

## **DECEMBER 4, 2016**

We participated in Archaeology Day at the Michigan History Center in early October. Our display included four large tables of artifacts from the Warner and Hicks school sites. There were many other displays throughout the museum. The event was a major success and record year numbering nearly 1200 attendees and participants. One of the attendees we met brought artifacts he had found on a farm between Howell and Fowlerville. The small collection included mid 19th century transferware sherds of three patterns matching those found at Warner: part of a blue "Sydenham" handleless cup by Joseph Clementson, a section of a relish dish in the "Columbia" pattern by William Adams & Sons, and a handle in the "Medici" pattern by Mellor, Venables & Co.

Work on the Hicks school has been progressing nicely. The two modern doors have been replaced with ones contemporaneous with the school. Work on installing the attic entryway has also been completed. All new electrical service has been installed after considerable time and effort and has passed the rough electric inspection. We are planning on installing a section of glass in the ceiling so that visitors can see the attic and roof structure from the main floor.

A trench was excavated by hand to run electrical service from the house to the school. The 104' long, 20" deep trench yielded a quantity of artifacts. Among the items recovered were half of a green glass lightning rod wire insulator, two large redware body sherds, an annular ware bowl rimsherd, a whiteware basal sherd with a partial maker's mark of "Meakin" in black (likely a white granite vessel by J & G Meakin from the 1860s), sawn animal bone, the bottom of a London or double curve style cup, a white ware basal sherd (the foot ring matches those found on blue edgeware saucers/plates found at the site), a yellowware rimsherd, a foot long metal bar with tapered end, square nails, and pieces of brick. Artifacts were measured for depth when found in situ as well as the distance along the trench from the house. Also of interest was the discovery of a pipe running northeast. The pipe is made of a sort of black tarpaper material. It runs about 8' southwest, presumably to where the milkhouse was formerly located and about 10' northeast. The purpose is currently unclear.

We also received several donations since the last update. One of my uncles, Chuck Warner donated a vintage oil can, a gas can, and a Roman Cleanser gallon bottle for display in the back room. My cousin, Adam Van Dyke, donated a vintage oil lamp that was formerly at the farm. My mom, Janet Bennett, donated my great grandmother's (Laura Fuller-Warner) baby book that lists her children's names, dates, and times of birth. She also donated a 1953 edition of the Pleasant Valley Social Club that lists Laura Warner as president. My dad, Steve Bennett, donated his expertise and time to rewire the Hicks school as well as wire, fixtures, and other components. Lois Woods, a Brighton area resident, made a cash donation for the school and also donated a "Silent Giant" school

desk (circa 1890-1920). Many thanks again for all of the donations!

Our commitment to publishing discoveries made at the Warner site continues with a new article appearing in the *Saginaw Valley Archaeologist*, a publication of the Saginaw Valley chapter of the Michigan Archaeological Society. The article is entitled "Reaching Out: A method for excavating a dry set stone well at the Warner site". The article discusses a method for excavating the contents of the well while keeping it intact. Appreciation is extended to Jeff Sommer, editor of the SVA, for making the publication a reality. I also want to note that the article on dendrochronological analysis at the Warner site has been accepted for publication in the journal *Dendrochronologia*. The journal is an internationally peer reviewed publication. Many thanks to Maegen Rochner, a graduate student at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, for spearheading the effort to make the editing changes necessary to receive approval for publication. The article is anticipated to be available later this month.

My wife, Kerry, and I were humbled and honored to receive the Ira W. Butterfield award for significant contributions to Michigan archaeology. The award was presented by Jeff Sommer on behalf of the Conference of Michigan Archaeology (COMA) at this month's Saginaw Valley chapter meeting. For those that are unfamiliar with the Butterfield award, it has only been given to four other Michigan Archaeological Society members in the past 20 years. Kerry is the first woman recipient. Many thanks to Dr. Jan Brashler, professor of anthropology at Grand Valley State University for the nomination, and Dr. Bev Smith (professor of anthropology at U of M-Flint), Dr. Dean Anderson (State Archaeologist), Jeff Sommer (Curator of Archaeology at the Castle Museum) for writing letters of support. Appreciation is also extended to COMA members as well for the financial stipend for obtaining a radiocarbon date.

Last, and certainly not least, I am proud to announce the latest addition to the extended Warner family. My daughter, Virginia Rose Bennett, was born just over two weeks ago. Ginny arrived a couple of weeks early but both her and Kerry are doing well.