

The East Coast Well Core Inventory Project

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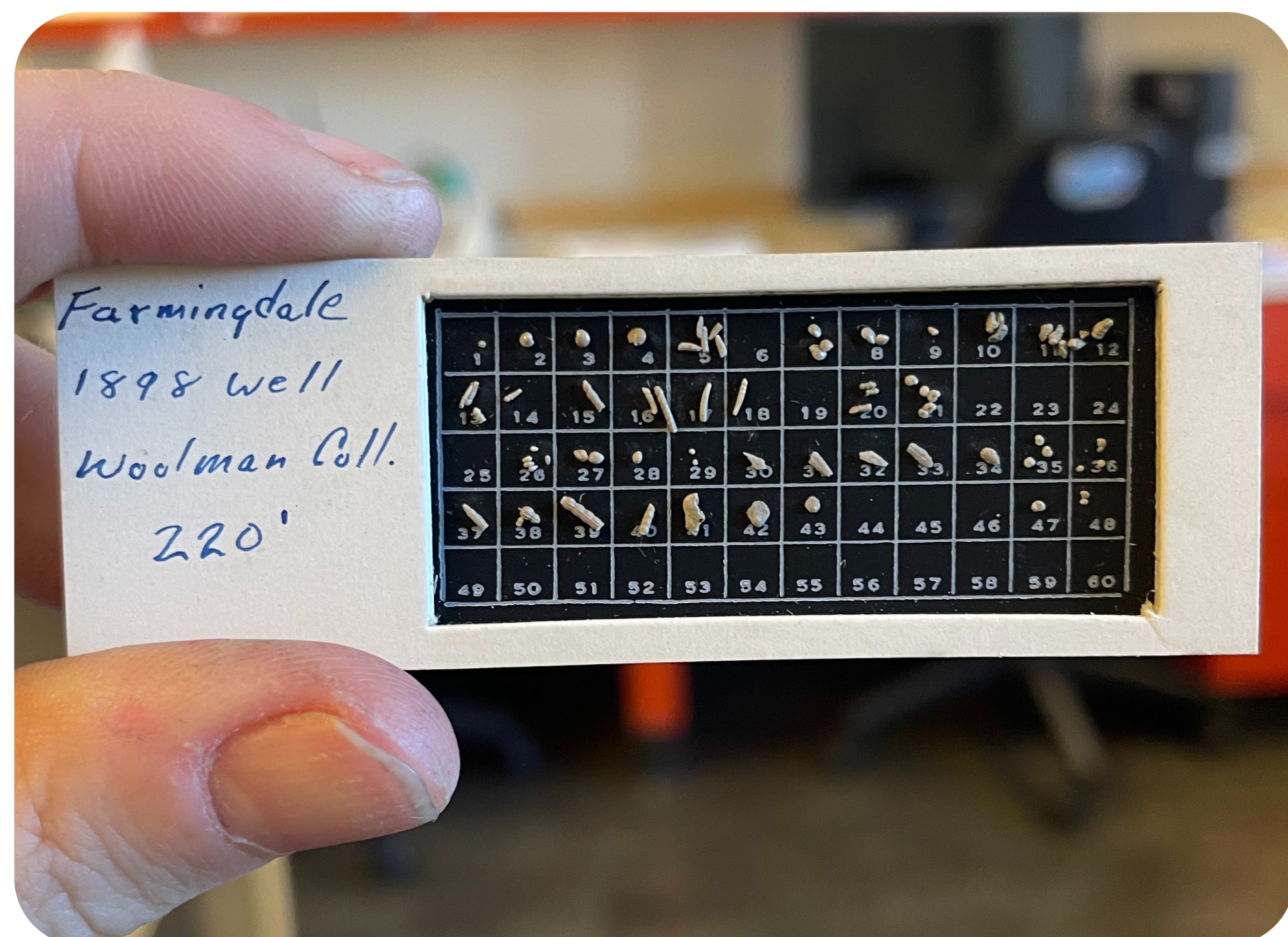
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BACKGROUND

- Lewis Woolman (1841-1903) was a member of the Academy of Natural Sciences with an interest in diatoms and microscopy. Woolman was hired by the Geological Survey of NJ in 1889 to analyze cores dug from artesian wells across the state.
- The Well Core Collection, which includes samples collected as late as the 1970s, was brought to the ANSP by Horace G. Richards, Curator of Invertebrate Paleontology.
- Though the collection is currently housed within the Academy's Invertebrate Paleontology collection, the specimens do **not** belong to the Academy.
- The goal of the project is to produce a comprehensive inventory of the well core samples and identify another institution that can better care for and utilize the collection.



METHODS

- Transcribing localities, depths, and dates from scanned note cards into a "digitized box note cards" spreadsheet.
- Moving shelf-by-shelf, cabinet-by-cabinet to check boxes of samples against the digitized notecard spreadsheet. If samples found match the box number, locality, and depth data described in the note cards, the spreadsheet is updated with its current location within the collection.
- All specimens are organized in state-specific spreadsheets, regardless of if they are described in the note cards or not.
- Rehousing specimens as needed, taking particular care to replace damaged containers that allow sediment to escape and preserve original notes wherever possible.
- Using archival logs and maps to decipher locality information and match core depth ranges to individual samples.

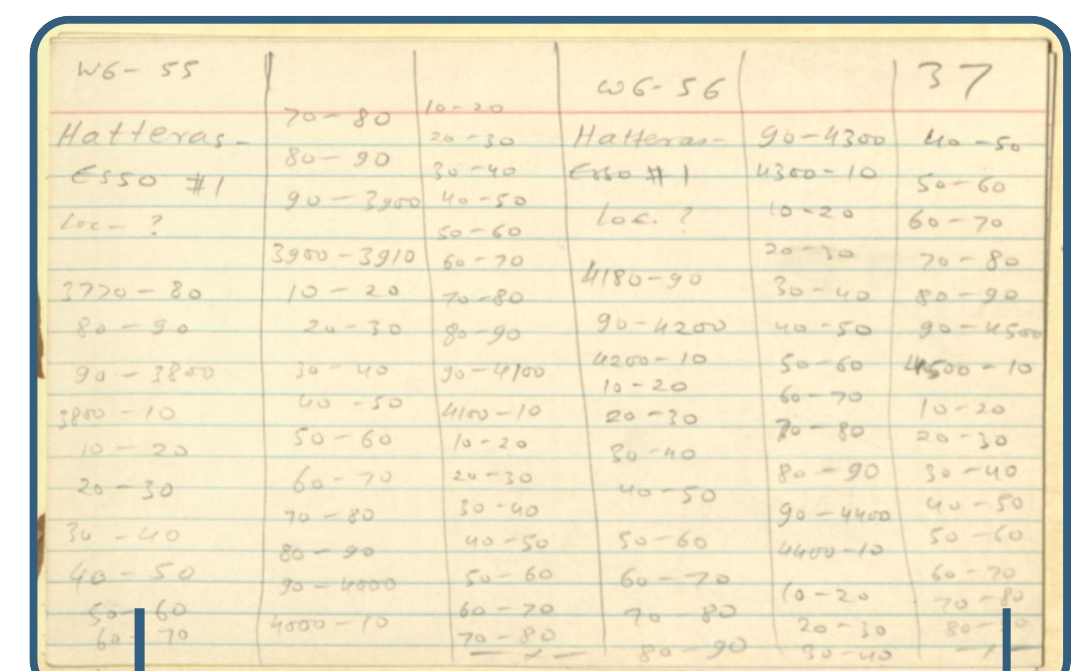
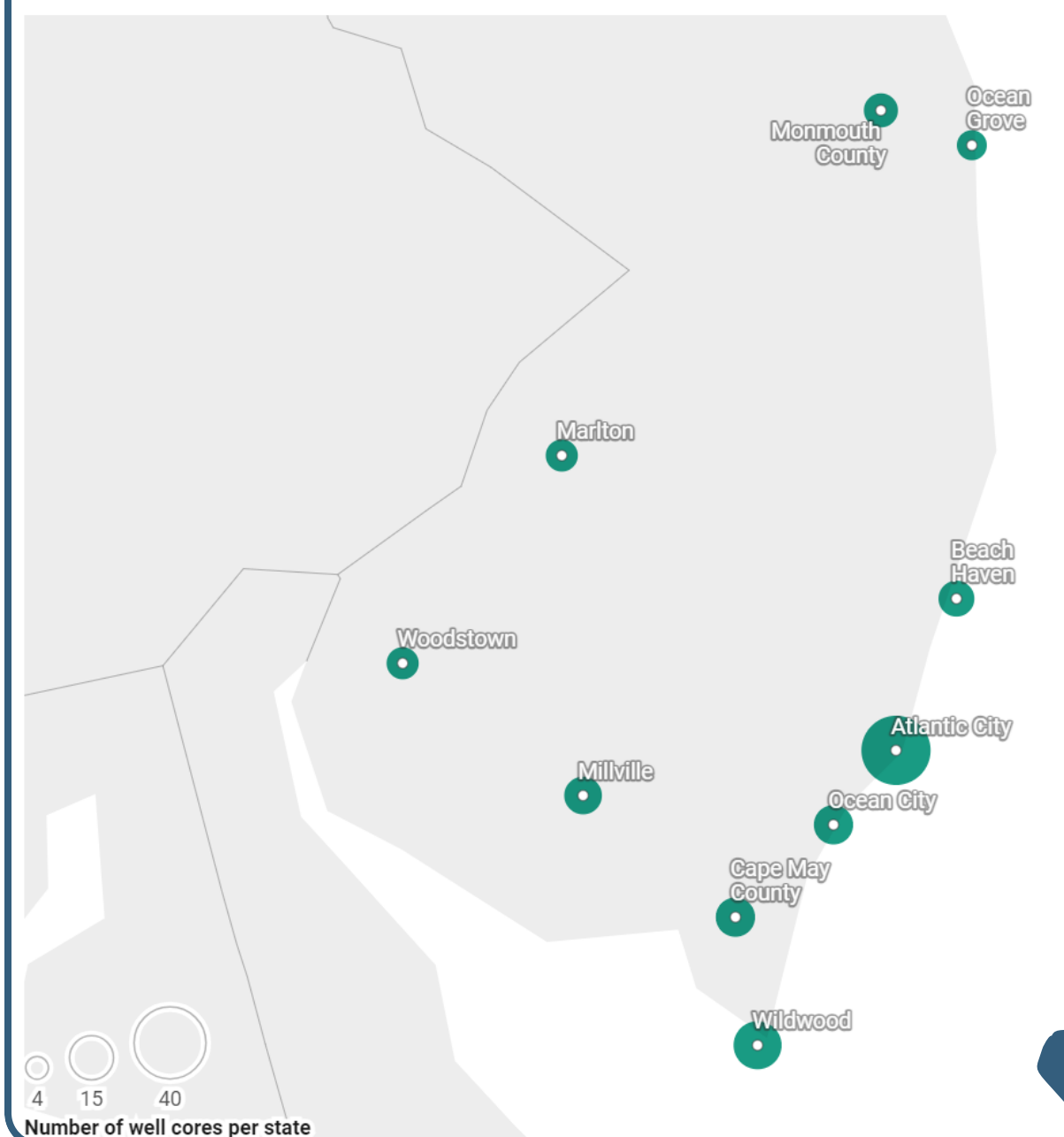
RESULTS

- Total cores inventoried: 777
- Cores described in note cards: 510
- 65% of all cores described in note cards were located (335/510 cores)

Top states (from cores inventoried)

- New Jersey, 55% (433 cores)
- North Carolina, 27% (215 cores)
- Maryland, 5% (45 cores)
- Virginia and Pennsylvania, 3% each (23 cores each)
- South Carolina, 2% (19 cores)

New Jersey Well Cores by Location



Cabin	Box n	Spec	Secor	Count	Notes	Locat
W1	W1-1	Bethards EMD	USA		Bags 1-14	
W1	W1-2	Bethards EMD	USA		Bags 15-29	
W1	W1-3	New Jersey Coastal Plain Trip 1960				Not yet located
W1	W1-4	New Jersey Coastal Plain Trip 1960				Not yet located
W1	W1-5	New Jersey Coastal Plain Trip 1960				Not yet located
W1	W1-6	New Jersey Coastal Plain Trip 1960				Not yet located
W1	W1-7					
W1	W1-8					
W1	W1-9					
W1	W1-10					
W2	W2-1	Hatteras L NC	USA		Samples: 2 (480-490) to 50 (3605-3615)	
W2	W2-2	Hatteras L NC	USA		Samples: 95 (7091-7096) to 125 (10044-10054)	



Special thanks to everyone in Invertebrate Paleontology and all who have worked on the well core project over the years!



TAKEAWAYS

- Next steps include reaching out to state geological surveys and researchers who may be interested in taking parts of the collection.
- Without documents from the ANSP's archive, it would have been impossible to complete this project.
- Creating a comprehensive inventory of the well cores took years and the work of many students, interns, and researchers.
- Staying engaged with a repetitive, seemingly uninteresting project is difficult. Organization, strong communication, and flexibility are key to maintaining momentum.