

Verplanck Colvin, American Wilderness Surveyor and Savior

Kermit REMELE, USA

Keywords: Colvin. Adirondack. Survey. Wilderness. Preservation.

ABSTRACT

To mention New York State and wilderness together is a seeming paradox, yet, less than three hundred miles from the towers of Manhattan, now sadly despoiled, lies a region as big as Yosemite. North of the Erie canal and the course of Empire, between Lake Ontario, Canada and Vermont there are over six million acres that, for millions of city dwellers, is a very convenient wilderness with friendly mountains and the beckoning Olympic Lake Placid.

But back in the 19th century it was a real adventure to get there and Verplanck loved adventure and this is a story of some of his adventures. His first concern was that although many were coming and enjoying it very little was known about it. His second concern was that this area held many of the resources necessary to build our industrial revolution; timber, iron and water. And he became alarmed at the rate at which these resources were being depleted.

Verplanck Colvin was a man of many talents and boundless energy which he lavished on his beloved Adirondacks with barely believable and hazardous treks, very believable maps, lithographs and monuments and a legacy of detailed Reports to the Legislature which are oft quoted here. He could have been a famous artist or author, but instead he threw himself and his fortune into surveying and trying to save this remote region from those who were depleting it. And he was successful at both.

He deserves much more than the little recognition he has received and it is the aim of the present day Colvin Crew to help him gain that recognition. You are invited to join us by contacting me at my mail or email address.

CONTACT

Kermit Remele
Box 685, Cranberry Lake, NY 12927
USA
Tel + 1 315 8482062
E-mail: marker@gisco.net

HS2 Surveying and Mapping the Americas – Great Surveyors
Kermit Remele
Verplanck Colvin, American Wilderness Surveyor and Savior

FIG XXII International Congress
Washington, D.C. USA, April 19-26 2002