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New England Icons: Shaker Villages, Saltboxes, Stone Walls and Steeples

Bruce Irving

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#1481686 in eBooks 2011-09-19 2011-09-19 File Name: B005ISPV7G | File size: 21.Mb

Bruce Irving : New England Icons: Shaker Villages, Saltboxes, Stone Walls and Steeples before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised New England Icons: Shaker Villages, Saltboxes, Stone Walls and Steeples:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Refreshing and Intriguing
By John P. Bruce Irving transported me from my day-to-day Midwestern existence to the ski resorts, textile mills, salt boxes, ice houses and landscapes I've idealized since my first childhood viewing of "White Christmas" (and subsequent studies of revolutionary America, Thoreau's Walden, etc., etc., etc.) The topics are presented in a refreshingly accessible way; each consuming no more than a handful of pages and wonderfully augmented by Greg Premru's beautiful photography. Most importantly, the author approaches the subjects with a knowing sense of humor and playfulness that brings the stories and descriptions to life. The included map of sites-of-interest is worth the price of admission alone. I can almost hear Bing and Danny on their way to Vermont now... "Snow, Snow, Snow, Snow, Snow..." If you want to indulge in the wonder, look, sounds and feel of New England without the airfare or miles-per-gallon, this book will take you there.
9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A little treasure!
By Mally Skok I bought this book to support a friend, and ended up devouring it in one afternoon. It is wittily written and full of succinct tidbits about New England life and landscape, from before the early settlers arrived, to today. As a New England transplant -- who took a long time to fall in love with the area, I was enthralled by it! Now I will live my days in New England with freshly opened eyes, and a whole barrel of knowledge about why things are the way they are. A must for New Englanders, and visitors alike!
4 of 4

people found the following review helpful. Memories of New England By Joan Smith Martin This book is a MUST for anyone who has lived in New England. As for me, having moved down south 15 years ago, this is a reminder of what is still special in my heart. Growing up in New England, the church on the green, the classic salt box house, the white picket fences, all those memories have stayed with me and often I find myself looking for that in my surroundings. New England is like no other place and Bruce Irving has captured this in both his wonderful descriptions and amazing photography. Hats off to a job well done. I will cherish this book for years to come.

Connect with the original New England. We tend to think of icons as simple, graphic, stone or wooden objects without much depth or life, left overs from bygone eras. But Bruce Irving, former producer of the popular PBS show This Old House, will have none of that. In a collection of short essays, Irving taps into our collective consciousness by extolling the comforting sense of place we associate with such common and not-so-common New England sights as stone walls, village greens, lobster boats, classic ski runs, and garden cemeteries, to name but a few—symbols of enduring importance that are also still full of life and character. Curl up in your favorite chair, relax, and take a tour of our common heritage—or take this insightful cultural guide with you as you travel New England's highways and byways. It's sure to shed new light on the old stalwart landscape features you see every day.

About the Author Bruce Irving produced This Old House for public broadcasting for 17 years before venturing off into his own home-renovation consulting business. He is also a contributor to Design New England magazine, published bimonthly by the Boston Globe. Irving makes his home in Cambridge, MA.