

**03/06/2020**

Late last year I submitted an application to place a Michigan Historical Marker at the Warner Homestead. The application process is quite comprehensive with detailed information and copies of supporting primary/secondary sources required. I am very excited to say that the application was unanimously approved by the Michigan Historical Commission just over two weeks ago. The text for the marker will take several months to draft and will need to be approved by the commission. We hope to unveil the marker at the 180th anniversary of the farm next year. The Michigan Historical Marker Program began in 1955 and more than 1700 are placed across the state "reflecting an important story of a place, event, or a person." If are unfamiliar with the Historical Markers, see the attached photo of one commemorating the Lyon school in Brighton.

As you might recall, early last year I was notified by local historian and friend of the family, Marieanna Bair, about a large tree that had been felled near her new residence. The stump measured over 5' in diameter. A logger was hired to cut a section of the trunk from the massive cottonwood tree. Randy Klepinger, the historic restoration specialist that restored the Warner house and Hicks school, tackled the job of preparing the large trunk section. The face was planed flat, sanded multiple times with ever finer sandpaper, and coated with several applications of polyurethane. Loose bark sections were stabilized with epoxy. Randy and I were able to muscle the section into the school where it will sit in the front addition section. Cottonwood is known for fairly aggressive growth but given its large size over 130 rings were counted. Markers for important dates will be placed on the rings. Many thanks to Marieanna for the original notification and to Randy for putting the finishing touches on the wood section.

Artifacts from the Warner site will be showcased in downtown Brighton at the CoBACH center from March 17th to April 25th. We were invited by the Brighton Area Historical Society to display items of historical interest related to the Warner family. As the Warner farm is one of the few sites excavated in Livingston County, it was decided that the display would focus on archaeologically recovered items augmented with related historical photos and newspaper articles. A related article will be published in the BAHS Trail Tales April edition newsletter. Entry to the display is free and is open on Saturdays 11-5 pm and Sundays from 5-8 pm. The CoBACH center is located at 202 W Main St in Brighton.

Part of the photos and documents to be used for the CoBACH center display originate from the growing Warner Homestead archives. The archives include both originals and digital scans of several thousand photos and documents, many from Warner family members. These documents have proven invaluable in piecing back together family stories that slowly get lost to time. Thanks to family member Pat Diericks, a new collection of family photos and documents has recently emerged. Luckily, many of the photos were documented by my great aunt, Florence Warner-Chase. Initial investigation into part of the collection has already yielded a number of exciting clues to solve several family "mysteries" - more on that at a later date. Many thanks to Pat for sharing this important collection.

Many thanks to Elroy Warner for donating two metal milk stools that were formerly at the Warner farm. Beginning in the mid 1940s, the Warner farm had a significant dairy operation. Most of the cattle were auctioned off in 1962, however there were still some on the farm into the early 1980s. Thanks also to Chuck Warner for donating a vintage glass globe to be used on the back porch.

The Michigan One Room School will be holding their annual meeting at the Warner Homestead on May 16th. I will give a presentation on the Warner Homestead while Jim Vichich, president of the Brighton Area Historical Society, will present on BAHS activities including restoration of headstones at local cemeteries. After the meeting, attendees will tour the historic Lyon school, just a 1/4 mile down the road from the Warner Homestead. Updated information will be forthcoming at their new website at [www.miorsa.org](http://www.miorsa.org)

On April 16th, I will present to the Huron Valley Chapter of the Michigan Archaeological Society on the results of our archaeological, genealogical, and historical research at the Warner Homestead. The meetings are open to the public and are held at the Kelsey Museum in Ann Arbor beginning at 7:30 pm. See more information at [www.micharch.org/wp](http://www.micharch.org/wp)

