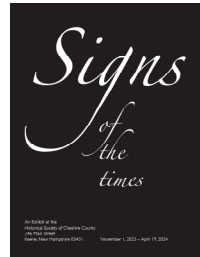


Holiday Greetings 2023 and Best Wishes for 2024



The covers of two publishing projects I spent time on this past year: The commemorative guide to Jaffrey's 250th anniversary and the catalog for a Sign exhibit at the Historical Society of Cheshire County in Keene.



The annual Buxton Family Reunion in August. This year it was in Slatersville, RI, where several generations of Buxtons lived, dived and are buried including the Revolutionary War hero Captain James Buxton.



I spent Thanksgiving morning in Bolton, CT, with cousin Donna Munroe and her family. Then over to Providence, RI, for the big dinner at Steve & Sally's. Far Right: A high school class gathering at the Smith's and then my 60th Reunion at Dartmouth College.



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This year's cartoons: <http://www.rs41.org/cartoons2023.pdf>

I'm well broken in now at RiverMead. Time seems to fly—I've been here nearly three years. I'm having no trouble finding things to do: Lots of computer time scanning 100s of photos, letters and files and dispatching stuff to various archives and libraries, here and there. I still have bankers boxes of files scattered here and at my library in Jaffrey but I am making steady headway. ¶ My finger is still in *this & that* in Jaffrey: Meetinghouse and Cemetery matters; alternate Trustee of Trust Funds; Historical Society ... and in recent months establishing a JAFFREY BETTERMENT TRUST which will support beautification and enhancement initiatives in Jaffrey in the years ahead. ¶ Travel? Not too much. A several-day drive to Annapolis, MD, for a memorial service for longtime friend David Fogle, with three nights with our mutual friend Conrad at Kendal outside Philadelphia. She and I drove around Valley Forge and



Joe O'Farrell and I shared a Landmark Trust flat in Bath, UK, for a week in October-November. Marshal Wade's house—the brownish building in the center—is a stone's throw from the Abbey on the right. Bath has lots of history and great architecture but far too many tourists (including us).. On one day we drove around the outskirts and came upon the village of Lacock, mostly owned by the National Trust. Well worth another visit. For the Landmark Trust see <https://www.landmarktrust.org.uk>, a great organization.

From Bath we went to central London and stayed at another Landmark Trust flat, 45a Cloth Fair, a pre-Great Fire building once occupied by John Betjeman, the Poet Laureate. We were joined by Jim & Geraldine McAdam. The first night we attended the James Caird Society dinner at Dulwich College, where Shackleton's *James Caird* is on display. You can see me beside her at <https://rs41.smugmug.com/Travel/2023-Ireland-the-UK/i-LrdF28f> I enjoyed visiting the newly refurbished National Portrait Gallery and splurged on three shirts at Cordings.

My RiverMead neighbor Doris and I put together a contest and an exhibit featuring the *Dogs of RoverMead*, which was a great hit. Match the Owner and the Dog and win a prize! You can see more at <https://rs41.smugmug.com/Other/The-Dogs-of-Rovermead-Art-Gallery-Show> My next project is a photo show of historic New England Meetinghouses.

historic New Castle, DE. ¶ The only long trip was once again going off to Ireland to the annual SHACKLETON AUTUMN SCHOOL in Athy. Three weeks in all, it included several days with Joe O'Farrell and Shane Murphy and Jonathan & Daphne Shackleton and then off to the UK on the ferry to Fishguard, to Bath, then London (see the photos above), and back again to RiverMead. As I keep recounting to all and sundry: travel isn't what it used to be. Remember when we dressed up to fly and got a reasonably decent meal and a free drink or two and had leg room and had no extra fees for seats and luggage, et al? I sure do. ¶ What's coming up? I'm off to Bob & Sandy's

in Hingham, MA, for Christmas and after the New Year I'll get started again on cataloguing my Antarctic collection which probably will go to auction within the next two years or so. I still have a lot of polar books unread but also a lot that will have to go somewhere and I want to make it somewhat simpler for my co-executors! ¶ Healthwise I'm in reasonably good shape although a little shaky walking about but a good deal better than a lot of my contemporaries. ¶ So have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I look forward to getting back to you a year from now! 🍷

Rob