

Hi everyone,

Weathering of excavated soil from the electrical service trench from the house to the school revealed several artifacts, prompting us to screen some of the soil. A number of sherds of redware, yellowware, salt glazed stoneware, and dipped ware (including what appears to be part of the foot section of a bowl) as well as pieces of window glass, medicine bottle fragments, cut bone, and part of a buckle were recovered. The dipped ware sherds are of particular interest as I have been working on recreating some of these patterns in the pottery studio. This pattern appears to be a section of a common cable variation found on mugs and bowls.

Besides the trench at the rear of the house, excavation proceeded in the front to remove soil that had built up around the house as a water drainage mitigation effort (and also to plant some flowers). Sherds of ceramics (particularly flower pots) and our first fragment of writing slate were found just inches below the surface. We have recovered a number of slate pencils at the farm but no writing slate fragments previously. A nice marble, a bone button, a peach pit, a small plastic baseball, yellowware, and sprigware were also recovered despite the minimal excavation (see attached photos below). More photos of artifacts (with many more to come) have been uploaded to the Warner homestead website, <http://www.warnerhomestead.com/> (click on the artifacts link within the archaeology section)

Restoration of the Hicks school continues to progress along. Installation of exterior wall trim and cedar siding is now complete. The restoration specialist is now putting cedar shingles on the east side of the main section. The school has passed the insulation inspection and work on the interior has also begun. While the interior walls of the main building will continue as lathe and plaster, the ceiling will be covered with drywall. This will save considerable time and money and a coat of joint compound/plaster over the drywall will allow it to blend in with the original walls. I have begun the tedious task of caulking all of the seams on the exterior. Once complete, the walls will be ready for paint as the restoration specialists have already pre-primed the siding.

We have also been working with Shannon Hendrick, owner of Reel Life Videography, to document some of the significant events at the Warner farm on video as a documentary. This first episode will chronicle a tornado that hit the farm on June 8th, 1953. Some may recall hearing about another tornado that hit on the same day in the Beecher district of Flint that killed over 100. The video will feature an interview conducted at the farm with my uncle, Fred Warner, who described his experience in the midst of the tornado that day. This is somewhat of a trial run but we hope to do more in the future as time allows.

While conducting research for the first chapter of the book on the Warner family history, I was referred to a treasure trove of documents thanks to the Livingston County NY deputy historian, Holly Watson. For those with roots extending back to NY, this online digital archive (on FamilySearch.org) of land records, mortgages, deeds, probate records, etc is an incredible resource - and it is

available for free!. The records won't come up during standard name searches in FamilySearch. Rather, the archive is actually scanned microfilm so you will need to look in the indexes and then "page" through the microfilm. It takes a little time but is well worth the effort. A number of interesting discoveries surfaced, particularly related to the earliest Warner family settler in Michigan, Hiram H. Warner. A previously unknown Warner family member also emerged, Sophronia Warner of Livonia, NY. Listed below are the links:

Mortgages & Deeds:

<https://familysearch.org/search/image/index?owc=M7HG-RP8%3A358135101%3Fcc%3D2078654>

Probate Records:

<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1920234>

Wiki Page for other Livingston Co, NY genealogy links:

[https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Livingston\\_County,\\_New\\_York\\_Genealogy](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Livingston_County,_New_York_Genealogy)

Holly also passed along some important information regarding women and land rights. Many of the deeds that documented the sale of the Warner's property noted that the wife had agreed to the sale during a "private conversation separate and apart from her husband" with the justice of the peace. Holly forwarded the paragraph below that sheds light on why this clause was included. It also allowed us to indirectly determine a rough time frame of when Hiram's wife, Harriet E., had passed away as she was no longer listed in sale deeds after 1842.

"Women's rights to *real property*—the lands and buildings that constituted most wealth in the early national period—were more extensive than their rights to personalty. A husband could not sell or mortgage the realty his wife brought to their marriage without her consent. He could use it, but he could not convey it because a woman's real estate, generally inherited from her father, was meant to stay in the family and descend through her to her children. A wife also had important rights to the real property that her husband brought to the marriage or purchased afterwards. He could not sell or mortgage it unless she signed a statement signifying her free consent, which was recorded with the deed. Few mortgagors or buyers would enter into an agreement without the wife's consent. They knew that she retained her right to be maintained by the property in the event of her husband's death, even if he died insolvent. Courts were careful to ensure that a wife signed a conveyance of her own free will and not because of pressure from her husband. A court officer questioned her apart from him to confirm that she actually agreed to the sale or mortgage." (source: <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/womens-history/essays/legal-status-women-1776%E2%80%931830> )







