

unmy

Thoughts on John Burroughs  
1876 "A Bed of Boughs"

146-11

5/5/78

Burroughs reports a stone chimney and abandoned bark peeler-hoop shaver cabins along the E. Branch. He followed a bank road presumably to them from the Denning Town Line where he had camped the night before.

These structures were not found.

Either:

① All traces of them have been fully obliterated by 142 years of floods.

② We did not search carefully enough. Joe worked for years in that area as assistant forest ranger and never saw any remains.

Ask Bud Cox if he has. Bud also knows the East Branch.

③ Burroughs says <sup>it was</sup> 2 miles from the stone chimney to the uppermost farm.

**NO!** If uppermost farm is where the trailhead is today, 2 miles upstream is near Donovan Brook. **Well above it**

④ But could uppermost farm be around the bridges + Deer Shanty Brook, as shown on 1875 Beers Atlas? **Yes**

If so, stone chimney would have been at least a mile ABOVE Donovan Brook. **Yes**

The 4 pines at Deer Shanty Brook are unusual. None others obs-above trailhead. Pines suggest a major clearing so Beers may be correct? **Yes**

Landowner was J.C. Hombeck, S side, on Lot 46, Vernoy Survey, G.L. #7 with road ending upstream in Lot 50. Note how road crosses the E. Branch on Lot 28 to the S side. Is this crossing shown on 1875 USGS? **Yes**

Tray Mill Brook comes in at present Trailhead. So road in 1875 did continue well above, but for how many miles to J.C. Hombeck's?  $1\frac{2}{3}$  on Beers Atlas =  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches, or around Deer Shanty Brook, or even above.

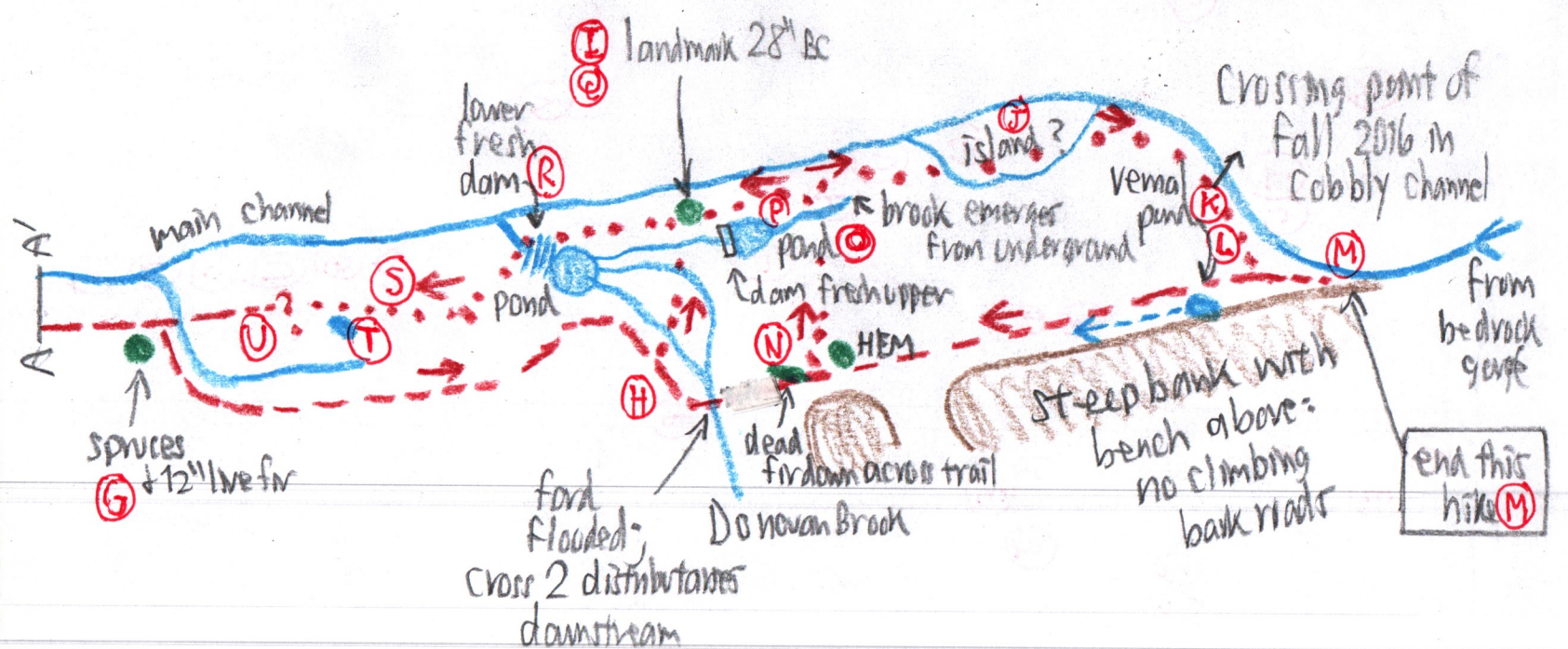
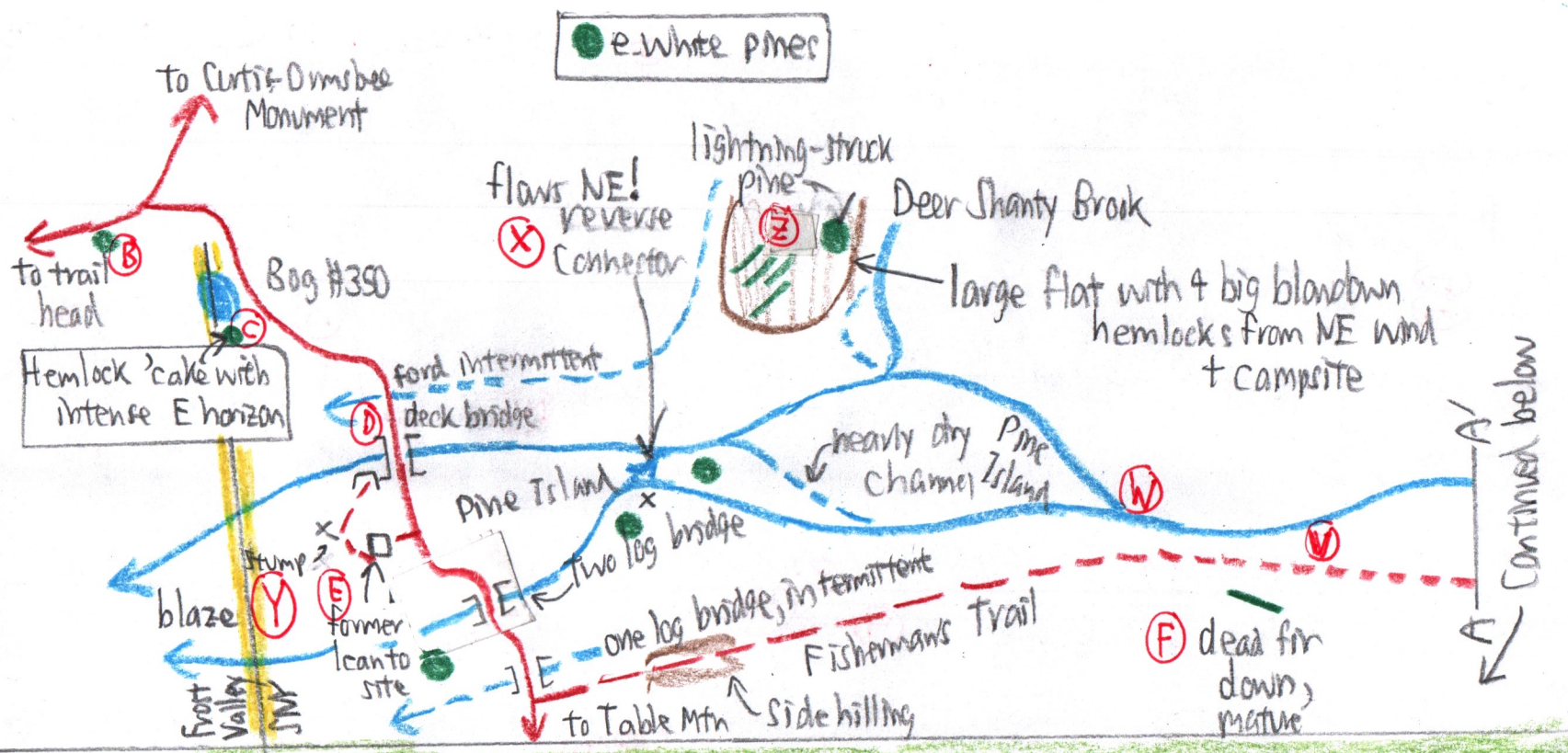
\* Uppermost farm might be at Deer Shanty Brook area. (See p. 146-14 D). **Yes**

Look at DEC Cortkill Land Map 1899, Slide Mtn Quad, & Beers (1875) Atlas for G.L. #7, Vernoy's Survey, Lots 45, 46, 50, 51. (p 210 1920 list)

Fruitless Search for John Burroughs' Stone Chimney and  
 Abandoned Log Cabins in East Branch Newcomb

146-12

No barometer with Joe Herrod 5/5/18 see p. 146-11 for some interpretation  
 carried



# Timetable

# Interpretation

See #14611 for Burnings

146-13

- (A) trailhead 10:00
- (D) 10:55
- (F) 11:15
- (G) 11:30
- (H) 11:48 lunch time
- (M) 1:00
- (S) 2:00
- (V) 2:45
- (W) 3:00
- (E) 4:00 snack time
- (D) 4:40
- JUN 4:50
- (A) 5:20

- (A) 1st ERY, CLAYT + VROT in flower for the season not far in from trailhead.
- (B) HEM cut to clear trail. 175y or 24" diam, broke G hiking poles up = 51" x 6 = 306" = 22ft. up estimated age: 200y
- (C) Strongly podzolized root mass upended by fallen HEMLOCK at S end of Bog #350 off trail.
- At (Z) windblown HEM pulled up a 'cave' 30" deep. 4 HEMs down by NE wind.

Ask Time-and-the-Valleys Museum people + Bud Cox who was Donovan? Also, ask Bud if he's seen chimney or Cabin remains

- TE in fl-bud at (E)
- Memore at (D)
- OX-LL-SZNT at (J)

Pit + mound topography indicate past windthrow disturbance on the flood plain as well as on the uplands. Examples at (LT) plus several other places.

The age and size of the trees on the flood plain indicate that floods in the last ±200 years have NOT felled any trees or greatly disturbed the forest except directly along the channels. P

Denning Road  
Old schoolhouse extant on NW side at lower end of Denning hamlet clearings.  
K lat grave < 0.1 mile below junction New Hill Road, on NW.

- HEMLOCK diameters
- (DE) Along trail near lean to site 36"
  - (J) 18" to 21" to 24"
  - (N) 36"
  - (O) 35"
  - (U) 33"
  - (G) 30"
  - (X) HEM cut ca-2008 to build bridge.

## Firs

- Seedling at (Y)
- (F) mature dead down
- (N) Big fir down across trail.
- Few more reported in earlier hikes around the beaver meadow (H)
- 2 saplings at (U)

Numerous beech beaver chews, 1 to 2" stems fresh at (P)

(L) Stilt-rooted YB 12" dbh growing on a stone pile. Another stone pile nearby but could be natural.

Spruces at (G)  
many saplings and a 12" mature with shed cones

- YB diameters
- 30" near (E)
  - (+) 24" + 32" at (J)
  - (Z) 30"

YB with big basal burl at (S)

BC, largest 28" at (I)(Q)

Vernal ponds at (T)(L)

Hemlock at (X) stump cut ca-10y ago (2008) to build bridge swept away by 8/28/11 flood.

ASN  
2 in area (E)  
last at (V)?

Stump partly covered with Brotherella? but still 7" of radius has 145 rings, so 11" full radius ≈ 210y.