



# The Newsletter

of the National Society for the  
Preservation of Covered Bridges, Inc.

Fall 2021

## Watson Settlement Bridge, Aroostook County, Maine



Photos by Paul Chandler, Maine Department of Transportation  
and Maine State Fire Marshall's Office.

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The **NSPCB Newsletter** is published quarterly to keep the membership informed of current bridge news and upcoming events.

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#### Next Newsletter Deadline

The next *Newsletter* is scheduled to be mailed in early **December**, therefore, anyone wishing to submit articles should send them by **November 15, 2021**. Articles and photos can be emailed to [nspcb@yahoo.com](mailto:nspcb@yahoo.com) or mailed to Bill Caswell at the address above.

We appreciate any information sent in even if we cannot ultimately use it in the *Newsletter*.

#### NSPCB Website

[www.coveredbridgesociety.org](http://www.coveredbridgesociety.org)

## Welcome New Members

Bobby Chamberlin, Newfane, Vermont  
Al & Mary Lou Chicote, Bennington, Vermont  
Mike & Laura Cyr, Westbrook, Connecticut  
Brenda Diaz, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania  
Tina Frans, Bidwell, Ohio  
Bradley Langendorfer, North Olmsted, Ohio  
Dan Lasner, Lyndhurst, New Jersey  
Stephanie Marshfield, Delancy, New York  
Sara Martin, Arlington, Virginia  
Brian Spera, Londonderry, New Hampshire

## Welcome New Life Member

#204 – Michael Rudnick, Reisterstown, Maryland

## 2021 NSPCB Meetings & Events

All meetings begin at **1:00 PM** unless otherwise noted. Restrictions on public gatherings due to COVID-19 altered the 2020 schedule and although 2021 is looking better, if you plan to attend a meeting, please check the website ([www.coveredbridgesociety.org](http://www.coveredbridgesociety.org)) or contact Bill Caswell at [nspcb@yahoo.com](mailto:nspcb@yahoo.com) a couple days before the event to inquire if it has been necessary to make any last minute adjustments to the published schedule.

**September 18-20** – Covered bridge tour of western Indiana.

**Saturday, October 23** – NSPCB Annual Meeting and Dinner, Brigham Hill Barn, North Grafton, Massachusetts. Meal at noon, meeting starting at 1:00 PM. Presentation by Grāton Associates on the restoration of the Beech Fork Bridge in Washington County, Kentucky.

**Saturday, December 4** – Holiday gathering at Horace Chase Masonic Lodge, 53 N. Main St., Boscowen, New Hampshire at 1:00 PM.

## Annual Dinner Reservation

Due to increasing COVID cases at the time of publication, the officers decided to make some changes to this year's annual meeting. At the moment, we are still planning to hold the meeting as scheduled. However, we are not planning a catered meal in case arrangements need to be modified on short notice due to availability of food sources or meeting venue as we get closer to the date. Nor are we collecting money in advance to avoid the possibility of needing to return it. This year's meal will likely consist of items available for takeout from nearby restaurants such as pizza, sandwiches and salads. Please see the enclosed form for details. Notify us if you are interested in attending prior to the October 10<sup>th</sup> deadline and we will coordinate food orders. Money will be collected at the event.

## In Memorium

### Miriam Wood

The covered bridge community has lost one of its most dedicated researchers. Miriam “Mim” (Goodwin) Wood, age 91, passed away on May 17, 2021, surrounded by her family. Miriam lived most of her life in central Ohio. She graduated from Columbus South High School in 1947, and studied history at Capital University, earning a Bachelors’ Degree in 1951. Also in 1951, she married Richard A. “Dick” Wood, a union which lasted 50 years until his death, producing a lifetime of fond memories, four children and seven grandchildren.



As a young girl, she took rides in the country and was enchanted by covered bridges. This early interest in historic structures set the stage for her life’s vocation, working to record and preserve these pieces of history. Miriam was the foremost expert in Ohio covered bridge history, with her lifelong devotion creating a body of work which is now in the archives of the Ohio History Center. She was a charter member of the Ohio Historic Bridge Association and served in leadership positions, including newsletter editor. She contributed articles on covered bridges to numerous publications, and authored “The Covered Bridges of Ohio, an Atlas and History” in 1993, and co-authored “Covered Bridges: Ohio, Kentucky & West Virginia” in 2007. She also edited her husband’s WWII history book, “War Stories of the O&W.”

Her life’s work led directly to preserving part of Ohio’s history which would have otherwise been lost to technological progress. In the 1970s, her research placed scores of Ohio bridges on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1989, the Ohio Historic Preservation Office recognized her contributions with their Public Education and Awareness Award. On her 80th birthday, Governor Ted Strickland issued a proclamation to honor her lifetime achievements in Ohio historic preservation.

Beyond her devotion to covered bridges, Miriam was an avid gardener and quilt maker. Residing on the hilltop area of Columbus, her massive flower garden was alive with color every spring through summer. She made quilts for family members’ special occasions, and volunteered for many years at Mount Carmel Medical Center.

Miriam is survived by four children, seven grandchildren and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

### Jean Purdy

Jean went to be with the Lord on June 23, 2021 after a battle with cancer. She was born on August 24, 1938 in Sterling, Virginia. She and her husband of 45 years, Woodrow Purdy resided in the City of Falls Church where they owned and operated a successful automotive business. After retiring, she enjoyed spending her time painting pictures and working in her garden. She loved trips to see lighthouses, searching for covered bridges, and collecting postcards.

## Postcard Collection

Some of you have likely communicated with Jean Purdy over the years and are aware of her interest in covered bridge postcards. Her husband, Woody, is now looking for advice about selling her collection. If you can offer him any information or are interested in purchasing cards from the collection, please contact him at [jpwp19@outlook.com](mailto:jpwp19@outlook.com) or 517-641-3015.

## NSPCB Facebook Page

To help spread the word about our mission, the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges, Inc. has a Facebook page. The page is used for sharing current bridge related news and Society meeting information. If you use Facebook, visit us at <http://www.facebook.com/nspcb>. “Like” our page and share it with your friends.



## President's Message

This message was written as we were working on the last-minute preparations for our 2021 covered bridge tour in western Indiana. Thank you to Andy Rebman and Greg McDuffee for taking on the bulk of the planning and preparations for this year's trip. Normally Jenn & I would drive the routes multiple times to be confident we had the timing right and did the best we could planning for rest stops. We have only been able to visit the area twice in the past two years compared to five visits to New Brunswick working out the details of that tour. Fortunately, Andy and Greg both have lots of experience in this area.



*Scott Bridge, Townshend,  
Windham County, Vermont*

For the fourth issue in a row, we bring you sad news of additional covered bridge destruction. This time, not one but two historic covered bridges were lost to suspicious fires. Income from our investments, your donations, purchases of the Society's promotional items and calendars have given us the opportunity to make a number of generous donations towards fire retardant. However, the number of bridges we have been able to have treated is small compared to the hundreds of historic covered bridges still needing some form of protection. Although we can try to protect them, how can we get to the root of the problem and find a way to reduce the temptation for people to even consider burning the bridge?



The Watson Settlement Bridge had been a frequent target of vandalism for years. The interior was thoroughly covered with spray painted names, messages and graphics. When someone sees a bridge in this condition, it gives the appearance that there is no local interest in caring for the bridge and I have no doubt that this contributed to its demise. News of the fire was reported throughout New England, including Boston area newspapers and television stations. Where was all this attention before the fire? If the bridge was cleaned up regularly or part of a community watch program to discourage vandalism, would that have helped? We have no way of knowing that answer, but there are plenty of examples of communities which have rallied around their bridge to see that it is cared for.

The Ohio Historic Bridge Association is concerned about one of that state's bridges, the Cemetery Road Bridge, meeting a similar fate and has taken on the challenge of improving its condition. More details on that effort are in the article in the bridge news section. We commend the OHBA's work to preserve this structure in Greene County and look forward to helping where we can. We have already committed to purchasing fire retardant when they are ready for it.

The year is quickly moving along and our thoughts are turning towards the fall events. We were happy to learn that the Warner Fall Foliage Festival is back on the schedule for Columbus Day weekend after last year's cancellation. This is usually our biggest public event of the year where we get to meet and talk to hundreds of area residents and tourists visiting vendors during the weekend.

October also means it is time to be thinking of our annual meeting. This is usually a festive time of fellowship as we review our work during the year and plan for the year to come. At this time we do not exactly know how it will go, but we will do our best with what we have to work with. The officers have decided to keep the meal simple so we can remain flexible in case we need to change the menu and/or venue on short notice.

In closing, please do what you can to stay safe and protect those around you. We will chat again soon.

**Bill Caswell**

## New Bourbon Release Honors Bourbon County's Ruddell's Mill Covered Bridge

by Melissa C. Jurgensen (kybourbonsteward@outlook.com)

*[Editor's note: This article was originally published in The Bourbon County Citizen of August 5, 2021. It is being reprinted here with permission. Additional photos have been added to the original version.]*

In June 2021, the Covered Bridges Whiskey Company released Ruddell's Mill Bourbon, their first in a series of whiskeys (bourbon and rye) named for historic covered bridges. This release honors Bourbon County's own Ruddell's Mill Covered Bridge that spanned Stoner Creek for 103 years.

The Ruddell's Mill Covered Bridge, also known as "Skinner's Bridge" by locals, was built circa 1861. At the time, the bridge was the centerpiece of the bustling village of Ruddell's Mill approximately seven miles north of Paris. The community derived its name from the grist mill owned and operated by local entrepreneur Isaac Ruddell.



The covered bridge had an impressive 150-foot span across Stoner Creek, with a stone center pier. Although the name of the bridge's builder has been lost to time, it was constructed utilizing the patented Long Truss design. Over time, the wooden bridge began to fall into disrepair due to the absence of needed maintenance over several decades. In August of 1964, the Bourbon Fiscal Court finally approved \$8,000.00 to begin the restoration. Third generation covered bridge builder Stockton Bower of Fleming County was retained to perform the repairs. Unfortunately, Mr. Bower never got the chance to begin work because the bridge was lost to arson on August 11, 1964, just two days after the restoration funds were approved.



When asked about his inspiration for founding The Covered Bridges Whiskey Company, President Dan Lasner said, "We wanted to be authentic and promote the history of American whiskey, but also Americana and our historic infrastructure." Lasner has frequently visited covered bridges in the northeast, while touring on motorcycles with friends. He continued, "With so many covered bridges in so many states, it made sense to tie it [whiskey history and covered bridges] all together. When referring to Ruddell's Mill Bourbon, our tagline is "straight Kentucky history," because that's what Ruddell's Mill Bourbon is all about."

According to Lasner, the mashbill (recipe) for Ruddell's Mill Bourbon is meant to pay tribute to early Kentucky whiskeys, when grains commonly on hand were fermented into whiskeys. Ruddell's Mill Bourbon has a high corn mashbill, which was typical in early bourbons due to the grain's wide availability. Rye and malted barley round out the recipe. The bourbon is 92.2 proof and is aged over four years. From the company's press release on their tasting notes in describing the bourbon, it is "extremely flavorful with notes of dried fruits like apricot and caramel and vanilla from the aging oak. The finish is lasting and makes you want to go back for another sip." Additional products available are Ruddell's Mill Bourbon Barbeque sauce and Ruddell's Mill Bourbon Cherries. For more information visit [RuddellsMill.com](http://RuddellsMill.com) or [TheCoveredBridges.com](http://TheCoveredBridges.com).



*[The Ruddell's Mill Bridge (KY/17-09-02x) photos were taken by Traugott Keller on March 7, 1953. They are part of the NSPCB Archives. The bourbon bottle photo was taken by Bob Watts inside the Contoocook Railroad Bridge (NH/29-07-07#2).]*

## Updates to the World Guide to Covered Bridges

This section lists updates since the previous newsletter. For a complete list of changes, please visit the website at [www.coveredbridgesociety.org](http://www.coveredbridgesociety.org) and click on the World Guide link.

Page 36, Aroostook County, Maine, Watson Settlement Bridge, 19-02-01, destroyed by fire July 19, 2021.

Page 178, MRC d'Abitibi-Ouest, Québec, Pont de la Calamité, 61-02-04, destroyed by fire May 31, 2021.

## Quilt Raffle

Life member Jennifer Risley donated this 72" x 86" covered bridge quilt to help the Society raise money for our bridge preservation work. At the June meeting, the attendees decided to hold a raffle for the quilt.



Tickets are available at \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Tickets can be purchased through the website (address below) or by preparing a check made out to NSPCB for the number of tickets desired and sending it to Jenn Caswell at the address on page 2. Ticket stubs will be mailed to you. The drawing for the winner is planned to take place at the Horace Chase Masonic Lodge in Penacook, New Hampshire on December 4<sup>th</sup>.



If the winner is not present, the quilt will be mailed with the hope that it arrives in time for Christmas. More details about the quilt can be found on the website at <http://www.coveredbridgesociety.org/quilt-raffle.htm>. Good luck to all who participate.

## Missouri Covered Bridge Stamp

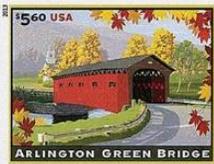
Following up from our Spring issue (page 8), the U. S. Postal Service issued this stamp on August 10, 2021, the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Missouri's admission to the Union as the 24<sup>th</sup> state. The stamp's art is based on a photograph by prominent landscape photographer Charles Gurche featuring the Bollinger Mill State Historic Site in southeast Missouri's Cape Girardeau County. The site includes the four-story mill sitting along the Whitewater River and the Burfordville Covered Bridge (MO/25-16-01), one of four historic covered bridges in Missouri. The mill turned wheat and corn into flour and meal dating to the Civil War era. It was burned by the Union army during the war to prevent the supply of flour and meal to the Confederate army. After the war ended, the site was rebuilt in 1867 into the current structure.



The bridge was constructed at the same time. The mill and covered bridge are both on the National Register of Historic Places. *Photo courtesy U.S. Postal Service.*

### More Covered Bridge Stamps?

Covered bridges have appeared in designs of a few American stamps over the years, but wouldn't it be nice to see an entire issue devoted to the topic? Thanks to member Jim Crouse, we were introduced to Sara Martin, the USPS Public Relations Representative for the Missouri Statehood issue. During our conversation, we learned that Sara enjoys visiting covered bridges and joined the NSPCB shortly afterwards. Sara reminded us that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee is always interested in hearing ideas for new stamp issues and encouraged us to seek a covered bridge stamp or series of stamps. This would be a great project and we are interested in hearing thoughts for possible designs. It would also be an opportune time with New York's Hyde Hall Bridge turning 200 years old in 2025. Details can be found at <https://about.usps.com/who/csac/#process>.

	Denomination	Description	Release Date	Scott #
	3¢	Engineering (composite of two former Virginia covered bridges)	September 6, 1952	1012
	20¢	Season's Greetings Unknown Bridge	October 28, 1982	2027-2030
	34¢	Greetings from Indiana – West Union Bridge IN/14-61-27	April 4, 2002	3574
	39¢	Cornish-Windsor Bridge NH/29-10-09#2 VT/45-14-14#2	May 27, 2006	4071
	\$5.60	Arlington Green Bridge VT/45-02-01	January 25, 2013	4738

According to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee's website, people submitting ideas should:

1. Carefully consider the criteria for appropriate stamp subjects.
2. Submit a written proposal by U.S. mail. (No in-person appeals, phone calls, or e-mails accepted.)
3. Include pertinent historical information and important dates associated with the subject proposed.
4. Mail your suggestion (one topic per letter) to the address below:

Stamp Development  
 Attn: Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee  
 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300  
 Washington, DC 20260-3501

## Meeting Summaries

These are summaries of recent meetings, not official minutes.

### June Meeting

Our first in-person meeting in a year was attended by 20 members inside the Contoocook Railroad



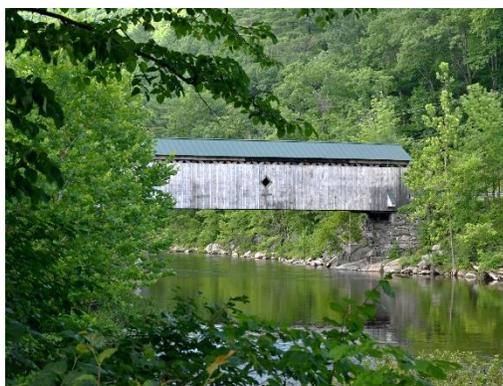
Bridge on June 27<sup>th</sup>. To celebrate the event, the Society provided pizza from Dmitri's Restaurant, next to the bridge. During the meeting, the group voted to provide fire retardant for the Cemetery Road Bridge in Greene County, Ohio. Bill & Jenn showed a quilt donated by life member Jennifer Risley which will be raffled off.



The winner is planned to be chosen at a social gathering in December. More details on the quilt are in a separate article. Photos by Bob Watts and Betty Pauwels.

### July Meeting

We had a great meeting at the Scott Bridge in Townshend, Vermont. The bridge is one of five covered bridges owned by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. After introductions, Laura Trieschmann, the State Historic Preservation Officer, explained the duties of her office. The office is part of the Division for Historic Preservation which, in addition to the five covered bridges, also owns two historic metal truss bridges and a number of other historic sites throughout the state. Next, Charlie Marchant shared information about the Townshend Historical Society and some of the projects they have been involved in. The 2022 calendars were picked up from the printer two days earlier and were available for sale at the meeting. Raffle tickets for the quilt donated to us were also available. At the end of the meeting, the group voted to make a donation to the Townshend Historical Society. Photos by Bob Watts.



## In Search of America's Old Covered Bridges

Ron Knapp has been hard at work researching early covered bridge history and recently had an article on the topic published in *Built Heritage*. The article discusses some of the earliest known American covered bridges and then provides an in-depth study of the covered bridge history of Ulster County, New York. The full article can be read on the *Built Heritage* website at <https://rdcu.be/cnm7j>



*Photo of Perrine's Bridge by Henry Gibson, August 1, 1943.*

### Covered Bridge Meetings & Events

For more information on these events from other bridge societies, visit their websites.

Covered Bridges Conservation Association of New Brunswick, Canada (CBCANB)

..... [www.facebook.com/groups/CoveredBridgesConservationAssociationNB/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/CoveredBridgesConservationAssociationNB/)

Indiana Covered Bridge Society (ICBS) ..... [www.indianacrossings.net/](http://www.indianacrossings.net/)

New York State Covered Bridge Society (NYSCBS) ..... [www.nycoveredbridges.org/](http://www.nycoveredbridges.org/)

Ohio Historic Bridge Association (OHBA)..... [oldohiobridges.com/new/](http://oldohiobridges.com/new/)

The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania (TBCBSPA) ..... [www.tbcbspa.com/](http://www.tbcbspa.com/)

Vermont Covered Bridge Society (VCBS) ..... [www.vermontbridges.org/](http://www.vermontbridges.org/)

Due to the COVID-19 situation, meetings could be cancelled or rescheduled on short notice. If you plan to attend, please confirm that the meeting is actually taking place with the group hosting the event.

<b><u>September</u></b>	<p><b>9-11</b> – Roann (Indiana) Covered Bridge Festival in Roann. For more details, visit <a href="https://roanncoveredbridgefestival.com/">https://roanncoveredbridgefestival.com/</a>.</p> <p><b>10-12</b> – Cumberland (Indiana) Covered Bridge Festival at the bridge, northeast of Matthews. For more details, visit <a href="http://www.matthewscoveredbridgefestival.com/">http://www.matthewscoveredbridgefestival.com/</a>.</p> <p><b>Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup></b> – Noon, TBCBSPA Annual Picnic and meeting at Poole Forge Bridge.</p> <p><b>Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup></b> – 1:00 PM, NYSCBS Meeting, Grooms Tavern, 290 Sugar Hill Rd, Rexford, New York</p>
<b><u>October</u></b>	<p><b>Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup></b> – Euharlee (Georgia) Covered Bridge Fall Festival. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.euharlee.com/events_cbff.aspx">http://www.euharlee.com/events_cbff.aspx</a>.</p> <p><b>7-10</b> – Columbia-Montour County (Pennsylvania) Covered Bridge and Arts Festival. See <a href="https://itourcolumbiamontour.com/event/2021-covered-bridge-festival/">https://itourcolumbiamontour.com/event/2021-covered-bridge-festival/</a> for details.</p> <p><b>8-17</b> – Parke County (Indiana) Covered Bridge Festival. Events at various locations. See <a href="https://www.coveredbridges.com/parke-county-covered-bridge-festival">https://www.coveredbridges.com/parke-county-covered-bridge-festival</a> for details.</p> <p><b>Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup></b> – Blount County (Alabama) Covered Bridge Festival in Oneonta. See <a href="http://facebook.com/CoveredBridgeFest">http://facebook.com/CoveredBridgeFest</a> for more details.</p> <p><b>9-10</b> – Ashtabula County (Ohio) Covered Bridge Festival. Events at various locations. See <a href="http://www.coveredbridgefestival.org/Pages/festival.html">http://www.coveredbridgefestival.org/Pages/festival.html</a> for details.</p> <p><b>9-10</b> – Madison County (Iowa) Covered Bridge Festival. Events at various locations. See <a href="https://www.madisoncounty.com/covered-bridge-festival/">https://www.madisoncounty.com/covered-bridge-festival/</a> for details.</p> <p><b>Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup></b> – 2:00 PM, TBCBSPA Monthly Meeting at Manheim Community Farm Show Exhibition Center, 502 Adele Ave., Manheim, Pennsylvania.</p>
<b><u>November</u></b>	<p><b>Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup></b> – 2:00 PM, TBCBSPA Monthly Meeting at Manheim Community Farm Show Exhibition Center, 502 Adele Ave., Manheim, Pennsylvania.</p> <p><b>Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup></b> – NYSCBS Annual Meeting and Dinner, Hamden Community Hall, 35806 St. Hwy 10, Hamden, NY. Dinner at noon, meeting at 1:00pm.</p>

### Reimagining American Covered Bridges: Chinese and European Perspectives

Reimagining American Covered Bridges: Chinese and European Perspectives is the title of an article by life member Terry Miller published in the June 2021 issue of *Timber Framing* magazine. The article describes Terry’s experiences visiting covered bridges in China and Europe for the first time, comparing and contrasting them with American structures. That issue of the magazine also includes a review of *China’s Covered Bridges: Architecture Over Water* which Terry co-authored with Ron Knapp and Liu Jie. *Terry Miller photo of the first Chinese covered bridge he saw, Dabao or Xiaodongxia Bridge in Xiaodong village, Shouning County, Fujian Province, China, built in 1878.*



## 4th Annual *Love Your Covered Bridges Days* Celebrated in New Brunswick

Submitted by Sherry Little, Association Heritage New Brunswick

What began as a campaign to raise awareness of New Brunswick's iconic covered bridges is becoming a popular annual event. For the fourth year in a row, Association Heritage New Brunswick (AHNB) has sponsored *Love Your Covered Bridges Days* and judging from the number of different bridges entered in the photo contest, the promotion is catching on throughout the province.

*Love Your Covered Bridges Days* has, for the most part, been promoted as a self-directed tour and to help participants get the most out of the experience, AHNB provides ideas and information on their Facebook page in the weeks leading up to the event. This year, *Love Your Covered Bridges Days* got a boost when the community of Hopewell Hill embraced the spirit of the occasion by hosting an event of their own that showcased not only their bridge, but also the hospitality that Albert County is so famous for.

After concerns were expressed about the deteriorating condition of the out-of-service Sawmill Creek Covered Bridge, the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure began restoration work on the bridge, which included total replacement of the roof. When the work on the 113-year-old bridge was completed, the community responded by holding a day of "celebration and appreciation." To promote the event, AHNB partnered with the Albert County Historical Society to produce a video that captures the beauty and the history of the bridge, which can be viewed at: <https://fb.watch/7k5mrAqJN9/>



Dawne McLean, President of the Albert County Historical Society, and a number of volunteer members made the day one to remember. In addition to some lively musical entertainment and canteen refreshments, those who attended also enjoyed several informative speeches, one of which was delivered by Dr. Dan Tingley, Senior Engineer of the Oregon-based firm, Wood Research and Development. Dan grew up in Albert County, not far from the Sawmill Creek, which helps explain how his curiosity in wood, and timber bridges, began.

Over the course of his career, Dan has been involved in the restoration of hundreds of wooden bridges around the world and more recently and closer to home, the restoration of the Bayswater Covered Bridge in neighbouring Kings County. Significantly, Dan never misses an opportunity to educate his fellow New Brunswickers on the benefits of restoring, rather than replacing, covered bridges (as he did in during his talk at the *Love Your Covered Bridges* event) and in mentoring young engineers to follow in his footsteps.

As in previous years, *Love Your Covered Bridges Days* ended with the awarding of three cash prizes, drawn from submissions to the photo contest. Steve Mackin's photo of the Crooked Creek Covered Bridge was the Judge's Choice last year, and was featured on this year's *Love Your Covered Bridges Days* poster. Steve submitted the photo that captured the honor again this year.

AHNB wishes to thank Bill Caswell and the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges for their support in conserving and promoting the 58 covered bridges of New Brunswick. The success of the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival in Indiana motivates and inspires our organization to continue the *Love Your Covered Bridges Days* event.



## “Love Your Covered Bridge Day” at Sawmill Creek Covered Bridge, Hopewell Hill, NB

submitted by Dawne McLean, President of Albert County Historical Society



The “Love Your Covered Bridge Day” community event hosted by the Albert County Historical Society on Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, was a well-attended celebration and show of appreciation for the 113-year-old Sawmill Creek Bridge in Hopewell Hill. This followed the NB Department of Transportation and Infrastructure’s major preservation project of replacing the roof on the covered bridge.

The terrific support received from the community and local organizations, as well as from the Association Heritage NB and the Covered Bridge Conservation Association of NB, was greatly appreciated. Fundy Royal MP, Hon. Rob Moore was pleased to attend

and offer a few words, as did the invited representatives of organizations and municipalities. Albert MLA, Hon. Mike Holland received a hearty thanks for providing a new bridge sign, which will be installed by the roadside entrance. The Riverside-Albert and Alma Volunteer Fire Departments generously brought their mobile canteen to the bridge event to provide greatly appreciated refreshments. Also, S&C’s ice cream was available from their stand located on site.

Sitting “inside” the bridge provided a unique experience for everyone to appreciate the impressive timber structure while they enjoyed the lively music of fiddle and guitar played by the talented young musicians, Sara and James Nelson.



Dawne McLean shared the construction timeline of the bridge contractor, Albert E. Smye, by reading newspaper articles published in the Albert Journal in 1907-1908. A highlight of the afternoon was an engaging talk about covered bridges by well known engineer Dr. Dan Tingley, who was born and raised in Albert County. All eyes were focused on the interior bridge timbers, as Dr. Tingley explained the structure of covered bridges and how the truss system works. From years of wood research and engineering skills, he has developed techniques in building and restoring wooden bridges

all over the world. Dr. Tingley was pleased to speak at the bridge event “back home,” sharing his passion for wooden structures, as well as some entertaining stories of riding his motorcycle through the Sawmill Creek covered bridge!

“Love Your Covered Bridge Day” provided a perfect opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate the rich heritage of the place that we are blessed to call home. To describe the day at the bridge, I believe the century-old phrase says it best, “A good time was had by all”!



*[Editor’s note: Ray Boucher, president of the Covered Bridges Conservation Association of New Brunswick spoke about that organization’s work and offered greetings from Bill & Jenn Caswell who were not able to attend because the US/Canadian border was still closed. Dan Tingley of Timber Restoration Services gave a presentation at the NSPCB’s March meeting and earlier this year led a team restoring the Bayswater (Milkish Inlet #1) Bridge in Kings County (NB/55-06-15). Love Your Covered Bridge Days is sponsored by the Association Heritage New Brunswick. Some of those representatives of the various organizations are also NSPCB members. Photos courtesy Dawne McLean.]*

## Covered Bridge News California

### Bridgeport Bridge, Nevada County – CA/05-29-01

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, we received the following note in a press release from Doug Moon, Chair of the Save Our Bridge Campaign Committee: “On Monday May 24 the historical covered wood bridge renovation project at Bridgeport in the South Yuba River State Park hit a major milestone! The bridge was lowered from the supporting structure that has held it suspended over the south fork of the Yuba River for the past 20 months onto its own foundation.”

In June, the arches were installed along with the siding and roof trusses. After load testing was complete, the internal steel “Mabey” bridge was removed. Then, the remainder of the roof trusses and siding will be completed along with installation of the floor timbers. Soon after, the roofing contractor will install the roof shakes. Completion is estimated at the end of September if not sooner.



*Water totes for weight testing.  
Photo by Robert Coats,  
July 9, 2021*



*Siding is nearly complete.  
Photo by Robert Coats,  
July 14, 2021*



*Interior with the steel truss removed. Photo by Doug Moon, July 30, 2021*

### Honey Run Bridge, Butte County – CA/05-04-01

Work on this project has fallen a little behind schedule, but is still moving forward. The “Rebuild The Honey Run Covered Bridge” continues to hold fundraising events and is receiving lots of support from individuals and businesses. According to the group's president, Robert Catalano, they have raised \$1.4 million. They are working to raise at least \$1.6 million in additional donations to complete the project. Under the original timeline, the goal was to rebuild the bridge by the end of summer 2022. Catalano said they now hope to start construction in April of 2022 with the laying of the floor and erecting the bridge across the creek. They will then cover the bridge in 2024. The project broke ground in 2020 and the first phase constructed new abutments and piers. They will not be able to do any more work in 2021 due to permitting restrictions and will start work again in 2022. *KRCR-TV, June 11, 2021.*

## Connecticut

### West Cornwall Bridge, Litchfield County – CT/07-03-02



On July 20<sup>th</sup>, Troop B of the Connecticut State Police responded to an accident at the bridge. A pickup truck towing a trailer with an excavator on it struck and badly damaged the bridge. The excavators boom struck the top of the bridge causing significant non-structural damage. The Connecticut Department of Transportation was contacted and performed a safety inspection ensuring the damage did not impact the safety/integrity of the bridge. The damaged wood and other debris was removed and the road reopened until repairs can be made. The bridge is clearly posted for a 10'-11" clearance. *News and photo courtesy Connecticut State Police.*

## Georgia

### Concord Road/Ruff Mill Bridge, Cobb County – GA/10-33-02

It's been a while since we last reported an incident at this bridge. On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, a Red Bull delivery truck crashed into a protective beam near the entrance to the 1872 bridge over Nickjack Creek. The bridge itself was not damaged; the truck wasn't so fortunate. The driver was not injured. The bridge and Concord Road remained temporarily closed for several hours as Cobb County Department of Transportation crews worked to remove the truck and repair the



bridge's height barrier. *Atlanta Journal-Constitution, June 25, 2021. Photos provided by Abram Duke, Regional Manager for Suncoast Restoration.*

## Indiana

### Westport Bridge, Decatur County – IN/14-16-01

The 1880 covered bridge in Westport was damaged during a series of storms in late June when high waters tossed a large tree trunk through the side of the bridge. The structure does not appear to be structurally damaged. An assessment is being done to confirm that. The single-span Burr truss bridge over Sand Creek was added to the National Register of Historic Places in June 1982. *The Columbus (Indiana) Republic, June 27, 2021. Photos by Andy Rebman.*



### Fountain County Bridges

In late May, all three of Fountain County's remaining historic covered bridges were added to the National Register of Historic Places. Cades Mill Bridge (IN/14-23-02) and Wallace Bridge (IN/14-23-01) on May 24<sup>th</sup> and the Rob Roy Bridge (IN/14-23-03) on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Kurt West Garner, prepared the applications in late 2019. Once approved at the state level, they were recommended for National Register recognition. The Rob Roy Bridge, south of Attica, was restored in 2017 after nearly three years of fundraising. The bridge dates back to 1860 and crosses Big Shawnee Creek. It is the only one of the three that is open to vehicle traffic. The Wallace Bridge was built in 1871 over Sugar Mill Creek. The committee hopes to restore it after renovating Cades Mill. The Cades Mill Bridge, outside of Veedersburg, is the oldest covered bridge in Indiana still in its original location. Fundraising is underway for the estimated \$400,000 necessary to properly restore the bridge. The committee is currently about halfway to its goal. A



farm to table fundraising dinner sold out and the group hopes to do another one in the fall. Donations for the restoration of Cades Mill Bridge can be made to the Western Indiana Community Foundation, P.O. Box 75, Covington, IN 47932. *Cades Mill Bridge Photo by Greg McDuffee.*

### Indiana (continued)

#### Spencerville Bridge, DeKalb County – IN/14-17-01

A trailer containing nearly \$25,000 worth of tools needed to finish the restoration and the new plaque



for the bridge was stolen early in the morning of May 28<sup>th</sup>. R.G. Zachrich Construction of Defiance, Ohio, started the project January 4<sup>th</sup> and worked through the winter on the project. The site is monitored by video surveillance, and investigators are studying that for information. The trailer was recovered in Fort Wayne on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, but found emptied of its contents. The project has



been completed and an opening ceremony was held on June 26<sup>th</sup>. According to Andy Rebman, president of the Indiana Covered Bridge Society, there were about 100 people in attendance. Mary Hollabaugh Diehl, who led the fundraising efforts, opened the ceremony. She was followed by Bill Hartman, DeKalb County Commissioner, contractor Steve Zachrich and State Senator Dennis Kruse. DeKalb County historian Michael Mapes spoke about the bridge’s past and the former Dills Covered Bridge. Pastor Steve



Schlatter offered a prayer before the ribbon was cut officially opening the bridge. Refreshments were served as attendees mingled inside the bridge. A “Supper on the Bridge” is planned for Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. *News from WANE-TV, May 28, 2021; WPTA-TV, June 4, 2021; The Star, July 24, 2021; Andy Rebman and Mary Diehl. Photos courtesy Don & Mary Diehl.*



Fire retardant provided by the NSPCB was applied to the bridge on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to everyone who contributes to the Society so we can help reduce the potential for arson.

#### Medora Bridge, Jackson County – IN/14-36-04

The 2021 Dinner on the Bridge on August 7<sup>th</sup> was a huge success. Nearly 300 people attended the event sponsored by the Friends of the Medora Covered Bridge and Area. The Country Cookin Restaurant in Salem catered the event. Money raised by ticket sales is used for maintenance of the bridge and area around it. The 1875 three-span, Burr truss bridge spans the East Fork of the White River east of the town of Medora. *Photos by Michele Lee Victor (right) who won the raffle of an antique ironing board with the bridge painted on it.*



## Indiana (continued)

### Smith or Ewbank Bridge, Rush County – IN/14-70-01

The most recent development in this project which we have been following for the past two years was the August 4<sup>th</sup> distribution of design plans representing the 60% completion stage for review and comment.



The plans only show a few timbers being replaced at the ends of the structure and a fairly small portion of the ends of each arch. The plans also call for replacement of siding, a new metal roof and application of fire retardant. On April 15, 2019, during an earlier review stage, president Bill Caswell sent a letter requesting (among other things) that the repairs be made with timber as close to the current Michigan pine as possible instead of more commonly available Douglas fir from the west coast. It is good to see that the current plans specify that the structural timbers are to be made from a choice of three varieties of pine. The project is expected to go to

construction in 2022 at an estimated cost of \$1,360,000. The bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

## Kentucky

### Grange City Bridge, Fleming County – KY/17-35-05

In a letter to Gov. Andy Beshear, Transportation Secretary Jim Gray and Tourism Secretary Mike Berry and State Rep. William Lawrence asked the state to release funding needed to restore the Grange City Bridge. Years of eroding abutments and floodwaters in May 2020 threatened to destroy the bridge. The bridge was stabilized by Arnold Grāton Associates and is awaiting a full restoration. Full details of that work were included in the Fall 2020 Newsletter on page 15. *Photo by Lori Ulrich.*



### Goddard Bridge, Fleming County – KY/17-35-06

The road was closed for about 10 days until August 12<sup>th</sup> to replace the approach ramp at the east end. A post on the KYTC Highway District Nine Facebook page noted the “five Fleming structures crew members – superintendent Randy Hawkins, David Corbin, Bryon Mitchell, Cody Emmons, and Danny Tucker – who coordinated removal of the old, rotting timbers, and rebuilt the approach span with new rough-cut lumber and nails. Thanks to district roadside crew members, too, who came out to lend a hand with the nailing! While backhoes and trucks help to move materials, most work on these historic bridges is done by hand. It’s hard, hot work, and we appreciate our crews spending the many hours it takes to keep Fleming County’s showpiece bridge in great shape.” The single-span Town truss bridge was built in 1864 and moved to its present location in 1932. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on August 22, 1975. It was bypassed 1998 but is still open to traffic. *Photos by KYTC Highway District Nine.*



## Kentucky (continued)

### Dover Bridge, Mason County – KY/17-81-01

State Rep. William Lawrence mentioned in the above article on the Grange City Bridge plans to make a similar plea to help the Dover Bridge which was severely damaged in July 2017 when floodwaters washed away two steel beams helping support the span. The flooding also shifted the bridge from its foundation. Grāton Associates also stabilized it while it awaits more thorough repairs. In the past, the NSPCB has sent letters to Gov. Beshear requesting the repair of both structures. *Photo Courtesy Arnold Grāton Associates.*



## Maryland

### Utica Mills Bridge, Frederick County – MD/20-10-01

On June 26<sup>th</sup>, a 13 foot high moving truck drove through and badly damaged the bridge which has a posted clearance of 9'-6". The height of the truck pushing upward on the roof structure strained a number of its connections. County officials have closed the road and bridge until repairs can be made. Amanda Radcliffe, an engineer with the county's Division of Public Works and NSPCB member, shared details and photos of the damage. Damage included the west portal, a crack in the tie beam near the east portal, uplift of the braces with the top chord with the lag bolts, knee brace connections, and damage to some of the upper lateral and longitudinal braces near the west portal.



Engineers will be obtaining information about repairs. The county will also need approval for any repairs or modifications from the Maryland Historical Trust. The bridge was built around 1850 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 23, 1978. The truck driver, from Virginia and unfamiliar with the area, was listed as being at fault but did not receive any citations according to the Frederick County Sheriff's Office. *Additional details from the Frederick News-Post, June 28, 2021. Photos by Jim Smedley and Frederick County Division of Public Works.*

## New Hampshire

### Whittier Bridge, Ossipee, Carroll County – NH/29-02-08

The 133' foot long Paddleford truss bridge was moved from its location over the Bearcamp River to make repairs. Unfortunately, after the repairs were completed, no funding was available to move it back into place. It has been sitting on dry ground at the end of Nudd Road since 2008. Once funding was available, the project to move it back over water went out for bids three times before there were any interested contractors. At their June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Select Board opened three bids. The lowest was from CPM Constructors of Freeport, Maine, for \$1,653,426, nearly \$700,000 over the almost \$1 million estimate. The town would need additional federal highway funds for the project. *Conway Daily Sun, June*



22, 2021. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

## New Hampshire (continued)

### Squam River Bridge, Ashland, Grafton County – NH/29-05-112

As of June 5<sup>th</sup>, the Ashland Historical Society had raised half of the money it needed for repairs to this single-span Town truss bridge. The total project is estimated to cost \$31,000 and will include a new bridge floor, sheathing on the inside of the walkway, repairs to timbers and trim in the portals where scarred by traffic, replacement of the rotted guard rail caps. The NoChar fire retardant donated by the NSPCB was applied to a portion of the bridge by Graton Associates on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The remainder is being held until repairs are complete. *Photo by Anita Ford.*



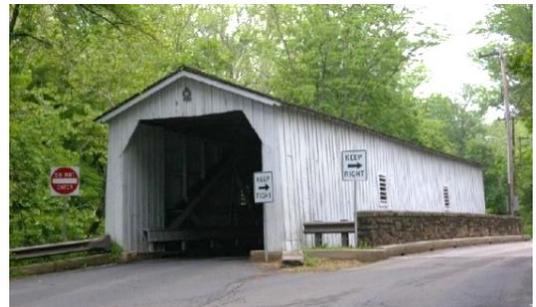
### Rowell Bridge, Hopkinton, Merrimack County – NH/29-07-08

On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, member Sue Wagner alerted us that some work was being done on the bridge. We contacted Daniels Construction, who is doing the work, for more information. They are replacing some old worn out deck boards. They are installing around 1500 feet of 3"x10" Oak deck planks which will need about 3,000 - 6" decking spikes. The project was expected to last about two weeks. The single-span bridge over the Contocook River was built in 1853. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on November 21, 1976. *Photo by Steve Lux.*

## New Jersey

### Green Sergeants or Sergeantsville Bridge, Hunterdon County – NJ/30-10-01

New Jersey's last historic covered bridge is scheduled for maintenance and repair under a contract approved by the County's Board of Commissioners at the June 15<sup>th</sup> board meeting. The \$698,267 contract was awarded to the low bidder, Hahr Construction, with \$450,000 of the funds covered by a state bridge grant obtained by the county's Engineering Department. Construction is planned to begin in the summer of 2023. According to Commissioner Zach Rich, "The contractor has to allow the timber to dry for a minimum of a year and a half before it can be installed." Locally salvaged historic lumber may be used for the replacement siding if it is approved by the Commissioners. The 1872 bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. *NJ.com, July 6, 2021. Photo by Jim Allen.*



## Ohio

### Harpersfield Bridge, Ashtabula County – OH/35-04-19

The Ashtabula County Commissioners met on July 8<sup>th</sup> and approved a grant/loan agreement with the Ohio Public Works Commission for work on this Howe truss bridge over the Grand River. The project is expected to cost \$500,000 according to the resolution. Of that, \$350,000 will be paid for in grant funds, and \$150,000 in a zero-interest loan, according to the resolution. In 1913, floodwaters washed away the land at the north end of the bridge. A 140-foot-long steel span was added to bridge this area. The bridge was added to the National Register of Historic Places on November 3, 1975. *Ashtabula Star Beacon, July 9, 2021. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



## Ohio (continued)

### Shade or Waterloo Bridge, Fairfield County – OH/35-23-20

The Fairfield County Park’s Newsletter of June 11, 2021 included an article on this bridge. The bridge is believed to have been built in 1871. It is often referred to as a Burr truss bridge, but it is more likely that it was built as a multiple kingpost truss and the arches were added later. The Fairfield County website lists the builder as James W. Buchanan, but *Covered Bridges: Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia* by David Simmons and the late Miriam Wood note the builder as John Shrake. The bridge was closed after being damaged by an oversized truck in 1978. When the County planned to demolish it, Bill Pierson offered to relocate it to his farm. The weakened structure collapsed on July 19, 1980, while being dismantled and the Pierson family retrieved as much as they could. The bridge was reconstructed on dry land on the farm (possibly without its trusses) and used as a museum. In 2015, the Piersons sold the property to Fairfield County Park District. The property has been named Misty Valley Park and not yet open to the public. Until it is open, anyone wishing to visit the covered bridge must contact the Park office to make an appointment. In 2019, during the heavy storms of late spring (early summer) two large trees fell onto the bridge. The already-weakened structure was damaged, possibly beyond repair. A complete renovation is needed which will likely cost several hundred thousand dollars. At this time its future has not been determined.

### Cemetery Road or Glen Helen Bridge, Greene County – OH/35-29-01

At the June meeting, members voted to purchase fire retardant for the Howe truss bridge built in 1886 and moved to its present location in 1975. Only about half of the original structure was reconstructed at the new location. The bridge is in a remote location along a trail and experiences lots of graffiti. The Ohio Historic Bridge Association (OHBA) has been working with the Glen Helen Association, which owns the nature preserve where the bridge is now located, to clean up the area and take care of some long overdue maintenance. David Simmons, OHBA president, noted that the OHBA “hired a tree company to cut nearby trees and remove a MAJOR snag lodged under the bridge. The latter resulted in the new abutments being undermined on one side during a flood, so we are exploring methods for addressing that challenge too.” After our fire retardant is applied, they are looking to add an anti-graffiti coating to make it easier to keep the bridge clean. *Photos by Doug Miller.*



## Pennsylvania

### Pleasantville Bridge, Berks County – PA/38-06-01

The bridge in Oley Township was closed indefinitely after a high-profile truck hit one of the height-restriction barriers on July 27<sup>th</sup>. The driver of a garbage truck tried to cross the historic wooden span on Covered Bridge Road and struck the height bar, damaging the bridge's abutment. Trucks have damaged the county-owned bridge several times since PennDOT reopened it in 2004 after spending \$2.2 million to rebuild the 126-foot-long span over the Manatawny Creek that was originally built in the mid-19th century. The posted height restriction of the bridge is 10 feet 5 inches. *Reading Eagle, July 27, 2021. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



## Pennsylvania (continued)

### Rapp's or Rapp's Dam, Chester County – PA/38-15-14

In the early morning hours of July 24<sup>th</sup> the bridge was damaged by what appears to be a large truck.



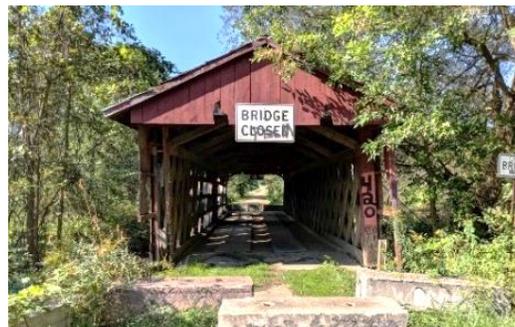
The bridge sustained moderate damage and will be closed until PennDOT makes an assessment and schedules repairs. The Police Department is investigating. The bridge carries an average of 3,600 vehicles a day, according to PennDOT. The single-span double arch Burr truss structure was built over French Creek in



1866. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on June 18, 1973. *News and Photos Courtesy East Pikeland Township and Steve Wolfhope.*

### Waterford Bridge, Erie County – PA/38-25-04

A recent check of the PennDOT website indicates that this project has been rescheduled again. It is currently programmed to be open for bids on April 28, 2022. Project completion is scheduled for the end of October 2022. We contacted project manager Gregory Lindsay who informed us that the project had been placed on hold due to funding issues which have been recently resolved, so the project is now active again. Because of the amount of time that has passed, an amendment to the contract was necessary so engineers could inspect the bridge again and revise the plans due to additional deterioration. The single-span Town truss bridge was built around 1875. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



### Kintersburg Bridge, Indiana County – PA/38-32-05

The fire retardant donated by the NSPCB was applied to this bridge on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Ed Patterson, Director of Indiana County Parks & Trails provided these photos of the work. They are also working on grants to raise the estimated \$605,000 needed to properly restore the bridge. The single-span Howe truss bridge was built over Crooked Creek in 1877. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on August 3, 1979.



## Pennsylvania (continued)

### North Oriental Bridge, Juniata & Snyder Counties – PA/38-34-05 & PA/38-55-05

In the previous issue, we noted that roof braces and the portals of this bridge were badly damaged by an oversized truck on May 18<sup>th</sup>. On June 25<sup>th</sup>, the Daily Item reported that the structure had been repaired and was re-opened. *Photo by Gloria Smedley.*



### Bogert's Bridge, Allentown, Lehigh County – PA/38-39-01

In mid-August we contacted Karen El-Chaar, Director of the City of Allentown's Department of Parks and Recreation for an update on the project. She is currently working on the Request for Proposals for bridge design and construction documents which she hopes to issue about the time this issue is mailed. The Department has already secured a number of grants to help fund the project. They include:

- \$750,000 – Pennsylvania grant
- \$375,000 – City of Allentown budget allocation
- \$94,101 – Harry C. Trexler Trust
- \$80,000 – PA Historical & Museum Commission grant
- \$12,500 – Louis J. Appel, Jr Preservation Fund grant (received through the National Trust for Historic Preservation)
- \$10,000 – Pledge from the NSPCB

There are three other grant applications in the works:

- \$1.5 million – Land and Water Conservation Fund (under review by the National Park Service)
- \$1.5 million – Outdoor Legacy Grant (under review by the Pennsylvania Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources)
- \$1.0 million – PennDOT Transportation Set Aside Grant (pre-application to be submitted on 8/16)



The Land & Water Conservation grant covers not only restoration of the bridge, but it protects in perpetuity the entire 450+ acres of the park including the bridge and all the historic structures (eg Bogert Homestead dating to 1741, two Bogert barns, Bogert springhouse, lime kilns and more). *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

### Rebuck Bridge, Northumberland County – PA/38-49-06#2

The north side of the bridge over Schwaben Creek, was struck by a Penske Truck driven by Adam Cola, 30, of Pottsville, Pennsylvania. The 43-foot bridge is one of six covered bridges in the county. The original covered bridge was built in 1874 but replaced in 1983. The truck initially struck the steel height barrier separating the top beam from the vertical supports and tearing the structure from its foundation within the bridge's abutment. Within the bridge, the truck caused structural damage to a knee brace and the wing walls. County officials expect repairs to cost at least \$15,000. Funding will come from the liquid fuels funds. They will also be pursuing reimbursement from the driver's insurance company. *The Daily Item, August 9, 2021. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



## Pennsylvania (continued)

### Shaffer's Bridge, Somerset County – PA/38-56-11

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, the Commonwealth Financing Authority awarded Somerset County a \$100,000 grant to make repairs to the single-span bridge. The bridge carries approximately 50 vehicles per day. The county requested \$160,000, but the lower amount will help move the project forward. County crews have already replaced the roof which will help offset the money needed. The county will request approval to use Municipal Liquid Fuels Program money to make up the difference. In January 2020, the height limit was reduced to seven feet and weight limit to three tons because of concerns with the structure. Once the county has signed and returned the grant paperwork to the state and arranged for the local funding match, then it can proceed with engineering design and securing the necessary permits. That process could take up to eight months. The repairs should be underway by the spring of 2022. *The Daily American, May 25, 2021. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



## Vermont

### Chiselville Bridge, Sunderland, Bennington County – VT/45-02-05

A report sent to the Vermont Covered Bridge Society by Phil Jordan of Sunderland noted that this bridge was damaged by an oversized southbound vehicle in mid-June. The truck tore off boards from the left side of the south portal and damaged some roof braces. On August 12<sup>th</sup>, a Town of Sunderland road crew member Josh Corey and local carpenter/contractor Michael King removed, replicated and replaced the damaged parts and painted the repaired portal. *Photo by Peter Cosgrove.*



### Miller's Run or Bradley Bridge, Lyndonville, Caledonia County – VT/45-03-06#2

Police in Lyndon are looking for the driver of a truck that damaged the bridge at 5:30 AM on August 12<sup>th</sup>. A surveillance camera shows the six-wheel box truck approaching the covered bridge from the south. Boards can be seen falling to the ground as the truck drives through the bridge. After it went through the bridge the driver can be seen exiting the truck, walking around it and examining the damage to both the truck and the bridge. The driver then gets back into the truck and drives off. This bridge has had a number of similar incidents over the past couple years. The most recent one was on February 4<sup>th</sup>. *WCAX-TV, August 13, 2021. Photo courtesy Lyndon Police.*



## Vermont (continued)

### Depot Bridge, Pittsford, Rutland County – VT/45-11-06

Graffiti on this bridge has caught the attention of the town's select board. At their June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, the board voted to offer a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest of vandal. They also discussed installing motion-activated cameras at the bridge to help identify individuals involved in future incidents. The 1853 Town truss bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. *Rutland Herald, July 12, 2021. Photo by Steve Brown.*



### Warren Bridge, Warren, Washington County – VT/45-12-12

Design of repairs/improvements to the bridge was recently completed by Engineers from DuBois & King, Inc., of Randolph, Vermont. Superstructure repairs include replacing of rotted or decayed stringers, bolster beams, bearing blocks and board siding. Substructure repairs and improvements include concrete surfacing repairs to the west abutment, reconstruction of concrete bridge seats, stabilization of the southwest concrete wing wall, and placing riprap in front of abutments to prevent scour. Roadway improvements include installation of timber beam guardrail at the approaches, roadway apron repaving, and installing roadway signage on the approaches to indicate bridge height restrictions. The Town of Warren has secured funds/funding assistance from the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans). The project went out to bid in May. Unfortunately, only one bid was received by the Town of Warren by Alpine Construction, LLC, of Schuylerville, NY. The single bid was 100% over the Project Funding Budget. The Selectboard rejected this one bid and will re-bid the Project when a more competitive climate exists from the contracting community in Northern New England. *News and Photo Courtesy DuBois & King, Inc.*



### Village or Big Eddy Bridge, Waitsfield, Washington County – VT/45-12-14

Vermont State Police stated that an oversized box truck driven by Trevor Moyes, 19, of Barre, traveling eastbound struck the bridge and became wedged inside on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Over the course of several hours, crews were able to get the truck out, inspect the bridge and reopen the roadway. At their July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Waitsfield Select Board accepted the \$27,500 bid from Hoyt Construction to repair the damage. *The Valley Reporter, July 17, 2021. Image from Mad River Valley Television's live webcam (<https://mrvtv.com/live-broadcasts/live-webcams/>).*



## Vermont (continued)

### Scott Bridge, Townshend, Windham County – VT/45-13-13

In early June, the Townshend Highway Department installed interpretive signboards at each of Townshend's seven historic bridges, including the Scott Covered Bridge. The new signage was funded



by a \$16,640 USDA Rural Business Development Enterprise grant to the Townshend Historical Society. The signage project, in conjunction with development of an enhanced historic bridges resource page on the Historical Society website and digital advertising, is designed to attract cultural tourists to Townshend, stimulate the economy, and ultimately create new jobs at small, rural businesses. The project is part of Townshend Historical Society's multi-year effort to preserve the town's six surviving historic stone arch bridges. Funds are being raised for preservation of the still-travelled-upon West Townshend Stone Arch Bridge which is in urgent need of repairs. A tour map of

the town's seven historic bridges with information on their builder is available on the Townshend Historical Society's website: [townshendvt.org](http://townshendvt.org). *Brattleboro Reformer, June 10, 2021. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

## Virginia

### Meem's Bottom Bridge, Mount Jackson, Shenandoah County – VA/46-82-01

At their August 10<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting, the council unanimously voted for Mayor Donnie Pifer and



Town Manager Neil Showalter to write a letter to the Virginia Department of Transportation to hopefully expedite repairs to the bridge. They will offer the town's assistance and look into ways to prevent it from happening in the future. According to the July 13<sup>th</sup> Town Council minutes, a tractor trailer passing through the bridge earlier that day "impacted a few of the inside members of the support system." A citizen witnessing the incident blocked the truck from leaving the scene with her vehicle until police arrived. The bridge was closed for a short time until being inspected by Virginia DOT and reopened when it was determined that the

structure was not significantly damaged. *Northern Virginia Daily, August 12, 2021. Photo by Scott Wagner.*

## West Virginia

### Carrollton Bridge, Barbour County – WV/48-01-02

We last reported on this bridge in the Spring 2018 issue, page 21. After being partially burned by an arsonist on August 10, 2017 the bridge was reopened to traffic a month later on September 14<sup>th</sup>. The floor system of the 1856 Burr truss bridge had been replaced by a concrete deck in 1962. The state has been designing repairs and plans to do the work with its own staff instead of hiring a contractor. A press release from the Division of Highways on June 30<sup>th</sup> stated in part: "In late May, Tiger Diversified LLC, in Upshur County, was awarded a contract to provide the timber for the restoration project. On Thursday, June 24, 2021, DOH received a bid of \$400,000 to provide the scaffolding and rigging system necessary to do the work." *Photo by Michele Lee Victor.*



## West Virginia (continued)

### Barrackville Bridge, Marion County – WV/48-25-02



The Barrackville Covered Bridge Preservation Association continues to gain momentum in their efforts to see this bridge repaired. Since last quarter's update, the group met with representatives of Alpha Architects who confirmed that the bridge is in poor condition noting that repairs and restoration efforts should begin as soon as possible. On the positive side the stone abutments are in good repair. Local officials are showing interest in their efforts and working to help out. Diana Marple is preparing requests for funding through the American Recovery Act to both the Marion County Commission and the West Virginia State Treasurer. The Association is planning a covered bridge festival in June 2022 and has started discussing musical options and reenactors.

Guy Ward, a member of the state House of Delegates representing Marion County, attended their August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. The meeting was also attended by Jon Smith who, along with the late Emory Kemp, was instrumental in the 1990's repair of the bridge. Delegate Ward gave some suggestions on funding sources and may be able to acquire a small grant to begin the fundraising campaign. Jon Smith shared many stories and details on the previous repair and restoration of the bridge. A structural engineer may be interested in donating some services to estimate the repair needs. Information from Diana Marple and the Times West Virginian of August 12, 2021. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

## Canada – British Columbia

### Ashnola River Road or Red Bridge, Okanagan-Similkameen Region – BC/52-21-02

Police are looking for two men suspected to have set fire to this bridge on August 5<sup>th</sup>. Fortunately, the Keremeos Fire Department was able to extinguish the blaze before the structure suffered any serious damage. Two unidentified males were seen exiting their vehicle and entering the bridge. After they returned to their vehicle and drove away, smoke was observed coming from the bridge. In 2019, the span was one of five covered bridges celebrated in a series of stamps issued by Canada Post. It was built as a railway bridge across the Similkameen River in 1907 during the region's gold mining era. Originally an open truss, the sides were covered in 1926. The tracks were removed in 1954 and it was opened to vehicle traffic in 1961. In 2005 the bridge received some repairs and new siding. It is the last remaining historic covered bridge in British Columbia. *Penticton Western News, August 5, 2021 and Keremeos Review, August 16, 2021. Image cropped from 2019 Canada Post Stamp.*



## New Brunswick

### Hartland Bridge, Carleton County – NB/55-02-07

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, West District RCMP responded to reports of a suspicious object on the bridge. The bridge was closed for much of the evening while the explosive disposal unit traveled from Fredericton to remove the object. *Jim Dumville, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, River Valley Sun. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell*



### New Brunswick (continued)



#### Irish River #1 or Vaughan Creek #1 Bridge, St. Martins, Saint John County – NB/55-11-05

Work to replace this historic covered bridge is expected to begin later this fall, according to provincial officials. The contract was awarded to Dunbar Construction for \$5,156,000.00 on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. They have partnered with Western Wood Structures from Tualatin, Oregon for the timber design. *Details from NBDTI Tender Notice #21-0160 and Ray Boucher. Artist rendering of the proposed design provided by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure.*

#### Other New Brunswick Projects

As this issue was going to press, Ray Boucher, president of the Covered Bridges Conservation Association of New Brunswick received and shared a list from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure of current and planned projects for this budget year. Some projects may already be underway. No other details were available. We will seek more information for the Winter Newsletter.

County	Bridge Name	WG #	Details
Carleton	Florenceville	NB/55-02-06	Scheduled for repair although earlier news from DTI indicated that the repairs are going to focus on the steel truss portion.
Carleton	Hartland	NB/55-02-07	Annual maintenance is scheduled.
Carleton & York	Benton or Eel River #3	NB/55-02-15 & NB/55-15-12	To receive minor repairs.
Charlotte	Dumbarton or Digdeguash River #6	NB/55-03-02	Considerable work is scheduled for this bridge.
Charlotte	Flume Ridge or Magaguadavic River #7	NB/55-03-03	We know that there is significant deterioration due to a leaking roof.
Charlotte	McGuire or Dyer or Digdeguash River #3	NB/55-03-05	Considerable work is scheduled for this bridge.
Kings	Bloomfield	NB/55-06-01	Scheduled for major repairs.
Kings	Marven or Belleisle Creek #2	NB/55-06-12	To receive considerable attention.
Kings	Urney or Picadilly or Trout Creek #4	NB/55-06-19	To receive considerable attention.
Madawaska	Green River #3 or Boniface	NB/55-07-02	Will receive significant repairs.
Madawaska	Morneault Settlement or Baker Brook #2	NB/55-07-04	To receive annual maintenance.
Saint John	Tynemouth Creek	NB/55-11-04	Work scheduled here.
Saint John	Hardscrabble or Vaughan Creek #2 or Irish River #2	NB/55-11-06	Work scheduled here.
Sunbury	Hoyt Station or Back Creek #2	NB/55-12-02	To receive minor repairs.

Some bridges which are known to need attention were not on the list. Those include:  
 NB/55-01-08 Shepody River #3 or Germantown Lake Bridge in Germantown  
 NB/55-03-01 Canal Bridge in St. George  
 NB/55-09-08 Starkey or Long Creek #1 Bridge near Codys which lost its approaches in flooding.

## Québec

We are grateful to Pascal Conner whose *Blogue sur les ponts couverts* ([pontscouverts.com/blogue/](http://pontscouverts.com/blogue/)) provides most of the Québec news each quarter. Unless otherwise noted, all Québec articles were derived from that website.

### Pont de la Calamité, Abitibi-Témiscamingue Region – QC/61-02-04

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, Radio Canada reported that this bridge was completely destroyed by a fire the previous day. It was closed to traffic on May 3<sup>rd</sup> due to concerns raised during an inspection by the Ministère des Transports du Québec (MTQ). The 121-foot-long (37 meter) Town truss variation bridge was built in 1927. The detour includes the location of Pont Leclerc (QC/61-02-05) which is described in the following article. *Photo by Pascal Conner.*



### Pont Leclerc, Abitibi-Témiscamingue Region – QC/61-02-05

Previous issues have noted the planned work on this bridge. On June 16<sup>th</sup>, it was lifted off its abutments by crane and placed in a temporary location. A new bridge on new abutments will be built in its place. Then, the covered bridge will be placed back over the new structure. It will no longer carry the weight of traffic, just be a cover over the new bridge. The project is expected to be completed in September. *Radio-Canada, June 18, 2021. Photo by Pascal Conner.*

### Pont Grandchamp, Lanaudière Region – QC/61-09-02

In the previous issue, we noted that a small park was being constructed next to the bridge. Gérald



Arbour visited the site again in July and saw additional improvements since his May update. A pole fence has been installed, flowers were planted, and the street was paved. Speed bumps have been installed at each entrance to the bridge. The utility pole in the right photo is planned to be relocated. The single-span bridge was built with the typical Québec variation of a Town truss around 1918.



### Pont Powerscourt, Montérégie Region – QC/61-27-01



Gérald Arbour visited this bridge in July and noted that surveillance cameras have been added. The two-span structure was built in 1861 over the Rivière Châteauguay. It is the last historic McCallum truss covered bridge.



## Québec (continued)

### Pont du Collège, Bas-Saint-Laurent Region – QC/61-32-02

On July 30 and 31, the community of Saint-Onésime-d'Ixworth celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this bridge. Festivities included a band performing around town and at the bridge during both days. On July 31<sup>st</sup> there was a ceremony at the bridge followed by a public dinner. The bridge was built to supply the Collège-de-Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière with firewood. It was closed to traffic in 1978 and became the emblem of the municipality in 1989. It has been listed as an historic monument since 2002. In 2008, it was restored thanks to the work of a committee which also obtained funding to develop the area as a recreational tourism site including four interpretive panels. A fifth panel will be added later to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the College Bridge. *CIMT/CHAU, August 7, 2021. Photos by Gérald Arbour.*



### Pont de Routhierville, Gaspésie Region – QC/61-43-04

Gérald Arbour visited this bridge in June and took these photos. The bridge was closed to vehicle traffic on May 22<sup>nd</sup> following an inspection by the MTQ. Pedestrians and cyclists were still allowed to use



it during the closure. On July 14<sup>th</sup>, *Journal le Soir* reported that repairs were complete, and the bridge reopened. The report did not mention specific details of the repairs, but they amounted to \$60,000. The bridge was classified as a historical monument in 2009. It underwent major restoration work from 2010 to 2012 and has had a



load limit of 10 tonnes since 2012. It was initially built at a cost of \$13,000.

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## Loss of the Watson Settlement Bridge, Aroostook County, Maine

*Editor's note: The first two paragraphs were reprinted from the Winter 2000 Topics, pages 7 & 10.*

Aroostook County's last existing covered bridge is the Watson Bridge, over Meduxnekeag River in Littleton (19-02-01). It is also known as Watson Settlement Bridge, and the reference to a small dispersed hamlet as a "settlement" shows New Brunswick cultural influence. The bridge itself resembles those of the Province, with its light Howe trusses, and its diagonally-boarded shelter panels inside the portal. It is only a mile or so from the border.

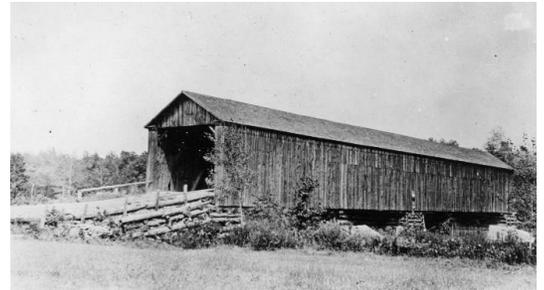
Records usually give a construction date of 1911 for Watson Bridge, but some older residents used to say it was there before then. Moreover, a 1904 list of Maine covered bridges does include it, with a construction date of 1903. It is of course possible that it was extensively repaired or replaced in 1911, but we do not know. Originally the abutments and piers were log cribs, and these already looked old and worn by 1924; they were replaced by concrete sometime after 1934. The two truss spans are each 71' 6" clear, and the total structure length is 170' 8", with a roadway width of 17' 6" Watson Bridge received repairs in 1958, and continued to serve traffic until 1984, when it was bypassed with a new bridge.

It was the youngest and most northerly of Maine's historic covered bridges. The 1970 National Register nomination form shared an anecdote about the construction of the bridge in 1911. The Aroostook County Commission and the Town of Littleton went to court over who was responsible for constructing the approaches to the bridge since no provisions had been made for that. During this time, the new bridge stood, high and dry with no way on or off it. The results of the court proceedings were that the Town of Littleton had to pay for the approaches. They were installed shortly after.

The bridge was added to the National Register of Historic Places on February 16, 1970. In 2002, the American Society of Civil Engineers designated it as a Civil Engineering Landmark. In recent years, visitors have noticed a great deal of graffiti. Sadly, the structure was destroyed by fire on the afternoon of July 19<sup>th</sup>. News articles differ on the exact chain of events, but ultimately, the bridge was destroyed by a fire that the State Fire Marshall's Office considers suspicious.



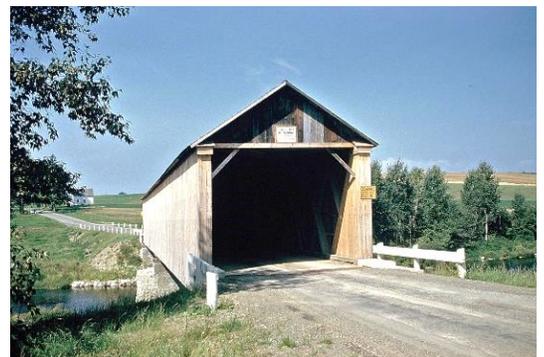
Scott Wagner Photo (cropped), March 18, 2005



Maine DOT Photo, July 25, 1924 showing the original log-crib abutments and pier.



Philippe Bonnet Photo, September 1, 1957



Traugott Keller Photo, 1959



William & Ida Cook Photo, 1961, Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania Collection