Dr. Ann Morton led a group of students digging in the dirt. Far from simple child's play, it was the serious business of a "dig" to uncover the remains of the Billings Blacksmith Shop in Canandaigua. The dig took place next to the Phoenix Coffee House on Main near Chapel Street.

Students meticulously removed over one hundred years of dirt to recover artifacts and locate the original forge. I had the good fortune to photograph and participate. It was really super (from the educator's perspective) to see these students get excited about a find. One example is when the floor of the shop was found about 3 feet down. Everyone came over to look at this little patch of concrete and then there was a flurry of activity as students focused their efforts in both directions from the find to uncover the rest of the floor. That's not all they found. A baby's shoe, a complete glass milk bottle from a local dairy, an 1889 penny shards of dinner plates, nails, roofing and more.