



The Newsletter

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

Fall 2023

Lynchburg Bridge Re-Dedication



OH/35-14-11 & OH/35-36-06 – Lynchburg, Clinton and Highland Counties, Ohio

Photo by Matt Haldiman. More photos and details on page 7.

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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, 2023**. Articles and photos can be emailed to 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

Welcome New Members

Scott Abbot & Meri Witzel, Milford, New Hampshire
Jeanne & Marcel Beaudry, Derby, Vermont
Liz Cohan, Reston, Virginia
James Gall, Saint Louis, Missouri
Kate Giles, Peterborough, Ontario
Linda & Jim Hastings, Glen, New Hampshire
Adam Infinger, Charleston, South Carolina
Frank & Pam Mailey, York Haven, Pennsylvania
Wayne P. Perry, Burlington, Massachusetts
Eleanor Phetteplace, New York, New York
Matt Rocha, Melrose, Massachusetts
David Rodrigue, Sanbornton, New Hampshire
Jesse Schust, Andover, New Hampshire
Charles Sherwood, Bonney Lake, Washington
E. J. Shin, New York, New York
Cleta Shirley, Murphysboro, Illinois
W. J. Thomas, Alexandria, Virginia
Tom Vitanza, Montgomery Village, Maryland
Beverly Wakeman, Greenfield, New Hampshire
Lee Wilder, Hopkinton, New Hampshire

Welcome New Life Member

#213 – Mac McClaren, Woodbridge, Virginia

2023 NSPCB Meetings & Events

All meetings begin at **1:00 PM** unless otherwise noted. If you plan to attend a meeting, please check the NSPCB website (www.coveredbridgesociety.org) or contact Bill Caswell at 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 23 – 25 – Joint Safari to bridges in northern Vermont with the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania. For details, see <https://www.coveredbridgesociety.org/safari23.html>

October 7 & 8 – Warner Fall Foliage Festival, Warner, New Hampshire. The NSPCB booth will be set up at MainStreet BookEnds, 16 E Main St.

October 28 – NSPCB Annual Meeting and Dinner, Brigham Hill Barn, North Grafton, MA. Meal at noon, meeting starting at 1:00 PM. See details on page 15.

President's Message

I hope that this message finds you healthy and well. As I write this on warm August day, I know that by the time it gets to you, Summer will be starting to fade.

It seems like life in our world is always busy and this quarter was no exception. As you will see in the following pages, we have had some good opportunities to promote the Society and meet new people. We are so grateful for those of you who have picked up membership brochures at our meetings to share with others. Some of the new members this quarter are a direct result of your outreach.

Beyond our work for the Society, we have been enjoying time with the family, especially our grandson Liam who had his first birthday on July 22nd. He is always on the move and inquisitive about anything new. He and other family members went with us on the *Covered Bridge Special* train ride offered by the Wiscasset, Waterville and Farmington Railway Museum in Alna, Maine. All had a great time. More details on that in a separate article.



*Warren or Lincoln Gap Bridge,
Warren, Washington, Vermont
(VT/45-12-15)*

In early June, Jenn and I spent a weekend in Vermont with Jim and Gloria Smedley refining the tour routes for our September safari with the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania. We and the Smedley's had made separate visits to the area before and took advantage of an opportunity to go through it together to work out some of the details. While I feel that it is unfortunate that we needed to divide the attendees into two separate groups, it was the only way we could accommodate the 90 people interested in participating this year. It will be quite an adventure.

The new mailing process we started last quarter went very well. Many people told me that they received their copies more quickly than before. That is great news. Lower cost and faster service. Can't go wrong there. For those who contact us about membership renewals, keep in mind that if there is a renewal notice included within your *Newsletter*, (not to be confused with the gift membership forms sent near the end of the year) your membership is due to expire (or in this case, did expire) on June 30th. If you do not see a renewal reminder, you are all set for this year. There are occasions where we receive more than one payment from an individual during a year so some of you are already paid ahead a year or two. We will continue looking for a new way to provide you with better information about your membership.

We are excited to have our annual dinner back at the Community Harvest Barn in North Grafton, Massachusetts. It took some work, but Jenn was able to find a caterer available to provide our meal. If you plan to attend, please be sure to send in your reservation form by the deadline so we have an accurate head count for the caterer. We hope to see many of you there.

Remember, it is up to every one of us to help preserve our historic covered bridges. If you see something that isn't right, say something. Whether it is a bridge in need of repair, excessive graffiti or an oversized vehicle using the bridge, let the proper authorities know about it. Local/County/State government officials need to know that we care about these structures and want them to be around for future generations to enjoy and learn from.

Please continue to keep us informed of covered bridge news so we can share it with the rest of our members. As you travel to visit our bridges, please share photos with us.

Bill Caswell

Spring Board Meeting

The Spring Meeting of the Executive Board was held in Concord, New Hampshire on June 3rd. One of the topics of discussion was about the IRS requirements for maintaining our non-profit status. The formula used to calculate our public participation is not only based on what we contribute towards bridge projects and fire retardant, but also the value of donations and grant money we receive compared to our overall income. More research is needed to ensure that we do not jeopardize our non-profit status. The Board reviewed the recommendations of the Scholarship Committee and determined awards for each of the three finalists. Those details are in a separate article. The Calendar Committee’s recommendations for the 2024 calendar were reviewed.

June Meeting

The 2024 calendar was presented for review before printing. There were some suggestions regarding selection of the cover photo, rearrangement of the selections for the months and other small changes. We received a request from the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania for assistance with



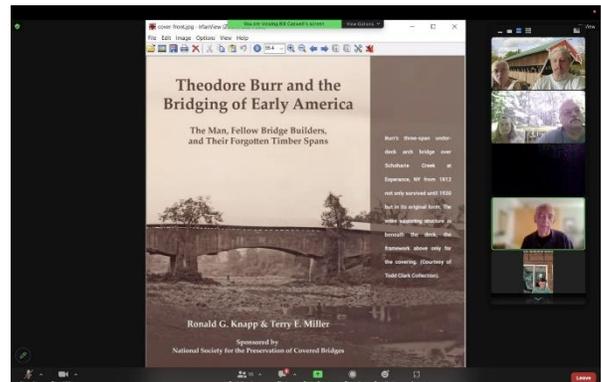
work they will be doing on Sach’s Bridge (PA/38-01-01) in Adams County, Pennsylvania. They offered to paint the bridge at a cost of \$8,200. Before that could be done, some of the siding needed to be replaced. The Adams Co. Director of



Building & Maintenance estimated the cost to be \$6,100. We were asked to consider contributing \$5,000.00 towards the work. Additional information was needed and once that was received, the attendees approved the request. Arnold Grāton volunteered to do a Financial Review of our books. *Photos by Scott Wagner and Bill Caswell.*

July Meeting

The July meeting was scheduled to be at the Scott Bridge in Townshend, Vermont. However, due to the significant flooding that the state experienced in mid-July, a decision was made to have a Zoom meeting instead. Following up from the June meeting, we received a request for fire retardant for Sach’s Bridge which will be applied after repairs to the siding are completed in early August. That request was approved. Ron Knapp provided some background on the new book he wrote with Terry Miller, *Theodore Burr and the Bridging of Early America*. The book should be available by the time you read this. The book is being sponsored by the NSPCB who will help promote it and receive the royalties.



Riding the Rails to the Trout Brook Bridge

The Wiscasset, Waterville and Farmington Railway Museum in Alna, Maine offered a *Covered Bridge Special* on their Sheepscot Valley Steam Train on Saturday, August 5th. The train made an extended stop at the Trout Brook Bridge (ME/19-08-P06) so riders had an opportunity to disembark and take photos of the train and bridge together. The bridge, formerly in Gorham, New Hampshire, was given to the NSPCB by the State of New Hampshire after it was badly damaged by an arsonist. The NSPCB obtained a grant from the National Park Service to reconstruct it. Unable to locate a suitable site in Gorham, it was donated to the railway museum, constructed near their Sheepscot station by Barns & Bridges of New England then moved to its permanent location by museum volunteers. Photos by Bob Watts and Bill & Jenn Caswell.



Old Time Fair

On Sunday, August 6th, the Society set up a booth at the Old Time Fair in Andover, New Hampshire. The event is hosted by the Andover Historical Society and takes place at the Potter Place Depot. The railroad station was built for the Northern Railroad in 1874 and now serves as a museum for the Historical Society's



collection. They also maintain the J.C. Emons Store and Potter Place Post Office across the street. The store served the village until 1958. The post office was built in 1912 and functioned until 1988. The event includes music, food and a magic show along with vendors



and representatives of nearby historical societies. Thanks to Bob & Betty Pauwels and Bill & Jenn Caswell for staffing the NSPCB table.

2023 Eric Delony Scholarship

This year's Scholarship Committee consisted of three notable members. Christopher Marston, HAER Architect for the National Park Service's Heritage Documentation Programs, has been involved with the HAER program for the past 35 years. Ron Knapp is a retired professor with a distinguished career at the State University of New York College at New Paltz. He has written numerous books on Chinese culture and architecture plus covered bridge books co-authored with Terry Miller. Terry Miller retired as a Professor of Ethnomusicology at Kent State University and has been an NSPCB member for over 50 years.

After evaluating the scholarship applications, three young people were recommended for Eric Delony Scholarships. Adam Infinger who is majoring in timber framing at the American College of the Building Arts in Charleston, South Carolina; Eunjin (E.J.) Shin, a graduate student working towards a dual Master's degree in architecture and civil engineering at Columbia University and Eleanor Phetteplace, also a graduate student at Columbia University working towards a Master's degree in historic preservation.

News of Members

Past and Present Covered Bridges of New Hampshire's Contoocook River

On July 28th and 29th, Bill Caswell and Kim Varney Chandler, author of *Covered Bridges of New Hampshire*, spoke about the twenty existing and former covered bridges along the Contoocook River. The first part, on Friday evening, was a slideshow held at the Harris Center for Conservation Education in Hancock, New Hampshire. The event continued the following morning with a visit to the oldest remaining railroad covered bridge, the Contoocook Bridge (NH/29-07-07) where they discussed the



railroad's history, development of the Town truss plus details about the bridge's history. They also discussed the volunteer and monetary contributions that NSPCB has made towards its preservation since ownership of the structure was transferred to the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources in 1990. Photos by Kim Varney Chandler.

Theodore Burr and the Bridging of Early America

At press time, the release of *Theodore Burr and the Bridging of Early America* was imminent, but no date has yet been provided by the publisher, Amazon. Authors Ron Knapp and Terry Miller have collaborated to create a 500+ page story of Burr's bridge-building career and the aspects of his personal life they found during their three years of research. They provide a compelling narrative of a very interesting man who lived during an important period of American history. The NSPCB is proud to be a sponsor of this significant contribution to the history of covered bridge building in America. We will be helping promote the book and hope to have copies available for sale.

Ron and Terry worked with Amazon staff on a marketing campaign to introduce Mr. Burr to people beyond the community of covered bridge enthusiasts. Amazon will offer free Kindle e-book copies during the first three days that the book is available. Paperback and hardcover editions will also be available.

The content of the book is divided into three parts. First, an introduction to Theodore Burr and his family. The second part chronicles the bridges with individual chapters dedicated to the more significant ones. Thirdly, Burr's legacy and the continued use of the "Burr Arch-Truss" after his death. An appendix includes a copy of Burr's 1817 patent and an inventory of bridges he is known or suspected of building.

The only known photograph of the interior of Burr's original west tandem Camelback Bridge at Harrisburg, PA was taken around 1902. It shows the above-deck structure built circa 1824 by Reuben Field after Burr's original underdeck arches began failing. Field eliminated the rise and fall of the "camelback" structure but by 1900 the spans were clearly sagging. (Courtesy of Historical Society of Dauphin County).

Theodore Burr and the Bridging of Early America

Theodore Burr (1771-1822) was the most prominent of America's early nineteenth century bridge-building pioneers, the other being Timothy Phelps (1773-1831) and Isaac Warrington (1769-1843). All three built suspension long-span timber bridges. A transplant from Massachusetts, Theodore Burr moved to Oxford, New York in 1793, a town less than thirty years, he erected timber bridges over major rivers—the Hudson, Schoharie, Mohawk, Delaware, Delaware, and Susquehanna rivers—in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, District of Columbia, and Maryland. This is the first book to narrate the significant role of covered bridges, associated techniques, and how the bridge builders themselves in the western expansion of the new nation. The book is richly illustrated with photographs, paintings, and both historic and modern photographs, most of which have never been published before.

Anyone today who has visited America's covered bridges and examined the structural features within is likely familiar with the earliest form of Burr's 1817 patented "Burr arch-truss" design—a multiple long-span truss with an arched segment truss arch. Of the more than 1,100 timber bridges used, nearly 400 of those that were erected over the past two hundred years, more than a hundred still stand in Pennsylvania, Indiana, New York, and other states. Burr designed to have both forty-five bridges. These towers were put like the ordinary covered bridges commonly used today that are identified with his name, but include some of the most challenging and supported bridges in American history. Despite his Herculean efforts, part of Burr's legacy early includes an obscure and unproductive career, possibly by their persistence. He was buried in an unknown grave, Burr departed bitter.

This is the first book-length work on Theodore Burr, chronicling his bridge building success and transforming a little understood legend into a real person who cultured timber and timber while using that experience to improve his entire bridge designs. The authors employ previously unknown primary historical documents for a fresh look at Burr's life as well as that of contemporaneous early nineteenth century bridge builders.

Bill Caswell, President, National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges

Burr's three-span under-deck arch bridge over Schoharie Creek at Esperanza, NY from 1812 not only survived until 1930 but in its original form, the wide supporting structure is beneath the deck, the framework above only for the covering. (Courtesy of Todd Clark Collection).

Theodore Burr and the Bridging of Early America
The Man, Fellow Bridge Builders, and Their Forgotten Timber Spans

Ronald G. Knapp & Terry E. Miller

Sponsored by
National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges

Lynchburg, Ohio, Covered Bridge Re-Dedication June 3, 2023

By Matt Haldiman, Third Vice President, Ohio Historic Bridge Association

The Lynchburg Covered Bridge in Ohio may be most well known for being the only covered bridge in the state to span 2 counties (Clinton and Highland). However, it is actively maintained by Highland County.

The Lynchburg Covered Bridge, a 120 foot Long Truss, spans the East Fork of the Little Miami River and was constructed in 1870. The bridge caught on fire (suspected arson) on January 29, 2019, which caused significant damage. After years of raising funds and selecting a contractor, the Righter Construction Company took on the project and completed significant interior and exterior work. This renovation also included a new brown exterior finish. The re-dedication was set for June 3, 2023 at 10:30am.

Not only was the weather amazing, but the time, effort, and energy in the celebration made it one to remember. The celebration began with a ribbon cutting ceremony. This was followed by speeches by local community leaders, a discussion on the history of the bridge by the Ohio Historic Bridge Association President, Doug Miller, as well as a presentation down memory lane. This 30-40 minute “memory lane” presentation shared the history of the bridge, town, state, and world going decade by decade starting in the early 1800s. Each decade had its own historical figures or automobiles walk and drive across the bridge. This was a special treat considering the bridge has been for pedestrians only for many decades.



The presentation was followed by a picnic lunch and a car show. There was plenty of time to visit with friends, learn more history, and also spend time photographing this remarkable covered bridge.



Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Resource Center – Update

By Trish Kane, Collections Curator

It's been a terrific, busy time at the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Resource Center. Besides all the usual organizing of new and existing materials, we are making great progress on our big project--launching our first website. Through this landmark project, we will open up our materials on the web to researchers around the world.

We succeeded in getting a grant for the website project from the R.C. Smith Foundation in Norwich, NY, and this generous grant has allowed us to move into high gear. We thank so many in the covered bridge world for their ongoing help on our website and many other activities.

We will keep in touch about when the website will go live.

Flooding in Vermont

During June and July, excessive rains in the northeastern states have resulted in historic flooding in many areas with damage to roadway networks, structures, property and crops. Here is a summary of the information and updates we received.

Village or Maple Street or Lower Bridge, Franklin County – VT/45-06-02

The single-span Town truss bridge over Mill Brook was still closed a few days after the flooding, but we do not know what damage it may have received. The bridge was built in 1865.

Poland or Station or Cambridge Junction Bridge, Lamoille County – VT/45-08-02

The single-span 1887 bridge over the Lamoille River is now missing nearly all the sideboards on the downstream side. We are not sure if that was caused by the flooding or if they were removed to allow water to pass through.



Little or Gates Farm Bridge, Lamoille County – VT/45-08-04#2

Peter Cosgrove's photos of the single-span Burr truss bridge built in 1897 show that the Lamoille River did encroach on the bridge. No damage reported yet.



Fisher Railroad or Chubb Bridge, Lamoille County – VT/45-08-16

Member Jeff Colburn notified us that some of the new siding on the Fisher Railroad Bridge was torn off of the 1908 Double Town lattice truss bridge on the Lamoille Valley Rail-Trail. The rail trail was recently completed and a day-long opening ceremony was scheduled for July 15th. Unfortunately, floodwaters caused significant damage to sections of the trail.

Hammond or Florence Station Bridge, Rutland County – VT/45-11-05

The swollen Otter Creek reached the 1842 Town lattice truss structure which was already in poor condition, but no apparent damage has been reported. Photo by Peter Cosgrove.



Worrall Bridge, Windham County – VT/45-13-10

The single-span Town lattice truss bridge built over Williams River built in 1868 was struck by debris and pushed a few inches downstream. You may recall that this structure was badly damaged by tropical storm Irene in 2011. The nearby Bartonville Bridge, which was destroyed by Irene and rebuilt, does not appear to have been damaged during these storms.

Flooding in Vermont (continued)

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

These photos from the Pittsford Fire Department show that the floor of the single-span Town lattice truss structure over Otter Creek was warped upward. When Tony Dowling visited (far right photo) on August 4th, it was open to traffic again.



Beetlejuice 2

Beetlejuice 2 is a sequel to Tim Burton's 1988 film. The opening scene of the original movie showed Barbara and Adam Maitland (played by Geena Davis and Alec Baldwin) crashing their car through a covered bridge when Barbara swerved to avoid a dog in the road. That bridge was built for the movie on Chicken Farm Road in East Corinth, Vermont, where some of the movie's outdoor scenes were filmed.

In preparation for the sequel, a new covered bridge has been constructed at that same location along with some other modifications to buildings in the area. Although it is not a true truss-supported structure, it is an attractive addition to the village. Some have asked for the bridge to remain after filming is complete.



Warner Brothers Pictures plans to release the film on September 6, 2024. *Photos by Jim Kenison.*



Sixth Annual *Love Your Covered Bridges Days* Celebrated in New Brunswick

Submitted by Sherry Little, Association Heritage New Brunswick

This year marks the 6th *Love Your Covered Bridges Days* in New Brunswick, Canada. Sponsored by Association Heritage New Brunswick (AHNB) this event, which began as a means of drawing attention to the plight of the endangered covered bridges, has turned into an annual celebration of the history and heritage of this province’s covered bridges.

Over the New Brunswick Day holiday weekend, August 5th to 7th, AHNB focused upon the great strides that have been made in the effort to save and protect the 58 original bridges that date back to the early 1900s. The theme was introduced in a promotional video written and produced by AHNB’s Lawren Campbell and was elaborated upon on by guest speakers at the third annual event hosted by the Albert County Historical Society at the Sawmill Creek Covered Bridge in Hopewell.



Gerry Gillcash, President of AHNB, spoke of the role of heritage and cultural identity as a key factor behind the will of the people to save the covered bridges. “These covered bridges are our connection to another time and place and yet, because New Brunswick is still very much a rural province, these bridges are still an important part of who we are today. Just as our forebears worked together to build these bridges, it has been a real team effort to have them recognized as historically important and worthy of careful and considerate conservation.”

Raymond Boucher, President of the Covered Bridges Conservation Association then described the activities of his organization and how, in association with other covered bridge and heritage groups, these actions have produced positive results. Ray reported that, through consultation and collaboration with government, 31 of 54 covered bridges under the jurisdiction of the provincial government have received much needed attention, from minor repairs to complete restoration. To further support the efforts of the CBCANB, memberships were sold on site.

The historical importance of the covered bridges, and the work that has been done to protect them, has not gone unnoticed. Speaking on behalf of the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering, Gilles Hébert announced the Sawmill Creek Covered Bridge has been chosen as the site where a 30” x 24” bronze plaque will be installed. The plaque, which recognizes New Brunswick covered bridges as “monuments to the remarkable engineering and construction abilities of the province’s early settlers” will be placed in the near future.

Dawne McLean, host and organizer of the Sawmill Creek event, captured the true spirit of *Love Your Covered Bridges Days*, New Brunswick Day and Albert County hospitality by arranging two hours of entertainment under the shelter of the covered bridge, by featuring poetry and music of local talent.

Those who participated in *Love Your Covered Bridges Days* were invited to help preserve the history and folklore of the bridges by submitting a photo or video capturing their visit to any of New Brunswick’s covered bridges over the holiday weekend. Submissions served as eligibility to win prizes in AHNB’s annual contest. A list of the prize winners, along with some of the photos and videos, will appear soon on the Association Heritage New Brunswick Facebook page.



Celebration of “Love Your Covered Bridge Day” Sawmill Creek Covered Bridge, Hopewell Hill, New Brunswick

by Dawne McLean, President Albert County Historical Society

The 115 year old “Sawmill Creek Covered Bridge” received well deserved love and appreciation on Sunday, August 6, as community residents and visitors celebrated the third “Love Your Covered Bridge Day” event, in recognition of the unique heritage of the covered bridges and the importance of their preservation.

It’s not every day that you attend an event “inside” a covered bridge, seated within the massive wooden truss and beam structure, protected from the sun with the breeze keeping you cool and free from mosquitoes!

Following the Welcome by Dawne McLean, President, Albert County Historical Society; Greetings were offered by Gerry Gillcash, President, Association Heritage New Brunswick; Jim Coates, Fundy Albert Councillor; and Ray Boucher, President, Covered Bridge Conservation Association of NB; Gilles J. Hébert, Chair of National Historic Sites Committee of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, then shared an important announcement made in May 2023.

The Covered Bridges of New Brunswick are now declared National Historic Civil Engineering Sites by the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers. Sawmill Creek Covered Bridge in Hopewell Hill has been chosen as the site where the bronze dedication plaque will be installed, which reads “LE PONT SAWMILL CREEK BRIDGE” Bridge Engineer, Andrew Wetmore and Bridge Builder, Albert E. Smye. Project plans are underway to install the dedication plaque!



Singers and musicians (playing guitar, banjo and harmonica) joined together as the “Covered Bridge Band”: Betty Weston, Dawne McLean, Oliver Smith, Darrell McAulay, Jim and Sue McLaughlin, Jarod Fenwick, Eric Steeves. Two poems, “My Grandfather’s Store” and “Grindstone Island”, composed by Diane Reid Tingley remembering Albert County’s past days were greatly appreciated.



Grateful thanks to the Youth Group from Albert Mines Baptist Church for providing a refreshment table of pop, water, and sweet treats, with the proceeds towards their “Meals for Seniors” community project.

Three 2024 Covered Bridge Calendars were presented as door prizes. Congratulations to Alex Steeves, who won the raffle prize, a large, framed photo of the Sawmill Creek Bridge, donated by Ray Boucher. [Pictured here with Ray Boucher and Dawne McLean.]

There is a tremendous need for a new “Sawmill Creek Covered Bridge” road sign at the entrance driveway! The Historical Society would appreciate the support from the community and community organizations in working together to install a new road sign! Fundraising efforts have started with the photo raffle draw at the August 6 bridge event. Good News!! “Sawmill Creek Covered Bridge” license plates can be purchased for \$28.00 at the Albert County Museum, with \$6.00 from each license plate sold being donated to help purchase a new sign. Your support is greatly needed and is appreciated!



It was terrific to have such a good attendance at the Sawmill Creek “Love Your Covered Bridge Day”!

Photos for this article were provided by Ray Boucher, President of the Covered Bridges Conservation Association of New Brunswick

George B. Pease Collection

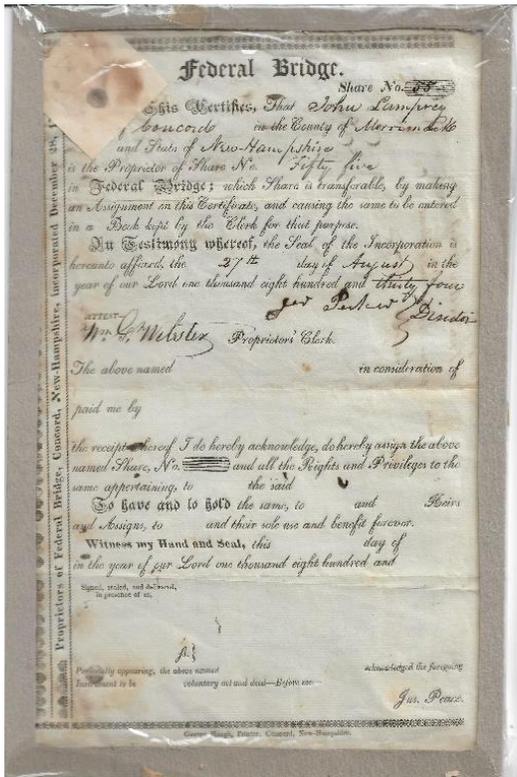
Bill Caswell was contacted by Jonathan Pease, grandson of one of NSPCB’s founders, offering us items from his grandfather’s collection. Knowing the significance of George Pease’s role in the formation of this organization, the two arranged to meet to exchange the items. The collection consisted of scrapbooks, blueprints, puzzles, treenails (most identified as to which bridge they once helped support) and a few random, but treasured, documents. More on that in a moment. First, a bit about Mr. Pease as told by his friend Leo Litwin, the NSPCB’s first president and editor of Topics from 1952 to 1971, which was published on page 2 of the April 1961 Topics:

A short ten years ago, George B. Pease and Leo Litwin were new friends and arranged for an evening to look over some covered bridge photographs that each had taken on their trips throughout New England. While enjoying the pleasant evening, each viewed the other's clippings and covered bridge stereos and cards; and decided to find others who had the same interest — covered bridges. From this small beginning the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges, Inc. with members in each of the forty-eight states and many foreign countries, grew.

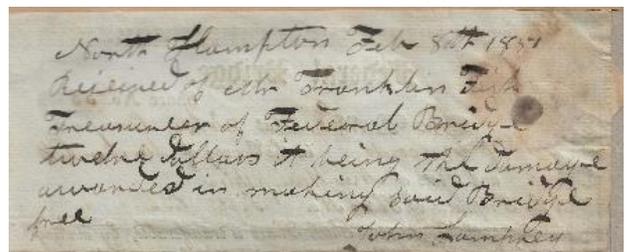
George B. Pease, a dedicated covered bridge enthusiast, travelled the New England scene as a representative for the Otis Elevator Company. While on his many trips he found time to add to his ever-growing covered bridge collection of black and white photographs of New England covered bridges, as well as valuable and rare prints, stereo cards, old postcards, and other unusual covered bridge items. Your Editor [Leo Litwin] remembers many fine covered bridge safaris which both took to New England covered bridges. Always the good friend — his interest in these spans was all-contagious and all-compelling. When he retired from Otis, he settled down to enjoy his leisure with his fine wife and his amazingly complete covered bridge collection.

A charter member of the then newly-formed Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges, he became its first treasurer, and faithfully attended all early meetings. Ill health finally forced a cessation of all outside activities, and with regret we have now learned of his passing.

Our appreciation to George B. Pease — fellow covered bridge buff and determined covered bridge enthusiast — without whose assistance and exceptional interest the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges, would not be the outstanding organization which it is today.



While we won’t be able to spend much time reviewing the scrap books and blueprints until the cold New Hampshire winter encourages us to spend more time indoors, the box of miscellaneous papers contained a number of interesting items. Here is an example. A share in Concord, New Hampshire’s Federal Bridge dated August 27, 1834. This was the fourth bridge built at this location since 1798 after prior structures were lost to flooding and decay. Before state and federal funding was routinely available for roads and bridges, one way to raise money was for a group of businessmen to form a corporation and sell shares. They would be allowed to collect tolls for crossing the bridge and, if business was good, shareholders could receive a portion of the dividends. The cropped portion of the back of this document records the 1851 sale of Mr. Lamprey’s share when he received his ration of the \$1,500 paid to the proprietors when the City of Concord took control of the crossing.

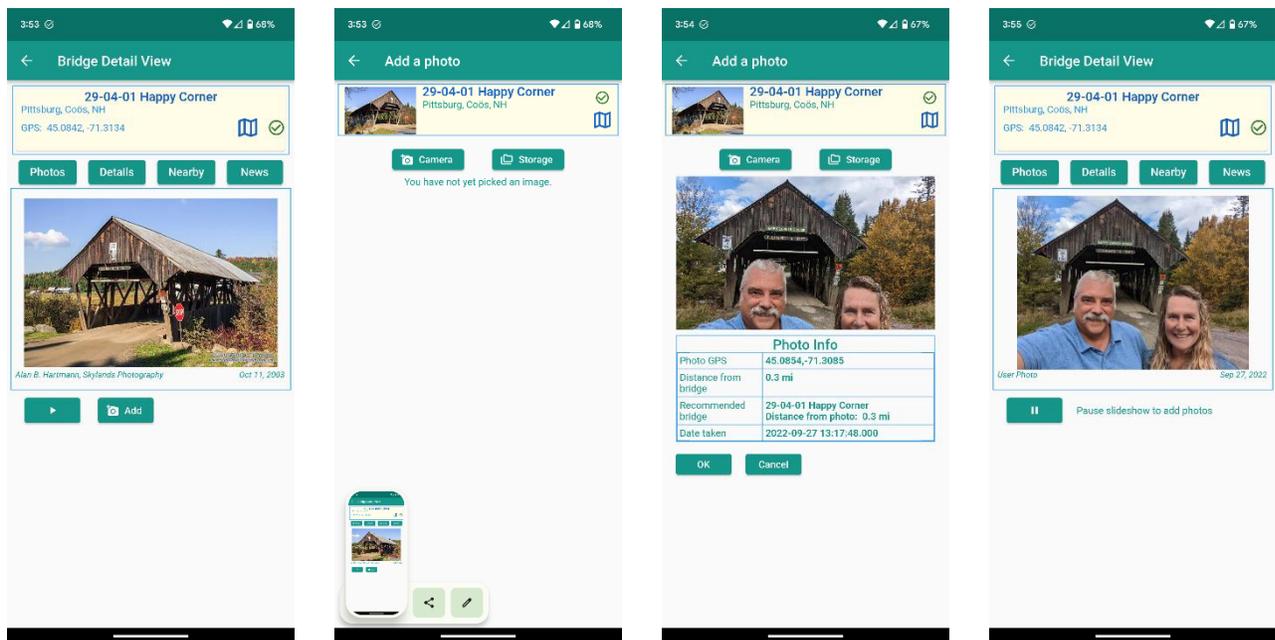


NSPCB Bridge Database Phone App Update

An update on the covered bridge database and phone app was provided on page 8 of the Spring issue. Since then, there has been a new enhancement to the phone app. Users are now able to add their own photos. The process is easy.

- Search for the bridge.
- Stop the slideshow if one is running and tap the “Add” button.
- Select the option to add the photo from the phone’s storage or take a new photo.
- Select or add the photo.
- You will be prompted to accept the photo or alerted that the location may be wrong if the photo doesn’t match the selected bridge.

Once confirmed, the photo will be added to the slideshow for that bridge. When the app is updated in the future, be sure to update the database and relink your photos. For a video with additional details, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3XdAPmWM13s>



If you haven't already done so, please visit www.abhdemo.com and register for access to the system. You will need a valid email address to register and then follow the instructions in the email to use the site. When you sign in for the first time, click "Contact" at the lower right. Identify yourself as an NSPCB member and the site administrators will elevate your account to "Member" status. The site is open to the public, but some features, such as trip planning, are restricted to members only. Upgrading to member status may take a day or two, it is not an automated process. Member status also allows you to download the companion phone app. The phone app has the ability to locate covered bridges near your location and sync the mobile device with updated information from the website.

If there are additional features you would like to see, please let us know.

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.



Upcoming 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/
 Indiana Covered Bridge Society (ICBS) www.indianacoveredbridges.org/
 New York State Covered Bridge Society (NYSCBS) www.nycoveredbridges.org/
 Ohio Historic Bridge Association (OHBA)..... oldohiobridges.com/new/
 The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania (TBCBSP) www.tbcbspa.com/
 Vermont Covered Bridge Society (VCBS) www.vermontbridges.org/

Events could be cancelled or rescheduled on short notice. If you plan to attend, please confirm that the event is actually taking place with the group hosting it.

<u>September</u>	<p>Sunday, 10th – 1:00 PM, NYSCBS virtual meeting.</p> <p>Sunday, 10th – Noon, TBCBSP Annual Picnic and meeting at Poole Forge Bridge.</p> <p>Saturday, 9th – Williams Covered Bridge Dinner, Williams, Indiana. For information, contact Lawrence County Tourism at 812-849-1090.</p> <p>Saturday, 16th – OHBA Fall Tour</p> <p>23 – 25 – TBCBSP & NSPCB Tour of northern Vermont.</p> <p>Saturday, 30th – 10:00 AM, VCBS Fall Meeting, Thompson Senior Center, Rt 4, West Woodstock, Vermont.</p>
<u>October</u>	<p>Sunday, 1st – 2:00 PM, TBCBSP Monthly Meeting at St. Paul Episcopal Church, 340 Locust St., Columbia, Pennsylvania.</p> <p>5-8 – Columbia-Montour County (Pennsylvania) Covered Bridge and Arts Festival. See https://itourcolumbiamontour.com/covered-bridge-festival/ for details.</p> <p>Saturday, 14th – Euharlee (Georgia) Covered Bridge Fall Festival. For more information, visit https://www.facebook.com/EuharleeCoveredBridgeFallFestival/.</p> <p>Saturday, 14th – Blount County (Alabama) Covered Bridge Festival in Oneonta. See http://facebook.com/CoveredBridgeFest for more details.</p> <p>14-15 – Ashtabula County (Ohio) Covered Bridge Festival. Events at various locations. See https://coveredbridgefestival.org/festival for details.</p> <p>14-15 – Madison County (Iowa) Covered Bridge Festival. Events at various locations. See https://www.madisoncounty.com/covered-bridge-festival/ for details.</p> <p>13-22 – Parke County (Indiana) Covered Bridge Festival. Events at various locations. See https://www.coveredbridges.com/covered-bridge-festival for details.</p> <p>14-15 – ICBS tour of Jackson and Lawrence counties.</p>
<u>November</u>	<p>Sunday, 5th – 2:00 PM, TBCBSP Monthly Meeting at St. Paul Episcopal Church, 340 Locust St., Columbia, Pennsylvania.</p> <p>Sunday, 12th – NYSCBS Annual Dinner and Meeting with Christmas card exchange at the Hamden Community Hall (behind the church) 35806 St. Hwy 10, Hamden, New York. Doors open at 11:00 AM, Turkey Dinner at noon, meeting after dinner.</p> <p>Sunday, 19th – 1:30 PM, OHBA Annual Business Meeting, Ohio History Connection, 800 E. 17th Ave, Columbus, Ohio, (Exit 111 off Route I-71). Cardinal Room, 3rd Floor.</p>
<u>December</u>	<p>Sunday, 3rd – 11:30 AM to 3:30 PM, TBCBSP Christmas Dinner at Yoder’s Restaurant, 14 South Tower Road, New Holland, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.</p>

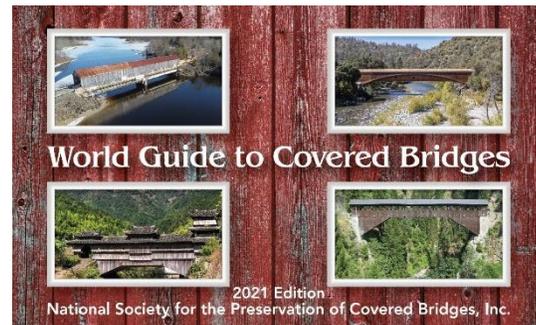
2023 Annual Meeting

This year’s Annual Meeting will be back at the Community Harvest Barn in North Grafton, Massachusetts. For those who have not attended a meeting there, it is a wonderful venue with an excellent AV system for the presenters and the business meeting. The room is large enough to seat our typical attendance of about 40 guests comfortably.

This year’s speaker will be Jennifer Goodman, Executive Director of New Hampshire Preservation Alliance with “A Conversation about New Trends for Old Places.” During her tenure, the Granite State’s statewide non-profit organization has increased investment in historic places, expanded understanding of preservation strategies and benefits and grown the preservation movement. Programmatic successes include a nationally-recognized barn preservation program, Green Guidelines for state and local decision-makers, a preservation easement initiative, well-received services for community preservation leaders and homeowners, and new pilot programs to encourage young people to enter the preservation trades. Goodman is a graduate of Leadership New Hampshire, and has played leadership roles on the board and staffs of local and regional non-profit organizations in Boston and Philadelphia as well as the national confederation of statewide and local non-profit organizations. She received a M.S. in Historic Preservation from the University of Pennsylvania and a B.A. with Honors in American Studies from Williams College.

World Guide to Covered Bridges

Copies of the current *World Guide to Covered Bridges* can be obtained for \$19 per copy (media mail shipping) to US addresses. Copies can be purchased through the NSPCB website (coveredbridgesociety.org) or by sending a check or money order made out to **NSPCB** to Jenn Caswell, 535 2nd NH Tpke, Hillsboro, NH 03244.



Covered Bridge News California

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

We have been reporting on the Honey Run Covered Bridge Association’s (HRBA) efforts to raise funds to construct a replica of this covered bridge since it was consumed by the Camp Fire on November 8, 2018. The wildfire was the deadliest recorded in California history, claiming 85 lives; the wooden bridge was among 19,000 buildings destroyed by the blaze. On August 17th, the HRBA announced that the Fire Victim Trust awarded them \$4.7 million, enough to fund the remainder of the project. The HRCBA should get an initial installment of \$2.1 million in two to three weeks. Phase 1, erecting the support pylons, was completed in November 2020 with \$1.2 million contributed by donors. Phase 2, the floor and trusses, has been waiting for fundraising to provide the estimated \$2.2 million. Now that the money is available, the group will work with Oregon-based Western Woods Structures on the schedule. The HRBA is a 501(c)3 non-profit. For more information about the project, visit <http://www.hrcoveredbridge.org>. *Chico Enterprise-Record, August 17, 2023. Photo of the former bridge by Jenn Caswell.*



Georgia

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

We received an email from the Friends of The Concord Covered Bridge Historic District noting that the bridge was closed on June 15th to allow for some test drilling on both sides to prepare for the eventual installation of storm drain lines. Water running into the bridge from the roadway is causing deterioration of the deck boards so the county is working to alleviate that. They are also looking to improve daytime lighting within the structure. Shortly after the testing, one of the protective beams was struck by a “work truck.” The bridge was closed for two days while the beam was repaired. There was no damage to the bridge. The driver’s insurance will be billed for the cost of the repairs. There are multiple warning signs and devices along both approaches to the crossing to alert drivers before they get to the bridge. The two-span Modified Queen truss bridge over Nickajack Creek was built in 1891. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on November 24, 1980. *WSB-TV, June 21, 2023. Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



Illinois

Little Mary 's River Bridge, Randolph County – IL/13-79-01

On Saturday, July 1st, a storm tore the roof off of this bridge near Chester, Illinois. It doesn’t appear to have received any other structural damage. According to the Randolph County Sheriff, the Department of

Transportation is in charge of the bridge. Bill Caswell sent an email to the DOT’s district office responsible for the bridge to obtain additional details and to offer our assistance. No response has been received yet. The single-span Burr truss bridge was



built in 1854. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on December 31, 1974. *KFVS-TV, July 2, 2023. Photos by Jim Crouse.*

Indiana

Roseville or Coxville Bridge, Parke County – IN/14-61-09#2

On May 10th a tree fell on the bridge damaging its roof and portal. The bridge was closed for a month while repairs were made. On June 7th, WTHI-TV reported that repairs were complete and the bridge was re-opened to traffic. The two-span Burr truss bridge was built over Big Raccoon Creek by brothers J.P. Van Fossen and J.L. Van Fossen who were involved in building at least four of Parke County’s covered bridges. *Photo Courtesy Parke County Sheriff’s Department.*



Indiana (continued)

Ceylon Bridge, Adams County – IN/14-01-02

In the Summer issue, page 16, we noted that a project to tighten the Howe truss, repair a floor brace and paint the bridge was in the works. The work will be done by Limberlost Construction. The NSPCB



offered a donation to help out with the project. Communication with the Adams County Parks Board indicated that the work is expected to be underway by the time you receive this *Newsletter*. The single-span bridge over a



channel of the Wabash River was built in the early 1860s. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on January 25, 2007. *Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

Longwood Bridge, Connersville, Fayette County – IN/14-21-01

We have been reporting on this project in the past few *Newsletters*. As noted previously, the single span Burr truss was built by the Kennedy family in 1884 and moved to Roberts Park in Connersville in 1984. Since the previous update, the new lower chords have been installed and are now supporting the structure which, at press time, was being held up by low cribbing at each corner. The project is temporarily on hold while the municipality and contractor, who was to pour the new abutments, work out some details. *Photo by Will Truax.*



Cades Mill Bridge, Fountain County – IN/14-23-02

The oldest covered bridge in Indiana still in its original location still needs your help. The Fountain



County Art Council Historic Committee continues their efforts to raise funds for repairs to the single-span Howe truss 1854 structure. Directional signs placed on the main roads in the area guiding people to the bridge have increased the number of visitors. The Canal Society of Indiana will be including a stop at the bridge on its September tour along a portion of the Wabash & Erie Canal Route. On August 15th, we learned that the engineering firm of Kurdziel Barker in Indianapolis is nearing completion of the design work and hopes to solicit bids for the work sometime in September. September marks three years that the committee has been fundraising for these much-needed repairs. *Photo by Greg McDuffee.*

Rolling Stone Bridge, Putnam County – IN/14-67-04

This single span Burr truss bridge was built over Big Walnut Creek in 1915. It was one of the six covered bridges in Putnam County closed due to safety concerns. On July 13th, the Banner Graphic reported that the structure has been reinforced to the satisfaction of the Indiana Department of Transportation and reopened to traffic. *Photo by Gloria Smedley.*



Indiana (continued)

Putnam County Bridges



Cornstalk Bridge

Jim Peck, Putnam County Engineer, has been making officials and residents of the county aware that the area bridges are in dire need of repair. Not just the covered bridges, but many others too. He noted that the county has not been actively pursuing federal funding in recent years to help with maintenance and repairs; he plans to change that. Last quarter we reported on the six covered bridges which have been closed for safety reasons or recently repaired. None of the county's covered bridges are presently on the National Register of Historic Places. The Putnam County Commissioners are now working with a nonprofit to get them listed with the hope that it will help to obtain grant money. *WRTV, June 8, 2023. Photo by Gloria Smedley.*

Kentucky

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

Last quarter we reported that it has been six years since this bridge was severely damaged by floodwaters washing away the two steel beams which helped support the span. With repairs to the Grange



City Bridge about to start, a group has formed in Mason County to raise awareness of the issue in Dover. During a recent Mason County Fiscal Court meeting, Ann Porter, with the Mason County Extension Homemakers, Lori Ulrich, chair of the Buffalo Trace Wood Covered Bridge Authority and Maysville-Mason County Tourism Director Katelyn Bailey spoke to the commissioners about the state of the covered bridge. A petition drive is underway along with a Facebook page for sharing news and updates on the progress of the campaign. The Facebook page – <https://www.facebook.com/SaveTheDoverBridge> – also includes a link to the



online petition. They encourage use of #SaveTheDoverBridge on social media posts. They suspect repairs may cost anywhere from \$1 million to \$1.5 million. The single-span Queen truss structure was reportedly built over Lee's Creek around 1835. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on March 26, 1976. *Ledger-Independent, June 17, 2023. Photo Courtesy Arnold Gräton Associates.*

Michigan

Kal Haven Trail or Nichols Bridge, Van Buren County – MI/22-80-c

After nearly 30 years on the Kal-Haven Trail, the Nichols family covered bridge is soon expected to be torn down. The bridge was to be removed sometime after July 10th when crews started resurfacing 15 miles of the trail. Materials from the bridge are expected to be stored locally, allowing for future projects to "celebrate its significance," according to Southwest Trails Specialist Jill Sell. A gathering saying goodbye to the bridge was scheduled for July 9th. The Nichols bridge was once a railroad bridge that was abandoned in the 1970s and later incorporated into the Kal Haven Trail. In 1988, a wooden housing was constructed over the steel railroad trestle by the Michigan Civilian Conservation Corps. Material for the bridge was donated by the Robert Nichols family in memory of Donald F. Nichols. *WWMT-TV, July 6, 2023. Photo provided by Robert Kisielewicz, a board member of the South Haven Visitors Bureau.*



New Hampshire

Jackson or Honeymoon Bridge, Jackson, Carroll County – NH/29-02-01



The bridge was closed from 5 PM to midnight on August 5th for the town’s annual Jackson Covered Bridge Dance. People set up tables and chairs in the street with food tents, fundraisers and live music. The interior of the bridge was available as the dance floor. As in past years, Jon Sarty and the White Mountain Boys got the crowd dancing. The event is free thanks to sponsorship by local businesses. The single-span Paddleford truss bridge was built over the Ellis River in 1876. *Conway Daily Sun, August 7, 2023. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

Cilleyville Bridge, Andover, Merrimack County – NH/29-07-01

The Town of Andover has closed the bridge due to concerns over a failing abutment. NSPCB Vice-President and *Topics* Editor Scott Wagner visited the site on June 25th and shared these photos. Jesse Schust, co-president of the Historical Society and co-chair of the Conservation Commission, noted that funding for repairs is not currently available. The single-span Town lattice truss bridge was built over Pleasant Brook by Prentice Atwood in 1887 at a cost of \$522.63. It was bypassed in 1959 and added to the National Register of Historic Places on March 16, 1989.



New Jersey

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

New Jersey's only covered bridge will be closed this summer for extensive rehabilitation. Work is expected to be completed by early fall. The work is being done by Hahr Construction of North Plainfield at a cost of approximately \$700,000. The project includes removal and replacement of the existing red oak timber stringers and decking. The new timber stringers will be pressure-treated southern yellow pine and the new decking will be white oak. The custom white oak components have been stored and air drying since October 2021. The existing timber curbs and railings will be replaced with new timbers. The bridge will be cleaned and painted, including the structural steel superstructure and timber railings, trusses and siding. A new red cedar hand-split shake roof will replace the existing shake roof. Additional repairs will also include replacing sections of damaged and deteriorated timber siding, repointing of the stone masonry throughout the substructure and other structural steel repairs. The bridge was constructed in 1872 by Charles Ogden Holcombe of Lambertville. *mycentraljersey.com, June 13, 2023. Photo by Alan Hartmann.*



New York

Hyde Hall Bridge, Otsego County – NY/32-39-01

On June 29th, New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Commissioner Mark J.F. Schroeder unveiled the new Mohawk Valley regional license plate, part of a series of new regional license plates, at the Hyde Hall Covered Bridge at Glimmerglass State Park in Cooperstown. The bridge, World Guide number NY/32-39-01, featured on the plate is thought to be the oldest documented covered bridge in North America having been built on the Hyde Hall estate in 1825. “Every region of our state has something unique and interesting about it, and we are happy to celebrate that uniqueness by making these new license plates available for New York drivers,” the Commissioner said. “These also allow drivers to put their own unique touch on their vehicles and show pride for the place they live.” The single-span bridge over Shadow Brook was added to the National Register of Historic Places on December 17, 1998.



Ohio

Spellacy Bridge, Holmes County

We continue to follow the progress on this new covered bridge being built in Ohio. In mid-June the side trusses for the second span of the were hoisted onto the abutments by crane. By the end of June, the roof trusses had been added. Kokosing Construction was selected for the \$9.5 million project on Wally Road about six miles south of Loudonville. The old bridge was removed last September and the goal is to complete the project by mid-September 2023. Progress on the project can be viewed on a live camera at the site – <https://m.twitch.tv/holmescountyengineer>. *Photos by Angie Marotta, General Manager of The Lost Horizons Family Campground.*



Knowlton or Long Bridge, Monroe County – OH/35-56-18



The bridge restoration project is moving forward. In March, county crews harvested more than 100 white oak trees from county-owned property. When we last communicated with Mike Killilea from the Righter Company in early August, he mentioned that the timbers were at the sawmill and were soon to be delivered to the County’s storage area for use in the reconstructed trusses. Construction will begin at the site around the first of October. The project’s estimated completion date is June 2024. *Photo by Terry Miller.*

Ohio (continued)

Brubaker Bridge, Preble County – OH/35-68-06

In the Fall 2022 *Newsletter*, page 13, we reported on the damage incurred when a tractor-trailer attempted to cross the bridge. The county approved a \$472,700 contract with The



Righter Company of Columbus, Ohio. Mike Killilea, Righter's president noted that there will be an onsite meeting in mid-August around our press time to evaluate the project's status. They anticipate delivery of the timbers and beginning the repair work in early October. The truck driver was ticketed and fined for the crash. His insurance company is responsible for the cost of



the repairs. The single-span Childs truss bridge was built over Sam's Run by Everett S. Sherman in 1887. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on June 11, 1975. *Truck Photo Courtesy Preble County Engineer's Office. Information from Mike Killilea WHIO-TV, August 15, 2023. Interior Photo by Jeff Shroyer.*

Hills or Hildreth Bridge, Washington County – OH/35-84-24

On August 10th, Mike Killilea of The Righter Company informed us that truss rehabilitation work is nearing completion. It will likely be completed by the end of the month. The next steps are to move on to the flooring, new roof system, and the siding. Completion is expected in early October. The single-span Howe truss bridge was built over Little Muskingum River in 1878. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on February 8, 1978.



Pennsylvania

Sach's Bridge, Adams County – PA/38-01-01

We received a letter from the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania, Inc. (TBCBSP), noting that their organization offered to paint this historically significant bridge in the beginning of August.



However, before the painting could take place, a number of deteriorated side boards needed to be replaced. Since Adams County did not have funding available for that, they asked for our assistance in the amount of \$5,000. That request was discussed at the June meeting and approved as a reimbursement once the repairs are complete. At the July meeting, the attendees also voted to provide fire retardant which will be applied inside the bridge after the exterior painting is complete. NSPCB Treasurer Gloria Smedley and officers from the TBCBSP attended a meeting of the Adams County



Commissioners on July 26th to inform them of the donations. The siding work was completed at the beginning of August, so NSPCB Treasurer Gloria Smedley presented the check to Larry Steinour, Adams County's Director of Building & Maintenance. The single-span Town lattice truss bridge over Marsh Creek was built by David S. Stoner in 1852.

Pennsylvania (continued)

Griesemer's Mill Bridge, Berks County – PA/38-06-03

A crash late May 29th caused damage to the bridge and its approach. The car crashed into the stone



parapet near the bridge entrance sending a section into the creek and leaving the car teetering above the embankment. County officials closed the bridge for the foreseeable future. Engineers' first assessment determined that additional shoring is not needed to protect it. Officials have yet to estimate the time and cost



involved to repair the damage. The driver has insurance so the county will contact them to cover the cost of repairs. The Burr truss bridge was built over Manatawny Creek in 1868. *Reading Eagle*, May 30, 2023 and *WFMZ*, June 6, 2023. *Photos by Earl Township Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1.*

Snooks Bridge, Bedford County – PA/38-05-23

Jackson's Mill or Barnhart's Bridge, Bedford County – PA/38-05-25

Hewitt Bridge, Bedford County – PA/38-05-26

A Facebook post from P. Joseph Lehman, Inc., Consulting Engineers on July 28th announced their completion of a covered bridge “rehabilitation project in Bedford County that was funded in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC). The two-year project involved three of Bedford County’s historic structures: Snooks Bridge in Alum Bank, Jackson’s Mill Bridge in Breezewood, and Hewitt Bridge near Chaneyville.” It continued noting that “Preservation and maintenance work designed and managed by Lehman Engineers included rock scour installation, replacement/repair of bridge beams and piers, painting, sign installation and removal of debris buildup. It was funded with the support of a \$100,000 Keystone Historic Preservation Construction Grant from the PHMC that the County matched and then covered the remaining costs to complete the project.”

All three bridges are single-span Burr truss designs which were added to the National Register of Historic Places on April 10, 1980. Snooks Bridge over Dunnings Creek was built in 1880. Jackson's Mill Bridge over Brush Creek was built in 1875 or 1889. Hewitt Bridge over Town or Twin Creek was built in 1879.



Snooks Bridge
Photo by Mac McClaren



Jackson’s Mill Bridge
Photo by Connie McLaughlin



Hewitt Bridge
Photo by Margie Gacki

Pennsylvania (continued)

South Perkasio Bridge, Bucks County – PA/38-09-05

On page 23 of the Summer *Newsletter*, we reported that the Borough of Perkasio received funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and matching funds from the Pennsylvania



Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) to restore this bridge which was moved to Lenape Park in 1958 to save it from demolition. The structure, which was already in need of repair, received additional damage from the remnants of Hurricane Ida in September 2021. The Perkasio Historical Society has raised



additional funds and received enough grant money to get the project underway. A request for bids on engineering and design consultation services for the bridge’s rehabilitation was released in August with bids due by September 6th. Companies submitting bids must demonstrate experience working on covered bridges. *Photos courtesy of Scott Bomboy and Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

Rudolph and Arthur Bridge, Chester County – PA/38-15-01

In the Spring *Newsletter*, page 18, we reported that the 1880 covered bridge at this location swept away by floodwaters on September 1, 2021, might be rebuilt as a covered bridge. On August 16th, we received an email from Pennsylvania’s State Historic Preservation Office with additional details on that project. According to that information, “the design will include a new Burr Arch Truss supported timber shed that resembles that of the original bridge. ... A new concealed multi-beam steel girder superstructure supporting a timber plank deck inside of the timber covered bridge will be constructed. The new steel I-beams will not be visible from the inside or outside of the covered bridge as the proposed steel I-beams will not extend below the timber low chords.” While it is nice that they intend to construct a new bridge similar to the historic one, it is unfortunate that it will really be a steel bridge made to look like a timber covered bridge. The photo, from the NSPCB Archives, was taken by Herbert Richter on January 11, 1959.



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

On page 23 of the Summer *Newsletter*, we reported that there was only a single bidder on this project



with a bid considerably higher than the \$3,161,961 estimate. We contacted project manager Ryan Minor of Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. for an update. He informed us that the project has gone out to bid again and this time the results were better than before. At press time, the project award had not been announced, but according to the July 13 letting results, there were four bidders with the lowest



being Chivers Construction Company, Inc. of Fairview, Pennsylvania at \$3,473,689.50. The single-span Town truss bridge was built around 1875. *Photos by Paul Chandler.*

Pennsylvania (continued)

Kauffman's Distillery Bridge, Lancaster County – PA/38-36-32#2

On July 28th, the Northern Lancaster County Regional Police Department issued a press release stating that the single-span Burr truss bridge over Chiques Creek was damaged by a vehicle which left the scene



of the accident. They did not include details of the damage, only that the vehicle was described “as an auto transport vehicle.” Later that day, WGAL reported that some roof braces were damaged and the bridge remained open to traffic. The span was built in 1874 and added to the



National Register of Historic Places on December 11, 1980. *Photos by Ron Kemler.*

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

Our last update on the plans to restore this bridge was on page 24 of the Winter issue where we noted that P. Joseph Lehman, Inc., of Duncansville, Pennsylvania was awarded the contract for designing the repairs. Bryne Heffner-Bair, Project Coordinator for the City's Bureau of Recreation provided us with a timeline for the project:

- June – October 2023 – Design Continues, currently working on the reviews required by PennDOT.
- End of October 2023 – Design Complete
- November 2023 – Construction Management Review
- January 2024 – Construction Bid Advertised
- February 2024 – Construction Bid Opening
- May 2024 – Construction to Begin



Construction will be completed in about 6-12 months. The Burr truss bridge over Little Lehigh Creek was built in 1841. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

Vermont

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

On June 8, troopers from the Vermont State Police Shaftsbury Barracks responded to reports of a crash at the bridge. The truck’s driver, Jeffrey M. Colburn, 49, of W. Coxsackie, New York, is accused of striking the covered bridge twice with his FedEx truck. Colburn is facing criminal charges for leaving the scene of the accident without reporting the damage. He was located on Sunderland Hill Road and cited to appear in Bennington Superior Court on August 7. The Town lattice truss bridge was built over Roaring Branch of the Batten Kill in 1870. *Manchester Journal, June 27, 2023. Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



Vermont (continued)

Sanborn Bridge, Lyndonville, Caledonia County – VT/45-03-05

A full-page report on this project was on page 4 of the Spring 2023 *Newsletter*. On July 17th, Nicole Gratton, regional planner for the Northeastern Vermont Development Association, told the Lyndon Select Board that 70% of the estimated \$1.5 million needed to restore the bridge has been raised so far. It will be 100% funded if three additional grant applications are successful. If all goes according to plan, the restoration project will be 90% grant funded. The town contribution is largely federal funds totaling \$100,000 for the grant match. The project consists of three parts: Repairs to the truss system, rebuilding the abutments, and replacing damaged floor, ceiling and side boards.



The bridge would be raised slightly to better protect it from high water and ice jams. An engineering report from Dubois & King was expected by September 5th. If all goes well, the project will go to bid in fall 2024 with to be completed in early 2025. Work on the adjoining park on the south side of the bridge will likely begin shortly after the restoration. The Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District is in talks to expand the park to the other side of the river. That property owner has expressed preliminary interest in selling the 2.8-acre property through a Flood Resilient Communities Fund buyout. If successful, the property would be transferred to town ownership and placed under a conservation easement. *Caledonian Record, July 19, 2023.*

Scribner Bridge, Johnson, Lamoille County – VT/45-08-09

Bill & Jenn Caswell visited this bridge on June 4th and noticed that many of the sideboards had been removed since their previous visit on April 16th. The local police are aware of the situation. A new parking area has been created for ATV users accessing a nearby trail. The single span bridge was built over the Gihon River around 1919. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on October 1, 1974.



Gifford Bridge, East Randolph, Orange County – VT/45-09-03

Police are investigating vandalism at the bridge which occurred around May 21st. Someone spray



Painted graffiti on both entrances and inside the bridge. The graffiti was promptly painted over. When the Caswell's and Smedley's visited the site on June 5th, one of the portals also showed considerable damage. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on July 30, 1974. *Newport Dispatch, May 22, 2023 and White River Valley Herald, May 25, 2023. Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



Vermont (continued)

Fisher Railroad Bridge, Lamoille County – VT/45-08-16

The single span double Town truss bridge was built over the Lamoille River by the Boston & Maine Railroad in 1908. It carried rail traffic into the 1990s until severe flooding in 1995 and 1997 damaged much of the line such that it was not profitable to repair for rail traffic. In 2002 the State of Vermont let a contract to remove the ties and track to prepare for this line to be converted to the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. The bridge received new siding this spring and new floorboards were added with metal strips representing the former tracks. The 93-mile-long rail trail was completed in late spring 2023 with an official dedication set for July 15, 2023. Unfortunately, the heavy rain in the area in mid-July badly damaged the portion of the rail trail near the bridge. *Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



Washington

Gray's River Bridge, Wahkiakum County – WA/47-35-01#2

This year's 4-H Covered Bridge Dinner will be held on the bridge on October 7, 2023. Tickets for the event went on sale August 1st and were sold out within three days. According to the Wahkiakum Chamber of Commerce, the annual fundraiser helps raise money for 4-H youth. The money is used to help youth in post secondary school, animals clinics, leaderships events like 4-H Teen Conference, Teen Summit, and Know Your Government in Olympia. The single-span Howe truss structure was built in 1989 to replace the historic covered bridge built in 1905. *Photo by Bob Hamilton.*



West Virginia

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

On Friday, June 16th Jon Smith, West Virginia Historic Preservationist, spoke at the bridge about its construction and history as well as its preservation needs. Issues and updates that need to be addressed include rotting timbers, sill replacements, basic structure repairs, a fresh coat of paint and siding. According to Smith, the estimated cost for the restoration is between \$100,000-200,000. The Bridge Festival Committee hosted the second annual festival on June 17th. The Barrackville Covered Bridge Preservation Society is a 501c(3) non-profit. Tax deductible donations can be made out to that organization and mailed to Lion's Club, P.O. Box 429, Barrackville WV 26559. For more information, visit the association's Facebook page –

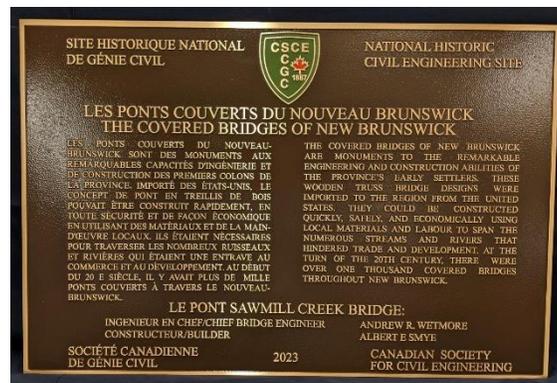


<https://www.facebook.com/SaveTheBarrackvilleBridgeAgain> or email them at saveourbridge@aol.com. *Times West Virginian, June 17, 2023. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

Canada – New Brunswick

Sawmill Creek Bridge, Albert County – NB/55-01-20

The Canadian Society for Civil Engineering held their annual conference in Moncton on May 24-27. Their National Historic Sites Committee chose the covered bridges of New Brunswick as civil engineering works worthy of National Historic Significance. A plaque commemorating that was unveiled and will be placed at the Sawmill Creek Bridge at a later date. The 104-foot-long Howe truss structure was completed in May of 1908. *Photo by Dawne McLean, President, Albert County Historical Society*



William Mitton Bridge, Albert County – NB/55-01-22

Chosen from a list of nominated places, Association Heritage New Brunswick has included the William Mitton Covered Bridge as one of the five places in New Brunswick “that are under threat of demolition, neglect, or inappropriate redevelopment. The goal of the list is to increase the chances of conserving these sites for future generations.” The bridge started out in nearby Kent County. Local lore used to refer to it as the “traveling bridge,” claiming that it floated down the river. According to William Mitton’s grandson, also named William Mitton, the real story is less exciting. Farmer William Mitton purchased the bridge and had it dismantled and moved to its present site in 1942. Its original location is not yet known, but may have been near Sainte-Marie-de-Kent. By 1981 it was no longer safe for farm truck traffic, so a culvert was built upstream to bypass the covered bridge. It has been mostly uncared for since then.



In 2021, the Covered Bridges Conservation Association of New Brunswick prepared a proposal for the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DTI) to transfer ownership of the structure to the Town of Riverview and then work with DTI on the long overdue repairs. It was suggested that the town could transform the area into a park to welcome visitors into the town. At the time, the DTI estimated it would cost \$350,000 to fix it. The Town of Riverview was not interested in this idea. Many years of spring floods have caused the abutments on both ends to start caving in. Heavy snow this past winter caused the upper chord to fail on one side resulting in a pronounced sag leaving it in danger of collapsing. When CBC requested an interview with someone at DTI about its current condition, they received a statement noting that its future is “yet to be determined, but addressing aging infrastructure in a responsible and sustainable fashion is a top priority.” *Information from Ray Boucher supplemented by a CBC article published on July 12, 2023. Photos by Ray Boucher.*



Patrick Owens or Rusagonis River #2 Bridge, Sunbury County – NB/55-12-05

In the Spring issue, page 21, we noted that the bridge was to receive new siding and cedar shingles during the winter. That project actually started in mid-July and is expected to be completed around October 4th. The two-span bridge was built over the Rusagonis River in 1909. *Photo by Tony Dowling.*



New Brunswick (continued)

Coverdale River #9 or Pond Parkins Bridge, Albert County – NB/55-01-U08

New Brunswick 511 shows that the Coverdale River #9 Bridge, an uncovered Howe truss bridge on Route 895 (near Sugarbush Rd.), Parkindale, Albert County is closed as of June 12, 2023. Seeing that the uncovered wood truss bridge in Temperance Vale is presently being replaced, we are concerned that Coverdale River #9 might be meeting the same fate. A photo posted on Facebook on July 30th showed the bridge barricaded and closed to all traffic. DTI has been contacted for an update on the status of the bridge. The single-span structure over the Coverdale River was built in 1939. *October 2018 photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



Flume Ridge or Magaguadavic River #7 Bridge, Charlotte County – NB/55-03-03

This single-span bridge over the Magaguadavic River has an unusual truss for in a province of mostly Howe trusses. It is described as a Modified Pratt & Queen built in 1905. Patrick Toth, Vice President of the Covered Bridges Conservation Association of New Brunswick shared these photos showing a new roof and siding on the bridge.



Cameron's Mill or Kouchibouguais River #5 Bridge, Kent County – NB/55-05-12

A district bridge crew discovered a damaged floor beam and closed the bridge until the beam can be repaired or replaced. It is anticipated that the work will be completed, and the bridge re-opened to traffic late in the summer. The single-span structure over the Kouchibouguais River was built in 1950. *Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



New Brunswick (continued)

Marven or Belleisle Creek #2 Bridge, Kings County – NB/55-06-12

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DTI) sent out a press release announcing that



the bridge on Swamp Rd will be fully closed starting July 19th. This closure is expected to be in place for approximately 15 weeks, until the end of October, and is necessary to carry out repairs to the structure. DTI has been contacted for details of the work but had not responded by press time. The single-span bridge over



Belleisle Creek (Pascobac Creek) was built in 1903. *Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

Ontario

West Montrose or Kissing Bridge, Waterloo County – ON/59-50-01

During the week of June 12th, Moses Structural Engineers were to perform a detailed inspection of the wooden truss from underneath the bridge. They planned to place a platform in the river to work from. This detailed inspection will provide information to help evaluate the next steps for the project. On August 1st, we were notified that the bridge was to be closed from August 8th until the 22nd for geotechnical drilling work. Information obtained from this drilling will help determine the rehabilitation needs at the bridge pier and abutments. For more information on this project, visit the Region's website at <https://www.engagewr.ca/west-montrose>. *Photo by Bob Hamilton.*



Québec

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

Pont Alphonse-Normandin, Abitibi-Témiscamingue Region – QC/61-01-05

On June 12th, Construction Audet & Knight began a major restoration of this bridge in Saint-Dominique-du-Rosaire in northwestern Québec. An inspection in 2016 revealed a general deformation of the bridge and damage to some truss elements. By July 27th, the structure had been dismantled and moved off site



for work on the trusses. The abutments will be raised because high water frequently floods its approaches. It will also receive a new roof and siding. The road only serves a single residence, Pierre and France Galarneau who have lived there since 1974. The Ministère des Transports du Québec (MTQ), is devoting nearly \$6 million to the project which the municipality has been requesting for about fifteen years. The 8-ton weight restriction means that fire trucks and snowplows are not allowed to cross. The work is scheduled to be completed in December. Mayor

Christian Legault stated that descriptive panels on the history of the bridges in the area will be added after the project's completion, hopefully, next Spring. The single-span Québec-style Town truss bridge was built over Rivière Davy in 1950. *Radio-Canada, June 28, 2023 & July 27, 2023. Photo by Gérald Arbour.*

Québec (continued)

Pont Perrault, Notre-Dame-des-Pins, Appalaches Region – QC/61-06-01

«C'est enfin fait!» ("It's finally done!") said Notre-Dame-des-Pins Mayor Alain Veilleux at the June 15th ceremony marking the complete reopening of Québec's longest covered bridge. Built in 1927, the structure over Rivière Chaudière is 495 feet long. It had been closed for over four years. After the challenges of raising the necessary funding, the \$4.4 million project began a year ago by Cité Construction of Thetford Mines. It was open to snowmobilers and ATV riders during the latter part of the winter and can now be used by pedestrians, runners, cyclists and heritage enthusiasts. *En Beauce, June 15, 2023. Photo by Gérald Arbour.*



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

In the Fall 2021 issue, page 26, we noted that a small park had been constructed next to the bridge with a parking area, benches, picnic tables and flowers. Speed bumps were also added in the roadway approaching the bridge. Gérald Arbour visited the site again in early July and discovered that a gazebo has been added to the park. Damage to one of the bridge's headache bars indicates that it is doing its job of protecting the bridge. Thanks to Gérald for the photos and update.



Pont de Saint-Placide-de-Charlevoix, Charlevoix Region – QC/61-14-03

We have been reporting on the damage caused by excessive snow on the roof almost a year ago and the temporary repairs performed last October. Gérald Arbour visited the site on June 7th and learned that the temporary roof had been removed and work was starting on the new one. The work was expected to be completed by the end of June. The press release from the Québec Ministère des Transports (MTQ) stated that traffic will be maintained on the bridge at all times during the work, however, they requested that drivers avoid the area as much as possible. The single-span Québec-style Town lattice truss structure was built over Rivière Bras du Nord-Ouest in 1926 by Joseph Normandeau at a cost of \$2,076.21. *Le Charlevoisien, May 29, 2023. Photos by Gérald Arbour.*



Québec (continued)

Pont McVetty-McKenzie, Cantons de l'Est – QC/61-18-08

The two-span Québec-style Town truss bridge was built over Rivière au Saumon in 1893 and is presently in need of significant repairs. The bridge is a major tourist attraction for the Municipality of Lingwick. Due to its current condition, it is restricted to no more than 50 visitors at a time. The mayor of Lingwick, Robert Gladu, is increasing his efforts to see the bridge repaired. He recently appealed to François Jacques, the area's representative in the National Assembly of Québec, for help. The work is estimated at between \$800,000 and \$1 million. The municipality of about 460 people is not financially able to tackle this job on their own. *Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

« Il faut se battre pour sauver ce pont! »
 "We must fight to save this bridge!"
 Robert Gladu, Mayor of Lingwick



Pont de Milby, Cantons de l'Est – QC/61-67-03

A post on Pascal Conner's *Blogue sur les ponts couverts* on August 7th noted that the bridge was closed. It is not known why or for how long. The single-span Québec-style Town truss bridge was built over Rivière Moe in 1873. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

Pont Prud'homme, Laurentides Region – QC/61-72-01

On May 25th, 75 people gathered at the bridge to mark the four years since it was closed and protest the delays in its repairs. The SOS Pont Prud'homme committee, the Société du Patrimoine SOPABIC (the local heritage and historical society), officials from neighboring communities and representatives from many local businesses were in attendance. Attendees signed a petition asking that the bridge be repaired as soon as possible. It was closed in 2019 over concerns about damage caused by repeated flooding of the area. The Ministry of Transport stabilized it in December 2021 and the restoration was supposed to take place this summer. That work has been postponed. *Northern Info, June 2, 2023. Photo by Jean-Marie-Savard.*



New Brunswick’s Historic Unhoused Wood Truss Bridges Are Becoming Extinct

Another of New Brunswick’s historic unhoused wood truss bridges has now been lost. The McElwain Bridge (NB/55-15-U03) in York County was closed to traffic on December 9, 2021. At the time, we contacted the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DTI) to inquire about its future. The response was that its fate was not known. This was not our first contact with New Brunswick’s government officials expressing concerns over the loss of the uncovered truss bridges. After visiting the province in July and October 2018 and finding that at least 1/3 of the uncovered bridges known to have existed in 2012 were gone, Bill Caswell sent letters to the Premier and Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Nearby residents started a petition and letter writing campaign to draw attention to the situation. Unfortunately, we received word in early July that the bridge had been removed and replaced by a one-lane metal Bailey bridge.

Built over Nackawic Stream at Temperance Vale on Cross Road between routes 595 and 605 in 1955, the structure had an interesting design which was described as a “strutted Burr truss.” Joseph Conwill discussed these structures in a Winter 2008 *Topics* article:

New Brunswick's "strutted Burr truss" uses a set of straight timbers near the ends, sometimes known as arch braces, instead of a true arch. Here indeed we go beyond pure Burr territory. The joint between arch brace and top chord varies from bridge to bridge. Strutted Burr trusses were built in both covered and noncovered varieties. The non-covered kind generally passes the centerpost and its braces above the top chord, where it can be used for sway bracing over the traveled roadway. Nowhere else in North America were Burr trusses built non-covered (though an example was known from New Zealand), because the joints are impossible to protect from the weather without roof and sides. New Brunswick's noncovered examples were treated chemically, but such treatments were not widely available before the 1880s.

With the McElwain Bridge gone, we are only aware of a single example of an uncovered “strutted Burr truss” bridge which might still be standing. That is the Tabusintac River #2 Bridge (NB/55-08-U02) built in 1958 between the communities of Cains Point and Price Settlement in Northumberland County in the northeastern corner of the province. This photo by Joseph Conwill was taken in 1998. Photos of the McElwain Bridge are by Bill & Jenn Caswell.

