



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 2022

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
Robert Ducharme
Ora Finn
Marc Moseley
Sandy Peterson
David Proulx
Nancy Roy
Scott Roy
Pam Williams

Over the past year, in keeping with the state protocols for Covid 19, the Black Tavern has not been available for rentals.

Our current plans for this coming year are to begin offering rentals once again beginning in April.

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

Events for 2022

(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 17: "Video Tour of the Black Tavern." Presented by Sandy Peterson. In conjunction with a grant from the Janet Malser Humanities Trust.

April 21: "Ice Harvesting." Presented by Ken Ethier.

May 19: "Harriet Tubman." A performance presented by Gwendolyn Quezaire-Presutti.

TBA: Annual Third Grade Visit.

TBA: Grange Strawberry Festival & Tavern Tours. 4 P.M.

September 15: "Nellie Twardzik, Dudley's First Lady of Baseball." Presented by Pat Biron Thompson.

October 1: Black Tavern Craft Fair, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. Rain or Shine.

October 20: "Archaeology on Dudley Hill." Presented by Joseph Mitchell.

November 17: "Historic Gardening." Presented by Christie Higgenbottom.

Programs are subject to change

Message from the Chair

I never thought when I wrote the "Letter from the Chair" last year, we would still be in the throes of the Covid pandemic and all the restrictions that go with it. I had no idea how long things would last and the devastating effect it

would have on everyone's lives. It's been another strange year at the Black Tavern. We had hoped to resume our programs in the spring, but with Covid restrictions still in effect the decision was made to hold off any social gatherings. Thus, no Third Grade visit, no Strawberry Festival, no monthly programs. But the Tavern stood firmly on the Hill as it has for over 200 years.

We did restart the monthly Board of Directors meetings in April, just to keep on top of Tavern business. But our hopes of opening the Tavern up to programs and rentals as more people were getting vaccinated, was delayed to be on the side of caution. We did decide to hold the 8th Annual Craft Fair in October, as this was mainly an outdoor event. We were very fortunate to have a beautiful fall day and everyone who attended seemed to enjoy "getting out". We also sponsored two food drives: one before Easter and one before Thanksgiving. In these difficult times we were impressed with the outpouring of donations. We partnered in these drives with Tammy Ducharme, the Dudley Elementary Schools and the Dudley Congregational Church. We were pleased to be able to help make these holidays a little happier for those with food insecurity.

Once again we made requests to

to the Janet Malser Humanities Trust. We were awarded two grants. The first was a video of the Tavern and its rich history. This will insure that the Tavern's stories and the building itself will not be lost to future generations. The second grant was for the removal and restoration of the "three hole" outhouse that was on the former Stockley property, now owned by Nichols College. Through the generous donation of time and equipment by Rampco Construction, this structure was moved to the back of the Tavern barn. Restoration will take place and this will be another reminder of early life on the Hill.

As you can see, despite no programs, and the Tavern being "closed", we are still carrying on. Since no one can predict when this pandemic will slow and hopefully go away, we are optimistic that the Tavern can return to a somewhat normal state come spring. As you will see in this newsletter we have scheduled programs and activities starting in March. But we have to be realistic and know all this depends on the pandemic and it's ever changing variants and the world's response to them. Stay tuned.

As you might imagine we depend on your continued support with your membership to help us through this unusual time. It is your support that truly keeps the Tavern going.

As always I would like to acknowledge the devotion and love that Bob & Chris Ducharme have for the Tavern. If it wasn't for these two people who are there to take care of everything, big or small,

I hate to think how we would have survived this unusual time.

Linda A. Bazinet, Chair

Caretakers Report

I can't believe we have pretty much shut down the Tavern activities for almost two years because of Covid but it's true. On a positive note, over the past few months the resurgence of a few activities like the Craft Fair, Board of Directors Meetings, and Food Drives have shown that we are slowly returning to a semblance of a new normal. We are planning on starting our monthly speaker programs in March and hoping to reopen the Tavern to rentals in April. Despite the fact, that the Tavern was shut down during that period, maintenance at the Tavern still needed to go on over that time and progress was made along those lines.

As spring arrived, annual yard clean-up had to be done to maintain the gardens and lawns and I was finally able to repair a rotted post that was supporting the north end of the front porch.



Before

After

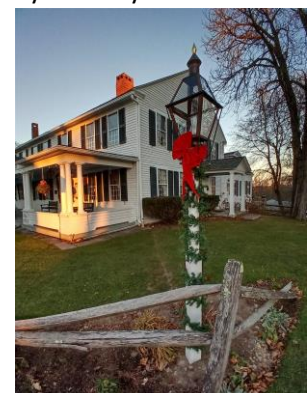
About that time Ed Bazinet negotiated with Nichols College for their donation of an 19th century "three hole privy" located on the

old Stockley property across Tanyard Rd. from the Tavern. The college had purchased the property last year and planned to demolish the barn and privy. Ed also negotiated with Rampco Construction to move the privy when the time came. With a generous grant from the Janet Malser Humanities Trust we plan to restore the privy to the way it looked when built in 1857. In June, preparation to having the privy moved to the back yard of the Tavern began when Bob Grzyb prepared the site by excavating the area, spreading crushed stone, building forms and arranging for a concrete pad to be poured.



Privy before the move

As fall arrived another project was completed when we purchased and installed a new lamp post in front of the Tavern to support a beautiful copper lantern donated to the society by Mary Sansoucy. Thank you Mary.



New lamp post

As part of this project, the Black Tavern sign previously located on the old sign post was relocated to the front of the Flagpole.



About this time I also installed handrails along two stone stairways located in the side and back yards of the Tavern making these stairs much safer to use.



New stair handrails

Finally as the growing season was coming to a close Rampco Construction Co. donated 5 yards of loam, and Darin Bazinet, Ed Bazinet, and I spread the loam and reseeded areas of the back lawn that were damaged by concrete truck and front end loader used in the relocation of the privy.

Bob Ducharme

A Tavern Tour Video

When the Tavern was closed to the public due to the pandemic, Bob Ducharme asked board members for ideas to keep the Tavern vibrant during this challenging time. It was then the idea of a Tavern video tour came to mind. I thought, if people can't come to the Tavern, why not bring the Tavern to them by creating a video tour. I had no idea of what this would entail and how much it would cost, and needless to say, the learning curve has been quite steep. In the spring, I applied for and received a generous grant from the Janet Malser Humanities Trust. During the summer, a group of five volunteers (Bob Ducharme, Ed Bazinet, Tom Boyd, Ora Finn, and Marc Moseley - all Tavern Board members) and I met to begin formulating a blueprint for the video. There were numerous discussions about how best to capture the Tavern's essence. Under consideration were how much history to include, which artifacts, which rooms, which historical figures, the preservation and restoration, and the function of the Tavern today. The challenge became one of prioritizing, sorting and condensing ideas with a focus on the early history of the Tavern and leading up to its preservation. It was decided that the tour would venture

from room to room throughout the Tavern. Each "actor" would create a narrative to highlight the historical significance of their assigned rooms. After several rehearsals throughout the summer, we were ready to film. On October 20th, two professional videographers from Luminous Creative Agency spent a day setting up the lighting, recording equipment, teleprompters, and cameras and began filming in the meeting room, moving on to the tap room, the museum room, the hearth room, the ballroom, the children's room and Civil War room. Frequently it was necessary to do several takes. Multiple still shots were taken and by day's end, I felt we had completed the filming but there was still the editing and background music left to do. Obtaining the background music was more than challenging, as I knew almost nothing about public domain of music and copyrights, etc. and even less about editing. Thanks to assistance from my husband, Mark Smith, the music was secured, all legitimately. Currently, I am working on the third editing of the video. We hope to have it ready for public viewing at our first program in March, and shortly thereafter on our Black Tavern website. Thanks to all those who gave their time, effort and creativity. Indeed, it's been quite a journey.

Sandy Peterson

Save the Date

Premier of the
Black Tavern Video Tour
at the Black Tavern
March 17th at 7:00 PM

Privy Project

The Stockley property on the corner of Tanyard Road and Center Road was recently purchased by Nichols College. The barn and the “privy” were the only buildings remaining and the family stipulated that the “outhouse” be given to the Tavern. We were pleased to accept this fine example of a nineteenth century sanitary building and managed to not only procure a Janet Malser Humanities Trust award to rehab the structure, but also to partner with our friends at RAMPCO to move it to our property.



The “three holer” arrives at the Tavern

Our “three holer” project has completed stage one: moving it from the former Stockley property to behind the Tavern barn. Dickie Androlewicz (RAMPCO) engineered the move, which entailed “girdling” the structure with wood bands, and lifting and transporting it down Center Road to a concrete pad prepared by Bob Gryzb. What a sight to watch! Now it awaits the “Brothers Grzyb” and their plans to revitalize the structure with some structural and cosmetic work to make it a showpiece of a nineteenth century “necessary”. Stay tuned!

Ed Bazinet

Receipt of grants from Janet Malser Humanities Trust

The Black Tavern Board of Directors wish to extend our gratitude to the trustees of the Janet Malser Humanities Trust for their continued support in awarding the Black Tavern two generous grants this past year which provided the funding for the Tavern Video Tour and the relocation and restoration of the 19th century privy.

also made bags for Webster Public Schools, Mason Road School and Dudley Elementary School.

Thanks to all who contributed to help make this another successful food drive.

Chris Ducharme

BTHS Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to congratulate and award Mr. Colin Humphries the recipient of the 2021 Black Tavern Historical Society scholarship, given this year in memory of former board member Michael T. Branniff.



Scholarship Recipient Colin Humphries

The Scholarship Committee is also excited to announce the total available scholarship funding has been increased by the board of directors to \$3000, which will be awarded to one or two students, depending on application volume. Eligible applicants must be students at Shepherd Hill Regional High School, a resident of Dudley or Charlton, and have completed the application and submitted it by the first Friday in April (April 1, 2022). Application forms will be available in the guidance office. We are specifically interested in students planning to pursue a degree in history or social studies.

Marc Moseley

2021 Food Drive



Tap room at the Tavern filled with food

The first week in November the Black Tavern along with the First Congregational Church UCC, the Dudley Elementary school and Tammy Ducharme held another successful food drive.

Tammy divided the food among the Webster-Dudley Food Share, Webster-Dudley St. Vincent DePaul Society, Blessed Backpack Brigade and It Starts at Home.

We also made up ten Thanksgiving dinner bags, which included Price Chopper gift cards. In addition we

New addition to our board

This past year the Black Tavern Historical Society has added a new member to our Board of Directors.

Former Town Clerk Ora Finn has joined our team. Ora has always been interested in history and historical preservation. She has already taken an active role in heading up our sponsorship committee and has taken on a participating role in the filming of our Tavern video tour. Welcome aboard Ora.

Thank You

To the 196 people who contributed to our membership for 2021, the Black Tavern Historical Society thanks you! As we were getting excited about resuming programs for our donors and the public, word came down that Covid-19 was still in existence and that programs and activities needed to be put on hold again. The members of the committee are extremely thankful for the many who put their trust in us and stepped up to join or renew their memberships. As a result, we had a very successful campaign and; again look forward to your generous and appreciated contributions. Not only do they provide for our programs, but also help to provide the Black Tavern necessities, such as paying the electric and repair bills. We are grateful for your continued interest in our unique building here on "The Hill", and look forward to another fun-filled year of activities.

Nancy Roy, Chairperson
Membership Committee

If you have not yet renewed your 2022 membership, please use the form on the back of this newsletter to do so. Thank you.

2021 Craft Fair

Because of the pandemic, the 2020 Craft Fair was cancelled making this year's craft fair the eighth annual fundraiser. Some crafters asked for and received refunds of their fees in 2020, but many asked that their fees be saved for this year's 2021 Craft Fair.

Once again, the weather was beautiful, sunny and warm, but some of us do remember the year of the rain and mud. Guests shopping inside the Tavern were offered masks free of charge before entering the building. Keeping our shoppers and crafters safe was uppermost in our plans.

Thanks to the response from area crafters, the Tavern, Barn, Tavern porch, and the lawns in front of the Tavern and Barn were all full. The town Common, across the street, had more crafters than ever before. Placement of all the crafters who came were carefully laid out by Bob Ducharme, to whom we are grateful.

The wide variety of handcrafted items made for a vibrant and well attended Craft Fair.

Contracts for the 2022 Ninth Annual Craft Fair will be going out in February to all who are interested in participating in this fun filled

fundraiser. This year's Craft Fair raised \$1,950. Thank you to all who brought their crafts, to all those who shopped, and to all of you who worked behind the scenes.

Please contact me if you or someone you know makes items they would like to sell at the October 1, 2022 Craft Fair.

Karenmoseley2134@gmail.com

Karen Moseley, Craft Fair coordinator

In Appreciation of Our 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:

Business Sponsors 2021

Stochaj Insurance Co.
Webco Corporation
Oxford Insurance
Dippin" Donuts
Laura Scott Properties
Pete's Tire & Oil LLC
Webster Five Cent Savings Bank
Rampco Construction Co.
Marty's of Dudley

Healy Society

Robert & Sheryl Grzyb

Benefactors

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Ed & Linda Bazinet
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John & Jean Hickey
Keekamoochaug Brook Farm
Gerry & Sandi Kunkel
Stephen & Lanette Lepper
Mary H. Lonergan
Joe & Mary McKeon
Marc Moseley & Family
Will & Karen Moseley
Chuck & Ginny Pappas
Margaret B. Pedersen
Ann M. Peterson
Barbara Pierce
Mark Smith & Sandy Peterson
Nancy Roy
Scott Roy
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Smolen
Mary & William Stewart
Dr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Stiles
Mark & MaryJane Sullivan
Ted Theodores
David Tonkin
Nancy J. Vajcovec
Paul & Visha Wieloch

2021 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
Sarah Williams Banks by daughter Barbara Gurney.

Jane H. Ryan by Carol Ann Eaton.

Michael Branniff by Ronald Bannister, Fred Sugar, and Mr. & Mrs. Richard Carmignani.

In Kind Donations

Scott Roy
Robert Grzyb
Deb & Darin Bazinet
Nancy Roy
Nichols College
Ed & Linda Bazinet
Rampco Construction Co.
Tammy Ducharme
Sandy Peterson
Bob & Chris Ducharme

Patrons

Bruce & Emily Babbitt
Marilyn Bayer
John & Rita Berry
Scott & Angela Biondi
Leo & Pat Biron
Hugh & Cathy Cushing
Scott & RoseAnn Cushing
Elaine F. Davies
Barbara Day & Nick McGray
Mr. & Mrs. George deRedon
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Phil & Fay Ferland
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Leslie Hoffman Vermillon
Kathleen Walker
Larry & Norma Waterhouse
Robin Watson
Dick & Pam Williams
John & Sarah White
Tom & Linda Yacuzzi

**Thanks to all
for your
continued
support**

BLACK TAVERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2022 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 complete/correct your personal information, so we may contact you for updates, announcements and mailings throughout the year:

PLEASE RETURN ENTIRE FORM WITH YOUR PAYMENT

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Please check if you would like to:

_____ Provide refreshments for a program _____ Help on workdays _____ Help at Third Grade Visit

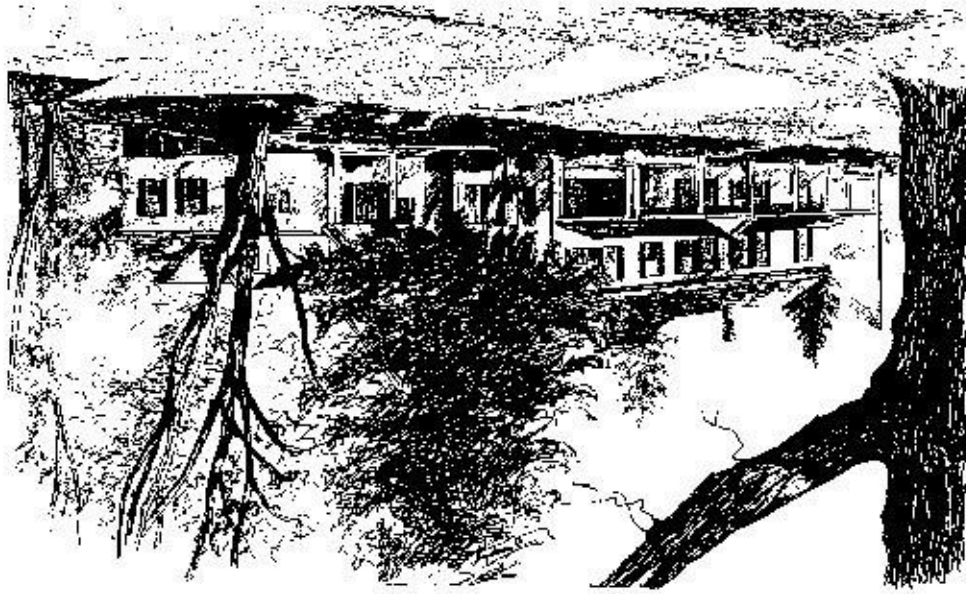
Checks payable to: **Black Tavern Historical Society**

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.