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Revival of dendroarchaeology in the Eastern United States

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During the mid-morning hours of June 22, 1929, archaeologists excavating Whipple Ruin

in Show Low, Arizona, uncovered an otherwise nondescript piece of charcoal that once served as

a roof beam in a room built and occupied by Ancestral Puebloans during the 13th century. That

night, by the light of a kerosene lamp, Andrew Ellicott Douglass of the University of Arizona

examined specimen "HH-39" and concluded that it bridged the gap between his modern, dated,

living-tree chronology and an undated 545-year long chronology composed of tree-ring sequences

from archaeological specimens (Haury, 1962). In so doing, HH-39 allowed Douglass, an

astronomer by trade and the founder of modern tree-ring dating, to become confident enough in

his Southwestern tree-ring chronology to be willing to announce to the public dates for about a

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