

Built In 1804

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Marc Moseley
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Sandy Peterson
David Proulx
Nancy Roy
Sarah White

*Bob Ducharme was voted to fill out the term of Hugh Cushing upon Hugh's resignation.

The Board of Directors regret the resignations of two long-time members:

Jayne Cacciapuoti
Hugh Cushing

A well-deserved "thank you" for all your efforts on behalf of the Tavern. You will be missed.

Like to become a member of the Board of Directors? Ask any member of the Board if there are vacancies. We would welcome new members when vacancies need to be filled !

**Black Tavern
Historical Society
of Dudley, Inc.
P.O. Box 143
138-142 Center Road
Dudley, MA 01571**

EVENTS FOR 2016

March 17: Daniel Webster, "I Still Live" by professional actor Jim Cooke

April 21: "A Revolution of Her Own, Deborah Sampson Garrett" presented by character actress Judith Kalaora

May 14: Annual Tavern Yard Sale from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m.

May 19: "The Old Connecticut Path, Americas Oldest Highway" presented by Jason Newton

June 16: Grange Strawberry Festival and "Upscale Yard Sale" In The Barn 4 p.m.

June 27: Publick House fundraising dinner (Italian). See board members for tickets.

July 17: Concert "Fanfare Brass" Early 1800's music. In our barn from 5-6:30 p.m.

TBA: Second Summer Concert. Watch our website for details.

Sept 15: "Under the Petticoats" by Patricia Perry of Sneak Peek Productions

Oct 1: Tavern Craft Fair and Grange Apple Festival 10-3

TBA Third Grade Visit

Oct 20: "Things That Go Bump In The Night" presented by Patricia Perry of Sneak Peek Productions

Nov 17: "Wild Plants I Have Known.....and Eaten" presented by Russ Cohen, environmentalist and wild foods enthusiast

Events at 7 p.m. at the Tavern

**NEWSLETTER
February 2016**

**Tel: 508-943-8782
Web: theblacktavern.com**

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Best wishes for 2016. We've all gotten Holiday letters that expound on how wonderful everything is. Johnny has been accepted to only Ivy League colleges and little Annie is dancing with the National Ballet. Well consider this your Holiday letter from the Black Tavern.

Everything is just WONDERFUL... when I think back over the past 6-7 years I am amazed at how much we've accomplished in maintaining the Tavern's presence on Dudley Hill. We've shored up foundations, re-sided, painted, and done every little thing that needed to be done. As you know these improvements are the results of the efforts of many people. Not just those who meet to do the work, but you too. Thanks to your continued membership and donations, it allows us the money to undertake these improvements. So **Thank You!** (Please remember to renew your membership, and better still, encourage a friend or acquaintance to join. We truly appreciate your support. Be sure to include your email with your membership so Bob can send you Tavern Updates.

This year has been an interesting one at the Tavern with highs and lows. In April we were devastated as our neighboring property, the Stockley residence, was the victim of a fire. This stately

building, home of the late Ray (BTHS' first chairman) and Marsha Stockley was a link to old Dudley Hill. It was sad to see another piece of Dudley history gone. The barn is still standing but the future of it and the lot has yet to be determined.

In late summer the State started its project of reconfiguring Center Road. So we've had to endure dust, trucks and mud. This is supposed to take until late 2016 to be finished, so looks like we have many dusty, muddy days ahead.

It's not just memberships and donations that support the Tavern. Over the year we hold many fundraising events. In May we held our 7th Annual Yard Sale. I am always amazed at the amount of "stuff" we get. Every year a couple of weeks before the sale, Bob will look in the barn and say we don't have much. My response is "just wait", and sure enough when the day arrives the Yard Sale elves have come through.

In June we held our "Upscale Yard Sale" (the former Antique & Collectible Sale) in conjunction with the Grange's Annual Strawberry Festival. This is truly the event of the year for Dudley, thus we get a good turnout of shoppers.

Both of these events are a fun way for us to raise money. So if you or someone you know is downsizing, just want new stuff or are cleaning out, remember us. With renovations complete, the barn can now receive and store donations.

Both the May and June sales are listed in our 2016 "Events" column on the front page of this Newsletter.

On a very rainy day in October, we held our Third Annual Craft Fair. Remember I mentioned the mud earlier? Well the hill was awash in mud. But our hearty vendors and craft fair goers trudged through and were rewarded for their perseverance with a variety of unique items. Once again Deborah Bazinet donated her artistic talents and painted an antique chair with a scene of Old Dudley Hill for our raffle.

We continued our monthly programs and were pleased to see an increase in attendance. Meeting Room productions included "The Last Green Valley," "A History of Baseball," "Places and Faces of Old Dudley," and "We are What the Pilgrims Were." In the barn, which now has new seating, we had concerts by The Grey Whisker Pickers, musicians Mark Mandeville and Raianne Richards, and "An Evening of Barbershop", as well as a play about Clara Barton. Be sure to check out our Events for 2016 to see what's coming. These programs are free and open to all, with refreshments following.

We were the recipient of a Janet Malser Humanities Trust Grant that allowed us to replace damaged siding on the Tavern.

Once again, Ron Rheault and his awesome carpenters came to our rescue

and did a fantastic job of replacing some badly worn siding.

Like everything, change is inevitable. We had two members of our Board of Directors resign due to conflicts with scheduling: Hugh Cushing and Jayne Cacciapuoti. They were both very active members of the Tavern and they are missed. With Hugh stepping down, it left the position of Vice Chair open. Thankfully Bob Ducharme volunteered and was appointed interim Vice Chair.

Another change was the annual Third Grade Visit. Because of a change in the curriculum at the Dudley Elementary School, the third grade visit was held in October. The students and volunteers had a good day reliving the history of the Tavern and Dudley in the 1800's. Since our costumes were pressed, we joined the Last Green Valley Walktober Program and did Tavern tours on November 5. It gave us a great opportunity to showcase the Tavern, this time for adults!

As you can see we've had another busy year. I want to thank all those who helped, whether it was with memberships, donations, work days or attending our programs. I've said many times before, but it can't be said enough. It wouldn't happen without you. THANKS !! And as always a special thank you to Bob & Chris Ducharme. If it wasn't for their time and dedication I know the Tavern wouldn't be what it is.

Linda Bazinet
Chairperson
Board of Directors

**Black Tavern Craft Fair
October 1, 2016
10-3 At The Tavern**

Contact:

karenmoseley2134@gmail.com
[860-923-2134](tel:860-923-2134).

**REMEMBER
OUR SPRING YARD SALE !**

May 14, 2016
8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Amazing Items You Never
Knew You Needed



Another Home Lost on the Hill

As mentioned in “A Message From The Chair,” a great loss was sustained by Dudley Hill at 3 a.m. on April 7, 2015 when the home of the late Ray Stockley and his wife Marsha was lost to fire.



The Whiting-Stockley House

The house was built circa 1830 and moved from the start of Healy Road to sit across from the Black Tavern about 1870.

It was the former home of Andrew Whiting and his daughter, Bertha, as well as later being the home of Mrs. Bertha Downey, who carried on an antique business on the site.

The Stockleys bought the home from the Downey heirs and also carried on an antique business from the house for many years. Ray had been a founding member and first President of the Tavern.

2015 Membership Committee Report

There comes a time in all our lives when we meet caring, generous people. These people are the members of the **Black Tavern Historical Society**. Without a doubt, it is **you** who help us keep this wonderful tavern alive! Thank you for your continued support. If not for your interest and generosity, it would be extremely difficult to keep up our work on the tavern, and provide programs for the general public.

We added several new members this year, folks who attended our programs and were kind enough to join and support our family. Some people joined after reading about our programs in the 2015 edition of the Last Green Valley’s WALKTOBER calendar and attending our recent fall programs held in our newly renovated barn, with capacity crowds!

Thank you to all those members who bake for our activities, clean the tavern, gather and help on workdays, to keep our tavern in tip-top shape.

You may renew or join our family by completing the membership form you received in the mail or the one on page 10 of this Newsletter.

Nancy Roy, Chairperson
Membership Committee

BE SURE TO CHECK OUR LIST OF COMING EVENTS FOR 2016 !

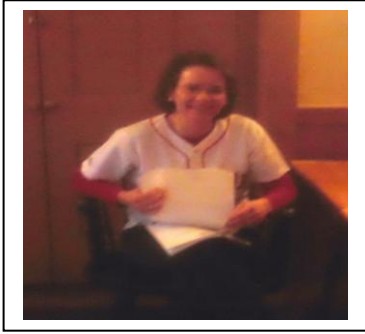
Our monthly programs this year offer presentations on history, music, a meal at the Publick House, our annual yard sale, a craft fair, an expose of what our grandmothers actually wore under all those clothes, as well as some spooky stuff for Hallow’een.

Light refreshments to follow.

2015 Program Report

March: Last Green Valley – It’s Where You Live. Chief Ranger Bill Reid presented an overview of the history and features of this National Heritage Corridor, the last little piece of rural landscape on the Eastern Seaboard.

April: “Rounders to Baseball,” a history of the game, was hosted by Board members Jayne Cacciapuoti and Carolyn Earp. It was a lively presentation put on by Anne Barrett.



Anne Barrett At The Tavern

Anne traced the game's evolution from 19th century "townball" to the start of professional leagues and the emergence of baseball's greats, with a focus on New England's own home team, the Boston Red Sox. Everyone enjoyed the evening and left in the mood for the coming spring.

May: Mike and Linda Branniff presented a well attended illustrated program featuring some obscure photo images of Old Dudley and the people who used to call the town home. Some little-known anecdotes about some of the doings in Old Dudley were also related. One member who attended the presentation even spotted an 1880s photo of a long deceased family member and a digital copy of the photo was sent to her after the program. All enjoyed seeing the old photographs.



Samuel Conant c. 1925

June: The Black Tavern's "Upscale Barn Sale" and the Dudley Grange's Strawberry Festival were held on June 18 and attracted the usual HUGE crowd of people who came out to enjoy strawberry shortcake, frog jumping, and a barn full of vintage and antique goodies for sale. As usual a yeoman's effort was made by Ed and Linda Bazinet, who kept things well displayed and organized in the barn. One of the favorite events at the Tavern.



Almost Too Much For The Money

July: Our first summer concert featured the popular group The Grey Whisker Pickers. The weather cooperated and we had a beautiful summer afternoon for the concert, presented from the doors of our renovated barn. Everyone brought a chair and some munchies to enjoy the music. This group always enjoys a good attendance at their performances at the Tavern.



Grey Whisker Pickers at the Barn

Need A Special Spot For That Special Occasion?

Black Tavern Rentals Are Available.

**Call Chris or Bob
Ducharme
508-943-8782**

August: Mark Mandeville and Raianne Richards once again entertained a large audience in



Raianne Richard and Mark Mandeville

our barn. The duo always provides us with great entertainment and a variety of musical pieces. A very pleasant summer evening.

September: Board members Nancy Roy and Peg Pedersen hosted a wonderful September program: An entertaining one-woman program on Clara Barton presented by Sheryl Faye from Salem.

Her performance of local heroine, Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross was outstanding! We learned many facts about her life, some not found in our history books. Sheryl took us from her childhood days, through the Civil War and into her adult life.

At times it almost seemed as if the real Clara was sitting in front of us.



Miss Faye In The Barn

Miss Faye used several forms of media for sight and sound background and progressive costume changes to enhance her biographical program to the packed and attentive audience. She captivated the “full house” (or barn) audience and the crowd showed its appreciation by extending this talented performer a standing ovation at the conclusion of her performance.

We look forward to another visit from Sheryl Faye in the future.

October: Member Chuck Squire and Board member Sarah White hosted the October program. Entitled “An Evening of Barbershop Harmony” it was held in the Tavern’s barn due to great acoustics and anticipated large audience.

Chuck gave the audience a brief history of barbershop harmony and the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. (or the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.)

He then introduced a local quartet from Worcester

Men of Song Chapter:
Mark Goodney, Rick Munnis,
Gary Swanson and Chris
Harris.



THEATRIX In The Barn

Following a demonstration of how the singing style is derived, they began their performance, and with the help of Patricia Haggerty of Sturbridge included the “duet” from Music Man.

Not all the songs performed were “strictly barbershop” as Mark Goodney brought his “banjolele,” a cross between a banjo and a ukulele. The 40-minute show resulted in TWO encores being demanded by the appreciative audience.

Following the show, great refreshments provided by the Tavern bakers were served by Sarah White. THEATRIX remained to enjoy the refreshments and there was even an impromptu rendition of Sweet Adeline with one of the audience.

Positive comments were received by the quartet and the audience after the show.

**See The Attached
Membership Form To
Join The Black Tavern**

**Only \$10 Single and
\$15 For A Family**

THINK SPRING
DON'T FORGET THE YARD
SALE !!
May 14, 2016

The Black Tavern will be holding its Annual Yard Sale--in the barn and on the lawn--on May 14, 2016 from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m.

If you are cleaning out a house, your cellar, attic or garage, remember the Tavern is accepting donations for the Yard Sale now (no clothes or electronics, please).

Bring your donations to our barn: Call Bob Ducharme first (508-943-8782) For pick-up call Bob or Linda Bazinet (508-943-5509) and we will arrange to pick-up your donation.

November: Hosted by Board members Tom Boyd and Joy Glynn, and sponsored in part by Pete’s Tire of Webster, the November program was “We are Who the Pilgrims Were” presented by Mr. Glenn Cheney. Mr. Cheney is the author of several books including one on the first year of existence for the Pilgrims. He has also been a professor for several colleges in Eastern and Central Connecticut where he lives.

Our capacity crowd of guests listened to Mr. Cheney give a history of the first year of life for the Pilgrims in the New World. He explained the many difficulties that arose that year, including the alliances with the Native Americans in the area, the Wampanoags.

He then went on to explain the meaning behind the first Thanksgiving for the Pilgrims and Native Americans alike.

As he explained throughout the program, the Pilgrims were not wealthy. Instead they were the middle class who believed in a strong work ethic that will make you successful. They made alliances and stuck by their allies even when others wouldn't. These are our American values and part of our identity as Mr. Cheney concluded with his presentation.

November: The Black Tavern also hosted a two-hour guided tour on Saturday, November 7th, for The Last Green Valley (TLGV) **Walktober.** Do you know what kind of jobs people had 200 years ago? What did kids do for chores back then? What was life really like in the early 1800's? Our tour provided a little bit about history, old-fashioned jobs and old-time crafts.



Marcy Dawley (TLGV) and Chuck Squire of the Black Tavern

The Tavern was open four hours and this program was a well received with over 50 people attending.

2015 Caretaker's Report

The year 2015 has seen continued upgrades and maintenance to the Black Tavern. As you may well be aware it is a never ending battle to keep a 210 year old building maintained and in good repair. Thanks to the continued support of our membership we have been able to make these improvements.

In January it was decided to investigate putting an interpretive sign on the front lawn with a brief history of the Tavern. In the past strangers to Dudley hill would frequently stop and ask if this was a working Tavern and could they get a drink, or simply ask, what is this place? A sign describing the historical significance of the Tavern would encourage folks to come back and investigate this gem. 40 additional chairs were purchased for the barn, bringing the total number of chairs for that venue to 80. This will allow us to provide seating for all the patrons for our summer concerts and fall programs in the barn. A grant application to the Janet Malser Humanities Trust was submitted in hope of repair and restoration to siding and soffit areas in back of the Tavern. During the month ongoing routine winter work such as painting and weatherizing inside the Tavern was being done along with snow removal after one of the worst winters in recent history.

In February we shoveled snow,...shoveled snow,...and shoveled snow!!!!



A Surfeit of Snow !!

In March our snow-blower was repaired after nearly being worked to death in February. Table tops on all the tavern tables were refinished. With the improvement in the weather we started picking up donated furniture for our spring yard sale.

In April, finally the advent of good weather. This meant that the annual spring rite of cleaning the gardens, thatching, raking, aerating, liming, and fertilizing the lawns had to be done. We appreciate the many compliments of how good the grounds look, but as any homeowner knows this does not happen by accident. At this time, all the porch furniture, and picnic tables were taken out of winter storage, and Chris did a major spring cleaning of the entire inside of the Tavern.

In May, the traditional geraniums were hung on the front porch. The interpretive sign purchased for the front lawn was installed. And then the other tenants moved in. Chris' hanging pots have for several years attracted a mother finch. It seems that a pot of geraniums is just an ideal place to raise a new family. First we had a little nest, then a clutch of 5 eggs and then hungry little mouths to feed. Happily all the youngsters fledged the first week of July. We await the mom's return in 2016.



The Other Tenants At The Tavern

As a joint project, Ed Bazinet and I teamed up and restored a donated antique drop leaf table that we would use in the taproom of the Tavern. With the help of the Dudley Fire Department repairs were made to our flagpole. The Society was able to purchase an antique sword used by Waldo Goodell that was found on Ebay and added it to our museum room after I constructed a bracket to display it.

At this time we were notified that we had received a grant for the Janet Malser Humanities Trust for work on the back of the Tavern.



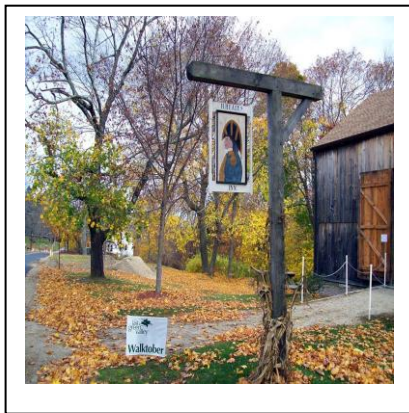
Our New Informational Sign

In June and July work on the siding and the soffit was completed on the back of the Tavern. This work was done by R. C. Rheault Construction Co. We also installed floodlighting

to the front of the Tavern and barn to increase safety during evening Tavern and barn programs. This work was completed by Bateman Electric.

In August repairs were made to the furnace. During a windstorm, a large section of a maple tree in the back yard came down. Thanks to a work crew we made short order of the cleanup. During the month work was started on the reconstruction of Center Road resulting in a constant dust bowl on Dudley Hill. This necessitated the washing of the front porch on a weekly basis.

In September firewood donated by Will Moseley was stacked in the Tavern cellar in preparation for the winter season. Candle lanterns were constructed for use in front of the Tavern on evening events.



Fall At The Tavern

In October the Society purchased a new lawn tractor to replace the aging one that was used to maintain the grounds at the Tavern. Labels were made and installed in the barn identifying each antique tool mounted on the barn wall. Two new rugs were purchased for the front porch in an effort to

alleviate tracking in the dirt from the Center Road reconstruction project. Damaged pocket doors to the Museum room were replaced and converted to French doors.

In November spring chores were reversed when all porch and yard furniture were placed in winter storage and the lawns were raked of leaves. A floodlight was added to the rear of the Tavern.

On a more personal note, I can't believe that another year has gone by and it has been six years since Chris and I have moved to the Black Tavern. Some of you may know that Chris has finally retired this year and we have the privilege of taking care of my youngest grandson, Tristan, during the week and my other grandson, Cy, visits regularly.

I'm not certain, but I would guess that it has been a long time since little boys roamed the halls and grounds of the Black Tavern on a daily basis. As Tristan's "papa" and Cy's "grandpa," I am blessed that I get to share my passion of history in general and more specifically that of the Black Tavern with them on a daily basis. As I often tell folks "I truly am living a dream."

Bob Ducharme
Caretaker



Bob, Tristan, and Cy

2015 Craft Fair Report

The third annual craft fair was another great success in October despite the cold, the rain, the wind, and the muddy road. Bob Ducharme was a great help by making wooden markers to identify the spaces for those crafters who were outside. Chris Ducharme and Linda Bazinet checked off the crafters as they arrived and made sure that they found their proper spots. Tom Boyd elicited help from Shepherd Hill National Honor Society students who helped to carry items from the crafters' cars to their spots and to retrieve lunches from the Grange for them.

The crafters were as cheerful as if it had been a sunny day and the visitors enjoyed each booth and were happy to view the barn and the Tavern. There were twenty crafters selling maple syrup, handmade greeting cards, doll clothes, sweatshirts, knitted items for children and babies, jewelry, glassware, quilted items, alpaca socks and other goodies, handcrafted chocolates, candles, and items made of wood. Many people were looking to start their Christmas shopping early and were able to find unique, well made, artistic gifts for reasonable prices. Let's hope that the fourth annual Black Tavern Craft Fair will have a sunny day. If you or anyone

you know makes items and would like to have a spot on October 1, 2016, contact **Karen Moseley** by email at karenmoseley2134@gmail.com or by calling her at [860-923-2134](tel:860-923-2134).

2015 Third Grade Visit

On May 15th and October 26th, 2015 several members and volunteers of the Black Tavern Historical Society provided tours to the Dudley Third Graders.



BT Members in Costume At Third Grade Visit

Students were given a brief lesson of what it was like to live in the 1800's.

Children as young as 6 or 8 years old might work in a mill, factory or they might run errands and make deliveries for a store keeper.

Many children in rural parts of the country worked on farms alongside the grownups. Their work day started before the sun came up and boys' tasks might include cutting, splitting, or carrying firewood for the stove or fireplace, tending to the farm animals, carrying water to the house, putting up

or repairing fencing, working in the gardens, fields or orchards, and hunting, trapping or fishing to provide food for the family.

Girls spent long days cooking, milking cows or goats, collecting eggs, churning butter, making breads and cheeses, preserving foods, cleaning, doing laundry, making candles, sewing clothes for the family, preparing fibers like wool and flax to spin and weave, caring for younger brothers and sisters and helping elderly family members.

Joy Glynn

It's Back !!

**The Black Tavern's
Upscale Yard Sale
In The Barn**

**June 16, 2016
4 p.m.**

**Have A Strawberry
Shortcake At The Grange
And Then Come Over To
The Barn And
"Shop 'Til You Drop"**

**Collectibles, Bric-A-Brac,
Oddities & Antiques**

***Many thanks to our webmaster,
Scott Roy, whose expertise keeps
our web page humming along.
Thanks, Scott!***

This Newsletter is compiled of Black Tavern members' articles and photos. It was assembled by Linda Branniff, Clerk of the Board of Directors at the Tavern.

2015 DONATIONS

BLACK TAVERN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

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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.

Benefactors

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Linda Branniff
Hugh Cushing
Bob & Chris Ducharme
Dudley Fire Dept.
Carolyn Earp
Joy Glynn
William Moseley
Chris Rawson
Nancy Roy
Scott Roy
Webco Chemical --
Mark Puliafico

In Memory Of:

- Dudley Marsh by Carol Ann Eaton
- Jeff Means by Glynn Family & Sonny and Jane Means
- Connie Nedoroscik by Joanne Szymczak
- Andrew P. Thompson by Patria Kelly
- Sarah Williams Banks by Barbara Gurney