

# Christmas Letter 2015

## From The Rices

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year all;

2015 started out with Kathy finally making it home from rehab after the bad infection she had had since late August. The winter also started out very cold in January and February, well below 0 deg. F, with some frozen pipes.

Our 13 year old dog, Rusty, died in March. In April, though we hadn't intended to get another dog so soon, we acquired a grey pitbull puppy named Lucy!

In May it warmed up quickly. We had to put in one of our AC units before the end of the month.

Our grand-daughter Elyssa got married to Dakota Simmons in June. They had a very nice wedding in Clifton Park. Kathy had insisted she was going to dance at Elyssa's



*Illustration 1: Kathy with Lucy*

wedding and did so with her walker! She immediately invented a new dance step we voted to nickname the "Turtleback", but wasn't injured and the girls got her back up and dancing!



*Illustration 2: Kathy Dancing at Elyssa and Dakota's Wedding*

on it when we returned home! In August we kenneled Lucy and went to Lake Ozonia for a family get-together there, staying in a motel in Potsdam.

I built a ramp for the camper, so Kathy and I were able to do some of our normal camping trips over the summer. We took Slade to Molly Stark State Park in June, and to Delta Lake Bible Conference in July. By that time we had worn the tires off Kathy's wheelchair on the rocks and gravel, so I put some pneumatic ones



I took Kathy through the Almonzo Wilder farm in Malone while we were there. In September Kathy and I and Lucy camped at Quechee State Park, and in October we finished off the season with our usual trip to Jamaica State Park.

During the summer I got involved with researching and writing up an old limekiln operation here

*Illustration 3: Camper with ramp.* in White Creek, which is still an ongoing project. The end result turned out to be that when the Town Historian resigned this year she nominated me to succeed her. If it happens, I will be the new Town Historian in 2016.



*Illustration 4: Kathy and Ted at the Wilder Farm*

October was normally cold. In mid-October Krista, Glen, Ryker and I



hiked up White Rocks mountain near Wallingford, Vermont, a 1200 foot climb. I carried about 15 pounds of photo gear all the way, plus Ryker who weighs near 40 for a good part of it! There was snow on the ground. We didn't make it all the way to the view as it got near sunset and Ryker got cold. Krista bundled him up and stuffed him under her pack and he slept most of the way down.

*Illustration 5: Ted, Lucy, and Slade on the West River in Jamaica*

The rest of the Fall was much warmer than usual. I had to mow lawn in November, for the first time in my life.

Kathy was much improved by Fall and was cleared to try knee surgery again. Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> she had the first surgery in Rutland, Vermont to put an antibiotic pad in the knee and is now in rehab for 6 weeks in Bennington getting IV antibiotics. On Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> she will see the surgeon again, and if all goes well and



*Illustration 6: At the point we turned around on White Rocks Mountain*

the infection is totally gone the second surgery will be scheduled to replace the knee.

Ted

My first knee surgery went well and the bad pain is gone. So I am very happy with the antibiotic spacer that was put in my knee!

It has been a long bout for this knee. By summer I hope to be able to walk again. Can't wait to go home!

Kathy

A few more photos from the year:



*Illustration 7: Lucy enjoying a belly rub at the wedding.*



*Illustration 8: View from a short distance to the west of our place.*



*Illustration 9: On a picnic at the Harriman Reservoir with Slade*



*Illustration 10: Camping at Quechee*



*Illustration 11: With Family at Lake Ozonia*