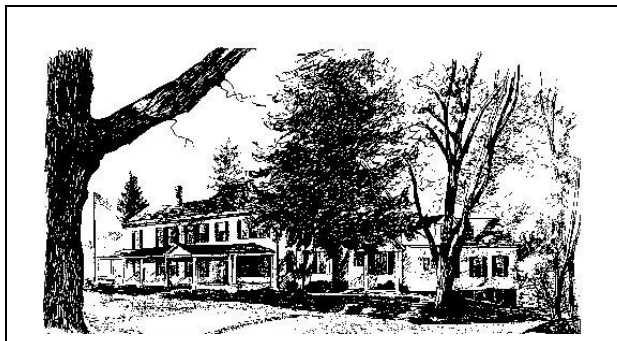




The Black Tavern

Historical Society of Dudley

Dudley Hill P.O. Box 143

Dudley, Massachusetts 01571

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

Tel. 508-943-8782

Newsletter January 2023

Board of Directors

Officers

Chairman: Linda Bazinet

Vice-Chair: Robert Grzyb

Treasurer: William Moseley

Clerk: Pam Williams

Members of the Board

Deborah Bazinet

Ed Bazinet

Tom Boyd

Robert Ducharme

Marc Moseley

Sandy Peterson

David Proulx

Nancy Roy

Scott Roy

The Black Tavern Historical Society Board of Directors is always interested in new people joining our group.

Should you be interested in joining us in our mission please contact any one of the above members.

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

Events for 2023

(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 16: "Ruth Bader Ginsburg:" a performance by Sheryl Faye.

April 20: "Connecting the Drops: Source to the Sea Through the Last Green Valley" Presented by Bill Reid.

May 18: "Katy Leary and Mark Twain." A performance presented by Gwendolyn Quezaire-Presutti.

TBA: Annual Third Grade Visit.

June 15: Grange Strawberry Festival & Tavern Tours. 4 P.M.

September 21: "Dudley Hill during the 19th Century." Presented by Bob Ducharme.

September 30: Annual Black Tavern Craft Fair, Grange Apple Festival 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. Rain or Shine.

October 19: "Reminiscing about growing up in Webster/Dudley during the 1950's and 1960's."

November 16: "Cumings Wright, Early Nerd." Presented by David Proulx.

Programs are subject to change

Message from the Chair

As I reread last year's Letter From the Chair, I realized how far we've come in a year. Last year at this time we were still "closed down", but thankfully things have gotten better over the past 12 months. As things opened up, so did we. We were able to restart our monthly programs in

March with the showing of the Tavern video that was funded last year by the Janet Malser Humanities Trust. The Malser Trust also sponsored another project - the restoration of the "3 hole" privy, which is nearing completion.

We were able to offer a variety of programs over the year and from audience feedback, they were enjoyed. We have been fortunate to have the financial support of many local companies who have sponsored our programs over the years. Our current sponsors are listed on our website.

In June, we were once again able to host the Third Grade Tavern Visit. This is always a highlight for students and volunteers alike. Another sign of things returning to normal was the Grange Strawberry Festival in June. Tours of the Tavern were given, and many strawberry shortcakes eaten.

In May, we held a Yard Sale, where members had an opportunity to sell some of the "stuff" they had cleaned out while being stuck in their houses during the shutdown. The Scholarship Committee awarded a \$1,000.00 scholarship this year to each of 3 graduating Shepherd Hill seniors to help them in their academic pursuits.

We did have some changes this year. Linda Branniff, after many

years as Clerk to the Board of Directors, resigned due to health concerns. Pam Williams stepped up to take over the job. Thanks, Linda, for your years of devotion to keeping our notes. In January, we learned of the passing of Linda Tonkin Beaudoin, an early contributor to the Tavern. In September, Peg Pedersen passed away. Peg was the Tavern Treasurer and a quiet voice of reason for many years and is missed by all that knew her.

As I come to the end of this letter and think back over the years, it's hard not to be mindful of the important contribution that the Tavern has played in the history of Dudley, and I'm proud to think I have been a part of it.

I've said it before and I'll say it again, "Thank You" for your continued support through your memberships and donations. As always a Special Thank You to Bob & Chris Ducharme for their continued devotion and care of the Tavern and grounds.

If you are traveling over the Hill, be sure to notice the banners on telephone poles near the Tavern, honoring four sons of the Tavern who fought in the Civil War.

Linda Bazinet, Chair

Caretakers Report

Well for the most part, activities at the Tavern resumed after the awful two year hiatus of the Covid crisis. Routine maintenance around the Tavern continued during that period, but we once again opened the Tavern for rentals and our monthly speaker programs which

resumed in March. It was great to see our members return after a much too long absence. Thankfully our membership recognized the difficulty that lack of rentals over the past two years along with the cancelling of our annual craft fair and other fundraisers posed for our fundraising activities, and they stepped up on a grand scale in their membership contributions. Thank you all so much.

After a snowy January, one of our first activities of the year was a presentation of the Tavern to a Nichols College History class by Tavern caretaker Bob Ducharme. It was great to welcome students who pass by this building every day yet had no idea of what was inside or how it shared a history of Dudley Hill along with the college for over 200 years.

As March arrived and the weather allowed, work by the contractor was started on the privy project. This project, as you may remember, was our restoration of a "three hole privy" built in 1857 which was located on the adjacent Stockley property. After the structure was moved by RAMPCO Construction Co. to our property, a grant funded by the Janet Malser Humanities Trust allowed us to have it restored to its original 19th century condition. This will really help us show the third graders, when they come in June, what life was like in the 19th century here on Dudley Hill.

Also in March we kicked off our first program in over two years with a showing of our new Tavern Tour Video, another project that was funded by the most generous Janet Malser Humanities Trust. If you haven't seen the video be sure to

check it out on the Black Tavern website at <https://www.theblacktavern.com/>

In April, the gardens began sprouting as warmer days finally arrived after a long winter. A garden bench was purchased for the Melinda Healy Moffitt garden located in the lower section of the back yard, and a sign was purchased for the Civil War Memorial garden that honors the 4 Civil War soldiers who were born and lived here at the Tavern.



Garden Bench in Melinda Healy Moffitt Garden



Sign in Civil War Memorial Garden

About this time we received a collection of Charles Goodell

papers and books donated from Nichols College. We have placed some of the books and paper materials in the museum room and sent some of them to the Crawford Memorial Library. A second Tavern tour was given to another class of Nichols College students. Spring cleaning was started inside the Tavern and on the grounds and gardens surrounding the property. Finally, the month closed with our second program of the year, "Ice Harvesting in New England," presented by Ken Ethier. Ken displayed a large array of ice harvesting tools and told stories about how each tool was used in the process of ice harvesting.

In May, the Tavern gardens were coming into bloom, flowers were planted, lawns thatched, raked, aerated, and fertilized. A yard sale was held on the Tavern front lawn in conjunction with the Dudley Conservation Land Trust/ Dudley Grange/ Dudley Agricultural Commission plant sale that was held across the street on the Grange lawn. Our May speaker program, on Harriet Tubman, "I Can't Die But Once," was held in the barn. The original one-woman program, was presented by Gwendolyn Quezaire-Pressutti. Her performance as Harriet Tubman was outstanding and inspiring. Following the presentation, "Harriet" answered many questions from the audience.

Our annual Third Grade Visit was held on June 1st. Eighteen volunteers welcomed over 125 third graders along with their teachers and parent chaperones to the Tavern. Two volunteers in each room showed artifacts and spoke

about what life was like during the 19th century. Everyone enjoyed the day, but all also noted that after speaking to two busloads of kids in the morning and two more in the afternoon, all volunteers were tired at the end of the day and had a renewed appreciation for what teachers do every day. Much thanks to all volunteers. The following weekend I gave a tour to 20 members of a Tavern rental, and gave two additional Tavern tours on June 11th and June 14th and finally at the Strawberry festival on June 16th Ed Bazinet and I gave two tours of the Tavern to approximately 100 people total. Meanwhile the Tavern tour video was being shown in the barn by Board of Director member Scott Roy, while Dave Proulx did his coopering demonstration in front of the barn. It was a great month for showing the public what so many of us here at the Tavern are proud of.

Normal summer maintenance projects continued throughout the summer and as August ended, Deb Bazinet restored the Healey's Inn sign. Deb, then assisted by husband Darin Bazinet, hung it back up on the signpost in front of the barn. "Great job Deb."



Healy's Inn sign painted by Deb Bazinet

With the arrival of September, monthly speaker programs began once again, when a program that had a local connection was presented by Pat Biron who gave a wonderful presentation about the story of her mother entitled "Nellie Twardzik, Dudley's First Lady of Baseball." The story of a Dudley girl who gained national recognition in the 1930's for being the first girl ever to play on a boys' varsity baseball team. Also of interest that month was another Tavern Tour that was given to Mrs. Leslie Vermilion and her family from Chico, California who were descendants of Tavern builder Hezekiah Healy.

October brings about that season when we get ready for New England winter here at the Tavern. Storm windows are put in place, perennial gardens are cut back, porch furniture put away, firewood brought into the cellar, insulation baffles into the fireplaces, leaves mulched and picked up, and yard machines prepped for winter storage. Our October program, "Digging History," was presented by Dr. Joseph Mitchell, professor of Archeology at Nichols College. Dr. Mitchell described his archeology dig on Dudley Hill in the back yard of the Tavern. Later on in the month, I gave two separate Tavern tours on October 22nd to two different families (one from Rutland, and one from Douglas). Both families happened to be visiting the common and viewing sights on Dudley Hill. Finally, I gave a Tavern Tour on November 3rd to Mrs. Amy Pagel and her husband, who traveled from Northfield, Minnesota. Amy is a descendant of

the Healy family.

November brought both our last speaker program and our last Board of Directors meeting for the year. The November program "Fashions in Flowers," Ornamental Gardens in the Early Nineteenth Century, was presented by Christie Higginbottom former coordinator of horticulture at Old Sturbridge Village. Using research and documentation from the collections at Old Sturbridge Village and gardens at the Village's historic residences as examples, Christie presented a program showing garden styles and flower varieties appropriate to early nineteenth-century, rural New England homes. Finally, at our last Board of Directors meeting of the year, members of the board were able to decorate the Tavern for the Christmas season, something we were unable to do for the past two years.

Bob Ducharme

BTHS Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee was pleased to award the 2022 Black Tavern Historical Society scholarship to Bronson Dubey, Cy Ducharme, and Skylar Finlay,



2022 Black Tavern Scholarship recipients Bronson Dubey, Skylar Finlay and Cy Ducharme

each in the amount of \$1,000. Congratulations to all three. The Scholarship Committee will be looking for applicants for 2023 to award a total of \$3,000 to one, two or three recipients, depending on application volume and eligibility. Applicants must be students of Shepherd Hill Regional High School, a resident of Dudley or Charlton, planning to pursue a degree in history or social studies, and must submit a completed application by April 7, 2023. Application forms will be available in the High School guidance office.

Marc Moseley

Presentation of the Tavern Tour Video

In March of 2022, as the Black Tavern resumed its programs following the pandemic shut down, I was privileged to present a program showcasing the Tavern Tour Video to a packed house. Of course, I was a bit anxious about the reception the video might receive but my concerns were soon allayed, when at the end, the audience applauded with great enthusiasm. I even noted a few teary eyes in the crowd. Indeed, it was gratifying to all of us who had spent numerous hours putting this video together. So, I thank all of them for their dedicated work, as well as the Janet Malser Humanities Trust for the generous grant, and the Luminous videographers for their professional participation. The video may be viewed on the Black Tavern website: theblacktavern.org midway down the Home page. I hope it continues to provide viewers with some interesting Tavern history

and enhances their appreciation of the preservation of this "gem on Dudley Hill."

Sandy Peterson

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Once again we, the Membership Committee, need to thank you for your kind, enduring, and generous support. Our total memberships for the year 2022 surpassed last year's total and our monetary intake is the greatest amount ever! We appreciate your kindness, thoughtfulness, and especially your generosity during these trying times. Member donations help us bring entertainment, knowledge, and the ability to maintain our Tavern as "A Special Place on the Hill". Thank you so much! Please fill out the membership form you received in the mail or use the form on the last page of this newsletter. We hope to see you at our programs listed on the front cover.

Nancy Roy, Chair

If you have not yet renewed your 2023 membership, please use the form on the back of this newsletter to do so. Thank you.

Remembering

Margaret Pedersen 1931-2022

We said goodbye to "Peg" this year.

Even though Peg had not been a Member of the Board for the past few years, she loomed large over many discussions. Every once in a while, during a discussion, someone would reference "how Peg would have done this." Thus was the reverence for her opinion long after she had stepped away from the table.

She had been an important force in the early years of the Society, and brought a certain "genteel" approach to discussions. She was the final arbiter of financial questions, and had a closet named for her, where she stored Tavern related items for sale and the pencils for the annual school tours.

In her retirement, a telephone chat with her was certain to cover not only Tavern business, but also interesting information (we would never call it gossip) from the town.

It is always good to have a second thought when making decisions, especially if it is "how would Peg do this?"

Ed Bazinet

Linda Beaudoin

It was with great sadness that the Tavern learned of Linda's passing this past January. Linda was a member of the Board of Directors in the early 1990s until she and her husband relocated to Florida.

Linda was known for her infectious smile and warm greetings. From helping to organize children's programs, craft projects, being in period dress for special occasions at the Tavern, to baking goodies for our open houses, Linda would welcome visitors to the Tavern.

Even after Linda moved to Florida, whenever she returned to Dudley for a visit, Linda would inevitably ask, "How are things going over at the Tavern?" She had a keen interest for the Tavern on the hill even after moving to Florida.

Tom Boyd

Hometown Heroes

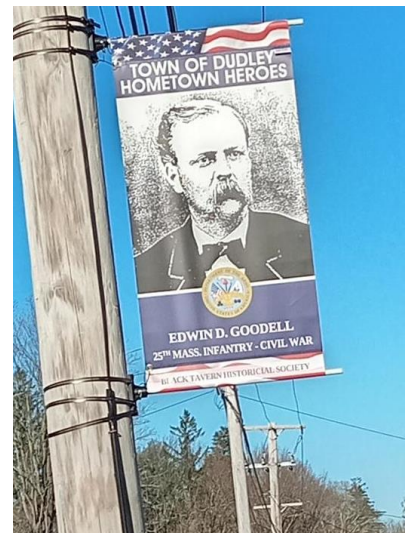
This past summer the Town of Dudley launched a Hometown Heroes Banner program as a living tribute to our community to honor past and present members of the Armed Forces. These banners would be installed on telephone poles in town with a screen print photo of any veteran or active duty service member from Dudley. Family members or organizations who wished to honor a veteran or service member could purchase a banner that would be displayed in the community. This past fall the Black Tavern decided to purchase banners to honor the sacrifice made by the four Civil War soldiers who were born and lived here at the Tavern: Anson P. Goodell; Edwin D. Goodell; Abiel P. Williams; and George C. Williams. Brothers Anson, and Edwin, along with their cousin Abiel served with the 25th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry and Abiel's brother, George

served in the 1st Massachusetts Heavy artillery. Edwin would lose a leg at the battle of Cold Harbor, VA and George came home wrapped in the folds of the flag he went to defend, after he was killed in action at Petersburg, VA. These four banners are now located on Center Road at the approach to the Black Tavern.

Bob Ducharme

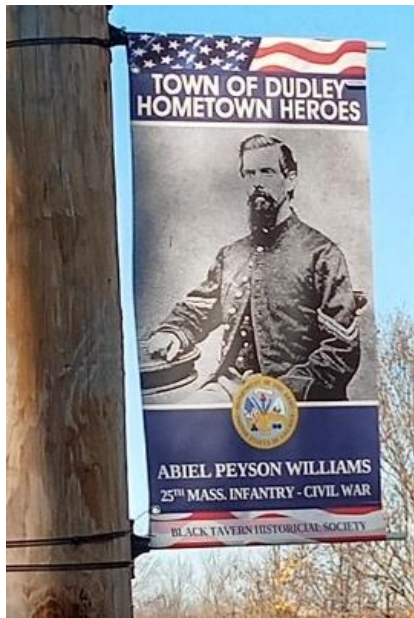


Anson P. Goodell



Edwin D. Goodell

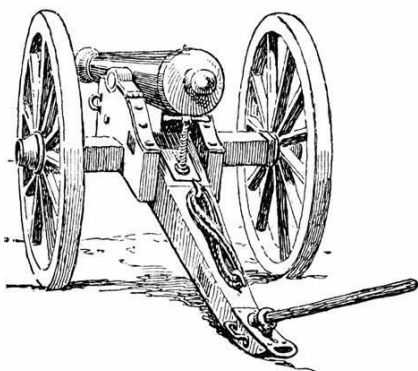




Abiel P. Williams



George C. Williams



Third Grade Visit

Each year the Black Tavern hosts a visit to the Tavern for the Third Grade Class of the Dudley Elementary School. This activity has been going on here at the Tavern for as long as I can remember. Each morning the day of the visit, which usually occurs in late May or early June, starts out on the front porch of the Tavern as ladies and gentlemen arrive dressed in their finest 19th century clothing (*we have clothing*) while awaiting in anticipation for the big yellow busses filled with children eager to learn about what life was like for folks living in the Black Tavern on Dudley Hill back in 1804. The children then exit the busses and split up into groups of eight to ten and are assigned to one of the nine rooms or stations throughout the Tavern and barn. In each room they are greeted with two volunteer docents who point out artifacts in each room and discuss as to how they related to life during the early 19th century. After moving from room to room in the Tavern for around one hour and forty five minutes the students then get back on the busses and return to school. The volunteers are then treated to a well-deserved lunch and some time to recoup before a second round begins with an afternoon group of students. We know this makes an impact on the kids when each year at the Strawberry Festival we see numerous children with their parents in tow wanting to show them what they have learned here at the Tavern. With this in mind, each year we encourage anyone who would like to join us in volunteering to this most worthy

activity and would love to include anyone who would wish to participate in this rewarding effort. If you are so inclined we generally place each new volunteer with a veteran who has done this before and try to make this a memorable experience for all. If you are interested in joining us, please check the space on your membership form or contact Bob Ducharme at 508-943-8782.

Bob Ducharme

Change on the Hill

Once again change has come to the historical landscape on Dudley Hill. Over the past decade the historical buildings once located on the old Stockley property located across Tanyard Rd. from the Black Tavern have been removed one by one through one means or another. The once grand home and barn that graced the property during the 19th century are now just a memory.

The home was built at the intersection of Healy and Center Rd. circa 1810 and in 1894 it was purchased by Andrew and Caroline Whiting who moved it to the corner lot at the intersection of Center Rd. and Tanyard Rd. where it became their family home.



At the location of Healy and Center Rd.

Later the house was inherited by daughter Bertha E. Whiting and then sold to John E Downey in 1955. John's mother, Bertha I. Downey, ran an antique business from the large building for many years. Following her death, John E. Downey then sold the home in 1975 to the late Ray and Marsha Stockley who also carried on an antique business from the house for many years. Ray Stockley had been a founding member and first President of the Black Tavern.



Photo taken of the buildings from the Congregational church tower around 1900



House at the time of the Stockley ownership

Over the last several decades the buildings had fallen into disrepair and in 2015 the house was destroyed in a fire and the remnants were removed leaving only the barn and the privy.



House destroyed by fire March 3, 2015

Eventually, the barn roof developed leaks and the timbers began to decay, and two years ago the Stockley heirs decided to sell the property to Nichols College. After purchasing the property, the college had the condition of the barn evaluated and it was determined too far gone to save. Upon inspection, the Historical Commission deemed the barn unsalvageable and granted a permit for its removal. Demolition of the barn took place that September. At that time the only remaining historical structure deemed savable was an antique 3 hole privy which was donated to the Black Tavern. Representatives of the college have said they plan to grade the lot and keep it as open space. Meanwhile



The end of an era
The barn comes down

RAMPCO Construction CO. moved the privy to our property last year, and over this past summer restoration of the structure began with completion planned for this coming spring, in anticipation that the completed privy will look somewhat the way it did when it was built in 1857.

Bob Ducharme
with historical information provided
by Linda Branniff



The Privy arrives.
A piece of history saved.

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:

Business Sponsors

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Scott Roy
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Smolen
Dr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Stiles
David Tonkin
John & Sarah White
Paul & Visha Wieloch
John G. Vanderaa

2022 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

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Smolen
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Rheault

Donations In Memory Of:

Father Ronald Damien by Carol Ann Eaton.

Betty Dupre by Nancy Roy.

Andrew Thompson by Patricia Kelly.

Sarah Williams Banks by daughter Barbara Gurney.

Linda Beaudoin by Kathleen Westhoff, Margaret B. Pedersen, Michele Honour, Jean & Timothy Sawyer, Judith & Thomas Overton, Robert and Christine Ducharme, Mary Ann Hickey, Maureen Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Cordon.

Margaret B. Pedersen by Robert & Christine Ducharme, Marilyn Bayer, June Waldron, Ed & Linda Bazinet, Susan Bourne Brinkama, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wojnowski, Jayne Cacciapuoti, Mark Smith & Sandy Peterson, Nancy Roy, Staff of Sitkowski, Malbeouf & Hickey Funeral Home, Chad Baker, Lilian Cathline, Susan Brinkama, L'Apres Midi Club.

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BLACK TAVERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2023 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

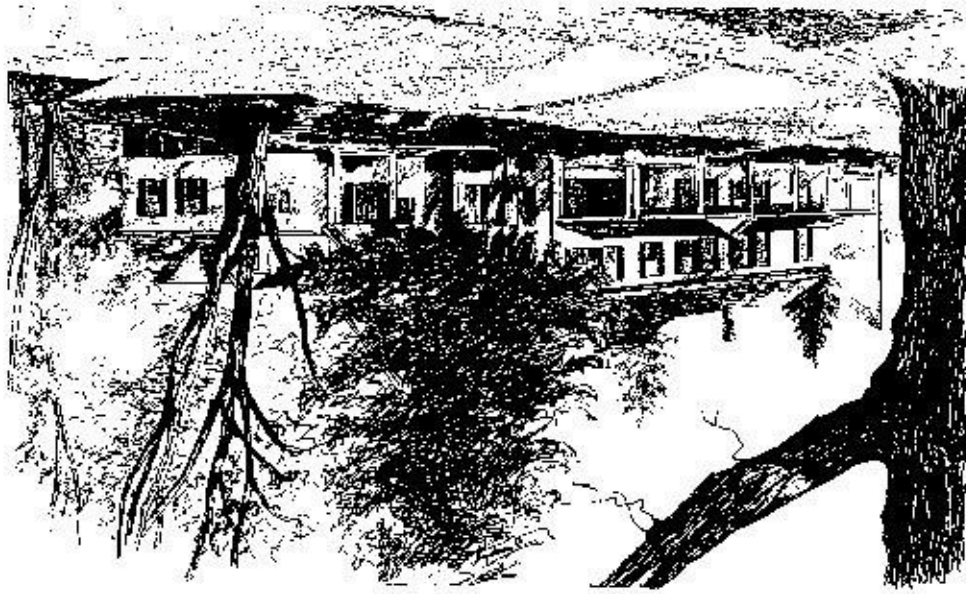
Checks payable to: **Black Tavern Historical Society**

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.