

OCTOBER 3, 2015

We've been quite busy at the site trying to get things finished up this fall in regards to restoration efforts on the house. We now have paint on part of the front, the entire west wall, the south wall of the wing, and the east wall of the wing. We are currently tackling the two story east wall and hope to have that prepped and primed yet this weekend. The house has been painted white as historical photos suggest it was in the 19th century. However, we continued with the green accents on the trim that has been part of the house since the 1980s. After much consideration about how much of the trim to paint green, my uncle, Chuck Warner, came up with a compelling combination of just painting the top portion of the fascia forest green as well as an accent trim along the frieze boards. This departs from the previous color scheme that included the columns painted green but provides just enough accent to visually attract attention to all of the edges and trim detail (and let me tell you there are a LOT of edges on this Greek Revival). All of the prep work has definitely paid off. Several have commented that the house quite frankly has never looked this good probably since it was first built - it certainly hasn't looked this good since 1900 based on historical photos. Having taken a close look at historic homes at Crossroads Village, Greenfield Village, and most recently Colonial Williamsburg, I have to say that the restoration work is easily the equal to like buildings. The Warner house has a fresh new look but still retains the character of a home that has weathered the test of time with repairs made decades ago and multiple layers of paint left intact in areas (see attached image). Many thanks again to my wife, Kerry, and two uncles, Chuck Warner and Elroy Warner, for doing such a fantastic job.

Restoration efforts have yielded yet more discoveries. In the cavity of one of the faux lintels, an oddly cut board was discovered. Removal of this board for inspection suggests that it is yet another part of the barn loom likely owned by my great, great, great grandmother Lucretia Warner. It was recovered very near where the other loom board was found in the attic. This board is made of maple and has seven holes and finely cut tenons on each end. Also on the ends are the roman numerals II and III, likely labels used for easy reassembly. Parts of it show what appear to be axe or adze cuts suggesting that it wasn't made from sawn lumber. The remainder of the surface was smoothed with a drawknife. Further research into Lucretia's background finds that her mother passed away in 1843 when she was just 15 years old. If her obituary is accurate in suggesting that she made clothes for her father and mother, she was certainly doing so at a young age. It also raises the idea that the loom could have originally been her mother's. I'm assuming this could be her mother's rather than her father's based on the simple fact that most of those of English ancestry traditionally had women in large part conducting the spinning and weaving activities while German families weaving was performed by the men based on what I learned in a

discussion with the weaver at Greenfield Village. Any insights on this though would be most welcome. Further investigation into the faux lintel cavity also yielded fabric about the size of a dish towel. The fabric appears to have been hand woven and was recovered just below the second barn loom piece. If anyone has expertise or knows of someone that could ID handwoven fabrics, please contact me as I would like to try to determine if it is indeed made on a loom (see attached image).

Last month we were happy to host the 6th grade University Liggett student dig. Forty-one students, along with several teachers, enjoyed a number of activities during the day long session. After a presentation on the research at the Warner site and basic excavation techniques as well as a group photo in front of the house, the students broke up in to groups to participate in various activities. Despite being a work in progress, the students were the first group to tour the Warner house. They were guided through the house as well as received a close look at the cellar, cistern, and dry set stone well. Interestingly enough, the students seemed most intrigued to learn that there were potato bins in the cellar and that a bathroom wasn't installed in the house until the 1960s. They also used a corn sheller to remove corn kernels from the cobs as well as practice their shoveling technique with inert soil. The students then assisted in excavation using trowels and dustpans near the blacksmith shop recovering pottery, nails, brick, a couple of 20th century coins, implement parts, etc. One of the most important finds were several pieces of clinker that may suggest actual blacksmithing activities took place in the building dubbed by the family as the blacksmith shop. Many thanks to our volunteers who helped make this event happen.

Dendrochronology analysis is progressing well. A number of samples sent to the University of Tennessee-Knoxville have been deemed capable of providing dates and are now being run against the chronology from a 400+ year old oak tree at Cranbrook. We hope to have the final results in the next few months.

Some of you may have read an article recently about a one room school near Pinckney that is slated for demolition next spring. The Hicks school was built in 1849 and has been offered to anyone willing to move it. The owner is planning to build houses/condos on the property next spring. I contacted the owner and was able to visit the site just this week. The school is a frame structure with a number of large windows on one eave side with two smaller windows on the other. A blackboard is on one end while a coat hook rack hangs at the opposite side. It was restored in the 1980s and appears to have had modern siding applied to the exterior. We are considering moving it to the Warner farm where it could serve as a traditional arts building that houses our pottery and weaving activities. The school measures 22' 6" x 30' 6" plus a 12' 2" enclosure on the front. If anyone

has connections to building/house movers, please contact me as I would like to investigate the possibility of moving it further.