

# HOLIDAY GREETINGS

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**L**AST NOVEMBER I purchased space in the Jaffrey Mills in downtown Jaffrey. Part of this complex, a former cotton textile mill, has been converted to condos. I bought the 600 square-foot space (about the same size as Shackleton's hut in the Antarctic) as a place for my Antarctic library. Last winter and spring saw me finishing the space off, installing a kitchen, building an office area and putting up shelving. There's now a sign over the door: [antarctic-circle.org](http://www.antarctic-circle.org). That's the address of my Antarctic website, now in its 14th year. I try to spend a few hours at the library every day. Now that my collection is all in one place and well organized, and there are fewer distractions, I find it easier to pursue some of my polar projects. One of them is just gearing up now: attempting (for the second time) to get a Blue Plaque approved for the London house of the man who pretty much orchestrated Britain's involvement in Antarctica back in the early 1900s. Have a look at [HTTP://WWW.ANTARCTIC-CIRCLE.ORG/Markham.htm](http://www.antarctic-circle.org/Markham.htm) 🐧🐧🐧

**A** YEAR AGO we were inundated with ice—the damage is still evident. Many were without power for a couple of weeks. I was lucky—only about four days. This year it's more like it should be: Crisp, clear—at the moment—and a good cover of snow. 🐧 Thanksgiving was spent with Steve and Sally. My cousin Carol came over from Cumbria and along with my 98-year old Aunt Agnes we made the trip to Providence. For Christmas, just around the corner, I'll stay put right here. 🐧 The big house project this year was putting on a new wood roof preceded by rebuilding the two chimneys. The last roof survived for 30 years so in all likelihood this one should outlive me. 🐧 I had the pleasure of returning to Antarctica in January-February leading a contingent of travellers from the Harvard Museum of Natural History. We had excellent weather and very calm crossings of the Drake Passage. Other ships before and after us weren't so lucky. 🐧 In October I returned to Athy, Ireland, for the fourth year in a row to attend the always marvelous "Shackleton Autumn School," an informal and very lively and social occasion. I was travelling with my neighbors, Bruce and Sally Larsen. Afterwards we did a little touring in Ireland, ending up at Lakeview House, Jonathan and Daphne Shackleton's farm in Co. Cavan. Jonathan was in the Antarctic but Daphne hosted us superbly. We then headed for England where we and others rented two Landmark Trust houses back-to-back: a sheep farm in Kent and a townhouse in the East End of London. Lots of sightseeing, museums and a few Antarctic events. You can see my 'trip report' at [HTTP://HOME.COMCAST.NET/~RS41/ATHY4A.HTM](http://home.comcast.net/~rs41/athy4a.htm). 🐧 I'm still involved, perhaps over-involved, in local affairs: caretaking the Meetinghouse, chairing the Cemetery Committee, overseeing the Village Improvement Society treasury, and member of the Energy Committee, Streetlight Committee, Capital Improvements Plan Committee, Design Committee, Town Meeting Committee, *et al.* Also, webmastering the [JAFFREYHISTORY.ORG](http://www.jaffreyhistory.org) website. The only remedy is probably to move elsewhere late some night. 🐧 June saw me celebrating my 50th high school reunion (Browne & Nichols in Cambridge). Then October saw me do it again—Newton High School 50th reunion. (My social life was at NHS; my academic at B&N.) 🐧 Likely trips in 2010: I'm hoping to make five years in a row at Athy in October, but the big trip will be about two months in New Zealand and Australia beginning in mid-May. I have a reunion north of Brisbane of those I travelled through Africa with back in 1972-73. And then near the end of June there's an interesting Antarctic conference taking place in Hobart. I'll be stopping in New Zealand on the way over and then going to Sydney, Canberra, Adelaide and Melbourne during June. This will be the first time I've been back to Australia since I was a Fulbright scholar there in 1965-66 so it will be interesting to see if I recognize anything at all. 🐧 I'll be preparing for that trip this winter but also undertaking major whole-house cleaning (never done before). I'm working in the attic at the moment, cleaning up the mess from the new roof and throwing out the cartons from every appliance and computer I've ever bought. I'll work my way down to the cellar and perhaps be ready for Thanksgiving in November when it looks like I'll be hosting the festivities. 🐧🐧🐧

**BEST WISHES for 2010!**



Thanksgiving at Steve and Sally's in Providence. *Left to right, back row:* Bob Barker, Doris Hamburg, Jerry Garfinkel. *Next row:* Agnes Barker, Carol Gowing, Maka Le'a, Steve Hamburg. *Next row:* Travis Gowing, Rob Stephenson, Hemma Hamburg, Sandy Barker. *Front right:* Johanna and Rebecca Garfinkel. Sally Barker took the picture.



Here I am in February at the abandoned British base on Detaille Island off the Antarctic Peninsula.



**OBRIS FARM** in Kent was our first Landmark Trust house. We spent the weekend here and had a nice party on Sunday night. On Saturday we visited *Knole* and *Ightham Moat* near Sevenoaks. On Monday we headed into London for a week at our second Landmark: **13 PRINCELET STREET** in Spitalfields. It was once a Huguenot silk weaver's house. It's the one behind the blue car. Half a block away is Brick Lane which is filled with curry houses. On Sunday night we had a few people over for drinks.



Enjoying a Saturday lunch at The Trafalgar Tavern in Greenwich. *L to R:* Bruce Larsen, Regina Daly, Duffy Monanon, Rob Stephenson and Sally Larsen.



Since no one else had it I thought a Jaffrey license plate was worth a few extra bucks.



The book shelving in my new library space in downtown Jaffrey. The furniture and furnishings are about 90% IKEA. Restaurants and shops are only a few steps away.

