

Hi everyone,

This summer marks the 10th anniversary of excavation at the Warner site. Back in July 2007, we began archaeological research at the farm with investigation of the field west of the house. We were looking for evidence of an 1840s log cabin that the family had occupied before the frame house was built in 1855. Although 19th century artifacts were recovered, it was determined that they largely represented a sparse scatter. Focus then turned to excavation of the area known to the family as the "blacksmith shop". Photos from 1942 show the building in the background, leaning to one side. The building had a corn crib on the north side and split doors on the west gable end. It was torn down in the late 1940s. However, the boulder foundation, measuring 16' 6" x 16' 6", remained intact. Excavation of just a few inches of soil above the boulder foundation yielded a wealth of mostly iron artifacts but also glass, ceramics, and sawn bone.

The City of Brighton will celebrate its sesquicentennial on Sunday, August 13th. We will have several tables of artifacts from the Warner site on display downtown as part of the festivities. The display of artifacts should make a good fit as members of the Warner family were early pioneers and served in various capacities over the decades. In fact, a biography on Timothy Warner notes his involvement from the very early days of Brighton: "...and young as he was, and inexperienced in organization, Mr. Warner was called up to assist in organizing the township, and in giving its name." (Portrait and Biographical Album of Ingham and Livingston Counties, 1891). There are quite a number of activities going on that day including a community picnic, cemetery tour, and special exhibits. The CoBach center is featuring a special exhibit of 100+ year old downtown photos. Also, a number of Victorian silhouettes placed around town chronicle some of the illustrious figures in Brighton's past. More information is available at the Brighton Area Historical Society website, <http://wp.brightonareahistorical.com/>

Progress continues to be made on the Hicks school. The cobble stone facade has been completed by the mason, Duane Watters. Two limestone blocks have been placed on the front of the school to note important dates in its history. On one side appears the purported build date of 1849 and on the other the move to the farm last year. Installation of cedar shingles continues on the roof of the main section. Caulking of the exterior is nearly complete and the front addition has been painted. Drywall on the interior has also been completed.

We received a number of donations from Anna Love. Anna kindly donated a number of oil lamps and associated cast iron wall holders. We will likely use these in both the school and the house. Also among the items were a pair of vintage ice skates, samples of pottery, and several site reports. We also received an iron wagon jack from our neighbor, Dave Holtz. Many thanks, Anna and Dave, for the generous donations!

I would also like to mention that one of the archaeology volunteers at the site, Colin Macleod, was married last weekend. It was an incredible Scottish ceremony complete with bagpipes and kilts at the Michigan Science Center planetarium along with a movie themed reception. He also has received his master's degree in anthropology last year from Ball State University. Congratulations, Colin!





