ARCHAEOLOGY IN HAMILTON: RESULTS FROM EXCAVATIONS OF THE RICHMOND HOMESTEAD IN POOLVILLE, CAMP FIVER

Professor Kristin De Lucia, Georgia Banner, McKenna D'Amico, Emily Falk, Jack Hirschle, Harrison Lerner, Blanca Rivas, and Kaleigh Wright, and TA Joseph LaMuraglia
Project Overview

**Research Question:** What was economic and social life like in the rural communities of 19th-century central New York?

Tuttle Residence and mill dam, Hamilton Public Library archives
Map of Hamilton, 1858

Background and Archival Research

**Historical Records:** Maps, census records, court documents, gravestones, documented oral histories (HMC), the Damon Richmond archives at Colgate, tax records, newspapers, etc.

Account books, Damon Richmond Archive, Colgate University, 1858
1859 Gillette's Map of Madison County, New York from Actual Surveys under the direction of J. H. French, Syracuse. Gillette’s 1859 Topographical Map of Madison County
http://madisoncountynewyork.com/Maps/1859/1859Index.htm
Personal Life

- **1808:** Damon Richmond is born
- **1833:** Damon marries Sophia Thompson
- **1840:** Henriette, Damon and Sophia’s daughter, is born on December 18
- **1846:** Sophia dies at the age of 38
- **1854:** Damon’s second wife, Julia Preston, dies at the age of 30
- **1861:** Damon marries Calphurnia M. Beach
- **1861:** Henriette is married to George E. Nash
- **1866:** Calphurnia and Damon have a child, Mary Richmond
- **1876:** Damon is building two additional houses
- **1879:** Damon builds an addition onto the house on Mill Street
- **1882:** Damon rents out the house on Mill Street to Dell Weedon
- **1883:** Damon dies
- **1887:** Mary Richmond marries George Berry
- **1897:** George Berry buys the grist mill
- **1898:** Calphurnia dies
- **1905:** Henriette dies
- **1909:** Damon Richmond’s properties go up for auction in Poolville
- **1952:** Henry R. Berry, George Berry’s son donates archive of papers from Damon Richmond to Colgate University
Research Methods

Archaeological Survey and Excavation
Archaeological Survey and LiDAR

- **LiDAR Overview:**
  - Acronym: Light Detection and Ranging
  - Remote sensing technology using laser light

- **Applications:**
  - Revolutionizing archaeology, mapping terrain, urban planning, and forestry

- **Functionality:**
  - Creates highly accurate 3D maps, revealing hidden features

- **Contributions:**
  - Invaluable for detailed landscape analysis and uncovering secrets underground
LiDAR in Archaeology

• **Key Features:**
  • Penetrates vegetation, generates precise ground models

• **Benefits:**
  • Opens new avenues for discovering ancient structures and landscapes
  • Enables swift, non-destructive data acquisition

• **Significance:**
  • Provides researchers a powerful tool for uncovering hidden histories
The Archaeological Survey in Poolville

Modern USGS map of Poolville

1858 map of Poolville
The Archaeological Survey in Poolville

Satellite image of Poolville

LiDAR image of Poolville
Limitations: Using LiDAR as a guide for survey

- LiDAR has advantages but limits in archaeological surveys.
- Team used laser theodolite for ground-level precision.
- Laser theodolite emits beams, measures angles/distance for accurate mapping.
- Approach combines LiDAR's broad coverage with laser theodolite's scrutiny.
- Aims to clarify unclear archaeological features.
Results

Test Pits

Grist Mill

Sawmill
Lidar and 1875 Map

https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47e3-6e69-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99
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ANTH 253 Class