

Colvin Crew Recovery No. 3

April 18, 1998

**Crown Point State Historic Site
Recovery of the U.S. Coast Survey's
"Crown Point North" monument,
& Crown Point Lighthouse inspection.**

Crown Point Township, N.Y.

*a Retro - Recovery - Report
By - Jim Schaller*

Expedition Number 3

**U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey "North Base"
Crown Point
&
Bald Peak**

April 18, 1998

Colvin's point of beginning

Twenty four Colvin Crew members, and guests met on the morning of a nice spring day (April 18, 1998) – at the Pavilion of the Crown Point Historic Site.

We were taken to the U. S. Coast Survey's monument "*Crown Point North*" (1872) which Colvin occupied that same year. We also inspected the Crown Point Lighthouse – which Colvin also used to turn preliminary angles from - on the Lighthouse turret.

**One crew member climbed Bald Peak – site of Colvin's *Survey Signal Station No. 5* bolt (now just a drill hole).
(*Special thanks to the N.Y. State personnel at Crown Point - who opened their facilities early for us.*)**



**Crown Point Bridge over Lake Champlain
from dock at the Crown Point Lighthouse
April, 1998**

***Colvin Crew Recovery No. 3, at Crown Point
24 attended - including 18 Crew members, and 6 guests
as follows :***

Supt. Kerm Remele & Mary Ann

Jim Schaller

Howie Wyman

Steve Coulthart

Robert & Carrie Fleming

Brian & Chelsea Magee

Ralph Schissler

Dave & Shirley Ware

George Butts

Bob Schurman

John Deming

Doug McIlroy

Larry & Justin Rathman

Dick Cambridge

Bruce Agard

Nina & Richard Webb

Kip Cassavaw

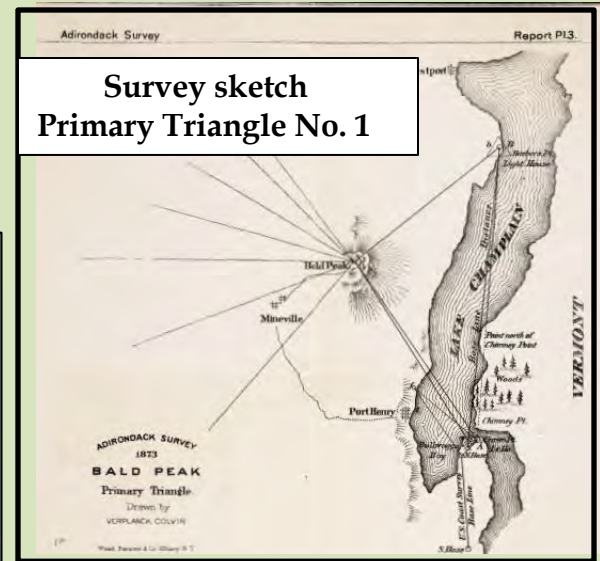
Archie Rosenquist

Supt. Kerm Remele reported Recovery No. 3 in two forms – a letter to the Crew (Crew’s News) – dated April 28, 1998, and in the July 1998 issue of “ [EMPIRE STATE SURVEYOR](#) ” :

**The Crew's News
April 28, 1998**

On Saturday, April 18, 1998, a beautiful spring day, the Colvin Crew gathered at the pavilion of the historic site where in 1873 Verplanck Colvin began his memorable Adirondack surveys. And we thank all State personnel who made it possible by opening the facilities before the formal opening date. This allowed us to recover the U.S. Coast Survey "North Base" monument from which Colvin began his measurements. We also inspected the impressive Crown Point Lighthouse tower from which he took theodolite readings northward to the Barber's Point lighthouse and to his station 5 on Bald Peak from which he could see beyond to the High Peaks.

Archie Rosenquist, Colvin Crew member and a caretaker at the historic site, climbed the trailless Bald Peak the day before and placed a flag in a tall tree over station 5 then set a telescope at our meeting place, replicating the first site which Colvin took into the Adirondacks. We had hoped to take Nina Webb's full-scale working stan-helio up there, but we had to settle for taking group pictures around it with Bald Peak in the background.



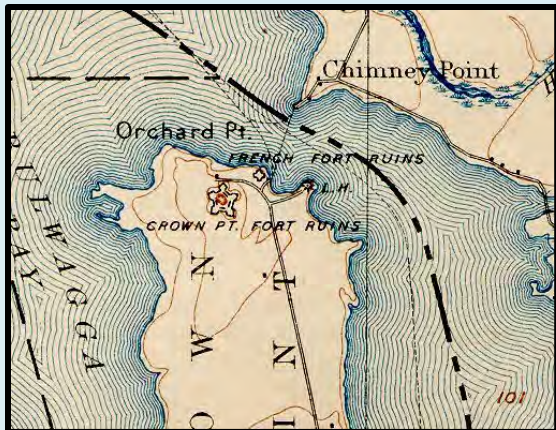
The entry from my Journal for Recovery No. 3 - is as follows:
“ 24 Crew members and guests met at the Pavilion near the old forts at the Crown Point bridge. The object was to find Colvin’s two points [Sub-Stations - or – Eccentric Points] that tied into the Crown Point Lighthouse on Lake Champlain. But – a lack of any good ties, descriptions, or sketches led us to believe the points were long destroyed, or buried.
We then located the U.S.C.S. Monument “ Crown Point North ”, a bolt set into a carved rock, and marked “ USCS – 1872 – BASELINE ”.
We also inspected the Crown Point Lighthouse, had our meeting, and adjourned.” - JS



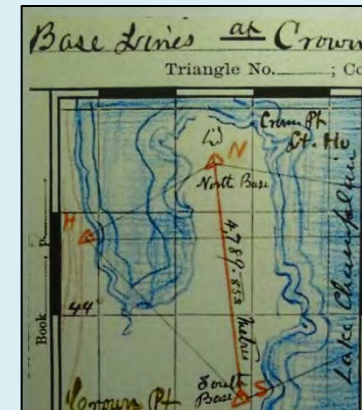
Toll Bridge over Lake Champlain at Crown Point (old aerial view – postcard)



Champlain Memorial / Crown Point Lighthouse



Supt. Kerm Remele presides over the Colvin Crew meeting at Crown Point's pavilion



Colvin sketch of the U.S.C.S. baseline at Crown Point



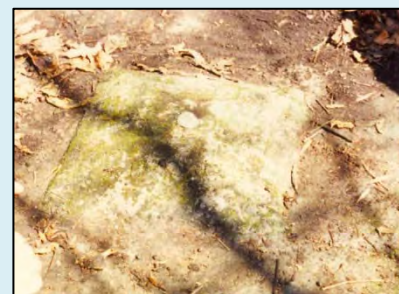
the Colvin Crew at Crown Point: (lt. to rt.) George Butts, Steve Coulhart, Ralph Schlissler, Archie Rosenquist , Kerm & Mary Ann Remele, Doug McIlroy, Dave & Shirley Ware, Robert Fleming, Bruce Agard, Carrie Fleming, Jim Schaller, Justin Rathman, Nina Webb, Bob Schurman, and John Deming .
(Bald Peak in background, and Nina Webb's " Stan - Helio " in the foreground.)



The crew finds the U.S.C.S. Crown Point North monument inscribed "BASELINE", "USCS", and "1872" with bolt top center



U.S.C.&G.S. Crown Point North (1943) Reference disc No. 1 in exposed bedrock – 85' from station.





Archie Rosenquist –
Colvin Crew member,
and caretaker at the
Crown Point Historic
Site – climbed
Bald Peak the day
before the Recovery,
and took these
photos of the
Summit rock, and
Drill - hole of
Bolt No. 5



Archie
Rosenquist

BALD PEAK – summit rock , and drill hole of Colvin’s Signal Station No. 5



Model of the Stan Helio
carved by Kerm Remele’s
brother for the
COLVIN CREW



Nina Webb’s
STAN - HELIO
Is set up for the
Colvin Crew’s
group photo ,
with Bald Peak
in the background
- at Crown Point

Detail of Colvin sketch –
showing the Lighthouse
(A) , U.S.C.S. Crown Point
North Base, and the
“Substations” “a” & “a’ ”



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April 18, 1998
Crown Point
State Historic Site
Retro - Report
Respectfully Submitted
Jim Schaller 2019

