

6-26-2013

# Dendrochronological Analysis of Jones Homestead

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# Core samples taken from three separate floor beams of the Jones Homestead

**Dendrochronology** is the study and comparison of yearly growth rings of a tree. Careful analysis of these rings can show the year the old-growth trees were cut for timber, and thus the date of a building.

At the Jones Homestead, a coring tool was used to obtain a sampling of tree rings from three beams exposed in the basement. These cores were brought to the **College of Wooster's Tree Ring Lab** and processed using standard dendrochronological techniques. These techniques include preparing the cores surfaces, counting, measuring and then cross dating the ring-widths with data collected in the computer routine COFECHA.

Nick Wiesenberg, geological technician for the department, processed the data using samples that were obtained and prepared by Jeff Dilyard.

Beams must have the outer most ring intact in order to obtain an accurate reading of when a tree was harvested. Sample quality can be compromised by age and handling. After analysis, only the most recent date can be considered when determining the age of a structure. Of the three samples, #1 displays the most recent date of **1847**. We can conclude that this structure was built during or shortly after this date.

Sample	Yr. Range
1 Jones	1761 <b>1847</b>
2 Jones	1741 1844
3 Jones	1766 1836

For more information about Dendrochronology and its applications, visit Wooster's Web site @ <http://www3.wooster.edu/treering/dendrochronology/past.php>

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