

Holiday Greetings 2024 and Best Wishes for 2025

Some Meetinghouses & Historic Churches of New England

A exhibit of 80 panels with photographs made by Robert Stephenson



March 12th through April 18th
Art Gallery along the corridor to the Health Center
You can view the exhibit on-line at
<https://www.rs41.org/meetinghouses.pdf>

I put together a show at RiverMead of photos I've taken over the years of 80 meetinghouses and historic churches throughout New England (except Rhode Island, for some reason.) You can see the show at <http://www.rs41.org/meetinghouses.pdf>



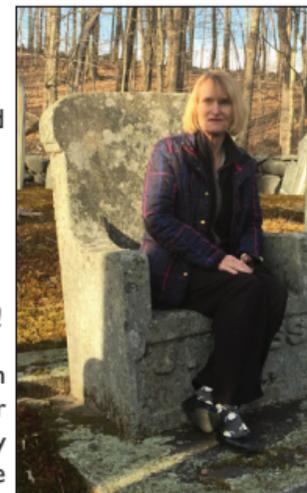
The annual Buxton Family Reunion in August. This year it was in Danvers, MA, which once was part of Salem where the Buxtons first came in the early 1600s. We visited the graveyard where Anthony "The Pioneer" is buried in an unmarked grave.

I spent Thanksgiving in California in Carpinteria. My brother John and sister-in-law Lucy hosted me. The weather was perfect and we started things off with Maine lobsters, followed by turkey, ham and sirloin. Here's our family group on the deck overlooking the Pacific. John, Lucy & me in the front. A couple of days earlier I took the train down from Oakland, a slow but scenic ride. I had stayed a few days with long-time friend Karen Carlson. We took a day trip up to Sacramento to visit nephew Topher and his new wife Julie.



I delivered the archives of the Harvard Travellers Club to the Harvard University Archives after working on them for about 50 years Catalogued, scanned and finally out of my bedroom!

Karen Ayres sitting in the John Ross chair at Philips Cemetery in Jaffrey. We were happily together for several years. Sadly, she died after a long battle with cancer. She faced it with great courage and a commendable attitude.



NOTE MY ADDRESS

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This year's cartoons: <http://www.rs41.org/cartoons2024.pdf>

NOTHING particularly dramatic to report since a year ago...other than moving around a bit more slowly and all the other attributes of aging. I continue to split my typical day in two with mornings at RiverMead, mostly in front of my computer, and afternoons at my library in Jaffrey. I usually take my lunch to Jaffrey, do a bit of reading, smoke my once-a-day pipe and perhaps take a short nap. Then on to Antarctic work mostly dealing with e-mails and updating my website. One big change, however, is that I've now made the decision to 'deaccession' my Antarctic collection. Now in the old days the better books and artifacts would be shipped off to an auction house in New York or London leaving a lot of other stuff behind. My current thought is to catalog everything as it would appear in an auction catalog and to consign it all to a local auction house. Why would I do this? Peterborough Auctions is my



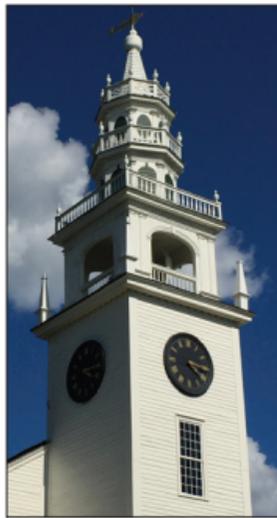
MARK & ME at the Bancroft Library at Cal Berkeley a few days before Thanksgiving. Unlike Dartmouth, Berkeley still has a periodicals room with real newspapers!



Daphne, Jane and Jonathan Shackleton enjoying a meal with me at Cabra Castle near Kingscourt, Co. Cavan, after the annual Shackleton Autumn School in Athy, Co. Kildare. The castle is now a luxury hotel that focuses mostly on weddings and such functions. The Fish 'n Chips were the best I can remember.



This is the Shackleton's newest pup—Query. She was named after the dog aboard the Quest on Shackleton's last expedition. We got along just fine.



I am now officially retired as caretaker of the 1775 Jaffrey Meetinghouse! Still look in from time-to-time.



My latest RiverMead project is tracking a Norway Maple near the Fitness Center. I've been photographing it—with help of my next-door neighbor Doris—every Monday at 11am. Next year I'll put all 52 images up in the Art Gallery. Eventually you'll be able to see them all at <https://rs41.smugmug.com/Other/A-RiverMead-Tree>



choice and it is only six miles from my library. And it will take everything even T-shirts and coffee mugs. And a little country auction house now has a worldwide footprint because of the internet and online bidding. I hope to have everything ready to go by sometime in 2026. ¶ My finger is still in *this & that* in Jaffrey: I've retired from involvement in the Meetinghouse but remain on the Cemetery Committee, serve as an alternate Trustee of Trust Funds, and am active in the Historical Society. ¶ Travel? Not too much. The only long trip was once again going off to Ireland to the annual SHACKLETON AUTUMN SCHOOL in Athy. I thought this might be my last

year but I'll try to return in 2026 as the Shackleton Museum will then be open after a couple of years of major renovations. ¶ I'll be off again to Bob & Sandy's in Hingham, MA, for Christmas. And I'm thinking about a boat trip from Quebec to Lake Ontario. Or maybe a cruise on Portugal's Douro River. Perhaps some RiverMead trips. Did an over-night one to the Connecticut coast this year and enjoyed it ¶ So have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I look forward to getting back to you a year from now! ❤️