



The Newsletter

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

Summer 2016

The Covered Bridge

Anderson M. Scruggs

Some part of life becomes oblivion;

Something whose roots lie deep within the heart

Of simple folk is lost, as one by one

These pioneers of other days depart.

Only the country folk, whose careless tread

Endears a dusty road, can ever know

The peaceful, clattering joy of rude planks spread

Above a drowsy creek that gleams below.

Here was refuge from the sudden showers

That swept like moving music field and wood.

And here cool, tunneled dark when sultry hours

Danced with white feet beyond the bridge's hood,

Yet there are soulless men whose hand and brain

Tear down what time will never give again.

From the 1939 World's Fair edition of the New Hampshire publication –

New Hampshire Troubadour

Thanks to Tim Andrews

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

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Editor's Comments ...

The severe weather that has extended all across our country has fortunately not caused any substantial damage to most of our covered bridges. The devastating tornados throughout the nation's mid-section has fortunately spared our historic covered bridges, however, we include our prayers for all who were affected. Where damage has occurred, and there has been some, demonstrates the vulnerability of these aging structures from the natural culprits wind, water and snow. Vandalism and arson continue to increase their share. However, it is the negligent driver(s) who can't, or won't, read height or load limit signage who cause significant structural damage and bridge closure inconvenience, often for considerable lengths of time, and at a financial cost many communities cannot afford. We need everyone's help to watch our bridges and notice when things don't look right. If you SEE something, SAY something. No one will object when attention is called and turns out to be nothing. But, to not say something and the unthinkable happens, everyone objects and everyone loses – financially and historically. Please, keep it in mind this summer as you visit our many covered bridges. Pretend each covered bridge you visit belongs to you personally.

For those of you who cannot attend the Kentucky/Ohio safari this year, there are lots of other self-guided tours available in places like Oregon, Indiana and Pennsylvania to name just a few. Whether choosing a weekend trip or just a one-day adventure, our covered bridges offer nostalgic looks back to a different time. Visits to the bridges can also provide other opportunities for camping, hiking, shopping, sightseeing experiences in the area including historic communities, homes, museums, mills, dams, waterfalls ... the possibilities are endless. So pack an overnight bag or just a picnic lunch, grab your camera and spend some time investigating and enjoying a bit of covered bridge history near you!

Have a great summer, everyone!!

Happy Bridging!!

Fall 2016 Newsletter Deadline

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

President's Message ...

Welcome to the Summer vacation season. We wish you safe travels. While you are out and about, please keep us posted of the condition of bridges you visit. Feel free to send me an email, postal mail or post a note on the Society's Facebook page.

Before I forget again, I need to mention that at January's Board meeting, we decided that we could no longer keep membership rates where they have been for years. Postage rates to Canada increased significantly a couple years ago. We decided not to raise the rates then, but it is finally time to adjust that. Starting on July 1st, the rate for Canadian memberships will be \$30. Others are the same for now.

During the past two issues I have mentioned the need for a new treasurer. We were fortunate enough to have three members express an interest in the position being vacated by Michelle Andrews. Michelle spoke to all three people and after reviewing those conversations, recommended that we offer the position to Gloria Smedley. The Executive Board agreed with her recommendation, offered the position to Gloria, who accepted it. We look forward to working with Gloria who has a Master's degree in Business Administration and spent her last ten years before retirement managing a large grant program.

We are very excited about our upcoming fall tour. I hope many of you will be able to join us. As I write this, more than half the rooms at Blue Licks Lodge have been reserved. If you plan to go, I would recommend contacting them soon to make arrangements. Details of the trip and contact information is included in this mailing.

Later in this Newsletter you will see an article about the covered bridge trail being developed in Kentucky. We are thrilled to announce that the ceremony inaugurating the trail is being planned for Saturday, October 1 during the Society tour's stop at the Goddard Bridge in Fleming County. This will be a fantastic opportunity to promote our organization to the people of Kentucky as the event will be covered by media from throughout the commonwealth with numerous public officials in attendance.

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 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.

We look forward to seeing you at our meetings in 2016.

Bill Caswell

Hyde Hall Covered Bridge Celebration -

Save the Date! ...

By: Trish Kane



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

tour the historic Hyde Hall Mansion.

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

Upcoming NSPCB Meetings & Events ...

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

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

Sunday, July 24 - Brigham Hill Community Barn, 37 Wheeler Rd., Grafton, MA.

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

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

SATURDAY, October 22 - NSPCB Annual Meeting and Dinner. O'Connor's Restaurant, 1160 W. Boyleston St., Worcester, MA. Dinner at noon, meeting at 1:00. Our speaker will be David Simmons, President of the Ohio Historic Bridge Association.

Other Upcoming Covered Bridge Meetings & Events ...

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

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

Sunday, July 10, 2016 – 12:00 noon. New York State Covered Bridge Society, Summer Picnic at the Ethan Allen Pavilion, Erwin Park, Boonville, NY. Bring your own lunch.

July 16 & 17, 2016 – Indiana Covered Bridge Society Summer Tour. No details at press time. Visit www.indianacrossings.net.

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

Sunday, July 17, 2016 – 2:00 pm. Hyde Hall Celebration, Glimmerglass State Park, NY. See details in article on page 3.

Sunday, August 7, 2016 – 2:00 pm. Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania Monthly Meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Manheim, PA

Sunday, August 14, 2016 – 12:00 noon. New York State Covered Bridge Society Meeting, Camillus, NY.

September 10 and 11, 2016: New York State Covered Bridge Society Safari to visit the covered bridges of the Catskills.

Sunday, September 11, 2016 – 2:00 pm. Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania Monthly Meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Manheim, PA. Program: "Reviewing our Society's Last Year" by President Thomas E. Walczak

Sunday, October 2, 2016 – 2:00 pm. Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania Monthly Meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Manheim, PA

Welcome New Life Member ...

Martha Stegemoen, Blackstone, MA

Welcome New Members ...

Sara Audette, Mattapoisett, MA

Richard Geidel, York, PA

Beverly, Glynn, Salem, NH

Mary Fesak, Centreville, VA

Jacqueline Matheny, Muskegon, MI

Andrew Lacy, Summerville, SC

Final Crossings ...



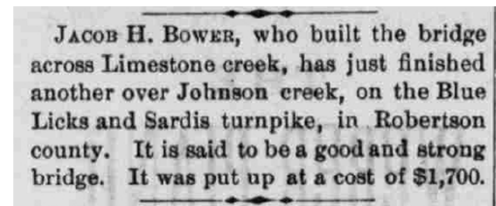
Linda Ruth Durham Hamilton of Bentonville, Arkansas, died suddenly on March 28, 2016. In addition to being an NSPCB member, she was an avid seamstress, genealogist, and a member of the Junior Auxiliary, the National Parliamentarian Association and the National PTA. She was a past President of the Arkansas PTA and subsequently was a Regional Director of the National PTA covering the states of Mississippi, Louisiana, Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. She is survived by her husband of 46 years, Robert Hamilton and two sons. Mrs. Hamilton was buried alongside her parents at Union Cemetery in Bonita, Texas.

Updates to the World Guide to Covered Bridges ...

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

Page 18, update coordinates of Cedar Chapel Bridge (WG #14-29-02) in Hamilton County, Indiana to **N39° 58.916' W086° 01.839'**

Page 35, update construction date of the Johnson Creek Bridge in Robertson County, Kentucky, to 1882. News clipping from the Maysville Daily Evening Bulletin, December 14, 1882



Page 76, add new bridge in Marion County, Ohio

35-51-21 Richland Olentangy River St. James Road 1 2016 Pratt
 3.5 miles north of the jct of US 23 on OH 98 in Waldo, then 0.4 miles right on Whetstone River Road South to intersection of St. James Road. Southeast of Marion. N40° 30.737' W083° 03.205'

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David W. Wright Scholarship

This year, money for the scholarship was made possible by a generous donation from the William Bradley Willard Foundation in remembrance of our late president, David W. Wright. The Scholarship Committee reviewed the applications that were received and recommended three awards. Those recommendations were approved by the Executive Board at their meeting on May 21st. The three individuals had varied interests and experiences. In addition to their monetary awards, each student is given a two-year membership.

Mary Fesak just graduated from the University of Mary Washington with a dual degree in History and Historic Preservation. While there she joined the Historic Preservation Club and was a Historycorps Volunteer. She has been accepted into the graduate Historic Preservation program at Clemson University for the Fall of 2016. In her essay, Mary says, "I intend to work towards the preservation of these bridges through a career involving preservation engineering and the analysis of historic building materials, techniques, and treatments." Mary will receive \$1,000.

Jacqueline Matheny has shown a determined effort to devote her career to preservation engineering. She is presently working towards a Master's degree in Historic Preservation at Eastern Michigan University. Not only is she working towards a preservation degree, she has already earned a Master's degree in Structural Engineering from Michigan State University with top honors in Senior Design for Bridge Design. Jacqueline chairs the EMU student organization's Materials Conservation Lab Committee, which demonstrates her interest in a discipline that is central to covered bridge preservation. Jacqueline will receive \$1,000.

After a career serving the U.S. Government in both a military and civilian capacity, Andrew Lacy has chosen to go back to school to learn the timber framing trade. He recently completed his sophomore year at the American College of the Building Arts, a well-known undergraduate institution for teaching traditional methods and materials of construction. The curriculum is one of very few in the United States that provides rigorous training in historical trades; these skills are becoming rare in the American building industry, and are much needed in the preservation and conservation of all historic structures. Andrew will receive \$500.

July Meeting Location



July's meeting will be at the Brigham Hill Community Farm (37 Wheeler Road, North Grafton, Massachusetts) at 1:00 PM. For those not familiar with the area, Grafton is near Worcester. We hope to see a few of you at this meeting. Long-time life members Val & Martha Stegemoen will be our hosts.

The Barn was constructed in 2002 and is home to Community Harvest Project and the headquarters of Grafton Land Trust. It is also available for meetings by nonprofit and civic organizations.

March Meeting



the meeting, Bill Caswell offered a presentation about the bridges to be seen during the fall tour of Kentucky and nearby Ohio. Photos by Bob Watts.

The March meeting, the first meeting of the new year, was held at the Warner, NH Masonic Lodge with 21 members and guests in attendance. Much of the time was spent getting caught up from the winter. 12 new members had joined since the Annual meeting in October. Tim Andrews was able to negotiate a lower price for insurance, thus saving us a significant amount of money. Bill & Jenn Caswell, with help from Bob & Betty Pauwels, spent many hours organizing and cataloging items in the archives. A handwritten letter from Stephen Long to the Editor of the Franklin Institute Journal in 1844 was unearthed. A rare treasure.

The Society's federal grant projects were discussed. The status of the Moose Brook Pony truss bridge is covered in a separate article. The Deck Study project was originally going to use the remains of the Bartonsville, Vermont, bridge destroyed by Tropical Storm Irene. Those timbers were found to have deteriorated too much to be used for the project. New wood will be purchased for this project.

It was voted to invite David Simmons to be our speaker at the annual meeting in October. The motion included an offer towards travel expenses. At the end of

April Meeting

Our thanks to Carmela Sciandra, KC Klingensmith and Bob Griner for hosting our April meeting in Revere, Massachusetts. There were 21 members and guests in attendance.

Sue Blanchard updated us on the 2017 calendar she is preparing. Most details are set, we just need to find a cost effective printer. The announcement of Kentucky's plan to develop a Covered Bridge Trail generated a lively discussion about the Society's possible involvement in the development and promotion of the trail. Although it is still very early in the planning process, we are anticipating trail-related events to be scheduled during the time of our tour on the weekend of October 1 & 2.

Discussion about graffiti within covered bridges initiated a brainstorming session about ways the Society can help. We will look into sponsoring a pilot project which will identify a bridge with excessive graffiti, a process for cleaning it involving the local community and plan for continued maintenance of the structure. Photos by Bob Watts.



Kentucky Covered Bridge Trail

On April 13, Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin signed House Joint Resolution 164 which will create a covered wooden bridge trail to showcase Kentucky's covered bridges. The legislation will require the commonwealth, in collaboration with the Buffalo Trace Area Development District (BTADD), to promote the 13 remaining covered wooden bridges. All 13 bridges are designated as state shrines and officially marked as such by the Kentucky Historical Society.

Raising awareness of the bridges will not only encourage tourism in those areas, but raise awareness of the need to maintain them. Kentucky has spent millions of dollars restoring the bridges one-by-one. The Beech Fork Bridge in Washington County is presently being restored. The recent restorations at Cabin Creek and Johnson Creek will be visited during the Society's fall tour in October.



Goddard Bridge, Fleming County, KY

This trail will be similar to the popular Bourbon Trail which highlights the commonwealth's bourbon making legacy. The legislation was sponsored by Rep. Mike Denham and cosponsored by House Majority Leader Rocky Adkins with the support of the Buffalo Trace Area Development District, members of the Buffalo Trace Covered Bridge Authority (a government group appointed to oversee the maintenance of covered bridges in their area), and many Kentucky residents.

An event to kick off the Trail is being planned for Saturday, October 1, at the Goddard Bridge in Fleming County. This event will be incorporated into our fall tour. It will be a great opportunity to promote the Society to the residents of Kentucky. BTADD will be in charge of the Trail Kickoff Event. The local tourism group will be setting up vendor booths of covered bridge items. Food will be available.

Archives Update

Progress continues on the Society's archives in Concord, NH. Over the winter, Joseph Conwill has scanned some of the smaller collections and is now working on scanning Richard Sanders Allen's collection of photographs from the southern states. You will be seeing those images appearing in future editions of Topics.

Years ago, late president David Wright had acquired a computer for the archives which was brought from the old location in Vermont. When Joseph Conwill visited in late winter, we wished to copy all of



the material he has scanned onto that computer. We quickly discovered that the hard drive of that computer was not nearly large enough to handle the thousands of images that have been scanned so far. We can put that information onto a portable hard drive for now, but someday soon we should invest in a newer computer.

Bill & Jenn Caswell, with help from Bob & Betty Pauwels spent a few days over the winter in the archives room sorting through boxes of donations, cataloging and filing the items in those boxes.

In October, former corresponding secretary, Christine Ellsworth, donated her collection of covered bridge items to the Society. Within that collection is a nearly complete compilation of newsletters from the other covered bridge societies. Those have now been cataloged, placed into new binders and are available for research by archives visitors. Access to the archives is by appointment only. Contact Bill Caswell for more details.



Covered Bridge Happenings ...

California :

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

Despite revised estimates that have increased the cost for the renovation of the historic Bridgeport Covered Bridge (WG #05-29-01) from \$1.3 million to \$3.9 million, the Save Our Bridge Committee remains committed to see the project through to completion. Built in 1862, this 233 foot, single span is North America's longest single span covered bridge. Representatives from Nevada County were to appear before an Assembly subcommittee on April 27 to discuss the additional funding needs.

(From: Appeal Democrat, April 25, 2016

Photo contributed by John Field, Publicity Chair of the South Yuba River Park Association)



Indiana :

Bad Wood Delays Restoration Work ...

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

As of May 1st there is activity around the site. A pile of debris which had backed up around the center pier was a concern and that has now been removed. Nothing new was seen inside the bridge. The project is scheduled to be completed by mid-August 2016.



(Indiana Covered Bridge Society Facebook Page
Photo by Bill Caswell, September 27, 2015)

Brick Fundraiser for Lake County Fairgrounds Covered Bridge ...



The Milroy or Shelhorn Covered Bridge (WG#14-45-01) is in need of repairs and the Lake County Fairgrounds is hosting a Brick Fundraiser. The 138-year old single span bridge was purchased for \$25.00 to save it from demolition and moved to the Fairgrounds in 1933 from its original location in Rush County where it spanned the Flat Rock River (formerly WG# 14-70-15). It is 85 feet in length, has a Burr Arch Truss and now spans a gully. Engraved bricks honoring an individual, business or family can be ordered online. Visit <http://www.yourhometownevents.com/?s=milroy> for more information or contact Claudia Carlson at 219-661-3072 or by email at lcfgo@yahoo.com. The bricks will be placed at the Covered Bridge Patio adjacent to the bridge.

(Hometown Happenings website, Crown Point, IN)

Kentucky:

Beech Fork Restoration Underway ...

Arnold Grāton and his crew are bringing equipment and materials onsite for the restoration of the Beech Fork Bridge (WG #17-115-01) in Washington County, KY. The steel truss structure that they have used to support other bridges during repairs is being extended to accommodate the additional length of this bridge. At 258 feet, this 1865 Burr arch structure is Kentucky's longest covered bridge.

They expect to start working on the bridge around May 16th. Work is expected to be completed in late 2017.



(Bill & Jenn Caswell Photo)

Maryland:

Jericho Bridge Celebration ...

On Monday, April 25th, Baltimore and Harford counties celebrated the completion of a \$1.8 million restoration of the Jericho Bridge (WG #20-03-02 & 20-13-01). Harford County Executive Barry Glassman and Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz along with additional Baltimore County leaders, state leaders and supporters of Jerusalem Mill Historic Village gathered on the Baltimore County side of the bridge for a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The bridge was built in late 1865 and is one of six remaining wooden covered bridges in Maryland. The Burr Arch bridge is on the National Register of Historic Places.

A grant from the National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Program, which is administered by the Federal Highway Administration, covered 80% of the \$1.8 million budgeted for the restoration. The bridge was originally made from white pine, but wood from Douglas fir and black locust trees was used in the restoration. The work started in the spring of 2015, overseen by Kinsley Construction Inc., of Timonium, Maryland and Barns & Bridges of New England, based in Gilford, N.H. On May 26th, the Harford County Historic Preservation Commission presented Baltimore and Harford County Departments of Public Works with a 2016 Preservation Project Award. Barns and Bridges of New England was also recognized for their contribution to the project.

(Baltimore Sun, April 25, 2016, Photos by Jordan Tuller (left) and Jim Smedley (right), April 2016)



Maryland (continued):

Roddy Road Bridge Damaged By Truck ...



On May 18, a box truck caused significant damage to the roof and beams across the top of the Roddy Road covered bridge (WG #20-10-02) near Thurmont, Maryland. The truck was wedged in so tightly that they still could not back it out after air was let out of the tires to reduce its height. The top needed to be cut off the truck to remove it.

Fortunately, the damage is not as serious as it could have been. Two roof beams were moved, but not broken, and aesthetic damage to the siding at the portal. Frederick County officials anticipate that it could be repaired in about two weeks.

(Compiled from various articles in the Frederick News-Post, Photo by Michael Rudnick)

Michigan:

Whites Bridge Nearly Ready to Advertise ...

Fundraising to construct a replica of Whites Bridge (WG #22-34-01) is complete. Plans for the new structure have been designed. Environmental permits are in place. Now the project is being reviewed by state officials in preparation for advertising. Once the review is complete, the Michigan Department of Transportation will advertise the project. Depending on when the project goes to bid, construction could begin late this year or the summer of 2017. The former Ionia County landmark was lost to arson in July 2013. The Whites Bridge Historical Society has been managing the fundraising and plan development process.



(Rebuild Whites Bridge Facebook Page, April 27, 2016, Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell)

New Hampshire:

Wentworth Village Common Covered Bridge Update ...



This wooden covered bridge was slotted for demolition at the site of the Wayfarer Inn in Bedford, NH and was previously known as the Goffe's Mill Bridge (formerly WG #29-06-a). Eligible for the historic register, it spans 107' and is a king post truss built in 1963. Through the generosity of several private donors it was rescued last March and relocated to Wentworth for restoration to replace a historic steel bridge over the Baker River Falls which has been condemned. Restoration work is being performed by 3G Construction and is being

funded by the private non-profit group "Friends of the Wentworth Parks and Recreation". Progress can be followed on their Facebook page and donations are still needed! They are a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization and can be reached through Facebook, email Jen@FriendsofWentworth.org or PO Box 5, Wentworth, NH 03282.

New Hampshire (continued):

Moose Brook Bridge ...

The planned reconstruction of the Moose Brook Pony truss bridge (formerly WG #29-04-P1) took an interesting turn, but still no forward movement. Due to the complications surrounding the desire to reconstruct the bridge as an exhibit at the Gorham railroad depot, an alternative site was sought. NSPCB was offered the opportunity to reconstruct the bridge at its original location. However, that must be approved by New Hampshire's Governor & Executive Council since the area is State property. That has not happened yet. No progress can be made at the depot location until the lease arrangements between the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad (the owner of the property) and the Gorham Historical Society are resolved.

New York:

Beaverkill Repairs ...

The Beaverkill Covered Bridge is currently being rehabilitated by Sullivan County Paving & Construction, Inc. After a brief winter shutdown, the contractor installed a 140' Acrow Bridge inside the Covered Bridge in March 2016 to support it during the rehabilitation process. Jacking beams were installed at the upper chords of both truss and each truss was cambered. Jacking operations and straightening of the bridge were completed over a course of several weeks in mid-April. Deteriorated truss members are currently being replaced by the contractor. Other upcoming work includes the repairs and replacements to the flooring and roof members, installation of new batten board siding, new roof, new deck, new curb, approach railing and application of fire retardant, insecticide and fungicide coatings. The project is scheduled to be completed in fall of 2016.



(News & Photo Courtesy Josif Bicja, Hoyle, Tanner & Associates)

An Interesting Piece of History...



Perrine's Bridge (WG #32-56-01) was rehabilitated in 1968. After the work was complete, two slices of the bridge's arch came into the possession of Paul Huth of Esopus, NY. He analyzed them and learned that the tree they were cut from was a mature white pine which measured about 27 inches in diameter when it was cut. He has counted 143 growth rings in the piece and feels that about 10 more may have existed before the timber was transformed into the arch. If the arch was part of the original construction, then the tree started growing in the last few years of the 1600's.

(Courtesy Ron Knapp)

Ohio:

Roley School House Bridge Collapsed ...

On Saturday, April 4th, high winds caused the collapse of the Roley School House Covered Bridge (WG #35-23-49). The bridge was built over the Ohio Canal in Baltimore, Ohio, in 1899. In 1914 or 1916, it was moved about 1½ miles to Roley Road where it stood until being moved to the county fairground entrance in 1972. The fairground management has turned the collapsed structure over to Fairfield County Historical Parks to be reconstructed at a new location. Fairfield County Historical Parks presently maintains most of the county's 18 covered bridges.

Construction crews from Shaw and Holter Inc. began dismantling the bridge on May 2. Each piece is being carefully labeled and will be stored until time for reconstruction. They are hoping that insurance will cover part of the estimated \$20,000 cost to dismantle the structure. Dave Fey, Director of the Fairfield County Historical Parks Commission, has a new location in mind and will need help with funding to reconstruct it at its fourth location. He intends to have it rebuilt over Fetter's Run in Sensory Park where it will become part of a bike trail. A fundraising campaign will begin to raise the necessary funds. We will share that information as soon as we receive it. The total cost of the project is not yet known.



Dave Fey is also interested in bringing the Mary Ruffner Bridge (WG #35-64-84, formerly 35-23-31) back to Fairfield County. That bridge originally crossed Little Rush Creek in Richland Township before being moved to private land in Perry County in the 1980's. The parks commission will receive the bridge for free, but will have to pay for its removal. It would likely be placed over Sycamore Creek at Zeller's Park in Violet Township. The commission may combine the fundraising efforts into a single project.

The goal is to have a plan or commitment by the end of summer in regards to both projects. Anyone interested in donating to either or both of the covered bridge projects can send donations to the historical parks office at 407 E. Main St., Lancaster, OH. Fey asked that donors mark which project their funds should be used for.



(Photos by Janis Ford, Right Photo Taken May 2012)

(Lancaster Eagle Gazette, May 2, 2016)

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

In March, Greene County advertised for bids to rehabilitate the 1883 Ballard Road Covered Bridge (WG #35-29-18). Two bids were received from R.G. Zachrich Construction and the Righter Company. At their March 31st meeting, the county commissioners accepted the Zachrich bid in the amount of \$485,480.48 and awarded them the contract. Greene County Engineer Bob Geyer stated that the Howe Truss restoration will consist of "... taking the roof off, taking the sides off, holding it up ... and replacing members that need replacing, then putting a new roof on and new siding ..."



(Minutes of Greene County Commissioner's meeting, March 31, 2016, Photo by Jim Smedley)

Ohio (continued):

Zeller-Smith Covered Bridge Closed for Repairs ...



Last quarter, we mentioned that the Zeller-Smith Covered Bridge (WG #35-23-19) in Fairfield County's Sycamore Park was closed so repairs could be made to aging timbers. On May 11 we received an update from the City Engineer noting that they are presently evaluating the options. They could either make temporary repairs soon to have the bridge re-opened this year or make the permanent repairs which would keep the structure closed for a much longer period of time. If temporary repairs are made now, it would still eventually need to be closed for the permanent repair work. The bridge is the only way to access the park's arboretum.

(Update from Scott Tourville, Pickerington City Engineer, Photo by Jenn Caswell)

McClellan Bridge Repairs to Begin Soon ...

According to Mary Browne, an engineer for Columbia County, the contract for repairs to the McClellan Bridge (WG #35-15-02) was awarded to McCoy Construction Products, Inc. on March 2nd by the Columbiana County Commissioners. A Preconstruction Meeting was held on April 21 and the project will be underway soon. The 53 foot Multiple Kingpost bridge was built in 1879 and has been in need of repair for many years.

(Photos by Steve Wolfhope)



Foraker Rehabilitation To Begin ...



In the last issue we reported that plans were in the works to repair a serious sag in the Foraker Covered Bridge (WG #35-56-14). In April, the contract was awarded to The Righter Company of Columbus, Ohio. The project will include replacement of lower chord members, bearing beams, siding, portions of the bridge deck, painting and application of fire retardant. Most of the project is funded by a \$213,000 grant with Monroe County covering the 20% match. The work is expected to get underway later this summer. The 104 foot long Multiple Kingpost bridge over the Little Muskingum River was built in 1886 or 1887.

(Thanks to Brad Nadolson of The Righter Company, Photo by Steve Wolfhope)

New Ohio Bridge ...

A new covered bridge has been built in Marion County, Ohio. The King's Mill Bridge (WG #35-51-21) was designed by John Smolen, former County Engineer for Ashtabula County. It is about 190 feet long and located over the Olentangy River on St. James Road near Waldo, Ohio. The \$3.2 million project RG Zachrich Construction of Defiance, Ohio. Deputy county engineer Phil Wright said 95 percent of the funding came from the federal government, with the balance coming from a road fund generated from gas taxes. The bridge was opened during a dedication ceremony on May 11th.

(Photo by Scott Wagner on May 7, 2016)



Oregon:

Linn County Bridge News ...

County Commissioners have announced an agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation to design repairs to the Gilkey Covered Bridge (WG #37-22-04). The intent is to bring it back up to a 40-ton weight rating, replace the approach spans and improve the roadway approaches. The project is expected to go to bid in September 2016 with construction planned for summer 2017.

(Albany Democrat-Herald, April 27, 2016)

Pennsylvania:

Columbia County Bridge Damaged ...



Columbia County officials say that strong winds damaged a section of the roof of the Hollingshead Bridge (WG #38-19-34) on March 28th. Commissioners say they will have to hire a contractor to fix the 34 feet of the roof that ripped off. The 117 foot long Burr arch bridge over Catawissa Creek was built in 1850.

(WNEP-TV, March 29, 2016, Photo by Bill Caswell)

Oldest Covered Bridge in Lancaster Closed Indefinitely ...

The oldest covered bridge in Lancaster, PA, Bitzer's Mill (WG#38-36-04) was closed in March 2016 after officials at the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) deemed it unsafe to carry traffic. The 99-foot, single span Burr Arch Truss structure was built in 1846 across the Conestoga River. Inspection showed that the bridge had been damaged again after beam and truss damage which occurred in October 2015 had been repaired. PennDOT, who owns the bridge and will finance the entire cost, said that a more thorough evaluation is required to develop plans for a "major rehabilitation project" to retain the "historical integrity" of the bridge. The 1997 rehab PennDOT replaced the deck using steel beams, replaced timbers and repainted the structure. No date has been set when the bridge will reopen.



(lancasteronline – Lancaster, PA, March 2016, Photo by Jackson Betz)

Chadds Ford Covered Bridge Repairs Underway ...

Four years after the Speakman #1 Covered Bridge (WG #38-15-05) was damaged by a tractor-trailer in November of 2011, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has announced that repairs are underway. Built in 1881, the historic 93 foot, single span, Burr Arch Truss structure was built across Buck Run and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The \$1.9 million project, which includes sidewalls, roof and cross members, and support abutments, is being funded entirely with federal monies. The work is expected to be completed in late September 2016.



(From: Chadds Ford Live article April 30, 2016, Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell)

Pennsylvania (continued):

Bogert's Bridge Celebration ...

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

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



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

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

Dimmsville Covered Bridge Needs Help ...

As we noted last quarter, the Dimmsville Covered Bridge (WG #38-34-02) is in dire need of assistance if it is to remain standing. By late May, efforts to determine ownership still remain unresolved. Not much can be done towards restoration until the ownership question is resolved. Engineers from P. Joseph Lehman, Inc. have visited the site to offer advice on the work necessary to save the bridge. The bridge would need to be dismantled or supported in some other way so that the failed abutment could be rebuilt.

The bridge is a 109 foot, single span, Burr Arch Truss built in 1902 spanning the Cocolamus Creek and is listed on the National Register. The Dimmsville Covered Bridge Preservation Project (DCBPP) was started February 9, 2016 by the residents of Greenwood Township, Juniata County, Pennsylvania in an effort to save this historical landmark. A Go Fund Me account has been set up by the DCBPP at <https://www.gofundme.com/upnx5tk4>. In addition, you can contact the Juniata County Historical Society at www.juniatacountyhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

(From: E-mail correspondence between DCBPP and NSPCB)



A. Schwab Photo, NSPCB Archives, April 9, 1965



Go Fund Me Page

Pennsylvania (continued):

Kidd's Mill Bridge Repairs Being Planned ...

A public meeting was held on May 12 to discuss planned repairs to the Kidd's Mill Covered Bridge (WG #38-43-01), Mercer County's only covered bridge.



The Shenango Conservancy, in conjunction with the Mercer County commissioners, is undertaking the rehabilitation project, which includes structural repairs and applying a fire retardant.

The bridge is part of the Kidd's Mill Historical Area, which also includes Kidd's Mill Bridge Park. The property is owned by the Army Corps of Engineers and leased to the conservancy, while the county owns the bridge. The historical area is on the National Register of Historic Places.

For more details of the project, contact Ed Winslow, Winslow Engineering, at 724-962-7816.

(Sharon Herald, May 4, 2016, Photo by Jenn Caswell)

Vermont:

Selectboard Considers Closing Bridge ...

The West Windsor Selectboard is considering closing Bowers Bridge (WG #45-14-11) to vehicle traffic after a number of incidents involving oversized and overweight vehicles. The Board will visit the bridge on May 4th. After being washed away during Tropical Storm Irene in 2011, the bridge was repaired and reopened in the summer of 2012. Within a year it suffered from a broken lower chord caused by a town road grader. An oil delivery truck damaged floor joists. A façade was installed at the portals restricting the height to eight feet. It has been damaged and repaired numerous times after being struck by over height vehicles. The latest damage occurring in early April cost about \$800 to repair and will be covered by the truck driver's insurance.



(Valley News, April 28, 2016, Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell)

Green River Bridge to be Repaired ...



Structural problems were discovered in the west abutment of the Green River Bridge (WG #45-13-04) during wingwall repairs in 2014. Additional repairs designed by Hoyle, Tanner Associates will be made by Wright Construction in the summer of 2016. This includes straightening the structure, new floor deck, replacement of some floor beams, replacing 1 piece of lower chord, 2 sister lattice installations and some other minor structural repairs. Also new standing seam roof to replace the existing asphalt shingle roof. The Green River Bridge is a 104 foot long Town truss built in 1870.

The project is scheduled to begin on May 23 although the bridge will remain open until school closes for the summer on June 20. The bridge must be re-opened to traffic by August 27.

(Courtesy Joe Poston, Wright Construction and Town of Guilford, VT, Website, Bill & Jenn Caswell Photo)

Vermont (continued):

Scott Bridge Repairs ...

The Scott Covered Bridge (WG #45-13-13) is currently being rehabilitated for pedestrian traffic by Renaud Bros of Vernon, VT. The project includes a new roof, roof lateral bracing member, truss and floor member repairs and replacements, minor substructure work and new siding. The Town Lattice spans of the bridge are nearly complete and the bridge should be re-opened to pedestrians this fall.

(News & Photo Courtesy Sean James, Hoyle Tanner & Associates)



Longley Bridge Update ...

The Longley Covered Bridge (WG #45-06-08) was built in 1863 by the Jewett Brothers and is located at the intersection of Longley Bridge Road and VT Route 118. The bridge is an 84'-0" long single span Town Lattice Truss, which spans the Trout River near the northwestern boundary of the Town of Montgomery with the Town of Enosburgh. Several serious structural deficiencies were observed during a routine bridge inspection by Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) personnel in 2010. As a result of the inspection findings, the bridge was posted shortly thereafter for no trucks and a gross weight of 3 tons. The bridge remained opened to all traffic until early fall of 2011 when its deteriorated condition prompted the Town to close it to all traffic. Vehicular traffic was



bypassed at a temporary prefabricated steel truss type bridge (Acrow Bridge), which was erected downstream of the existing covered bridge. Rehabilitation plans will be approved in upcoming months by VTrans and include the preservation of the original design of the Town Lattice Truss by replacing the trusses in-kind to support a 20-ton design vehicle, installing new floor and lower lateral bracing system, retaining the majority of the roof framing and upper lateral bracing, substructure repairs, application of fire retardant, insecticide and fungicide coatings and installation of new approach timber railing. The project is scheduled to start construction in early winter of 2016 and is anticipated to be completed by early fall of the following year.

(Courtesy Josif Bicja, Hoyle Tanner & Associates, Photo by Bill Caswell)

Virginia:

Bob White Bridge Could be Rebuilt ...

On February 29th, the Patrick County Board of Supervisors voted to support the rebuilding of the Bob White Covered Bridge (WG #46-68-01), as long as no county taxpayer funds are used for the project. The bridge was destroyed by floodwaters on September 29, 2015.

The Woolwine Covered Bridge Committee has held several fund-raisers to maintain the area's covered bridges and those funds will probably be used in building a new Bob White Covered Bridge. The estimated cost of the project has not been announced. Joseph Quesenberry, tourism and marketing director, said there are plans to build a kiosk at the site, using timbers recovered from the old bridge, and explaining its history.

(The Enterprise, March 12, 2016)

West Virginia:

Philippi Work Nearly Complete ...

Work on the Philippi Covered Bridge (WG #48-01-01) is nearly complete. It will be open to pedestrian traffic for the Blue and Gray Reunion in early June. The sidewalk will not be open because handrails are not yet in place. This will give people the opportunity to view the renovations without vehicle traffic on the bridge. The project is expected to be completed in August.

(The Exponent Telegram, May 21, 2016.

Photo by Jim & Gloria Smedley, December 31, 2015)



Québec:

Pont Grandchamp With Vidéo Surveillance ...

Another covered bridge appears to be safeguarded by video surveillance. During a recent visit to Pont Grandchamp (WG #61-09-02) near Berthierville, video cameras were spotted inside the bridge. Berthierville is along the St. Lawrence River about an hour north of Montreal.

(News and Photos from Gérald Arbour, April 2016)



NSPCB Facebook Page ...

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

The Society Bookstore ...

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

Note: Books can only be shipped to US addresses.

America's Covered Bridges by Ron Knapp & Terry Miller

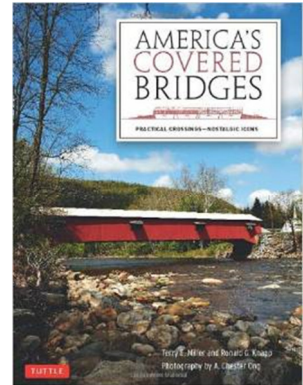
\$36.00, autographed copies, postpaid.

2009 World Guide to Covered Bridges

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

Connecticut & Rhode Island Covered Bridges

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



NSPCB Mugs

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

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

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

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

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

