

49. Ancient Corner Tree

This huge hemlock marks the corner of three ancient counties laid out by Colonial Surveyors-----, Albany (now Saratoga) to the southeast, Charlotte (now Warren) to the northeast and Tryon (now Hamilton) to the west and southwest. Since the corner tree is located in a wetland it is likely to continue to endure unless it is hit by lightning or disease.

Since 110 years ago Verplanck Colvin newly appointed State Land Surveyor of New York directed one of his survey teams to seek out this corner tree to reestablish the monument. His description of the expedition is fascinating. I sought to follow in the tracks of his survey team sixty years later. We found trees that had been "boxed" by Francisco head of his survey team as we climbed the slope along a small stream and found the blazed hemlock just as he described it.

