

SURVEYORS RENDEZVOUS 2016

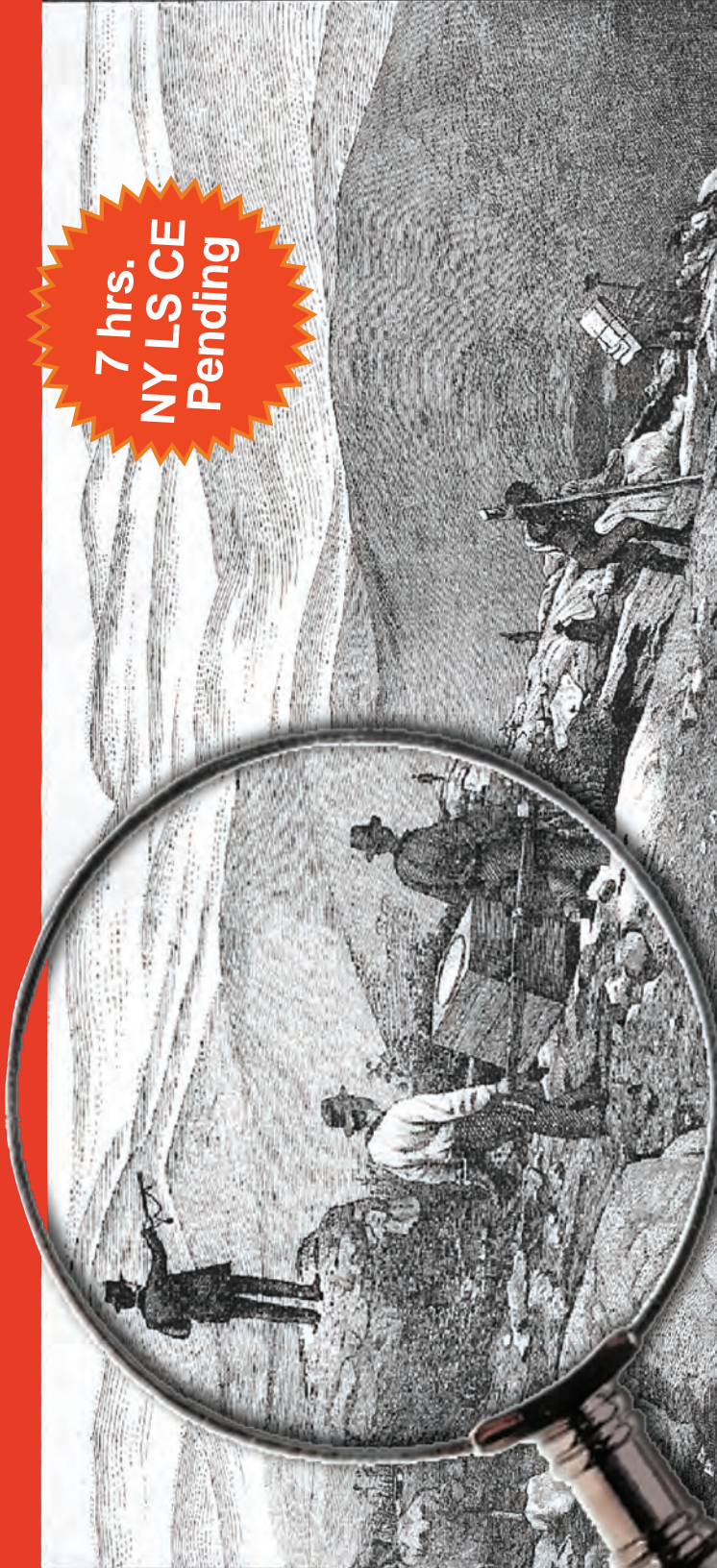
THE VERPLANK COLVIN STORY

Adirondack Wilderness Surveyor and Savior

ESTABLISHING THE LARGEST PARK
WITHIN THE CONTINENTAL U.S.

SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 1

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7 hrs.
NY LS CE
Pending



The Verplanck Colvin Story:

In New York, many famous land surveyors stand out such as David Rittenhouse, Joseph Ellicott, Simeon DeWitt, John Randel, Jr. and Philip Schuyler. While these “colonial era” surveyors all played a major role in the orderly settlement of New York, there is one individual who is often overlooked, but perhaps of even more importance. His name is Verplanck Colvin.

Mr. Colvin (1847-1920) provided that all important bridge between the early surveyors and today’s surveyors. As Superintendent of the Adirondack Survey (later the New York State Land Survey), Mr. Colvin was tasked with retracing those ancient surveys and mapping a huge section of rugged wilderness. His skill in identifying the original evidence of these early surveys and perpetuating such with permanent marks was ahead of his time.

Mr. Colvin’s story is an epic tale of personal fortune lost, politics at its worst and the hardships of surveying in a rugged and inhospitable mountainous area. His ability as a writer and illustrator was unparalleled. Given special protection by the courts, his work, when performed in official capacity, was considered “prima facie” evidence of the true and correct boundaries (an important aspect when settling million of acres of dubious overlapping “colonial era” land claims). During his tenure as Superintendent (1872-1900), he had the incredibly difficult task of searching through the often burnt over and heavily logged forest for the original marks established roughly 100 years prior. His ability to discover them and sort out the conflicting lines of possession was unmatched.

With the above said, perhaps his greatest accomplishment (in the eyes of the general public) was his role as Champion of the Adirondack Park.

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CONTINUED FROM FRONT...

The Adirondack Park encompasses roughly 5.8 million acres and is the largest park within the continental United States. It is roughly split 50/50 between public lands (Forest Preserve) and private holdings that are subject to special zoning. While Colvin was not its only proponent, he certainly was one of its loudest and his use of land surveying as the medium to convey such a message is somewhat unmatched anywhere else in this country.

Preliminary Itinerary

Wednesday September 28th

10am-2pm SHS Board of Directors meeting
1pm-9pm Registration opens
4pm-6pm Welcome Weary Travelers
"Adirondack Cookout"
6pm-7pm Verplanck Colvin PBS video
7pm-7:30pm Rendezvous orientation
7:30pm-9pm SHS annual meeting

Thursday September 29th

7am Registration opens
7am-8am Breakfast Buffet

8am-5:30pm Education Sessions:

- 1) Verplanck Colvin biography
- 2) Methods and Procedures of the Adirondack Survey
- 3) The "Great Gore" (part 1)

11:30am-2:30pm
Lake George lunch cruise aboard the Lac du St. Sacrement

- 4) The "Great Gore" (part 2)
- 5) History of the Warren - Essex County boundary line
- 6) Survey instrument accuracy through the ages (part 1)

6pm-10pm B-B-Q & survey equipment swap meet

Friday September 30th

6:30am-7:15am Registration & breakfast buffet

7:30am-6pm Field Reconnaissance:

- 1) Gore Mountain gondola ride & summit hike, survey instrument accuracy through the ages (part 2)
- 2) North River county line viewing and historical sign dedication
- 3) Adirondack Museum (Blue Mtn. Lake), tour & lecture

7:30pm-10pm Annual Banquet & Auction

Saturday October 1st

7am-8am Registration & breakfast buffet

TRACK ONE:

8am-5pm Lake Placid, Olympic events & High Peak bus tour

TRACK TWO:

8am-12:30pm Education Sessions:

- 1) "W. & L.E. Gurley" Presentations by the NYS Museum & William Skerritt on the Charles E. Smart Collection
- 2) Deflection of the Vertical
- 3) History of the French & Indian War in and around Lake George.

1:30pm Guided narrative walking tour of Ft. William Henry and Fort George remnants



Spouse and Guest Program

Wednesday September 28

7pm-9pm Adirondack Folk Musicians
Dan Berggren & Alex Smith

Thursday September 29

10am-11:00am Author Presentation

"Adirondack Outlaws Bad Boys & Lawless Ladies"
Author Niki Kourofsky

2:30pm-4:30pm Merchant Mall

Local vendors include: ADK Winery, ADK Brew Pub, Barkeater Chocolate; L. George Olive Oil, Quilts, Authors, Garnet Jewelry Studio, Pickle lady and more. All will have their own products for you to see and purchase.

Saturday October 1

8am-5pm Lake Placid/High Peaks bus tour

See Olympic venues - Walk through the beautiful Village framed by NYS High Peaks with Whiteface Mountain as a backdrop. Lunch on your own at any one of dozens of eateries. Browse local stores or just enjoy the famous fresh air.

