



The Newsletter

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

Spring 2016

The Old Covered Bridge

Perley A. Gilmore

The old bridge stands in sad array,
Mute relic of a passing day,
A loved memento to the past
And long in memory to last.
It stands majestic and alone
Midst rarer setting than a throne,
The hills beyond, the mountains grand
The murmuring stream its girders spanned,
Or else perchance the River wide
Gracing the changing countryside.

No classic pillars trussed thy form,
No graceful arch withstood the storm,
No polished plinth entranced the eye
Of admiring thousands passing by.
But thy rude parts of timbers made
From out the forest's cooling shade
Have weathered heat and wintry blast,
And staunch they stand, and still to last.
A treasure charm thou dost lend –
Thy loss the loss of a dear old friend.

(From the NSPCB Archives, Chester H. Thomas Collection, #140, 1956)

In this issue:

Editor's Comments.....	2	Final Crossings.....	5
President's Message.....	3	World Guide Updates.....	5
Scholarship Announcement.....	3	Covered Bridge Happenings.....	6-19
Upcoming Meetings & Events.....	4	The Society Bookstore.....	20
New Members.....	5		

The **Newsletter** is published quarterly. It includes current bridge news and information about upcoming events.

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Editor's Comments ...

Spring. That marvelous time of the year when everything begins to come alive again. It is also the time for us to begin thinking about visiting our covered bridges throughout the world. I'm not going to dwell on the problems that face these structures as I'm quite sure everyone knows how much they need our commitment for their survival and that we are indeed fortunate to have these wonderful bridges remain in existence for us to enjoy.

I suggest instead we all focus on the marvels of their crafted and varied trusses and portals, the beauty of their often unique settings, the quiet peace these aging bridges bring to us all as we walk through them or as we sit nearby just to look at them. It is a time to reflect on the thoughts, successes, and failures too, of those early designers and builders who created them, never imagining their seemingly timeless existence would today become so treasured by us. It is a time to think back to all those who might have sought shelter from a summer's shower or winds of a winter's snowstorm, who may have carved their feelings of affection into a weathered beam or sideboard, or who stole quiet kisses within their shadows; a time to envision all those who have crossed these wooden memorials before us whether on foot or horseback, in wagons or buggies, in automobiles or yes, in trains too. I personally can reminisce about being invited to share a ride through one of the few remaining covered railroad bridges some years ago in the cab of a decade's-old steam-powered logging engine - feeling the heat from the boiler, inhaling the smell of wood from the engine's stack and watching smoke fill the century-old bridge's interior only to see it escape through the ridge-vents in the roof above - a wonderfully priceless memory.

Enjoy the year, everyone, and may your bridge experiences create priceless memories for you, too!

Happy Bridging!!

Summer 2016 Newsletter Deadline

The next Newsletter is scheduled to be mailed in June. Therefore, anyone wishing to submit articles should send them to the Editor by **May 15, 2016**. **Please note:** it is requested that your information be typed or printed on plain white paper, including proper credit information (newspaper, magazine, or web site, etc.), and sent via U. S. Mail to: Rob Mitchell, NSPCB Newsletter Editor, P. O. Box 375, Marshfield, MA 02050. Thanks!
Please, remember that we always appreciate any news or comments sent in even if we can't ultimately use it.

President's Message ...

As of this writing, we are still in need of a new treasurer. If you have an accounting or business background and are interested in helping manage our finances, please let us know. For more details on the position, contact Michelle at tmandrews@metrocast.net. Although we would enjoy seeing the new treasurer at meetings if he/she lives near them, that is not a requirement. As long as reports can be emailed to me prior to a meeting, it doesn't matter where the treasurer lives.

Planning for the fall tour in Kentucky and nearby Ohio is well underway. I hope many of you will be able to attend. After visiting the area in mid-January, I am even more excited about this event. We had a very successful trip to Indiana last year and hope this event works out as well. We may have the Indiana Covered Bridge Society joining us for their fall tour. Those of you who participated in the joint ICBS/NSPCB tour last September know that they are a great bunch of people and we are excited at the possibility of them joining us again.

I am grateful that there are many people in Kentucky eager to help with the arrangements. However, I am especially thankful for Ginny Reeves. Without her enthusiasm, planning this event would be much more challenging.

In recent issues, you haven't heard much about our project to reconstruct the wooden pony truss bridge which once stood in Gorham, New Hampshire. That is because there hasn't been anything to report except delays. Unfortunately, we did not foresee the challenge we were to experience obtaining approval to construct this project. The people of the town of Gorham have been wonderful and always eager to help. Regrettably, the burden of trying to make this project work within the restrictions imposed by the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad has become an unsurmountable hurdle. To continue forward would require thousands of dollars more than is available from the grant we received for this project. As I write this, there are two alternatives being evaluated. All this must be settled soon to meet the deadlines we agreed to when accepting the federal grant.

We have some good news to report from Alabama. You may recall me reporting in a recent issue that, at the request of local residents, the Blount County Commissioners agreed to install video surveillance in their three covered bridges to discourage vandalism. Well, I am happy to report that they have been successful. According to Commission Chair Chris Green, video surveillance led to a couple arrests shortly after its installation. That was followed by a dramatic drop in incidents of vandalism. The Commission is very pleased with the results. While it is unfortunate that bridge owners must go to this expense to protect their historic structures, I hope that the positive results in Alabama encourage others to follow.

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.

In closing, I wish you all safe travels. As you travel to visit our bridges, please share photos with us. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings in 2016.

Bill Caswell

David W. Wright Scholarship

The Society has received a very generous \$3,000 donation from the William Bradley Willard Foundation. The Foundation requested that the donation be used towards a scholarship in memory of our late president, David W. Wright. Details of the scholarship have been forwarded to colleges and universities with historic preservation programs. Applications are also available on the NSPCB website. The deadline for applications is April 15, 2016.

Upcoming NSPCB Meetings & Events ...

All meetings begin at **1:00 pm** unless otherwise noted.

Sunday, March 13 - Masonic Lodge, 17 Church St., Warner, NH.

Sunday, April 24 – Hosted by Carmela, Bob & KC at 350 Revere Beach Blvd, Revere, MA

Sunday, June 26 - Contoocook Depot, Contoocook, NH. Note that this meeting has been moved to the nearby railroad depot since there may be work on the bridge underway this summer.

Sunday, July 24 - TBD.

Sunday, August 28 - Annual picnic at Beaver Meadow Village at the end of Waumbec St., Concord, NH. The cookout is at noon and the meeting at 1 pm.

Friday-Sunday September 30, Oct. 1 & 2 Tour of Kentucky and nearby Ohio bridges. Based at Blue Licks Battlefield State Park. See insert for more details.

SATURDAY, October 22 - NSPCB Annual Meeting and Dinner. O'Connor's Restaurant, 1160 W. Boyleston St., Worcester, MA. Dinner at noon, meeting at 1:00.

Other Upcoming Covered Bridge Meetings & Events ...

Sunday, April 3, 2016 - 2:00 pm Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania Monthly Meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Manheim, PA. Program: To be announced

Sunday, April 10, 2016 The New York State Covered Bridge Society will be celebrating their 50th anniversary at the Spaghetti Warehouse in Syracuse, NY.

Saturday, May 7, 2016 - 11 am to 3 pm Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania 57th Anniversary Dinner, Dutch-Way Farm Market Restaurant, Gap, PA.

Tuesday-Thursday, May 17-19, 2016 – Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania Annual Safari in New Hampshire and Vermont

Sunday, June 5, 2016 - 11:00 am Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania Monthly Meeting at Kreidersville Covered Bridge, Northampton County, PA, during the Kreidersville Covered Bridge Festival.

Sunday, June 12, 2016 12 noon to 5 pm. Bogert's Bridge 175th Anniversary Celebration at the bridge adjacent to Oxford Drive, Allentown, PA. For more details, see the article in the "Bridge Happenings" section.

Sunday, July 3, 2016 – 12:00 noon. Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania Annual Picnic at the Historic Poole Forge and Covered Bridge Park

Sunday, July 17, 2016 – 12:00 noon. Ohio Historic Bridge Association, Summer Picnic at the Salt Creek Covered Bridge in Muskingum Co.

Sunday, July 17, 2016 – 2:00 pm. Hyde Hall Celebration, Glimmerglass State Park, NY. See details in article on next page.

Hyde Hall Covered Bridge Celebration -

Save the Date! ...

By: Trish Kane

As many of you know, a lot has happened at the Hyde Hall Covered Bridge (WG #32-39-01) in the last four years and a celebration is being planned for Sunday, July 17, 2016 at 2:00 pm to commemorate these exciting changes. This event will take place right at the bridge, a 53 foot, single span with a Burr Arch Truss and built in 1825, and is being sponsored by NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Friends of Glimmerglass, Hyde Hall and the New York State Covered Bridge Society. During the event, we will be unveiling the beautiful new Interpretive Sign. Attendees will also have an opportunity to tour the historic Hyde Hall Mansion.

Watch your e-mail for more information as plans become finalized. Meanwhile, if you have any questions or would like to assist, please don't hesitate to contact Trish Kane at: 607-674-9656 or via e-mail: bobtrish68@fronteirnet.net.

Welcome New Members ...

Ken Barnes, Glen Iris, Victoria, Australia
Sudarshan Krishnan, Urbana, IL
Bob Wessells, Chelmsford, MA

Michael Rudnick, Reisterstown, MD
Doug Turner, Midlothian, VA
William & Janis Maupin, Grafton, IL

Final Crossings ...



Lloyd W. Fraser of North York, Ontario, passed away on January 13, 2016 in his 84th year. He was born in Sudbury, Ontario, received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Toronto and a Master of Science in Education from Northern Illinois University. Lloyd worked briefly for the Ministry of Mines and Resources before starting a long career with the North York (Ontario) Board of Education. When he retired, Lloyd was Coordinator of Outdoor Education. He sang in the choir at Willowdale Presbyterian Church for 54 years followed by another 9 years in the choir at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Lloyd had been an NSPCB member for over 20 years. He loved travelling to visit and photograph covered bridges. He is survived by his wife of 56 years Ruth.

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 and click on the World Guide link.

Page 34 correct GPS coordinates of Oldtown Bridge in Greenup County, KY

17-45-02#2 Oldtown Frazer Branch, Little Sandy Creek Oldtown
2 190' 1999 Warren or Multiple King

8.2 miles south-southeast of jct US23 on KY7, 0.1 miles left on Tygart's Creek Rd. (KY3112). South-southeast of South Shore. Rebuilt 2004. (NR) **N38° 25.89' W082° 53.71'**

Page 74 add new Blanchard River Bridge in Hancock County, Ohio

35-32-21 Marion Blanchard River Blanchard River 1 125' 2009 Pratt
5 miles east of Findlay on OH 568, then just right on TR 241. N41° 02.10' W83° 33.85'

Covered Bridge Happenings ...

Alabama :

Blount County Success Story ...

We previously mentioned (President's Message) that the County Commissioners in Blount County Alabama decided to install security cameras in their three historic covered bridges to help curb a problem with vandalism. We are happy to report that the results of that action have been very positive. After a couple arrests, vandalism at the bridges has nearly ceased. We hope that the success of this decision will provide an example to encourage other bridge owners to consider similar actions to protect their historic structures.

California :

How Would You Like This? ...

The thought of the term 'covered bridges' invokes a particular image in the mind as being old, worn or scarred by time; whether it be a romantic shelter, a pedestrian bridge, a highway bridge or a railroad bridge. But did you ever think of a covered bridge ... as a house? Well such a house exists in Nevada City, California and shows this particular home's interior to be pleasantly light and welcoming while retaining the wooden beam framing found in the century-old bridge designs modeled in its construction. The outside too offers numerous amenities. The home has been featured in Good Housekeeping magazine and on HGTV. Just thought this might be of interest. The home can be rented if you wish to stay there. Additional photos can be found on various home rental websites.



(From: Lauren Pilo article, May 2015, [goodhousekeeping .com](http://goodhousekeeping.com))

Bayside Bridge To Begin Scope of Repairs ...



Humboldt County Board of Supervisors was scheduled to meet in December to outline the work needed to repair the Brookwood Covered Bridge (WG #05-12-02) a 66 foot, single span Howe Truss structure built in 1969 to span the Jacoby Creek. The scope of work is to include verification of the bridge's actual condition, roof and paint inspections and fumigation of the bridge.

(From: Mike Black article December 2015, KAEFTV,
Photo from *Save the Brookwood Covered Bridge* Facebook Page)

Cost Increase Doesn't Stop Bridgeport Bridge Repair Project ...

Despite revised estimates that have increased the cost for the renovation of the historic Bridgeport Covered Bridge (WG #05-29-01) from \$1.3 million to \$3.9 million, the Save Our Bridge Committee remains committed to see the project through to completion. Built in 1862, this 233 foot, single span is North America's longest single span covered bridge. Engineering and architectural plans are in the final stages of preparation. This should ensure that the bridge will be able to withstand future flooding and storms hopefully for at least another 150 years. Much of the increased \$2.6 million is a direct result of increased construction costs and the large contingency fund required to address "unforeseen issues with a very old structure over a large river." \$1.3 million has already been funded with the support of the Governor and the Legislature, however, it may be another 24 months to obtain compliance with California Environmental Quality Act, National Environmental Policy Act, California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, the Army Corp. of Engineers and other agencies, as well as raising the \$2.6 million, before any construction can actually begin.



(From: SYRPA Publicity and the Union.com website January 2016
Photo contributed by John Field, Publicity Chair of the South Yuba River Park Association)

Connecticut :

New Roof for Historic Bridge ...



November was to see the closure of the historic Bull's Covered Bridge (WG #07-03-01) to allow for the replacement of its roof last replaced in 1994. The 109 foot, single span structure was built over the Housatonic River in 1842. The bridge incorporates an unusual Town Lattice / Queenpost / Kingpost Truss combination. The nearby West Cornwall bridge has a similar truss.

A composite roofing material known as Enviroshakes and approved by the Connecticut Historical Preservation Office was used. The product looks much like cedar and includes 95% recycled material. According to First Selectman Bruce Adams, while the site has historical significance there isn't much remaining of the original structure. The bridge is itself a public attraction but also provides access to the Appalachian Trail. In addition to the roof, the steel supports will be repainted as well. Work was expected to be complete by mid-December.

(From: Susan Tuz article December 2015, Hearst Communications, Photo by Bill Caswell)

Illinois :

Lake-of-the-Woods Bridge Celebrates 50 years ...

August 2015 marked the 50th anniversary of the Lake-of-the-Woods bridge (WG #13-10-A) in Mahomet, Illinois where a new plaque commemorating the bridge's inauguration and history was celebrated. The bridge was designed in 1964 by Professor Dr. German Gurfinkel (right) of the University of Illinois, who spoke about it and answered questions at the ceremony. The bridge is a single 145 foot Pratt Truss span across the Sangamon River.



(From: Sudarshan Krishnan with photos by J. W. Phillips, University of Illinois)

Indiana :

Bad Wood Delays Restoration Work ...

Closed to traffic since 1980, the Shieldstown Covered Bridge (WG #14-36-02), a 331 foot, 2-span Burr Arch Truss structure built in 1876, has had its \$1 million preservation project delayed for possibly a year because the wood obtained by the contractor to be used for repairing the 19th century bridge was of inferior quality.

(December 2015 article, AP, WTHR TV-13 News
Photo by Bill Caswell, September 27, 2015)



Portion of White River Bridge Might Move To Jackson Co. Fairgrounds

Part of the Bell Ford Covered Bridge (WG #14-36-03) which once spanned the East Fork White River in Jackson County might be visible to the public in the near future. The Seymour Tribune reports that County Highway Superintendent Warren Martin recently talked to the Jackson County Commissioners about restoring a 160-foot section of the bridge and placing it at the fairgrounds east of Brownstown. This postcard shows the bridge at its original location. Bell Ford's western span was blown down during a storm in February 1999 and the pieces were salvaged from the river. The remaining span collapsed on January 2, 2006.



(WBIW, February 25, 2016, Postcard from NSPCB Archives)

Kentucky:

Grange City Bridge Continues to be Threatened

The northern abutment of the covered bridge at Grange City (WG #17-35-05) continues to be undermined. The Buffalo Trace Covered Wooden Bridge Authority, a committee appointed to oversee the covered bridges in the area, has been aware of the problem and is seeking funding for repairs. If you are familiar with the bridge and concerned for its future, please send a note to that effect to: Buffalo Trace Area Development District, Attn: Amy Kennedy, PO Box 460, Maysville, KY 41056. Please be courteous and respectful in any correspondence you write.

(Bill & Jenn Caswell Photo, January 11, 2016)



Robertson County Officials Decide to Permanently Close Bridge ...

In 2008 the Johnson Creek Covered Bridge (WG #17-101-01) underwent a restoration and was to be closed to vehicular traffic for safety reasons. Barriers had been placed at the entrances to the bridge but were later removed. In July 2015, a state bridge inspector found the bridge still in use and has had steel bollards installed to prevent future motorized vehicle use. The Johnson Creek Covered Bridge was built circa 1874 by Jacob Bower. It is 110 feet long, has 2-spans across the Johnson Creek and uses a Smith Type IV Truss. On the National Register, the bridge was bypassed and closed in 1966. Ownership of several covered bridges, including Johnson Creek, is in the process of being transferred to the Kentucky Department of Parks and are considered to be historic properties intended for pedestrian and special event use only.

(From: Marla Toncray article December 2015, The Ledger Independent
Bill & Jenn Caswell Photo, January 11, 2016)



Beech Fork to be Restored

The Beech Fork Bridge (WG #17-115-01) in Washington County, KY, will be restored during 2016. The two-span Burr arch bridge will be needing a significant amount of work. The contract for the design-build project has been awarded to Arnold M. Graton Associates. Work will begin in the spring and is expected to be completed in late 2017.



(Bill & Jenn Caswell Photo)

Maine :

Stabilization Work Underway in Windham ...

Babb's Covered Bridge (WG #19-03-01#2) is a 79 foot, single span, Queenpost Truss bridge built in 1976 after the original 1864 structure was destroyed by arson in 1973. One of only nine covered bridges remaining in Maine, it has been the victim of vandalism, hit-and-run structural damage and most recently required abutment stabilization of the granite blocks supporting the Windham side of the bridge. Ideally, the bridge needed to be lifted off the abutments to restack the stone at a cost of "hundreds of thousands of dollars" which the Maine Department of Transportation does not have. Instead, a cement mixture grout has been pumped into the stonework which should make sure it will stay intact for many years to come. Additional planned repairs include patching the holes in the roof created by vandals. Linda Griffin, President of the Windham Historical Society, said that reroofing with cedar shingles is desirable but it's vandalized all the time. "People have been doing this for years, and it's too bad that they don't have more respect."



(From: Kayla Collins article December 2015, Keep Me Current website and Guy Labrecque Bill & Jenn Caswell Photo, July 13, 2015)

Maryland:

Jericho Update

Structural repairs to the Jericho Covered Bridge (WG #20-03-02 / 20-12-01) are complete and the bridge is back on its abutments. After the truss work was completed by Tim Andrews and his team at Barns and Bridges of New England, contractor Kinsley Construction added new siding and roofing to protect it from the elements. Security cameras have been added as well as "head-ache" bars to reduce the danger of oversized vehicles entering the bridge. As of this writing (Feb. 29) the bridge is still not open. If the weather cooperates, the work could be complete and the road reopened by the time you read this. The bridge is being painted red to match the historic buildings in the vicinity.

(Photos by Michael Rudnick, February 2016)



New Brunswick:

Nelson Hollow Bridge

In the previous issue, we mentioned a note of concern we received regarding the Nelson Hollow Bridge (WG #55-08-08). After contacting Marilyn Price, Doaktown Village Clerk/Administrator, we learned that the bridge is maintained by the New Brunswick Department of Transportation and Infrastructure. Over the years, the DOT and Central New Brunswick Historical Society “have invested a lot of time, money, and heart and soul in restoration and repairs to the Bridge, only to have reoccurrences of vandalism by those determined to destroy it.” NSPCB will work with them to see what we can do to help and we encourage you to do the same. If you are familiar with the bridge and wish to encourage future maintenance, please contact Jake Stewart, MLA for Southwest Miramichi at: Old Education Building, East Block, P. O. Box 6000, Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1 or Jake.Stewart@gnb.ca. Please be courteous and respectful in any correspondence you write.



(Bill & Jenn Caswell Photo, July 2012)

New Hampshire:

Wentworth Village Common Covered Bridge Update

Originally located at the Wayfarer Inn in Bedford, New Hampshire, the Town of Wentworth purchased the 106-foot-long Goffe’s Mill Covered Bridge to serve as a pedestrian and light recreational vehicle bridge at the Town’s Village Common crossing the Baker River. DuBois & King/3G Construction is the Design/Build team for this project. The bridge replaces a circa 1909 Pratt steel truss bridge, which had fallen into disrepair. Specific improvements for this project include adapting and rehabilitating the existing concrete abutments, strengthening the trusses to satisfy new code requirements, a new standing seam metal roof, and repairs/replacements to deteriorated timber members. Relocating the rehabilitated timber superstructure onto the existing abutments is scheduled for fall 2016. The left photo from Dick Roy’s Collection shows the bridge at its original location at the former Wayfarer Inn in 1963.



(Left Photo Richard E. Roy Collection , News & Right Photo Provided by Robert Durfee, Dubois & King)

School Bus Damages Cornish Bridge

Cornish police say a school bus carrying a girls' basketball team struck and damaged the Dingleton Covered Bridge (WG #29-10-02) on Saturday, February 20. The bus driver was lost and tried to turn around. The bridge, posted at 6 tons and 7'-3" clearance, was struck on both ends by the bus, which has a 10'-4" clearance requirement and a curb weight of up to 15 tons. Police are investigating a misdemeanor charge of conduct after an accident and two violations.

(WMUR, February 25, 2016. Photo Courtesy Cornish Police Department)



New Hampshire:

Whittier Repairs Complete

In February 2016 the design/build team of DuBois & King / 3G Construction completed the extensive rehabilitation project of the Whittier Covered Bridge (WG #29-02-08). The bridge had been sitting on dry land for years waiting for the repairs to commence. The one-lane bridge is a single span structure some 133 feet long built circa 1870 that included an unusual Paddleford Truss not generally found in northern New England bridges. It was eventually closed in 1989. During the project, the roof's snow load capacity was increased and the bridge's load carrying capacity was increased to six tons; deteriorated chord and diagonal truss members, as well as stringers, floor beams and lower lateral bracing members were either repaired or replaced. Wind resistance capacity for all lateral bracing was also increased.



(News & Photo Provided by Robert Durfee, Dubois & King)

Ohio:

North Pole Road Bridge to be Bypassed

A new bridge is planned to span Eagle Creek, on North Pole Road in Brown County to bypass the historic covered bridge (WG #35-08-23). Public comments on the project are being sought through ODOT District 9 Planning and Engineering Department. The project will require approximately 1.57 acres of permanent right of way, located along the stream and pasture fields, but, no homes or businesses will be removed for the project.

The new bridge will be a three-span steel structure parallel to the covered bridge, on its west side. The project is expected to be awarded in the fall of 2017, and a road closure may be necessary in order to complete construction. The March 4 deadline for comments will pass before you receive this. However, if you have comments on the project, please send them to Greg Manson, ODOT District 9 Environmental Supervisor, P.O. Box 467; 650 Eastern Avenue, Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

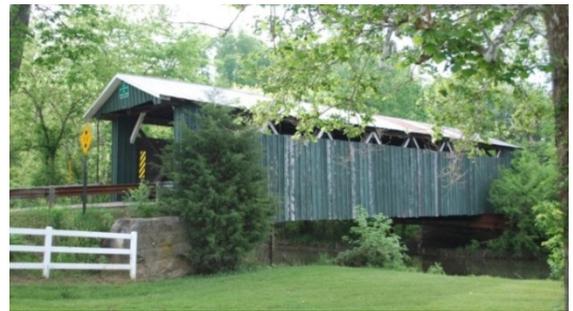


A complete description, photos, maps and plans sheets, can be seen at www.dot.state.oh.us/districts/D09/Pages/Public-Involvement-Process.aspx. On the list of projects, select *BRO-CR13 Bridge Replacement*, Project number 82882

(Ledger Independent article, February 24, 2016. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell, January 10, 2015)

Greene County to Restore 1883 Covered Bridge in 2016 ...

As part of the County's road and bridge projects for 2016, almost \$140,000 (of \$452,250 allocated for bridges) has been committed to the restoration of the Ballard Road Covered Bridge (WG #35-29-18). This is an 80 foot, single span, Howe Truss structure built in 1883 across the North Branch, Caesar Creek. The balance of the \$700,000 needed for the project will come from the federal government. Specifics of the restoration project were not available at press time. Various county officials said that the painting and basic repairs being made to these bridges extend their life, making them last rather than just letting them go. The project is planned to go to bid this Spring.



(From: Sharahin Boykin article Jan. 2016, Dayton Daily News, Photo by Jim Smedley)

Ohio:

Scioto County Covered Bridge Vandalized ...

Vandals spray painted an 8-ball on the side wall, as well as other graffiti on the wing wall and one of the abutments, of the Otway Covered Bridge (WG #35-73-15) a 127 foot, single span bridge across Scioto Brush Creek built in 1874. The bridge had only recently undergone significant repairs. The bridge was bypassed in 1963 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is the sole survivor of the 80 plus covered bridges built in the history of Scioto County. Frustrated County Engineer Craig Opperman said he doesn't have a problem prosecuting and seeking reimbursement for costs incurred from those responsible.

On a related note, the Otway Bridge will receive an Outstanding Small Project award from the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) on March 10. Craig Opperman, Scioto County Engineer, and Douglas Miller of Jones-Stuckey LTD, a division of Pennoni Associates, will accept the award.



(From: Wayne Allen article Jan. 2016, Civitas Media / Portsmouth Daily Times and Douglas Miller)

Zeller-Smith Covered Bridge Closed for Repairs



The Zeller-Smith Covered Bridge (WG #35-23-19) in Fairfield County's Sycamore Park has been closed while repairs are made. The bridge is the only way to access the park's arboretum. While there doesn't appear to be any danger of the structure collapsing, the main structural members are "showing their age." Pickerington City Engineer Scott Tourville intends to have the repairs made quickly so the bridge can be opened in the Spring.

(From: Pickerington Times-Sun, February 24, 2016,
Photo by Jenn Caswell)

McClellan Bridge Repair Goes to Bid

After decades of neglect, the Jim McClellan Bridge (WG #35-15-02) in Columbiana County Ohio will receive some much needed repair work. John Smolen was in charge of the engineering portion of the project. Three bids for the project were opened on February 24th. McCoy Construction of Calcutta, Ohio, submitted the low bid of \$280,494. The county engineer's office will make its recommendation on March 2nd. The repairs will include raising the bridge a foot, reconstructing one abutment and replacing the other. We hope that they maintain as much of the historic timber as possible. The bridge will also be treated with a fire retardant.



(Photos by Steve Wolfhope)

Ohio:

Rehabilitation Plans Underway ...

Built in 1886/87, the Foraker Covered Bridge (WG #35-56-14) has a problem. The 130-year old 99 foot single span bridge across the Little Muskingum River has developed an 11” sag in its Multiple Kingpost Truss. As a result, the Ohio Department of Transportation is expected to begin soliciting bids to rehabilitate the aging structure that will include replacement of lower chord members, bearing beams, siding, portions of the bridge deck, painting and application of fire retardant.

In addition, the Knowlton Covered Bridge (WG #35-56-18) built in 1887 has a complete fracture of both upstream lower chord members leaving the arches to carry the majority of the load. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the 192 foot 3-span bridge crosses the Little Muskingum River and utilizes a multiple Kingpost with Arch Truss, however, the arches are beginning to buckle. County officials have submitted a letter to ODOT seeking funds to fully rehabilitate the bridge.

Both these bridges are in Monroe County.

(Thanks to Douglas Miller and Ronald Mattox, Photos by Steve Wolfhope)



Foraker Bridge



Knowlton Bridge

Bridge Restored For Future Generations ...

One of the few remaining Smith Truss style bridges in the country, officials in Xenia Township dedicated the Stevenson Road Covered Bridge (WG #35-29-15) in December of 2015. This was the culmination of a \$650,000 restoration project to repair many years of vandalism, the elements and wear and tear. Built by the Smith Bridge Company of Tippecanoe (now Tipp City), Ohio circa 1873, the 95 foot single span bridge across Massie’s Creek was bypassed in 2005. Funding for the restoration came 80% from the US Dept. of Transportation’s National Historical Covered Bridge Preservation Program with Greene County funding the remaining 20%. Restoration included replacement of deteriorated timber beams, the addition of steel reinforcement truss beams, security lighting and surveillance cameras to deter vandalism with the attempt to retain as much of the original structure as possible. Greene County Engineer Bob Geyer said, ”This is a part of transportation history ... We’re looking to preserve the history.”

(From: Nathan Pilling December 2015 article, Civitas Media / Xenia Gazette,)



Jim Smedley Photo Before Repairs



Steve Wolfhope Photo During Repairs

Ohio:

New Ashtabula County Covered Bridge in Design

We have learned that John Smolen is currently designing a new bike/pedestrian covered bridge to be constructed on Indian Trail near the Smolen-Gulf Bridge. More details as they become available.

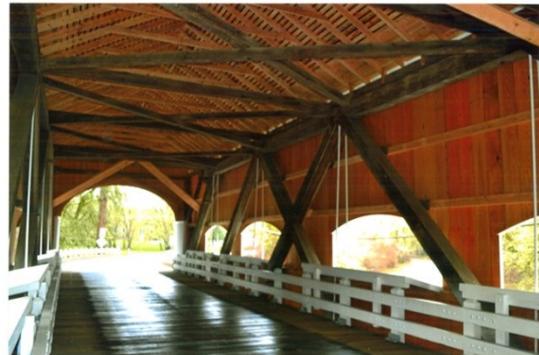
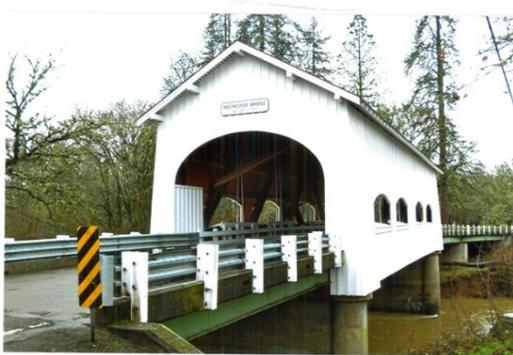
(From: Douglas Miller)

Oregon:

Editor’s Note: We want to thank our Oregon benefactor, William Cockrell, President of the Covered Bridge Society of Oregon, for keeping us up-to-date regarding many of the bridges in the state. Listed here are the latest information and photos we have received from him:

Rochester Bridge Overhaul

The Rochester Bridge (WG #37-10-04) in Douglas County saw a significant amount of work in 2015. The bridge has a new roof, some new upper bracing, new hanger rods, needle beams, decking, interior rails and housing. A post-tensioning system has been added to stabilize the truss. The portal has also been modified slightly.



Office Bridge Repairs

The Office Bridge (WG #37-20-39) received some new shingles (dyed to match the existing as the original supplier went out of business), some new lower bracing and beams, some new decking over the needle beams and concrete work reinforcing the abutments.



Linn County Bridge News

Steel reinforcing (pictured at right) has been added to the downstream truss at the north end of the Shimanek Bridge (WG #37-22-03). This should only be temporary.

Pennsylvania:



Manassas Guths Bridge Repaired

The Manassas Guths Bridge (WG #38-39-03) in Lehigh County has received a new floor and siding. There was also work on the abutments. The bridge, a 129 foot, single span, Burr Arch Truss structure was built in 1868 and spans the Jordan \Creek. The bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

(News & Photo Provided by Ray Finkelstein)

Bogert's Bridge Celebration

Save the date! On June 12, 2016 from 12:00 – 5:00 p.m.

The Friends of the Allentown Parks will be celebrating the 175th anniversary of Bogert's Bridge (WG #38-39-01) in Allentown, PA. Exhibits include: covered bridge history, railroad history including model train exhibits, canal history including Lehigh Canal, Jerusalem Western Salisbury Union Church marking their own 275th anniversary (and burial site of Mr. & Mrs. Bogert), character actors such as Mr. & Mrs. Bogert and Ulysses S. Grant, period musical entertainment by the Allentown Band (established 1828) and the Antebellum Marine Band (Gettysburg), hex signs, farm machinery and much more.



A portion of the funds raised during the event as well as donations received for official limited Bogert's Bridge commemoratives will go towards restoration of the bridge. NSPCB and the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania plan to have booths at the event. Stop by and say hello.

(From: Friends of the Allentown Parks via Ray Finklestein, Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell, January 2016)

Chadds Ford Covered Bridge to be Repaired ...

Four years after the Speakman #1 Covered Bridge (WG #38-15-05) was damaged by a tractor-trailer in November of 2011, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) has announced that repairs were scheduled to begin in December 2015. Built in 1881, the historic 93 foot, single span, Burr Arch Truss structure was built across Buck Run and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Expected to take approximately nine months, the \$1.9 million repair work, which includes sidewalls, roof and cross members, and support abutments, is being funded entirely with federal monies. This is the third of three Chester County covered bridges being repaired as part of PennDOT \$3,201,562 covered bridge improvement project. The other two bridges are - the Rapp's Dam Covered Bridge (WG #38-15-14) and the Knox Covered Bridge (WG #38-15-15#2).

(From: Chadds Ford Live article December 2015, Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell)



Speakman #1 Bridge



Rapp's Dam Bridge



Knox Bridge

Pennsylvania:

Dimmsville Covered Bridge Needs Help ...

(NOTE: At press time there were some unanswered questions concerning this bridge that need to be addressed before the Society can endorse this project.)

As can be seen in the photo, the Dimmsville Covered Bridge (WG #38-34-02) is in dire need of assistance if it is to remain standing. Unfortunately, among other things, there seems to be some confusion as to actually owns and therefore responsible for the bridge. In addition, the western abutment is also collapsing which will require extensive and expensive repair. Regardless of who owns the bridge, it is obvious that prompt action must be taken if it is to survive. The bridge is a 109 foot, single span, Burr Arch Truss built in 1902 spanning the Cocolamus Creek and is listed on the National Register. The Dimmsville Covered Bridge Preservation Project (DCBPP) was started February 9, 2016 by the residents of Greenwood Township, Juniata County, Pennsylvania in an effort to save this historical landmark. A Go Fund Me account has been set up by the DCBPP as follows: <https://www.gofundme.com/upnx5tk4>. In addition, you can contact the Juniata County Historical Society at www.juniatacountyhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

(From: E-mail correspondence DCBPP and NSPCB, February 2016)



A. Schwab Photo, April 9, 1965



Go Fund Me Page

Inspection Reveals Damage to Adams County Bridge ...

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation closed the Jack Mountain Covered Bridge (WG #38-01-08) after inspection revealed structural damage from a recent accident. Now fitted with a steel I-beams, the original bridge was built in 1890 and is a 75 foot, single span, with a Burr Arch Truss across Tom's Creek. The structure was declared "functionally obsolete" due to low height restrictions. The 20-ton rated bridge carries more than 2400 vehicles every day. Closure for repair is expected to take several weeks.

(From: article January 2016, The Evening Sun, Bill & Jenn Caswell Photo)



Québec:

Pont Félix-Gabriel-Marchand to be Repaired

Plans were announced to repair the Felix-Gabriel-Marchand Covered Bridge (WG #61-53-01) – a 499 foot, six span Town Lattice/Queenpost Truss bridge built in 1898. The bridge is the longest covered vehicle bridge in Québec. In October 2015, the ministère des Transports du Québec received a study listing the costs of various repair options. After determining the course of action they wish to follow, the Ministry will prepare plans and specifications. The bridge spans the Rivière Coulonge in Mansfield-et-Pontefract and is a major tourist attraction. It was closed in May 2014 due to safety concerns.



(CBC News, January 11, 2016, Photo by Pascal Conner)

Vermont:

“Big Eddy” Covered Bridge Re-opened in November 2015 ...

Repairs are complete on Waitsfield’s Village or “Big Eddy” Covered Bridge (WG #45-12-14). Constructed in 1833, this bridge is believed to be the oldest operating covered bridge in Vermont and is known to be the longest clear span of any Burr arch bridge in Vermont. A cantilevered sidewalk added in the 1950s caused racking and distortion of the trusses. Numerous storm events damaged the abutments and accelerated rot of various structural members. Improvements included widened abutments, a replacement and independently supported timber-clad pedestrian bridge, replacement of the decking and several floor beams, and roof repairs. The project tied in with a roadway, sidewalk, and streetscape project benefiting the adjacent downtown merchants and visitors. The town also intends upon adapting the widened abutments to serve as viewing platforms. DuBois & King was the Consulting Engineer and Alpine Construction was the Contractor. The bridge was opened to traffic in November 2015.



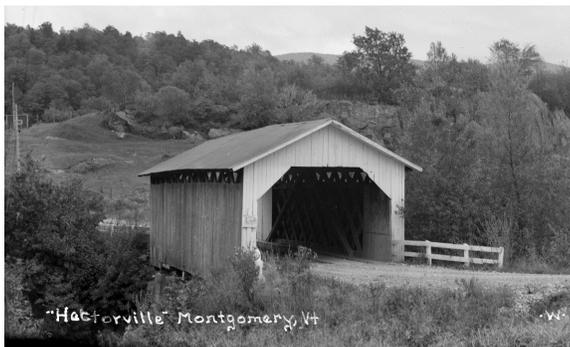
(News & Photos Provided by Robert Durfee, Dubois & King)

Vermont:

Montgomery Seeks to Restore One More Bridge ...

The Town of Montgomery is the proclaimed “Covered Bridge Capital of Vermont”, as the Town has more covered bridges than any other municipality. Montgomery’s own Sheldon and Savannah Jewett constructed numerous covered bridges between 1863 and 1890, including all of the bridges that remain in Montgomery today. The Hectorville Covered Bridge (WG #45-06-06), a 54-foot-long, Town lattice structure built by the Jewett Brothers in 1883, was added to the National Register of Historic Places on November 20, 1974. Due to its poor condition, it was taken out of service, disassembled, and put into storage in 2002. The Town of Montgomery plans to relocate the bridge to the recreation center in Montgomery Center, reassemble it, restore it, and make it the focal point of the park. The Town has contracted with DuBois & King to complete a study of the bridge for adaptive reuse as a pedestrian bridge. The study identified numerous deteriorated truss members (bottom chords and lattice), roof framing members needing repair/replacement, and a new standing seam metal roof and new timber plank deck are required for adaptive reuse of the bridge. The Town is now raising funds for the next phase of the project, which is to rehabilitate and relocate the bridge to Montgomery Center.

(News Submitted by Robert Durfee, Dubois & King)



C. E. Walker Photo from NSPCB Archives



Photos Provided by Robert Durfee, Dubois & King

Virginia:

An All-to-Common Sight ...



bypassed and closed to traffic in 1929.

New member Doug Turner posted this photo of Virginia’s Humpback Bridge (WG #46-03-01) on the Society’s Facebook page. Like so many other covered bridges, this one has become a focal point for graffiti artists. The 1835 Multiple Kingpost structure is the sole survivor of three such bridges in this area. It is one of only a handful of covered bridges to be designated as a National Historic Landmark achieving that status on October 16, 2012. It is sad to see our nation’s historic treasures treated with such disrespect.

The 100-foot-long, single-span structure is four feet higher at its center than it is at either end, thus the name, "Humpback". It was

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.

The Society Bookstore ...

Order from the Society website or send a check or money order to:
 Bill Caswell, 535 Second NH Turnpike, Hillsboro, NH 03244,
 E-mail: wscaswell@yahoo.com

Note: Books can only be shipped to US addresses.

America's Covered Bridges by Ron Knapp & Terry Miller

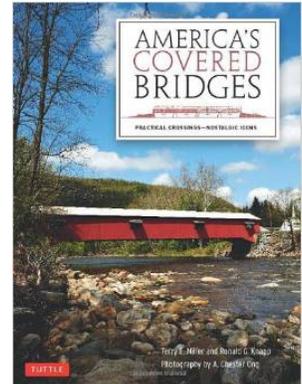
\$36.00, autographed copies, postpaid.

2009 World Guide to Covered Bridges

\$15.95, includes priority mail postage. (Note reduced price!)

Connecticut & Rhode Island Covered Bridges

\$20.00, for an autographed copy, includes priority mail postage.
 (Note reduced price!)



NSPCB Mugs

Do you know someone who would enjoy a hot cup of coffee or tea in an NSPCB mug? Would you like to help support one of the Society's current ongoing restoration projects but weren't sure how? Why not do both?

The National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges commissioned Mr. Bruce E. Hart of Hart Design Studio on Cape Cod, Massachusetts to design artwork for a new Society mug. The 11 oz. two-tone ceramic mug, both dishwasher and microwave safe, features a bright white exterior with a rich royal blue interior. On the mug, also in rich royal blue, a NSPCB logo can be found on one side while an abbreviated Society mission statement is found on the other side.

Proceeds from the sale of these mugs will help support the restoration efforts for the Moose Brook Pony-Truss Bridge located in Gorham, New Hampshire. [Find additional information about this bridge in the Winter 2014/2015 issue of the *Newsletter*.]

Mugs are \$10.00 each (in person) or \$15.00 (\$10 + \$5 postage) each (by mail). For orders of three (3) or more – contact Bill Caswell for actual postage costs. Send mail orders to Bill Caswell, 535 Second NH Tpke, Hillsboro, NH 03244.

*If you don't already have one,
 Order yours, today!*

