you have not yet renewed your 2020 membership, please use the form on the back of this newsletter to do so. Thank you.

In Memoriam:

Ken Butkiewicz and Chet Kulisa

Having led a good long life is something which should be honored. This year we note the passing of two gentlemen who made Dudley a far better place to live. Both were dedicated to advancing Dudley as a town with important resources that should be preserved and improved. Both volunteered their time and efforts to making sure important jobs were completed, goals established, and achieved. Chet Kulisa and Ken Butkiewicz both focused attention on Dudley's natural resources, the hills, valleys and streams that make Dudley proud to be known for its historic landscapes. They worked as directors on boards for preservation of woodlands, lakes and rivers. They served on enumerable committees, lending their expertise, time and hands to achieve things that future generations could admire and appreciate. They were always willing to help. They will be remembered and their legacies will endure. Thank you Chet and Ken, our faithful friends.

Thank You

A special thank you goes out to Mr. Paul Cournoyer of Central Floor Covering for donating and installing carpeting in the caretaker's apartment of the Black Tavern.



Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Tim White and Abby Kielinen whose wedding and reception was held here at the Black Tavern.

2019 Black Tavern Craft Fair

The seventh annual craft fair was held on October 5, 2019 under perfect weather conditions and with the best ever apple crisp, served by the Dudley Grange. What did we have on display and for sale? There were painted country wooden items, wooden walking sticks and canes, alpaca yarn/garments, fabric table toppers, fabric wall hangings/bags/microwave bowl holders, chocolate goodies, jewelry, braided rugs/seat cushions, embossed greeting cards/gift boxed greeting cards, American doll clothes/accessories, knitted/crocheted children's and adult garments, walking sticks/canes, decorative pieces of all kinds, Christmas decorations/gifts, concrete critters, quilled items, handmade soaps, honey products, cutting boards, wood burned items, stuffed animals/sock monkeys, custom t-shirts, upcycled wooden windows, wooden clocks, fused glass items, and button crafts/ gift bags/candles. Crafters set up their displays in the Tavern, on the Tavern's porch, in the barn, on the lawns in front of the barn and

Tavern and across the road on the town common. Also, on the common, were talented craftsmen from Old Sturbridge Village. As you can see, there was something for everyone. Plans are already underway for the eighth annual craft fair to be held on Saturday, October 3, 2020! A big thank you to the Ducharmes for their priceless help in setting the spots for the crafters and tents, and for greeting the crafters in the morning. One more thank you to Deb Bazinet who has graciously stepped forward to help bring in even more crafters for our 2020 event. If you are a crafter (or know someone who is) and would like to participate in this fun event, contact

karenmoseley2134@gmail.com.

Review of 2018 Programs

"Soaring Over The Last Green Valley: The Return of Bald Eagles."

Hosted by
Linda & Mike Branniff

On March 21, 2019, Linda and Mike Branniff arranged an evening program entitled "Soaring Over The Last Green Valley: The Return of Bald Eagles." There was an overflow crowd that turned out to hear Ranger Bill Reid of The Last Green Valley give us an illustrated program on the resurgence of this magnificent bird in our area. Individual birds were highlighted and described, and their nesting area located. The crowd had multiple questions for the ranger after the program. It was an enjoyable and informative evening.

Linda Branniff

"The influence of AO in the Region, in Science, and Society"

Hosted by Will and Marc Moseley

Dick Whitney, executive director of the Optical Heritage Museum, was the speaker.

He spoke of how the American Optical Co. was influential in the development of eye glasses and many other optical related devices. The AO was influential as one of the major employers in the entire region. Dick brought some interesting pieces from the museum and encouraged all to visit and noted the museum is free to all. He also spoke of the devastating flood of 1955 and its impact on Southbridge. The museum is at 12 Crane Street in Southbridge.

Will Moseley

"Life Aboard A Whaling Ship"

A performance by Anne Barrett

Hosted by

Bob Ducharme and Sandy Peterson

On Thursday evening May 16th in our Black Tavern barn, re-enactor Anne Barrett took us through the adventures of Mary Chipman Lawrence!

The morning of November 25th, 1856, Mary Chipman Lawrence set sail aboard the whaling ship Addison bound for the Pacific on a



voyage that would last three and a half years.

In this performance, Mary brought forth from her meticulously kept journal, the joys and tribulations of life at sea with her husband, Captain Samuel Lawrence, and their daughter Minnie.

The sights and sounds of foreign ports and their inhabitants, the sailors' sea shanties, the surprisingly robust social life amongst whaling ships, and the challenging everyday details, all came to life as Mary took us on a journey so real, you felt the pitch of the ship and the spray over the rails.

Bob Ducharme

"Abigail Adams, America's First, Second Lady"

A performance by Sheryl Faye

Hosted by

Nancy Roy and Scott Roy

On the chilly evening of September 17, we bundled ourselves up and gathered in the barn to welcome back Sheryl Faye as she portrayed the notable Abigail Adams. Through several costume changes, Sheryl took us on a trip through the life of the most famous of presidential wives. Using her unique multi-media presentation, Abigail came to life before our eyes. We were delighted to see a few students in the audience that evening. One student in particular told Sheryl that she had just finished a report on Abigail for her Social Studies class. The program ended with a question and answer period, and following that, refreshments were offered to those in attendance.

Nancy Roy

"Bec 'N' Call"

A musical group

Hosted by

Tom Boyd & Tim Cushing

The October program for the Tavern featured the musical group "Bec 'n' Call", a group of six local musicians from around Woodstock Connecticut who formed the band for the pure love of music. They have played in concerts throughout northeast Connecticut and now at the Black Tavern. Their repertoire features Americana, Blues, Retro Pop as well as original compositions.

The event was hosted by members of the Board Tim Cushing and Tom Boyd. Despite the fact that it was a bit nippy outside, the event was held in the Tavern's barn with quite a few brave people in attendance.

Tom Boyd

"The Granite Kiss"

Hosted by Ken Butkiewicz and Dave Proulx

On Thursday evening November 21st, Kevin Garner, a stone wall builder for over forty years and the author of The Granite Kiss: Traditions and Techniques of Building New England Stone Walls, captivated a full house in the meeting room of the Black Tavern where he demonstrated the techniques that are used in constructing stone walls. However, Kevin constructed his wall on a table in front of the audience using a much smaller scale while he described the process of building New England fieldstone walls to those in attendance.

Ken Butkiewicz



Kevin Gardner builds a stone wall on a table at the Black Tavern.

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 7th, 2019, 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 began at 12:30 pm and ended at 2 pm.

If you think that you might be interested in taking part in this wonderful experience by volunteering on Tuesday June 2nd 2020, we will train you and pair you with a partner. Just check off the box on your membership application at the back of this newsletter and/or contact Bob Ducharme at aby15ma@aol.com or Linda Bazinet at pondstage@charter.net

In Appreciation of Our 2019 and 2020

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:

2019

Grey Ghost Auctions and Appraisals

HomeTown Bank

Laura Scott Properties

Massachusetts Cultural Council

O'Connor Insurance

Oxford Insurance

Pete's Tire & Oil LLC

Rampco Construction

R.C. Rheault Construction

Stochaj Insurance

Webco Corporation

2020

Pete's Tire & Oil LLC

Oxford Insurance

O'Connor Insurance

Dippin' Donuts

Laura Scott Properties

Stochaj Insurance

Webco Corporation

Universal Tag

In addition to the above corporate sponsors, two of our upcoming 2020 programs, "History of the Nipmuc Tribe", and "Harriet Tubman" 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.



BTHS Scholarship



Cameron Cushing receiving his scholarship from the BTHS scholarship committee.

The Black Tavern Historical Society is pleased to announce this year's scholarship recipient Cameron Cushing of Dudley. Cameron is attending Brandeis University. We congratulate him and wish him well with all his future endeavors.

The Black Tavern Historical Society 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.

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

Marc Moseley

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

BTHS Board of Directors Resignations

The Black Tavern regretted accepting the resignation of Board members Carolyn Earp and Joy Glynn this past year.

Carolyn joined the Board in 2006 and was a member of our finance committee, scholarship committee, and nominating committee, and could always be seen helping out each year at our Annual Spring Yard Sale.

Joy served on the board in the early years of the Black Tavern Historical Society and after a hiatus of several years to raise her family, she returned to the board in 2014 and served on the finance committee, fundraising committee, and the nominating committee. Joy was the longtime organizer and lead member of our "Annual Third Grade Student Visit" to the Black Tavern.

Both will be missed by all. Thank you, Carolyn and Joy.

New Fundraiser

New board member Tim Cushing came up with a new fundraiser for the Tavern this past September when we hosted medium Gary McKinstry and his program "Connections". Connect to loved ones on the Other Side. Remembering their lives and stories keeps them always in our hearts. The entertaining program was successful in that the limited seating of 50 tickets was sold out in a few weeks without even going public. The evening was enlightening and those in attendance really

enjoyed it. Many packs of tissues were used. We hope to repeat this program again next fall.

Happenings at the Tavern this Year



Work crew of Bob Ducharme, Dave Proulx and Will Moseley erect repaired post.



Linda Bazinet, Bob Ducharme and Deb Bazinet in front of our repaired sign and post under the sign painted by Deb.



Work crew consisting of Bob Grzyb, Ken Butkiewicz, Ed Bazinet, Bob Ducharme and Tim Cushing painting the annex.

Healy Society

Robert & Sheryl Grzyb

Benefactors

Scott & Karen Anderson
John & MaryLeigh Bacon
Peter Bannister
Ron Bannister
Scott Barry @ Long Subaru
Ed & Linda Bazinet
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Beaudoin
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Mark & MaryJane Sullivan
Ted Theodores
David Tonkin
Nancy J. Vajcovec
Webco Chemical Co. M. Puliafico
Paul & Visha Wieloch

2019 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 Thompson by Patricia A. Kelly
Richard (Dick) Siegmund by the Ducharme family
Zenon P. Szylk, M.D. by Carol Ann Eaton
Evelyn Mary Lawida by Carol Ann Eaton
Elin Carlson Anderson by Carol Ann Eaton
Nelson Bates Craver by Carol Ann Eaton
Sarah Williams Banks by daughter Barbara Gurney

In Kind Donations

Margaret B. Pedersen
Scott Roy
Tim Cushing
Arthur & Barbara Gomes
Robert Grzyb
Jane Antos
Deb & Darin Bazinet
Mary Sansoucy
Dave Proulx
Susan James
Jonathan Ruda
Paul Cournoyer Central Flooring
Rampco Construction
R.C. Rheault Construction
Dudley Boy Scout Troop 273

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Keith & Nancy Corkum
Hugh & Cathy Cushing
Scott & RoseAnn Cushing
Tim Cushing
Elaine F. Davies
Barbara Day & Nick McGray
Mr. & Mrs. George deRedon
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Robin Tracy
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BLACK TAVERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2020 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 _____

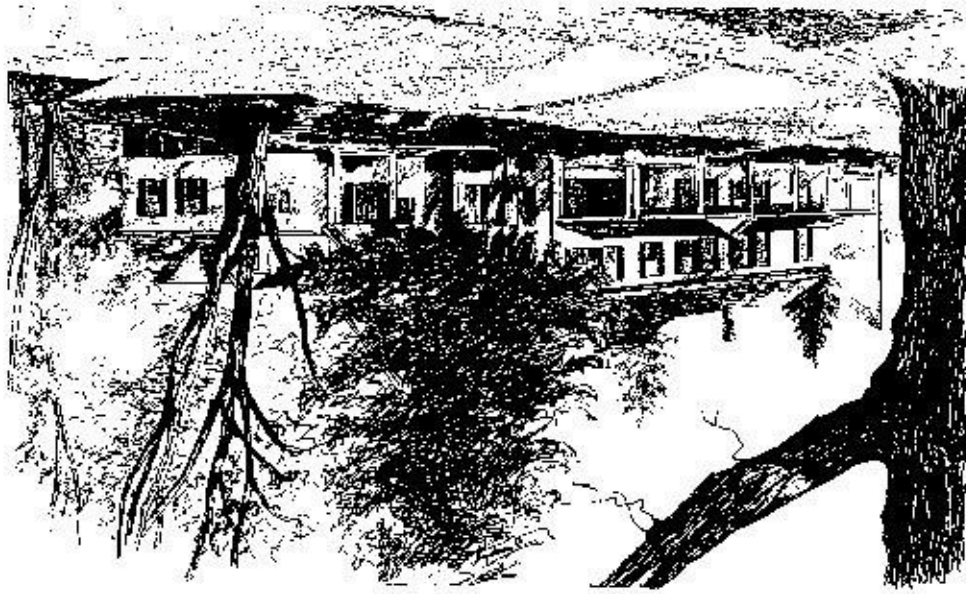
Checks payable to: **Black Tavern Historical Society**

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.