

The “X-shaped hole” shown on page 17 of the Spring 2013 issue of the *Friends of Acadia Journal* is located on the north ridge of Cadillac Mountain, about 20’ west of the North Ridge Trail and approximately 1,500’ down that trail from the summit parking lot. Its bearings are N44.35696, W68.22623.

The “X” is a surveyor’s cross, measuring about 13” across. It is one of four similar crosses marking the corners of an 89 acre parcel of land known as the “Mountain Lot” that included the summit of Cadillac Mountain, and perhaps more pertinent to its origin, once included the Mountain House hotel. Of the other crosses, the south cross is the easiest to locate, being 80’ west of the South Ridge Trail and 360’ south of the southernmost point of the Summit Road. The east cross is about 100’ downhill from the tourist loop around Cadillac summit in a very steep slope that is extremely difficult, and rather dangerous, to access. The west cross is about 650’ west northwest of the south cross in a rocky and densely wooded area that makes it difficult to locate. The bearings of these crosses, based on my own GPS readings, are: east cross N44.35200, W68.22227; south cross N44.34726, W68.22984; west cross N44.34800, W68.23216. The corners are also marked by iron pins and there are intermediate pins along the boundary lines.

In 1866 Daniel W. Brewer, who owned a large tract of land that included the southern half of Cadillac Mountain, built a buckboard road to the summit over a route created by the U. S. Coast Survey a decade before. He also opened a hotel at the summit. The history of this hotel and its operators is well documented in Peter Dow Batchelder’s book, *Steam to the Summit*. However, the operators of the hotel did not own the land. On August 18, 1868, Daniel W. Brewer carved out the “Mountain Lot” from his holdings and conveyed it to two of his brothers, Porter Brewer and Perry H. Brewer and their brother-in-law, Orient H. Carpenter. Porter Brewer moved away from Mount Desert Island and Daniel W. Brewer reacquired his interest. In 1883 the three owners leased the Mountain Lot to the Green Mountain Railway for a term of 20 years. In addition, they sold a strip of land for the railroad track 6 rods wide to the railway. The railroad only operated from 1883 through 1890 and was liquidated in 1893.

On October 26, 1908, the then owners, Perry H. Brewer, the estate of Daniel W. Brewer, and Marian H. McFarland, a sister of the Brewers who apparently acquired the interest of Orient H. Carpenter after his death in 1898, conveyed the Mountain Lot to the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations, subject to the rights, if any, of the Green Mountain Railway in the strip 6 rods wide. It was the fourth property obtained by the Trustees, after the Beehive and Bowl, the Champlain Monument, and the summit of Barr Hill. The holdings of the Trustees of course ultimately became Acadia National Park.

The four crosses most likely were chiseled into the rock by a surveyor in connection with the conveyance to the Trustees, as earlier documents do not mention them. Crosses such as these were frequently used by surveyors and there are reputedly others in the Park. Interestingly, the 1868 deed states that the letter “B” was marked on the rock at three of the corners. I have not seen these and believe they were obliterated by the crosses. But there is a stone post boundary marker further down the north ridge with the letter “B” carved on each side.