Camp Santanoni, New York
August 16 - 28, 2015

Project Partner: Adirondack Architectural Heritage

History: In the late 1800s, Robert and Anna Pruyn bought property along Newcombe Lake in the Adirondacks and developed it into a family estate that served as a refuge in nature from their urban life in Albany. With the growing American middle class in the 1800s, these family retreats grew in popularity. Families, like the Pruyn family, no longer looked at the American Wilderness as something to be tamed and conquered but something to be preserved and appreciated. The Pruyns had a love for the outdoors and bought this property on Newcombe Lake due to its isolation. Anna’s love of nature came from her childhood growing up in the Adirondacks. Robert spent many years in Japan as a youth, and as a result, he came to appreciate the Japanese reverence for wildlife and the integration of nature into culture. This Japanese influence can be seen in the overall plan which places the buildings in a way that blends them with the contours of the natural landscape. The property was segmented into four areas: the Great Camp, gate lodge complex, service complex and a model farm. The family would often invite guests to enjoy the property, and even had Theodore Roosevelt stay with them.

Decades after Robert and Anna’s death, the Pruyn children sold Santanoni to the Melvin family. Crandall and Myron Melvin continued to use the property as a family retreat, but did not hire a
Santanoni Preserve is run by the Department of Environmental Conservation in partnership with Adirondack Architectural Heritage and supported by the Town of Newcombe. Their focus has been on the conservation and preservation of this beautiful 13,000 acre piece of Adirondack Wilderness.

**Scope of Work:** Volunteers and HistoriCorps’ Veterans Preservation Crew worked on the Farm Manager Cottage and Herdsman’s Cottage, learning to:

- Stabilize and rebuild structural floor and wall framing
- Install sub-floor and final flooring
- Install interior finishes and trim, matching original trim