



# The Newsletter

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

Winter 2024/2025

## Knowlton Bridge



OH/35-56-18#2, Monroe County, Ohio

Photo by Terry Miller, October 20, 2024. See article on page 14

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

**NSPCB Contacts**

**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**

Jenn Caswell  
Membership Chair  
535 2nd NH Tpke  
Hillsboro, NH 03244-4601  
nspcb@yahoo.com

**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 **March**, therefore, anyone wishing to submit articles should send them by **February 15, 2025**. Articles and photos can be emailed to [nspcb@yahoo.com](mailto:nspcb@yahoo.com) or mailed to Bill Caswell at the address above.

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

**NSPCB Website**

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

**Welcome New Members**

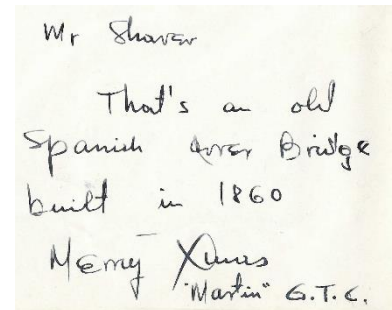
- Nancy Cable, Davidsville, Pennsylvania
- Mark Carney, Concord, New Hampshire
- Michael Darche, Auburn, Massachusetts
- Laura Elliott, Milford, New Hampshire
- Pamela Farrow, Salem, New Hampshire
- Patrick G. Jarvis, Perkinsville, Vermont
- David Loring, Warner, New Hampshire
- Doug MacLeod, Lynchburg, Virginia (joined Summer 2020 but not previously listed)
- Mark Maddox, Saxtons River, Vermont
- Gary Mosholder, Davidsville, Pennsylvania
- Robert Patenaude, Moultonborough, New Hampshire
- Bret Wirta, Seattle, Washington

**Welcome New Life Members**

- #218 – Lyle Oberhaus, Graytown, Ohio
- #219 – Peter Comanor, Olympia, Washington
- #220 – Everett Barnard, Augusta, Maine

**Mystery Photo**

This photo was included in a collection of items recently donated by the daughter of the late Louis Shaver of Cincinnati, Ohio. The photo and note were included in a Christmas card sent to Mr. Shaver from Medellin, Colombia, South America in 1960. Please contact Bill Caswell if you have any information about this bridge.



## President's Message

I hope that this message finds you healthy and well.

We enjoyed having the Annual Meeting at the Community Harvest Barn again this year. It is such a nice place to gather and celebrate the last time we will assemble this year. Thanks to Jenn for making the meal arrangements with local caterer Bushel 'N Peck of Grafton. While she and the family enjoyed preparing the annual dinner in the past, the Barn's policy requires us to have the meal catered. However, they still spend a significant amount of time washing dishes and utensils both before and after the meeting, preparing desserts and table decorations plus setting the table for the meal.

Scott Bomboy's presentation on the pioneers of covered bridge preservation was very interesting and informative. To make the meeting more accessible to our worldwide membership, we were able to offer a Zoom connection for those who were not able to attend in person. We look forward to including the remote audience in more meetings in the future when internet access is available.

I want to thank the nominating committee and those present at the annual meeting for electing me as your leader for another year. As I noted last year, I do realize that is at least partially because no one else appears to want the job. 😊 Regardless, I am happy to serve for another year. We are always looking for ways the organization can be improved. If you have ideas how we can better accomplish our mission and are able to help implement those ideas, please let us know. Thank you to all the officers and others who presently volunteer your time to help out and others who have offered their talents.

Welcome to Susan Wagner, our new Recording Secretary, who volunteered to take the position recently vacated by Joye Olson who kept our meeting minutes for nearly two decades.

The Society has been the benefactor to two large donations this year (\$41,954 and \$31,000.00) and numerous smaller contributions totaling \$81,163. That has helped us to provide fire retardant for the Adams Mill and Lancaster Bridges in Carroll County, Indiana and the Black Bridge in Oxford, Ohio. We have also contributed towards repairs to Bogert's Bridge in Allentown, Pennsylvania, the Cades Mill Bridge in Fountain County, Indiana and the Edgell Bridge in Lyme, New Hampshire. Thank you all for your contributions.

Jenn & I attended the New York State Covered Bridge Society's harvest dinner meeting in Hamden, New York on November 10<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting, they mentioned that their safari for 2025 will be in southwestern New Hampshire, southeastern Vermont and northern Massachusetts and were looking for volunteers to help plan the event. We were interested in participating and after consulting the NSPCB Board, we suggested making it a joint safari between the two organizations. The New York group is happy to have us along and we are excited to be able to offer a tour this year for those who are interested. Some information is included in this *Newsletter*. Additional details will be included in the spring issue.

You will notice that this issue also includes a proposed bylaw amendment. This proposal will be discussed and voted on at our meeting on March 23, 2025.

If you enjoy photographing covered bridges, don't forget to offer some of your best shots for consideration in the 2026 calendar. All the photos in our calendars are submitted by members. The deadline for submissions is February 28, 2025.

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 to help spread the word about covered bridge history and preservation. I know that many of you, like Jenn



*Wolf Bridge, IL/13-48-01#2  
Knox County, Illinois  
September 14, 2024*

and I, need to fit that extra commitment in while still working full-time jobs. We have certainly been blessed with some wonderful people eager to help. Since we report on covered bridges worldwide, it is challenging to keep on top of all the local issues which might be going on. We need help from all of our members. Also, if you live in an area with a state or regional covered bridge society, please consider helping them as well.

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.

While reading some old *Newsletters*, I saw the following quote included with David Wright's Summer 2012 President's Message and felt that it was worth repeating.

“Though for no other cause, yet for this; that posterity  
may know we have not loosely through silence permitted  
things to pass away as in a dream, ...”  
Richard Hooker (1554-1600)

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 2025.

*Bill Caswell*

### 2025 NSPCB Meetings & Events

All meetings begin at **1:00 PM** unless otherwise noted. If you plan to attend a meeting, please check the NSPCB website ([www.coveredbridgesociety.org](http://www.coveredbridgesociety.org)) or contact Bill Caswell at [nspcb@yahoo.com](mailto:nspcb@yahoo.com) a couple days before the event to inquire if it has been necessary to make any last minute adjustments to the published schedule. Meetings will be available by Zoom when possible.

- Sunday, March 23** .....Horace Chase Masonic Lodge, Boscawen, New Hampshire. (In-person & virtual). Presentation by
- Sunday, April 27** .....Museum of Old Newbury, 98 High St, Newburyport, Massachusetts.
- Sunday, June 22** .....Contoocook Covered Bridge, Contoocook, New Hampshire. Bring your own chairs.
- Sunday, July 27** .....The Barn Yard, Ellington, Connecticut. Learn about the construction of this traditionally built bridge.
- August 9-10** .....Joint safari with the New York State Covered Bridge Society.
- Sunday, August 24** .....Annual picnic at Beaver Meadow Village at the end of Waumbec Road, Concord, NH. The cookout is at noon and the meeting at 1 pm.
- Sunday, September 28** .....Baltimore Bridge, Springfield, Vermont. Bring your own chairs and picnic lunch.
- Saturday, October 11** .....Hyde Hall 200th Anniversary celebration, Glimmerglass State Park, near Cooperstown, New York
- Sunday, October 26** .....NSPCB Annual Meeting and Dinner, Brigham Hill Barn, North Grafton, Massachusetts.

## In Memoriam

### Becky Mosholder

Long-time member Becky Mosholder of Thomasdale, Pennsylvania, died August 27, 2024 at the age of 74. Becky was a lifetime member of the Roxbury Church of the Brethren where she was a Deaconess. She served in many capacities in her church over the years – Kindergarten Sunday School Teacher for over 40 years, Vacation Bible School Director for many years and a number of other roles. She had traveled to all 50 states and all Canadian provinces except Newfoundland. “The vacations usually included lighthouses, covered bridges, grist mills, and Dutch windmills, which were her favorite man-made structures, but the National Parks were by far the grandest of God's creations.” She had been a member of the NSPCB since 1988. She is survived by a brother, sister, nephews and a niece. Text excerpted from her obituary on the Henderson Funeral Home website.



### Jerry Schull



Jerry D. Schull of New Philadelphia, Ohio, life member #121, passed away on July 29, 2024 following a period of declining health. Jerry served in the United States Army as a Military Police officer, including time spent in Germany. He retired as a computer controller from the Ohio Department of Liquor Control, and was a member of the Millersburg Methodist Community Church. After retirement, Jerry and his wife Roxie traveled extensively visiting all forty-eight lower states, the Canadian Rockies, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and exploring the entire perimeter of Lake Superior. Jerry later took up woodcarving as a hobby. Being self-taught from books, he created intricate carvings of wildlife and would have Roxie complete the pieces with some painted highlights. Jerry is survived by his wife and a daughter, Mary Ann Schull. He was preceded in death by a son, Richard Schull.

## Archives Update

In September, we received a box of negatives of covered bridges from the Danbury Railway Museum in Danbury, Connecticut. They were part of a collection of the late Daniel Foley who was one of the founding members of the museum. Dan was known as an avid railroad photographer although his interest in covered bridges was not known until the museum started going through his collection after he passed away on June 10<sup>th</sup> at age 89.

In October, Joyce Soroka, life member and former president of the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania, donated her collection of covered bridge books to be divided between the two organizations. As a result, some new titles were added to our collection and some were added to the list of books for sale.

In November, we received a box containing covered bridge items belonging to the late Louis Shaver (1917-2007) donated by his daughter Carol Wagner. The most interesting part of that collection are two binders of photographs of Ohio covered bridges taken in the 1940s along with maps identifying the locations of those photos. They will be scanned to be available for future publications. The image included here is of the Beetle Creek Bridge (OH/35-08-20x) south of Decatur, in Brown County, Ohio taken on November 1, 1942. That bridge was lost in 1951.



## Proposed Bylaw Amendment

It has been noted that the current by-laws do not specify the start and end dates of officer and director positions. They are elected at the Annual Meeting in October, but there is no indication of when the term actually starts. Also, it is the opinion of the Executive Board that anyone serving as an officer or director should also be a member. The following amendment to the by-laws is being proposed to make those changes. New and modified text is shown in **bold** print.

Members are welcome to email comments to [nspcb@yahoo.com](mailto:nspcb@yahoo.com) before the proposal is discussed and voted on at the March 2024 meeting.

### ARTICLE IX — NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

- Section 1. A Nominating Committee of at least three members, appointed by the Executive Board shall be announced at the Annual Meeting of the Society, with one member being appointed each year for a term of three years.
- Section 2. The Nominating Committee shall present its report at the Annual Meeting of the Society.
- Section 3. To be nominated, the individual shall be a member of the Society in good standing.**
- Section 3 4. The election of Officers and Directors shall be held at the Annual Meeting, a majority vote of members present and voting being necessary to elect.
- Section 4 5. If there is only one nominee for any office, by vote of the Society, the Recording Secretary shall cast one ballot for the nominee, or for the entire slate.
- Section 5 6. The Officers shall serve for one year and are eligible for re-election. Directors shall serve for three years and be eligible for re-election.
- Section 7. The term of office shall begin at the end of the Annual Meeting.**

## News of Members

### Jim Huey Documentary

On page 9 of the Spring 2024 *Newsletter*, we reported on a podcast featuring long-time member Jim Huey and his friend and fellow musician, Trina Emig. At the time, Trina was working on a video about Jim’s interest in covered bridges, anecdotes about finding bridges before the Internet and GPS guidance and his membership in the NSPCB. The hour-long video titled *The Covered Bridge Hunter* includes recollections of covered bridge adventures by Jim’s wife and friends plus music by Jim and Trina. The video can be found on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/WgPaS5YVFSc>.



The hour-long video titled *The Covered Bridge Hunter* includes recollections of covered bridge adventures by Jim’s wife and friends plus music by Jim and Trina. The video can be found on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/WgPaS5YVFSc>.

His interest started with a visit to the See Pike Bridge in Bourbon County, Kentucky in April 1966. The bridge had a card tacked up inside promoting the NSPCB which he joined shortly afterwards. After 17 years of traveling, he had visited all the known covered bridges in the United States with the last one being the Colfax Bridge in Whitman County, Washington, in 1983.



*Jim’s 1<sup>st</sup> covered bridge, See Pike Bridge, Bourbon County, Kentucky. Replaced in 1967.*



*Jim with his 1965 World Guide.*



*Colfax Bridge, Whitman County, Washington, in 1983. Lost to a wildfire on September 7, 2020*

### August Meeting

Twenty-seven members from three states gathered at noon to share the traditional "Pot Luck Barbeque Picnic". Thanks to Jenn Caswell for her service as grillmaster. In addition to the usual reports, it was noted that we will be seeking a new recording secretary at the October meeting as Joye Olson will retire after nearly two decades in the position.



Bill reported that the fundraising effort during June for repairs to the Edgell Bridge in Lyme, New Hampshire, netted a total of \$7,325 (\$7,196.39 after online fees were deducted). The group voted to include a donation of \$10,000 from the NSPCB for a total of \$17,325.00. The Treasurer prepared a check which Bill delivered to the Town Administrator. Bill also shared his experiences scanning Paddleford truss bridges with Professor Philip Caston during August. That effort included 3D digital scans of Lyndonville, Vermont's Sanborn Bridge before and after it was dismantled.

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Photos by Scott Wagner and Bob Watts.



### September Meeting

The September meeting was held at the Scott Bridge in Townshend, Vermont with fourteen members and guests from three states on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. Thank you to Charlie Marchant of the Townshend Historical Society for assisting with arrangements for the meeting.

A motion was made and approved to purchase a voice recorder so the new recording secretary can record meetings to help with preparation of notes. Barbara Gregory offered to work on a new design for our membership brochure. That was completed in time to debut it at the Warner Fall Foliage Festival. Photos by Bob Watts.



## October Meeting

The delightful meal was followed by a wonderful presentation by Scott Bomboy discussing the pioneers of covered bridge preservation beginning in the 1920s. After the presentation, all introduced themselves. There were 29 in attendance plus four remote attendees for a total of 33 people from seven states.

Gloria Smedley's treasurer's report spotlighted the significant donations we have received this year (\$83,163.00 to date) along with a summary of the donations that the Society has made (\$63,242.00). The 2025 meeting schedule was reviewed and followed by a report of the Warner festival.



There was a spirited discussion about whether the *Newsletter* should be printed in color, a request to offer members the ability to opt out of receiving printed copies of *Topics* and the *Newsletter* and receive electronic copies only and discussion of a possible dues increase to cover the rising costs of operating the organization. The membership dues were last increased in 2007.

The new membership brochure was presented to the audience. Thank you Barbara Gregory for preparing the new brochure; a noteworthy improvement over the previous version. The meeting concluded with the election of officers and "Year in Review" presentation.



Thank you to Val & Martha Stegemoen, Jenn Caswell, Carmela Sciandra, Kendra Brunt and Gavin Smith for their service setting up, serving lunch and clean-up after the meeting.

## 2026 NSPCB Calendar Photos

Images are being accepted for the 2026 calendar until February 28, 2025. As you travel around this fall and winter, watch for opportunities for calendar photos and pick out your best ones from throughout the year. Each individual can submit up to ten recent photos to be considered for the calendar.

Photos taken during the past year are preferred. The committee looks for images from a variety of states and seasons, so the calendar presents structures throughout the United States and Canada. Bridges which have not yet been featured on one of our calendars may have preference over those included in previous years. Images with 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](mailto: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.



### Warner Fall Foliage Festival



Thank you to all who volunteered their time to help out at the Society’s booth during this year’s Fall Foliage Festival in Warner, New Hampshire. It was a wonderful event as always. Thanks to Bill & Jenn Caswell for coordinating NSPCB’s participation in the event. Thank you to Kendra and Miranda Brunt for helping set up our booth early Saturday morning and to Larry Olasky, Bob Watts and Barbara Gregory for their help staffing the site on Saturday. Thanks also to the friends and members who stopped by to visit. Being a cool day, sweatshirts and fleeces were popular, and overall sales were good. We welcomed four new members and were able to inform many others about the importance of preserving our remaining historic covered bridges.

Among the many visitors was the couple shown here who mentioned that they were married on the Cornish-Windsor Bridge at midnight one New Year’s Eve/Day.



Due to predictions of rain all day Sunday and temperatures in the 40s, we decided skip the second day. Thank you to Scott and Sue Wagner who were willing to spend the cold, wet day with Bill & Jenn if we had chosen to stay. All of the assistance was greatly appreciated. We will probably not be able to participate next year since the celebration for the Hyde Hall Bridge’s 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary in New York will be on that same weekend.



Photos by Barbara Gregory, Bob Watts and Bill Caswell.

### 2025 Safari

On August 9 & 10, 2025, the NSPCB and New York State covered Bridge Society will host a safari to covered bridges in southwestern New Hampshire, southeastern Vermont and northern Massachusetts. Bridges likely to be included are:

#### New Hampshire

- Coombs Bridge..... NH/29-03-03
- Slate Bridge.....NH/29-03-06#2
- Thompson Bridge ..... NH/29-03-04
- Sawyer's Crossing Bridge... NH/29-03-05
- Carlton Bridge ..... NH/29-03-07
- Ashuelot Bridge ..... NH/29-03-02

#### Vermont

- West Dummerston Bridge .VT/45-13-02#2
- Williamsville Bridge ..... VT/45-13-05#2
- Creamery Bridge..... VT/45-13-01
- Green River Bridge ..... VT/45-13-04

#### Massachusetts

- Arthur Smith Bridge..... MA/21-06-03#2
- Pumping Station Bridge ... MA/21-06-02#2
- Burkeville or Conway Bridge MA/21-06-01
- Bissell Bridge ..... MA/21-06-04#2

Additional details will be included in the spring issue.

## 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/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/CoveredBridgesConservationAssociationNB/)
- Indiana Covered Bridge Society (ICBS) ..... [www.indianacoveredbridges.org/](http://www.indianacoveredbridges.org/)
- New York State Covered Bridge Society (NYSCBS) ..... [www.nycoveredbridges.org/](http://www.nycoveredbridges.org/)
- Ohio Historic Bridge Association (OHBA)..... [oldohiobridges.com/new/](http://oldohiobridges.com/new/)
- The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania (TBCBSP) ..... [www.tbcbspa.com/](http://www.tbcbspa.com/)
- Vermont Covered Bridge Society (VCBS) ..... [www.vermontbridges.org/](http://www.vermontbridges.org/)

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

<b><u>December</u></b>	<b>Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup></b> – 11:30 AM to 3:30 PM, TBCBSP Christmas Dinner at Yoder’s Restaurant, 14 South Tower Road, New Holland, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.
<b><u>January</u></b>	
<b><u>February</u></b>	
<b><u>March</u></b>	<b>Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup></b> – 2:00 PM, TBCBSP Monthly Meeting at St. Paul Episcopal Church, 340 Locust St., Columbia, Pennsylvania. <b>Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup></b> – 1:30 PM, OHBA Meeting, Ohio History Connection Auditorium, 800 E. 17 <sup>th</sup> Ave., Exit 111 off of Route 71.
<b><u>April</u></b>	<b>Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup></b> – 2:00 PM, TBCBSP Monthly Meeting at St. Paul Episcopal Church, 340 Locust St., Columbia, Pennsylvania. <b>Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup></b> – NYSCBS Dinner at Spaghetti Warehouse, 689 N. Clinton St., Syracuse, New York. Doors open at 11:00 AM, Lunch at noon.

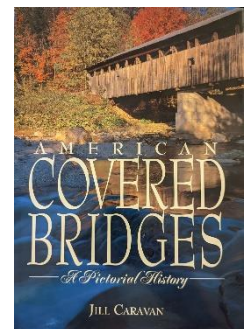
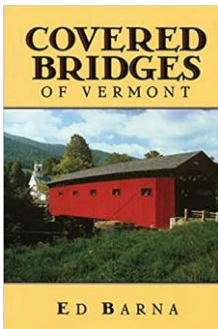
### Hyde Hall Bridge Celebration

Save the date! Mark your calendars for a very special 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Hyde Hall covered bridge, the oldest covered bridge standing in the U.S. located in Glimmerglass State Park near Cooperstown, NY. The date is Saturday, October 11, 2025, 10-4 pm. This will be a family event, with everyone invited to attend. Watch for more information as plans develop. Please note: If you plan on camping at Glimmerglass that weekend, reservations can be made up to nine months in advance. Campsites fill up fast so make your reservations early at: [www.reserveamerica.com](http://www.reserveamerica.com) and/or call Reserve America at (800) 456-2267.



### Used Books

We occasionally receive donations that include covered bridge books. While some of the books are added to the Society’s permanent collection in the archives in Concord, New Hampshire, others are available for sale. We do not include the list in the *Newsletter* because it often changes and would be outdated before you receive it. There is a list on the website which is updated as new items are received and others are purchased. For more details, visit <https://www.coveredbridgesociety.org/books-used.htm>.



## Updates to the *World Guide to Covered Bridges*

For a complete list of changes, please visit the website at [www.coveredbridgesociety.org](http://www.coveredbridgesociety.org) and click on the *World Guide* link.

Page 18, Hamilton County, Indiana, add:

IN/14-29-14 Fishers Fall Creek Bell's Ford 1 160' 2024 Post

Adjacent to the Florida Road crossing of Fall Creek east of Fishers at the south end of Geist Park.  
N39° 56.844', W085° 53.450'

Page 78, Monroe County, Ohio, add:

OH/35-56-18#2 Washington Knowlton Little Muskingum River 3 192' 2024 Multiple King & Arch

3.5 miles south of jct OH537 on OH26, then 0.3 miles left on TR384 to dead end at Covered Bridge Park. North of Rinard Mills. N39° 36.074' W081° 09.436'

Page 112, Erie County, Pennsylvania, update PA/38-25-04, the Waterford Bridge to remove the note that it is closed to traffic. The bridge was repaired and re-opened in November 2024.

Page 125, Perry County, Pennsylvania, update truss type of the following three bridges to **Multiple King & Polygonal Arch**

PA/38-50-09 Kochenderfer

PA/38-50-11 New Germantown

PA/38-50-12 Mount Pleasant

## Theodore Burr and the Bridging of Early America:

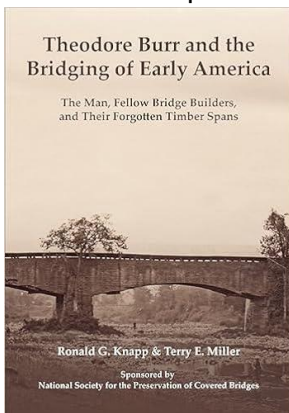
The Man, Fellow Bridge Builders, and Their Forgotten Timber Spans

Authors Ron Knapp and Terry Miller collaborated to create a 500+ page story of Burr's bridge-building career and aspects of his personal life discovered during their three years of research. They provide a compelling narrative of a very interesting man who lived during an important period of American history.

The NSPCB is proud to sponsor this significant contribution to the history of covered bridge building in America. Proceeds from book sales are being donated to the NSPCB to be used for covered bridge preservation projects.

The book is divided into three parts.

- An introduction to Theodore Burr and family.
- Chronicles of Burr's bridges with individual chapters dedicated to more significant ones.
- Burr's legacy and use of the "Burr Arch-Truss" after his death.



It is available from Amazon in Kindle, softcover and hardcover versions. Search for it on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or scan this QR code for additional details.

## Madison County, Iowa's Famous Covered Bridges

On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Des Moines Register ran an article about the condition of the county's six covered bridges; spans made famous by *The Bridges of Madison County* book and movie partially filmed at the bridges. WeAreIowa.com also posted an article based on an interview with Madison County Chamber of Commerce CEO Amara Huffine on October 15, 2024. The articles were published around the time of the county's annual Covered Bridge Festival.

Of the six spans, only the Cedar Bridge, built in 2019 after two previous covered bridges at that location were lost to arson, doesn't need repairs. A county engineer has indicated that the other five bridges may have only 10 years left if repairs aren't done soon. The county doesn't have the funds to repair them and is searching for other sources. It was hoped that festival attendees will contribute towards the estimated \$4.7 million needed for repairs. Madison County is actively looking at grants to help fund the repairs. However, there is still concern about their ability to raise money needed for the match funding required by most grants.

At this year's annual Madison County Covered Bridge Festival, there were QR codes at all of the gates which took visitors to a donation page, encouraging them to help restore the historic bridges.

After the Register article was published, the NSPCB reached out to the county engineer and county tourism bureau with an offer to help and request for more details of the work needed at each location. No response has been received yet. Photos were taken by Bill & Jenn Caswell during a trip to Iowa in September 2024. The notes below are from the two articles plus Bill & Jenn's observations.

### Roseman Bridge



Built by Madison County in 1883 at a cost of \$2,930, the 107-foot-long Roseman bridge was last renovated in 1992 for \$152,515, with the help of a federal restoration grant. It was one of two covered bridges featured in the movie *The Bridges of Madison County*.



### Holliwell Bridge

According to the Winterset Madisonian of March 25, 1880, "One of the best wooden bridges in this county has just been built over Middle river, on the road from Winterset to St. Charles. It was built by H.P. Jones and G.K. Foster under the supervision of ex-Supervisor Beerbower, and is known as the Holliwell Bridge. The iron bridge that spanned the river at that point is to be moved to the Sulgrove Ford over North River in Douglas Township." The bridge cost \$1,180 to build. It was last renovated in 1995 for \$225,000, made possible by a federal restoration grant. It was the other covered bridge featured in the movie. Huffine noted that this is the worst one of the six and is concerned that it may not be around in ten years if not repaired. The bridge features an interesting double arch in addition to the lattice truss.



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## Madison County, Iowa's Famous Covered Bridges (continued)



### Hogback Bridge

Built by Harvey P. Jones and George K. Foster in 1884, the 106-foot-long bridge was last renovated in 1992 at a cost of \$118,810.



### Imes Bridge

The oldest covered bridge in the county, the Imes Bridge was built in 1870 over the Middle River west of Patterson. It was moved to a spot over Clanton Creek southwest of Hanley in 1887 and was repaired in 1959 after a truck carrying 18 tons of corn crashed through the floor in October 1958.<sup>1</sup> It was moved to a park in St. Charles in 1977 and last renovated in 1997 at a cost of \$31,807.



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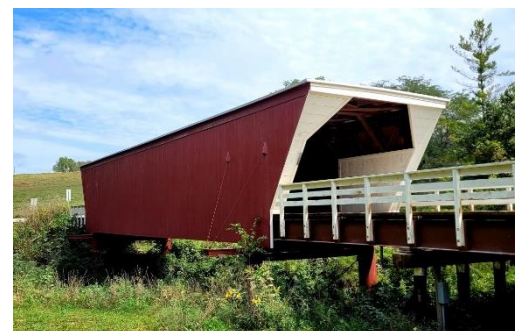
### Cutler-Donahoe Bridge

Built by Eli Cox in 1871, the Cutler-Donahoe Bridge was last rehabilitated in 1997 at a cost of \$35,538. It was moved from its original site to a Winterset city park in time for Madison County's inaugural Covered Bridge Festival in 1970. The walls are covered in graffiti. The floorboards and structural beams are starting to crack as well.



### Cedar Bridge

The first Cedar Bridge was built in 1883 by Harvey P. Jones and George K. Foster. It was Madison County's last covered bridge open to vehicles. Originally built over Cedar Creek north of Winterset on what is now route 169, it was moved to a new location over the same creek in 1921. The historic bridge was destroyed by arson on September 3, 2002. A replica was built from the original plans by Herberger Construction Company. The second bridge was dedicated on October 9, 2004 and was lost to arson on April 15, 2017. The third incarnation of the bridge was built in 2019 and opened to the public during the 50<sup>th</sup> Covered Bridge Festival on October 12, 2019.



<sup>1</sup> Omaha Sunday World-Herald Magazine, May 31, 1959, Page 5.

## Reconstruction of the Knowlton Bridge, Monroe County, Ohio

The original Knowlton Bridge (OH/35-56-18) was an unusual structure composed of three spans built at different times. Its history was detailed in the Spring 2024 *Topics*. In brief, the 90' center span was likely built in 1867. The two covered approach spans were added 1884. This photo was taken by Jim Smedley.



We first reported on the need to repair this bridge in the Winter 2015/2016 *Newsletter* when Monroe County commissioners approved \$10,000 for a feasibility study. In the Spring 2017 *Newsletter*, we reported that Woolpert, an engineering firm with offices in 14 states, was hired by Monroe County to rehabilitate this and the Foraker Bridge. The Foraker Bridge work was completed in October 2016.

*“Covered bridges are unique, and we need to do everything that we can to protect and preserve them. Of all the covered bridges that I’ve done in the last 30 years, this one has become the most unique.”*

*Tony Durm, Ohio DOT Engineer*

The repairs were estimated at \$900,000 and design prepared. Unfortunately, the single bid received in the spring of 2019 was 40% over the estimate and rejected. The engineers were reassessing the design when the center span collapsed on July 5, 2019. At first it was thought that insurance money could be used to supplement the now increased repair estimate. However, the insurance company determined that the collapse was not covered under their policy.

While the project was being redesigned to account for the collapsed span, a second span collapsed on June 17, 2020. Ron Mattox from Woolpert, the engineering firm hired to design repairs to the bridge, and County Commissioners visited the site to evaluate how much of the historic timber can be used in the new structure. This photo was taken by Terry Miller.



On December 26, 2020, the Martin’s Ferry Times-Leader reported that county officials were hoping to use locally grown and county-owned timber to rebuild the bridge saving the



county thousands of dollars on the project. They located 115 white oak trees, most of what would be needed. In addition to saving costs, county officials felt that using locally sourced materials would also preserve the historic value of the bridge. The trees were harvested in March 2023 and sent to a sawmill for processing. By October, construction crews were mobilizing to the site to prepare for the task of reconstructing the bridge. Left photo courtesy The Righter Company, February 2024.

Work began during the winter and continued until the bridge was completed this fall. The left and middle photos below taken by Jim Huey on September 10<sup>th</sup>. The right photo is from new member Nancy Cable.



## Reconstructing the Waterford or Niemeyer Road Bridge in Erie County, Pennsylvania

This bridge, World Guide number PA/38-25-04, goes by many names. In addition to the two in this title, it is also referred to as the Brotherton Bridge and Old Kissing Bridge. The National Register nomination form lists the construction date as 1875, the architect as Richard Cross and builders as Charles & James Phelps. The bridge spanning LeBoeuf Creek was closed due to structural concerns in May 2011. Repairs and rehabilitation had been attempted many times over the years but were delayed as costs of materials and labor increased faster than additional funding could be secured. Continuing decay of the span also added to the complexity of the project and prompted additional cost increases. The work was contracted to Chivers Construction Company, of Fairview, Pennsylvania, at a cost of \$3,473,690 and funded in part by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The bridge was dismantled and removed last fall. New abutments were constructed and new steel I-beams were added to support the structure. Reconstruction of the wooden span began earlier this year. Photo from Waterford Township.



Life member Steve Gerbracht visited the site on October 8<sup>th</sup> and sent us additional photos of the work in progress. He noted that the trusses were raised on September 17<sup>th</sup> and a metal roof was installed by early October. Siding was being installed at the time of his visit.



The crew noted that the camber<sup>2</sup> of the bridge increased the difficulty of adding the siding. The roadway will be paved on both approaches, with turnouts for traffic on at least one side of the bridge. A protective barrier was installed to minimize risk of damage due to oversize trucks and security cameras added. The blue gas pipe which had been alongside the bridge has been removed. The roadway is now supported by the four I-beams. The trusses support themselves and the roof.



Marcus Cramer, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation engineer in charge of the project noted that "We only replaced (parts) deemed necessary during the engineering review or inspection. The bridge is as much original as we could keep it." This photo provided by Waterford Township appears to show that sections of the upper and lower chords near the ends of the bridge have been replaced along with a few of the lattice members. While the photo only showed one side, it appeared that the new material was only added near the ends of the bridge. Keeping with the traditional intent of the project, trunnels were used to connect the pieces of the Town lattice truss instead of bolts. While Pennsylvania has over 200 covered bridges, this is one of only 19 using a Town lattice truss. "It basically was put together the same way that it was built almost 150 years ago," Cramer said. "It was pretty neat to see hatchets used and sledgehammers used to drive in wooden dowel pins. I've never seen that before and may never see it again," he noted.



The bridge was opened to traffic on November 7<sup>th</sup>. A grand opening ceremony was held on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Some material for this article was found in an article posted on GoErie.com on September 26, 2024, with additional information from the Erie Times-News of November 14, 2024 and a Pennsylvania Department of Transportation press release on November 14, 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Camber – The vertical curvature of a bridge rising upward towards the center to help eliminate sagging.

## Covered Bridge News

### Alabama

#### Clarkson or Legg Bridge, Cullman County – AL/01-22-01

On October 12<sup>th</sup>, attendees at Alabama’s Covered Bridge Festival in Oneonta in neighboring Blount County enjoyed the premier of Adam Duke’s “The Kiss on Clarkson Covered Bridge,” a song he composed to lyrics by Georgia Hendrix Shockley. The song may elevate awareness of the four-span lattice truss bridge. Locals have a renewed appreciation for the location after upgrades to the landscape at the bridge and rental cabin in 2023. Kelly Clarkson fans at the festival eagerly signed a “request to consider” sheet which will be given to her with a music CD of the song. Duke is known from his participation at bluegrass festivals and concerts from Portland, Maine, to the Florida Panhandle. The bridge over Crooked Creek was built in 1904. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on June 25, 1974. *Cullman Tribune, October 21, 2024. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



### Illinois

#### Red Bridge, Bureau County – IL/13-06-01

We previously reported that the bridge was severely damaged by a tractor-trailer on November 16, 2023. A crew from the Illinois Department of Transportation installed temporary shoring in December to stabilize the roof until a permanent fix can be made. Bill & Jenn Caswell visited the site on September 14<sup>th</sup> and took this photo of the temporary repairs. The DOT is still working on determining the best approach to repairs. The single-span Howe truss bridge over Big Bureau Creek was built in 1864. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on April 23, 1975.



### Indiana

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

As this issue was about to go to the printer, we received an email from Carol Freese informing us that Structure Systems Repair Group (SSRG) of Cincinnati, Ohio, has completed the restoration of this bridge. Details of the project were included on page 19 of the Spring 2024 *Newsletter*. On August 20<sup>th</sup>, Kurdziel Barker Engineering noted that “the south end lower chords, comprised of sturdy Douglas fir, have been successfully reconstructed. To maintain historical integrity, we utilized steel strap splices, modeled after the classic JJ Daniels style from the late 1800s, honoring the work of a renowned local builder.” To separate the wooden structure from the concrete abutments, the bridge now sits on blocks of black locust. The ends have new wingwalls to ensure that dirt and debris cannot access the lower chords again. The single-span 1854 Howe truss bridge over Coal Creek was added to the National Register of Historic Places on May 24, 2021. *Photos courtesy Kurdziel Barker Engineering.*





## Indiana (continued)

### Bell's Ford Bridge, Hamilton County

Details of the project to construct this bridge were included on page 20 of the Spring 2024 *Newsletter* and page 13 of the Fall 2024 issue. On November 12<sup>th</sup>, we received an update on this project from Daniel Kurdziel of Kurdziel Barker Engineering. The bridge is in place at its permanent location. The siding of clear ½” polycarbonate with UV protective coating on both sides is being installed. The clear siding is partly for safety reasons and partly because the original Bell’s Ford Bridge was constructed as an open bridge with siding added later. The only example of a Post truss covered bridge spans Fall Creek next to Florida Road on the east side of Fishers at the southern end of Geist Park. The 160’ historic span is flanked with approach spans to cover the 400’ between abutments. The top row of photos were taken by Gloria Smedley on October 9<sup>th</sup>. The bottom row were taken on November 6<sup>th</sup> and provided by Kurdziel Barker Engineering.



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

On page 15 of the Fall *Newsletter*, we reported that the bridge would be receiving a new roof at a cost of \$65,496.24. The leaky roof had caused interior timbers to rot which required reinforcement with steel

plates. That work was expected to be completed on October 7<sup>th</sup>. The repairs were completed by an Amish construction crew overseen by Energy Conservation Solutions a contractor based in Greencastle. The crew had previously replaced



the roof of the Edna Collings Bridge, IN/14-67-06, which was included on page 15 of the Fall *Newsletter*. The single-span Burr truss span over Big Walnut Creek was built in 1915. *Greencastle Banner-Graphic*, October 10, 2024. Photos by Greg McDuffee (left) and Todd Clark (right).

## Indiana (continued)

### Houck Bridge, Putnam County – IN/14-67-11

Ever since it was bypassed and rehabilitated ten years ago, the bridge has had trouble with its siding remaining intact during high winds. The problem was blamed on an insufficient number of purlins to



connect the siding to and the fasteners used to secure the siding. On October 9<sup>th</sup> an Amish construction crew removed the existing siding. Energy Conservation Solutions of Greencastle is overseeing the project



to install more purlins and then paint and install or reinstall all of the siding. The work was expected to take about two weeks and cost \$73,830.42. The two-span Howe truss bridge over Big Walnut Creek was built in 1880. *Greencastle Banner-Graphic, October 10, 2024. Photos by Judy Greeson (left) and Jeff Shroyer (right).*

### Putnam County Bridges Added to the National Register of Historic Places

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, Indiana Landmarks reported that all nine of the county’s historic covered bridges had been added to the National Register of Historic Places. A search of the National Register database showed that the listings were added on May 21, 2024. “In early 2023, Phil Gick, Putnam County Council member and then-president of the Heritage Preservation Society of Putnam County (HPS), sought assistance from Indiana Landmarks and the Putnam Parks & Pathways organization to nominate the county’s covered bridges to the National Register of Historic Places.” As we have reported in the past few issues, several of the bridges face critical rehabilitation needs. Putnam County Council recently allocated \$200,000 to address the most urgent repairs, but listing in the National Register qualifies the spans for additional grant funding. Thanks to Jim Crouse for alerting us to the Indiana Landmarks article.

Bridge Name	WG Number	Truss Type	Crosses	Spans	Year Built
Cornstalk	IN/14-67-01	Burr	Cornstalk Creek	1	1917
Bakers Camp or Hillis	IN/14-67-02	Burr	Big Walnut Creek	1	1901
Pine Bluff	IN/14-67-03	Howe	Big Walnut Creek	2	
Rolling Stone	IN/14-67-04	Burr	Big Walnut Creek	1	1915
Edna Collings	IN/14-67-06	Burr	Little Walnut Creek	1	1922
Dunbar	IN/14-67-07	Burr	Big Walnut Creek	2	1880
Oakalla or Shoppell	IN/14-67-10	Burr	Big Walnut Creek	1	1898
Houck	IN/14-67-11	Howe	Big Walnut Creek	2	1880
Dick Huffman or Webster	IN/14-67-13	Howe	Big Walnut Creek	2	1880

### Indiana (continued)

#### Roann Bridge, Wabash County – IN/14-85-01#4

The 1877 Howe truss bridge received a new coat of paint in September. We have also been asked to provide fire retardant which is planned for the spring when the weather is warm enough to apply it. Jim &



Gloria Smedley visited the bridge on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Gloria provided these photos and noted that the bridge was closed to traffic. We contacted Cindy Donovan, President of the Roann Covered Bridge Association for additional details. She informed us that it was closed after a recent inspection identified some areas



needing repair. The County Commissioners have requested an estimate of the repair cost from their engineers. We look forward to an update for the next issue. The two-span structure over Eel River was added to the National Register of Historic Places on August 6, 1981.

### Iowa

#### Hammond Bridge, Marion County – IA/15-63-01

Bill & Jenn Caswell visited this bridge on September 13<sup>th</sup> to find that the uncovered approach span is



now gone. Marion County engineer Tyler Christian confirmed that it was damaged by floodwaters in May. He provided the left photo showing the damage. The span was removed during the summer. The Howe truss covered span over North Cedar Creek was built in 1894. The 80-foot long north approach to the bridge was added



in 1952, though as late as 1956 the creek bed carrying water was still directly under the covered span.

### Kentucky

#### Ringos Mill Bridge, Fleming County – KY/17-35-04

The work on the wooden portion of this bridge is mostly complete. The floor was removed and a steel truss inserted to support the structure while working on the bottom chords and restoring the camber. Work on the abutments is now underway. These photos were provided by Arnold M. Grāton Associates.



September 16



September 17



October 27



November 13

## Kentucky (continued)

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

The bridge was damaged when a box truck passed through it in early July. Every knee brace was broken or compromised and one tie beam was badly damaged. Since Arnold M. Grāton Associates was



already in the area working on the Grange City and Ringos Mills bridges, they offered to repair the Goddard Bridge at no cost. Those repairs were completed on September 12<sup>th</sup>. The single-span Town truss bridge was originally built in 1864 and moved to its present location in 1932. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on August 22, 1975. The



bridge was bypassed in 1998 and remains open to traffic. *Left photo by Woodie & Ginny Reeves. Right photo courtesy Arnold M. Grāton Associates.*

## Maine

### Babb's Bridge, Cumberland County – ME/19-03-01#2

On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, Maine State Police officials stated that a truck weighing 36,000 pounds or 18 tons – six times the posted three-ton weight limit of the bridge – caused the floor to give way leaving the truck in the Presumpscot River below. A press release from the Gorham Police Department said the driver of the Ford F-750 loaded with crushed gravel, 37-year-old Joshua Polewarzyk, of Limington, suffered minor injuries. Authorities said they have issued a \$2,500 weight violation summons to The Driveway Guys, the Biddeford-based company that owns the truck. The Gorham and Windham Historical Society's met on September 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss a possible plan of



action. They recommended replacement of 11 floor stringers and all of the floor boards since they are showing wear from many years of traffic. It is likely that the bridge will be closed until next spring. The single-span queenpost bridge was built in 1976 to replace a covered bridge lost to arson. *WMTW, August 26, 2024 and WGME, September 8, 2024. Photos courtesy Gorham Police Department.*



## New Hampshire

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

On October 31<sup>st</sup>, a rental truck driven by Juan Camacho Rosales, 20, of Manchester entered the bridge from Route 16 and got stuck part way through. Town administrator Julie Hoyt witnessed the incident and called Jackson Police. Police and Fire crews reduced air pressure in the truck's suspension and tires so it could be removed without additional damage to the span. The driver was issued a citation for driving an overweight vehicle on a weight-restricted bridge, which carries a \$496 fine, plus citations at \$100 each for a number of sign violations, including the height and weight restrictions. The single-span Paddleford truss bridge was built over the Ellis River in 1876. *Conway Daily Sun, October 31, 2024. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



## New Hampshire (continued)

### Edgell Bridge, Grafton County – NH/29-05-11

As noted in previous *Newsletters*, the external cables providing lateral support have failed causing the 1885 span over Clay Brook to lean upriver. To correct this, the proposal is to remove the roof and decking providing access to the upper and lower chords. Then install lateral bracing at the top and bottom of the structure followed by new decking and a new roof. The estimate for this work is \$690,000. In April, the NSPCB launched a fundraising campaign for the bridge which culminated with a \$17,425 donation to the town in August. That work is now underway. The bridge was closed to all traffic on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The repairs are expected to take up to four months to complete. The single-span Town lattice truss bridge was built by Walter Piper (1861-1913) who lived in Lyme at the time. Although some sources state that Piper was 18 when he built the bridge, he was actually 24. *Valley News, October 15, 2024. Photos by Bill and Jenn Caswell.*



The bridge was closed to all traffic on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The repairs are expected to take up to four months to complete. The single-span Town lattice truss bridge was built by Walter Piper (1861-1913) who lived in Lyme at the time. Although some sources state that Piper was 18 when he built the bridge, he was actually 24. *Valley News, October 15, 2024. Photos by Bill and Jenn Caswell.*

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

On page 19 of the Fall 2023 *Newsletter*, we reported that the Town of Andover closed the bridge due to concerns over a failing abutment. A year later, not much has changed. There is still no funding available for the needed repairs. On October 12<sup>th</sup>, Arnold M. Grāton Associates donated their services to insert a steel beam to stabilize the bridge until the town is able to obtain fund the work. The single-span Town lattice truss bridge was built over Pleasant Brook by Prentice Atwood in 1887 at a cost of \$522.63. It was bypassed in 1959 and added to the National Register of Historic Places on March 16, 1989.



Courtesy of Arnold M. Grāton Associates



Ken Parnell Photo



Scott Wagner Photo



Courtesy of Arnold M. Grāton Associates

## New York

### Bendo or Willowemoc Bridge, Sullivan County – NY/32-53-04



The bridge was built from half of the Livingston Manor Bridge (NY/32-53-13x) constructed in 1860 by John Davidson in Livingston Manor. In 1913, the village decided to build a new bridge. Half of the covered bridge was moved to its present location, crossing Willowemoc Creek. During its reconstruction, some of the truss timbers were used as decking with the holes where the treenails (pronounced “tunnels”) used to be are clearly visible. When Bill & Jenn Caswell visited on November 9<sup>th</sup>, the bridge was found to be closed to traffic.

## Ohio

### Kirker Bridge, Adams County – OH/35-01-10

On page 8 of the summer *Newsletter*, we reported that on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, a tornado badly damaged the single-span bridge over the East Fork of Eagle Creek in Adams County, Ohio. Jim Huey visited the site on April 4<sup>th</sup> and provided these photos. The bridge is owned by the county and has been maintained by the Adams County Travel and Visitors Bureau. The bridge was built in 1890, and named after former Ohio Governor Thomas Kirker, who served in the early 1800s. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on October 29, 1975.

A public meeting was held on September 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss the four possible courses of action to be implemented by the Adams County Economic Development Office.

- 1: Restore the bridge to a usable condition. This would include the addition of a new roof, to include rafters and metal roofing materials. This option would not address the undermining of the bridge foundations. The first estimate came back for \$27,500 to repair the roof. Additional estimates have been requested.
- 2: Restore the bridge to a new condition. This option would include restoration of the roof and address the undermining issues to the bridge foundations. This option will be the most expensive, but it will provide the most durable and sustainable option.
- 3: Dismantle the bridge and move it to another location in Adams County for reassembly. The remaining infrastructure of the bridge would systematically be taken down and stored. Once a suitable location is found, the bridge would be reassembled and open to public use.
- 4: Put the bridge up for public auction. No repairs would be completed, and the Board of Commissioners could put the bridge up for auction and remove the liability of repairs and future damage to the structure.

The opinion of the audience was generally for option #2 to restore the bridge in its present location.

### Black or Pugh's Mill Bridge, Butler County – OH/35-09-03

The bridge will be receiving new siding and a new roof. The new roof will be extended a bit from the existing one and the new siding will go a little higher than it is currently to help reduce the amount of rain that gets into the bridge. NSPCB provided fire retardant which will be applied once the repair work is completed. Greg McDuffee delivered that material on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Greg took this photo when making the delivery. The bridge over Four Mile Creek was built in 1868. It has an interesting truss which has some features of a Long truss and was the subject of a *Topics* article in the Summer 2019 issue. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on June 5, 1975.



## Pennsylvania

[Editor’s note: A number of this quarter’s Pennsylvania articles were originally published in the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania’s Fall 2024 issue of *Pennsylvania Crossings*.]

### G. Donald McLaughlin Memorial or Jack's Mountain Bridge, Adams County – PA/38-01-08

An article on page 6 of the Fall 2024 issue of *Pennsylvania Crossings* noted that the 1890 bridge over Toms Creek was closed for a couple of weeks from late September to early October for maintenance work and possible work to repair or replace beams. The single-span Burr truss bridge is unusual in that it has traffic lights to control the flow of traffic. It is named in memory of G. Donald McLaughlin who led a campaign to rehabilitate it. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on August 25, 1980. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



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

In the previous *Newsletter* we noted that Perkasio Borough solicited proposals for engineering and design consultation services for the rehabilitation of the 1832 bridge located in Lenape Park. According to a press release from the Borough on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, a contract for \$195,030 was awarded to Wood Research and Development LLC (WRD) for engineering and design consultation services for the rehabilitation of the span. Seven engineering companies submitted proposals. The remnants of Hurricane Ida in September 2021 swept the bridge off its abutments during historic flooding in the park. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) along with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) awarded grant funds in June 2023 for repairs to damage caused by the flooding. Prior to that event, the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission and the Perkasio Historical Society contributed funds to a project to rehabilitate the bridge.



“We were fortunate to have some of the best firms in the country interested in the project, because of the South Perkasio Covered Bridge’s unique status,” said Scott Bomboy, chair of the Council’s Historical Committee. “We intend to keep as much of the bridge intact as possible, including all the ‘carvings’ inside the bridge.” WRD will oversee the design and repair plan for the timber bridge and its abutments, then will work with construction crews. The design and engineering project is underway and expected to conclude in January 2025. Separate construction contracts for the timber bridge and abutments will be let in Spring 2025, and the bridge is expected to return to public service by late August 2025. The single-span Town truss bridge originally crossed Pleasant Spring Creek on South Main Street in Perkasio before being relocated to the park in 1958. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on December 1, 1980. *Photos courtesy of Scott Bomboy and Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



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

We last reported on this bridge on page 23 of the Fall 2023 *Newsletter*. The 1880 covered bridge at this location was swept away by floodwaters on September 1, 2021 and there are plans to reconstruct it as a covered bridge. Sara Beth Kohut visited the site in mid-November and noticed that construction has started.

## Pennsylvania (continued)

### **Knox or Valley Forge Park or Valley Forge Dam Bridge, Chester County – PA/38-15-15#2**

On August 22<sup>nd</sup>, a large tree fell onto the 1865 bridge over Valley Creek causing significant damage. The tree fell across the span near its center passing through the roof, severing the upper chord and coming to rest on top of the low arch. The steel beams placed under the bridge in 1960 may have helped prevent it from collapsing. Due to its proximity to Valley Forge Park, the single-span Burr truss bridge over Valley Creek is a popular tourist attraction and part of a heavily used walking trail. On October 11<sup>th</sup>, PennDOT issued a press release announcing that the bridge had been repaired and reopened to traffic. *Left photos by the National Park Service on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and other photos by Sara Beth Kohut on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.*



### **McGees Mills Bridge, Clearfield County – PA/38-17-01**

The Clearfield County Commissioners posted an advertisement for bids to repair the timber deck of the bridge. Proposals were due by October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The advertisement stated that they “anticipated that notice-to-proceed will be issued on or about November 12, 2024 with a late finish of January 18, 2025.” The single-span Burr truss bridge was built over the West Branch Susquehanna River in 1873. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on April 17, 1980. *Photo by Michael Rudnick.*



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



On September 18<sup>th</sup>, we received an invitation to provide input for an upcoming rehabilitation of this 1877 bridge over Crooked Creek. The project will address serious deterioration of timbers and rods of its Howe truss. The project scope states that “The reduced capacity of these elements has led to displacement of the bridge structure and has impacted the safety and stability of this historic transportation facility. All work will be performed per the Secretary of the Interior Standards for historic bridge rehabilitations.” Work is expected to start sometime in 2025. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on August 3, 1979. *Photo by Margie Gacki.*

### **Hunsecker's Mill Bridge, Lancaster County, PA/38-36-06#2**

The Upper Leacock Fire Co. responded to the bridge around 11pm on November 8<sup>th</sup> to find a vehicle rolled over and resting on its side inside the span. All occupants were out of the vehicle when firefighters arrived and no injuries were immediately reported. The article did not mention how the accident might have happened. The single-span Burr truss bridge over the Conestoga River was built in 1975 to replace the historic covered bridge washed away by Tropical Storm Agnes on June 22, 1972. *ABC27-TV, November 9, 2024. Photos Courtesy Upper Leacock Fire Co.*





## Pennsylvania (continued)

### Bitzer's Mill or Eberly's Mill Bridge, Lancaster County – PA/38-36-04#2x

In the previous *Newsletter*, we reported that work to repair damage caused by an oversize trailer on November 20, 2023 was underway. In March, while those repairs were being made, a routine inspection by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation determined that the bridge's stone wall abutments had deteriorated in places to a point where the bridge could not safely support vehicle traffic. This damage was not related to the truck strike. Due to the time necessary to design repairs and obtain permits, work on circa 1870 Burr truss span over the Conestoga River is not expected until sometime in 2027. Buggies, pedestrians and bicycles can continue using the bridge. *Lancaster Online, September 17, 2024*



*Gloria Smedley Photo*



*Paul Limmer Photo*



*Jim Smedley Photo*

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

In the summer issue, we noted that the city anticipated advertising for bids in July with a bid opening in November. On November 11<sup>th</sup>, we learned that delays in obtaining permits have caused the advertisement to be pushed up to the spring of 2025. Once underway, construction will be completed in about 6-12 months. The Burr truss bridge over Little Lehigh Creek was built in 1841. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on December 1, 1980. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



### Schlicher's Bridge, Lehigh County – PA/38-39-06#2

The single-span Burr truss bridge was closed for a short time after an oversize truck damaged the



south portal and broke one of the roof beams on June 19<sup>th</sup>. The bridge was inspected by PennDOT, deemed safe and reopened shortly after the crash. On October 31<sup>st</sup>, PennDOT emailed consulting parties involved with historic bridge projects to inform them of plans to repair the structure. Comments from interested parties were due by the end of November. The span over Jordan Creek was constructed in 2014 using



some of the wood from the 1882 bridge which stood there before. *Photos by Mark Kalinowski.*

## Vermont

### Henry Bridge, Bennington County – VT/45-02-02#2

Member Tom Carpenter informed us that he visited the bridge on November 14<sup>th</sup> only to find the bridge closed to traffic and a crew replacing the deck boards. One of the workers noted that they were replacing the entire floor. The Town of Bennington’s website mentioned that the bridge would be closed during the day on November 14, 15 & 18 for repairs. The single-span Town truss bridge crosses the Walloomsac River. *Photos by Ken Parnell.*



### Covered Bridge Museum, Bennington



On page 17 of the Spring 2022 *Newsletter*, we reported on the financial troubles of this museum in Bennington. In 2017, the founders of the Bennington Center for the Arts, which included the Covered Bridge Museum, donated the property to the former Southern Vermont College, which subsequently declared bankruptcy. After the bankruptcy filing, the founders attempted to have their donation returned to them but were not able to obtain it. Bill & Jenn passed by in mid-November and noticed that property has re-opened as the Monument Arts & Cultural Center. Their website mentions a “new covered bridge gallery, which includes the Lyman Orton Collection.”

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

On page 26 of the Summer 2023 *Newsletter*, we mentioned that the Town of Lyndon had decided to construct steel beam barriers (what we often refer to as “headache bars”) at each end of the bridge due to the repeated damage caused by oversize vehicles. The effort was delayed due to the difficulty finding a contractor able to do the work. Plans to protect the bridge are now moving forward. On August 30<sup>th</sup>, the Select Board agreed to proceed with the project even though it will cost twice as much as planned. Techno Metal Post of Montpelier is slated to do footings and foundations in late September, and the steel barriers will be fabricated and attached at a later date.

The project is expected to cost roughly \$60,000, double the amount set aside for it. The board said voters have already allocated \$30,000 for the barriers, and federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds will cover the remaining expenses. Plans to add surveillance cameras to capture offenders’ license plates have also been considered. *Caledonian Record, September 2, 2024.* Photos of the footings by Jeanne & Marcel Beaudry and bridge photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.



## Vermont (continued)

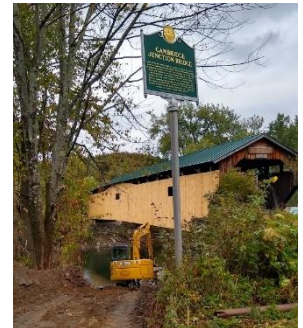
### Sanborn Bridge, Caledonia County – VT/45-03-05

In the Fall *Newsletter* we included a full-page article on the removal of this bridge from the Passumpsic River. We look forward to the project to repair and reconstruct it coming in 2025. In the meantime, here are some photos of the dismantled structure covered and ready for the winter provided by Jeanne and Marcel Beaudry.



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

On page 8 of our Fall 2023 *Newsletter*, we noted that the 1887 bridge was damaged when the Lamoille River flooded in July 2023. In addition to the missing siding, torsion rods and the abutment on the rail trail side were damaged. According to an update from Cambridge Town Administrator Eric Boozan posted on the Vermont Covered Bridge website, the town has hired Blow and Cote to make the necessary repairs. “After delays with permits, the siding has been reinstalled and torsion rods have been addressed.” Members Marcel and Jeanne Beaudry visited the site on September 25<sup>th</sup> and noticed that the abutment work was underway. They provided this photo of the work in progress. Although closed to motor vehicle traffic, the bridge is open to pedestrians while the work is underway. The single-span structure was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on October 9, 1974.



### Sanderson Bridge, Rutland County – VT/45-11-02#2

The bridge was damaged on the morning of October 4<sup>th</sup> when a tractor-trailer attempted to cross it.

Fortunately, the truck did not get very far before deciding to back out. The truck, driven by Narinder Behal, 50, of Ontario, Canada, damaged the portal and one of the roof beams. These photos were provided by member Paul Limmer who happened to come upon the incident. The bridge was determined to be safe for traffic and re-opened that evening. The driver was cited for being more than 20,000 pounds over the bridge’s weight limit “and numerous equipment violations.” Repairs could cost up to \$25,000. The single-span Town truss structure over Otter Creek replaced the historic covered bridge at this location in in 2003. *Rutland Herald*, October 4, 2024 & *WCAX-TV*, October 9, 2024. Photos by Paul Limmer.



## Virginia

### Humpback Bridge, Alleghany County – VA/46-03-01

The Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce & Tourism is raising funds to make improvements to the wayside park surrounding the 1857 bridge over Dunlap Creek. In addition to the iconic covered bridge (the inspiration for the logo used on NSPCB promotional clothing), the park is home to one of the most



unique LOVEwork signs in the state of Virginia and attracts thousands to the region every year. The park is in dire need of improvements from erosion along the banks, tree maintenance, overall landscaping restoration, trash disposal upgrades



and more. The group has set up a GoFundMe page with additional details – <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-make-improvements-to-humpback-bridge>. Thanks to Josh Taylor, the Chamber’s Executive Director, for making us aware of this project. Bridge photo by Anita Larkin, LOVEwork sign photo courtesy Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce & Tourism.

## West Virginia

### Milton or Sink’s Mill Bridge, Cabell County – WV/48-06-01

Member Lori Ulrich visited the bridge in October and noticed that gates have been placed across the entrances so it is not presently possible to enter the span. The south truss of the bridge has been sagging for years and we wonder if that is the reason for the closure. We reached out to the city office for more information. They directed us to the Pumpkin Festival president who noted that the state Department of Transportation is responsible for its maintenance. We weren’t able to obtain any details about the closure before press time.



According to the West Virginia DOT website, the bridge was built in 1876 by R.H. Baker and served vehicular traffic on Cabell County 25 until deterioration limited its use to pedestrians in 1985. A new bridge was constructed upstream in 1991 and the covered bridge was closed even to pedestrians in March 1996. After a couple iterations of

what to do next, the single-span Howe and arch truss bridge was ultimately moved to its present location in a city park in 2001. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, under the name Mud River Bridge, on June 10, 1975.

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

On page 26 of the Winter 2023/2024 *Newsletter*, we reported that U.S. Senator Joe Manchin included \$350,000 for “Restoration and Related Infrastructure of the Covered Bridge” in the Senate Appropriations Committee’s fiscal year 2024 funding bills. That was approved. The bridge has rotting timbers, needs sill replacements, basic structure repairs, a fresh coat of paint and siding. While the Senate grant will cover much of the cost, additional money is needed. Tax deductible donations to The Barrackville Covered Bridge Preservation Society, a 501c(3) non-profit, can be made out to that organization and mailed to Lion’s Club, P.O. Box 429, Barrackville WV 26559. Email them at [saveourbridge@aol.com](mailto:saveourbridge@aol.com) for more information. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



## Canada – New Brunswick

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

We continue to follow the slow, steady decline of this bridge. Efforts to save it have been unsuccessful. Photos posted on flickr in late October show that about a foot of the bridge is submerged during high tide. The origin of this Burr truss structure is not known, but it is believed to have been moved to this location in 1942. *Photo by Ray Boucher, August 9, 2024.*



### Quisibis River #2 Bridge, Madawaska County – NB/55-07-05

In the Fall 2019 *Newsletter* (page 26), we reported that this bridge in the northwesternmost corner of New Brunswick had been closed and bypassed after being damaged by floodwaters in May 2018. Its future has been uncertain since then. On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, CIMT/CHAU-TV reported that a government plan to relocate the span to dry land generated strong opposition from residents and local officials. The Municipality of Vallée-des-Rivières, with the support of MLA Jean-Claude D'Amours who formerly represented Madawaska—Restigouche in the Canadian Parliament stressed that the bridge is one of the few historic attractions in the community. They need to preserve its heritage value to draw visitors to the region.



After being bypassed, the bridge was repaired and raised higher to reduce the potential for future flood damage. On October 9<sup>th</sup>, Jacques Girard, a city councilor of Ste-Anne-de-Madawaska shared that New Brunswick's Prime Minister Blain Higgs and some cabinet members visited the site and offered to support the preservation of the bridge over the Quisibis River. He noted that the work has been completed and the bridge would soon be open to pedestrians and off-road vehicles. The single-span Howe truss bridge was built in 1952. *CIMT/CHAU-TV, August 23, 2024. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

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### Wheaton or Tantramar River #2 Bridge, Westmorland County – NB/55-14-13

The single-span bridge crossing the Tantramar River was closed on July 11<sup>th</sup> after a recent investigation raised concerns about its structural condition. Local residents, who have been contacting local and provincial officials to have the bridge repaired and re-opened, have now started a petition drive. On November 13<sup>th</sup>, a CBC news article quoted Jacob MacDonald of the Department of Transportation and



Infrastructure saying the Department "understands the impact of this closure in the area and appreciates the public's patience while staff identify the best option for the bridge going forward." Our contact within the DTI noted that the structural

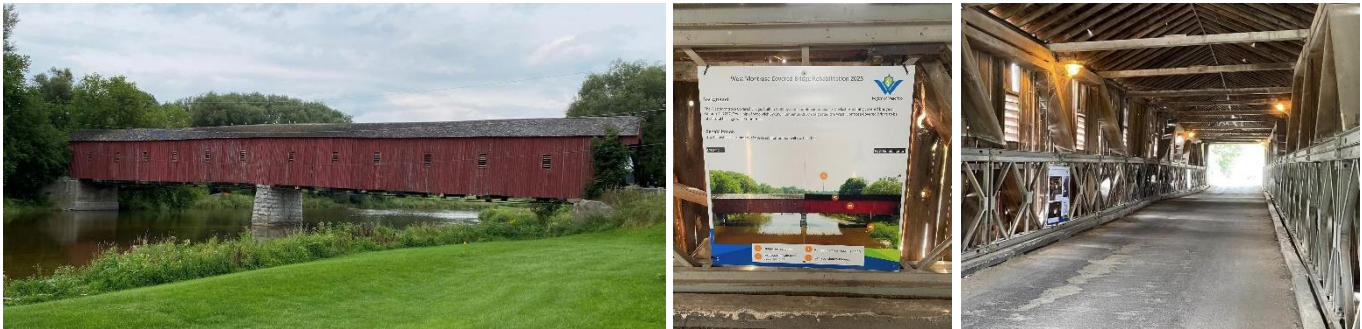


problems at this bridge do not have a simple solution and they are evaluating the options. Memramcook-Tantramar MLA Megan Mitton has been advocating for the 1916 span along with Andrew Black, the Mayor of the Municipality of Tantramar. CBC, November 13, 2024. Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell.

## Ontario

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

Design of the repairs to this bridge are nearing completion and it is intended to advertise for construction in the spring. Details of the work to be done were included on page 5 of the Winter 2023/2024 *Newsletter*. As noted previously, most of the wainscoting in the bridge (except splash panels at the ends) has been removed, exposing the metal Bailey spans and the wooden trusses. Informational signs installed inside the bridge (with graphics) show what’s going to be done and what it will look like when finished. For more information on this project, visit the Region’s website at <https://www.engagewr.ca/west-montrose>. *Photos by Gloria Smedley.*



## Québec

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

### Pont de la Frontière or Province Hill, Cantons de l’Est – QC/61-11-03

On October 28<sup>th</sup>, the Quebec Ministry of Culture and Communications announced that the bridge is now classified as a heritage structure. It is one of Québec’s oldest having been built in 1896 using the Town lattice design common in the area. The Potton Heritage Association applauds this news although the bridge’s status is complicated. The span, located about ½ mile north of the US border, is in poor condition and there are differences of opinion about who is responsible for its care. In the mid-1960s, when it was no longer adequate for motor vehicle traffic, the Ministry of Transport (MTQ) moved it onto private property to make room for a new bridge.



Public access has been prohibited since June 2014 due to its severely deteriorated condition. Bruno



Côté, the mayor of the municipality of Potton, has stated that since MTQ moved it, they are responsible for its care. He also noted that the municipality is not able to take on that responsibility. The property owners are concerned that the 1896 structure will eventually collapse and they will be responsible for the clean-up. A repair estimate prepared “a few years ago”



was \$300,000 and there was a recommendation to move the bridge from its location over Mud Stream to the village near André-Gagnon Park. Le Reflet du Lac, November 14, 2024. *Upper photo by Gérald Arbour, lower photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

## Québec (continued)

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

In the previous *Newsletter*, we reported that after being barricaded for safety reasons on April 3<sup>rd</sup> a petition signed by 236 of Lingwick's 441 people was presented to the mayor and municipal council requesting that it be repaired and reopened to pedestrian traffic. On July 30<sup>th</sup>, *La Tribune* published a Notice of Intent to Classify it as a Heritage Property. While that could increase federal funding of the project from 40% to 50%, residents feel that it will also complicate the restoration effort with additional restrictions to preserve the structure's historic value. Lingwick officials hosted a meeting on August 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss the bridge's future. That included discussion of an inspection report with the engineer available to answer questions. It was built over Rivière au Saumon using the variation of Town's lattice truss common in Québec. *La Tribune, September 9, 2024. Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



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

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, local residents celebrated the 106<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bridge's construction as they have done for many years now. Since its closure on May 21, 2019, the SOS Pont Prud'homme committee has hosted numerous events to raise awareness of the bridge's needs and keep it on the radar of local and provincial officials.



This year, they chose to send a birthday greeting card to Stéphane Audet, the General Directorate of the Ministry of Transport, as well as Chantale Jeannotte, the member of the National Assembly of Quebec representing the area to remind them of both the urgency to act and the slowness of the repair project. The card was

signed by the members of the SOS Pont Prud'homme committee as well as by many citizens concerned about the survival of their heritage covered bridge. The bridge's future has been in limbo for over five years now. The committee reminds us that in 1918, it was constructed in 6 weeks at a cost of \$6000, following a public meeting held in August of the same year. *L'Info du Nord, November 11, 2024. Photo Courtesy SOS Pont Prud'homme.*



## 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.



## Restoration of the Bridge at Coşbuc, Romania

“Ultimul pod acoperit stă să se prăbuşească” (“The last covered bridge is about to collapse”) was the headline on the front page of Romania’s Transylvania Reporter on July 2, 2012 and repeated in our Winter 2012/2013 issue when we first learned of the bridge’s existence. The span was reportedly built in 1778 by military of the Hapsburg Empire based on a design used in Tyrol (in the Alps presently divided between Austria and Italy) to help move troops through the area. At the time, the Hapsburgs (later Austrian Empire), Russians and Ottoman Turks were all fighting over that part of eastern Europe. The article went on to discuss the poor condition of the historic covered bridge over the Salauta River in the village of Coşbuc in Bistriţa-Năsăud County in the Transylvania region of northern Romania. It was assigned World Guide number RO-06-01.



Catalin Petcu, a Romanian engineer living in Canada who has worked on covered bridges in Québec, informed us of the bridge’s existence and its dire condition. He offered his expertise to help with the project. The bridge at Coşbuc is one of two known historic covered bridges in the country. An article in the on-line news page Răsunetul from November 8, 2011 mentioned a number of other nearby towns that once had covered bridges and noted that 14 of them were destroyed during World War II.

The mayor of Coşbuc made various attempts to obtain money for repairs. He was successful in having



a study completed which identified the needed repairs. The bridge is on the List of Historical Monuments maintained by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the equivalent of America’s National Register of Historic Places. By 2016, that study had expired and two recent engineering graduates offered to update it for free under the guidance of their professor. With no further progress, the bridge continued to deteriorate. New mayor, Ioan Pavelea, who has lived in a house next to the bridge his entire life, continued the efforts of his predecessor. In the Spring of 2017, Mr. Petcu informed us that a new grant application was being prepared. With his help, the NSPCB

prepared a letter of support for the project and sent it to Mayor Pavelea. At that time, the beams on the west end were so rotten that it was in danger of collapse. Numerous holes in the roof allowed rain to fall into the structure accelerating the decay of structural supports.

In the Summer 2023 *Newsletter*, we reported that funding was finally secured and the project underway. The work was implemented under the supervision of the National Institute of Heritage at a cost of 2.6 million lei (about \$580,000). On June 27<sup>th</sup>, journalist Ruxandra Hurezean posted a lengthy on-line article detailing the efforts of many individuals which ultimately resulted in saving the structure. She noted that after twelve years, the repairs have finally been completed. The bridge was lifted in place to repair and increase the height of its abutments and center pier. The bridge is now a half meter higher to help protect it from flooding. Bogdan Tomoroga, construction engineer and manager of Tomoroga Construct SRL, stated that they only replaced what was necessary, preserving as much of the oak truss members and flooring as possible. New siding was added along with hand-crafted shingles. The entire structure was treated with fire retardant. The only item left to finish are the retractable bollards to prevent vehicles from using the bridge. They can be lowered to allow emergency vehicles to pass through. A celebration of the completed project is planned. While many residents are upset that they are no longer able to drive over the bridge and must detour to a crossing 500 meters away, the structure has been preserved for the future.

