
A history mystery: dendroarchaeological investigations at the Campbell Carriage Factory, Sackville, New Brunswick

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Dendroarchaeology is the science of using tree rings to determine the age of wood that is of interest in an archaeological study. For the procedure to work, two separate chronologies are needed that have been subjected to the same environmental growing conditions. One ring-width chronology from the wood of unknown age must be constructed, and one ring-width chronology from wood where the age is known, must be constructed. If the patterns of ring growth of the two separate chronologies can be matched, the wood of unknown age can therefore be easily determined.

The results of the dendroarchaeology study at the Campbell Carriage Factory will be discussed. The carriage factory is of particular interest to a local restoration society, as they have refurbished the building, and have reopened it to the public as a historical museum. The building was known to originally be a tannery, but was later converted to the carriage factory. The earliest dates of transactions at the carriage factory were known to be from the 1850s, but the date of construction of the original tannery building remains a mystery. Our dendroarchaeological study indicates that the original building was probably constructed in the period from 1844 to 1845.
