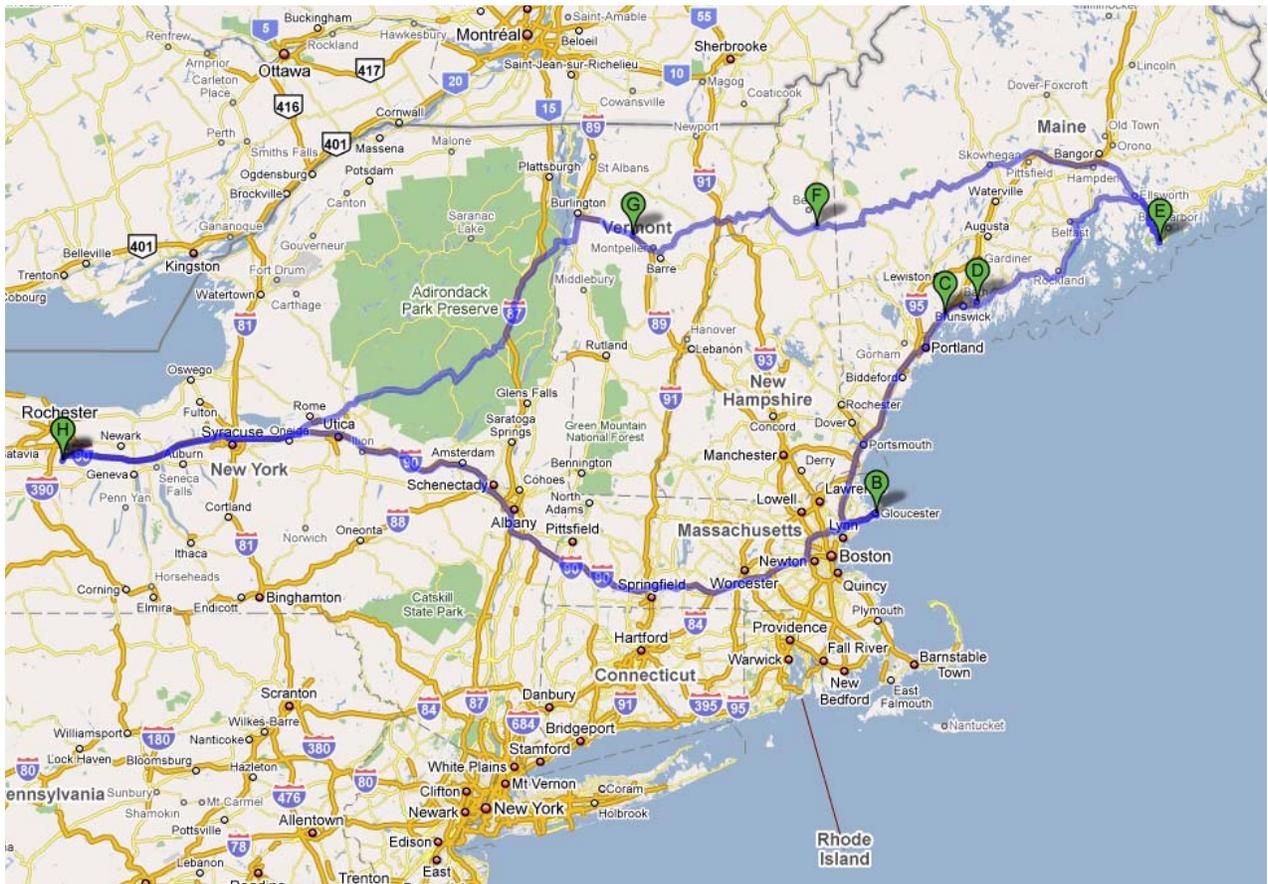


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# Letters From New England

October 2, 2009

## *Itinerary*



Map courtesy of Google™ maps.

Hi everybody! Take a look at the map on the first page to get an overall view of where Ann and I are going. Details of the locations and activities are shown in the table.

The idea for this trip is the result of a desire to visit LL Bean's: one that occurs every summer when the fall catalogue arrives. And the longer the time between visits, the stronger the urge to go. It is also an idea bred of rejection.

Several years ago I adapted a play for children from Harry and Wende Devlin's book *Cranberry Thanksgiving*. Recently I'd been in touch with the Devlin Family seeking permission to publish the play. Unfortunately the rights are tied up in a TV contract for the next couple of years. One of the characters in this play is the retired captain of a fishing boat named *Mr. Whiskers*. The illustrations by Harry Devlin place the story around the early 1900's and somewhere in New England. In order to give Mr. Whiskers an authentic New England accent, I used the pronunciation of fishermen from the coast of Maine. I located the text of their spoken dialect in an article from Scribner's magazine written in 1908. Their story was from the June issue and is called *The Measure of Content*.

The story is a wonderful description of their daily fishing activities in the local coves and bays, the friendly competition among them, and their hilarious interaction with the rusticators visiting for a summer vacation. The best line in the whole story is a comment that one of the fishermen makes to another in order to describe the character of some of the rusticators: "They are cur'us critters, said Ike. Some of 'em sails putty nigh the wind all year so's t'hev tew weeks tew the sea shore." [To sail nigh (into) the wind is the most difficult point of sail]

Well, I got tew thinkin' 'bout thet story line - all hook and sinker - an' thot mehbe I could make a good play out'n it.

We'll visit the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath, which has recreated much of the fishing life from that period, and earlier, in boats, buildings, tools and pictures. I'll use that info when writing *New England Trilogy* - one act for each of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

Wish us good luck!

Garrett (with Ann)

<b>H</b>	Rochester, New York Start from home.
<b>B</b>	Gloucester, Massachusetts The Halibut Point Restaurant where they make the best fish chowder in the world - New England or Italian style.
<b>C</b>	Freeport, Maine LL Bean, of course, plus a boat trip around the islands in the Casco bay to hunt seals (pictures only!).
<b>D</b>	Bath, Maine The Maine Maritime Museum where I'll pick up some valuable information for my next series of plays - <i>New England Trilogy</i> . I'm looking for info on the dory fisheries that were located in the small coastal villages of Maine in the early 1900's.
<b>E</b>	Northeast Harbor, Maine Located on Mount Desert Island, home of Acadia National Park. We'll be hiking some of the trails in the park, and island hopping the Cranberry Islands using the mail ferry.
<b>F</b>	Pinkham Notch, New Hampshire At the base of Mount Washington. We'll be hiking on some trails that I haven't visited since the late '60s.
<b>G</b>	Waterbury/Stowe, Vermont Home of Ben & Jerry's, The Cold Hollow Cider Mill, The Chocolate Factory, Cabot Cheese Outlet, and the trails of the Trapp Family Lodge.
<b>H</b>	Rochester, New York Head for home. We'll stop South of Burlington to pick up some Vermont maple syrup at Dakin Farms in Ferrisburg.