

Tony Swamp & Holtz Logging RR

John Dwyer 5/14/95
Regina Fink

502-1



to ROUND TOP

to COL magnetic 500

TO KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK magnetic 1000

TORY FORT 2548'

photo # 806

boulders with E6w bolts

Tony Swamp

straight-a-way 328° magnetic = 315° true

2447' (M)

blaze

RR grade @ 2435'

log road

site of 2nd steel rail sheet (collected)

site of 1st steel rail sheet photo # 807

cut in erker-like moraine ridge (KK) 2425' ±

1' high fill across low spot photo looks SE # 805

This upper stone wall is low (1 to 2' high) suggesting an old property boundary rather than an obstacle to cattle.

former trail to Clum Hill (no longer visible)

brook near rd. (J) 2404'

brook

stone wall

Vevatrum Swamp

dead red chern down

log landing (II) 2345'

2259' store property corners

saw mill site (I) 2336'

trail to Jash Schoonmaker's on Jash Road ± 1/2 mile.

Arthur Petrick open field

stone wall (C) 2149'

This area along Byrne Rd being logged on 5/14/95

to Elk Park Dwyer

Platte

Clare

Jash Rd

Road

Hutterian Brethren (former NYC Police Camp to late 1980s)

to Pecky Notch

to Platte Clare

Railroad

John Dwyer says that this line ran by the Holtz Company in the mid-1920s. He recalls as a boy in the 1930s (born ca. 1930) the R.O.W. being more distinct, cross-tie ends placed on flat SS slabs in rows paralleling the rails, and metal strips which were attached atop the wooden 4x4" rails. [We found 2 such strips on 5/14/95 & one was collected]. Flat SS slabs still visible.

The lower end of the RR he suspects came to the mill, but is obscure. The upper end eventually petered out without any artifacts. We did not explore either end in 1995.

MK calc. elev. for the upper brook crossing at (M) is 2497', but the 7 1/2' Kaaterskill Quad. suggests that it was lower. To remain on contour, or to climb a grade to the N. at only several %, the track would have crossed the brook at about 2450'. Certainly the RR did NOT make a large bend at the brook to stay on contour. It continued heading in a N direction.

John says that the RR was horse-drawn up & gravity down: no locomotive

Vegetation

(H) Many ^{small} spruce ^{up} to 10" DBH & 1 small fir.
CARP LYCO. comp.

(I) Oak

Swamp N of (K): SPR & HEM & FIR.

(L) to (N): BASS, ASH, ALLIUM, DICENTRA CUC, CAULO, PA, DENT DI, ANEMONE, JUG, B, PB, HEM (1 HEM to 24" near "Fort"), SPR.
A few FIR just south of "Fort".

(I) Old dead red cherry down across road marks the mill site.

Tony "Fort"

(N)

This appears as flat area dug out of the hillside just above the brook, perhaps 10' across. There are two piles of flat SS slabs which could mark a foundation. About 20' ^{to the S} & slightly above, and to the SE near the brook, are two boulders (about 6' across) with bolts in them reading "E.G. West Associates, Professional Land Surveyors". The bolts are about 1" in diameter circular.

This was not used as a fort but as a hiding place for Tories, i.e. British sympathizers, during the Revolutionary War. It was an "inn" between Dunker Clove (access from Hudson Valley) and the Schoharie Valley. Tories travelled on foot.

Logging

John Dwyer suspects that the log road from (H) to (K) was used 30 to 40 years ago. The log-loading (II) deck area has HEMs up to 6" DBH growing out of it, suggesting maybe earlier than that: 1950s.

The sawmill was gas-powered, according to John, because it is not near water-power and ran in the ^{mid} 1920s when the railroad did.

The log road east of (L) may also date back to that era.

John says that logging was done in the 1950s above the NYC City Police Camp.

MK's barometer suggested the "Fort" at 2548' elev, but the Kaaterskill 7 1/2' Quad. suggests that it is a little lower, perhaps at 2520', and not at the head of the cirque-like basin.

Platte Clove area elevations

5/14/95 503-1

Huckleberry Pt.

Location	Map elev	p	Δp	Δe	e calc.	Rate
(A) house, head of trail private	1870'	29.94	0.00	0	—	2220 - 1870 = 330'
(B) Jc. Nature friend's Trail	—	29.52	0.42	355	2225'	29.94" - 29.55" = 0.39"
(C) High pt on trail, Jc to Stoenberg	—	29.47	0.47	398	2268'	rate = $\frac{330}{390} = 0.846$
(D) Huckleberry Pt.	2200'	29.55	0.39	330'	—	

Tony Swamp

(E) Dwyer's residence, Platte Clove Rd	1910	29.86	0.00	0	—	2080 - 1910' = 170'
(F) end of Byrne Rd.	2080	29.66	0.20	170	—	29.86" - 29.66" = 0.20"
(G) stone walls	—	29.58	0.28	239	2149	
(H) spruce & fir	—	29.48	0.38	324	2234	rate = $\frac{170}{200} = 0.85$
(I) sawmill site	—	29.36	0.50	426	2336	
(J) brook on W	—	29.28	0.58	494	2404	
(K) June-logging RR	—	29.26	0.60	511	2421	
(L) E-W SNT blaze	—	29.22	0.64	545	2455	
(M) RR crosser brook	—	29.17	0.69	587	2497	
(N) Tony Swamp	—	29.11	0.75	638	2548	
Additional sites (descent)						
(KK) eskor-like moraine	—	29.26			2421	
(II) log landing	—	29.32			2345	
(III) stone wall property line	—	29.30			2362	

Prediger Road

(A) Dwyer residence	1910	29.76	—	—	1910	2100 - 1990' = 110'
(O) end of Prediger Rd.	1990	29.72	0.00	0	—	29.72" - 29.60" = 0.12"
(P) booth	—	29.70	0.02	18	2008	
(Q) old road to farm	—	29.64	0.08	73	2063	
(R) Trail Jc. to Olock Mtn.	2100	29.60	0.12	110	—	rate $\frac{11}{12} = 0.9167$
(S) trail bend	—	29.46	0.26	238	2228	
(T) old & new trail Jc.	—	29.42	0.30	275	2265	
(U) end explanation on old trail	—	29.36	0.36	330	2320	