

The Newsletter

National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges, Inc.

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National Society Meetings

Sunday, April 26th at 1:00 p.m. **Regular Meeting** at the Plymouth Church, 87 Edgell Rd., Framingham, MA

Sunday, June 28th at 1:00 p.m. **Regular Meeting** at the Plymouth Church, 87 Edgell Rd., Framingham, MA

Sunday, July 26th at 1:00 p.m. **Regular Meeting** at the Plymouth Church, 87 Edgell Rd., Framingham, MA

Sunday, August 23rd at 12:00 Noon **Annual Picnic & Meeting**
at the Westminster Fire Station, on Grout Ave. in Westminster, Vermont

Editor's Notes

Many thanks to those of you who took the time to send us news for the *Newsletter*. We always appreciate hearing from you, our members who are out there in the field observing the events which affect our covered bridges. It is a good feeling when I open the mailbox and find a letter, newspaper article and perhaps some photographs from one of you!

In this day of modern communications, such as cellular phones and the internet, we get a lot of information from those sources. We want our members to feel that they still play an important role in the **Society** by providing us with information that they have discovered in their travels to the covered bridges. Please don't hesitate to send us anything that you think the other members would like to know about. Also please note that Dick Roy has a new e-mail address (at the top of this page).

Membership Fees are Due by June 30th!
Please send your dues to Jenn Caswell, 535 2nd NH Tpke, Hillsboro, NH 03244-4601

Summer 2009 Newsletter Deadline

The next newsletter is scheduled to be mailed in late **JUNE 2009**. Anyone wishing to submit photos, articles, etc., should send them to the EDITOR by **JUNE 15, 2009**. In order to save us from a lot of re-typing, please send your articles by e-mail or on a computer disc, if at all possible. If this isn't possible, then the regular mail will do just fine, as it always has. If you type the information, please use PLAIN WHITE PAPER. If your submissions are extracted from a published newspaper or magazine, or an internet web site, include the source of the information so that we can give proper credit. Send all items to the editor, Brian McKee, 13008 TH60, Upper Sandusky, OH 43351 e-mail bjmckee51@yahoo.com **THANK YOU!**

2009 Calendar of Dedications, Dinners, Safaris & Events

April

5th, Sunday 2:00 p.m Theodore Burr Society Meeting.

Manheim Twp. Municipal Building. Annual Bake Sale and a program "Our Canadian Adventure" by Jersey Joe Giannattasio.

12th Cornerstone laid on the **Colossus Bridge** in Philadelphia in 1812

16th Theodore Burr born in 1771 in Torrington, CT

19th, Sunday 1:00 p.m. NY State CB Society Annual Dinner/Meeting

Held at **Plainville's Nature's Fare Restaurant** in Cicero, NY \$15.00 per person. Send reservation fees to M/M Ronald McGay, 105 Rebecca St., Syracuse, NY 13212 by **April 11th.** (315-458-3524). Restaurant web site: www.pnfr.net Phone: 315-699-3852 Located about 6 miles north of Syracuse, on the east side of US11, about a half mile north of NY31. US11 is also listed as Brewerton Rd.

25th, Saturday 10:00 a.m. Vermont CB Society Spring Meeting at the Waterville Town Hall

Business Meeting, Program: The Bridges of Lamiolle County, by Joe Nelson, then a bridge tour of local bridges

26th, Sunday 1:00 p.m. National Society Meeting at the Plymouth Church, 87 Edgell Rd., Framingham, MA

May

2nd, Saturday Theodore Burr Society 50th Anniversary Banquet

at the Shady Maple Smorgasbord, 129 Toddy Drive, East Earl, PA. Ph. 717-354-8222 Shady-maple.com Open at 9:30 a.m., Appetizers at 10:00 a.m., Program beginning at 10:30 a.m., Dinner at 12:00 noon. Cost \$20.00 per person. Send reservations to Robert J. Kuether, Treas., 1080 5th Ave., Steelton, PA 17113 Phone: 717-939-8228 e-mail: kuether@comcast.net

3rd, Sunday 2:00 p.m. Theodore Burr Society 50th Anniversary Meeting

at the Manheim Township Municipal Building. A program titled "What Bridge Is This ?" by Jim Smedley.

2nd & 3rd Saturday & Sunday Indiana CB Society Meeting and Tour

Lake and Carroll County with tour leader Ken Baker. No details are known at this time.

10th, Sunday Ohio Historic Bridge Association Spring Bridge Tour

23rd, Saturday 11:00 a.m. Will Henry Stevens Covered Bridge Ribon Cutting Ceremony

Ceremony will be held at 11:00 a.m. at the new Bascomb Center for the Visual Arts in Highland, N.C.

16 & 17 NY State CB Society Safari in Maine and New Hampshire

HQ at the Eastern Inns 2955 White Mt Highway, North Conway, NH Phone: 800-628-3750 Reservation deadline is April 13th. Meet on Friday night at 8:00 p.m. for more safari details. Let President Donna Freeland know when you have made your reservations. Her phone is 845-386-8132 or 914-443-8936. Her e-mail is: dfreeland@hvc.rr.com (see the following web site for better information) <http://www.nycoveredbridges.org/page7.html>

23rd thru July 19 Smithsonian Covered Bridge Exhibit at "The Gallery at 48 Natoma" in Folsom, CA

June

5, 6, 7 Theodore Burr Society Safari in Columbia County

Main Headquarters: **The Budget Host Patriot Inn** on US11, off I-80 at exit 241A. (between Bloomsburg and Berwick). Phone: 800-873-1180. (www.patriotinn.com) The first safari will leave the Patriot Inn at 9:00 a.m. on Friday morning. Safari Fees: Members \$5.00, Non-Members \$10.00 Send fees to Robert J. Kuether, Treas., 1080 5th Ave., Steelton, PA 17113 (717-939-8228)

14th Sunday New York State Covered Bridge Society Meeting

At Fort Stanwix in Rome, NY. A graveside dedication to former president Richard Wilson. Held in the Willett Center Collections Management and Education Center, 100 North James St., Rome, NY 13440 Lat / Long: 43.210338 / -75.457701

28th, Sunday 1:00 p.m. National Society Meeting at the Plymouth Church, 87 Edgell Rd., Framingham, MA

30th National Society Membership Fees are Due

Please mail your fees to Jenn Caswell, 535 2nd NH Tpke, Hillsboro, NH 03244

2009 Calendar of Dedications, Dinners, Safaris & Events

July

5th, Sunday 12:00 Noon Theodore Burr Society Picnic and Meeting

At the Pool Forge Historic Covered Bridge Park. Located between Goodville and Churchtown in Lancaster County, 0.15 mi south of PA23 (Main St.) on S. Pool Forge Rd. Bring a dish to share and your own tableware & drinks. N40 07.792 W75 58.580

12th, Sunday 1:00 p.m. New York State Covered Bridge Society Annual Picnic

Possibly at the Van Tran Flat covered bridge at Livingston Manor (go to <http://www.nycoveredbridges.org/page7.html>)

18th & 19th Indiana CB Society Meeting and Tour

Details are not available at this time.

19th, Sunday 12:00 Noon Ohio Historic Bridge Association Annual Picnic

Held at the Salt Creek Covered Bridge in Muskingum County. Bring a dish to share and your own tableware & drinks and also a chair to sit on. N39 59.95 W81 50.41

26th, Sunday at 1:00 p.m. National Society Meeting (tentative date at this time)

August

2nd, Sunday 2:00 p.m. Theodore Burr Society Meeting

Manheim Twp. Municipal Building

8th Smithsonian Covered Bridge Exhibit

The Legacy Museum on Main, Troup County Historical Society, LaGrange, GA (here until October 4th)

9th Sunday NY State CB Society Meeting

Lockport's Locks with a possible canal boat trip (go to <http://www.nycoveredbridges.org/page7.html>)

23rd, Sunday at 12:00 p.m. Noon National Society Annual Picnic & Meeting

This is the National Society's Annual Picnic at the Westminster Fire Station, on Grout Ave. in Westminster, Vermont

September

13th Sunday 1:00 p.m. New York State Covered Bridge Society Annual Auction

Hamden Town Hall on Route 10, west of Delhi, NY

13th, Sunday 2:00 p.m. Theodore Burr Society Meeting & Election of Officers

Manheim Twp. Municipal Building

20th Sunday Ohio Historic Bridge Assoc. Fall Tour (No details at this time)

26 & 27th Connecticut River Valley Covered Bridge Tour

A possible joint meeting of the Vermont Covered Bridge Society and NSPCB in Windsor, VT, with a tour of covered bridges in the area. For more information contact Bill & Jenn Caswell, bill@lostbridges.org

26-27 Indiana CB Society Tour and Annual Meeting (No details at this time)

October

9-11th Columbia-Mountour Counties Covered Bridge Festival, Knoebles Park, Elysburg, PA.

11th Sunday New York State Covered Bridge Society

Meeting at the Smithville Fire Hall

November

8th Sunday New York State Covered Bridge Society Dinner

At the Crystal House, 89 Fisherville Rd., Elmira, NY. Reservations need to be in by October 28th.

The President's Message

Dear Fellow Members, Greetings!

This year, a rather important anniversary is being celebrated by one of our sister societies, namely, by the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania. Though it seems just yesterday – I unfortunately can vividly remember 1959! – this distinguished group first came together fifty years ago to honor and champion our remaining Covered Wooden Bridges, and to look into the important matter of their history, with an especial emphasis upon the history of Pennsylvania spans. With 347 of these structures still standing in Pennsylvania in 1959 – alas, many fewer of them survive today – the latter task must have seemed quite a considerable undertaking. Nevertheless, the founders of the Pennsylvania Society were undaunted, and the good work they began half a century ago continues to this day. How then can we, as members of the National Society, best honor our brethren-in-bridging-of-Pennsylvania on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of their group? Congratulatory letters and post cards to the society, sent in the care of their President, Thomas E. Walczak, 3012 Old Pittsburgh Road, New Castle, Pennsylvania 16101-6085, would be one very good way, but for those of you who are able to do so, I should strongly suggest that you join the Pennsylvania Society yourselves, thereby helping this group continue the excellent work they began now some fifty years since.

On quite another subject, the question comes up more and more frequently these days as to whether Glue-Laminated Timbers or Steel Beams are ever the stuff with which to “restore” Historic Wooden Covered Bridges. That such a question should even be raised, as it sometimes is, by folks who are allegedly interested in the continued well being of our Covered Spans is in itself extraordinary. I hope the fact that this question is now being so frequently posed is not indicative of the extent to which the true nature of preservation has yet to be grasped by a significant number of the aficionados of Covered-Bridge lore, or of the Covered Bridges themselves.

The short answer to the above question is of course “no”, a response being punctuated by “no, no”; “no, no, no”; “no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no”!!!

A few preliminaries:

- 1) There is a great difference between “restoration” and “rehabilitation”. To restore means to return whatever it is to a former state; to rehabilitate means to return whatever it is to a former capacity.
- 2) There is an enormous difference between an original object or structure, and a replica of an original object or structure. Think of a bed in which George Washington used to sleep, and then of a second bed, the second one being such as to perfectly replicate the first. Which bed, dear reader, do you believe would be possessed of the greater historical interest?
- 3) Remember that a Covered Bridge is not an idea or a concept. It is not even a mental construct. There is in fact nothing abstract about such structures. A Covered Bridge is materials, but materials arranged in a particular fashion by a particular person for a particular purpose at a particular time.
- 4) The heart of any Covered Bridge is the trusses, the upper and lower lateral bracing systems, and the wind bracing. It is these elements that constitute the real monument, not the shed which surrounds them, though the shed can be quite beautiful as well, and it ought not to be altered in any way unless absolutely necessary.

Continued on next page ⇨

- 5) The principal material out of which Covered Bridges are built is wood, but wood as the good lord made it, not wood which has been sliced up, inspected, rearranged, and finally glued back together again, not wood as an engineered product, in other words, but wood coming from the forest, not the factory.
- 6) The art of the Bridgewright consists of using wood as the good lord made it, to fabricate Covered Bridges that are safe, robust enough for all the loads which must pass over them, beautiful, and long lived.

The Crux of the Matter;

Those of us who are by profession, or in our heart of hearts, true preservationists, will want to see all our remaining Historic Covered Bridges kept in place and functioning as initially intended, the latter to the greatest extent feasible. We also will not want to see any of them altered unnecessarily. The sad reality of the passage of time, however, or of use, or of neglect, unfortunately means that these structures will need to be repaired from time to time, and their wearing parts, roof, sideboarding, floor plank, *et cetera*, replaced. Some spans, alas, because of neglect, accident, or disaster, will even need to be restored. Notice that I have used the words, “repaired”, which in this context should be understood to mean “repaired in-kind”, and “restored” here, not the word, “rehabilitated”. Also be aware that to the extent the trusses, the upper and lower lateral bracing systems, or the wind bracing of a Covered Bridge have been repaired or restored, the span in question will have lost historic fabric, and consequently, authenticity. To carry the matter to the extreme, if the trusses and lateral bracing systems and the wind bracing of such a span have been entirely replaced, even if in-kind, then the old bridge shall have ceased to exist, and in its place shall stand a replica.

As to the question of whether glue-laminated timber are ever the stuff out of which replacement parts for distressed Covered Bridges ought to be fabricated, it is now easy to see why this product of the timber industry, a product more akin to plywood than to the trees of the forest, should never be made use of in any of our Historic Covered Spans. “Glu-Lam” is not, after all, one of the “particular materials arranged in a particular fashion by” the bridgewrights of the nineteenth century; therefore, it has no legitimate place within the confines of a repaired or restored Covered Bridge. In such locations, “Glu-Lam” can only denature and adulterate, never recreate. That this material should sometimes find its way into these structures is a direct consequence of the appalling ignorance and sovereign disdain of many contemporary engineers for both ancient technologies and for true Historical Preservation. Though much more could be said on the subject of disdainful and ignorant engineers, the focus of the present essay has nevertheless been “Glu-Lam”, not engineering perspicacity, thus what would undoubtedly make for an interesting article all on its own, shall have to wait another day, or perhaps even another forum.

Yours sincerely,

David W. Wright, Westminster, Vermont

You can join the **Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society** by sending your membership fee to:

Mr. Robert J. Kuether
1080 5th Ave.
Steelton, PA 17113
Phone: 717-939-8228 e-mail: keuther@comcast.net

\$15.00 Individual \$20.00 Couple \$20.00 Group \$250.00 Life Membership
Please include a SASE for a Membership Card

Old Covered Bridge News

Indiana

14-61-38 Sanitorium Bridge

In the last issue, we reported the re-location of the Sanitorium Bridge in Parke County. Since then, Mr. Roger Grover of Rockville, Indiana has sent us a few photos of the bridge in its new place, along with some interesting history. (We note that the bridge still retains its unique lightning rods on the roof!)

The Adams Bridge was in this spot from 1907 until it washed away in 1969. It was 154 ft long with a 9 ft overhang at each end. The Jessup Bridge (14-61-06) was moved to the site and was destroyed by a tornado in 1989. It was built in 1910 and measured 155 ft long with a 10 ft overhang at each end.

Government funding was obtained and the Sanitorium Bridge was dismantled in the summer of 2008, then put in place with large cranes at the Adams site in October of 2008. On December 20, 2008, the Sanitorium Bridge was re-opened to traffic.

In its original location, the Sanitorium Bridge measured 154 ft long with 16 ft overhangs at each end. At the new site, it now measures 148 ft long with 10.5 ft overhangs at each end, making it a total length of 169 ft. Quote: "As you can see from the interior photo, there are many new timbers. There are even some new timbers in the Burr arch. Maybe 20 to 25% of the old bridge remains".

Thanks to Roger L. Grover for this fine report!



14-70-07 Moscow Covered Bridge Reconstruction Fund

Don't forget that the friends of the Moscow Covered Bridge have set up an account for donations to reconstruct the bridge. Make your checks out to **The Moscow Covered Bridge Restoration Fund**. The address is:

**Main Source Bank
P.O. Box 249
Rushville, IN 46173**

Kentucky

17-68-03 Cabin Creek/ Mackey-Hughes/ Rectorville Bridge

We are very fortunate that The Arnold Graton & Associates Company along with the expertise of Mr. David Fischetti, P.E., will be doing the work on this historic covered bridge, hence we can be assured that the work will be done properly! As we go to press, I am told that the crew is beginning to stabilize the bridge by installing a steel frame inside it. This same framework was used at the Johnson Creek Covered Bridge. Hopefully, warmer weather will allow them to proceed under somewhat comfortable conditions. Located SE of Maysville, the 114 ft. bridge was built in 1867 and bypassed in 1983. Since then, it has been in an abandoned status. N38 36.57 W83 37.28 <http://atlas.mapquest.com/maps/map.adp?latlongtype=decimal&latitude=38.6095&longitude=-83.6213>

17-101-01 Johnson Creek Bridge

In the last issue, we reported that Kentucky's **Johnson Creek Bridge** restoration project was nearing completion. I was wrong when I said it was a Multiple King Post Truss, when it is clearly a **Type 4 Smith Truss**. Photos of the bridge without its siding leave no doubt about it. The iron rods and wood arches were added to it in 1914.

Word from Meg Dansereau of The Arnold Graton & Associates Co. tells us that the bridge is nearing completion. The steel framework is being removed and will be installed in the Cabin Creek Bridge. As soon as that is done, the floor will be finished. We also want to mention that Mr. David Fischetti, P.E has been the engineer on this project.

We encourage you to stop by and see the fine work that was done on this old historic covered bridge! The Buffalo Trace Covered Bridge Society is planning on a celebration ceremony for the bridge on the Fourth of July weekend.

On a side note: There were only 6 Smith trusses known to exist in Kentucky, and this is the last one. Others were: See Pike 17-09-01, Dalesburg 17-35-07, Polsgrove 17-37-23, Straight Shoot Pike 17-96-01, and Morgan 17-96-05

New York

32-53-02 Beaverkill/Conklin Bridge

The Beaverkill Bridge which just received funding of \$72,00.00 for repairs is in danger of neglect anyway, due to the closing of the Beaverkill Campground which is next to it. New Yorkers are up in arms about this and are petitioning the government to keep the park open. You can sign the petition by going to this web site: www.catskillmountainkeeper.org

Old Covered Bridge News

North Carolina

33-57-02 Will Henry Stevens/Bascomb Bridge (formerly 29-07-06)

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held for this bridge on Saturday, May 23, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. As you may recall, it was moved from its original location in Warner, New Hampshire then, after 42 years, reconstructed at the entrance to the new Bascomb Visual Arts Center in Highlands, North Carolina. *Thanks to Meg Dansereau at Arnold Graton & Assoc. for this information!*
N35 03.42 W83 12.32 <http://www.lostbridges.org/details.aspx?id=NC/33-56-02&loc=n> <http://www.thebascomb.org>

Oregon (Thanks to Bill Cockrell for sending us all of the Oregon information)!

37-20-06 Lake Creek Bridge Receiving funding to fumigate the trusses against bug damage

37-20-15 Pengra Bridge Receiving funding to fumigate the trusses against bug damage

37-20-27 Mosby Creek Bridge Receiving funding to fumigate the trusses against bug damage

37-20-40 Chambers Railroad Bridge

Work will begin on this rare railroad covered bridge this summer. It will be carefully dismantled, then stored for reassembly during the next year. A \$1,315,300.00 grant was received for it's restoration, thanks to the National Historical Covered Bridge Preservation Program. The bridge, which is located in Cottage Grove, had fallen into a state of extreme disrepair. It was over the Coast Fork of the Willamett River and in use from 1925 until 1951.

37-21-03 Chitwood Bridge

Received \$1,077,000 to repair top and bottom chords, new decking, new rafters & nailers, new roof, new cedar siding and paint.

37-21-08 North Fork of the Yachats Bridge

Received about \$600,000 to inspect and repair or replace top & bottom chords, new siding and paint, and possibly a new roof. Also, fumigate the entire structure.

37-22-06 Larwood Bridge

Bill Cockrell of Salem, Oregon, reported that the Larwood Bridge in Linn County was damaged by a truck twice in January. Once on the 14th, and again on the 27th. Both ends of the bridge were damaged by an unknown vehicle which was over the height limit.

Costs estimates are around \$2000.00 for the repairs. Darrin Lane, the Linn Co. roadmaster, stated that log trucks are not permitted to use the covered bridge when loaded, but can use it when not loaded. He has restricted the bridge to a single lane of traffic from now on. He also said that there is a \$500.00 reward to anyone whose report leads to an arrest and conviction of a bridge vandal.

37-24-01 Gallon House Bridge

\$51,000 was added to a previous grant to fund the replacement of the 2x4 roof and rafter members with new 2x6 sized lumber.

Pennsylvania

38-25-03 Gudgeonville Bridge

We reported in the previous newsletter that this bridge was arsoned and that the local officials were going to replace it with a modern type of span. While many covered bridge enthusiasts wrote letters to the officials to encourage the bridge's repair, it did no good as it was removed from the site on January 27th. The timbers are supposed to be stored, but will most likely not be re-used as a covered bridge again. Some rumors say that a new covered bridge is being considered for a replacement. *Thanks to Thomas E. Walczak and Steve Gerbracht for this information and photos.*

38-60-01 Red/Gleniron/Millmont Bridge

On Thursday, Feb. 12th. a powerful windstorm blew the roof off of this 154 ft long Burr truss in Union County, PA. Wind gusts were reported to be in the range of 55-65 mph and left thousands of local residents without electric power. The bridge, which was already scheduled to be repaired in the Spring, will have additional repairs, now. It was built in 1855 and closed to traffic in 1998. *(information from The Daily Item Feb 13, 2009)*

Old Covered Bridge News

Vermont

45-13-11 Bartonville Bridge

This Windham County bridge was closed for repairs on Feb. 24, 25 & 26 to fix broken roof timbers which were damaged by an oversized vehicle. Repairs were made by the Rockingham highway crew. The exact date of the damage is unknown, but it was sometime after Christmas. It was built in 1870 by Sanford Granger, who also built the Worrall Bridge. It crosses the Williams River with a 151 ft long Town Lattice truss. (*Information from the Rutland Herald 2-17-2009*)
N43 13.440 W72 32.217 <http://www.lostbridges.org/details.aspx?id=VT/45-13-11&loc=n>

45-13-05 Williamsville Bridge

Much controversy has developed recently as the Williamsville Covered Bridge has been advertised for free in the *Burlington Free Press* by the Vermont Agency of Transportation. They will actually give the bridge away for free to someone who will pay for it's removal and relocation. It must be used as a bridge and not just taken for scrap lumber. Isn't that ironic? If no one does take it, then it will have to be demolished, which your editor finds unbelievable! The advertising will cease on March 20th. The expense of doing this is prohibitive and no one has come forward, yet, to take it. In the state of Vermont, an area internationally known for it's old covered bridges, how can this kind of thing happen? Other Vermont Covered Bridges are routinely restored and kept in good working condition, so why is this any different? Officials plan on replacing it with a modern designed replica covered bridge which will carry a heavier and wider load of traffic.

The Williamsville Bridge, a 118 ft Town Truss, is also known for its unusual portals. One end has an overhang and roof brackets, while the other end does not have any overhang or roof brackets. It is located between the towns of South Newfane and Williamsville on Dover Rd. over the Rock River. Better get pictures, real soon!

N42° 56.58', W72° 41.20' <http://www.lostbridges.org/details.aspx?id=VT/45-13-05&loc=n>

New Brunswick

55-12-05 Patrick Owen Bridge

On January 21st, New Brunswick's Patrick Owen Bridge was damaged by a truck, but quickly repaired after being closed for a short time, reopening on January 28th. It was the second time in less than a year that it was damaged by an oversized vehicle, causing residents to take a detour enroute to and from Rusagonis. The cost of the repairs were estimated to be between \$7,000 and \$10,000. At this time, no one has been cited for the incident. At 72 meters, the Patrick Owen Bridge is the second longest covered bridge in New Brunswick, next to the Hartland Bridge. It was built in 1909, making it 100 years old. (*Information obtained from The Daily Gleaner*)



Will Henry Stevens Covered Bridge 33-56-02

Photo courtesy of the Arnold Gratton & Associates Co.



Williamsville Bridge 45-13-05

Photo by Lewis R. Brown

Old Covered Bridge News

Repairs to Bumps Intervale Covered Bridge, Campton NH World Guide Number 29-05-08.

The Town of Campton on the recommendation of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) recently closed the Bumps Intervale Bridge in July due to severe deterioration of the substructure (piers and abutments). The Town selected the design/build team of DuBois & King, Inc. (D&K) Consulting Engineers, Nashua, NH and 3G Construction Inc., Holderness, NH to complete emergency repairs this past fall and reopen the bridge.

“This is a unique type of covered bridge for New England” says D&K project manager Robert H. Durfee, PE. “The main span consists of a queen post type truss but the piers are constructed of timber and are located in the middle of the river. Timber approach spans (uncovered) are supported by the timber piers and by the stone abutments.”

“The approach spans were removed and the covered bridge span was jacked up in order to make repairs” says 3G President Stan Graton. “The timber piers were completely decayed and needed total replacement. The east abutment stone work was reconstructed where a failure of the abutment wall occurred.”

The first bridge at this site was built in 1877. The bridge collapsed into the river in 1971 due to decay. Milton Graton advised the Town at the time that the old bridge could not be repaired and proposed a new covered bridge at this site.

“I have a special connection to this bridge”, says Stan Graton. “Milton Graton, my grandfather, built the new bridge in 1972. Me and my cousin (Arnold Graton) helped move the bridge onto the piers. I was only 10 years old at the time.”

Repairs to the piers and abutments proceeded on schedule and were completed for a bridge re-opening in late December 2008.

“The processes to design repairs, obtain permits, and acquire heavy timbers needed for repairs on such short notice were a challenge” says Durfee and Graton. “We always like to be challenged” said the design/build team.

Bob Durfee
Member, NSPCB
C/O DuBois & King, Inc.
100 Perimeter Road
Nashua, NH 03063
Phone: (603) 883-0463
Fax: (603) 595-7877
Email: rdurfee@dubois-king.com
Web: www.dubois-king.com

Editor: We thank Bob for sending this fine report!

29-07-06 Bagley Bridge

In its original location.

Photo by C.E. Walker



New Covered Bridge and Replica News

North Stonington, CT 07-06-C

A new covered bridge was recently built at the Shunock River Estates, which is a subdivision off Babcock Rd. east of North Stonington, Connecticut. It is 58 ft long and is made with a wooden deck, trusses and roof. The entire structure is resting on steel I-beams. (N41 26.228 W71 51.588)

This bridge was designed by **Garry T. Ferrari, P.E. of CLA Engineers, Inc.**, 317 Main St., Norwich, CT, 06360 Ph: 860-886-1966 e-mail: gferrari@claengineers.com Web site: www.claengineers.com

Halter Ranch Bridge 05-40-??

A new 90 ft long covered bridge is being built at the Halter Ranch Vineyard west of Paso Robles. Take 24th St. W. 0.9 miles from jct with US101 exit 231 in Paso Robles, NW (bear right) on Nacimiento Lake Dr. (CR G14) 1.4 miles, W. (left) on Adelaida Rd. 9 miles to Halter Ranch on the N. side of the road. Built in Oregon by Western Wood Structures. (N35 38.424 W120 51.239). This appears to be a multiple kingpost truss from the photos we've seen. *Thanks to Dale Travis for getting this information (Dalejtravis.com)*

Deming Park Stringer 14-84-c Arson

This was a 33 ft long foot path bridge in Deming Park which is in the Terre Haute, Indiana area. It was burned in May 2008 by vandals who had made a fire bomb that they read about on the internet. Park officials have already replaced it with a non-covered bridge.

Dr. James Reinoehl Memorial Bridge 35-25-m

On March 7th, your editor and Karen Bittinger stopped at the home of Mrs. Cathy Reinoehl in Columbus, Ohio to see the new covered bridge she had built in memory of her late husband, Jim. It is about 20 ft long and is of all wood construction, with a genuine truss, and we might note, of very good quality, thanks to the skills of her neighbor, who built it. It spans a small tributary of the Alum Creek at 3295 Sycamore Knolls Dr., which is less than a mile south of the famous Easton Mall. Both Jim and Cathy were very active members of the National Society and were officers in the Ohio Historic Bridge Association. Jim was well known for his collection and trading of Covered Bridge Jigsaw Puzzles and he was also the webmaster for the Ohio Historic Bridge Association. They are some of the nicest people I have met in my years of bridging. You can go to Dale Travis' web site to get better directions to it, or contact me. Cathy would also enjoy meeting you and talking to some other bridgers! <http://www.dalejtravis.com/bridge/ohio/htm/35025m.htm>



Rexton, NB (Kent County)

About 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 2nd, a snow plow driver struck the Strutted Burr truss bridge on Route 505 between Rexton and Richibouctou-Village, over the Gaspereau River. The bridge, which is an unhouses wooden span, was to be closed for a month for repairs. The article reports that seven truss members were damaged in the collision. The driver was injured enough to be taken to the hospital for treatment.

Ritner Creek Bridge Commemorative Bricks

Friends of the Ritner Creek Bridge 37-27-01 are selling bricks for installation at the bridge in Polk County, Oregon. Anyone can purchase a brick (or several) and have it engraved with their choice of wording. There can be up to three lines of text and a maximum of 14 characters per line. This is a great opportunity to have your own name at the bridge or the name of a passed loved one.

Cost is \$50.00 each. Contact Gail Obersk at: 593 E Street, Independence, OR 97351

Phone: 503-871-1242 e-mail: gailoberst@yahoo.com

Other Covered Bridge News, Members, etc.

Passing Through the Bridge



Mr. Charles E. Mitchell

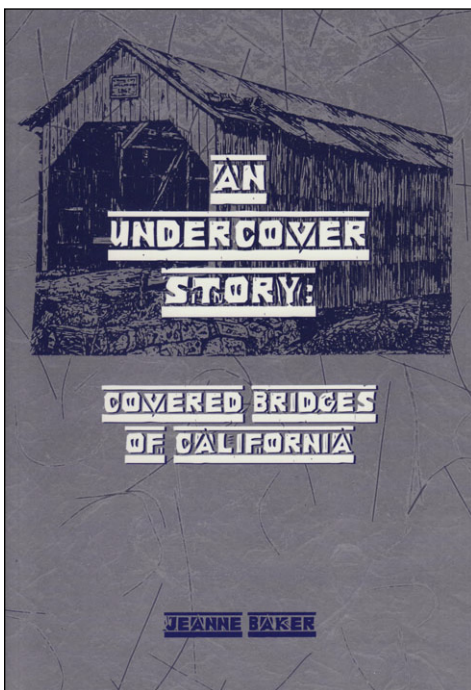
Charles E. Mitchell was a familiar name to many covered bridge enthusiasts due to his publication of postcards, mainly of Indiana covered spans. Our database shows 10 covered bridge cards with his name as publisher, all of Parke County bridges. His father, **Floyd Mitchell**, was a prolific postcard publisher. **Charles Mitchell** passed away in March of 2008, leaving a legacy of covered bridge postcards in his memory. His last known address was Bridgeton, Indiana.

Mr. Floyd "Fred" Beals, Jr. 1924-2008

Fred Beals was a well respected covered bridge enthusiast and compiler of data on bridges, old mills and one room schoolhouses. Born August 23, 1924, he passed away last November 9th at the Fountainview Nursing Home in his hometown of Mishawaka, Indiana. *Word of his passing was received from Larry Helton, Jr.*

Mrs. Margaret "Peggy" Wertman 1922-2009

Known to covered bridgers as "Peggy", she and her late husband Bill were enthusiastic bridgers from Watsonstown, PA. She passed away at the Heritage Oaks Nursing Home in Lubbock, Texas on May 11, 2009. She was born on Sept 10, 1922 in Dewart, PA, then married William C Wertman on Sept. 28, 1941. They lived in Watsonstown on Maple Lane, where they operated the Watsonstown Theater for several years. They were active members of The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania, The NY State Covered Bridge Society and The Bridge-Covered, often attending their meetings and tours. She is survived by a son, William G. Wertman of Lubbock, TX, 4 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-granddaughter. She also had two brothers and a sister, who all preceded her in death. Peggy was buried alongside her husband in the Watsonstown Cemetery, across the street from their former home. *Thanks to Karen S. Bittinger for this information*



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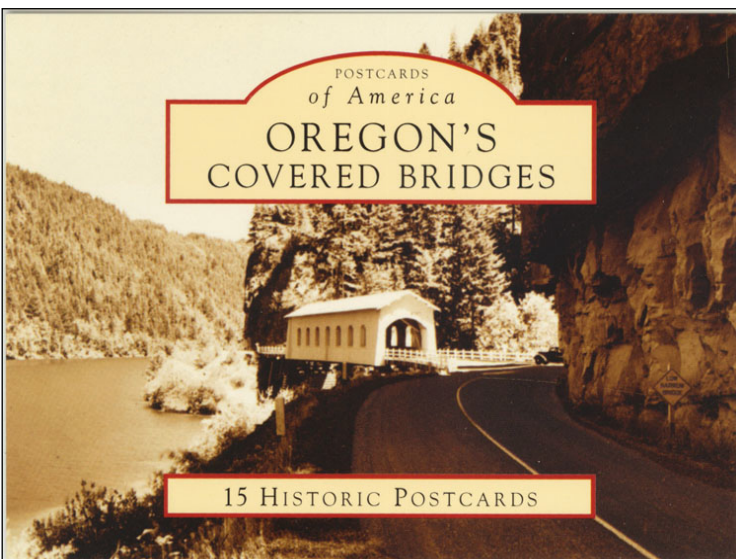
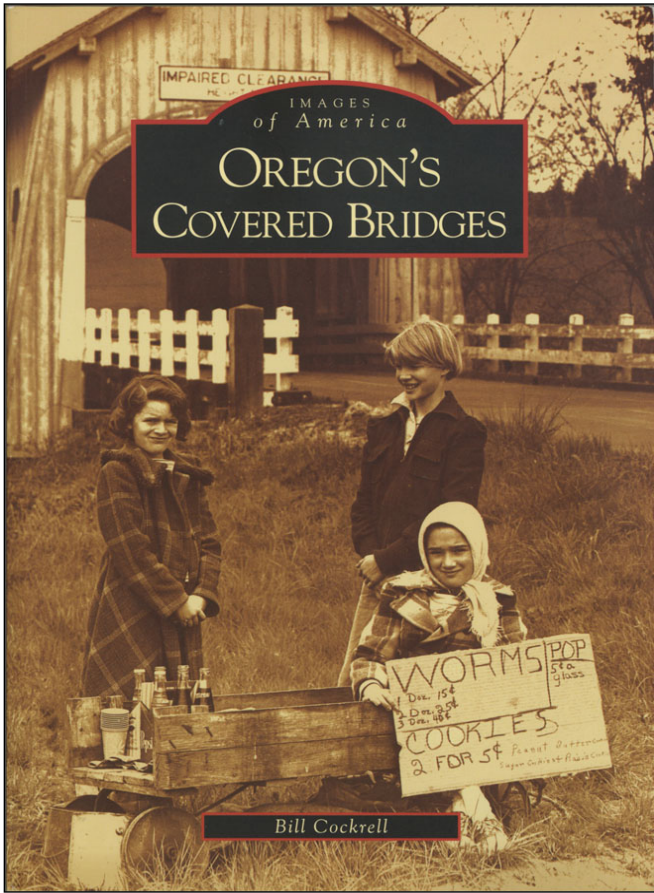
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We still have a few nice items regarding the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the **National Society**

Tote Bag — Has the *National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges* emblem in dark blue on front pocket measuring 12 1/2" by 15 1/2" with a top snap and 20" handle straps. Cost: \$15 (includes shipping)

Ornament — It's a 3" round glass maroon ornament with the Society emblem in gold. Cost: \$7.00 (includes shipping)

Pens — Pens have "I love Covered Bridges – N.S.P.C.B." written on them. Cost \$1.25 each (includes shipping)

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A **white Polo Shirt** with a blue NSPCB logo, send \$15.00 plus \$3.95 for shipping and handling. Specify, Medium or Extra Large. Shirts are 100% pre-shrunk cotton. This is a fund raiser for the preservation fund. Buy several as gifts for your family and friends.

Society Arm Patch with N.S.P.C.B. logo 3" arm patch available for \$1.75 + 55 cents P&H.

Please order any of the items above from Mrs. June Roy, 73 Ash Street, Manchester, NH 03104-4906
or E-mail: dickroycb1@comcast.net

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From September to March: 210 Wellington F, West Palm Beach, FL 33417-2559

From April to August: 130 Westfield Drive, Holliston, MA 01746-1257

Books Available from the Society Store

“Covered Bridges of Vermont” by Ed Barna. This is an excellent book depicting all the covered bridges in Vermont in the year 1996. 6x9 soft cover, 216 pgs., Pub: The Countryman Press, ISBN 0-88150-373-8 Postpaid \$17.00

Two great books (below) by Joseph D. Conwill: The Arcadia Press Images of America Series

“Vermont Covered Bridges”

Pub in 2004, 6.5x9.25 soft cover, 128 pgs., ISBN 0-7385-3598-2

“Maine’s Covered Bridges”

Pub in 2003 6.5x9.25 soft cover, 128 pgs., ISBN 0-7385-1271-0

They sell for \$19.99 each plus \$3.00 shipping and handling.

“Life in the Slow Lane” is still available for \$16.95 + \$3.95 Shipping and Handling. This is a hard bound 8.5x11 in. book with 162 pages of excellent photos by many various contributors from all over the country. Publisher: Reiman Publications 1998 ISBN 0-89821-240-5

Books by Andrew Howard

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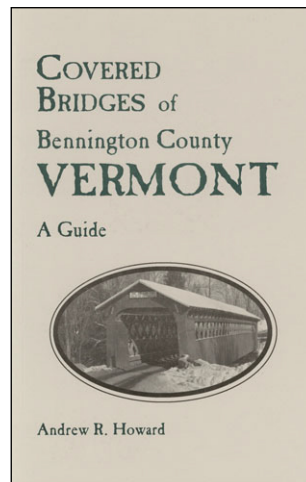
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All the books above should be ordered from Mrs. June Roy, 73 Ash St. #2, Manchester, NH 03104-4906
e-mail address: dickroycb1@comcast.net

There is another excellent book on Vermont covered bridges called **“Spanning Time: Vermont Covered Bridges”**, by Joseph Nelson, who is the President of the Vermont Covered Bridge Society. It is a superb hardbound book containing wonderful color photos, maps and information about each Vermont covered bridge. The book is 7.5 x 9.25 in. and has 271 pages. ISBN 1-881535-25-8 For ordering information contact the author at 2 Sugar Hill Road, Underhill, VT 05489 or on the Web www.vermontbridges.com
(This book isn’t available from the society store).