

## *A Review of 2009 Tavern Events*

The Program Committee was very busy offering a variety of events this past year. Beginning in March, John Larkin, Chief Historian at Old Sturbridge Village and author of "The New England Country Taverns" presented "Taverns and Housing in the Early 1800's" to an enthusiastic audience, especially interested in early life on Dudley Hill. In April, Hannah Army, gave an inspiring and moving slide presentation on photographs of the Civil War. The program in May entailed the annual third grade field trip to the Tavern where young people became familiar with life at the Tavern in the early 1800's and each went home with a packet of goodies, including the famous Joe Frogger cookie. In June, The Black Tavern participated in the Grange Strawberry Festival by offering tours of the Tavern. Thanks to the generosity of the Cultural Council, two summer concerts included lively and high-spirited performances by the "Quintessential Brass" and "Yankee Notions." The sound of the hammer dulcimer and demonstration of the dancing wooden man was especially enjoyed by all. September's event, "An Evening of Reminiscences" brought three local historians to the Tavern, Tony Didonato, Ed Padeneau and Chet Kulisa who entertained a standing room only crowd by giving vivid and humorous tales of days gone by, in and around Dudley. In October, Dave Proulx, former historian of Old Sturbridge Village, and member of The Black Tavern Barn Committee, gave a fascinating account of the art of barn raising. A heartfelt thanks is extended to all who helped in the success of this year's programs. All programs are free and open to everyone, and followed by refreshments and a friendly ambiance.

The program committee welcomes anyone who would like to help with

refreshments, publicity, planning, or implementing of events. If interested, contact Sandy Peterson, 508-949-2468.

Sandy Peterson

## *Remembering Our Longtime Members*

In 2009, The Black Tavern Historical Society lost three of its longtime dedicated members. They are missed by everyone. The Society extends condolences to their families.

Elliot Barber, past Chairman and longtime member of the Board of Directors died Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>, in CA, just short of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was the last of the "Four Old Men" featured by Worcester's Telegram and Gazette in an article on the restoration of The Tavern in the 80's ( the other three were Arthur Williams, Charles Moseley, and Robert Worrick.

Sarah Williams Banks, great granddaughter of Hezekiah Healy, Black Tavern builder, died Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> in Ohio at the age of 104. A Lifetime Member of the Black Tavern Historical Society, she grew up in Dudley on the Williams farm (now the Webster-Dudley Golf Course).

Claudine Goodell, widow of Harold Goodell a grandson of Anson P. Goodell (Civil War letter writer), died March 28<sup>th</sup> in CA; she had celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 30<sup>th</sup>. The January 2009 NEWSLETTER made note of this event along with her picture.

## *Tavern Tidbits*

From Mike Branniff

*Editors Note- As many folks know, Mike Branniff, our resident researcher, spends countless hours pouring over microfilm of old newspapers while searching for information on Dudley's past. This past year Mike has found a few tidbits concerning the Black Tavern. The following are a few of these tidbits that he is sharing with us.*

Volume XV 3 34  
Webster Times  
October 18, 1873

The work of grading the common is nearly completed. The other day a stone was turned up near the road which bore the letters "B. C." and the date "1816." This is thought by some to indicate the ancient boundary of the common, but others interpret it "Before Christ, 1816 years." Archeologists will notice.

*Note- This stone, the origin of which many of us have wondered about, is currently located in one of the gardens located in the Tavern back yard.*

Volume XIX # 44  
Webster Times  
December 22, 1877

The residence of Warren Goodell is receiving a new coat of paint. We little thought that the shoe knife and the bible would come together, but so it has. Mr. A. P. Goodell is now the officiating pastor at the M. E. church.

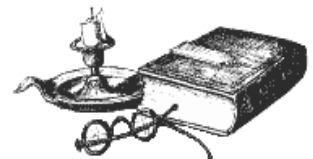
Volume 60 # 37  
Webster Times  
December 12, 1918

About 100 pounds of honey were taken from the ell of Rev. Charles Goodell's house recently, where a swarm of bees had hived. They have swarmed in the same place for two summers, and have been watched over by Elmer Colburn, who has seen to the gathering of the honey.

Volume 3 # 309  
Webster Evening Times  
September 28, 1926

Extract from an article concerning the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Webster Methodist Church"

"On Sunday, Sept. 3, 1903, the auditorium was reopened after being closed three months. The sermon was preached by Rev. C. I. Goodell, D. D., of Brooklyn, N. Y., whose summer home, which was the home of his boyhood in Dudley, only a few miles away. As he himself phrased it "Faith in God and all good things come easy to me, when I walk the floors my mother used to tread and sit under the roof which sheltered her."



## "Future Fundraisers"

### Save the Date!

On Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 5:00 and 7:30 P.M.,

The Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge, Massachusetts will host a fundraising dinner to benefit The Black Tavern Historical Society. This is your opportunity to enjoy a delicious, all-you-can-eat Italian Dinner Buffet and help us raise money to support our many projects

The dinner is **Cash Donation**, \$13.00 adults, \$5.00 children, (4-13).

The menu for the evening includes Spaghetti and Meatballs, Eggplant Parmesan, Minestrone Soup, Garlic Bread, and Tossed Salad.

We hope to see you there May 17 between the hours of 5:00 and 7:30, (last seating).

We have also received permission from Shaw's Community Rewards Program to become a member of their fundraising efforts. If you have a Shaw's Rewards Card, all you need to do is register it online or at any local store, and shop on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, and 1% of your total bill will be donated to the Black Tavern Historical Society.

To learn more about this program, visit our website, [www.TheBlackTavern.com](http://www.TheBlackTavern.com).

Also, watch for notices of our **Annual Yard Sale**. Date to be determined soon.

The best way you can help The Black Tavern Historical Society is to become a member. We look forward to your support, and welcome you! You may find a membership form by going to our website and clicking on **Become a Member**.

Nancy Roy

## Black Tavern Historical Society Donor/Benefactor

Dec 17, 2008 through Dec. 25, 2009

Mr. & Mrs. David Bayer  
Bateman Electric  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward B. Bazinet  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald G. Beaudoin  
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Mr. & Mrs. Paul Wieloch

*The Black Tavern Historical Society is most grateful to the above individuals and businesses that have supported, financially and/or "in kind", the Black Tavern Historical Society. Every effort has been made to ensure this list as well as the one of Memorial Gifts to The Black Tavern Historical Society is accurate and complete. If there is, however, an error or omission, we apologize and ask that you notify The Black Tavern Historical Society at P. O. Box 1804, Dudley, MA 01571.*

## Memorial Gifts to the Black Tavern Historical Society

Jan. 1, 2009 through Dec. 25, 2009

In memory of Sarah (Sally) Williams Banks.

Barbara G. Smith of New Providence, NJ

Barbara Gurney of North Olmstead, OH

## Black Tavern Historical Society Special Appeal Donors

Nov. 1, 2009 through Dec. 25, 2009

Anonymous.....7  
Joseph & Janina Antos  
Ronald & Peter Bannister  
Edward B. & Linda A. Bazinet  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald G. Beaudoin  
Robert W. Bryan  
Dr. Fred Busch  
Robert R. & Christine M. Ducharme  
Ann C. Eaton  
Glynn Family  
Mr. & Mrs. David E. Gould  
Barbara Gurney  
Thomas L. & Anne M. Healy  
Clarinda Lewis-Jones  
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Nanette F. & Robert G. Martin  
Senator & Mrs. Richard T. Moore  
Margaret B. Pedersen  
Sandra Peterson & Mark Smith  
Nancy T. Roy  
Lynn & Jay Spahl  
Mrs. Raymond W. Sheldon Jr.  
Barbara G. Smith  
William W. & Mary S. Stewart  
Dr. Debra M. Townsley  
Nancy Vajcovec

*The Black Tavern Historical Society is most grateful to the many persons, far and wide, who contributed to the SPECIAL APPEAL held in the fall of 2009. The Society wishes to extend a particular thanks to those individuals listed above for their generous gift of \$100. or more.*

of Directors, designed and constructed the table that will be used in the "Tavern's" hearth room.

Mr. Ducharme stated that at one of the "Tavern's" board meetings, members discussed that it would be nice if the Tavern could replace the present fold up tables located in the hearth room with something that would be more period appropriate. "This got me thinking," Bob said "and I decided that I would try to design something that I could make from available lumber that the Tavern had on hand." The Tavern had some left over barn flooring that had been purchased with donations received from the local elementary school students penny drive conducted each year.

After researching several styles of tavern tables on the Internet, Bob designed the table using the desirable features of each design and incorporating the Tavern's future purpose for the table. The present tables, primarily used to place beverages and baked goods on when we have speakers at our monthly programs, were modern fold up banquet tables and did not represent what would have been used during the early 1800's. These tables were also not appropriate to have on hand when the Tavern was opened to local students during their annual third grade field trip.

When he had completed designing the table, Bob began construction using the 1-1/2" rough flooring boards left over from the barn renovation project. It was also appropriate that the rough sawn boards came from trees that were cut in Dudley. The table would incorporate most 19<sup>th</sup> century construction practices such as lathe turned legs, mortise & tenon joinery with dowel pins locking each joint, and through mortise & tenon joints on the breadboard ends of the table top. The table also would include a drawer constructed using dovetail joints.

As construction was nearing completion, Bob consulted with Hugh

Cushing, a local painting contractor, regarding Bob's plan for applying an appropriate finish to his work. (Mr. Cushing was one of the original founders of the Black Tavern Historical Society and, with his family, a longtime supporter of it.) Mr. Cushing concurred with Bob's plan to apply a primer, then a red sub coat of paint covered with one of black, lightly sanding areas on the black paint to expose red highlights giving the impression of wear marks that would be present on an old table. The top of the table was finished using 6 coats of hand rubbed tung oil to give a protective finish yet one that was not modern in appearance.



*New tavern table presently located in the hearth room of the Black Tavern.*

Mr. Ducharme has stated that he not only enjoyed the challenge of constructing the table, but that since he was not part of the initial group that restored the Black Tavern for the benefit of all, it afforded him an opportunity to contribute in his small way to the Tavern and it's mission of preserving the history and telling the story of times past on Dudley Hill. Shortly after completing the tavern table, Bob constructed a side table to go along with the tavern table and both are currently located in the hearth room at the Black Tavern.

#### **We Have a Winner!**

After months of selling tickets for our Quilt Raffle, the lucky ticket was drawn at our September program. Marion Antkowiak of Dudley was the winner!

A totally surprised Marion said, "I never win anything", when she was notified of her prize.

The raffle committee wishes to

thank everyone who supported us in this endeavor by purchasing tickets. Monies gained from this project will go to the barn restoration fund as requested by Priscilla Butler, the talented and generous lady who made and donated the Lovers Knot quilt



*Beautiful quilt for raffle made by Priscilla Butler*

Strange, as it may seem, both the winner and quilter live in the same neighborhood, and have never met each other!

Nancy Roy

### *Black Tavern Rentals*

The Black Tavern, a beautiful old 19<sup>th</sup> century building that is listed on the Department of Interior National Register of Historic Places is available for rental and is a wonderful place to hold a function. Over the past year the Tavern has been used by many different organizations or groups for a variety of functions such as meetings, symposiums, graduations and retirement parties, wedding receptions, baby showers, and christenings, Thanksgiving and Christmas family dinners, school field trips, and even a Selectmen's meeting. The Tavern accommodates up to 75 people with full kitchen facilities.



*Christmas Party at the Tavern.  
(Photo by Linda Branniff)*

documents, drawings, etc. We outlined the issues for proposals: National Register application; Aid in Determining Future Use; Design and Permit Drawings for the East Wall; Defining Utilities Needs; and Assist in Searching Applicable Grant and Fund Raising Opportunities.

We obtained a list of qualified contractors from the Mass. Historical Commission and requested proposals from three of these. After some adjustments and site visits, the Board approved the recommendation of the Barn Committee. Fortunately, we had sufficient funds in the Barn Account and were able to retain Chernot Associates, Inc. of Sterling, MA. for the project. Mr. Phillip Warbasse, one of the firm's Principals, took on the responsibility.

Phil made several trips to the site, developed existing drawings, collected pictures and documentation and drafted the initial application for the National Register. After review by the Board, modifications were made and the draft application was submitted to the Mass. Historical Commission. They needed additional information which was gathered and a package was resubmitted. In his wisdom, Phil included the Barn Annex (old Shoe Shop) in the submittal and requested that it be accepted as an addendum to the Black Tavern registration. On November 10<sup>th</sup>, Karen L. Davis of the Mass. Historical Commission sent a letter stating that Barn and Annex meet the criteria at the local level for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as ancillary buildings to the Black Tavern. She requested a letter of support from the BT Historical Society which was written and submitted. Her letter stated that once this was received, they will prepare an amendment and submit it to the National Park Service for listing.

Several meetings have been held and we are now moving forward with the design work and permit needs to resume the renovations necessary to

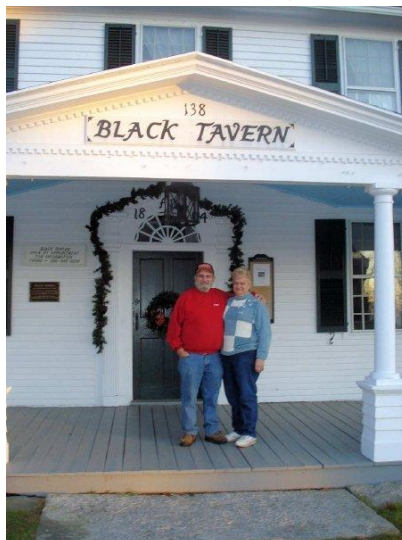
complete the restoration of the Black Tavern Barn.

Once designs and utilities needs are finalized and priced, we can again seek grants to fund this activity. Additionally, based on suggestions from Phil Warbasse and Chernot Associates, Inc., we are beginning to think of what we want to do to restore the Shoe Shop to its productive period condition.

David Butler

### *"Tavern Odds and Ends"*

#### **"New Black Tavern Tenant/Caretakers"**



*Bob & Chris Ducharme  
on the front porch of the Tavern*

The Black Tavern now has new tenant/caretakers in Chris and Bob Ducharme. This past April our longtime live in caretakers Eric and Sue Clearwater decided to move from their apartment located in the ell of the Black Tavern. Upon the Clearwater's departure the Board of Directors decided that before they would look for another tenant/caretaker they would renovate the apartment. Bob Ducharme, Ed Bazinet, George Martin, Will Moseley, and Mike Branniff began the renovation in June, working on a one workday per week basis. As September came around and work was progressing, the Apartment Committee, in anticipation of the completion of work, began searching

for new tenants. Several people had expressed an interest but by the end of September it soon became apparent that interested parties had changed their minds. Upon hearing this at the September Board of Directors meeting Bob Ducharme went home and joked to Chris by saying "What do you think about selling our house and moving to the Black Tavern?" What initially started out as a joke turned more serious when they made a list of positives and negatives on the prospect of moving. They soon realized that the positives far outweighed the negatives and within two days had told their children of their plan to downsize at this point in their lives. They then called a realtor to discuss the prospect of selling their home of 37 years. Because of many upgrades that they made in their home in recent years, they were able to sell their home in three weeks. The only hitch is that they had to be out by November 23 and the apartment was not yet ready. At that point work on the apartment shifted into high gear and Bob worked toward its completion every day while he and Chris dealt with the nightmare of packing 37 years of "stuff". To say the least it was a challenge. As moving day arrived the apartment had been upgraded to its present wonderful condition and the move went off without a hitch with the help of many strong backs. Bob and Chris are finally settling in and both love their new home in the historic old Black Tavern.

#### **"The Tavern's New Tables"**

*(taken from the Webster Times)*

Recently the Black Tavern Historical Society of Dudley was the recipient of a reproduction 19<sup>th</sup> century "tavern table". Robert R. Ducharme, a Dudley resident, retired woodworking teacher of 35 years at Oxford High School, and current member of the Black Tavern's Board  
continued on next page.....



- II. \*Anson Penniman, 25 Dec. 1839
- III. \*Edwin Davis, 16 Aug. 1842
- IV. Charles Henry, 7 Dec. 1845, died 27 May 1849 of Scarlet Fever
- V. Charles Lee Roy, born in 31 July 1854<sup>[9]</sup>

\* Civil War Soldier - the occupations of Anson and Edwin Goodell - their service records say they were "shoe clickers."

The Goodells continued living in the "Tavern" and the mother, grandmother lived with them.

Dr. Charles Lee Goodell (a clergyman who became nationally known as a radio evangelist called "the Shepherd of the Air" on N.B.C., a lecturer and an author of at least seventeen books including the *Black Tavern Tales*) and his family used the "Tavern" as a summer residence until his widow passed ownership of the "Tavern" to Nichols College in 1946.

(Nichols College used the "Tavern" as a guesthouse, and dormitory.)

By 1984 the building had fallen into disrepair and fearing large maintenance costs the college deeded the building to a newly formed "Black Tavern Historical Society of Dudley" for the price of \$1.00.

Restoration was begun in 1984 by a volunteer group of dedicated individuals and financial assistance from those who recognized it's historical significance. Restoration had reached the point where the building was opened to the public in 1990. The Black Tavern is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

Hezekiah Heal(e)y b. Oct. 8, 1766, son of Joseph and Mary. Dudley VR to 1850, p. 64. Joseph Healy is listed in the Dudley VR to 1850 as being born in 1729. There are other

children born before this listed in the Dudley VR. For example, Joseph's brother Joshua is listed as being born in 1727.

<sup>2</sup>The births, marriages and deaths on this page are from Vital Records of Dudley, Mass. to the end of the year 1849, Worcester Massachusetts; Pub., by Franklin P. Rice. Trustee of the Fund, 1908, Stanhope Press. P. H. Gibson Co., Boston, pp.64, 68,157,175,180,181,240,266.

<sup>3</sup> Although she is listed as Mrs. Becca Corbin in the marriage record, she was the daughter of Lemuel Corbin and Rebecca Davis, born June 24, 1772. History and Genealogy of the Descendants of Clement Corbin of Muddy River Mass and Woodstock Conn, by Harvey Merrill Lawson, (Harford: Case, Lockwood and Brainerd Co, 1905) p. 80.

<sup>4</sup> Historical Collections of Every Town in Massachusetts, A Heritage Classic, a Facsimile Reprint, Pub. in 1991 by Heritage Books, Inc, originally pub by Dorr, Howard & co., Worcester, 1841.

<sup>5</sup> Inscriptions for Old Corbin Cemetery, NEHGS Cemetery Inscriptions Collection

<sup>6</sup> Dudley VR to 1850, pp. 125-6.

<sup>7</sup> Dudley VR to 1850 p. 60 (Clarinda's birth is listed under Goodell)

<sup>8</sup> Dudley VR to 1850, p. 60

<sup>9</sup> Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841-1910 (Massachusetts Archives) vol. 83 p. 162, Birth date also given in US Passport Application dated 5 Aug. 1892.

\* *This is a rewrite of the work of Bob Ducharme, with additional notes by George Martin and new dates with footnotes by Sara Costa.*

### "The Black Tavern Needs You"

As stated by our chairman earlier in this newsletter, we have instituted "workdays" where one morning a week volunteers gather to provide some tender loving care to the "Tavern". (We provide coffee and....) Our next endeavor is to begin repainting the inside of the Tavern, which has not been done for quite some time. We are always in need of additional manpower (or womanpower). If you feel that you can find some time and would be inclined to help spruce the place up, please get in touch with any member of the Board of Directors and let them know.

## An 1821 newspaper advertisement about the Black Tavern

From Mike Branniff

Times are tough these days and it was no different for Becca Healy, the first mistress of The Black Tavern. Following Hezekiah Healy's death in 1817, she ran The Black Tavern for several years herself. Then the following ad appeared in the *Massachusetts Spy* in 1821:

To be Let,

**A**ND immediate possession given the first of April next—~~a~~ DWELLING-HOUSE, with a Store and Cabinet Shop, adjoining, and other Out-Buildings—~~with~~ about 20 acres of excellent Land, situated in the centre of the town of Dudley, within a few rods of the Academy. Likewise one half of a Dwelling-House, with a few acres of Land, situated about one and a half miles from the Meeting-House. The above premises were formerly owned by Capt. Hezekiah Healy, late of Dudley, deceased.

BECCA HEALY.

Dudley, March 6, 1821.

This was found in the *Massachusetts Spy* by Mike Branniff while researching early Dudley.

## 2009 Black Tavern Barn Report

Last January Rudnicki Roofing Company of Webster did an excellent job of replacing the deteriorated roof on the barn. This was critical to prevent further damage to the structure and interior due to foul weather. They also installed unobtrusive rain gutters and downspouts.

At this juncture, we needed to determine several factors before planning future construction work. We also have to get the barn registered on the National Register of Historic Places to make it eligible for several of the grant funding sources. . We agreed that we could use the expertise of a professional familiar with these processes to guide us and to provide needed

Continued on next page.....

## From the Chairman

*Continued from Page 2*

successful fundraisers. In May we held our First Yard Sale which not only was a lot of fun but also a huge success. Watch for next years: not only will you find lots of bargains, you'll be helping a great cause. We also had a quilt raffle thanks to a beautiful quilt made and donated by Priscilla Butler, for the benefit of the Barn Fund. Currently we have a Special Appeal underway. It has been many many years since we have turned to our supporters for help, but as you can see The Black Tavern Historical Society is strong and working to keep the Tavern a vital part of Dudley for many years to come. So if you haven't already sent in a donation, start the New Year by helping us!

Best wishes for a wonderful 2010.

Linda Bazinet

*Have your special occasion in  
a nineteenth century setting  
at the*

### ***Historic Black Tavern***

*Ideal for showers, wedding  
receptions, family get-  
togethers and meetings.*

*Accommodates up to 75  
people, with full kitchen  
facilities.*

*Call: Bob & Chris Ducharme  
@ 508-943-8782 for details.*

*or email us at*

*ABY15MA@aol.com*

### **A History of the Black Tavern on Dudley Hill**

#### ***Dudley, Massachusetts***

The Black Tavern was built in 1804 by Capt. Hezekiah Healy, son of the

first white male child born in Dudley,<sup>[1]</sup> married Mrs. Becca Corbin 14 Nov. 1798 in Dudley.<sup>[2]</sup> Was she a widow?<sup>[3]</sup> Becca was born 24 January 1772, and died 4 June 1845, age 72 years, 11 months and 20 days.

The tavern was built opposite the four-acre lot deeded to Dudley by the Nipmuc Indians, the tribe that was known by the name Pegan, and was located halfway on the stagecoach road between Boston and Hartford and between Springfield and Providence. Note that there is a reserved space in the meetinghouse, (now the Congregational Church) marked with a brass plate, which was at one time in the front row. The four acres were given to the town for public use on condition that all their tribe should have the right to convenient seats in the meetinghouse.<sup>[4]</sup>

The tavern was originally called Healy's Inn, but was later known as the Black Tavern because, for a short time it was painted black in the mistaken belief that the black paint would last longer. It was built before the Boston Turnpike and before Slater built his mills and the separation of Webster from Dudley.

There are three sections to the building; the main building (the Black Tavern) was built in 1804, the east ell was added in 1810 and was originally a [wood] workshop. The north ell was added in 1830 and was used as a country store and at different times housed the town post office. It is believed that the front porch was added in 1898.

After Hezekiah's death (28 Dec. 1817),<sup>[5]</sup> his widow, Becca (Corbin) Healy and daughters, Becca and Clarinda, kept the tavern going for a while but since the main business of the area moved to the area around the Slater mills, the tavern became the family home. Their children were all born in the Black Tavern of Dudley Hill.

I. Becca, b. 25 April 1804, married (December 10, 1820)

Albigeance Williams, who was the son of the Congregational Church minister across the street, Rev. Abiel Oordained in 1799.

Becca's family lived in the east ell for a time, but after the family became too big, they moved to the Williams's farm, which is still on Healy Road.

Their children, all born in Dudley, were:<sup>[6]</sup>

- i. Hezekiah Waldo, 16 May 1833
- ii. \*George Champion, 29 Feb. 1836, killed 1864 at Petersburg, Virginia
- iii. \*Abiel Peyson, 20 Dec. 1838, (his Civil War letters are listed)
- iv. Samuel Sewall, 16 Oct. 1841, died 22 Dec. 1849
- v. John Healy, 4 Dec. 1843
- vi. Albert Cargill, 12 May 1847, 23 Aug. 1849

\* Civil War Soldier

II. Hezekiah, Jr. born 8 November 1809, son of Capt. Hezekiah and Becca, died of an accidental gunshot wound on 29 May 1821 at the age of 11 years.

III. Clarinda, b. 20 July 1812<sup>[7]</sup> married 15 June 1836 to the Methodist Minister of the church that was adjacent to the barn, Warren Goodell. Their children were all born in the Black Tavern, then just the Goodell home and they lived in the main part of the building. Their children, all b. in Dudley, were:<sup>[8]</sup>

- I. Warren Waldo, 18 Sept. 1837

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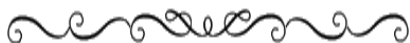
**Dec. 2010 (Date TBA)**  
▪ **"A Holiday Gathering"**

For program information, contact  
Sandy Peterson (508) 949-2468 or Linda  
Bazinet (508)-943-5509

Most events begin at 7:00 pm, are Open  
to the Public & held at The Black Tavern,  
Dudley Hill, 138 Center Road. For concert  
times, check local papers or listen to the  
radio as times may vary.

To schedule the Black Tavern for  
functions/meetings, contact Bob & Chris  
Ducharme @ (508) 943 8782.

*Please watch the local newspapers &  
listen to WESO or call (508)-943-8391 for  
any changes with these events*



## *From the Chairman*

*Continued from Page 1*

again shines bright on Dudley Hill.

Another long overdue problem was  
the fireplaces. After inspection,  
the fireplaces in the Hearth Room  
and the Meeting Room were  
determined to need major brick and  
hearth work to insure their safe use.  
We hired Jason Hall to do the work.  
What is interesting is Jason had  
originally worked on these fireplaces  
with his father Lyman Hall when  
work was first done on the tavern.  
Jason did a fantastic job rebricking  
the one in the Hearth Room and  
replacing a broken hearth in the  
Meeting Room. So come those cold  
winter nights we can once again  
warm ourselves by roaring fires.

While these projects were taking  
place, work continued on cleaning and  
organizing the interior of the  
Tavern. We have two beautiful  
additions to the Hearth Room. Bob  
Ducharme, a master woodworker,  
made tavern tables from wood left  
from the barn floor to replace  
folding tables that were there. In  
the upcoming year we hope to  
address some much needed paint and  
repair issues inside the Tavern.

The work is never done. One fun  
thing, that has come out of all the  
projects the Tavern is in need of, is  
"workdays." Once a week a bunch of  
volunteers would meet at the Tavern  
and work on different things. Not  
sure if the coffee and goodies were  
the draw, but things got done.

Meanwhile we haven't neglected the  
barn. Work continues there too.  
We had a new roof installed by  
Rudnicki Roofers last winter. After  
all the work that had been done on  
the floor and interior of the barn we  
didn't want to loose it to water  
damage. We hired a consultant, Phil  
Warbasse of Chenot Associates, to  
help us determine further needs and  
renovations to the barn. Working  
with David Butler, they have  
submitted applications to the Mass  
Historic Commission to get the barn  
listed on the National Registry of  
Historic Places; this should open up  
grants to aid in future renovations.  
At this time things are progressing  
and we expect full recognition soon.  
We may be a historic place, but we  
became part of the internet age this  
year. Thanks to Scott Roy, we have  
a website: [www.theblacktavern.com](http://www.theblacktavern.com).  
Now you can check out what's  
happening at the Tavern from the  
comfort of your home. Of course we  
hope after checking us out you'll  
participate in some of our programs  
and activities.

Another exciting event was the  
acquisition of the monument from  
the Stevens Mills. This consists of  
the two corner stones and a lintel  
from the old mills. We are very  
proud to have this displayed in front  
of the barn, as it is such a historic  
part of Dudley's past.

I have saved what I consider the  
biggest change at the Tavern until  
last. In May after 9 years of love  
and care to the Tavern, Eric and Sue  
Clearwater resigned. A simple Thank  
You is not sufficient to express our  
gratitude to them for their years of  
loving care. But family changes  
made it necessary for them to move  
on. With the apartment empty it  
was decided it would be the perfect

time to upgrade a few things. Well for  
any of you who have started a simple  
little project, you know how easily one  
thing leads to another. That's exactly  
what happened in the apartment.  
Before long, cabinets were replaced,  
electrical and plumbing updated,  
insulation installed and lots and lots of  
paint put on the walls. What we  
expected to take a month or two  
turned out to be six, but it was worth  
it, the apartment looks spectacular! A  
search for new tenants was begun.  
Then to everyone's surprise, Bob  
Ducharme announced that he and Chris  
were ready to downsize their lives and  
would like to be the new Tavern  
caretakers. What a wonderful win-win  
for us. Bob is a retired Industrial  
Arts teacher who loves to putter, so  
will have many projects around the  
Tavern to keep him busy and Chris is a  
passionate cook who will keep the  
Tavern full of wonderful aromas. They  
moved into their new home in  
November and are fast settling in. We  
say WELCOME! At this point I would  
like to say a personal THANK YOU to  
all the volunteers who have worked so  
hard all year to not only keep the  
Tavern going, but to improve it. I  
would like to list them by name, but  
know I'd forget someone, and not  
wanting to loose a volunteer, I'll just  
say "Thanks to all of you".

As we do every year we hosted the  
Third Grade class from Dudley  
Elementary School for a day of Dudley  
History in June. This has become such  
a treasured tradition for both groups.  
Once again the students presented us  
with a check from their Pennies for  
Preservation Program. Over the past  
five years they have raised over  
\$8,000.00, which has been used in the  
restoration of the barn. Also in June  
we were open for tours in conjunction  
with the Grange's Strawberry Festival.  
Although it was a rainy event, we had  
several visitors and a lot of good  
memories in front of the fireplace.

As you can see we have been very busy,  
and all these projects cost money. To  
help with that side of all the  
improvements we've had some very

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## Newsletter

January 2010

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Longtime Members

Editor - Bob Ducharme

# The Black Tavern

Historical Society of Dudley

Dudley Hill P.O. Box 1804

Dudley, Massachusetts 01571

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

### OFFICERS

Chairman	Linda Bazinet
Vice Chair	Mike Branniff
Treasurer	Peg Pedersen
Clerk	Linda Branniff

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joe Antos	George Martin
Linda Bazinet	Marc Moseley
Tom Boyd	Will Moseley
Linda Branniff	Connie Nederoscik
Mike Branniff	Peg Pedersen
David Butler	Sandy Peterson
Jane Cacciapuoti	Dave Proulx
Bob Ducharme	Nancy Roy
Carolyn Earp	Ray Stockley
John Vanderaa	

## From the Chairman

It's hard to believe a year has passed since I wrote my first "From The Chairman" letter. When I think back over the past year at the Tavern, I'm overwhelmed by all that has taken place. As with any building, there is always upkeep, but with a historic building the upkeep seems to be greater and certainly costly. It has been many years since some major issues have been addressed, so the Board of Directors made some big decisions. The first one being we were all too old to be climbing ladders and tackling some of these things ourselves! It had been several years since the Tavern had been painted and it was looking rather shabby. In July we hired Reliable Painters of Dudley to paint the exterior and shutters. They did a wonderful job and the Tavern once

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## 2010 List of Events

January & February

- No Programs\*

Mar.18, 2010

- "Webster, Dudley, and Oxford During the 19<sup>th</sup> Century" digital presentation and book signing by authors Paul Macek and James Morrison.

April 15, 2010

- History of early 19<sup>th</sup> century garden design, common and rare plants presented by historian Linda Oakley.

May 2010 (Date TBA)

- "Third Graders to the Tavern"- Third Grade students from the Dudley Elementary School visit The Black Tavern.

June 17, 2010

- "Strawberry Festival"- The Black Tavern is open to the public for tours.

July/August, 2010

- Summer Concert (Date TBA)

Sept. 16, 2010

- "The Black Tavern Through the Years - its History and Restoration" by Tom Boyd

Oct. 21, 2010

- Tour of Dudley – John Mrazik guides us through Dudley

\* Due to the high cost of heating and unpredictable winter weather, there will be no monthly programs in January, February, and November of 2010.

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