

Last month the Warner site hosted over 30 sixth grade students from University Liggett in Grosse Pointe Woods for the annual student dig. The students participated in a variety of activities including a presentation on the historical, archaeological, and genealogical research of the Warner family and site inside the Hicks school. Simba, the Siberian husky that was involved in the initial discovery of archaeological materials 10 years ago, made a surprise appearance during the presentation much to the delight of the students. After the presentation, they took part in 19th century activities such as corn shelling and walking on stilts. The students went on a tour of house and cellar and saw the partially excavated well and cistern. The students even interacted with a pair of donkeys courtesy of the Turning Pointe Donkey Rescue brought by my cousin Tina Sanderlin. Many thanks to her and also to Duane Watters who donated the Gleaners Food Bank cow squeeze toys that were used as prizes for the mystery item and Q&A sessions.

The students excavated and screened soil removed from the current location of the Hicks school, formerly a garden area. All excavation was conducted under the guidance of experienced volunteers. While learning basic excavating and screening techniques, the students found a number of interesting items. Included in the finds were part of a pig's tooth, late 19th century transferware, animal bone, nails, glass, and the top of a salt glazed stoneware jug. While sherds of salt glazed crocks and butter churns have been recovered previously, this sherd is the first of its kind found at the Warner site. Many thanks to the volunteers who oversaw the student excavation and helped with the activities: Elroy Warner, Adam Van Dyke, Colin Macleod, Julia Joblinski, Nick Bacon, Beth Carr, Anna Bennett, and Megan Bennett.

Restoration work on the Hicks school continued in many different ways last month. Two coats of paint have been applied to most of the exterior. Many thanks to Elroy Warner, Chuck Warner, Jim Harker, and Elizabeth Scharrer for helping out with large task of painting. The cedar shingles on the roof are now completely installed. The shingles will be allowed to fade and then a treatment applied to them. The job of installing individual cedar shingles was a tedious one, but certainly makes the restoration of the 1849 school much more authentic. Many thanks to the restoration specialist, Randy Klepinger, who donated his time and labor to install them. Work on the interior has also progressed. The floor has been leveled, plaster on the walls has been patched, primer applied to the interior walls/ceiling, and trim installed around doors and windows.

Two original Warner family items have been donated back to the farm. The first is a cast iron cooking pot that was found in the cellar. It has the original bale handle and was donated by family member and former resident Elroy Warner. Another family member, Heather Thompson, donated a framed lithograph. The 1895 lithograph is a print of a winter scene painting entitled "Winter Moonlight Christmas Eve" by William Henry Chandler. The lithograph has been placed in the dining room where it once hung for many years. Many thanks to Elroy and Heather for the donations.

Archaeology Day at the Michigan History Center in Lansing is Saturday, October 28th. The event is free, admission to the MI History Center is free, and so is parking. It begins at 10:00 AM and ends at 4:00 PM. We will have a significant display of artifacts from

the Warner and Hicks school sites. There will also be many other archaeological exhibits from around the state, presentations, and various activities for both kids and adults. With over 1000 attendees last year it has become THE archaeological event of the year in Michigan. See attached flyer for full details.

