

**A Very Brief Report of the  
COLVIN CREW HIKE OF 22 SEPTEMBER 2007**

**Background of the Subject Area \***

The British Colony of New York was first divided into ten Counties on 1 November 1683 by order of Charles II, and remained as such until the County of Albany was, on 24 March 1772, divided into Tryon, Charlotte, and Albany. The Albany/Tryon line began at the Mohawk River and ran north to the Canadian border; the Albany/Charlotte line ran from Fort George (near the present Fort William Henry) west until it struck the Tryon County line. It is this point of intersection that draws us into the woods, for it is currently where the Counties of Hamilton, Saratoga and Warren meet. Sounds simple.

\*Please note that in the interest of brevity (I failed?) it is necessary to omit a LOT of interesting history.

**Surveyors Whose Work We Followed**

Lawrence Vrooman ran the East bounds of Montgomery County to the Northwest corner of Saratoga County in 1800. (Deputy Surveyor) Vrooman laid out the Rear Division of Palmer's Purchase into lots for the proprietors, and our site is in Lot 15 of this subdivision.

Seth C. Baldwin (Deputy Surveyor) resident of the Town of Ballston, Saratoga County, and a prominent citizen, ran the northerly East-West line in 1798 and set the stone pile with the rock that, since 1925, bears a drill hole.

James Green ran the line that cornered on a 20" hemlock tree near the swamp in 1800, now marked by a stake, etc. Mr. Green remains elusive and was probably one of the early stealth surveyors. His was the corner honored by Verplank Colvin in his 1883 report.

J. Francisco - one of Verplank Colvin's deputy surveyors. Whilst running the line of Lots 15 and 16 on 11th October 1883, he noted crossing the County line (where A. H. King set the stake & stones we saw) AND found what he believed to be the County termini, the famous corner tree. Colvin writes as if he actually saw it. That's a boss for you...

A. H. King, New York State Forest Surveyor. Early to mid 1900's surveys throughout the Adirondacks. King's detailed observations, notes, maps and obvious thoroughness are priceless to us today, and particularly so in our present endeavor.

**And This Is What Happened**

Our (Colvin Crew) official investigation of the present-day state of affairs took place with a two-pronged attack, striking from both west (Party A) and east (Party B).

Party A, consisting of Jim Vianna, guide, Larry Rathman, Rob Harris, Ray Liuzzo, Tom Peterson, Kristen Demers, Don Darrah, Bill Darling, Jim Jennings, Frank Scanlon and John Scanlon formed up at the Wilcox Lake Trailhead, then followed the trail northerly to the Mud Creek area. From here it was bushwack to the County Line where the corners set by Baldwin, Vrooman and King were recovered. Party A & Party B met at Green's Corner where photos were taken for "evidence." Total elapsed time: 6 hours.

Party B, consisting of Arthur Carpenter, guide, Charlie Hartnett, Linda White, and C. Donald Carpenter (pseudo guide) met at Fuller's Store, Edinburg, and eventually proceeded to the Farrell farm, now Lyme Adirondack Timberlands II, LLC, and completed the assault from the east which included an interesting ford across Tenant Creek. There are no trails to follow at all. Your compass had better point north! Our party picked up the County line and struck out for Green's corner. As an aside, after inscribing the date on a locust post we had set on the reconnaissance, I followed the compass line through the "15 swamp" where I failed to properly negotiate a beaver channel and wound up chest-deep in the water! This truly dampened my enthusiasm for any further recoveries, so I returned and met the group at Green's Corner. No doubt people in their right mind must miss out on some adventures!

After conquering our objectives, the two parties returned to their vehicles and some of us met again at the C & R Restaurant in the Town of Galway for a convivial repast. Those in attendance were Jim Vianna, Larry Rathman, Linda White, Art Carpenter, Jim Jennings, Ray Liuzzo, Bill Darling, Charlie Hartnett, John Scanlon, and myself. Lights out by 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Donald Carpenter