



"SURVEY METHODS AND PROCEDURES OF THE ADIRONDACK SURVEY AND THE NEW YORK STATE LAND SURVEY 1872-1900"

**VERPLANCK COLVIN'S ADIRONDACK SURVEY**  
~ its beginning at Lake Champlain, 1872 - 1878 ~

VERMONT SOCIETY OF LAND SURVEYORS  
COLCHESTER, VERMONT  
SEPTEMBER 4, 2019

 Crown Point Lighthouse

Presented by:  
**James W. Schaller**  
6324 Hawes Road,  
Altamont, N.Y. 12009  
(518) 861-7452  
jims2999@yahoo.com

Relief map showing the Adirondack, and Green Mountains flanking Lake Champlain → 

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*Dedication of the new*  
**DUDLEY OBSERVATORY**  
Academy Park, Albany, New York, August 28, 1856

Professor  
**Edward Everett**





AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE



"ON THE USES OF ASTRONOMY"

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**The Dudley Observatory**  
Academy Park  
Albany, New York







**DR. BENJAMIN GOULD**  
1856 "The Scientific Council"

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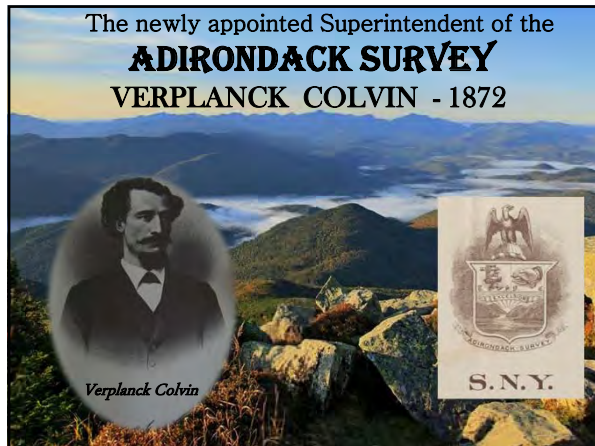
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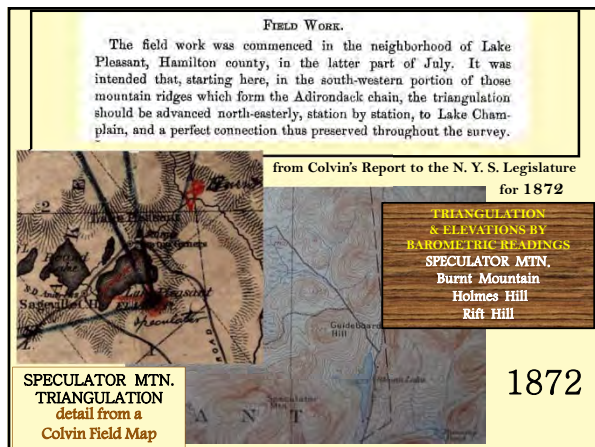
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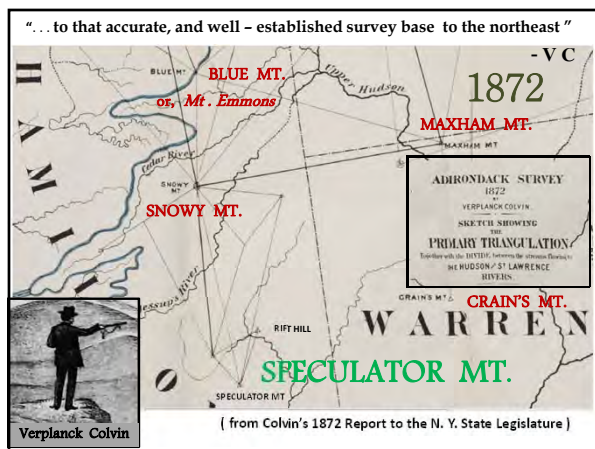
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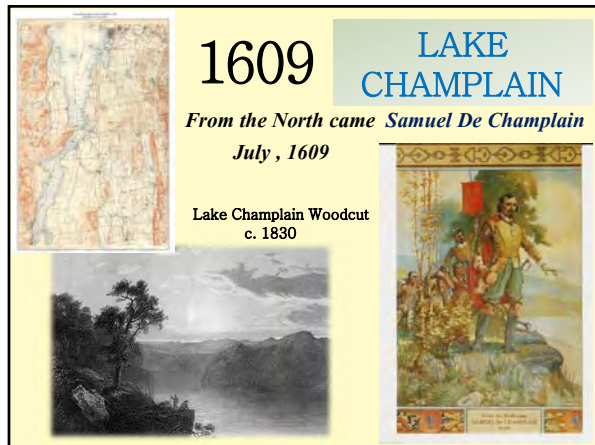
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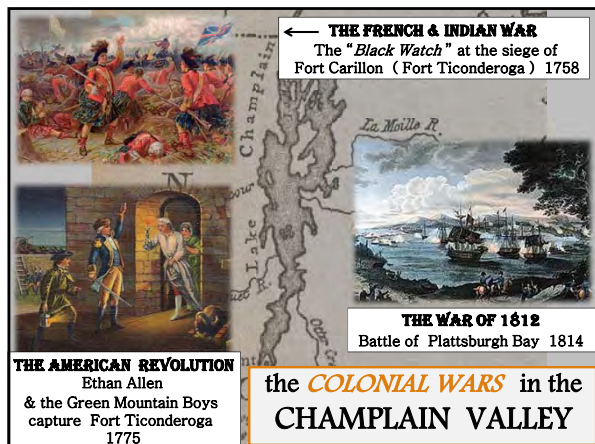
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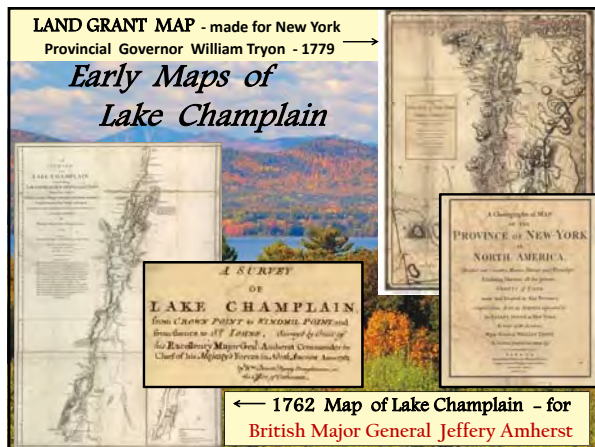
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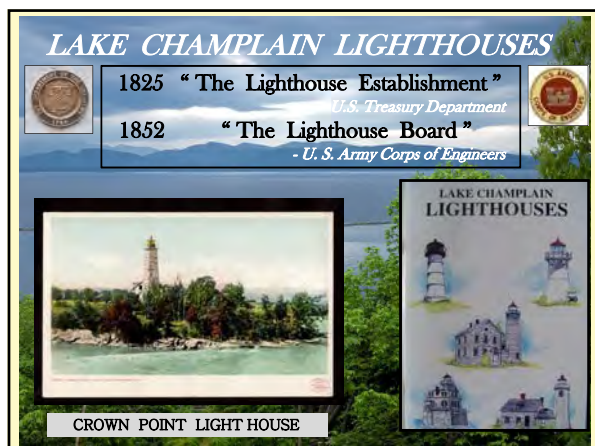
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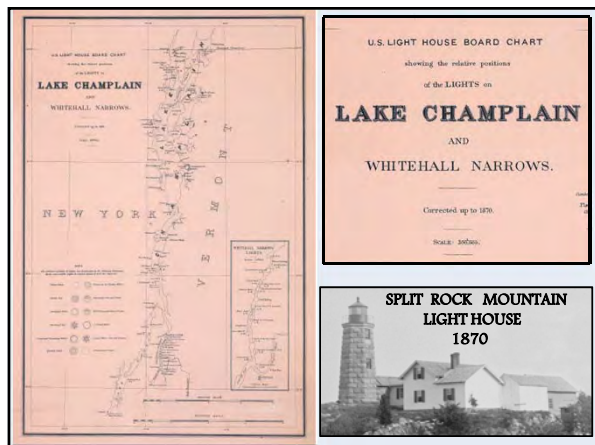
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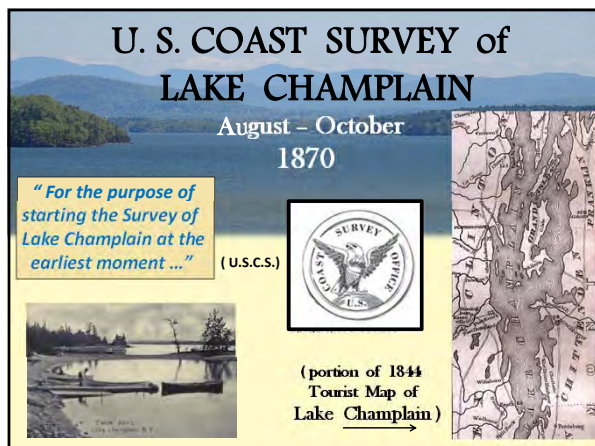
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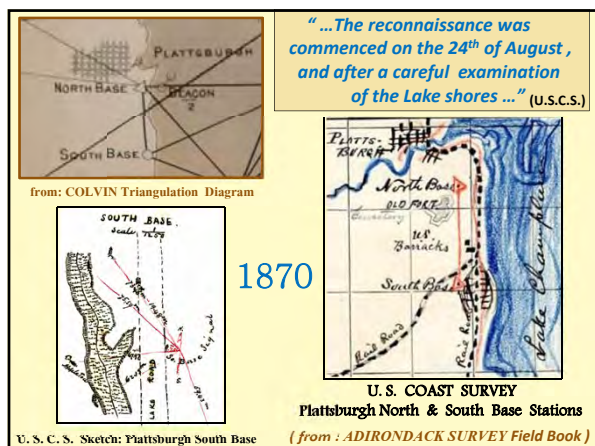
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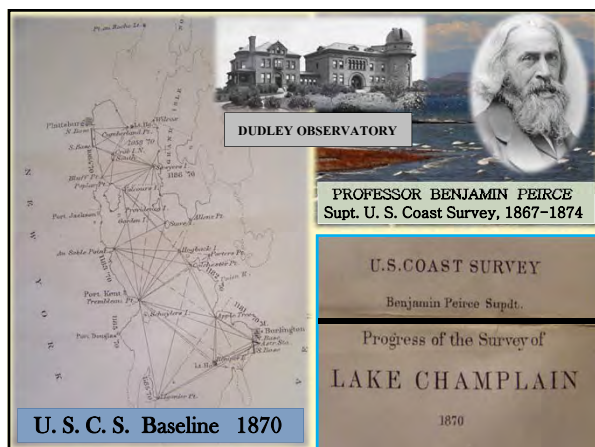
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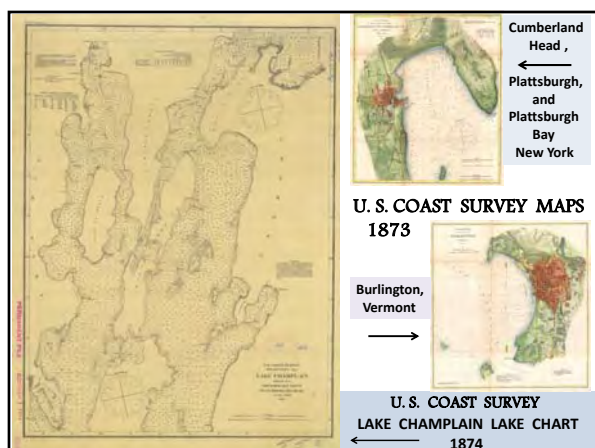
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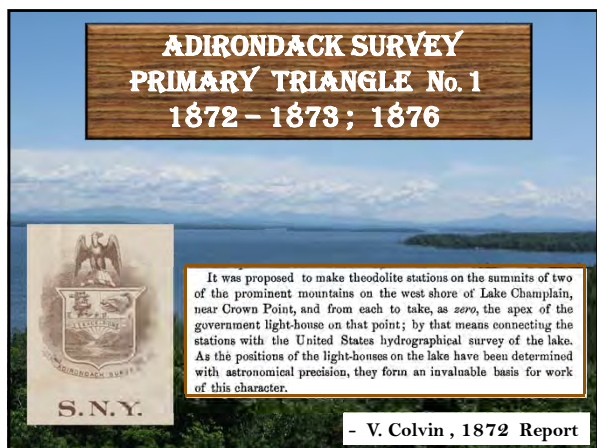
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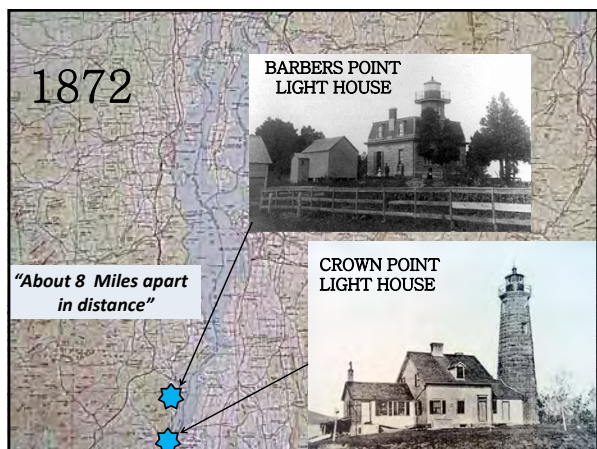
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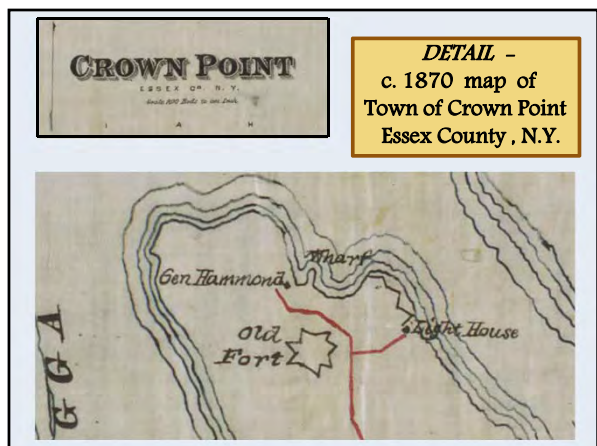
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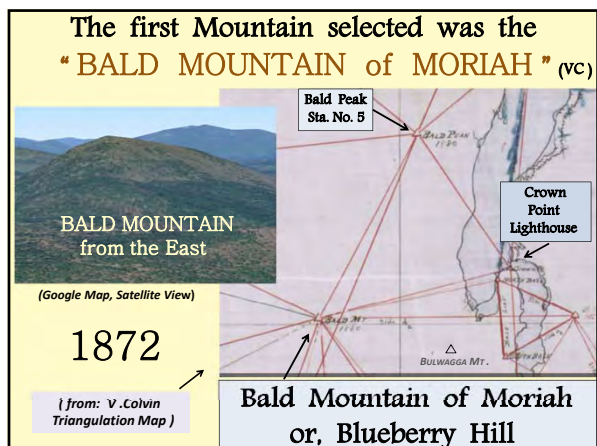
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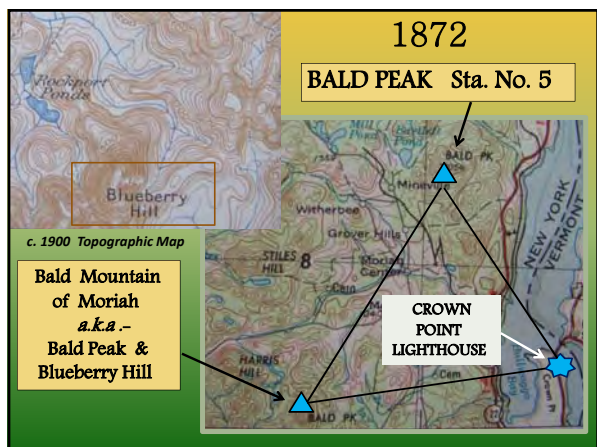
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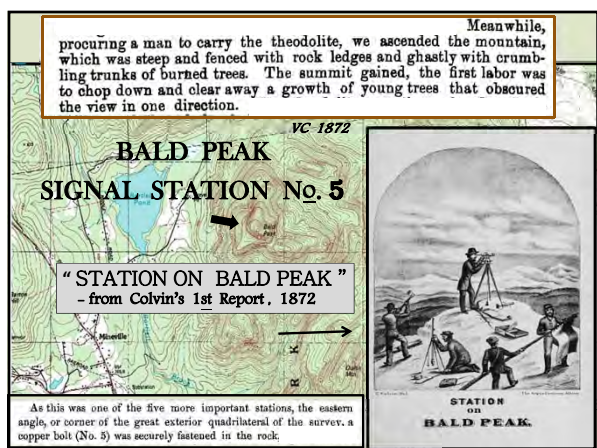
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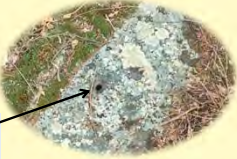
## BALD PEAK



View west from summit -  
of distant Adirondack High Peaks



View east toward Lake Champlain  
and Crown Point



Drill Hole in Summit bedrock  
( Remnant of Signal Station - Bolt No. 5 )

( Scenes from photos - 1988 )      (Drill Hole: 1998 - Colvin Crew Recovery )

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## BALD PEAK

- today



Bald Peak - over ruins of Fort St. Fredrick



*Bald Peak -  
showing the new Bridge over  
Lake Champlain,  
and the Champlain Memorial -  
ensconcing the original  
Crown Point Lighthouse*



Bald Peak from Vermont shore,  
in line with Barbers Point Lighthouse

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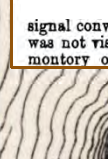
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*"HOSPITAL POINT"*  
*SURVEY BASELINE*  
*LINE - of - SIGHT*  
*Impediment*



Reconnaissance  
observations  
taken from  
Light house  
walkway



The  
signal conveyed the unwelcome intelligence that Crown Point light  
was not visible from the Barber's Point light-house, a wooded pro-  
montory on the Vermont shore intervening.

Colvin Sketch ,  
Map , & Quote  
1873

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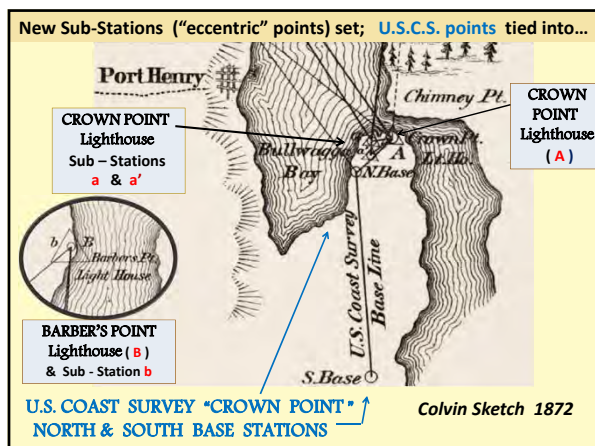
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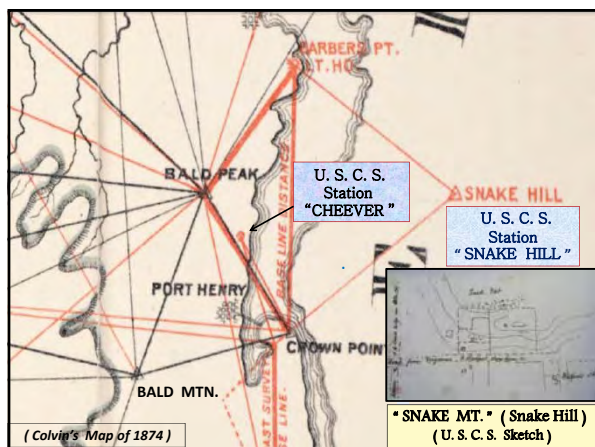
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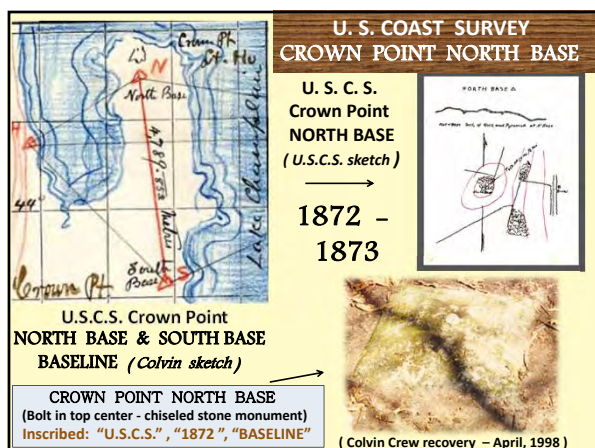
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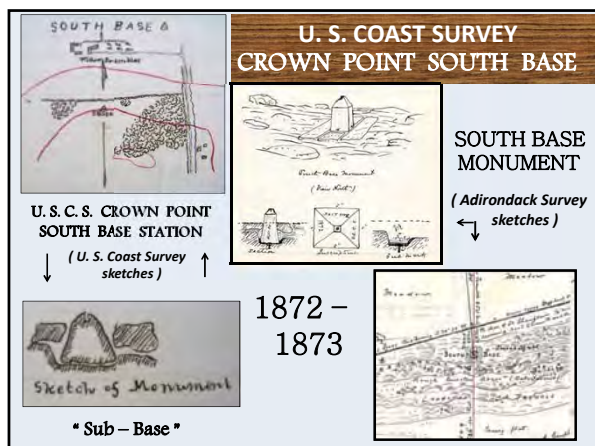
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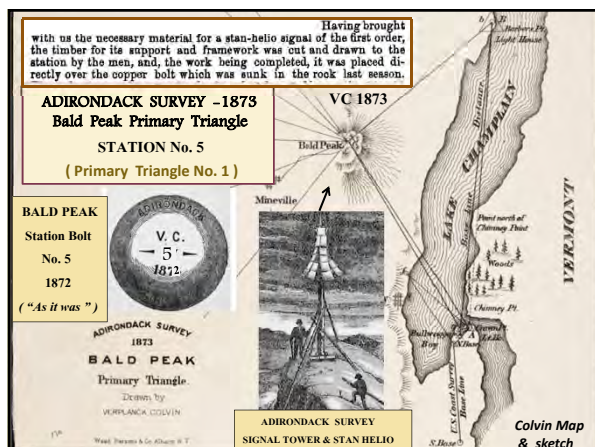
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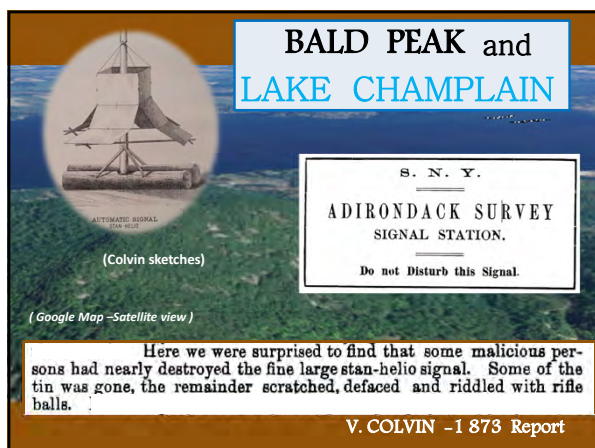
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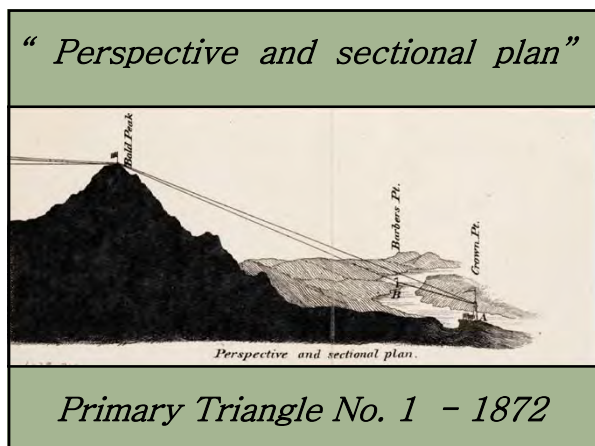
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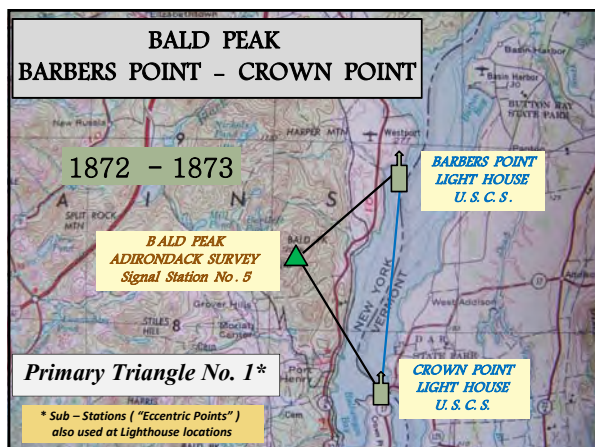
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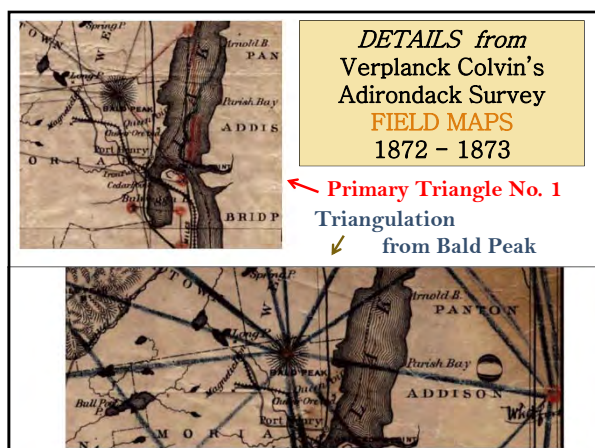
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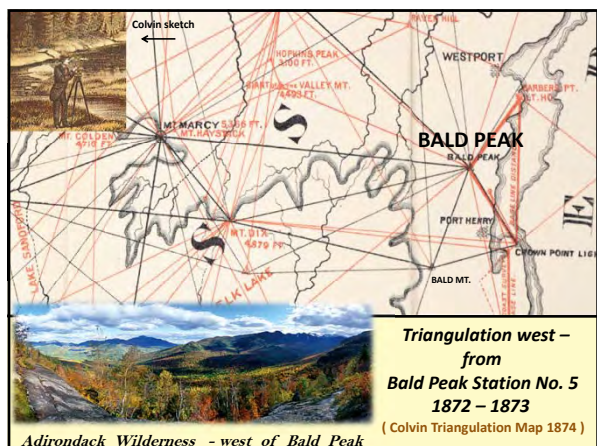
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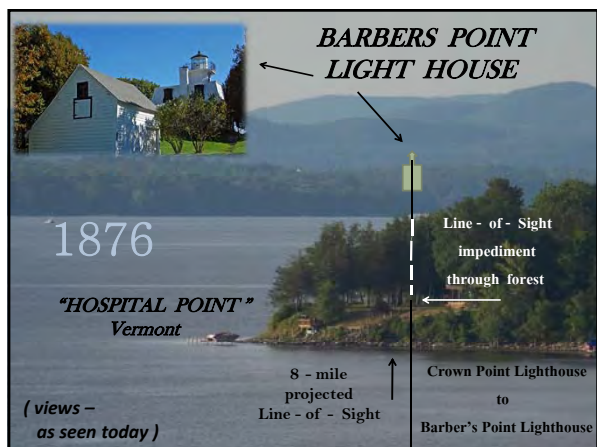
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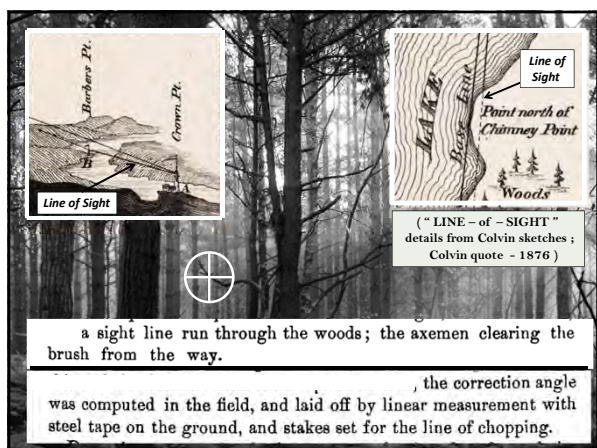
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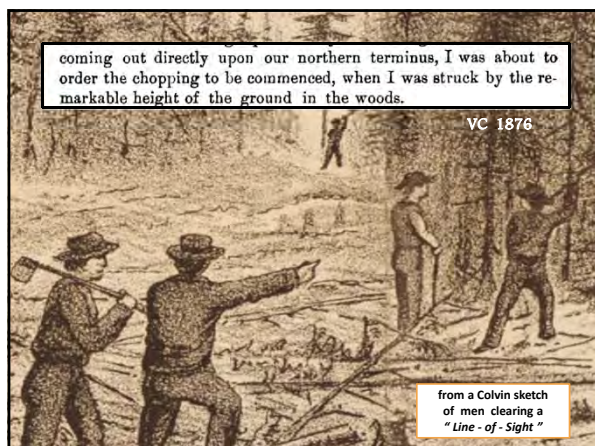
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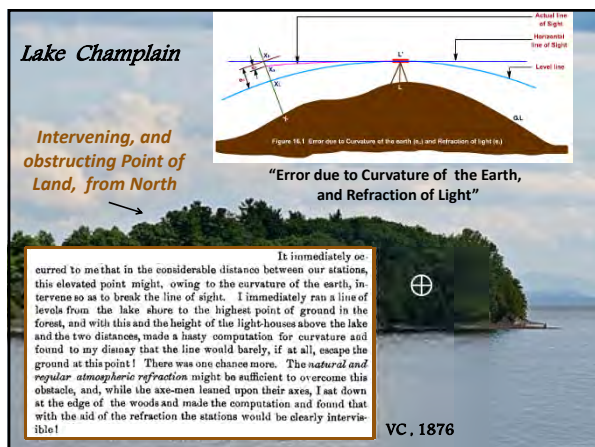
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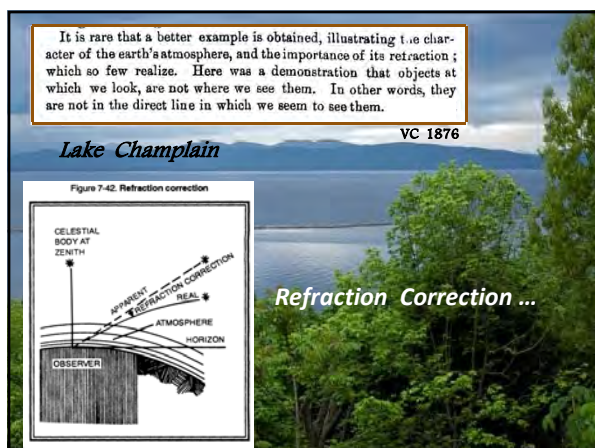
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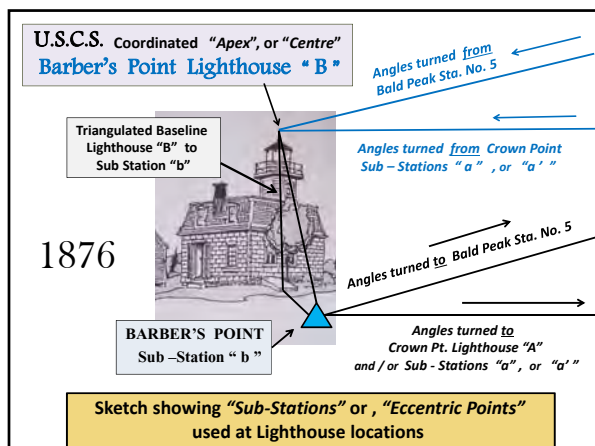
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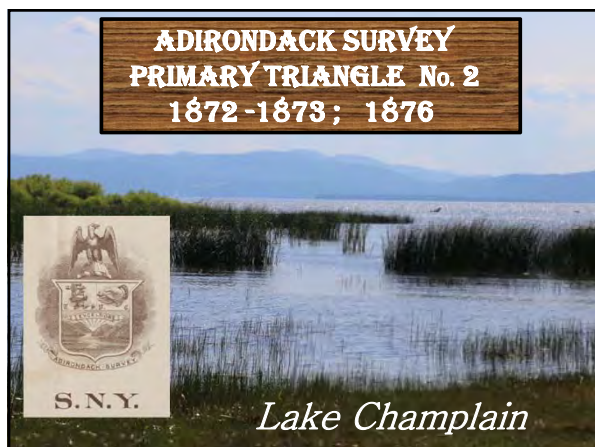
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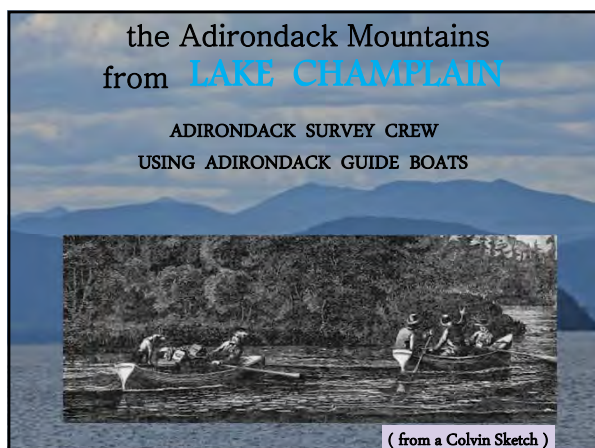
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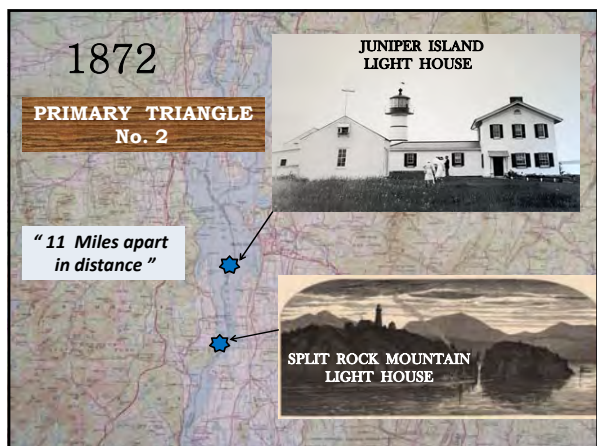
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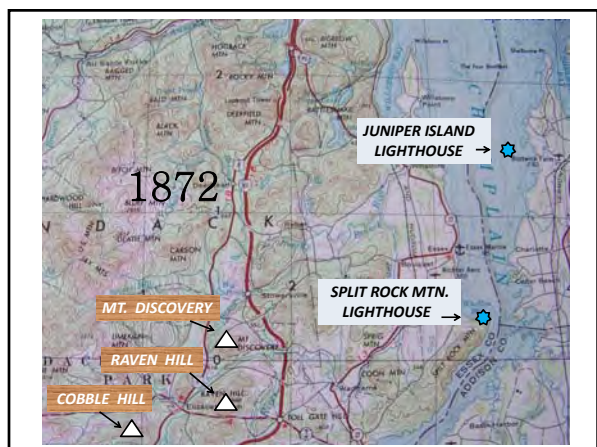
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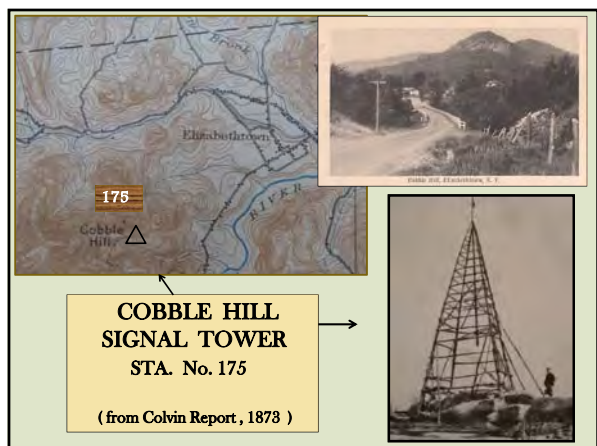
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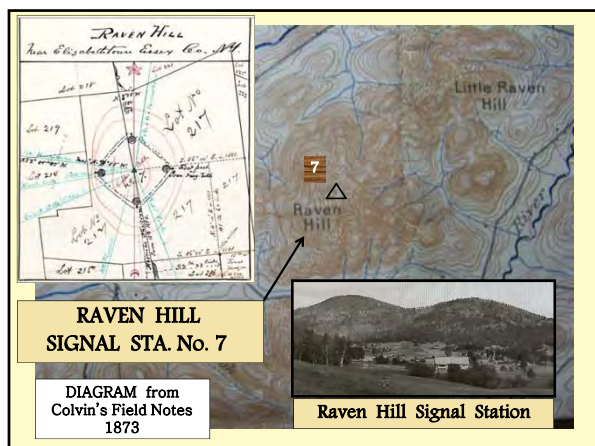
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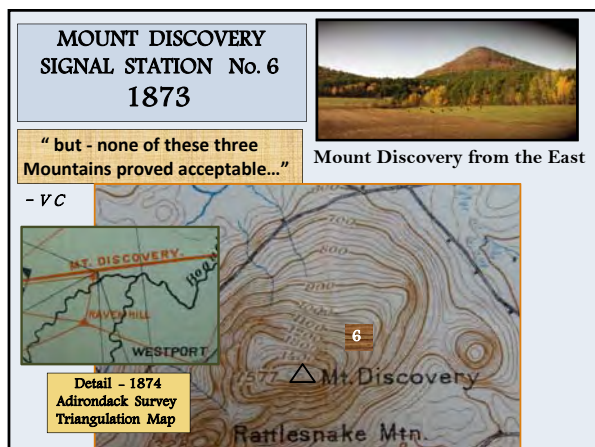
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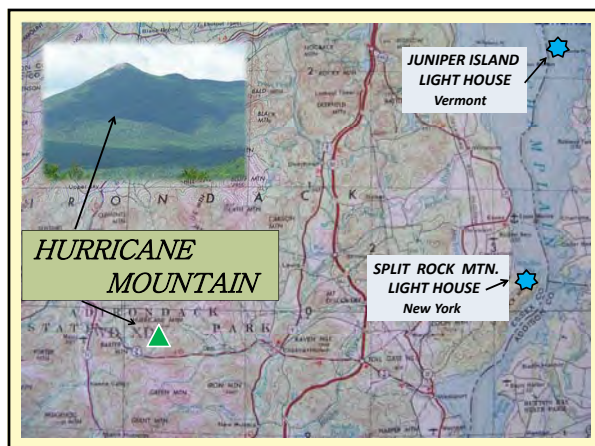
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**HURRICANE** →

**MOUNTAIN**

**3694'**

Survey Station Bolt No. 8 1873

**ADIRONDACK HIGH PEAKS**

**LAKE CHAMPLAIN**

West - from Hurricane Mountain

East - from Hurricane Mountain

the men shouldered the heavy knapsacks containing the transit instrument in its box, etc., and we made a rapid ascent. The prospect from the summit was enchanting. In the east, midway between us and the green billows of the Vermont mountains, lay Lake Champlain, a liquid, silvery avenue of commerce, bearing here and there, slow moving specks of white, scarce recognizable as sloops and schooners; while in the south-west the haughty, high peaks of the Adirondacks were clustered in dark magnificence.

- V C

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**COLVIN EXCLAIMED :**

*We had found the station! No better or more appropriate one, than this mountain top, could have been selected.*

- V Colvin

**from Hurricane Mountain - 1873**

( Colvin Sketches )

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**HURRICANE MTN.**  
3694'

Pitcher Mtn.

**HURRICANE MOUNTAIN**

Remnants of Survey Station Bolt No. 8 (today)

as Survey Station Bolt No. 8  
**WOULD HAVE APPEARED IN 1873**

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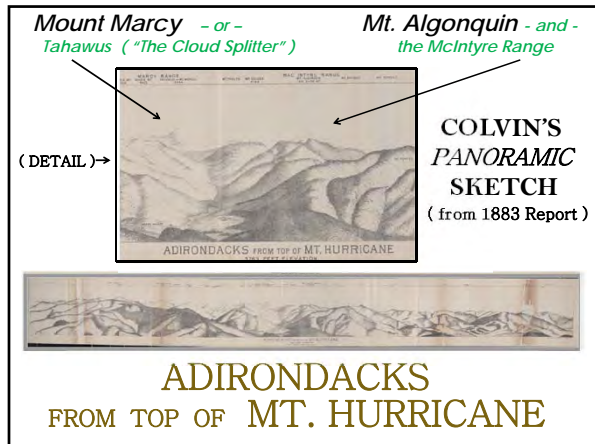
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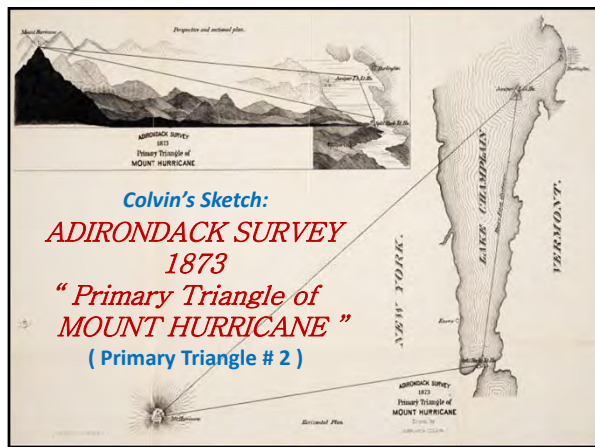
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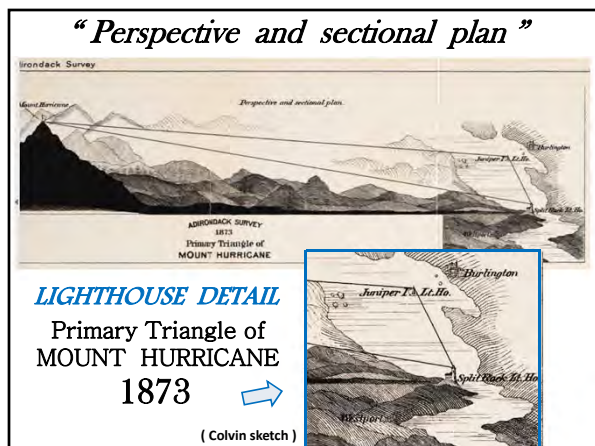
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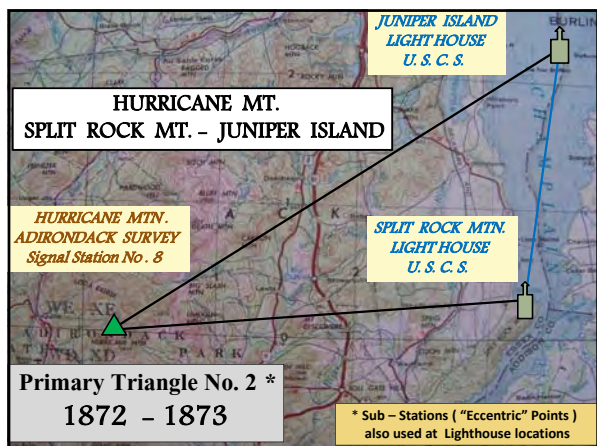
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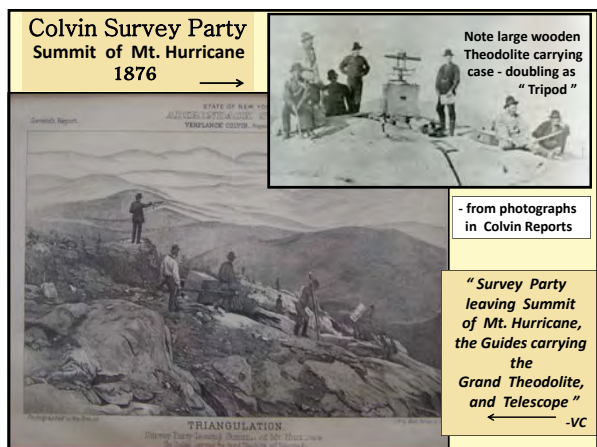
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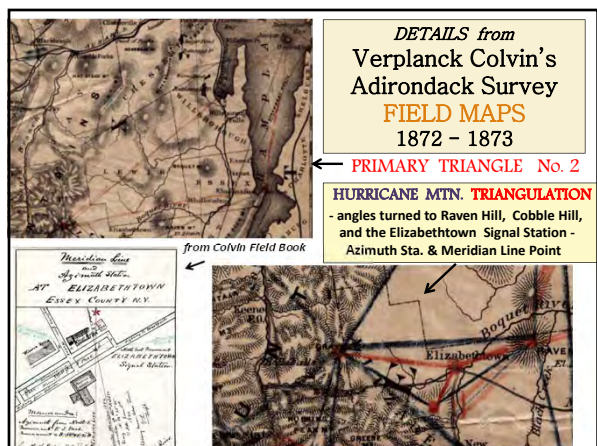
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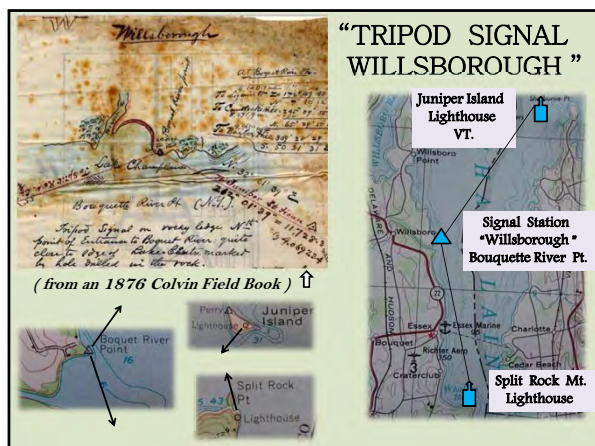
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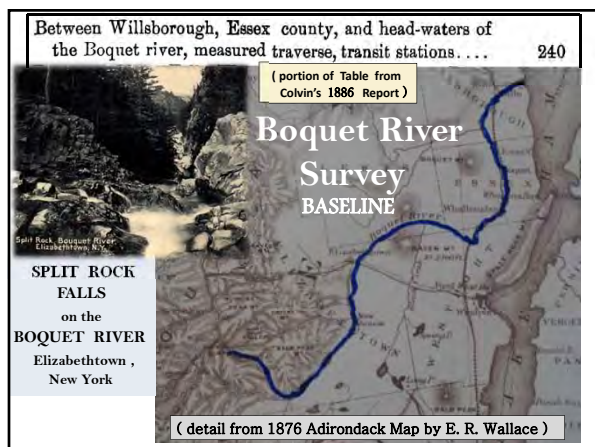
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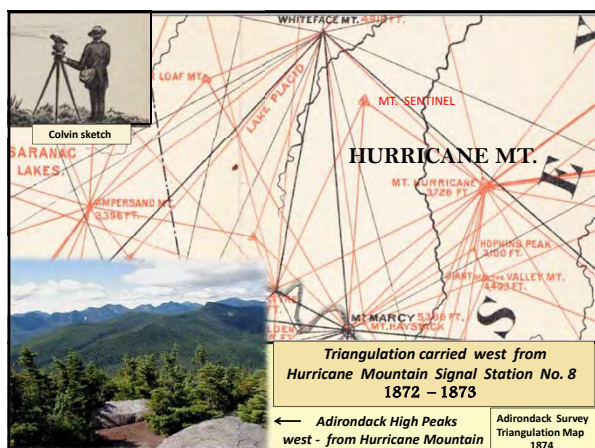
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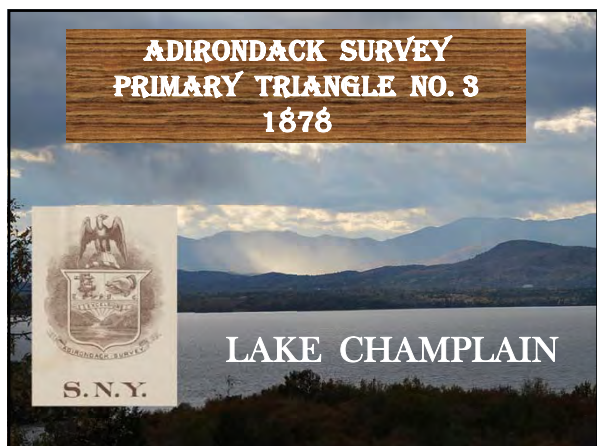
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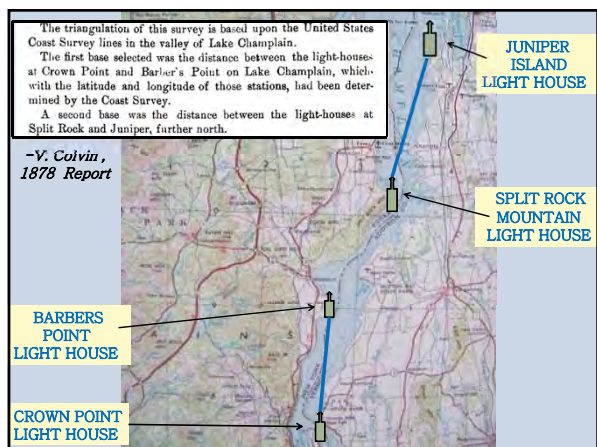
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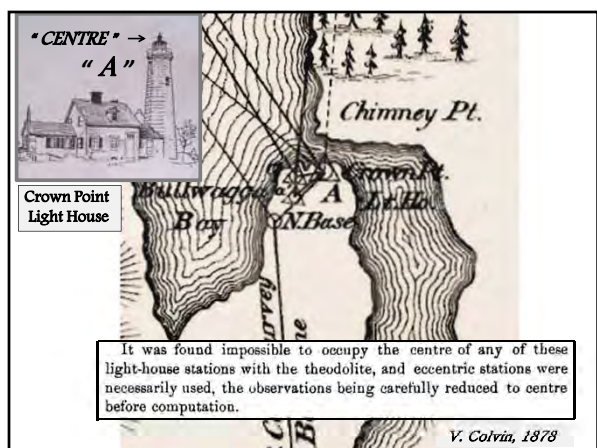
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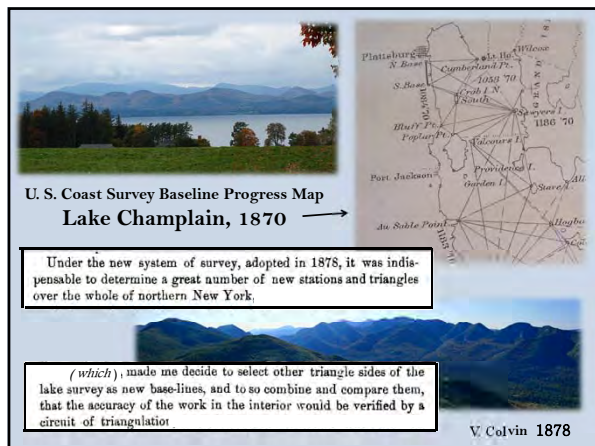
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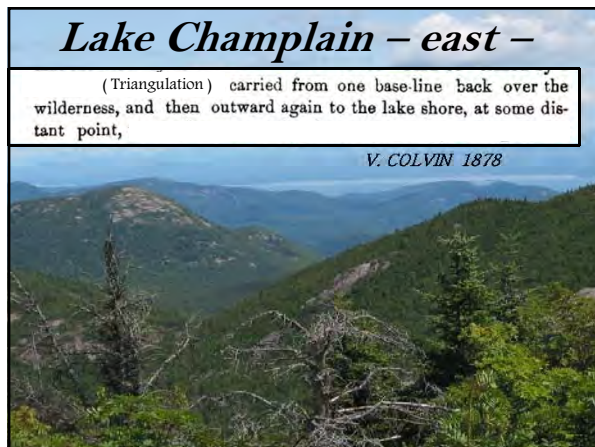
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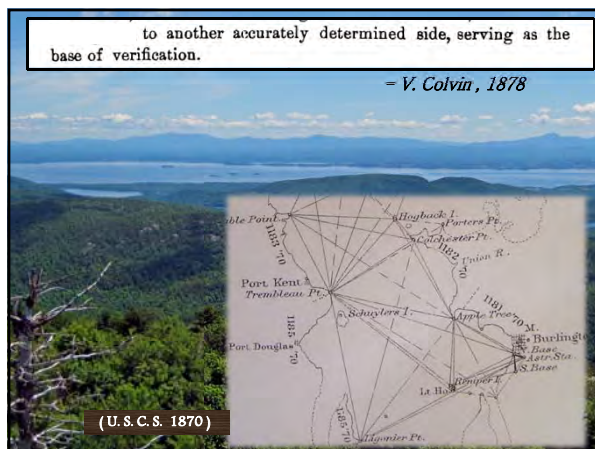
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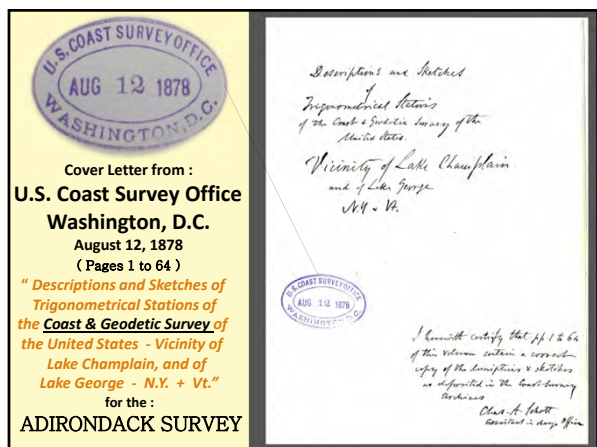
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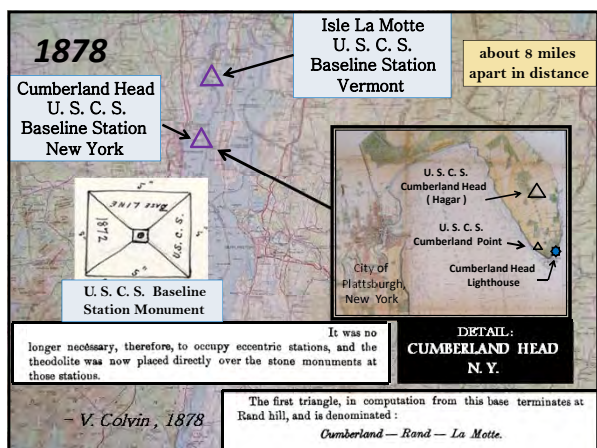
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**ISLE LA MOTTE**  
**"LA MOTTE" or "THE HEAD"**  
**U. S. COAST SURVEY B. L. Station**



Colvin Triangulation sketch



*The Head*  
 Signal on about the center of the east end of Isle La Motte, in a clearing. The signal is placed on a rocky ledge about 15 feet below the top.  
 Center of station is marked by a stake hole with shell hole.  
 Two (2) stakes are driven at right angles to each other from center.  
 Distance to shore, N. W. 9 ft. 9 in.  
 S. E. 11 ft. 8 in.

U. S. C. S.  
 Baseline diagram and description )

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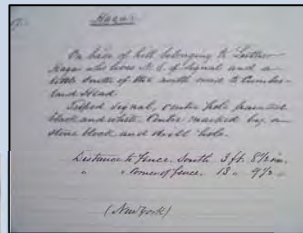
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**U. S. C. S. Sta. "HAGAR"**  
**Diagram, & Description**





U. S. C. S. Station  
**CUMBERLAND POINT**

( from 1878 Colvin Triangulation Map )

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**Cumberland ,**  
**and La Motte**  
**ADIRONDACK SURVEY**  
**TRIANGULATION**  
**Signals at Base line**



Adirondack Survey  
 Seventh Report  
 1878  
 Plate No. 2

Detail



TRIANGULATION  
 Signal at Cumberland  
 East from Plattsburgh, by Washington  
 Adirondack Survey, by Washington  
 "Triangulation Signal" at Cumberland

The signals at the termini of our new base line at Cumberland, and La Motte are of the form shown in the annexed illustration.

V. Colvin 1878

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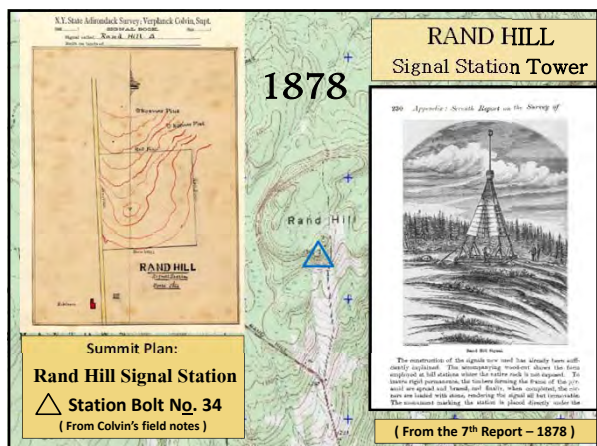
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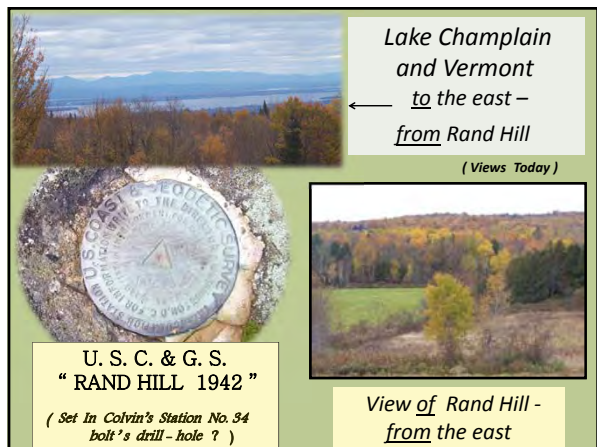
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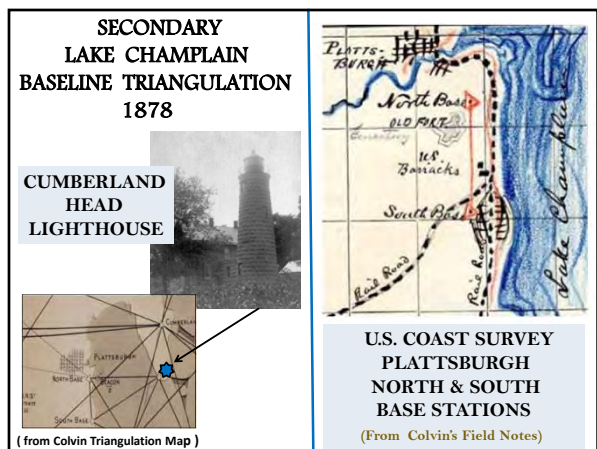
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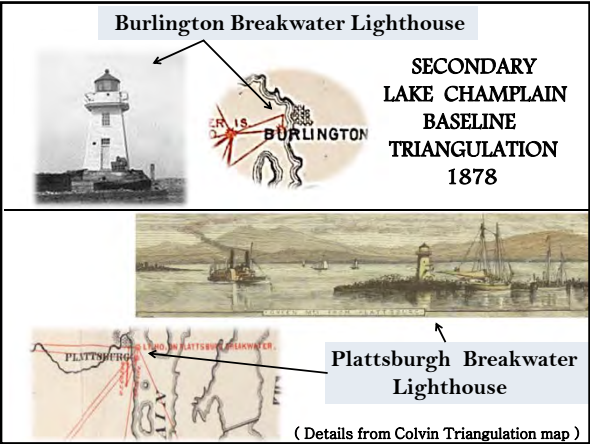
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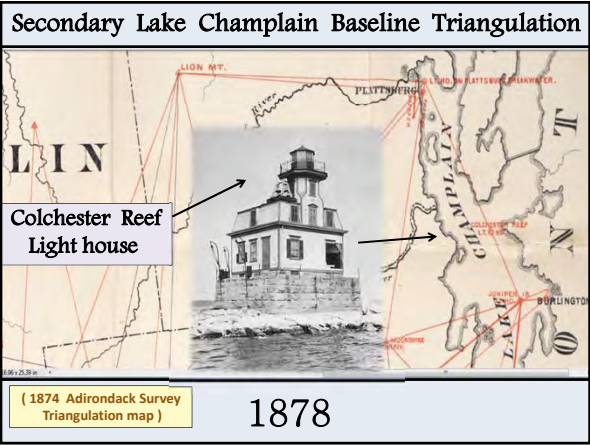
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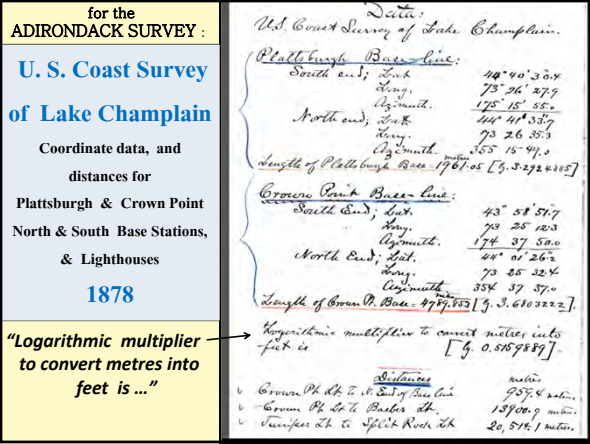
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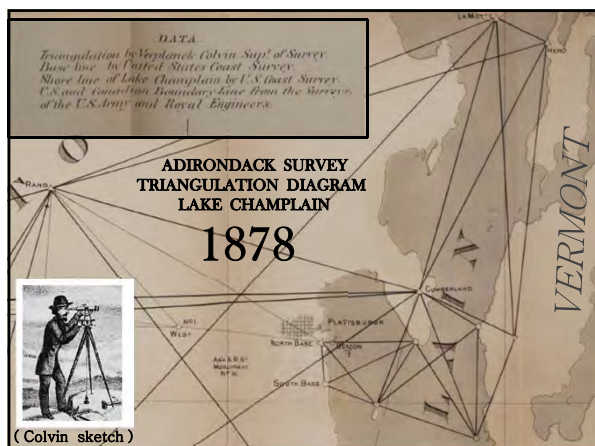
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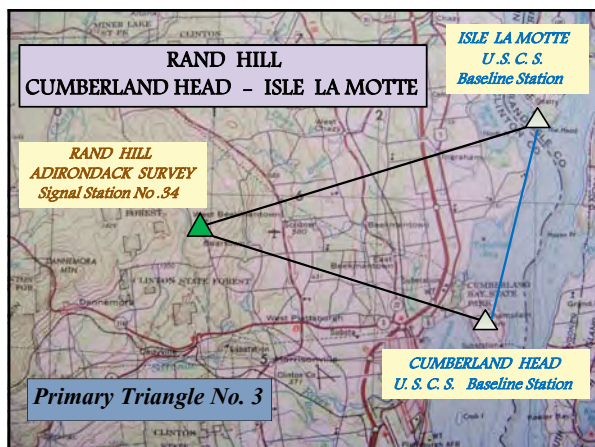
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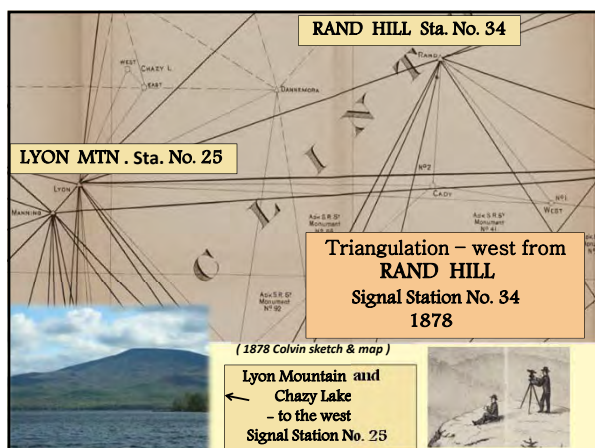
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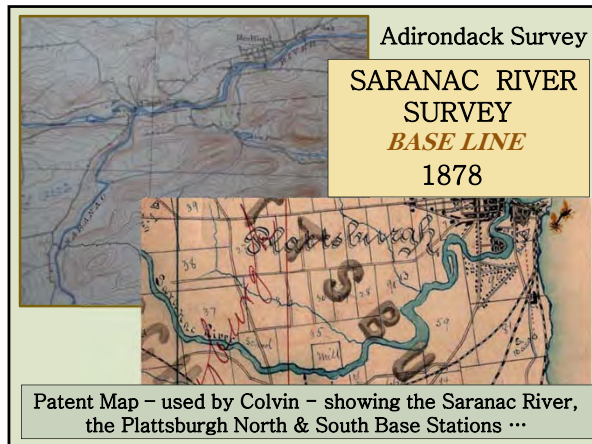
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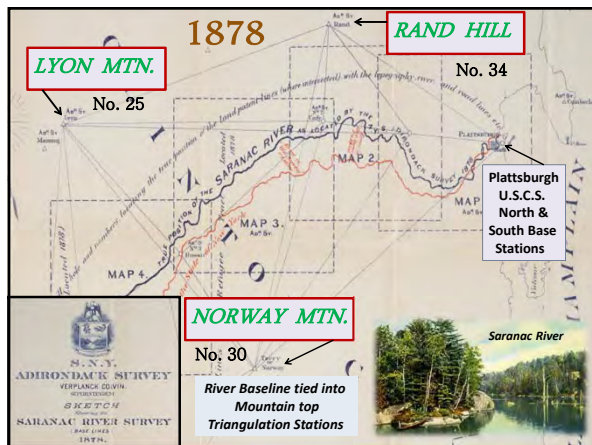
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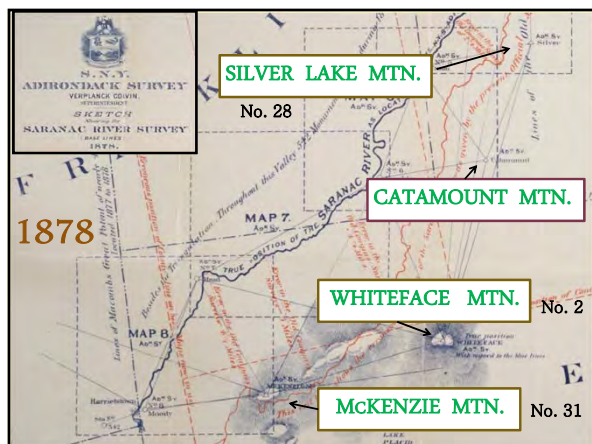
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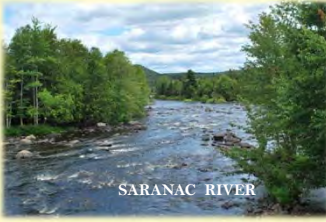


## SARANAC RIVER SURVEY 1878

Between Plattsburgh, Clinton county, and Saranac lake,  
Franklin county, measured traverse along Saranac valley,  
number of transit stations.....

Stations and  
Monuments.  
  
542

(Table from the Adirondack Survey Report for 1886)

← COLVIN SKETCH - 1878  
" HIGH FALLS OF THE SARANAC RIVER "

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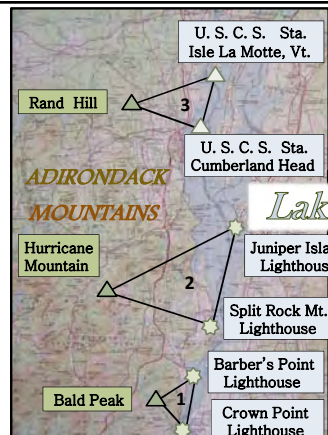
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### THE THREE PRIMARY TRIANGLES

(using the Coordinated Baselines  
between The Lighthouses, or B.L. Pt's)



**Primary Triangle No. 3**  
1878

**Primary Triangle No. 2**  
1872 - 1873, 1876

**Primary Triangle No. 1**  
1872 - 1873, 1876

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### Colvin Crew Recovery No. 34 May 11, 2019 Crown Point State Historic Site Lake Champlain





The Colvin Crew at the  
Crown Point Historic Site  
on Lake Champlain



**COLVIN  
CREW**

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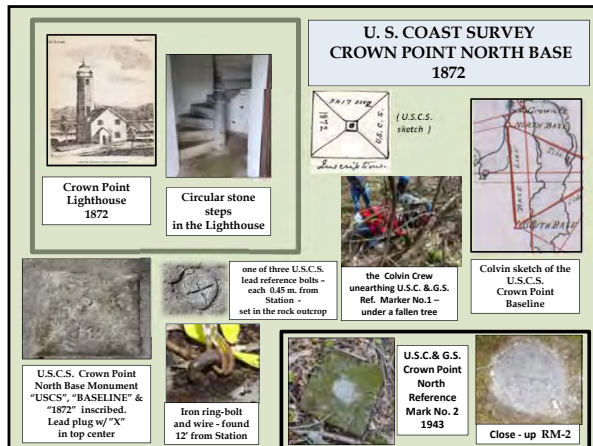
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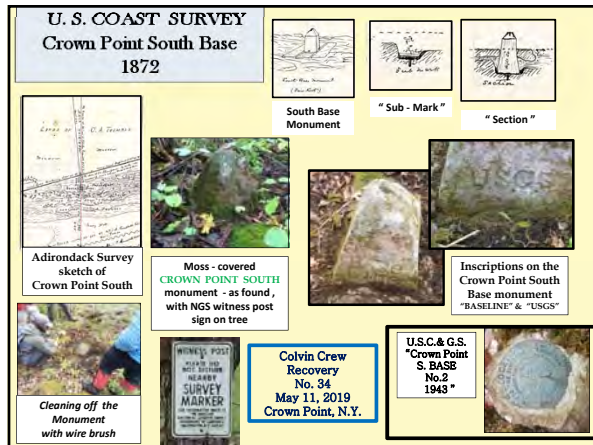
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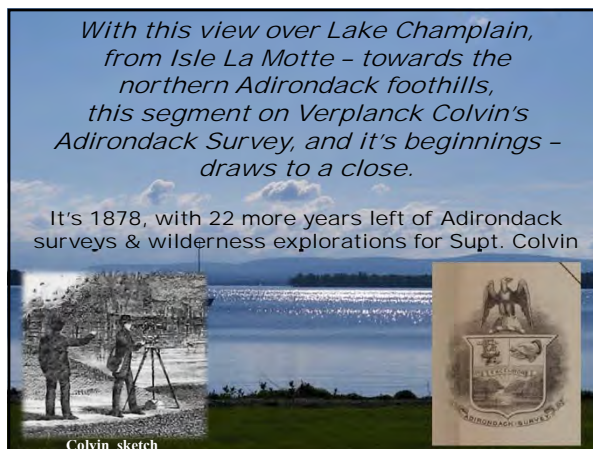
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