

SEPTEMBER 7, 2016

The big event at the Warner farm last month was the 175th anniversary open house celebrating the beginning of the farm with the purchase of 80 acres in 1841. Despite the rainy forecast, it cleared up literally minutes before we began. Over 130 family members, friends, and area residents were in attendance. A presentation on our efforts at the site including historical and genealogical research, archaeological excavation, and restoration of the house was given. Attendees toured the house and the Hicks school as well as viewed artifacts recovered at both sites. The National Register of Historic Places bronze plaque was dedicated and the honor of the unveiling went to the eldest 5th generation family member, Lynn Chase. Framed front page newspaper articles from the Argus-Press were presented to Ken Hoffer of Hoffer Structural Lifting and Randy Klepinger of Klepinger Construction for work on the Hicks school move (the original owner of the school, Dave Keller, also received one later as he wasn't able to be in attendance). Photo books containing images of the family and farm as far back as 1889 sold out for the silent auction. Attendees enjoyed a potluck dinner and many of the kids played games in the back yard including walking on wood stilts. Many thanks to friends and family members who helped out with this event!

Next month we will be participating in Archaeology Day again at the Michigan History Center in Lansing. The event features a variety of archaeology related activities from atlatl (spear) throwing to making pottery. There will be displays from professional, avocational, and university researchers from around the state. A series of presentations will also be given. There will also be a 'scavenger hunt' for a series of archaeology themed postcards courtesy of the Michigan Archaeological Society. We will have a considerable display of artifacts from the Warner farm as well as the Hicks school. Archaeology Day is Saturday, October 1st, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Admission to the museum is free, the event is free, as well as parking - so what's not to like! There really is something for everyone from prehistoric and historic artifacts to hands on activities for children and adults alike. More information at http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10366_11859-283662--RSS,00.html

The farm received a number of donations including several original items. Cloyce Odell donated a "Lincoln" style rocking chair that is seen in a 1902 photo of the farm seating second generation family member George Warner. Linda Danders donated a white granite Maddock & Co (1906 - 1910) chamber pot. My aunt, Lorrie VanDyke, donated a circa 1910 Michigan Star Furniture Co (1909 - 1923, later became Herman Miller Furniture Co) dresser and a barn door that has initials of many family members. Another aunt, Julie Dunn, donated a number of recipe books, pie plates, a sifter, a rolling pin, a Victorian picture frame, and a wood corner shelf with supports made of thread spools. My uncle, Elroy Warner, donated the ice box that was originally in the cellar. Many thanks again for the donations to the farm!