



The Newsletter

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

Winter 2016/2017

Time Travel

by: Charles (Skip) Wright © 1983



[Editor's Note: Permission to use this copyrighted photograph in the Winter 2016 edition of the NSPCB Newsletter was obtained from the photographer November 2016. No duplication of the photograph is requested. Lithographs of this photograph are available for sale at **Unicorn, 15 Central Street, Woodstock, VT 05091** at 1- 802-457-2480.]

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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 ...

Here's the story behind this edition's cover photo ...

An original photograph taken in February 1983, during a 32" snowfall. It was not a posed shot. Charles ("Skip") Wright was just in the right place at the right time on the village green in Woodstock, VT taking a picture of the Woodstock Inn. Catching movement out of the corner of his eye, he turned with just enough time to frame the image, and click. This one exposure has brought incredible pleasure to thousands the world over, capturing not only a feeling of a time gone by but unknowingly some of Woodstock's history as well.

The woman in the sleigh is Madeline Pennoyer, a long time resident of Woodstock driving her Morgan mare *Dawndale*. Justin Morgan, after becoming ill, stabled his young Morgan stallion just a few blocks from this spot on his return from Massachusetts and later became the beginning of the Morgan horse line in Vermont.

Today, it is impossible to re-take this photograph. While in 1983 the power and utility lines were buried, today, the town green is lined with parking meters and the island in front of the bridge includes signage and a postal box thus destroying the tranquil impression of a scene from more than a century ago.

The covered bridge in the background was built by Milton & Arnold Graton in 1967. The house on the left was originally the site of a medical school more than 150 years ago.

The National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges extends its appreciation to Mr. Wright, day care provider, turned professional photographer, turned gardener, now retired, for allowing us to share this image of the timeless serenity of Vermont in winter with our members.

Peace ... to everyone !!!

Happy Bridging!!

Spring 2017 Newsletter Deadline

The next Newsletter is scheduled to be mailed in March. Therefore, anyone wishing to submit articles should send them to the Editor by **February 15, 2017**. **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 ...

The day after the Fall mailing was sent out, we experienced the terrible loss of Vermont's 1865 Salisbury Station Bridge. Although there wasn't any evidence of an accelerant found, no cause for the fire has been announced. Whether the fire was accidental or intentional, it still highlights the need for better protection of our historic bridges. There are no guarantees when it comes to safeguarding our historic bridges, but we can make an effort to offer some protection such as fire retardant. At the annual meeting, members voted to continue the arson reduction incentive where the Society offers bridge owners incentives to apply fire retardant to their bridges. That incentive comes in the form of a contribution towards the fire retardant in either monetary form or donation of the product. Last year we purchased fire retardant for the Hyde Hall Bridge, the nation's oldest covered bridge, in New York and the Snyder Brook Bridge, a historic railroad pony truss bridge in New Hampshire. In October, we contributed \$525 towards fire retardant for the Goddard Bridge in Fleming County, Kentucky, with Arnold Graton volunteering the labor to apply it.

Not all bridge losses are the result of the natural elements. Preservation also comes in the form of advocacy and education. Bridge owners and contractors who are not aware of proper preservation practices or not willing to put forth the time and money to do the job properly are just as dangerous as fire and flood. It is our duty to keep them aware of our concerns and desire to preserve the craftsmanship of our forefathers.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation is presently going through the Section 106 review process for proposed work on the Dreibelbis covered bridge in Berks County. Section 106 is a reference to the section of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 which requires federally-funded projects which may impact historic properties to be evaluated to determine potential impacts related to the project. Any individual or group with an interest in the project has the opportunity to express their thoughts on the project. The NSPCB has expressed an interest in the project and will be kept informed of developments. We have already reviewed the draft impact documents and presented a letter voicing our concerns with the proposed design. The documents propose to replace the concrete-encased stone abutments with new concrete ones and replace the timber support system under the deck with steel beams. The report stated that this work will have no adverse effect on the historic integrity of the bridge. On the contrary, this is a drastic change which has already been applied to too many of our historic structures. Our letter was presented at a meeting on November 10. I will share any additional information I hear on the status of this project. Thanks to Tim Andrews, Joseph Conwill and Jim Garvin for their assistance in preparing the response.

Sales of Society promotional items has been going very well. Thank you all who are helping support our mission by purchasing the shirts, hats, calendars and other goods. All profits from the sale of those items are available for donations towards fire retardant or other Society supported projects.

I have been informed of an error on the 2017 NSPCB calendar. While preparing the captions for the photographs, I mistakenly credited Steve Wolfhope for the December photo. That photo was in fact taken by Michael Chorazy. My apologies to Michael. If you haven't ordered your calendar yet, they are going fast. Pick up some extras to give to friends, they make great gifts.

I wish you all peace this holiday season as we look forward to 2017..

Bill Caswell

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.

2016-2017 Officers

The 2016/2017 officers were elected at the annual meeting. They are:

President:Bill Caswell
Vice President:.....Karl Olson
TreasurerGloria Smedley
Financial SecretaryGloria Smedley
Recording SecretaryJoye Olson
Corresponding SecretaryBob Watts
Directors:Tim Andrews (exp. 2017),
Carmela Sciandra (exp. 2018),
Scott Wagner (exp. 2019)

Appointments

Editor of TopicsJoseph Conwill
Newsletter Editor.....Rob Mitchell
Official HistoriansRichard Roy, William Caswell
World Guide Numbers and Updates Dan Brock, Bill Caswell
Sales and Mailing ChairBill & Jenn Caswell
Membership ChairJennifer Caswell
ArchivistJoseph Conwill
Official PhotographersJoseph Conwill, Bob Watts, Scott Wagner
Web MasterWilliam Caswell
Nominating CommitteeTim Andrews (exp. 2017),
Bob Watts (exp. 2018),
Betty Pauwels (exp. 2019)
Scholarship CommitteeJames Garvin, Martha McShea, Bill Caswell
Eastman Fund Custodians.....Gloria Smedley, Bill Caswell, Bob Watts
Timber Framing Advisors.....Tim Andrews, Arnold Grāton, Will Truax

Membership

Welcome New Members ...

Karla K. Allison, Mt Olivet, KY	Michael Delage, Cumberland, RI
Mike & Ali Doyle, Vanceburg, KY	Donna Fryman, Flemingsburg, KY
Judy Greeson, Clinton, TN	Robert Markham, Rockport, ME
Robert Scheer, Pacific, MO	David & Karen Schwartzkopf, Indianapolis, IN
Lori Ulrich, Mayslick, KY	Marty & Kathy Voiers, Flemingsburg, KY
Janie B. Wheary, Mt Olivet, KY	Conrad & Penny Young, Concord, NH
Jen Meade, Wentworth, NH	Jackie White, Racine, OH
Kathy McDaniel, Long Bottom, OH	Vera Kelsey Watts, Fremont, NH
Cheston Newbold, Cornish, NH	Stan Bucklin, New London, NH
John Watts, New Castle, DE	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Parker, New City, NY

Our apologies to new member Carol Colaianni for misspelling her name in the previous Newsletter.

Upcoming NSPCB Meetings & Events ...

2017 Meeting Schedule

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

Sunday, March 26 – Masonic Lodge, 17 Church St., Warner, NH.

Sunday, April 23 - Brigham Hill Community Barn, 37 Wheeler Rd., Grafton, MA.

Sunday, June 25 – Contoocook, NH. Full details in the Spring Newsletter.

Sunday, July 23 - TBD

Sunday, August 27 - 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.

September – Fall “Away” Meeting, details in the Spring Newsletter.

Other Upcoming Covered Bridge Meetings & Events ...

Saturday, December 10, 2016 - 11 am to 3 pm Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania 58th Anniversary Dinner, Dutch-Way Farm Market and Family Restaurant, Gap, Lancaster County, PA

Sunday, February 5, 2017 - 2:00 pm Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania Monthly Meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Manheim, PA. Program: "Restoration of Five Eastern Pennsylvania Covered Bridges in Recent Years: Knox, Rapp's, Speakman #1, Neff's Mill, Siegrist's Mill" by Joe McCarthy

Sunday, March 5, 2017 - 2:00 pm Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania Monthly Meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Manheim, PA. Program: To be announced

Sunday, April 2, 2017 - 2:00 pm Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania Monthly Meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Manheim, PA. Program: To be announced

Saturday, May 6, 2017 - 11 am to 3 pm Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania 58th Anniversary Dinner, Dutch-Way Farm Market and Family Restaurant, Gap, Lancaster County, PA

Update 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 67, update Jim McClellan Bridge listing to replace the old bridge with a new replica. Change World Guide number to **35-15-02#2** and construction date to **2016**.

New Book on New Hampshire Bridges Benefits the NSPCB ...



Member Conrad Young of Concord, New Hampshire, has a newly released book, *New Hampshire's Historical Covered Bridges*. Conrad is a watercolor artist who specializes in covered bridges. This book is the culmination of ten years of researching and painting various NH covered bridges and consists of eleven 10" x 8" watercolor paintings and a black and white ink drawing of the oldest NH bridge, the Bath-Haverhill Bridge. It also has a NH location map and information on the 54 state-recognized bridges, as well as a fun fact page of trivia information on NH's covered bridges. The cost of the book is \$19.95 (plus \$5 shipping and handling) and can be ordered by emailing pnyoung@comcast.net or sending a check payable to Conrad Young to him at 208 Garvins Falls Rd, Concord, NH 03301. Conrad is donating a percentage of the sales to NSPCB.

Arson Reduction Incentive

**Originally published in the Spring 2014 Newsletter, page 9
Modified text presented at the October 2016 Annual Meeting**

Our covered bridges are lost in a variety of ways, sometimes by natural forces, sometimes by our own choices of demolition, neglect or arson. Over the years, the Society has been very outspoken about the importance of preserving the historic components of bridges during repair and restoration projects. In addition to that, we are also gathering, evaluating and dispersing information regarding methods of protecting our remaining historic bridges from fire, vandalism and oversized vehicles.

Over the past five decades, at least 148 covered bridges have been lost to arson in the United States and Canada, an average of about three per year. In an effort to reduce this average, the Society has decided to offer an incentive to encourage bridge owners to apply fire retardants to their historic covered bridges. Specifically, to offer a partial reimbursement for application of a fire retardant acceptable to the Society to a historic covered bridge during the 2017 calendar year. The actual amount reimbursed will be determined on a case by case basis at a regular or Board meeting. A typical reimbursement would be \$500 or cost of materials, whichever is lesser.

The award will be offered after the bridge owner has provided sufficient documentation that the fire retardant was applied and costs involved. A maximum of 20 awards will be available for the 2017 calendar year. Requests for this award should be directed to Bill Caswell, 535 Second NH Tpke, Hillsboro, NH 03244 or sent by email to nspcb@yahoo.com.

Archives Update

With winter fast approaching, we will be back to sorting through boxes of donations and cataloging items in the Society's collection. Joseph Conwill recently finished scanning photographs of covered bridges in the southern states from Richard Sanders Allen's collection. We continue to move items from Dick Roy's collection into the archives as we have time to process the material. This quarter, we collected another two dozen shoebox size boxes of postcards. More material to keep us busy during the winter. We are also grateful for the file cabinet donated by Scott and Sue Wagner.

One item we will be needing is a computer to assist in research. Joseph Conwill has spent the past few years scanning the slides, negatives and now photographs in our collection. Having a computer in the archives would permit access to those images while visiting the room. David Wright had acquired one at some point which was stored in the former archives room in Westminster, Vermont. When we started it up, we discovered that it was quite old and will not be suitable for our needs. Before considering the expense of purchasing a new one, we are checking to see if someone in our audience has one that they are interested in retiring and donating to the Society. If you live in the northeast part of the country and have a computer to offer, please contact Bill Caswell at wscaswell@yahoo.com. Email is typically the best way to reach Bill although you are also welcome to call 603-478-1484.

Warner, NH Fall Foliage Festival

On Columbus Day weekend, NSPCB set up a booth at the Warner (New Hampshire) Fall Foliage Festival. We were joined by local author Conrad Young who offered copies of his new book containing eleven watercolors of New Hampshire covered bridges. Conrad donated a portion of the sales to the Society. Rainy weather on Sunday kept the crowds to a minimum, but we still had the opportunity to speak to many people about historic preservation.

Thank you to the volunteers who helped: Bob & Betty Pauwels, Scott & Sue Wagner, Conrad & Penny Young, Kaylee Brunt, Joye Olson, Tina Stockbridge and Bill & Jenn Caswell. Thanks also to Bob Watts who was available if we needed additional staff. Main Street Book Ends offers us a prime location in their parking lot on Main Street and only asks for a donation towards maintenance of the Jim Mitchell Community Park, the park adjacent to our booth location. Members at the annual meeting voted to donate \$100 towards the park's maintenance.

NSPCB Fall Tour

Between September 30 and October 2, 53 members of the NSPCB, Indiana Covered Bridge Society and other interested individuals participated in a full weekend of covered bridge visits and events. Photos throughout this article were taken by Scott Wagner, Sue Blanchard and Bill Caswell.



The weekend started with a welcome reception at the Johnson Creek Bridge in Robertson County. Robertson County Tourism provided beverages, sweets and barbeque pork for the group. Arnold Grätton and Patrick Kennedy (Kentucky Heritage Council) spoke about the importance of maintaining the bridges. The Johnson Creek Bridge was restored



by Grätton Associates about eight years ago.

After the welcome reception, we moved to our base camp for the weekend, Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort. On Friday evening we distributed nametags and driving directions. Fleming County Tourism provided each attendee with a tote bag containing information, gifts and water. Some additional information and snacks were added to them earlier in the day by Bob & Betty Pauwels and Jeff & Deb Stebbins. Once everyone was settled in, local author Melissa Jurgensen offered an interesting presentation filled with photos and tales associated with the area's covered bridges.



Fleming County School District donated a school bus and driver to carry us through the Saturday portion of the tour. This reduced many of the challenges associated with leading along the narrow winding roads and parking at the sometimes confined areas around the bridges. Most of the group chose to leave the driving to the professional. Our first stop, the Colville Bridge in Bourbon County, was the only one on our tour open to traffic that day. With its 10' clearance, it presented the only challenge for the bus driver. We were quite impressed with his ability to turn the bus around within the limited space near the bridge entrance.

The 120' long Colville Bridge was built in 2001 to replace an earlier covered bridge. The replica is similar in appearance to the original including the green and white portal. That paint scheme was commonly used by the Bower Company so the portals were easier to see at night. After Colville, we moved on to Fleming County.

The Grange City Bridge was next on the agenda. This was an opportunity to draw some attention to the needs of this bridge. Repeated flooding has scoured one of the abutments leaving it susceptible to collapse during a future flood. The bridge is also experiencing some structural troubles and has a pronounced sag. Former judge Todd Walton and his wife were there to greet us and offer information about the area. The hospitality we are experiencing in Kentucky is making for an even more enjoyable experience.



VP Karl Olson pointing out the high water mark in the Grange City Bridge

Next on the tour was Ringos Mill. Very similar to Grange City, these two can easily be mis-identified in photos. This bridge was bypassed in 1970 and closed to traffic. The light rain at this stop didn't deter folks from exploring the site. Elementary school principal Carol Thompson greeted us at that location. We also appreciated that the Thompson's allowed us to park in their field near the bridge so vehicles could get off the road.

The next stop was at Goddard Bridge, the pride of Fleming County. When we arrived, there were vendors set up at the church near the bridge. The ladies of the Goddard United Methodist Church prepared a wonderful fried chicken dinner with homegrown vegetables and all the tempting desserts you would expect at a church supper. After the meal, we went upstairs to the Covered Wooden Bridge Trail ceremony. The ceremony was a public event to kick off the planning process for the trail. The event was opened by Donna Fryman, President of Fleming County Tourism followed by Flemingsburg Mayor Martin Voiers singing the National Anthem. Remarks on the

covered bridge trail were offered by Larry Foxworthy, Fleming County Judge Executive; Arnold Grāton; Kristen Branscum, Commissioner of Kentucky's Travel and Tourism Cabinet; Aaron Thompson who read a letter from Governor Matt Bevin; and Representative Mitchell Denham who sponsored the trail bill. After the sign unveiling, Bill Caswell offered the final remarks.

After the ceremony, we loaded up the bus and headed to Flemingsburg to visit the Fleming County Covered Bridge Museum and Steve Donovan's art gallery. The museum is filled with covered bridge and local history items. The art gallery has 1:12 scale models of many nearby covered bridges, some made with wood from the actual bridge during restoration work. The Cabin Creek model is made entirely of wood removed during the recent restoration.

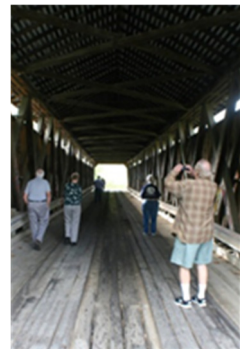
Our final stop of the day was at the Cabin Creek Bridge. This one was restored by the Grāton's in 2014. Local resident Steve Hampton was there to greet us. The Grāton's were also there to answer questions about the bridge and the restoration work. This is where we took our Saturday group photo.



Looking through one of the models at the art gallery

After returning to the lodge, we had dinner and started the business meeting at 6:00. The first order of business was a talk by our distinguished guest, Judge Stockton B. Wood, grandson of noted bridge repairer Louis Stockton "Stock" Bower. Judge Wood shared some interesting facts and stories about the Bower family. His mother, Stock Bower's daughter, was also in attendance. During the business meeting, Arnold Grāton offered to apply NoChar to the Goddard Bridge at no charge and asked the Society to consider contributing towards the cost of materials. Members approved \$525, the estimated cost of the NoChar. Nine new members joined during the weekend.

On Sunday, we handed out the red car flags loaned to us by the Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania, got everyone lined up and headed the caravan north to Ohio. The first bridge we visited was Brown County's North Pole Road Bridge. This was likely to be the last time that we see this bridge in its present form as Ohio DOT is planning to advertise a project to bypass it in 2017. This bridge and our next stop, the George Miller Road Bridge are nearly identical Smith truss structures. The area has been so dry that we could walk into the riverbed to get some great photos. The low water level also exposed an abundance of fossils in the riverbed.



North Pole Road Bridge

The Governor Kirker Bridge in Adams County was painted just prior to our visit. The local tourism group also added a barn quilt to the side. This was the location of Sunday's group photo. It was bypassed in 1973 and includes an extensive steel support system.

After lunch in Aberdeen, we crossed the Ohio River back into Kentucky. The next stop was at the Valley Pike Bridge. This is a small privately-owned structure was extensively rebuilt by Stock Bower in 1972. Next, we moved on to the Dover Bridge where the Kentucky hospitality continued. We were greeted at the bridge by Mason County Judge/Executive Joseph Pfeffer, Maysville Mayor David Cartmell and Judge Wood. A group of motorcyclists were also visiting at the same time. The Dover Bridge is Kentucky's oldest, reportedly built around 1835. It has an interesting low Queen truss which gives the appearance that it may have once been a pony truss which was later covered. Before it was bypassed, the bridge was outfitted with large steel beams to carry the roadway traffic with a posted 11 ton weight limit.



Interior of the Walcott Bridge showing the slice of historic wood glued onto a new timber beam.

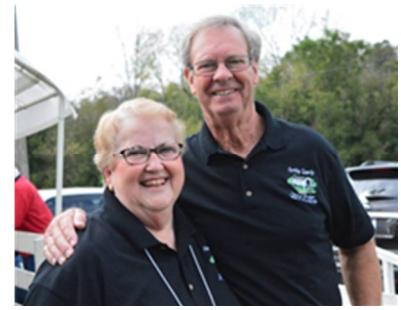
The final bridge on the tour was the Walcott Bridge in Bracken County. This bridge is often cited as an example of a restoration gone wrong. Instead of rehabilitating the historic structure, it was reconstructed as a mostly new bridge. In an attempt to provide the new structure with a historic "look", some slices were cut from former truss timbers and glued onto the new timbers. Although the historic structure is now gone forever, this project motivated historic preservationists throughout Kentucky to see that their covered bridges were treated with more care in the future.

There are so many people who helped make this weekend a success. My apologies if I left out anyone. Thanks to the members of the Indiana Covered Bridge Society for joining us for a second year in a row. We love

having you along. We are especially grateful to John & Colleen Murray who volunteered to be the last car in Sunday's caravan to ensure that we all stayed together. Thank you to the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania for loaning us their car flags to make our group easier to identify. Thank you to the staff at Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park, especially Mindy Lightner, for making sure everything went smoothly during our meetings at the lodge.

Thanks to Bob & Betty Pauwels for helping transport some of the boxes to and from New Hampshire because they didn't all fit into our vehicle. Thank you to Arnold & Meg Graton, Don Walker and Tim Dansereau for taking time away from their work at the Beech Fork Bridge to spend time with the group answering questions at the Johnson Creek and Cabin Creek Bridges.

Finally, thank you to two people who worked tirelessly transforming this idea into a reality, Ginny Reeves and Jennifer Caswell. Ginny was the one who requested that we host a tour in Kentucky and offered to take on much of the work involved in arranging it. Her involvement with her community provided her with the local contacts necessary to arrange for all of the events on Saturday. Jenn worked countless hours doing whatever needed to be done from making sure we had the necessary promotional items available (including finding suppliers and negotiating the best possible prices for the Society), preparing nametags, proofreading the tour booklet, staffing the sales table during the meetings and having all the stock so organized that packing for a trip like this it relatively easy.



Ginny & Woody Reeves

We look forward to seeing many of you again next fall and meeting more members on our next trip.

NSPCB On Tour

In 2011, we scheduled our first "away" meeting; an effort to provide an opportunity for members living outside our normal gathering locations to attend a Society meeting. Since then we have planned one of these meetings each year visiting Connecticut, New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Indiana and Kentucky so far.

\At our meeting in southwestern Pennsylvania during the summer of 2014, Tom Walczack, president of the Theodore Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania, supplemented the meeting by leading a mini safari to a number of covered bridges in the area. Last year, Andy Rebman, president of the Indiana Covered Bridge Society, organized a 2-day tour of southeastern Indiana to coincide with our meeting there. Jenn & I, with a significant amount of help from Ginny Reeves, followed the precedent they set with our recent tour of north-central Kentucky and nearby Ohio.



The popularity of these tours was evident at our Annual Meeting where a number of other suggestions were offered. Those suggestions included: New Brunswick; Ashtabula County, Ohio; Washington County, Ohio; Lehigh County (and surrounding areas) in Pennsylvania; Madison County, Iowa; Michigan (combined bridge/lighthouse tour?) and various options within New Hampshire and Vermont. While suggestions are great, it is essential that volunteers step forward to plan and lead these tours.

If you are inspired to plan a tour of one of the areas listed above or of a favorite location of yours, please let me know where and when. That way we could start planning a year or two in advance.

Where are we going in 2017? Jenn & I offered to arrange a tour of some of Oregon's bridges. Bill Cockrell, president of the Covered Bridge Society of Oregon has provided us with a two-day itinerary and recommended potential meeting and meal locations. Unless someone offers to plan an event somewhere else, I will be looking forward to having you join us in Oregon next fall, possibly early September. Full details will be included in the *Spring Newsletter*

More from the Kentucky/Ohio Tour

Photos by Scott Wagner, Sue Blanchard and Bill Caswell



Group photos at the Cabin Creek Bridge in Lewis County, Kentucky (left) and Governor Kirker Bridge in Brown County, Ohio (right).



Colville Bridge



Grange City Bridge



Ringos Mill Bridge



George Miller Bridge.



North Pole Road Bridge



Kirker Bridge. Scott Wagner Photo



Valley Pike Bridge



Dover Bridge where members were greeted by Mayor Cartmell, Judge Pfeffer and Judge Wood.



Walcott Bridge.

The Year in Review

Photos by Betty Pauwels, Bob Watts, Jenn Caswell, Bill Caswell and Scott Wagner



March Meeting, Warner, NH



April Meeting, Revere Beach, MA



Bogert's Bridge Celebration, Allentown, PA, June 12



June Meeting, Contoocook, NH



Hyde Hall Celebration, July 17
Glimmerglass State Park, NY



Campton Work Day, July 30



July Meeting, North Grafton, MA



Conrad Young Presenting Watercolor of Contoocook, NH, Bridges



August Picnic, Concord, NH

Annual Meeting

The Society's Annual Meeting took place on Saturday October 22nd at O'Connor's Restaurant in Worcester, Massachusetts. Thirty-five members and guests attended. After lunch, David Simmons, President of the Ohio Historic Bridge Association, provided an interesting presentation about Theodore Burr and the migration of the Burr Truss westward. The talk ended with the Robert's Bridge (WG #35-68-05), Ohio's oldest covered bridge and only double barrel covered bridge.



There was much discussion on two financial matters - insurance policies and scholarships. The Society has a number of insurance policies to cover accidents at meetings, archives materials, volunteer activities and projects we are involved in. These total to a significant annual expense. The Executive Board will be reviewing this during its meeting in late January. If any of our members are involved in the insurance business and may be able to help us save some money, please contact Tim Andrews (bbofne@gmail.com) or Bill Caswell (wscaswell@yahoo.com).

If you prefer to correspond by postal mail, Bill's mailing address is on page 2. We also discussed the goals and results of our scholarships. The Board will evaluate this and determine if we should continue offering scholarships.

The group voted to continue the Arson Reduction Incentive first mentioned in the Spring 2014 Newsletter (page 9). Full details are in this Newsletter. As we proceeded into the election of officers, retiring Director Dick Roy was given a standing ovation for his decades of service to the Society. A celebration of Dick's service will be planned for a later date. Scott Wagner was selected to fill the vacant Director's seat. Photo by Scott Wagner.

USA Today Poll

During September, USA Today asked readers to vote for the best covered bridge. Covered bridge experts and USA Today's network of Local Experts were asked to nominate 20 exemplary historic bridges. They combined the lists and selected 20 candidates for the voting. Readers could vote once per day for four weeks ending on September 26th. The winners were announced on Friday, September 30th.

The top 10 winners in the category Best Covered Bridge are as follows:

1. Elizabethton Covered Bridge (WG #42-10-01) - Elizabethton, Tennessee
2. Goddard Covered Bridge (WG #17-35-06) - Flemingsburg, Kentucky
3. Humpback Bridge (WG # 46-03-01) - Alleghany County, Virginia
4. Horton Mill Bridge (WG #01-05-07) - Oneonta, Alabama
5. Stark Bridge (WG #29-04-05) - Stark, New Hampshire
6. Hyde Hall Covered Bridge (WG #32-39-01) - Cooperstown, New York
7. West Union Covered Bridge (WG #14-61-27) - West Union, Indiana
8. Goodpasture Covered Bridge (WG #37-20-10) - Vida, Oregon
9. Roseman Covered Bridge (WG #15-61-07) - Winterset, Iowa
10. Sachs Covered Bridge (WG #38-01-01) - Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Other bridges nominated in this category included Arlington Green Covered Bridge (Vermont), Campbell's Covered Bridge (South Carolina), Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge (New Hampshire & Vermont), Dreibelbis Bridge (Pennsylvania), Flume Bridge (New Hampshire), Knights Ferry Covered Bridge (California), Pengra Covered Bridge (Oregon), Sunday River Bridge (Maine), Wawona Covered Bridge (California) and West Cornwall Covered Bridge (Connecticut).

October 1st Meeting at Blue Licks State Park, Kentucky

Fifty-five members and guests attended the business meeting at Blue Licks State Park in Robertson County, Kentucky. The meeting began with a presentation by Judge Stockton Wood. Judge Wood is the grandson of "Stock" Bower, the third generation of Bower's who built and repaired covered bridges in the area. As a member of the family, Judge Wood offered a unique perspective on his grandfather and the Bower Bridge Company.

Bill Caswell updated the group on the regular items; membership report, treasurer's report, etc. During the meeting, Arnold Graton stated that he would voluntarily apply NoChar to the Goddard Bridge (WG #17-35-06) in Fleming County. He asked if the Society would consider assisting with the materials. A motion was made and approved to reimburse \$525 towards the cost of NoChar fire retardant. The work was done on October 17th.



Use Smile.Amazon.com for your Holiday Shopping

**Support
National Society For The
Preservation Of Covered
Bridges.**

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

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

amazonsmile

Do you shop at Amazon? Have you heard of Amazon Smile? It is a program where Amazon contributes 0.5% of your purchases to a non-profit organization. There is no cost to you. In September, we received a donation of \$11.65. That may not sound like much, but every little bit helps. Having more people participate will increase the funds we have available to contribute towards fire retardant and other worthwhile preservation projects.

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

Covered Bridge Happenings ...

Georgia:

Concord Road Bridge Damaged by Vehicle...



The Concord Covered Bridge (WG #10-33-02) was closed for a time after a one-vehicle crash closed it for several hours on October 5th. An oversize box truck collided into a large steel beam before the bridge — which is labeled with the bridge’s 7-foot height restriction — and then struck the bridge’s wooden structure. The truck’s driver, identified as 27-year-old Filmon Yohannes of Lawrenceville, fled the scene of the crash in the damaged truck, but was soon found and taken into custody. He was arrested on several charges, including driving under the influence, possession of marijuana and charges relating to the collision at the bridge. Cobb County crews had the bridge back in service later that day.

(Marietta Daily Journal, October 6, 2016, Bill & Jenn Caswell Photo)

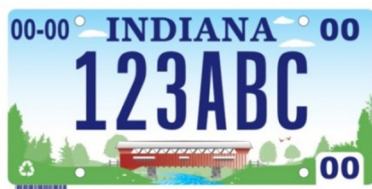
Indiana :

Rob Roy Bridge Repairs Approved...

Fountain County commissioners have voted to accept the anonymous donation offered to repair the Rob Roy Bridge (WG #14-23-03) near Attica, Indiana. They have also approved a bid from a Parke County based contractor to do the work. The work is estimated to cost just under \$44,000.

(Reported by WLFI-TV September 26, 2016)

Covered Bridge License Plate Wins Vote ...



In early August, the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles unveiled three potential designs for the state’s new license plate. One of those designs features a covered bridge at the bottom. The BMV website provided visitors with the opportunity to vote for their preference. In late September, the BMV announced that the covered bridge plate was the top vote getter.

(KPC News, September 26, 2016, BMV Image)

Monroe County to get a New Covered Bridge...

Monroe County officials hope to see construction begin on a wooden, covered bridge spanning Beanblossom Creek in 2018. The bridge will connect North and Old Maple Grove roads. The Cedar Ford Bridge Project tentatively will be open for bidding in October 2017.

The 127-foot long, single-span bridge will be designed by Jim Barker of VS Engineering. The cost is estimated at \$1.5 million, \$812,000 of which will be paid through funding from the National Covered Bridge Preservation Protection Program. The remaining amount will be paid for out of the county's Cumulative Bridge Fund.

The bridge will resemble a typical Kennedy Brothers bridge with 30 percent of the timber from a former covered bridge. Cedar Ford will be the first covered bridge in the county in four decades - the last one, Williams bridge, burned in what was likely arson on June 29, 1976.

(WBIW, November 1, 2016)

Kentucky:

Beech Fork Restoration Underway ...

Work continues on the restoration of the Beech Fork Bridge (WG #17-115-01) in Washington County, KY. The steel truss which will support the structure during repairs has been inserted into the bridge. With the steel structure carrying the load, stresses can be relieved from the wooden structure allowing damaged and deteriorated parts to be replaced. The next step is to remove the lower chords to further inspect the truss timbers. Work is expected to be completed in late 2017.

(Scott Wagner Photo, October 3, 2016)



Maryland:



Roddy Road Bridge Repairs Underway ...

The Roddy Road Covered Bridge (WG #20-10-02) near Thurmont, Maryland was badly damaged by an oversized vehicle on June 16th. After an evaluation and bid process, a contract for the repairs was awarded to Fitzgerald's Heavy Timber Construction of Thurmont. The project is expected to take about four months and cost about \$150,000. The driver of the truck is scheduled for a trial in Frederick County Circuit Court on charges related to the incident. Frederick County officials are looking at options to help prevent this in the future.

(Frederick News-Post, October 25, 2016 Jim Smedley Photo, October 25, 2016)

Michigan:

No News on the Whites Bridge Project ...

In August, it was announced that the anticipated October bid letting for the Whites Bridge Project (WG #22-34-01) was to be delayed from its planned October date due to a revision of the timber specifications. As of this writing, a check of the Michigan DOT bid letting web page had not provided a new bid letting date.

(Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell)



New Hampshire:

Corbin Bridge Damage to be Repaired...

On August 20, the eastern portal of the Corbin Covered Bridge (WG #29-10-05#2) in Newport, New Hampshire, was damaged in a hit and run incident. The damage is to be repaired by Arnold Graton Associates and will likely be completed by the time you read this.

(WMUR-TV and the Valley News, August 21, 2016)



New Hampshire (continued):

Historic Covered Bridge Damaged by Driver, Again ...

The Dingleton Hill Covered Bridge (WG #29-10-02) in Cornish has been damaged for the third time this year by a vehicle exiting the bridge. In February, a school bus driver from Vermont with a bus full of high school basketball players went through the bridge after getting lost in Cornish and caused \$1,100 in damage to the structure. The school district's insurance covered the cost of repairs. The driver was found guilty of conduct after an accident, for which he was fined \$500, with \$250 suspended. He also was fined \$200 for disregarding the bridge's weight limit, which is 6 tons, by driving a 15-ton bus over it.

In June an unknown driver caused \$1,000 of damage to the structure. On October 3, it suffered another similar strike. Witnesses told police a pickup truck towing a trailer went through the bridge around 1:30 p.m. on October 3rd. The truck is described as a full-sized white pickup truck, with a landscaping company name or logo on the side, towing a trailer with a large piece of machinery and several large tall pieces of wood.

(Manchester Union Leader, October 6, 2016)

Wentworth Village Common Covered Bridge Update ...



“The Friendship Bridge” (formerly the Goffe’s Mill Bridge WG #29-06-a) has been restored to 90% complete and was rigged over the Baker River Falls on September 30th. Relocated to Wentworth, NH in March of 2015 (after being rescued from demolition at the Wayfarer Inn, Bedford, NH) restoration has been on-going and sponsored by the 501c3 non-profit Friends of Wentworth Parks and Recreation. Siding and flooring will be installed this fall with approaches and fencing slated for next spring. To support this on-going project please contact: Friends of Wentworth Parks & Rec, P O Box 5, Wentworth, NH 03282 or Jen@FriendsofWentworth.org www.FriendsofWentworth.org

(Information and Photo Provided by Jen Meade)

New York:

Blenheim Bridge Bids Opened...

In August 2011, the historic Blenheim Bridge (WG #32-48-01) was destroyed by floodwaters related to Tropical Storm Irene. The bridge was a marvel of 19th century engineering, the nation's longest single span covered bridge. It's construction in 1855 was led by renowned Vermont bridge builder Nichols Montgomery Powers. After its tragic loss there was an ongoing discussion about whether or not the bridge should be rebuilt. There is no way to replace the history which was lost that day, but local officials felt it was important to construct a replica to bring tourists into the area. Ultimately, a replacement bridge was designed by the engineering firms of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. and Hoyle-Tanner Associates. Design plans were presented to the Schoharie County Board of Supervisors who voted unanimously to submit final design plans for the bridge to the Federal Emergency Management Agency in June 2016.



Although the bridge will look like the original, some things have changed. The original stone abutments will be reconstructed with concrete and the bridge will be ten feet higher than it was before. The project was advertised and bids were opened on October 27. Although no formal announcement had been made at press time, the apparent low bidder was Eastern Paving of Cicero, New York. The prime contractor will have to choose their timber framers from a pre-approved list of sub-contractors.

(Watershed Post Blog article in June 2016 and Hoyle-Tanner Associates, Scott Wagner Photo, August 2006)

Ohio:

Ballard Road Repairs Underway...

The Ballard Road bridge (WG #35-29-18) in Greene County is undergoing a major repair project. The bridge was removed from its abutments to the adjacent cul-de-sac to be worked on. The trusses were dismantled and have been rebuilt with only a couple new timbers in the walls. We do not know if any timbers needed to be replaced underneath. Member Jeff Shroyer visited the site on October 26 to check on progress and provided the photo here.



Jeff Shroyer Photo, October 26, 2016

McClellan Bridge Rebuilt...

The McClellan Bridge (WG #35-15-02) in Columbiana County, which went unmaintained for many, many years, finally received funding for long overdue repairs. As we noted last quarter, the repair became a replacement where only a small number of the historic timbers could be used for the project. The photos here show the new bridge (WG #35-15-02#2) still under construction.



(Photos by Jenn Caswell, October 3, 2016)

New Bridge in Ashtabula County Dedicated...

On October 4th, Ashtabula County added another covered bridge to its collection. The Riverview Covered Bridge is near the lengthy Smolen-Gulf Bridge at Indian Trails Park. More than 40 people, including local and civic leaders, attended the fanfare under sunny skies and warm temperatures. The 150-foot-long bridge connects Indian Trails Park's two sides at its southern end. The parking lot was isolated from the park's walking trails when the Smolen-Gulf Bridge was built in 2008. Ashtabula Township Park Commission built the new covered bridge, a pedestrian bridge, under the 93-foot-high Smolen-Gulf Bridge. The Pratt truss pedestrian bridge is 14-feet wide with poplar wood siding and a dark green sign with white lettering. Photos by Scott Wagner.



Ohio (continued):

Foraker Bridge Reopened...

The Foraker Covered Bridge (WG #35-56-14) in Monroe County just received a \$215,000 makeover. The bridge was opened with a ribbon-cutting on Monday, October 24th. The ribbon-cutting ceremony included 96-year old Ethel Sloan, a relative of the bridge’s builders Charlie and George Foraker.

The bridge had been closed since September 15 for repair, restoration and upgrades. The project was funded by an Ohio Department of Transportation grant of \$165,000. The County provided a \$50,000 match. The Woolpert Construction Co., an architectural firm with more than 30 years of experience with historic bridges, drew up the plans for the project. Righter Inc., a general contractor out of Columbus, Ohio, won the bid for the construction. Replacement timbers were sourced from Monroe County to keep the structure as true to its origins as possible.

(The Times Leader, October 25 and 27, 2016)

Oregon:

Oregon Bridge Work ...

Bill Cockrell, President of the Covered Bridge Society of Oregon, sent this photo on the left of work being done on the Belknap Bridge (WG #37-20-11#2) in Lane County. The informational sign at the bridge indicated that it would be closed between August 15 and November 15.

Bill also sent the right photo of a new corrugated metal roof panels which are being added to the lower sections of the roof of the Gilkey (WG #37-22-04) (shown) and Shimanek Bridges (WG #37-22-03#2) in Linn County. They are intended to help keep water off of the truss members.



Interior of the Belknap Bridge



New corrugated roof sections on Gilkey Bridge

Pennsylvania:

Work Proposed for Dreibelbis Bridge...



Pennsylvania DOT is working on plans to repair the Dreibelbis Covered Bridge (WG #38-06-07) in Berks County. At present, the plans include replacement of the concrete-encased stone abutments with new concrete abutments and replacement of the historic timber floor support system with steel beams. NSPCB sent a letter to the DOT which was presented at a November 10th meeting to review the historic impacts of the project.

(Information and Photo from Bill & Jenn Caswell)

Pennsylvania (continued):

Kidd's Mill Bridge Needs Your Help...

Mercer County commissioners voted unanimously to contribute a little more than \$11,000 to help the Shenango Conservancy with its plans to restore the 148-year-old Kidd's Mill covered bridge (WG #38-43-01), but the rest of the \$57,000 shortfall is going to have to come from the community. The county owns the only historic covered bridge in the county and has leased it to the conservancy for 99 years. It has been closed to vehicular traffic since 1979.

The conservancy received a state grant for \$128,000 to help with repairs. If no action was taken by early November, the money would have to be returned. Estimates for the construction work came in at \$132,500, plus PennDOT inspection fees. It has been three decades since the bridge was last restored. DONATIONS to the Shenango Conservancy can be sent to P.O. Box 713, Sharon, PA 16146.



(Sharon Herald, October 21, 2016, Jenn Caswell Photo)

Speakman #1 Bridge Repaired After 5 Year Closure...

The long wait to see Speakman #1 Bridge (WG #38-15-05) in Chester County reopened to traffic is finally over. After being closed since 2011, a small celebration of the completion of repairs was held on October 19th. About 50 people were in attendance. No speeches, no ribbon cutting, just the contractors, local officials and members of the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania.

Originally built in 1881, the Speakman's Covered Bridge is 75 feet long. It carried an average of 337 vehicles a day prior to its closure. The goal of the project was to reuse as much of the existing structure as possible. The project replaced the bridge's substructure, installed new steel beams for support, installed new roof rafters and purlins, constructed the support abutments and wing walls, reassembled and replaced necessary timber members and installed new timber siding.

The \$1.9 million federally-funded project was one of three covered bridge rehabilitation projects contracted to Eastern Highway Specialists, Inc. of Wilmington, Delaware. The Rapps Dam Covered Bridge in East Pikeland reopened last year. The Knox Covered Bridge in Valley Forge National Historic Park in Tredyffrin is scheduled to reopen in November.



(Information from Michael Chorazy, Jim Smedley and West Chester's Daily Local News, Photos by Michal Chorazy)

Vermont:

Salisbury Station Bridge Lost to Fire ...

The day after the Fall Newsletter was mailed, we learned of the loss of the Salisbury Station Bridge (WG #45-01-01) connecting Salisbury and Cornwall. The fire department was called to the scene on the afternoon of September 10th where they found the bridge fully engulfed. The fire also damaged acres of the nearby swamp and a bat colony living in the area. Although a cause has not yet been determined, no accelerant was discovered at the scene. The story was reported in numerous newspapers and covered by television stations throughout New England and New York. Scott Wagner visited the site on September 18 and provided the photo.



Vermont (continued):

Miller’s Run Bridge Struck By an Oversize Vehicle ...

The Miller’s Run Bridge (WG #45-03-06#2) in Lyndonville was damaged by an oversize vehicle sometime during the weekend of October 22 & 23. The town road crew had recently repaired damage to the portals on both ends of the bridge from a previous vehicle impact. There are height and weight warning signs at both entrances of the structure, which connects Lyndon Center to Route 122.

(Caledonian Record, October 25, 2016, Photo by Anita Ford)



Green River Bridge Work Completed...



After a one-month delay due to unexpected additions to construction, the Green River Covered Bridge (WG #45-13-04) is now open to traffic. The bridge closed on June 20 for renovations and was supposed to open Aug. 26. When workers discovered extensive damage to parts of the bridge’s truss, town officials delayed the opening until Sept. 30. The bridge is now open to all pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

(Windham County Commons, October 12, 2016, Photo by Sue Blanchard)

West Virginia:

Philippi Work Completed ...

Sue Blanchard and Scott LaCroix visited the Philippi Covered Bridge (WG #48-01-01) on September 28 to find that the year and a half long repair project has been completed and the bridge is again open to traffic. Photo by Scott LaCroix.



New Brunswick:

Excavator Falls Through Bridge...



On October 5th a 13 ton excavator owned by a contractor repairing the Hammond #2 Bridge (WG #55-06-05) in French Village, NB, fell through the bridge while attempting to cross it. The Department of Transportation installed temporary support structures underneath the bridge on October 21st to stabilize it. They were finally able to remove the excavator on the 25th. Alternate routes take an additional 20 to 30 minutes to reach Saint John or Hampton. The added time is not only a safety concern for older people with health problems, but also a challenge for younger people trying to get to school.

(CTV News, October 23, 2016, Photo by Clarence Ball, October 19, 2016)

Québec:

Pont McDermott Receives Needed Roof Repairs ...

Gérald Arbour recently visited the Pont McDermott (WG #61-18-06) and found that the holes in the roof, found during his previous visit, have been repaired.

(News and photos from Gérald Arbour, October 2016)



Québec (continued):



Pont Galipeault Repairs Completed...

In the previous Newsletter, we announced that the 145' pont Galipeault (WG #61-23-01) in Grande Vallée was removed from Rivière de la Grande Vallée for repairs. On October 26, the contractor, Héneault et Gosselin Inc., posted a photo of the completed bridge back on its abutments on its Facebook page.

(Héneault et Gosselin Inc. Facebook Page. Photo by Félix Tremblay)

Pont des Défricheurs Damaged ...

Located just north of Sainte-Lucie-de-Beaugard, the bridge (WG#61-47-02) suffered serious damage from a hit-and-run driver in August and is now closed. The driver abandoned his car and fled on foot. Several posts plus a portion of the lattice truss at the west corner of the bridge were crushed. The 1936 bridge is a 97 foot long single span with a variation of the Town lattice truss. The bridge crosses the Rivière Noire Nord-Ouest.

(Thanks to Joseph Conwill, Editor NSPCB *Topics*,
Photo by Robert L'Heureux, August 2016)



China:

Super typhoon (Hurricane) Meranti impacted Taiwan and southeastern China in September with devastating destruction of some of the region's most important covered bridges. Among the losses are the 504 year old Xuezhai Bridge, 262 year old Wenzhong Bridge and 159 year old Wenxing Bridge, all in Taishun County of Zhejiang Province. The Ohio Historic Bridge Association, which has a Sister Bridges Agreement with the Wenzhou Covered Bridge Society is collecting donations to help towards rebuilding efforts in the impacted area. If anyone is interested in donating towards the reconstruction projects, you can send a check made out to OHBA and marked as for the Taishun China Disaster Relief to their treasurer, Joe Charles at 726 Newark-Granville Road, Granville, OH 43023-1451.

(Information from Ron Knapp and David Simmons)