

The Spirit of Dudley Hill

I think "The Hill" is beginning to get to me. During unguarded moments I find myself humming the Dudley Hill song, based on the melody of "On top of Old Smokey!" After hearing the lyrics, people asked me to include it in this year's newsletter. Although it may seem a bit of a spoof, every verse is totally true! Here then are the lyrics, most humbly submitted.

Dudley Hill Song

(Melody: On Top of Old Smokey)

On top of old Dudley
Where the sky is so clear
A town with good people
And the heavens so near,

On top of the Old Town
Where the air is so pure
Except when they're trucking
The old chicken manure.

It was the Pegan Indians
Who deeded the land
For the birthplace of Dudley
Where its monuments now stand,

Gone are the old farmers
They've faded away
Achanging conditions
No reasons to stay.

On top of the Old Hill
Time seems to stand still
But not when you're paying
Your IRS bill,

There's still the Black Tavern
A sign of the past
Let's all work together
To make it to last.

John Vanderaa

So I've Heard

The following article is a reprint from So I've Heard, a column by Ed Patenaude, in the July 10, 2003 issue of the Worcester Telegram & Gazette. It was reprinted with Ed's permission and our thanks.

'Black Tavern Tales' tells stories by minister who lived at the inn

If you've got an extra \$30, or \$35 for delivery through the mail, you can buy some interesting reading and promote historical preservation by purchasing a reprint of "Black Tavern Tales," by the Rev. Dr. Charles Goodell.

Rev. Goodell, a nationally known preacher during the 1920s and 1930s, divided the tavern tales into three categories- historical, personal, and social.

His maternal grandfather was Capt. Hezekiah Healy, who built the Black Tavern at Dudley Center in 1803-1804

Rev. Goodell lived at the inn as a child, raised his own family there, and summered at the tavern until he died in 1937. The book was his contribution to Dudley's 200th anniversary celebration in 1932.

A limited edition in the first place, "Tales" has become a sought-after collector's item in recent years. Now The Black Tavern Historical Society of Dudley, the group that restored the tavern, has reprinted the book as a public service and to raise money for the restoration of the Black Tavern Barn.

The forward to the reprint was written by James L. Conrad Jr., historian, author, teacher, Nichols College trustee, and a lifelong Dudley resident.

Mr. Conrad writes, "Charles L. Goodell was no ordinary man and 'Black Tavern Tales' is no ordinary book. He was a clergyman, the author of at least 17 books with religious themes, a lecturer on the Redpath and Chautauqua circuits, well known radio evangelist - 'Shepherd of the Air' - on NBC, friend, and neighbor of all.

His career included pastorships in Acushnet, Providence, Boston, New York and Brooklyn. When in Brooklyn he was the minister of the world's largest Methodist Church...Later he was secretary of the Commission on Evangelism of the Federated Council of Churches of Christ in America." I've read "Black Tavern Tales" in recent days.

The stories are mostly local, but "The Old Stone Schoolhouse" caught my fancy. The big boys in the school set upon four teachers one semester, throwing one out an open door, and another through an open window, and locking the other in the cellar and in the attic. The school board solved the problem by hiring an old one-armed man named Ben Allard.

"The big boys were early in their place and were looking the old man over when he reached up his sleeve and drew down a ruler of hickory not far from 2 feet long. He brought it down upon the desk with a loud thump...and said "Boys, I am ready.' "

When Rev. Goodell died in 1937 in Manhattan, a "Radio Memorial" was held in the Marble Collegiate Reformed Church in New York City. The Rev. Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, who subsequently won acclaim for his writing and his radio and television programs, gave the prayer and benediction.

I wandered from the Dudley Grange Strawberry Festival on June 19 to buy a copy of "Tales" on a day that was full of hoopla about the latest "Harry Potter" book. I hope that everyone that bought a Potter book is as pleased with their purchase as I am with "Black Tavern Tales." People can get a copy of the reprint by contacting Margaret B. Pedersen at (508) 943-8391.

"Cats Meow"



Orders are now being taken for limited edition "Cats Meow" collectibles of the Black Tavern at \$20.00 each. All proceeds to benefit the "Barn Restoration Fund". If you are interested in making a purchase please contact Tom Boyd at (860)-928-1969.

Soon afterwards the chair was recaned, and when it was returned, it had a lovely red rose on it, and after an afternoon of iced tea and cookies was over Luree and Elliot had made a date for a luncheon. It was the first of many. This was in June of 1991, Elliot was by then 82, and Luree would turn 65 in July. In September of that year Elliot asked Luree to marry him. Of course she could not say no. At the October meeting a big surprise awaited Luree and Elliot, as the membership gave them a wedding shower. On November 30, 1991 Luree Rouleau married her best friend Elliot Barber in front of friends and family in the meeting room of the Black Tavern. Now it is 2003 and on November 30th Elliot and I will celebrate our 12th year of marriage.

Luree Barber

Looking for help in explaining civil war colonel's Dudley connection

I recently stumbled upon a link between my passion for the 15th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment during the War of the Rebellion (Civil War) and Dudley Mass. Because of my acquaintance with David Ward, the great grandson of George H. Ward, the colonel of the 15th Mass who was mortally wounded at Gettysburg, I was aware of the fact that Emily Mayo Ward, George Wards wife and Dave's great grandmother, came from Dudley. Dave, who lives near Philadelphia, has remarked to me on several occasions that he would love to be able to locate the "Mayo farm" in Dudley some day. Recently, while doing research on the Ward collection (*the Ward collection comprises a 132 page bibliography of photos, documents, and letters written by George Ward and his family*) at the

Worcester Historical Society with Dave, he showed me photos from a family scrapbook that he had brought from home. The top of the page contained the caption "Mayo Farm in Dudley" and the two-sided page contained eight photos of a farm. When I looked at them I immediately recognized a farm located at the intersection of Center Rd. and Farley Rd. Also included in the photos, in addition to the farmhouse and outbuildings, were Wielock pond, and Farley Rd as it looked then. Later while looking through the Ward collection we found another beautiful photo of the farmhouse along with photos of a gentleman named Waldo Healy, his wife, and Emily Mayo's schoolmates Harriet Perry and Sally Healy Walker, all taken around 1870. This piqued my interest in the Dudley connection and I began trying to sort out the facts.

An 1830's map of Dudley shows that H. Healy owned the building at that location. A later 1870's map shows that W. Healy owned it. Could this have been Waldo Healy? Another photo from Dave's scrapbook shows a gentleman near a milk wagon in the driveway of the farm. On the side of the wagon is "*? Walker, Dudley Mass.*" Could this be Sally Healy Walkers husband? Since period maps all list the building at that location as belonging to Healy family why does Dave's scrapbook list the photos as the Mayo Farm? I have also recently found a postcard dated 1909 that shows the house, the caption on the card stating "*At the turn of the road, Dudley Mass.*" Since I am interested in piecing together this puzzle and am relatively new to Dudley (32 years) I am hoping that some of our more "mature members" of the community can help out.

If you have any information or thoughts on the subject please contact Bob Ducharme at (508) 943-8782



Mayo (Healy?) Farm in Dudley ca.1880



Center Rd. looking south. ca.1880

Tara's Thistle

For the tenth consecutive year, The Black Tavern Historical Society of Dudley, in cooperation with the Massachusetts Cultural Council, sponsored a free outdoor concert on the rear lawn of the Black Tavern on Dudley Hill. Thursday, June 26th, Tara's Thistle came to the Black Tavern for the first time. Bruce and Sandy Hedman performed traditional Irish and Scottish folk songs. In addition to singing in close, two-part harmony to guitar and bodhran (Irish drum) accompaniment, they also performed on the Great Highland bagpipes, the small Lowland bagpipes dulcimer, harmonica, Irish flute and pennywhistle. The concert started at 6:00 PM and lasted until dark. For the first time, food and drinks, provided by Russ and Robbin's Catering Service was available, with the proceeds to benefit the Barn Restoration.

Peg Pedersen

June 17, 2004

- **Strawberry Festival on Dudley Hill-** The Black Tavern will offer music, crafts and games.

June 2004

- **Summer Evening Concert-** under the stars. Bring a picnic. Light refreshments will be available.

July 2004

- **Summer Evening Concert-** under the stars. . Bring a picnic. Light refreshments will be available.

Aug. 2004

- **Summer Evening Concert-** under the stars. . Bring a picnic. Light refreshments will be available.

Sept. 2004

- **Annual Business Meeting-** Welcome New Members. Harvest Basket Raffle.

Oct. 21, 2004

- **Fireside Readings from the Black Tavern Tales.**

Nov. 2004

- **Benjamin Franklin Comes to the Black Tavern-** Step back in time with this interactive presentation by Bill Mieckle.

Dec. 16, 2004

- **Closing Toast to the Tavern's 200th Anniversary-** Dinner to be announced.

For program information, contact Sandy Peterson (508) 949-2468 or Jean Williams (508) 943-3473

Most events begin at 7:00 pm, are Open to the Public & held at The Black Tavern, Dudley Hill, Center Road.

To schedule the Black Tavern for function/meetings, contact Eric & Sue Clearwater (508) 943 4579).

Please watch the local newspapers & listen to WESO for any changes with these events

Tavern Miscellany

"Why, nothing is happening with the Barn!" An often-heard remark. Well remember the old saying: "Measure twice - cut once", or "It pays to wait and think things over". Actually the best thing that could happen in fact did. Recently David Proulx, formerly Old Sturbridge Village's "Post and Beam" specialist, joined the Barn Gang.

His expertise and insight in barn restoration will be a tremendous asset. Welcome to the Society, Dave!

During the August 23, 2003, board meeting, the restoration strategy was extensively discussed and the scope of it changed a bit. Contrary to earlier plans to demolish the Annex, #140 Center Road, it was decided not to do that, at least for now. The Annex is structurally in good shape, and with minimal refurbishing could fill some much-needed functions such as a woodcraft workshop and storage space for the Tavern and caretakers. Maintaining the Annex will not impede the Barn Restoration, and actually will save us money!

The initial phase of the construction will all be done internally, and thus hardly visible from the outside. Removing the vinyl siding and restoring the vertical boards will be the final phase. Thus protection against the elements is maintained throughout. Also the two-level fire escape in the back, installed by Nichols College, will be highly useful, in fact crucial, during the inside restoration after the inside staircase has been removed. Therefore, it will only be removed once work on the inside has been completed. We may want to keep the pent roof in the back, as it was a typical feature of New England barns. Overall, the basic structure of Barn and Annex is fairly sound, and will, allow for an orderly restoration. That process has now been started in earnest.

I am very confident that Art Williams' dream will become a reality!

John Vanderaa

A TAVERN LOVE STORY

There are many tales and stories connected with the Black Tavern. There is even a book written by Dr. Charles Goodell entitled

The Black Tavern Tales. This is not one of those, as it is not a published story, but one that is close to my heart. You will find out why shortly.

This is the story of a man who in 1984 moved into the area to live with his sister after the death of his wife. He was an energetic man of 75 who needed something to keep his mind and hands busy. Shortly thereafter he met Art Williams who was in the process of restoring the Black Tavern. What Art needed at the time was more willing hands and Art found what he needed in a man named Elliot Barber. For the next seven years, Elliot worked beside Art and several other dedicated men in restoring the tavern.

Around 1991 another newcomer, also a widow, moved into the area. She saw different articles in the newspaper about the historic Black Tavern and when she inquired about it she was told she would be welcome to attend the meetings. She went to check it out and shortly thereafter Luree Rouleau became a member of the Tavern. During her first evening there, Elliot Barber was installed as chairman of the Black Tavern. A few weeks later the Tavern held an open house and Luree took her daughter to see all the antiquities. There was Mr. Barber conducting the tours. Introductions were made and a conversation began about a cane chair that needed to be recaned. As things went, Luree found out that Elliot was a man of many talents, one of which was chair caning. This was exciting to Luree, as she owned a cane chair that had been owned by her grandmother when she went housekeeping in the mid 1800's. The chair had a problem and it needed to be recaned. She questioned Elliot about how much he would charge to cane her chair, but was told that he only did it for friends, and did not charge for his work. Luree's next question was, "would you like to be my friend?"

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The Black Tavern

Historical Society of Dudley

Dudley Hill P.O. Box 1804

Dudley, Massachusetts 01571

Newsletter

September 2003

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Note- With the new change in format, and in order to be more up to date concerning events for the coming year, the newsletter will now be published in September of each year as opposed to January as it was in the past.

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Black Tavern Cookbook

Become part of a Dudley Historical Project.

We are looking for old family recipes possibly dating back to late 1800's or early 1900's with or without family traditions. All submissions will be considered for a Black Tavern Cookbook to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Black Tavern.

If interested please contact Faith Armstrong- 508-943-4076, Sandy Peterson- 508-949-2468, or Jean Williams-508-943-3473.

2003-2004

List of Events

Oct. 16, 2003

- *Tea Tasting Social-* with Faith Armstrong. Come experience green, black, & Tisani teas and learn the difference.

Nov. 20, 2003

- *Antique Appraisal-* by Ray Stockley. \$5.00 per item and \$12.00 for 3 items. Limit of three items per household.

Dec. 14, 2003

- *Traditional Christmas Tea-* Caroling and crafts. \$3.00 admission.

Jan. 15, 2004

- *200th Anniversary of the Black Tavern-* Opening celebration with music, wine, cheese. \$5.00 admission.

Feb. 19, 2004

- *"The Underground Railroad"-* comes alive with Ranger Chuck Arning of the Blackstone Valley.

March 18, 2004

- *"Heirloom Gardens"-* enchanting presentation by Cynthia Dias-Reid, Program Coordinator at the Willard Clock Museum in Grafton.

April 15, 2004

- *Who was Rufus Porter? -* Painter, inventor, and founder of the Scientific American. June and Colin Cassidy show his murals and their restoration project.

May 2004

- *Dudley Elementary School 3rd Grade Visit to the Tavern.*
- *Annual Business Meeting* Date to be announced.

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