

Hi everyone,

Significant progress has been made on restoring the Hicks School. The restoration specialist has nearly completed installation of the cedar shingles. Just one section of the roof on the front addition has yet to be completed. Restoration of the interior has also proceeded in earnest. Cracked and loose plaster has been removed/repared and drywall in the addition area has been installed. The slate blackboard has also been reinstalled. Interestingly enough, another student assignment was found between the slates that wasn't discovered previously during removal. This assignment is a detailed farm scene drawing complete with what appears to be a Model T or Model A truck. A house and barn appear in the background. If done contemporaneously, the drawing would date to the 1920s or 1930s. See attached image. Painting of the exterior has also progressed along nicely. Many thanks to my uncles Elroy Warner and Chuck Warner for helping out with painting. The exterior is being painted white, the color that the school was originally. The next step will be to level the floors, prime and paint the interior, and install trim.

The Brighton Sesquicentennial was held on August 13th in the downtown area. Many thanks to Brighton Area Historical Society board members Jim Vichich and Mindy Kinsey for making accommodations for us to participate. We brought a number of displays of artifacts for the public to view and discuss. The event was very well organized and very well attended. We talked with quite a few of the attendees, including some who had worked on the Warner farm as kids. Despite a number of newspaper articles on the farm and Hicks school over the years, many of the attendees were unaware of the ongoing archaeological research and historical status of the Warner house. The event provided an excellent venue to inform local residences about many of the activities happening at the Warner farm.

Last month I mentioned that July marked the 10th anniversary of the start of archaeological research at the Warner farm. Just a couple of months later in September 2007 a significant find was made in an interesting way that changed the course of research for the past decade. The journal on the activities at the Warner farm, now over 300 single spaced type written pages, provides an account of the days events dated 09/02/2007. In part it reads:

"We were just finishing up the last quarter unit of the day on the blacksmith shop when we noticed that Uncle Elroy's Siberian husky was digging a hole in the lawn near the clothes line with great vigor. We figured she was after a mole or something as her head was entirely in the hole. We payed no attention and began picking up the tools, etc. All of a sudden Megan runs up to Kerry who is standing on the porch to show her one of her treasures that she had found in the back dirt. Megan had been making a habit of finding discarded rocks, worms, flowers etc and showing us these "treasures". However this time it proved to be true as she had just found a piece of 1840s blue transferware."

Megan's discovery turned out to be a sherd of a blue transferware pattern called "Lozere" dating to the mid 1840s to mid 1850s. Screening of the back dirt yielded more ceramics,

glass, nails, and a button. Her find that evening led to the excavation of over 4400 square feet and the discovery of tens of thousands of artifacts, many dating to the 19th century. Twenty one features have also been identified. Although it was hard to get two 3 1/2 year olds to pose for the camera as the light was fading, we were able to finally capture Megan, Anna, and Simba with her find (attached below).

Many thanks to Rob Triffo and Don Webster for donating a number of 19th century items.



