

## My Own Private Arkansas

---

**From:** Steven Pavlos Holmes sjholmes@rcn.com

**To:** annnewtonholmes annnewtonholmes@gmail.com, Keith Holmes keithmholmes@aim.com, Brian Holmes bhcontinentaldrift@gmail.com, claire pentecost cpente@saic.edu, gmx carlenepavlos@gmx.com

**Date:** Thursday, April 14, 11:13 AM

---

Hi all!

Since many of you have been asking, I thought I'd send a few photos on the major house projects I've been working on, viz. wine cellar and attic. First, the wine cellar:

As you may or may not recall, the wine cellar was originally an old coal bin in the basement:



I actually forget whether the big wine rack was there when we moved in or whether I found it out on the street - I then added a smaller rack on top.



But the wine collection has expanded, and the drafty and top-less coal bin provides no protection against temperature changes - so the current goals are to build more wine racks, and to insulate and add ceiling to the space (leaving the stone basement wall as it is). Insulating proves awkward, since I'm working around the existing racks (and wine), and there are various pipes running through the space, and odd crannies to fill up:



Some of the posts of the structure aren't quite vertical, requiring precision in cutting foam insulation:



I've been trying to do it mostly with remnants of insulation and wood I have on hand, including in making the wine racks: for the first one, Robert helped out by cutting circles with his table drill, creating the bottle-sized slots:



And in the course of all this, I've come into greater connection with the thrifty, mulish, devil-may-care attitudes of our Arkansas forebears, for whom waste was a sin, comeliness a temptation, and taste a fearful luxury. So,

for example, when I had a few extra of the bottle-cut-out slats, I jimmied it with a few random sticks to create a whole new back half of another wine rack:



Though I then did have the sense of class enough to make the front half more tastefully, to present a more pleasing (though still somewhat slapdash and lackadaisical) visage to the eye:



NEXT UP: What's Going On ... In the Attic?

:)

Steven Pavlos Holmes, Ph.D.  
Independent Scholar in the Environmental Humanities  
21 Eldridge Rd., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130  
617-285-2832 (cell)  
sjholmes@rcn.com

The place where I live was formerly inhabited by a people called the Massachusett, whose name as well as land were taken by the current Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Descendants of the Massachusett - as well as descendants and tribal members of other local Native peoples such as the Wampanoag and the Nipmuc - still live throughout Boston and the surrounding counties.

---