

03/18/2019

It's hard to believe, but this year marks the first time we celebrate the 200th anniversary of an event. The original pioneer of the Warner farm, Timothy Warner, was born on September 19, 1819. He moved with his parents from Livonia, Livingston County, NY to Brighton, Livingston County, MI in July 1837.

Timothy's biography in the 1891 Portrait and Biographical Album of Ingham and Livingston Counties notes that despite his youth he was called upon to help name the township. According to the History of Livingston County, the township was officially organized on April 20th, 1838. However, additional documents have recently become available that indicate that the township name was actually derived in 1837. A search for primary source documents related to the founding and naming of Brighton that listed Timothy as a committee member or signer of a petition has unfortunately come up short. This might be of little surprise as the 1880 History of Livingston County notes some confusion in the founding of Brighton. The author notes the fact that the meeting was in a schoolhouse built in the summer of 1837, and was surprised a schoolhouse was built before the organization of the township. The author also laments that the group originally assembled to organize the township "seems to have disdained all records or written reports of its meetings."

Documents recently provided by the Archives of Michigan may provide some clarity. The documents are a series of acts signed by then Governor Stevens T. Mason on December 30, 1837. Section 5 of the act says "All that part of the county of Livingston, designated in the United States survey, as township two north, of range six east, be, and the same hereby is, set off and organized into a separate township, by the name of Brighton, and the first township meeting therein shall be held at the house of Daniel Lane, in said township." Section 12 notes that "This act shall take effect and be in force on and after the first Monday of April next." It would appear that the original meeting to decide on the name of Brighton took place in the first school house in the village that was erected in the summer of 1837. This coincides well with Timothy's arrival in July 1837. The name and request to organize would have been submitted to officials in state government, with approval from the governor, speaker of the house, and president of the senate signing off several months later and then becoming official in April 1838.

As many of you might recall, a couple of years ago a dendrochronological (tree ring) study was conducted at the Warner farm. Samples from the house and barn were analyzed and compared to a previously developed tree ring chronology. We were recently tipped off about a very large tree that had been felled in Brighton Township. The cottonwood tree had died and presented a danger to nearby apartments at an assisted living facility. The diameter measured 5' 3" inches across, a massive specimen especially when standing next to it. As I lacked a saw with sufficient power and a blade long enough, a local tree service was hired to cut a section from the trunk. The intention is to put it on display in the Hicks school to compliment understanding of dendrochronological methods. We plan on sanding and polishing the front face and

putting associated date markers on the rings. Many thanks to my uncle, Chuck Warner, who assisted me in moving the several hundred pound section on short notice.

For those with an enthusiasm for Michigan archaeology, you might be interested in joining the Michigan Archaeological Society Facebook group. The group posts articles, events, and items of interest related to archaeology in Michigan and the Great Lakes area. Some of the posts also include blogs detailing developments at various sites. Jeff Sommer, Curator of Archaeology at the Castle Museum in Saginaw, maintains a blog at <https://hsscarchaeology.wordpress.com/> Another is maintained by former EMU student, Julia Joblinski, at https://abloodytrowel.blogspot.com/?m=1&fbclid=IwAR0f11546YYUo1QcMMIVWXuT1AvtoT2RPrG9DZ0kPn_SY7jCfXA53r6nfT8

The Castle Museum in Saginaw, MI will be hosting an archaeology day event this Saturday, March 23 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Admission to the event and the museum are free. The Castle Museum is located at 500 Federal Ave, Saginaw, MI. If you've never visited the Castle Museum before, it is well worth the trip, particularly to view the archaeological section. You won't be disappointed if you have any interest in prehistoric or historic archaeology. We will have a display at the archaeology day event featuring artifacts not only from the Warner and Hicks school sites, but also prehistoric artifacts from the Birch Run area. Other sites from the greater Saginaw area will be represented as well. The event also encourages attendees to bring artifacts they have found for identification or just to share for discussion. See attached flyer for details.

The 2019 MAS Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 28 in Ionia at the John C. Blanchard House, 253 East Main Street. The public is invited to the afternoon presentations. On the schedule for presentations are Dan Wymer discussing the results of the 2018 Dency Terrill Memorial Workshop in Jackson Co, Steve Stier on the 2019 LCHPS/MAS workshop at the Leelanau County Poor Farm, Stacy Tchorzynski on the Sanilac Petroglyphs tLiDAR and photogrammetry project update, and Dr. Jan Brashler presenting on 75 years of archaeology of the Grand River.