

24 Blackstone Street, Cambridge, Mass. 02139

Telephone TRowbridge 6-3691

REPORT OF ANALYTICAL WORK

RADIOCARBON AGE DETERMINATION

Our Sample No. GX-1651

Your Reference: Lc8570

Submitted by: Jim Whitall
for Mr. Robert E. Stone
RFD #207-B
Derry, New Hampshire

Date Received: 8 September 1969

Date Reported: 17 October 1969

Sample Name: Mystery Hill site, Fire Pit Lc8570, charcoal.

AGE = 220 \pm 140 C-14 years B.P.

(A.D. 1730)

Description: Small sample of charcoal fragments in sandy soil, with many rootlets and some decomposed bark, etc.

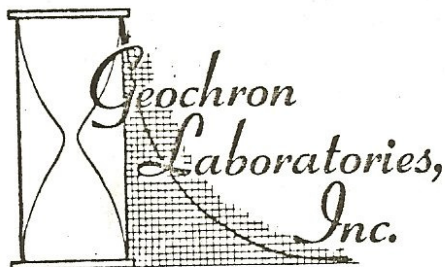
Pretreatment: Selected charcoal fragments were cleaned of foreign material, including rootlets or other contaminating material that could be observed. They were then digested in hot dilute HCl and in hot dilute NaOH to remove chemical contaminants prior to combustion and analysis.

Comment: The sample was small and had to be counted in our smallest counters, limiting precision somewhat. It is young enough to be considered colonial, even at the one standard deviation error limits given. (H.W.K.).

Notes: This date is based upon the Libby half life (5570 years) for C¹⁴. The error stated as $\pm 1 \sigma$ as judged by the analytical data alone. Our modern standard is 95% of the activity of N.B.S. Oxalic Acid.

The age is referenced to the year A.D. 1950.

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17 October 1969

Mr. Robert Stone
RFD #207-B
Derry, New Hampshire

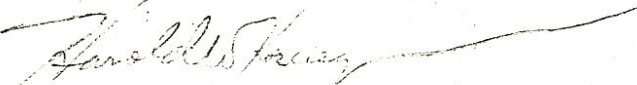
Dear Bob:

As I mentioned to you on the telephone yesterday we have now completed the radiocarbon age determination on a sample of charcoal which Jim Whitall gave to us from the Mystery Hill site early last month. Our complete report is enclosed.

Unfortunately, the age of the sample is barely distinguishable from modern and I would consider the sample to be probably Colonial in origin. As I mentioned on the telephone, a previous discussion with Jim Whitall indicated that there was a possibility of Colonial origin for this particular fire pit, and you questioned whether or not the fire pit was used in brickmaking rather than modern fabrication as you originally suspected.

One way or another I am sure the date will add to your knowledge of the site even though it may not be exciting. I am enclosing our invoice for the analytical work and I trust you will keep me informed of developments at this site from time to time.

Sincerely,
GEOCHRON LABORATORIES, INC.



Harold W. Krueger
Technical Director

HWK/pw
encs.