

12/23/2019

Last month I was invited to Central Michigan University as a guest speaker to Dr. Sarah Surface-Evans' field and lab techniques graduate class. I spoke on methods of understanding, identifying, and dating 19th century ceramics. After the presentation, some of the students experimented with applying transferprints to clay tiles. They quickly learned that application of the prints took some skill and practice, though after a couple of tries, the students were able to get some nice results.

Six sherds from the Warner site were the subject of experimentation at CMU. The sherds were recovered from Feature 19, the dry set stone well, and were encrusted with iron concretion. Although many vessels from the well have been temporarily refitted, concretion has prevented permanent mending. Julia Joblinski, a CMU graduate student and Warner site volunteer, has employed electrolysis as a method for safely removing the concretion. I will leave the details for Julia to elaborate in a future paper, but needless to say, the process was deemed successful.

The Warner Homestead will be part of some upcoming events next year. The farm is slated to host the Michigan One Room School Association annual meeting in the Hicks school on May 16, 2020. The meeting will feature a presentation on the Warner farm/Hicks school as well as a tour of the 1855 Greek Revival home. A second tour of the historic Lyon school will also be provided, courtesy of the Brighton Area Historical Society. The meeting is open to the public and more information will be forthcoming as we approach the event date. See the new MORSA website at <https://www.miorsa.org/> for more information on this organization.

The Warner Homestead will have a display in the CoBACH center in downtown Brighton from March 17-April 30. The display will showcase historical, genealogical, and archaeological research using personal family items from the household as well as those recovered through excavation. The display is at the invitation and in cooperation with the Brighton Area Historical Society. BAHS is on Facebook and more information is available at <http://www.brightonareahistorical.com/>

I sometimes get requests for online resources related to historical or archaeological research. I have updated the links section on the Warner homestead website. A number of new links have been added (as well as old ones updated). In addition, the links are now categorized. Links to resources on ceramics, aerial views, maps, genealogical records, historical documents, and organizations are now available. The links are at <http://www.warnerhomestead.com/links>

Today marks the 5th anniversary of closing on the Warner farm. Like other life changing events, I can remember as if it were yesterday but yet seems so long ago at the same time. Five years ago the Warner farm was owned by a local land investor and rented out to its third set of tenants. The house had suddenly been put up for sale on October 23, 2014. For whatever reason, the seller was motivated as the price had been significantly reduced from the original investment amount. The most likely scenario for the sale of the

property was to a land developer that would have removed the house and barn to be replaced with another well groomed subdivision. Oddly enough, I had searched the property address just a few hours after it was listed. Much to my surprise, the listing actually used our archaeological research to promote the property: "Historic farm home on 12 acres in Brighton Township! Large pole barn! Lots of history on site proven by archaeological digging!" After much discussion, we decided to make an offer. The closing process was hardly straightforward, in fact, it was fraught with so many obstacles that it seemed that we would never get to the point of closing at all. Nevertheless, on December 23, 2014 we became the sixth generation owners of the Warner homestead. The rest, well, is history.