

RECOVERY NO. 1 & 6 (revisit)

A report on the activities of the Colvin Crew, in and around Cranberry Lake September 25 and 26, 2010

Based upon the results of this past summer's balloting, where in the crew cast their votes for the two trips they would most like to re-visit, we found ourselves hiking into the "Great Corner" and boating on Cranberry Lake. As much has been previously written about these two trips, this report will be limited to the details of our re-visit. Over the course of the weekend, the crew would spend twelve ± hours in pursuit of this recovery.

Recovery notes of the "Colvin Crew" ----- Saturday, September 25, 2010 (NWC Totten and Crossfields Purchase)

Seven members of the crew assembled in front of the Ranger School main building promptly at 9:00am. There we met our guide for the day, Colvin Crew Historian and Ranger School instructor, Mike Webb. Mike has visited the great corner many times, with his most recent visit being detailed in [Recovery six revisited](#) from last fall. After a short carpool to the trailhead, our packs were shouldered and the 6+ mile hike into the Great Corner commenced at 10:10am.

Mike's experience in this area was soon put to the test as he efficiently guided us through the maze of trails that crisscross the first couple of miles of this hike. Stopping briefly to look at the lean-to on Streeter Lake and the "Schuler" family mausoleum were the only deviations from the march. A light rain soon developed that would stay with us for most of the morning. By 12:30 pm, we had reached a point on the trail where Mike had left a marker from last year denoting where to head into the woods. After a short bushwhack of a few hundred feet, there before us lied the massive marble post as set by the State of New York in 1904 to perpetuate what was originally described in 1772 as a spruce tree. The crew then broke for a quick lunch during which time Mike read an account of the history of this great corner. We then spent the next hour or so in a diligent search for ancillary evidence of Colvin's 1878 visit to this point and in which nothing other than the famous arrow was found. By 2:05 pm we were back on the trail and heading out. Mike kept a steady pace and by 4:30 pm we were back at our vehicles having covered a total of 12+ miles. Thanks to the foresight of our "northern contingent", freshly imported cold beverages were awaiting us and the crew was able to relax and nurse their sore muscles for a while before bringing the days activity to an end.



The famous arrow and drill hole pointing towards the Great Corner



L to R: Carolyn Wiggin, Jeff Storey, Mike Webb, Paul Miller, Jim Vianna and Rob Harris. Jim Jennings behind camera

Later that night, the crew gathered again for a hearty dinner at the infamous Pine Cone Restaurant where we were joined by Larry Rathman and family. Lights out by 10:00 pm.

Sunday, September 26, 2010 (Cranberry Lake)

9:00 am found the crew once again assembling in front of the Ranger School main building. With some crew members heading home the previous night and new crewmembers arriving, our group numbered nine for the recovery. Our guide for the day was none other than our very own Crew Historian and local expert, Larry Rathman. With Larry coming into view via motorboat down the lake, the Superintendent took a big sigh of relief knowing that his legs were going to get a rest today. With everybody soon aboard, we headed up the lake stopping every now and then to learn some history of the area from Larry. A visit was made to Union Point to examine a drill hole pertaining to Colvin's work, which was then followed by an extended recovery of Bolt 295 on Eagle Island. Our final destination was the SUNY bio-station located on the east shore of Cranberry Lake for a tour of this amazing facility. Arriving back at the Ranger School dock around 1:00 pm, some of the crew headed home while the remainder was given a very informative tour by Larry of the fire observation tower located on nearby Cathedral Rock. 3:30 pm found us back at the parking lot and the day's activities were concluded.



Fading inscription from Colvin's assistant surveyor on Eagle Island, "R.D. Powers, Apr, 27 98" (1898)



One of Colvin's last known points, Bolt 295 set in 1896 on Eagle Island

Parting notes:

As Colvin realized many years ago, local knowledge is key and a guide should be secured when venturing into uncharted territory. So, this time, special thanks goes out to our guides for the weekend, Mike Webb and Larry Rathman, who during a busy time of the year for them, took the time to lead our group around and make the trip the great success it was.

Respectfully Submitted,
James M. Vianna, LS
Superintendent, Colvin Crew



The "Crew" on Union Point: L to R; Jeff Storey, Kathy Sehnert, Kim Rathman, Robert Adams, Jim Jennings, Justin Rathman, Steve Sehnert and Larry Rathman, Jim Vianna behind camera.

The COLVIN CREW is an honorable organization formed for the purpose of perpetuating the Adirondack doings and dreams of that pioneer surveyor,

VERPLANCK COLVIN

www.colvincrew.org