



Recovery notes: Bolt 266, Ruby Mtn, Hamilton County
October 11, 2008

A brief history of V. Colvin's Ruby Mtn. activities:

Other than what I would consider a preliminary triangulation sketch¹, very little of V. Colvin's field notes were found for this mark. Based upon the bolt number of 266, and its stamped date of 1896 an assumption can be made that it was occupied closer to the end of his work rather than earlier. While V. Colvin also performed various boundary surveying retracements and level runs near to this area, Bolt 266 was clearly a triangulation station used in extending his network over the smaller mountains of the southern Adirondacks. Bolt 266 sits on the southern peak of Ruby Mtn. overlooking Thirteenth Lake and the garnet mines² owned and operated by the Barton Mines Corporation. Of historical note is that V. Colvin had a stake in this mine as owner of Lot 95 in Ponds Survey, Twp 14 of the Totten and Crossfield Patent. As described by Colvin, "the garnet mined here is first class, as good as any I ever saw".³

Recovery notes of the "Colvin Crew" -----

On a beautiful sunny day with the fall colors at their peak, seven crewmembers along with the superintendent ascended Ruby Mtn. to search for Bolt No. 266. What looked like a relatively easy hike on paper soon turned into an energetic workout as we discovered that the mountain had been severely affected by last winters ice storm. Most of the trees had been snapped off halfway up and their tops littered the forest floor. After 2 ½ hours of climbing (over, under and around the fallen tree tops) the summit was reached with C. Donald Carpenter leading the way. Bolt 266 was quickly found⁴ along with its associated four anchor bolts⁵. Additionally, the *remains* of a cabled staff as set by a local surveyor in 1981 and a more recent aerial target were also found. One item of note is Bolt 266 is not of the "standard" mountain bolts as found on the larger peaks but is more similar in nature to what we recovered on Middle Saranac Lake. In any event, in 1941 the U.S.C.G.S. (N.Y.S.S.) wisely incorporated Bolt 266⁶ into their network rather than replacing it with one of their standard disks. They set two reference disks at approximately 90 degrees to the mark, which were also

¹ See photo No. 1

² See photo No. 2

³ Colvin personal record book 293 for the years 1893/1894, pages 70-73

⁴ See Photo No. 3

⁵ See photo No. 4

⁶ Enter 266 for station name then select N.Y.

recovered.⁷ After a short lunch break, Bill Darling, LS was welcomed as our newest member and presented with the coveted pin on the summit. The superintendent then read a short passage from V. Colvin's personal field book describing the garnet found in this area. In preparation of departure, the peak was cleared of the above mentioned past surveying remains and a small stone pile was placed over Bolt 266.⁸ The next 2-½ hours was spent descending back through the tangle to our starting point. Upon reaching our vehicles, the crew relaxed in the brilliant sun for a period of time and then proceeded to the Village of North Creek for a proper re-hydration at a local eatery where plans were made for next spring's recovery.

Parting notes.

Once again, the level of dedication by the "Crew" in performing these recoveries is unmatched. Just as V. Colvin had to overcome harsh conditions in performance of his duties, the "Crew" followed in his footsteps by overcoming it's own difficulties in slogging through the ice storm damage. With the beautiful fall day, good company and a successful recovery all had a good time.⁹

Respectfully submitted,
James M. Vianna, L.S.
Superintendent

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

For membership information, contact JVannaPLS@aol.com

⁷ See photo No. 5

⁸ See photo No. 6

⁹ See photo No. 7

Photo Log

Photo's supplied courtesy of the "Crew"

Photo 1

Photo 2

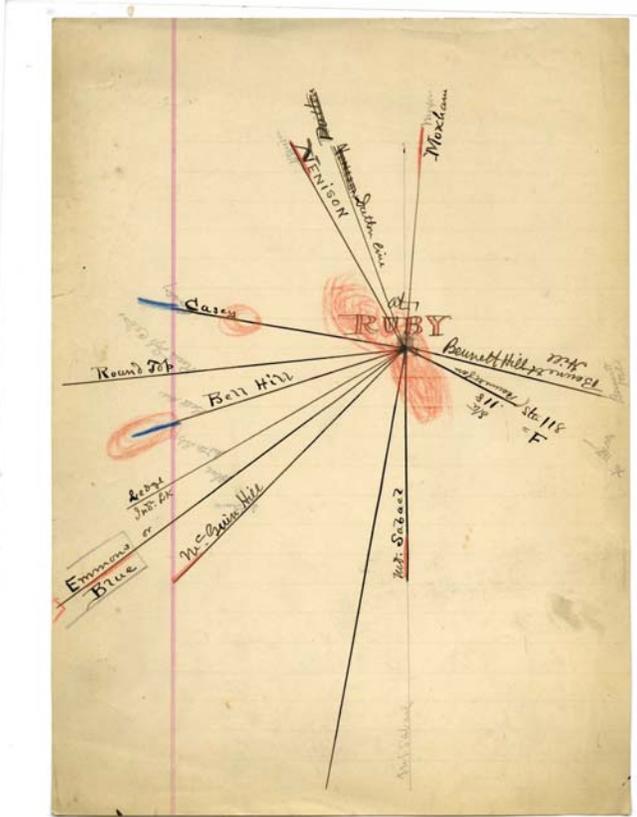


Photo 2

Photo 3



Photo 5

Photo 6



Photo 7

