

January 3, 2017

Happy New Year! Most of the activity at the Warner site in December surrounded the Hicks school. In fact, the school reached an important milestone last month. It passed the rough inspection that allows for restoration work to continue. The rough inspection had been a concern as the nearly 170 year old structure is hardly standard for what the county inspectors are accustomed to in new builds. In addition, since the original roof structure was removed for transport and then restored, an architect was required to do calculations and drawings. Luckily, Randy Klepinger, of Klepinger Construction was able to bridge the differences between 19th century and 21st century construction methods with his years of restoration experience while maintaining the historic character of the school. The next step is installation of insulation in the ceiling and other areas in preparation for the insulation inspection. We continued electrical work that included installation of many switches and outlets throughout the school.

The move and restoration of the Hicks school made the front page of the *Livingston Daily* newspaper in their feature, "Top Ten Stories of 2016". See the article at <http://www.livingstondaily.com/story/news/local/community/livingston-county/2016/12/29/year-review-top-10-stories-2016/95908706/>. A total of six articles on the Hicks school have appeared in the *Livingston Daily* newspaper, four in 2016 alone. Many thanks to Jennifer Eberbach on her fine reporting.

I would like to make note of a donation by Lucille Bancroft of a round clock for the Hicks school. The clock came from another one-room school near Argentine and will be a perfect fit in the Hicks school. Also, my uncle, Chuck Warner, donated a pair of like new vintage ice cleats similar to those used at the farm. Many thanks to Lucille and Chuck.

I have finally launched a website on our activities at the Warner site, <http://www.warnerhomestead.com/>. The site is only in its infancy but provides background information related to activities at the site including history, archaeology, articles, past blogs, and more. Also, there is a Hicks school Facebook page.