

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

We were back in full swing for archaeological research at the Warner site earlier this month. Thirty-seven sixth grade students from University Liggett in Grosse Pointe Woods attended the annual student dig at the farm. The students received a presentation on our research inside the Hicks school, took a tour of the 1855 farmhouse, as well as participated in a variety of activities such as corn shelling and walking on stilts. The focus of the day, however, was screening part of a large pile of soil that was removed when the foundation for the school was installed. The students found a number of items related to everyday farm life including including brick, round and square nails, window glass, bottle glass (including a nice green fragment with air bubble inclusions), peach pits, animal bones, a pig's tooth, an iron clasp, the end of a modern key, and ceramics (including a nice rimsherd), a rivet from a pair of jeans or overalls, among other items. Many of the artifacts likely date to the 19th century with some spanning in time to the mid 20th century or so. The rimsherd exhibits a simple incised decoration near the rim, a pattern that we hadn't recovered previously. Many thanks to Elroy Warner, Beth Carr, Julia Joblinski, and Rachel Dudzik who volunteered to help make this event a success. Thanks also to Duane Watters of Watters Masonry who donated a number of squeezable toy cows that were well received as prizes during the mystery artifact session of the presentation. A reporter and photographer from the Livingston Daily newspaper covered the event. The article made the front page of the Sunday paper: [Kids excavate Hicks one-room school's new home](#)

Besides excavation at the Warner site, we also conducted archaeological research at the former location of the Hicks school. Quite a few finds were made: slate pencil fragments, pen nibs, ceramics with transferprint decoration (some dating to the 1830s/1840s), marbles, buttons, glass beads, and firearm cartridges. Colin Macleod made the finds of the day recovering a nice child's gold ring and later finding a whole medicine bottle. Other developments include the discovery of the 1920s to 1950s privy. Lots of window glass was found but also several intact bottles including a square inkwell, ceramics, marbles, buttons, part of a leather boot, coal (as well as briquettes), a small hobby paint set, a metal mop head, among other items. Excavation of units in the adjacent yard area yielded sizeable sections of cast iron stove and desk parts. Also recovered was a sherd in the "Sydenham" pattern. This pattern was found in quantity representing a number of different vessels at the Warner site and dates to the early to mid 1850s. Also worth noting is the recovery of several sections of what appears to be a ceramic water dispenser.

Work on the Hicks school restoration continues. Most of the wood soffit and fascia has been installed. My dad and I worked on installing a number of electrical switches and outlets.

Last, just a final friendly reminder regarding Archaeology Day at the Michigan History Center in Lansing tomorrow. The event runs from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Admission to the museum is free, the event is free, and so is parking. We will have displays of artifacts from both the Warner site and Hicks school. Simply put, this is the premier event of the year for Michigan archaeology. There is a wide variety of activities and exhibitors from around the state at this year's event, please see attached schedule or go to the website at [DNR - Michigan Historical Museum - 2016 Michigan Archaeology Day](#)