

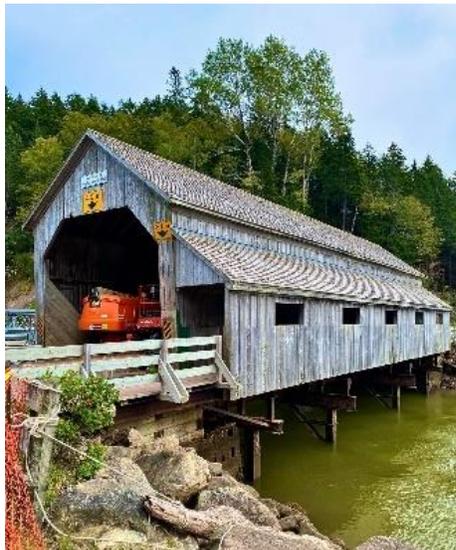


The Newsletter

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

Winter 2021/2022

Three Historic Covered Bridges Lost



Vaughan Creek #1 Bridge
St. Martins, New Brunswick

Dismantled in late September & early
October to be replaced by a new,
larger bridge.

Photo by Tamara Langstroth



Rudolph and Arthur Bridge, Chester County,
Pennsylvania

Washed away September 1, 2021. Photo by Jim Smedley



Waggoner's Mill Bridge,
Perry County, Pennsylvania

Burned on October 21, 2021. Photo by Tim McLaughlin

In this issue

Membership.....	2	Meeting Summaries.....	6-7
NSPCB Meeting Calendar	2	Covered Bridge Meetings & Events	8
In Memorium.....	3	Covered Bridge Passport.....	9
World Guide Updates.....	3	Bridgeport Bridge Celebration.....	10-11
President's Message	4	Bridges Reaching Milestones in 2022.....	12
Member News	5	Western Indiana Tour	13-15
2023 Calendar	5	Bridge News	16-27
Archives Update	6	Bridges Lost this Quarter	28

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

NSPCB Contacts

President & Newsletter Editor

Bill Caswell
535 2nd NH Tpke
Hillsboro, NH 03244-4601
WSCaswell@yahoo.com

Corresponding Secretary

Robert Watts
126 Merrimac St. Unit 21
Newburyport, MA 01950
508-878-7854
bob1.watts@me.com

Membership Dues and Address Changes

Jennifer Caswell
Membership Chair
535 2nd NH Tpke
Hillsboro, NH 03244-4601

Topics Back Issues

Contact Bill Caswell at the address above

Treasurer

Gloria Smedley
1143 Sage Drive
York, PA 17408

Next Newsletter Deadline

The next *Newsletter* is scheduled to be mailed in early **December**, therefore, anyone wishing to submit articles should send them by **November 15, 2021**. Articles and photos can be emailed to nspcb@yahoo.com 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

Kathleen Almeida, Barrington, Rhode Island
R.B. Barnes, Rumney, New Hampshire
Mike & Laura Cyr, Westbrook, Connecticut
Mike & Brenda Diaz, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania (correction from Fall issue)
Tony Dowling, West Montrose, Ontario
James Goller, West Seneca, New York
Robert & Eileen Gore, Moneta, Virginia
James H. Graybeal, Campbellsville, Kentucky
Maria Lee, Bloomington, Indiana
Kathleen Lesich, Shelby Township, Michigan
Diana Marple, Barrackville, West Virginia
Joyce McCarty, Hilliard, Ohio
Katie Rebman, Brazil, Indiana
Nancy Stahl, Lombard, Illinois
Phillip Trimby, Lunenburg, Massachusetts

2022 NSPCB Meetings & Events

All meetings begin at **1:00 PM** unless otherwise noted. If you plan to attend a meeting, please check the 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.

Sunday, March 27 – Horace Chase Masonic Lodge, Boscawen, New Hampshire.

Sunday, April 24 – 350 Revere Beach Blvd., Revere, Massachusetts.

Sunday, June 26 – Contoocook Covered Bridge, Contoocook, New Hampshire. Bring your own chairs.

Saturday, July 23 – Milhender Room, Haverhill Public Library, 99 Main St, Haverhill, Massachusetts.

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.

Sunday, September 25 – TBD.

TBD early October – Covered bridge tour of Georgia and Alabama.

Saturday, October 22 – NSPCB Annual Meeting and Dinner, Brigham Hill Barn, North Grafton, MA. Meal at noon, meeting starting at 1:00 PM.

In Memorium



Mary Ann Waller

We are saddened to note the passing of long-time member Mary Ann Waller of Fenton, Missouri. Mary Ann passed away on September 26th at age 91. She had been a member since 1992. She was the wife of the late Jud Robert "Bob" Waller (1932-2009). We are grateful for her family's recommendation that memorial donations be contributed towards the NSPCB's arson reduction program. At press time we had received \$460 in donations in Mary Ann's memory.

In Memory of Arthur Gatewood, Jr. 1925 – 2021

By Bill and Nancy Brandenburg

We met Art in late 1960s, shortly after joining the Indiana Covered Bridge Society (ICBS). Covered bridges attract cameras, and Art always had his Minolta at the ready. He traveled the state with his camera. He did not really appreciate iron bridges because, he said, unlike wood "iron was man-made".

We also met John Sechrist about the same time. John would later be the ICBS Treasurer for a number of years. Art and John (and his Nikon) frequently traveled together to photograph covered bridges and to attend ICBS meetings.

In the early 1970s, Art was a vocal proponent of the Hamilton County Park Department's acquisition of the decaying Potter's Bridge north of Noblesville. He also was active in supporting the preservation of covered bridges in Adams and Rush counties.

Beginning in the 1970s, long before MapQuest or Google maps were available, he created hand-drawn maps to help locate Indiana's covered bridges. They were distributed to those attending ICBS meetings/tours. There were other guides available, but none with maps to really help locate the bridges. In 1988, he assembled the maps into his booklet "INDIANA COVERED BRIDGE LOCATION GUIDE"; a second edition was published in 1998.

Art was a consummate bridger. We will miss him.



Updates to the World Guide to Covered Bridges

With this issue, we begin the updates for the 2021 World Guide published at the end of October. For a complete list of changes, please visit the website at www.coveredbridgesociety.org and click on the World Guide link.

Page 4, Stanislaus County, correct length of CA/05-50-01, Knight's Ferry Bridge to **379'**

Page 3, Nevada County, revised directions of CA/05-29-01, Bridgeport Bridge

7.6 miles northwest of jct CA49 on CA20, then 7.7 miles right on Pleasant Valley Rd. and left into the parking lot of South Yuba State Park. Restored 2021. (NR) N39° 17.570' W121° 11.696'

Page 126, Perry County, delete the Waggoner's Mill / Roddy's Mill / Thompson Bridge, PA/38-50-15. It was lost to arson on October 21, 2021.

President's Message

Another meeting season ended with our annual meeting and election of officers for the coming year. Thank you to the members who have entrusted us to run this organization for another year.

Unfortunately, the venue where we normally hold the event informed us that it would not be able to host our meeting a few days after the Fall issue was mailed. Instead of choosing a new venue and possibly having that canceled on short notice, we decided to hold our meeting via Zoom for the second year in a row. The benefit to that is that we had a number of people from outside the New England area attend who would not have otherwise been able to participate.

For the fifth issue in a row, we bring you sad news of the destruction of historic covered bridges. This quarter, three of them were lost; one claimed by natural forces, one to make way for "progress" and the third is suspected as arson. That makes a total of seven so far this year with five of them being consumed by fire. We have made more fire retardant donations this year than in the past and hope to have even more next year. Many of you have made generous donations this year and we appreciate it. Our investments have provided additional income allowing us to provide the fire retardant. The program provides the material with the bridge owner responsible for arranging for the application by someone who can do the job properly. We have much more work to do and are always looking for more opportunities.

I have shared this photo of Jenn and I in St. Martins, New Brunswick a few times over the years. It is one of our favorites with a large canvas version hanging on our living room wall. The bridge had been closed to traffic for the past couple years and is presently being replaced. Our organization supported the efforts of the Covered Bridges Conservation Association of New Brunswick by promoting rallies at the bridge, signing petitions, contacting the media and sending letters to politicians at all levels from the local mayor to Canadian Members of Parliament. Unfortunately, the government's desire to transform this road into a major highway along the Fundy Coast won out and the bridge was dismantled. However, there is some good news to report. All the attention we brought to the bridge convinced the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to change the proposed design to a modern covered bridge. The new bridge will be much larger than the old one and built to accommodate large vehicles, but we are told that it will look similar.



*Vaughan Creek Bridge, St. Martins,
Saint John County, New Brunswick*

Our covered bridge tour of western Indiana was a wonderful success. We had about 40 people on our journey to 30 bridges in five different counties. My thanks to Andy Rebman and Greg McDuffee for doing most of the work preparing the event and to their families who helped during the event. For more details, see the article included within this issue. Jenn and I are hoping to make a trip to Alabama and Georgia during the winter to work on arrangements for our 2022 tour and drive the routes I have planned. We hope that many of you will be able to join us for those three days. The dates have not been set yet, but will likely be sometime in October. I look forward to sharing the details with you in the Spring Newsletter.

As I write this just before Thanksgiving, I am thinking of all the things that I am thankful for, especially those of you who volunteer your time to our organization and the various other covered bridge societies. I know that many of you, like Jenn and I, need to fit that extra commitment in while still working a full-time job. We have certainly been blessed with some wonderful people eager to help. As a nationwide organization, it is challenging to keep on top of all the local issues which might be going on. We need help from people throughout the country. Also, if you live in an area with a state or regional covered bridge society, please consider helping them as well. There are a couple who could really use some assistance.

However you choose to celebrate the upcoming holidays, Jenn & I wish you and your family good health and happiness. We look forward to seeing you in 2022.

Bill Caswell

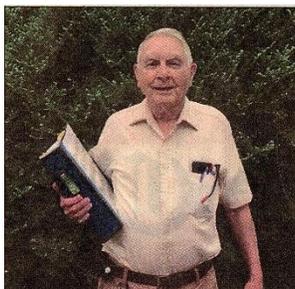
Member News

Ron Knapp Discusses the New Paltz Covered Bridge

On November 3rd, Professor Ron Knapp offered a presentation titled "The New Paltz Covered Bridge: New Evidence Reveals It Was Erected in 1820/1821." Ron has done extensive research on the past and present bridges of Ulster County, New York. In this presentation, he shared information he has discovered on the New Paltz bridge which was not previously known to the covered bridge community. It had been generally accepted that the covered bridge at this location was built around 1850. Ron's research showed that a wood truss bridge was built there in 1820. An act passed on March 31, 1821 to cover the recently constructed bridge. A legislative act was passed on April 11, 1845 "to Build a Bridge across the Walkkill at New-Paltz village." No record has been found to indicate what happened to the 1820/21 bridge. While the work was being done, people walked across the frozen river. The wooden bridge was condemned in May 1891. Its timber floor was removed at the end of July 1891 and placed on the temporary bridge to be used during construction of the new iron one. On August 3, 1891, the old bridge was burned to make way for the new one. The iron truss bridge opened to traffic on October 15, 1891.



Karl Young in the News



In late August, the Cape Cod Chronicle spotlighted member Karl Young and his love of covered bridges. Karl has visited over 800 covered bridges since becoming interested in them in 2010 and documents each visit in his notebook. He has participated in a number of covered bridge tours and safaris with the NSPCB and other covered bridge societies. He has been working on a booklet intended to help people who have recently developed an interest in covered bridges. It discusses some basic information about the development of the covered bridge and goes into detail about how to locate them, plan trips and what to look for once you get to the bridge.

2023 Calendar

We are accepting photos for the 2023 NSPCB Calendar until February 28, 2022. As you travel around this winter, watch for opportunities for calendar photos. Each individual can submit up to ten recent photos to be considered for the calendar.

Photos taken during the past year are preferred. As in the past, the committee will be looking for images from a variety of states and seasons, so the calendar presents structures throughout the United States and Canada. Images of bridges which have not yet been featured on one of our calendars will be given preference over those which have been included in previous years. Images which include area surrounding the bridge are preferred over tightly cropped photos. This allows space to insert archival photos or just to appreciate the setting of the structure.

Images should be submitted to Bill Caswell in a digital format at a high enough resolution so it still looks good at 8½" x 11". They can be emailed to nspcb@yahoo.com, transferred through a file sharing service such as Dropbox or mailed on a flash drive, CD or other media. Bill's mailing address is on page 2.

Archives Update

This quarter, Jerry Russell, formerly the president of the Covered Bridge Society of Oregon donated some of that organization's newsletters. Jerry also took the time to make an index of articles within those publications.

Michael Delage is continuing to scan slides donated to the archives so we have a digital copy of the collection. There is still much more work to do in this area. We have barely scratched the surface of the thousands of slides left to us when Dick Roy passed away in 2017. In September, Bill & Jenn traveled to Middlebury, Vermont to pick up a collection of slides from Ed & Irene Barna. In his younger years, Ed offered covered bridge presentations and is the author of a book on Vermont's covered bridges.

Bill has gone through dozens of boxes of *Topics* and Connecticut River Valley Covered Bridge Society Bulletins. Once the collection was sorted and organized, the five best copies of each issue were picked out for NSPCB's permanent collection. Additional copies were boxed up and stored in case there is a need for copies of them. There were many issues where only one or two copies remained. There were also many copies damaged by mold and mildew from decades of storage in Dick's basement which had to be discarded.

During the process, some correspondence from the former Covered Bridge Association of New Hampshire which existed from 1957 until 1972 was discovered. One of the more interesting items was a 1959 press release announcing the decision to work with the highway and tourism departments to start posting signs along the state's highways directing people to the covered bridges. Those items are being scanned as time permits.

Meeting Summaries

These are summaries of recent meetings, not official minutes.

August Meeting

This year's annual picnic meeting was held at Elm Brook Park in Hopkinton, New Hampshire. Twenty-two members gathered for burgers and hot dogs grilled by Jenn Caswell along with a number of salads, desserts and other items brought by attendees. A very enjoyable feast with good fellowship. Irene DuPont, author of *Spanning Time, New Hampshire Covered Bridges*, attended the meeting and autographed copies of her book. She donated all income from book sales at the meeting to the Society. Along with the usual status updates and recent bridge news, attendees enjoyed some quality time to socialize.



September Meeting

The September meeting was held at the Britton Winery in Rockville, Indiana during the September bridge tour. The owner, Terry Britton, is a fourth generation descendant of bridge builder Joseph A. Britton. After a long day of traveling, the meeting was intentionally kept brief. We discussed the day's adventures and impacts of Tropical Storm Ida on bridges at the beginning of the month.

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.indianacrossings.net/
 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 (TBCBSPA) www.tbcbspa.com/
 Vermont Covered Bridge Society (VCBS) www.vermontbridges.org/

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

<u>February</u>	Sunday, 13th – ICBS Winter Gathering, details TBA.
<u>March</u>	Sunday, 6th – 2:00 PM, TBCBSPA Monthly Meeting at Manheim Community Farm Show Exhibition Center, 502 Adele Ave., Manheim, Pennsylvania. Sunday, 20th – 1:30 PM, OHBA Meeting, Ohio History Connection Auditorium, 800 E. 17 th Ave., Exit 111 off of Route 71, Columbus, Ohio.
<u>April</u>	Sunday, 3rd – 2:00 PM, TBCBSPA Monthly Meeting at Manheim Community Farm Show Exhibition Center, 502 Adele Ave., Manheim, Pennsylvania. 23 & 24 – ICBS Spring Tour of Marion and Hamilton Counties. Sunday, 24th – NYSCBS Annual Dinner at Spaghetti Warehouse, 689 N. Clinton St., Syracuse, New York. Doors open at 11:00 AM, Lunch at noon.
<u>May</u>	Sunday, 22nd – 1:00 PM, NYSCBS meeting at the Klyne Esopus Museum, 764 Rte. 9W, Ulster Park, New York Sunday, 15th – OHBA Spring Tour, Location TBD.
<u>June</u>	
<u>July</u>	Saturday, 10th – 1:00 PM, NYSCBS meeting, Smithville Fire Hall, Jefferson County, New York 16 & 17 – ICBS Summer Tour of Putnam and Montgomery Counties. Sunday, 17th – 12:00 noon, OHBA Summer Picnic, Salt Creek Covered Bridge, Arch Hill Road, east of Zanesville, Ohio.
<u>August</u>	6-7 – NYSCBS Safari, Perry County, Pennsylvania
<u>September</u>	9-11 – Cumberland (Indiana) Covered Bridge Festival at the bridge, northeast of Matthews. For more details, visit http://www.matthewscoveredbridgefestival.com/ . Sunday, 11th – 1:00 PM, NYSCBS virtual meeting. 24 & 25 – ICBS Fall Tour of Rush County.
<u>October</u>	6-9 – Columbia-Montour County (Pennsylvania) Covered Bridge and Arts Festival. See https://itourcolumbiamontour.com/event/2021-covered-bridge-festival/ for details. Saturday, 8th – Blount County (Alabama) Covered Bridge Festival in Oneonta. See http://facebook.com/CoveredBridgeFest for more details. 8-9 – Ashtabula County (Ohio) Covered Bridge Festival. Events at various locations. See http://www.coveredbridgefestival.org/Pages/festival.html for details. 14-23 – Parke County (Indiana) Covered Bridge Festival. Events at various locations. See https://www.coveredbridges.com/parke-county-covered-bridge-festival for details.

Visitors Bureau Releases New Covered Bridge Passport Program

[Editor's note: The following is a press release from Pennsylvania's Columbia-Montour Visitors Bureau dated October 1, 2021.]

BLOOMSBURG, PA – The Columbia-Montour Visitors Bureau is pleased to announce a brand new mobile passport initiative featuring the historic covered bridges of Columbia & Montour Counties. The passport program is free to sign up and encourages both visitors from outside the region and locals alike to get out and experience the area's 25 covered bridges. Once signed up, program participants will be emailed a customized link that will grant them access to the passport dashboard. No mobile app or download is needed; the program operates in a mobile friendly web-based platform.

The passport program was created to encourage a continued appreciation of the area's wooden treasures. "When considering we have one-eighth of Pennsylvania's remaining covered bridges right here in our two county region, it's pretty impressive", remarked Shane Kiefer, Director of Marketing for the Columbia-Montour Visitors Bureau. "People certainly will think of going to Lancaster County to see Pennsylvania covered bridges, but with twenty-five bridges in our area, we have the third-most in the United States, just slightly behind Lancaster County and Parke County, Indiana."

Covered bridges are symbols of simpler days, and of quiet time spent in the countryside. Sometimes known as "kissing bridges", covered bridges were often a location for courting couples to meet. Many adults who grew up near a covered bridge will also fondly recall memories of days spent fishing under the bridge's wooden planks, or long summer days with their childhood friends playing in the stream. "These bridges are quite simply a fond memory for many people, and we wanted to remind everyone of just how special it is to have so many preserved bridges in our backyard," Kiefer said.

Finding a fond memory on the journey isn't the only benefit of completing the new passport trail's check-in stops, however; travelers who score at least 13 check-ins will be mailed a free embroidered patch commemorating their journey in the counties. And for those enterprising users, a completed passport with 25 check-ins will get them an entry into a year-end grand prize drawing for a \$750 gift card to the Inn, Farmhouse, & Brewing Company at Turkey Hill in Bloomsburg.



Another added benefit will be the knowledge that participants' visits will be counting toward continued preservation of the bridges. After a milestone goal is hit with check-ins, the Visitors Bureau plans to coordinate a \$50,000 donation to the Columbia County Covered Bridge Association in 2022 to make significant restorations on the Stillwater Covered Bridge.

To begin a journey using the new passport, interested participants should visit: iTourColumbiaMontour.com/cb-passport to find more details about the new passport, see which bridges are on the trail, and get signed up.

After receiving the email, travelers can begin their adventure to the various covered bridges throughout the counties. Once nearby one of the included bridges, users will select that bridge from the dashboard menu and click a "Check-In" button to receive check-in credit for visiting the bridge. The passport operates using GPS geolocation services, so users can only receive credit for checking in when they are within range of the bridge.

Kiefer also noted the passport will provide historic details and facts about each of the bridges for travelers to actively learn along the way. "This is not only a fantastic educational opportunity for families young and old, but it is also a great pandemic activity for those looking to avoid crowds – the beauty is that it can just be you and your family in the car for an old-fashioned road trip if you'd like."

With the area's rural beauty, cellular service may be limited or not available for some of the area's bridges. If participants are unable to get enough service at one or more of the bridges to be able to activate the check in button, they are asked to simply take a photo of the bridge with their phone. Once back home, or in an area with adequate service, they may email photo(s) as verification to a passport support email (provided in the dashboard). Visits will be verified and manually checked-in within one week.

Historic Bridgeport Covered Bridge at South Yuba River State Park Reopens to the Public After Extensive Rehabilitation

For Immediate Release: 11/5/2021

Contact: Adeline Yee, Information Officer, Newsroom@parks.ca.gov

Art Contest Winners from Local Schools Honored with First Bridge Walk

PENN VALLEY, Calif.— California State Parks has officially reopened the historic Bridgeport Covered Bridge at South Yuba River State Park to the public following a celebration on Thursday, November 4. The bridge has been closed since 2011 for repairs after a timber survey revealed significant structural damage from previous flooding. After a \$6.9 million rehabilitation, visitors can now take a step back in time as they walk across the bridge, reliving the mining-era days of travel along the turnpike.

“California State Parks is thankful for the outpouring of support from the public, elected officials and especially the community leadership of the Save Our Bridge Campaign Committee,” said State Parks Director Armando Quintero. Speaking at the reopening ceremony, Quintero said, “time itself is a bridge” and touched upon how time gives us perspective and lets us view our history with more wisdom than when we live through it.

Constructed in 1862 by the Virginia Turnpike Company, the Bridgeport Covered Bridge in western Nevada County is the only remaining single-span Howe Truss, Burr Arch covered timber bridge of this size in the nation. Spanning 225 feet long and 16 feet wide, the bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Structures and is California Historical Landmark 390.

Thursday’s reopening remarks included Nevada City Nisenan Rancheria’s Tribal Spokesperson Shelly Covert’s moving song in the native Nisenan language, Nevada County Supervisor Susan Hoek speaking about her childhood memories of cattle drives in the area and supporting words from State Senators Jim Nielsen (R-CA 4th District) and Brian Dahle (R- CA 1st District). Save Our Bridge Campaign Committee Chairs Doug and Shirley Moon received several rounds of applause for their hard work and dedication to rouse the community’s support to fundraise and rebuild the historic bridge.

The culmination of the reopening celebration event was the inaugural “first walk” across the bridge by students (K-12) from Nevada County schools. In early 2020, the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools hosted an art contest for all students. As part of the grand prizes for winning art entries, the students were the first to cross the newly restored bridge.

Historical Background:

After construction in 1862, it wasn’t until the summer of 1947 when the bridge was first recognized as a historic landmark. Twenty-two years later, the Nevada County Historical Society began efforts to preserve the bridge, and within two years it was closed to vehicle traffic, placed on the national register, and the first major restorative work took place. After extreme flooding in 1997 matched 1862 levels and caused damage to the bridge, further repairs were made. In 2011, the bridge closed to pedestrian traffic, and within two years, the Save Our Bridge Campaign (SOB) Committee formed with the goal of re-opening this historic bridge.

Supported by State Parks, Sierra Gold Parks Foundation, Nevada County, South Yuba River Citizens’ League, and the Nevada County Regional Chamber of Commerce, private citizens and elected officials, SOB gained the attention, support and eventual \$6.9 million in funding to make this goal a reality. Rehabilitation spanned mid-2019 through the fall of 2021 by Spectra Company.

To learn more on the rehabilitation of the historic bridge, visit
www.parks.ca.gov/BridgeportCoveredBridge.

Students (K-12) from Nevada County who won the art contest “Flowing through History – the Bridgeport Restoration Project” were one of the first ones to walk across the restored bridge with State Parks Director Armando Quintero on Nov. 4, 2021. Photos from California State Parks.

Students (K-12) from Nevada County who won the art contest “Flowing through History – the Bridgeport Restoration Project” were one of the first ones to walk across the restored bridge with State Parks Director Armando Quintero on November 4, 2021.

Photos from California State Parks.



Top left: The Bridgeport Covered Bridge now fully restored.

Top right: A historic shot of the bridge from the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges.



Bottom left: Director Quintero thanking Save Our Bridge Campaign Committee Chairs Shirley and Doug Moon.

Bottom right: Attendees at the bridge reopening celebration on Nov. 4, 2021.

Photos from California State Parks.

Some of the carpenters who worked on the bridge gathered for this photo taken in the visitor center at the Bridgeport Bridge on November 4th. NSPCB life member Tim Andrews is second from the left.

Note the copies of the National Park Service’s *Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Covered Bridges* (2019) and the 2021 *World Guide to Covered Bridges* prominently displayed in the foreground.



Bridges with Significant “Birthdays” in 2022

There are a few covered bridges with 100 or 150 years of service in 2022.

Bridges built in 1872

Powder Works or Paradise Park or Masonic Park Bridge over San Lorenzo River	CA/05-44-03	Santa Cruz County, California
Concord or Ruffs Mill or Nickajack Creek Bridge over Nickajack Creek	GA/10-33-02	Cobb County, Georgia
Adams Mill Bridge over North Fork, Wildcat Creek	IN/14-08-01	Carroll County, Indiana
Lancaster or Beard Bridge over Wildcat Creek	IN/14-08-02	Carroll County, Indiana
North Manchester Bridge over Eel River	IN/14-85-02#3	Wabash County, Indiana
Sunday River or Artist Bridge over Sunday River	ME/19-09-04	Oxford County, Maine
Robyville Bridge over Kenduskeag Stream	ME/19-10-02	Penobscot County, Maine
Green Sergeants or Sergeantsville Bridge over Wickecheoke Creek	NJ/30-10-01	Hunterdon County, New Jersey
Byer Bridge over Pigeon Creek	OH/35-40-08	Jackson County, Ohio
Barkhurst Mill or Williams Bridge over Wolf Creek	OH/35-58-15	Morgan County, Ohio
Frankenfield Bridge over Tinicum Creek	PA/38-09-09	Bucks County, Pennsylvania
Gibson's or Harmony Hill Bridge over East Branch Brandywine Creek	PA/38-15-10	Chester County, Pennsylvania
Beavertown or Dreese's Bridge over Middle Creek	PA/38-55-02	Snyder County, Pennsylvania
Scott or Grist Mill or Bryan or Canyon Bridge over Brewster River	VT/45-08-01	Lamoille County, Vermont
Station or Northfield Falls Bridge over Dog River	VT/45-12-08	Washington County, Vermont
Slaughter-House Bridge over Dog River	VT/45-12-09	Washington County, Vermont
Lower or Cox Brook or Newell or Second Bridge over Cox Brook	VT/45-12-10	Washington County, Vermont
Third or Upper Cox Brook Bridge over Cox Brook	VT/45-12-11	Washington County, Vermont
Pine Brook or Wilder Bridge over Pine Brook	VT/45-12-12	Washington County, Vermont

Bridges built in 1922

Edna Collings Bridge over Little Walnut Creek	IN/14-67-06	Putnam County, Indiana
Antelope Creek Bridge over Little Butte Creek	OR/37-15-02	Jackson County, Oregon
Coyote Creek or Swing Log Bridge over Coyote Creek	OR/37-20-02	Lane County, Oregon
Bible or Chucky Bridge over Little Chucky Creek (1922 or 1923)	TN/42-30-01	Greene County, Tennessee



*Sunday River Bridge
Oxford County, Maine
Bob Hamilton Photo*



*Beavertown Bridge
Snyder County, Pennsylvania
Bill & Jenn Caswell Photo*



*Coyote Creek Bridge
Lane County, Oregon during
the NSPCB 2017 Tour*

Western Indiana Covered Bridge Tour

On September 17th, the Vigo County Parks and Recreation Department hosted a welcome event at Fowler Park south of Terre Haute to kick off our 2021 tour. The park is the site of the Irishman covered bridge which was recently restored with the help of a \$10,000 donation from the NSPCB. After dinner, the Vigo County Parks director Adam Grossman and Council Member Brian Kearns spoke about the park and what it meant to the community. Over the next three days, the group of about forty people from ten states visited thirty covered bridges (and drove through two others) in five Indiana counties.

On Saturday morning, we set out from our base in Terre Haute towards Parke County. The first stop was the West Union Bridge, one of only seven in the country designated as National Historic Landmarks. We traveled through the Mill Creek Bridge on the way to the Bowsher Ford Bridge. Then it was off to the Eugene Bridge in Vermillion County.



When we arrived at the Cades Mill Bridge in Fountain County, the Fountain County Historical Committee had cleared the vegetation from one end of the bridge and set up tables and chairs.



We brought goods to make sandwiches for lunch while checking out the historical items they had brought. After lunch, we were treated to a visit from Mr. Cade who told us about the mills which used to stand in the area near the bridge. The Committee is raising funds towards repairs to the bridge and the NSPCB has already pledged towards that effort. Dan Reitmeyer from CLR Construction spoke about the work needed to repair the bridge and was available to answer questions about the project. We took one of our group photos here.

In the afternoon we travelled back into Parke County. The Jackson Bridge is an impressive single span over 200 feet long. It was built in 1861 at the beginning of the Civil War, was named in honor of President Jackson and originally carried the text "The Federal Union: It must be preserved" over the portal. After visits to the Wilkins Mill, Cox Ford and Narrows bridges, we experienced a real treat. The owner of Billie Creek Village permitted us to take the tour back to the Leatherwood Station Bridge. Many in the group had not seen this one before. The owner of Billie Creek Village met with us there for a few minutes to talk about the history of the bridge. After visiting the other two bridges outside the village (Beeson and Billie Creek), we stopped at the Melcher Bridge on the way to our dinner at Hobson's Family Farm. We took another group photo here as the sun was setting.



*Leatherwood Station Bridge,
Billie Creek Village*



On Sunday morning, we were off to Cataract Falls in Owen County where another group photo was taken. Moving on to Putnam County, we visited Dick Huffman, Houck, and Oakalla bridges before stopping for lunch at the Putnam Inn in Greencastle. The afternoon included visits to the Edna Collins, Mansfield, Big Rocky Fork, Conley's Ford, and Bridgeton bridges. The Bridgeton Mill was open so we had an opportunity to talk to the owner Mike Roe about the mill. Dinner consisted of pizza at the Britton Winery which is owned by a descendant of bridge builder J.A. Britton. When we arrived there, a reporter for Terre Haute's WTHI-TV was waiting to interview Andy Rebman and I.

Monday was our second day in Parke County and we were fortunate to have David Handley join the group for this portion of the tour. David is well versed in Parke County history and shared a number of interesting stories during the day's stops. The day started with visits to the Mecca, Phillips and Sim Smith Bridges. While stopped for a rest break at the Parke County Visitor's Center, we walked across the street to place flowers on the graves of bridge builders J.A. Britton and J. J. Daniels. The next stop was at the State Sanatorium Bridge which had been relocated from its former location on an abandoned road on private property. Then to the Portland Mills Bridge before breaking for lunch at Benjamin's Family Restaurant in Rockville. After lunch, we completed the tour with stops at the Zacke Cox, Harry Evans, Roseville and Thorpe bridges.

Although we had two years to prepare for this trip, Jenn and I were not able to make as many trips to Indiana as usually do to check out potential routes. We are grateful for the considerable assistance we received from our friends in Indiana. Andy Rebman prepared this year's souvenir book and he, along with Greg McDuffee, Tony Dillon and David Handley did most of the planning. They drove the routes multiple times to determine the best order for the time available during the three full days. I also want to thank Greg for arranging the printer for the t-shirts, Jenn for considerable time spent working through issues with rental vehicles and the whole Rebman family for all their work storing, delivering and serving meals at various locations. Photos by Bob Hamilton, Jenn Caswell and Bill Caswell.



Group at Cades Mill Bridge



Group at Cataract Falls Bridge



Bowsher Ford Bridge



Youngest Attendee, Braydon Marshfield



Dick Huffman Bridge

Additional Trip Photos



Roseville Bridge



Cataract Falls Bridge



David & Karen



Presentation at Cades Mill Bridge



Line of vehicles at Dick Huffman Bridge



Photographers at Conley's Ford Bridge



Beeson Bridge



Dinner at Fowler Park



Mecca Bridge



TV Interview at Britton Winery



Irishman Bridge



Making a New Friend

Covered Bridge News

Alabama

Swann Bridge, Blount County – AL/01-05-05



On November 15th, an oversized vehicle did some minor damage to the bridge and left the scene. There are security cameras in the bridge. The recordings are being reviewed by local police to find the driver and truck company. The bridge is still open to traffic, but will need some repairs. The three-span Town truss bridge was built in 1933. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on August 20, 1981. *WVTM-TV, November 15, 2021. Photo by Jim Smedley.*

Indiana

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

The Cades Mill Bridge, outside of Veedersburg, is the oldest covered bridge in Indiana still in its original location. Fundraising is underway for the estimated \$400,000 necessary to properly restore the bridge. The committee is currently about halfway to its goal. A farm to table fundraising dinner sold out and the group hoped to do another one in the fall. Donations for restoration of the bridge can be made to the Western Indiana Community Foundation, P.O. Box 75, Covington, IN 47932. *Photo by Greg McDuffee.*



Rob Roy Bridge, Fountain County – IN/14-23-03



The Indiana Covered Bridge Society’s fall 2021 newsletter (page 3) noted that the bridge was closed for several weeks after failing a routine engineer inspection. The inspection noted termite infestation in the sill board. Fountain County Commissioners hired a local contractor for the repairs. During the repairs, additional termite damage was discovered. After being contacted about the situation, BASF, a manufacturer of termite-cide, donated their product and provided a certified applicator to apply it. County Commissioners have also reduced the posted clearance on the bridge from 9’-0” to 7’-4”. Electric service has become available at the bridge with lights and possibly security cameras planned for the future. The bridge along with the two other

covered bridges in the county were added to the National Register of Historic Places in May 2021.

Kentucky

Bennett Mill Bridge, Greenup County – KY/17-45-01#2

The bridge is planned to be closed for a month from November 15th until December 15th for “timber and masonry repairs” and erosion control work. The press release from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet noted that the work being done by Intech Contracting “will not change or impact the historic nature of the covered bridges.” The \$218,899.98 contract also includes unspecified repairs to the Goddard Bridge in Fleming County. The 145’ long bridge was built in 2003 to replace an earlier covered bridge. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



Maryland

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

Repairs have begun on the bridge over Fishing Creek after it was damaged when a truck struck it in June. As a result of the crash, the truss at the west end of the bridge was taken off of the structure, several



tie beams within the bridge were damaged, one of the beams was cracked, and others were lifted up, affecting their connections on the side of the bridge. Dean Fitzgerald of Fitzgerald’s Heavy Timber Construction, who is working on the repairs felt that it was much worse than they originally thought. He expects the



bridge to be open in 8 to 10 weeks. The repairs are expected to cost \$185,000. The roof will be removed to make the repairs and then put back on. *Frederick News-Post, October 5, 2021. Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell, November 12, 2021.*

Massachusetts

Arthur Smith Bridge, Colrain, Franklin County – MA/21-06-03#2

The Colrain Historical Commission has installed an informational sign at the eastern end of the bridge. The bridge over the North River was constructed in 2007 and opened to traffic in 2020. The sign at the western entrance to the bridge features a poem written by Carol Purington, a longtime Colrain resident and poet who died December 8, 2020, and a complementary drawing by artist Fred Burrington. The eastern entrance features an informational sign that describes the history of the bridge. The Commission had planned the sign with the poem before Purington died. The signs were funded with money left over from funds raised by the Historical Commission for the 2007 bridge project. *Greenfield Recorder, November 5, 2021. Photo by Jonathan R. Lagreze.*



Covered Bridge

Almost illegible
almost forgotten
a hero's name on the sign

Through the arch into – whose past
clatter of loose boards, resonance of hoofs

Sheltering timbers from snow
sweethearts from . . . the moon

Yesterday's blackness
light-
cracked

Inside the sag of
the dark bridge

Hundred-year-dead
wood: child afraid –
of its shadows

Between floorboards
down to river dazzle river smell

A slow meandersong
out of time's hiding place

Not yet carried away
by high water
by hurry

– Words by Carol Purington
– Illustration by Frederick Burrington



Michigan

Fallasburg Bridge, Kent County – MI/22-41-02

Michigan’s oldest covered bridge open for vehicle traffic turned 150 years old. The birthday was celebrated over the September 18-19 weekend at the Fallasburg Arts Festival in Fallasburg Park. The 100-foot Brown truss covered bridge, was built in 1871 at a cost of \$1,500 by local bridge builder Jared N. Bresee. Steel tension rods installed on the bridge in the 1930s, and replaced in 1994, likely kept the bridge from collapsing in 2013 when a cement truck weighing more than 10 times the bridge’s 3-ton load limit crossed the wooden bridge. The bridge was reopened to traffic about 24 hours later. The bridge leads people into the Fallasburg Historic District, which contains more than a dozen structures dating back to the mid-1800s. *Michigan Live, September 20, 2021. Jim Smedley Photo.*



Missouri

Union Bridge, Monroe County – MO/25-69-02



*H.M. MacKenzie Photo
June 1952*

This bridge celebrated its sesquicentennial on Labor Day. The official 150th anniversary was on the following day, Tuesday, September 7, but state park officials chose to observe the milestone on a day when more people were off work and school. In 1870, the Monroe County Court ordered a covered bridge be built across the Elk Fork of the Alt River on the Paris-to-Fayette road to replace a failed open bridge in the same spot. Contractor Joseph C. Elliot completed the bridge made of local oak in 1871. After some years of neglect and weathering, the bridge was fully restored in 1968 after the Missouri Legislature passed a bill authorizing



the Missouri State Park to take control of the historic landmark. On its centennial in 1970, the bridge was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and was closed to all vehicular traffic. *Hannibal Courier Post, September 13, 2021. Modern Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

New Jersey

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

Member Sandy Adrion notified us via Jim Crouse that New Jersey’s last historic covered bridge received some minor damage when the remnants of Hurricane Ida passed through the area. The damage appears to be limited to some damaged siding. As noted in previous issues, the bridge is already scheduled for maintenance and repair. *Photo Courtesy of Sandy Adrion.*



New York

Cannon Bridge, Wyoming County – under construction

A new covered bridge at the location of the former Mosier Bridge on Schoellkopf Road near Cowlesville, in the town of Bennington, in western New York. According to a pamphlet prepared by the Bennington Historical Society, the former covered bridge was built in 1845 and was replaced by a metal one around 1933. It was named for a neighbor who lived nearby. The metal pony truss bridge is now being replaced by a new covered bridge.

On August 10th, the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution to name the new bridge the Cannon Covered Bridge in honor of Sgt. Charles R. Cannon who was killed in action during World War II while serving with the Army Corp of Engineers. By October 2nd wood had arrived and the site was being prepared for construction to begin. Photos posted on November 13th showed that one truss appeared to be completed. This rendering of the bridge was provided by the Wyoming County Highway Department.



North Carolina

Bunker Hill Bridge, Catawba County – NC/33-18-01

In our Spring 2020 issue (page 18) we reported that NHM Constructors of Asheville filed a lawsuit claiming that the Historical Association owes them an additional \$408,000 for work done in 2019. The Historical Association indicated that they paid NHM the amount of their bid and additional expenses were not approved. The bridge was first damaged by rain and storms in 2013, and erosion began under the bridge. Because the storm was declared a state and national emergency, the repairs were funded by a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant. The grant increased several times to cover the cost of the project. On September 24th the settlement agreement was approved and the Historical Association agreed to pay the disputed amount. They expect to be reimbursed for this from FEMA. *Hickory Daily Record, September 30, 2021. Photos Courtesy Arnold M. Grāton Associates.*



Introduce a Friend to Covered Bridges

Give a Gift Membership This Holiday Season

Help support preservation of our nation's historic covered bridges while sharing your interests with a friend or relative.

Gift subscriptions will be mailed with a card noting your generosity.

Use the form included with this newsletter or visit the Society website to introduce someone to covered bridge preservation.



Ohio

Smolen-Gulf Bridge, Ashtabula County – OH/35-04-64



On Saturday, September 11th, America’s longest covered bridge was the setting for a dinner to raise funds for the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival and a way to thank John Smolen for all his work building, maintaining and rehabbing covered bridges in Ashtabula County. Smolen, formerly the Ashtabula County engineer, has designed numerous new covered bridges along with repairs to historic ones. He championed covered bridge preservation within the county during his time as county engineer. The event was designed as a fundraiser with about 200 people in attendance. The four-span, 613-foot-long structure spanning the Ashtabula River was designed by John Smolen and built in 2008. Thanks to Ginger Whitehead, Executive Director of the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival, and all who helped organize this event. *Ashtabula Star Beacon, September 13, 2021. Photo of John and Marie Smolen courtesy of Michele Lee Victor.*

Pennsylvania

Erwinna Bridge, Bucks County – PA/38-09-04

At press time we received a report that the bridge was damaged in an accident. Thanks to Beth Misak who went over to check it out and sent this photo. Fortunately, the damage was minor and the bridge remained open to traffic. The truck was found abandoned in Frenchtown, New Jersey.



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

This bridge was another victim of tropical storm Ida’s wrath of September 1st. It was originally built in 1832 and moved to a local park in 1958 to save it from destruction. The bridge was in need of repair and local officials were in the process of arranging for the repairs. The torrential rains during the storm flooded the park which lifted the bridge off of its abutments. When the water receded, the bridge was left at an angle straddling those abutments. The damage is still being assessed. On September 14th, Arnold and Meg Grāton visited the site and offered advice on stabilizing the structure until more permanent repairs can be made. The Borough of Perkasio released an advertisement soliciting proposals for engineering and design consultation services for the bridge repairs. Proposals were due on December 10th. *Information from Scott Bomboy. Photos courtesy of Scott Bomboy and Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

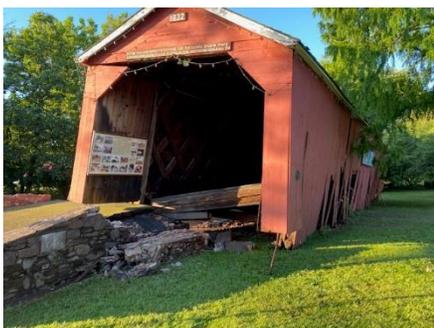


Photo taken the day after flooding, September 2nd.



Photo taken the day after flooding, September 2nd.



Bridge on cribbing and cabled for support. November 14th.

Pennsylvania (continued)

Gibson's or Harmony Hill Bridge, Chester County – PA/38-15-10

This single-span Burr truss structure was built over the East Branch Brandywine Creek in 1872. On September 1st, it sustained damage from the unprecedented rainfall associated with tropical storm Ida. NSPCB treasurer Gloria Smedley provided some photos of the damage.



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



Both sides of lower siding boards of the bridge were damaged by the flooding associated with Ida. A crew from Lancaster County Timber Frames is repairing the damage. The right photo was taken after prior damage in July. *Photos by Bill Caswell and Steve Wolfhope.*



Ramp Bridge, Cumberland County – PA/38-21-11



Cumberland County's last operational covered bridge reopened to traffic on October 15th. The bridge over Conodoguinet Creek had been closed since September 2020. The bridge was slated for a full rehabilitation in the fall of 2020 to address deterioration and damage from natural causes and vehicular accidents on the bridge, county officials said. However, an accident on the bridge in September 2020 led to its immediate closure. The bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. The 130-foot-long Burr truss bridge was built in 1882. Repairs were completed by Jay Fulkroad and Sons of McAlisterville, Pennsylvania at a cost of \$788,777. *The Sentinel, October 15, 2021. Photos before the repairs by Cumberland County.*



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



In previous issues, we noted that roof braces and the portals of this bridge were badly damaged by an oversized truck on May 18th. On June 25th, the Daily Item reported that the structure over Mahantango Creek had been repaired and was re-opened. News reports on November 6th indicated that the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation had posted the bridge for a 15-ton weight limit. The posting is intended to be temporary until additional repairs take place in 2022. The bridge carries an average of more than 800 vehicles per day. The single-span bridge was built in 1908 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. *Lewistown Sentinel, November 6, 2021. Photo by Gloria Smedley.*

Pennsylvania (continued)

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



The bridge located near Himmel's Church over Schwaben Creek, will cost \$21,298 to fix. The north side of the bridge was struck by a Penske truck on June 11. The truck struck the steel height barrier ripping it from its foundation and damaging the bridge's wing wall. The 43-foot bridge is one of six covered bridges in the county. The original covered bridge was built in 1874 but replaced in 1983. All six bridges in Northumberland County have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since Aug. 8, 1979. *Sunbury Daily Item, October 6, 2021. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

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

Somerset County commissioners were expected to advertise for bids to repair this bridge sometime during the late fall. According to the news article, the structure has support-beam issues that have needed to be addressed for several years. The work is expected to take place in 2022 due to the time necessary to acquire materials. Temporary measures have been taken to support the bridge to allow small vehicles to continue to travel through. *The Tribune-Democrat, November 2, 2021. Greg McDuffee Photo.*



Tennessee

Bible or Chucky Bridge, Greene County – TN/42-30-01

The 57' queen truss over Little Chucky Creek has received some much-needed tender loving care from Skyline Restoration, a Greene County building restoration service. They removed and replaced any exterior boards that were rotten or damaged. The company also cleaned the bridge and scraped off old paint and dirt from the exterior. The bridge was then given a new coat of primer and three new coats of paint. Skyline also replaced the wooden ramp that allows visitors to enter and walk across the bridge from the small parking area next to it. Greenville Light and Power Systems also installed security lights on each side of the bridge that will illuminate the area at night. That work was completed on September 30th. County workers were going to remove some old trees and undergrowth close to the bridge. They also plan to install a flagpole next to the bridge. They hope to complete the work before Thanksgiving. The bridge was built in 1923 to connect the Bible family farm with the Warrensburg Road. In 1948, the bridge was deeded to Greene County, and in 1975 it became a historical structure. *Greenville Sun, November 5, 2021. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



Gingerbread Covered Bridges, Elizabethton

The Elizabethton/Carter County Chamber of Commerce hosted a Gingerbread Covered Bridge Contest in November. On November 14th, the gingerbread covered bridges went on display in the main lobby of the Chamber's office where they were to remain until December 17th. The entries were to be judged November 27th. There were three categories: youth, amateur, and corporate. The winning youth entry was awarded \$100; the winning amateur entry \$150. *Johnson City Press, November 15, 2021.*

Vermont

Bennington Covered Bridge Museum, Bennington, Vermont

The former Bennington Center for the Arts, which was donated to the now-bankrupt Southern Vermont College in 2017, is expected to be listed soon for sale with an asking price of \$750,000. Any proceeds from the sale are to be used for the ongoing administration of the arts center and related expenses. The arts center sale was complicated because the founders of the center, Bruce Laumeister and Elizabeth Small, filed suit against the college, seeking to annul their gift and have it returned to them, and raising other issues such as a life-lease that the couple retained on an apartment in the center and restrictions on how the building can be used. Restrictions on the gift included that the center had to remain a nonprofit center, or museum and theater. *Bennington Banner, September 14, 2021*

Lyndon, Caledonia County

On November 6th, WCAX-TV reported that the Lyndon Area Chamber of Commerce has commissioned a study to determine the structural needs of the bridges and is seeking grant funding. This has been an ongoing effort which experienced some delays during the past couple years. Lyndon has five covered bridges. The town owns four of them; a fifth, the Sanborn Bridge, is privately owned. The town has been investigating options for acquiring the Sanborn Bridge so they can apply for grants to attend to the necessary repairs.



*Randall Bridge, VT/45-03-07
Photo by Steve Brown*



*Sanborn Bridge, VT/45-03-05
Photo by Betty Pauwels*

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



New signs designed to protect the bridge have been installed. The signs, noting the height restrictions, have flashing lights and are located north and south of the bridge. The single-span queenpost truss bridge is the last Vermont covered bridge on a numbered state highway. Even with the additional warnings, the bridge was struck again on November 1st. A neighbor's security camera documented the flatbed truck carrying a van striking the portal at the southern end of the bridge. Three boards broke from the bridge and fell to the ground. The driver of the truck immediately stopped and backed the truck out of the bridge before causing any further damage. *Caledonian Record, September 30, 2021 and November 2, 2021. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

Vermont (continued)

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

In the previous issue (page 22), we mentioned that design of repairs and improvements to the bridge have been completed by Engineers from DuBois & King, Inc., of Randolph, Vermont. Details of work needed at the site were included in that report. With the sole bid on the project being twice the estimated amount, the Town and Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) rejected that bid and plan to advertise the project again during this winter hoping for a more competitive contractor climate. *News and Photo Courtesy DuBois & King, Inc.*



Salmond Bridge, Weathersfield, Windsor County – VT/45-14-05

Member Steven Keene sent these photos and notified us of damage to the bridge apparently caused by an animal chewing on the timbers. We have sent letters to Weathersfield town officials to notify them of the situation. The bridge was named after the Salmond family who lived near its original location near Stoughton Pond. With the coming of the North Springfield dam, the Salmond and Stoughton Bridges needed to be removed from the flood control basin. Milton Graton and Sons were hired to move the bridges. This one was moved to Amsden in 1959 where it was converted to an equipment shed by the Town of Weathersfield. The Graton's moved to its present location in 1986.



Virginia

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

In the previous issue (page 23), we noted that the bridge had been recently damaged by an oversized vehicle. A press release from the Virginia Department of Transportation on November 5th announced that the bridge was to be closed for repairs beginning on November 8th. It did not specify how long the bridge is expected to be closed. The notice also stated that between "2019 and 2021 there have been 11 instances of vehicles striking the historic Meems Bottom Bridge" with "the last one occurring while bridge repairs were underway from the previous strike." In 2018 signs and overhead clearance bars were installed with suspended chains to alert drivers of the low clearance. Multiple signs on both sides of the structure advise motorists that vehicles are limited to 10 feet in height, 12 feet in width, and a weight of 13 tons. The single-span Burr truss bridge was built in 1894 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. *Photo by Scott Wagner.*



West Virginia

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



The Barrackville Covered Bridge Preservation Association has been holding monthly meetings focusing on their efforts to see this bridge repaired. Since last quarter's update, At the October 19th meeting, State Delegate Guy Ward noted that he is still pursuing funding from government sources. *Graham Curry, a Barrackville resident and illustrator, is working on a rendering of the bridge that may be used for merchandise purchase. The group is also working on obtaining electricity at the site for festivals and events. They are planning a covered bridge festival in June 2022. The group can be contacted through their Facebook page, "Save the Barrackville Bridge, Again" or by email at saveourbridge@aol.com. Times West Virginian, October 21, 2021. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

Canada – New Brunswick

Bloomfield Bridge, Kings County – NB/55-06-01



In September and October, this bridge received a new roof and siding. By the looks of the scaffolding, there may have been other work as well. The 46 meter long (151') single-span Howe truss bridge was built over Bloomfield Creek in 1918. Photos during and after repairs by Al Babineau



MacFarlane (Ward's Creek #2) Bridge, Kings County - NB/55-06-13

We have heard reports that scaffolding has been set up around the bridge indicating that it is probably receiving roof and siding repairs similar to what has been done on other Kings County covered bridges. The 63' (19m) long Howe truss was built by A.E. Smye in 1909 who won the contract with his bid of \$1,694.00.



Use *Smile.Amazon.com* when you Shop Online

Support
National Society For The
Preservation Of Covered
Bridges.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

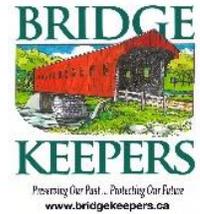
Do you shop at Amazon? Have you heard of Amazon Smile? It is a program where Amazon contributes 0.5% of your purchases to a non-profit organization. There is no cost to you. In September, we received a donation of **\$41.56**. Every little bit helps. Having more people participate will increase the funds we have available to contribute towards fire retardant and other worthwhile preservation projects. Thank you to all who have contributed.

For more details, go to tinyurl.com/nspcb-amazon. If that doesn't work, try the original link – smile.amazon.com/ch/04-6060691

Ontario

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

Tony Dowling of the West Montrose Residents' Association informed us of upcoming work being planned for Ontario's only historic covered bridge. The bridge will be closed for about a year for major repairs. The two-span bridge over the Grand River will undergo a \$4-million rehabilitation. Over the years, the structure has been fortified with concrete, steel trusses and other materials, but some of those measures are now showing their age. The Region of Waterloo provided information on the intended repairs and solicited comments. The engineering firm hired by the Region recommended replacing the existing floor system with either a new wooden deck or a steel deck. We recommended the wooden deck option as being closer to what would have originally been constructed. They also propose to replace some of the side truss timbers which have deteriorated. We recommended that any replacements be done with wood of a similar species to what was originally used. We have also put them in contact with the staff at Wood Research and Development for additional advice on the project. They hope to begin construction in the spring of 2022.



We recommended replacing the existing floor system with either a new wooden deck or a steel deck. We recommended the wooden deck option as being closer to what would have originally been constructed. They also propose to replace some of the side truss timbers which have deteriorated. We recommended that any replacements be done with wood of a similar species to what was originally used. We have also put them in contact with the staff at Wood Research and Development for additional advice on the project.

They hope to begin construction in the spring of 2022.

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

Previous issues have noted the work on this bridge. On June 16th, it was lifted off its abutments by crane and placed in a temporary location. A new bridge on new abutments has been built in its place. The covered bridge has been placed back over the new structure. It will no longer carry the weight of traffic, just be a cover over the new bridge. Audet & Knight, the contractor working on this bridge, posted a 35-second time-lapse video on its Facebook page showing the work done between June and October. The video can be seen at <https://fb.watch/90VoZZE2EU/>.



*Cranes moving the bridge to its temporary location.
Photo courtesy Audet & Knight.*



*At the temporary location while the new bridge is built.
Photo by Simon Pratte*



*The old walls and roof covering the new bridge.
Photo by Gérald Arbour*

Québec (continued)

Pont Perrault, Chaudière, Appalaches Region – QC/61-06-01

As we reported in the Summer issue (page 26), the 1928 bridge was closed to all traffic on February 16, 2018 by the Ministère des Transports du Québec (MTQ) and the engineering firm WSP was contracted to prepare a repair plan. On October 20th, radio station COOL-FM reported that the project which was anticipated to start late this year is being postponed to 2022. A revised estimate has been prepared since the cost of materials has increased significantly since the prior estimate prepared before the pandemic. The Municipality of Notre-Dame-des-Pins is therefore relaunching its efforts to raise an additional \$410,000 to complete the funding. If successful, the community will have invested nearly \$1.2 million to preserve the bridge. *Photo by Pascal Conner.*



Pont Balthazar, Cantons de l'Est – QC/61-11-01

In mid-September, the Brigham History Committee and the Municipality of Brigham unveiled a heritage sign containing photos and a brief history of the bridge. The event was attended by members of the Brigham History Committee, the mayor of Brigham, and the president of the Brome County Historical Society. Built in 1932, it was the first link connecting the land between the two branches of the Yamaska River and the village of Brigham. The name Balthazar comes from Gustave Balthazard, a local farmer, who used the bridge as a shelter for his sheep during the winter. The sign indicates that the final "d" of his name was dropped due to a clerical error long ago. The History Committee and the Mayor of Brigham also want to make a second sign near the town's other covered bridge, the



Decelles Bridge. *Le Guide, September 20, 2021. Photo by Gérald Arbour.*

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

We last reported on this bridge in the Spring 2020 issue (page 24). A group called SOS Pont Prud'homme is actively pursuing efforts to have the bridge restored and open to traffic. The group has been meeting with local officials who, in turn, have been communicating with MTQ about the work needed here. The bridge has been completely closed since December 2019. On November 13th, the group hosted a commemorative car rally to honor the bridge builders who completed construction on November 11, 1918, the very day the First World War ended. *Photo by Gérald Arbour.*



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.



Rudolph and Arthur Bridge, Chester County, Pennsylvania (PA/38-15-01)

According to *Covered Bridges of Chester County, PA* by Arthur E. James, the paper firm of Rudolph



and Arthur used its influence to have the County build the bridge at this location. Richard T. Meredith had the contract for the stonework and Menander Wood built the structure. The bridge was swept away by flooding associated with tropical storm Ida on



September 1, 2021. The left photo, from the NSPCB Archives, was taken by Herbert Richter on January 11, 1959. Bill & Jenn Caswell provided the interior photo.

Vaughan Creek #1 Bridge, St. Martins, New Brunswick (NB/55-11-05)

Demolition of the historic bridge began at the end of September. Previous issues have included details of the efforts to save this bridge. A façade of the bridge (right photo) is being saved and will be placed in a nearby park to commemorate the landmark. The project is expected to be completed in the summer of 2022. News from a Department of Transportation and Infrastructure press release on September 17, 2021, and CBC News, September 27, 2021. Photos courtesy Gloria Smedley and Tamara Langstroth.



July 2019



October 7, 2021



October 7, 2021

Waggoner's Mill Bridge, Perry County, Pennsylvania (PA/38-50-15)

This bridge was known by many names, Wagner's, Wagoner's, Waggoner's and Roddy's Mill. According to its National Register application, it was built by Joseph D. Lightner to replace a structure lost



during a flood in 1889. In Henry Falk's article on Perry County covered bridges in the Summer 1992 Topics, he noted that the earlier bridge was built in 1812, probably by the Waggoner



family who owned a nearby mill. At the time of the article, the bridge belonged to the Perry County Historical Society. The left photo was taken by William & Ida Cook in 1959 and is part of the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania Collection. Pat Cook provided the photo after the fire.