

**AUGUST 3, 2015**

I hope your summer is going well. As usual we've been busy, focusing on historic restoration efforts on the house. We've spent quite a bit of time and effort prepping the west wall by removing loose paint. Luckily, we've had help especially from two of my uncles, Elroy Warner and Chuck Warner, who grew up on the farm. After a little more prep work of nailing down siding and repairing some cracks/holes in the wood siding, we are now very close to applying primer. The restoration specialist is largely done with the siding repairs and is now working on the front parlor door to make it operational again. Once that is completed he will install the columns on the front porch that have been gone for nearly 80 years.

During the restoration work we've managed to get several good wood samples from each section of the house. This will hopefully allow the dendro analysis to suggest not only when the house was built but if it was constructed over a period of time. We now have ten samples just from the house with several more from the barns. As you might recall, a little to our surprise, the single wood sample from the roof deck of the house came back fall 1841/winter 1842. However, other materials also suggest an early 1840s construction date. Screws removed from two exterior doors have tips that are flat, that is without a point formed on the end. Two websites suggest that these were made prior to 1846 when machine made versions quickly replaced those made by hand.

Furnishing the house continues to progress, with each trip to the farm bringing a few more items. Since the last update, we were very glad to receive a family table that dates to the late 19th century from Warner family members Nancy Prieskorn and her sister Sharon. The solid oak table was made by Robbins Table Co (later known as Robbins Furniture Co) of Owosso. One website shows a very similar table that was patented on March 17, 1896. The table extends to an astounding 9' 10" long with all six leaves inserted. The leaves are cleverly stored inside the table behind drop down aprons at each end. A smaller matching table along with antique folding chairs was also given for use at the farm by Nancy and Sharon that have been placed in the kitchen. Another family member, Carol Warner-Marrale, brought over several other family pieces including a cut glass plate and a personal glass salt container. She also gave other period items from her mother's family. We also received a spectacular settee from yet another family member, Donna Warner. Though not a family piece the settee fits perfectly (quite literally) in the dining room and matches the other period furnishings. Many thanks again to all who made contributions with their time and/or period items!

Last weekend we made a day trip to Greenfield Village. We took particular note of period interior design as well as color schemes for a number of Greek Revival homes there. I have to say that some of the colors are quite vibrant, almost to the point of gaudy. It is also interesting to see the various states of historic

preservation of the buildings located there. Although many were largely intact, some clearly had large portions of siding replaced while others were in desperate need of replacement boards and/or paint. Overall though, we were able to confirm that our efforts at historic preservation were in line with techniques at major historic venues. We also made an interesting discovery while we were there. Several years ago, I found a board tucked away in the soffit cavity of the attic that has carved rounded ends, up and down saw marks, and five square holes along the length. I had suspicions as to what it might be but really had no good way of confirming its actual purpose. However, when visiting the weaver's shop, I noticed that one of the top beams on one of the looms matched this same board nearly identically. After describing it to the weaver, he indicated that it was part of a barn loom with mortise and tenon joints. The whole loom was made to be dismantled and assembled fairly quickly depending on what tasks needed be done. It would appear that the beam recovered from the attic could most likely be attributed to a loom used by Lucretia Warner (b. 1828), the pioneer wife of Timothy Warner. Part of her obituary (June 1900) states: "Her girlhood was spent on a large farm whose products were all manufactured at home so that at her marriage at the age of 18 she not only could spin and weave, but could also make the cloth into garments for father and mother." According to the weaver at Greenfield Village making garments (especially suits) was quite an accomplishment particularly at that age which is possibly why it was noted in her obituary.