

# The Newsletter

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

**David W. Wright, President**  
P.O. Box 171  
Westminster, VT 05158  
(802) 722-4040



**Richard E. Roy, Historian**  
73 Ash St. Apt. 2  
Manchester, NH 03104  
dickroycb1@comcast.net

Send Membership Dues to:  
**Jennifer Caswell**  
Membership Chair  
535 Second NH Turnpike  
Hillsboro, NH 03244-4601

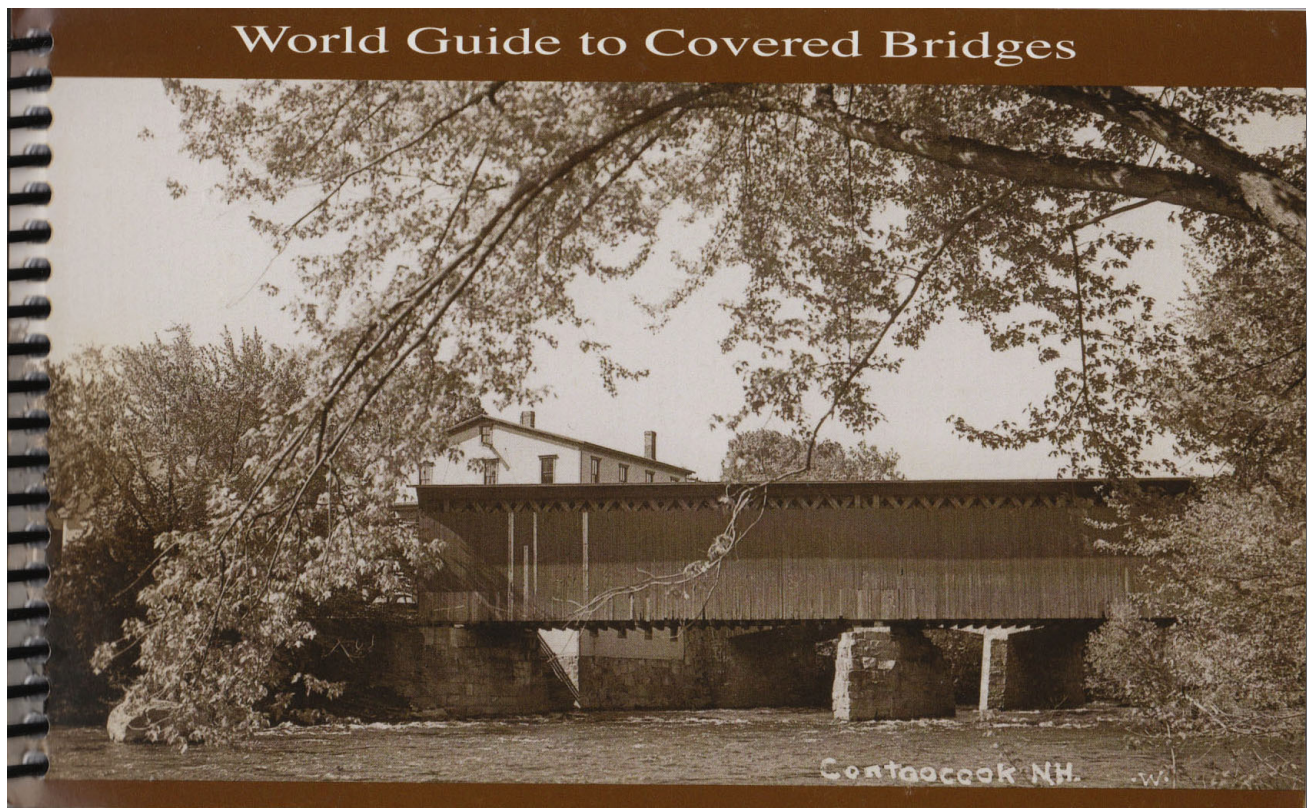
**Brian J. McKee, Editor**  
13008 TH 60  
Upper Sandusky, OH 43351-9760  
bjmckee@gmail.com

**Robert Watts**  
Corresponding Secretary  
21 Hospital Rd.  
Medfield, MA 02052  
(508) 359-8534  
rwatts@nikon.net

**David Topham, Treasurer,** (Winter address) 11707 Oakmont Ct., Ft. Meyers, FL 33908-2825 (Ph.239-433-1551)  
(Summer address) 11 Porcupine Ridge Rd., Thomaston, ME 04861 (Ph. 207-354-0137)

---

---



**The 2009 World Guide to Covered Bridges**  
**The first World Guide to be published in 20 years has finally arrived!**  
Cover Photo of the Contoocook Railroad Bridge by C.E. Walker

## 2010 Calendar of Events, Dedications, Dinners & Safaris

### **February 7th at 2:00 p.m. The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania**

Regular Meeting at the Manheim Township Municipal Building. Program will be "Covered bridges: Spanning Time", a documentary produced by Maryland Public Television.

### **February 20, 2010, Covered Bridge Society of Oregon**

Regular Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at the Englewood Methodist Church, which is located at the intersection of Nebraska Ave. NE and 17th St. NE

### **March 7th at 2:00 p.m. The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania**

Regular Meeting at the Manheim Township Municipal Building. Program will be about George Conn and Jersey Joe's bridging trip to Oregon.

### **March 28 at 1:00 p.m. The National Society Meeting**

Regular meeting at the Bear Hill Rehab and Nursing Home, 11 North Street. Stoneham, MA. From I-95 S Take exit 37 A to merge onto I 95 N towards Peabody. Take exit 38A to merge onto MA-28S/Main St. for 0.8 miles towards Stoneham. Make a U turn and a slight right (on North St.). Bear Hill will be on the left.

From I-95/US1. merge onto I-95 S. Take exit 38A to merge onto MA-28S/Main St. and follow as above. As many of you know, the good Colonel Wilbar Hoxie is in residence here. This is a chance for members from this area to talk to the colonel and get acquainted. (The approx. GPS coordinates for the Bear Hill Rehab Center are N42° 30.0015', W71° 6.0453') (*info from Dick Roy*)

### **April 25 at 1:00 p.m. The National Society Meeting**

Regular meeting will be at the Plymouth Church, 97 Edgell Rd., Framingham, MA. Join us and enjoy the fine photographs of Bob Watts, one of our newer members. I understand there are some very interesting views. (*from Dick Roy*)

**May: National Society Directors meeting.** Time and place to be determined by the board members.

### **April 11th at 2:00 p.m. The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania**

At the Manheim Township Municipal Building. Bake Sale and Auction of the covered bridge items which were collected by Corena Dunkle, and also other items donated by the Theodore Burr Society members.

### **April 24, 2010 Vermont Covered Bridge Society Annual Spring Meeting**

At the Visions of Vermont Art Gallery in Jeffersonville, in the Sugar House Studio. Mr. Jim Ligon of the Alpine Construction Co. will be the featured speaker.

### **May 1st & 2nd The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania**

**ANNUAL SAFARI & 51st ANNIVERSARY DINNER** More info in the "Pennsylvania Crossings" Winter 2010 issue.

### **June 6th at 2:00 p.m. The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania**

At the Manheim Township Municipal Building. Program by Jim & Gloria Smedley "Gone but Not Forgotten" which is about the lost covered bridges in Pennsylvania.

## The President's Message

Dear Fellow Members, Greetings!

Once again I am confronted by a perennial difficulty; once again the holiday season is upon us, and once again I should like to wish all of you a Most Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Unfortunately, the publishing schedule of Topics and The Newsletter is such that I must always be either too early or too late with these wishes. This year, if for no other reason than variety, I have decided to be too late with them, rather than too early. That having been said, a Most Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each and every one of you!!! And, as one sometimes says in a slightly different context, many happy returns!!!!

The New World Guide: Most of you will probably already know that the 2009 edition of the World Guide has now been printed and is available for purchase. Details on how to obtain a copy of this publication are furnished elsewhere in the present Newsletter.

Though a great deal of effort went into trying to assure the accuracy of the data which appear in the new World Guide, all of us who worked on this project were certain that despite our best efforts to the contrary, errors would indeed creep into it.

To err, after all, is but to be human!

Alas, in respect to these expectations, we have not been disappointed. Though not overwhelmingly numerous, there are nevertheless mistakes in the new Guide which will have to be corrected in a subsequent edition.

Several of these jumped out at me as I looked through the Guide shortly after a hard copy of it came into my hands; to wit:

- 1) The Old Blenheim Covered Bridge in Schoharie County, New York, has been listed as a "Double Arch" span. Well no! This double-barreled bridge holds itself up by means of three Long Trusses, Long Trusses as in Stephen H. Long, only the middle one of which contains an arch.
- 2) The trusses of the Bath Village Covered Bridge in Bath, New Hampshire, are described as being "similar to a Burr" which suggestion is rather vague, and moreover does not help one to conjure up an image in ones mind of the actual disposition of these trusses. As a matter of fact, said trusses are surviving examples of a local truss type, a local truss type that may even have been distributed over a fairly wide area. For instance, there is another surviving example of this type of truss over in Vermont. The Sayers Covered Bridge in Thetford, World Guide Number 45-09-06, makes use of the truss type in question, as indeed did a span in Lebanon, New Hampshire, that once carried Bank Street over the Mascoma River; that is to say, the Benton Covered Bridge, also known as the Bank Street Covered Bridge or the Riverdale Covered Bridge. Unfortunately, the Benton Covered Bridge, which admittedly had fallen upon quite evil days, was removed in 1934. It was replaced by a concrete span that conceivably could still be in place today. Be the latter as it may, in order to clarify persistent misunderstandings regarding this truss type--it has variously been identified as a "Modified Burr", or a "Burr Variant", or even as a "Haupt Truss"--I had a centerline drawing of it added to the set of 21 centerline drawings originally furnished by Ray E. Wilson to illustrate his excellent article on Covered Bridge truss types, an article which first appeared in the 1972 edition of the World Guide, and which has been reprinted in every successive edition of the Guide since that date. The added drawing, now number 22 in the series, is entitled, "No Name Truss". The verbal description of this truss states that it is neither a Haupt or a Modified Burr; also, that there are but two examples of it still extant, as indicated above.



## The President's Message (continued)

Unfortunately, the new World Guide retains, perhaps “perpetrates” would be a better word here, the notations “Burr Variation” for the Sayers Covered Bridge, and “Similar to Burr” for the Bath Village Covered Bridge. Alas, neither rubric is correct, once again as indicated above.

To conclude the above discussion, it would be most interesting to learn who actually invented the truss which survives today, that can only be discovered within the confines of the Bath Village and Sayres Covered Bridges, and when it was invented. I for one should like to be able to give this truss its proper name; that is to say, the name of the person who first thought it up. It would also be nice to discover how many Covered Bridges once supported themselves by means of a structural system which, for the moment at least, has yet to be placed in its correct historical context.

Corrections to the new World Guide: As indicated in the previous section of the present Newsletter, there are mistakes, not too terribly many, but nonetheless some, in the new World Guide. Corrections for these mistakes should be brought to the attention of Dan Brock, Official Keeper of the World Guide List of Covered Bridges, at 19 Harriet Street, Vernon, Connecticut 06066. His telephone number is 1-860-875-4054, and his e-mail address is danjbrock@aol.com. Dan will make sure that any corrections which need to be made, shall be made. He will also pass this information along to such other parties as may need to know it.

Retirement of Christine Ellsworth: After more than twenty-five years of service to the Society as Corresponding Secretary, Christine Ellsworth has decided to retire. (I have nevertheless pointed out to her that, as she has been the person to contact when requesting information about our group for so long, it will be many years before people stop writing to her, her address at 44 Cleveland Ave, Worcester, Massachusetts, having become well known to such a vast number of Covered Bridge aficionados, Covered Bridge aficionados who live in every part of the country). To say the least, the whole Society are deeply indebted to Christine for all she has done over the years to advance our cause. We of course wish her well in whatever she chooses to do now, but shall greatly miss her regular participation in Society business. Our very best to you, Christine, and please be sure to keep in touch!!

Robert Watts, Our New Corresponding Secretary: The Society is extremely fortunate that Bob Watts has agreed to take on the job of Corresponding Secretary. Bob has long been interested in Covered Bridges, as well as in Historic Structures of all sorts. He works for the Nikon Corporation, and is a superb photographer himself. His address is 21 Hospital Road, Medfield, Massachusetts 02052, and his telephone number is 1-508-359-8534.

Happy Bridging!!

David W. Wright

President



## Covered Spans of Yesteryear

by Bill Caswell

By the time this newsletter gets to your mailbox, those of you who pre-ordered new World Guides should have them in your possession. If not, please let me know. The first 100 copies arrived from the printer on the day before Thanksgiving. We had them packaged and mailed on Friday. Many more books have passed through our home since then. I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to my wife, Jenn, for all her help throughout the entire process of preparing this book from helping proofread the text, her help designing the layout of the guide, meetings with the printer, processing all the checks that came in, and preparing orders. And, to my children for all their help unpacking cases of books, stuffing and addressing envelopes, and bringing the boxes of filled orders to the post office. It really was a team effort.

At the end of the summer, I was contacted by people in Blount County Alabama expressing concern for the bridges in their area and looking for advice. There are three covered structures remaining in the county, and at the time of this writing, all are closed to traffic. This is a picture of the Easley Bridge as it appeared during our visit in July. Having been there and seen the bridges myself, I was prompted to take my own advice and contact the local officials. A few days later, I received a very informative letter from the county engineer detailing all the steps they have taken over the years to secure funding for the county's three remaining bridges. The good news is that the money is available and they are preparing plans for repairs to all three bridges. If all goes well, that project will get underway next summer.



This is truly good news, especially when you look at the history of covered bridges in this area. I have been researching Alabama lately and found a few interesting bits of information. The Cullman Democrat of May 17, 1951 mentioned the Garden City Bridge that spanned the Blount and Cullman county line. The newspaper noted that it was one of 42 covered bridges remaining in Cullman county. Five months later, that same paper ran a front page story about the Garden City Bridge being lost to arson.

The Garden City Bridge was only one of many Cullman County bridges lost to arson over the years. The Cullman Democrat of October 26, 1939 told of the burning of the covered bridge on Welti Road southeast of Cullman. "It burned like tinder and in less than two hours the 100 foot structure was in ashes." The article stated that this was the third covered bridge lost to arson in the county within the past year. Another article from January 25, 1945 noted that five Cullman County bridges had been lost to arson "within the past few months." There are likely more articles like this still to be discovered. With all these losses, there were still 42 covered spans left in the county in 1951. Only about half of them have been documented on the Covered Spans of Yesteryear website.

I am continuing my research in Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi and appreciate any information you can offer. Email is usually the most effective way to contact me - [bill@lostbridges.org](mailto:bill@lostbridges.org).

## News of Old Covered Bridges

### Indiana

#### **Snow Hill Bridge 14-24-09**

Rehabilitation of this Franklin County covered bridge is on hold while several legal and political snags are ironed out. Apparently, federal funding for work on the bridge was received a few years ago, but nothing has been accomplished, yet. It also appears that the Snow Hill Covered Bridge will be bypassed with a new concrete bridge. It is a 75 ft. Howe Truss built in 1894 over Johnson's Fork. There is a very nice in-depth article about this situation in the Fall 2009 issue of *Indiana Crossings*.

#### **Medora Bridge Project 14-36-04**

The country's longest three-span covered bridge will be restored this Spring by using \$ 1.9 million in Federal "Stimulus" money. Bids will be let on January 27th, according to Warren Martin, the Jackson County highway superintendent. The 434 ft Burr Truss was built in 1875 over the East Fork of the White River. It was bypassed in 1972.

#### **Darlington Bridge 14-54-01**

Located in Montgomery County, this 166 ft. 2-span Howe Truss bridge is in bad condition and in need of serious repairs. It was built in 1868 over the Sugar Creek. Grants are being applied for at this time, so we will keep you informed of further news in a future issue of *The Newsletter*.

#### **Houck Bridge 14-67-11**

The Putnam county commissioners have signed an agreement with the Indiana DOT for the "Replacement, new alignment, and rehabilitation" of this Washington Twp. covered bridge. The federally funded project will cost about \$2.4 million. Work is expected to take place in 2012-2013. (*News from The Banner Graphic, Nov. 17, 2009*)

#### **Moscow Bridge 14-70-07 #2**

Destroyed by a tornado on June 3, 2008, Indiana lost one of its finest covered bridges. The task of replacing it with a new bridge is in full swing. Huge logs were harvested from the Selmier State Forest in Jennings County and trucked to Rosedale, Indiana for processing into the new bridge timbers. Some logs are 40 ft. long, 32 inches in diameter, and weigh 2 tons. The trees are estimated to be about 58 years old. Parke County carpenter, Dan Collom is doing the construction of the new bridge, which is to be completed later this year. (*info from The Plain Dealer-Sun 12-4-2009*)

### Maryland

#### **Gilpin's Falls Bridge MD-07-01**

Repairs are still under way at this Cecil County covered bridge. The 119 ft. long Burr truss was built in 1860 and has been closed to traffic since it was bypassed in the 1930's. It is the longest covered bridge in Maryland. Work crews have been getting a lot done and very recent photos show that the roof is finished, and the siding being installed. It looks like an excellent quality job is being done, here. (*Info from Jim Smedley*)

### Michigan

#### **White's Bridge 22-34-01**

On January 8th, the White's Bridge in Ionia County was damaged by a hit-and-run driver. It caused a hole in the siding and the bridge is closed to traffic. Eventually, the driver who caused the damage was identified. No other information is available at this time. Built in 1869, White's Bridge is Michigan's oldest covered bridge still open to public traffic. It is a rare Brown Truss 116 ft. long. (*info from WOOD-TV Channel 8*)

## News of Old Covered Bridges

### Ohio

#### **Newton Falls Bridge 35-78-01**

Ryan M. Vallen, 22, of Canton, Ohio was charged with hit-skip and reckless operation of a motor vehicle after he drove his oversized donut delivery truck into the bridge on July 10th, causing \$57,000 in damage to the roof timbers. The bridge has been closed ever since. It had just been re-opened after extensive repairs which had it closed to traffic for a couple of years. It was built in 1831 and is Ohio's second oldest covered bridge following Roberts Bridge in Preble County.

The bridge is clearly posted with a sign warning that **all** commercial trucks are prohibited from crossing it. Vallen was given a modest fine which totaled only \$206, including court costs. This lack of sufficient punishment will only give license to others who damage public historical property. Your editor visited this bridge on Nov. 16th, 2009 and found it still closed to traffic, however, we could not see any obvious damage at that time, that would cause the bridge to be closed. (*info from The Vindy.com 10-23, 2009*)

In a related story, the Trumbull County Engineer's office stated that Becdir Construction will repair the damage to the bridge for \$21,000, hopefully by March 2010. (Info obtained on 12-16-2009)

#### **Stonelick/Perintown Bridge 35-13-02**

A federal grant was received recently for the restoration of this Clermont County bridge. It was built in 1878 with a 140 ft. Howe Truss and spans the Stonelick Creek. An extensive overview of several options for the rehabilitation of this bridge has been printed in the "**Bridges & Byways**" August 2009 issue, so we won't go into that much detail here. The main issue is whether to keep the bridge as original as possible, at the expense of limiting its load carrying capacity, or to increase the load capacity while altering the bridge's original design. Of course, costs for each option vary greatly, as well. We hope that the right decision is made in the end, and this outstanding example of a 20th century timber truss bridge is preserved for the future generations to enjoy. John Smolen Engineering is the company in charge of the rehab project.

### Pennsylvania

#### **Rettews Mill/ Keller's/ Guy Bard Bridge 38-36-13**

Good news for Lancaster county's only white covered bridge! It was removed from its original location in 2006, replaced with a concrete bridge, and kept in storage at the Lancaster County Central Park, but now it is about to be rebuilt on Middle Rd., which is a mile upstream from it's old spot over the Cocalico Creek. It is replacing an old iron bridge which has been closed to traffic for over 20 years. Work was expected to begin in January 2010. We would sure like to have a photo of the old iron bridge before they destroy it, if it hasn't happened already. (*Info from The Intelligencer Journal 12-16-2009*)

#### **Rose Hill/Wenger's/ Zook's Mill Bridge 38-36-14**

This 90 ft. Burr Truss in Lancaster County was re-opened to traffic after extensive repairs during the summer of 2009. The details of those repairs are unknown to us at this time, however the bridge was lifted up with a crane and given a new deck. A dedication ceremony was held by state and local officials on November 12, 2009. The contractor used any original timbers that were judged to be safe in order to preserve the historic integrity of the bridge. (*info from a report at WPMT-TV*)

#### **Schlicher's Bridge 38-39-06**

Also known as the Game Preserve Rd. Bridge, was closed in November 2009 due to rotting floor timbers. It will continue to be closed until further notice, according to a brief report from PennDot. The bridge spans the Jordan Creek in North Whitehall Twp (Lehigh County). It is a 117 ft Burr Truss built in 1882.



## News of Old Covered Bridges

### Pennsylvania (continued)

#### Red/ Millmont Bridge 38-60-01

This 158 ft. Burr Truss in Union Co. is finally going to be restored after deteriorating for several years. It was closed to traffic nine years ago and basically abandoned. Storm damage has taken a heavy toll on it in recent years. Officials obtained federal funding of about \$1.1 million. The Minichi Contracting Group of Dupont won the contract for the project. If all goes well, the bridge should be back in good shape by October of 2010. It was noted that the repair work must retain the "Historical Integrity" of the structure. (*info from The Daily Item*)

#### Waggoner's Mill 38-50-15

This Perry County covered bridge was recently repaired and painted by its owners "Mountain Stream Holdings". Visitors are welcome to view and photograph this 85 ft Burr Truss that was built in 1889. It is bypassed and is next to an old Mill.

### Vermont

#### Creamery Bridge 45-13-01

It is one of Vermont's most visible covered bridges, located along busy Western Avenue, just west of I-91. Work has been in progress to bypass it with a new modern bridge. The covered bridge was kept open for light traffic while the crews worked on the new bridge, however it will be closed as soon as the new bridge is finished. Pedestrians will continue to be able to walk on it, though. The 1879 Town Lattice bridge is 80 ft. long and carries Guilford St. over the Whetstone Brook. (*Info from The Commonsnews.org 12-13-2009*)

#### Dummerston Bridge 45-13-02

Repairs to the floor of this 1872 covered bridge were to take place during the first two weeks of last December. At that time, the bridge was to be closed to all traffic, except that it would be open for school children to walk across. The Renaud Bros., Inc. of Vernon is doing the work on the bridge. (*Info from The Brattleboro Reformer Nov. 20, 2009*)

#### Green River Bridge 45-13-04

Members of the Guilford Selectboard recently went to Montpelier and delivered an application for a grant to fund the restoration of this historic covered bridge. The proposal to rehab the bridge was determined to meet all of the requirements of the Vermont Covered Bridge Preservation Plan. State and local officials made two visits to the bridge site. Repairs to the bridge would include replacement of four windowsills, removal of the entire roof and replace it with a standing seam metal roof, removal of distribution timbers and replacement of the guardrails.

The bridge is a 104 ft. long Town Truss built in 1870. It is in a wonderful scenic setting and houses several mailboxes, as well as an old outgoing "drop box". (*info from The Reformer.com 10-14-2009*)

#### Williamsville Bridges 45-13-05

The old Williamsville Covered Bridge is currently being replaced with a new replica by the Alpine Construction Co. The old bridge will be kept open to traffic as the new one is being assembled. We will have more information on this project in the next issue.

#### Worrall Bridge 45-13-10

Extensive repair work continues on the Worrall covered bridge which is being rehabilitated by the Daniels Construction Co. It is an 1868 Town Truss 83ft. long, over the Williams River in Windham County.



## News of Old Covered Bridges

### Dummerston Iron Bridge

The old green iron bridge located near Stickney Brook Rd. just off Rt 30, is going to get a major renovation costing \$3.2 million in the next year. The news article states that it is the oldest iron truss in the state and has been closed to traffic for over ten years. (*Info from The Brattleboro Reformer Nov. 20, 2009*)

*We would love to have a few photos of this bridge if anyone is in the area!*

N42° 54.977', W72° 36.7974' This is located 1.5 miles south of the Dummerston Covered Bridge.

## New Brunswick

### Stone Ridge Bridge/Keswick River #6 Bridge 55-15-08x

Arsonists who are responsible for the destruction of this 1914 timber covered bridge have been arrested and charged in Fredericton. The three boys' ages are 17, 18, and 19. The 126 ft. Howe Truss bridge was lost on October 13, 2008 and will not be replaced as a covered bridge. (*info as of Jan. 9, 2010*)

### Vaughn Creek/ Irish River No.1 Bridge 55-11-05

Recently closed to traffic due to structural damage from last summer's storms, the bridge awaits repairs, so the local residents can avoid a long detour on the very rough Yeomans dirt road. Both covered bridges at St. Martins are in need of serious repairs. Witnesses say that trucks which are 25 tons over the posted weight limit, are seen driving over the bridges. \$75,000 has been set aside for repairs. (*info from the Telegraph-Journal 1-5-2010*)

### Adair/North Becaguimec River No.1 Bridge 55-02-01x

This bridge was arsoned and completely destroyed on October 14th, 2009. On January 6th, 2010, a 19 year old man was arrested in connection with the crime. He will face charges in Woodstock provincial court on March 9th. The covered bridge was built in 1948 and will not be replaced as a covered bridge. A steel bailey bridge has taken its place. (*info from CBC News, Jan. 7th, 2010*) *Note: New Brunswick now has 62 covered bridges. At one time, there were about 400.*

### Hartland Bridge 55-02-07

The world's longest covered bridge was closed during the third week in December for some "upgrades", according to the Department of Transportation. In the next three months, the bridge will get a new roof on two spans of its Hartland side. The Department just recently finished a \$2.45 million repair project which strengthened the trusses, replaced the deck, and applied a special coating on the floor. (*info from The Daily Gleaner 12-15-2009*)

## Québec

### Powerscourt/Percy Bridge 61-27-01

In December, this rare McCallum Truss Covered Bridge was re-opened to traffic, after receiving extensive repairs. It was completely disassembled and taken to an area about three miles away for rebuilding, then returned to its original site. About 26 years ago, it was slated for removal by "officials" who apparently were oblivious to its historical significance. Mr. James Gavin, former mayor of Elgin, began the crusade to save and restore the unique bridge. Many others were very involved in the process to save the bridge and obtained funding through the government. The article sent to us does not list these people's names. It is clear to us that many of the local citizens call this bridge "Percy" not "Powerscourt". Whatever you call it, it is a miracle that it stands today as a beautiful monument to the bridges and their builders of the past. It is the only remaining McCallum Truss in the world. Its curved upper chords are a work of art and show great craftsmanship. Having been built in 1861, it is the oldest surviving covered bridge in Canada. It has two spans and is 180 ft. long. (*info from The Gazette 12-18-2009*)

## New Covered Bridge and Replica News

### Massachusetts

Residents of Pepperell, Mass are being asked to come up with a name for their new covered bridge, which is replacing the old Chester H. Waterous Bridge. Town selectman have voted to take a survey in order to get the public involved in the naming process. "Prudence Wright Covered Bridge" or "Pepperell Covered Bridge" are a couple of the names they have come up with, so far. At the time of this report, the main timbers were being installed and work was progressing steadily. A celebration ceremony is being planned for May 15th. (*from Nashoba Publishing 1-15-2010*)

### Ohio

#### Stutzman's Crossing Bridge OH-38-04 (Holmes County)

This new timber truss covered bridge was recently dedicated just south of the small community of Walnut Creek in Ohio's Amish country. The bridge is located 3/4 miles south of the village on CR145. Jonas Erb and his crew were the general contractors of the project. The bridge is about 56 ft long, and 24 ft wide. It is a fully authentic timber multiple Kingpost truss and is open to public traffic. Total cost was around \$700,000. GPS N40.53154, W81.71815

#### West Liberty Street Bridge in Ashtabula County

As we reported in a previous issue, a new timber covered bridge is being built in the town of Geneva. It will be only 18 feet long, prompting the locals to claim that it is "The Nation's Shortest Covered Bridge". It is replacing an existing bridge which was deteriorating. Lumber for this bridge is being donated by the Ashtabula County Joint Vocational School, Phil & Cathy Schmidt, William Gubanyar, and Optometrist John DeVito. Most of the labor will be donated by the AVJCV carpentry students. Former Ashtabula County Engineer, John Smolen, is the principal engineer of the project.

The bridge is located four blocks south of the main intersection of US20 and OH534, then west (or right) on West Liberty St. (Approx. GPS N41° 47.950', W80° 56.914')

The cost of the project is reported to be \$250,000 (quite a lot, considering the donated labor and materials). It is financed by a \$400,000 Ohio Public Works Commission Grant. (*Information is from The Star Beacon newspaper in Ashtabula Jan. 14th, 2010*)

#### TR241 Covered Bridge in Hancock County

Work on this new Pratt Truss covered bridge, located east of Findlay, in Marion township, has progressed very well this past Fall and Winter. As of Sunday, Jan. 17th, it appeared to be almost finished and ready to be placed over the Blanchard River. It was assembled on dry land, which isn't so dry right now. I suspect that work will be on hold until the ground dries up or freezes. More about it in the next issue. I can send you the latest photos by e-mail if you request them.

#### The Sleepy Hollow stringer bridge (35-48-A)

was recently replaced with a new one. It is located at the entrance of the Sleepy Hollow Subdivision, a community of about 120 homes in Sylvania, Ohio (NW of Toledo). When the main bridge was replaced recently, the city didn't allow for the replacement of the roof or covering, so the residents came up with the additional money that was necessary to add it. Cost of the main structure was about \$415,000 and the additional canopy was about \$225,000. It was built by the **Riverbend Timber Framing Co.** of Blissfield, Michigan. We have seen this company's work and it is remarkable! The bridge is 87 ft. long and was originally built in 1962. Even though it is a replica/stringer bridge, it is a great looking structure! (*info from The Toledo Blade 12-2-2009*) GPS N41° 43.020', W83° 42.918'

## North Carolina

Howard Rogers sent us information about two replica covered bridges, so here it is:

### Antiquity Bridge 33-60-A

Location: In Davidson, on Griffith St. E. (Mecklenburg County)

Crosses: South prong of the Rocky River

Type: wooden trestle support, no functional truss.

Spans: 5

Length: 100 ft.

Date built: 2007

GPS: N35° 29.197', W80° 50.979'

### Winfield Estates-Furgeson Bridge 33-44-B

Location: On a private lane north of Clyde in Clyde Twp., Haywood County, NC

Crosses: Crabtree Creek

Type: Concrete stringer with wooden canopy

Spans: 1

Length: 58 ft.

Date Built: 2006

GPS: N35° 35.883', W82° 55.577'

## The William T. Maxant Collection

Joseph Conwill sent along a letter from the Harvard Historical Society dated Nov 23, 2009. It states that the Harvard Historical Society has acquired the collection of William T. Maxant, which consists of many items of Covered Bridge interest, such as photos, books, slides, maps, etc. Some of the photos are from the 1930's. The items were exhibited and now are up for sale. This would make a great collection for someone who is interested in covered bridges. If this interests you, then call Judy Warner at the Harvard Historical Society 978-456-8285, or try her e-mail at [curator@harvardhistory.org](mailto:curator@harvardhistory.org) They have a web site which is [www.harvardhistory.org](http://www.harvardhistory.org)

## Christine Ellsworth Collection of Stereoviews

Recently, our former corresponding secretary, Christine Ellsworth, donated her entire collection of stereoview cards, sometimes called stereoptic photos, to the *National Society*. We knew she had a nice collection of them, but had no idea it consisted of about 500 cards! Your editor will take on the challenge of scanning all of them into a computer, then burning them onto discs as needed. Stereo cards were made mostly in the mid 1800's, so there should be some very rare photos of bridges in the collection.

We all sincerely thank Christine for this outstanding donation to the Society!

## Spring 2010 Newsletter Deadline

The Newsletter deadline has been moved up a couple of weeks to be on the 1st of the month from now on. The next Newsletter is scheduled to be mailed in March. Therefore, anyone wishing to submit photos, articles, etc., should send them to the EDITOR by **March 1, 2010**. In order to save us from a lot of re-typing, please send your articles by e-mail or on a computer disc (no floppies, please), 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 [bjmckee@gmail.com](mailto:bjmckee@gmail.com) *THANK YOU!*

## *News About Our Members*

### **Welcome to Our New Members!**

**Bruce Cowie, 3307 Pin Oak Lane, Montville, PA 17554**  
**Eric Riback, 1419 Elizabeth St., Denver, CO 80206-2310**  
**Tina Sisley, 2930 S. Cottonwood, Mesa, AZ 85202**

### **New Additions to Our Life Members Club**

**Lauren & Doris Liebrecht, 10417 Rosemont Dr., Laurel, MD 20723-1273**  
**Larry R. Baker, 6655 Jackson Rd. Unit 421, Ann Arbor, MI 48103-9575**  
**Brian J. McKee 13008 TH60, Upper Sandusky, OH 43351-9760**

**Mr. William “Bill” Helsel**, Editor of the *1989 World Guide to Covered Bridges*, passed away in October 2009, on Columbus Day. We received this sad news from his brother-in-law around Christmas time. Bill was a long time enthusiast and student of all types of historic bridges and was a former president of the *Southern Ohio Covered Bridge Society*, now known as the *Ohio Historic Bridge Association*. Bill lived in Logan, Ohio (Hocking County) and was unmarried for the last few years of his life. He suffered from several medical problems. He was a very friendly person with great knowledge of old historic bridges. We who knew him will greatly miss him, and our most sincere sympathies go out to his family.

**Mr. Joseph D. Conwill and Ms. Nancy J. Pruett** are announcing their up-coming marriage which will be on August 29th, 2010, a Sunday, at his country estate, the Hodgkins Farm near Rangeley, Maine. Joseph is a long time member of the *National Society* and has served as editor of *The Newsletter* and is the current editor of *Topics*. The bride-to-be works in Livermore Falls, Maine as the Activities Director for a nursing home. We can't be happier to hear this wonderful news and wish both of them the very best in their future life together.

**Mr. Thomas E. Walczak**, former president of the *Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania*, had quadruple bypass heart surgery this past December and is recovering, slowly but surely, at his home in New Castle, PA. Tom was president of the *Burr Society* for the past 16 years and recently stepped down to pursue other activities. He is still the editor of their fine magazine, *“Wooden Covered Spans”*. Tom is an avid collector of Covered Bridge postcards and has one of the best collections in existence. We all are praying for him as he has had some very difficult times. If you'd like to send him your wishes for a speedy recovery, his address is 3012 Old Pittsburgh Rd., New Castle, PA 16101.

**Mr. Jud Robert “Bob” Waller**, husband of our member Mary Ann Waller, passed through the bridge on November 12, 2009, after suffering for about three months. Bob and Mary Ann were married for 48 years. He was buried with full military honors at the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. You can send a note of sympathy to Mary Ann at this address: 25 Black Oak Lane, Fenton, MO 63026-3409. Our deepest sympathies go out to his family.

**Mr. Rodney Cowen** of Westminster, S.C., recently lost his wife and has donated a large number of slides and B&W prints to the Society. Mr. Cowen, who is in his 90's, has been a National Society member since 1966. The photographs are mostly from the United States, with a few from Europe and Canada. We thank Mr. Cowen for this generous donation and we send him our most sincere sympathies regarding the passing of his wife. *(This information came from Christine Ellsworth)*



## Changes to the 2010 World Guide

- 1) Page 1, 01-08-01 **Coldwater Bridge**, the coordinates listed in the book are at the original location of the bridge. It is presently located at N33° 36.46' W85° 49.00'
- 2) Page 26, Change "Perry County and Starke County" to "Perry County and Spencer County"
- 3) Page 74, Add New Bridge- Holmes County, Ohio  
**Name: Stutzman's Crossing Bridge 35-38-04**  
**Date Built:** 2009  
**Crosses:** over Walnut Creek.  
**Type:** 1 span, 56' Multiple Kingpost  
**GPS:** N40° 31.889 W81° 43.089  
**Location:** In Walnut Creek Township, south of the village of Walnut Creek  
**Directions:** 0.7 miles south of OH515 and Walnut Creek Village on CR145.
- 4) Page 84, Add the **Eakin Mill/Arbaugh Bridge 35-82-07 #2**. Built in 2003. Use same location as the old bridge.
- 5) Page 150, The **AM Foster Bridge** in Washington County, VT is listed as 45-12-96 and it should be 45-12-75.

### EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COVERED BRIDGES

On a Single Compact Computer Disc

**World Guide—Romantic Shelters—Index to Topics—Bibliography of all known covered bridge books—Chinese Bridges**—and much more for only \$20.00 Send a check made out to Joseph Cohen.  
 From September to March: 210 Wellington F, West Palm Beach, FL 33417-2559  
 From April to August: 130 Westfield Drive, Holliston, MA 01746-1257

### The following items are still available through the Society

#### **Covered Bridge Polo Shirts**

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

## 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**

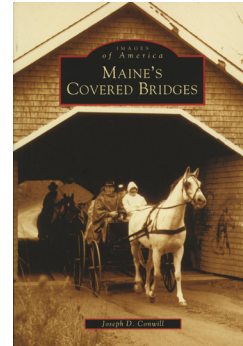
### “Vermont Covered Bridges”

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

### C/B's of Madison County IA, A Guide.....\$6.50

6x9 format paperback, 46 pgs., ISBN 0-940310-07-4

### C/B's of Connecticut, A Guide.....\$5.50

6x9 format paperback, 47 pgs., ISBN 0-940310-04-X

### C/B's of Virginia, A Guide.....\$6.95

6x9 format paperback, 46 pgs., ISBN 0-940310-08-2

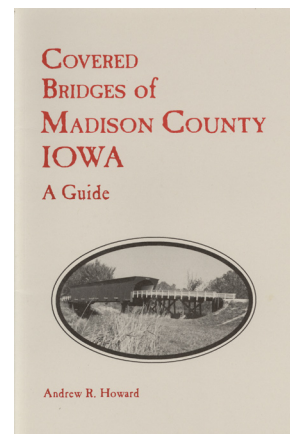
### C/B's of Bennington County VT, A Guide.....\$6.50

6x9 format paperback, 49 pgs., ISBN 0-940310-06-6

### C/B's of Massachusetts, A Guide .....\$6.95

6x9 format paperback, 80 pgs., ISBN 0-940310-03-1

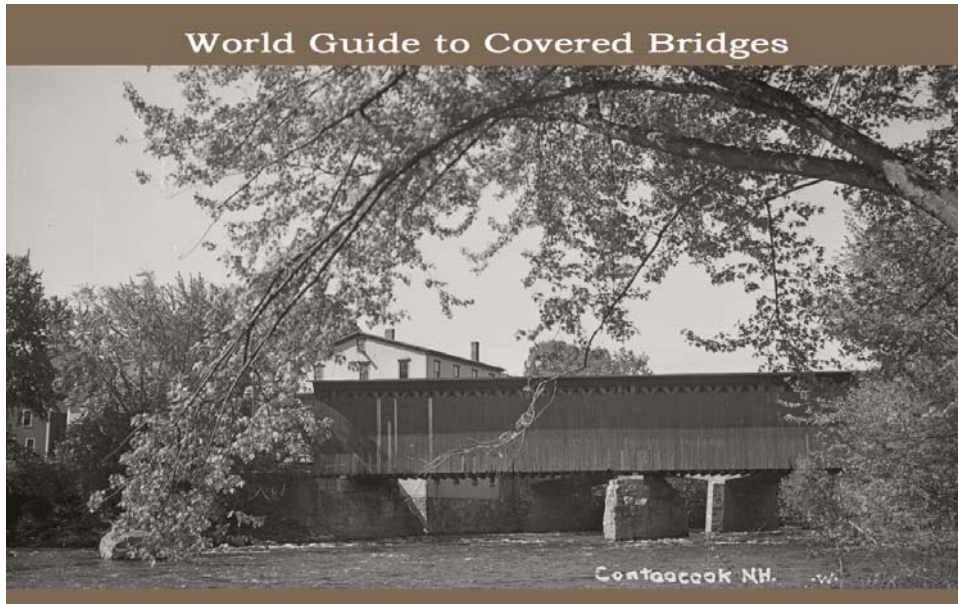
(There is a \$2.00 postage and handling charge for each book)



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](http://www.vermontbridges.com)  
(This book isn't available from the society store).

# 2009 World Guide to Covered Bridges



The long awaited update  
to the 1989 Guide.

Order your copy today.

Send this form with your check or  
money order made payable to  
**NSPCB** to:

Bill Caswell  
535 Second NH Turnpike  
Hillsboro, NH 03244

Massachusetts - Essex County						
Number	Township	Stream	Name	Spans	Length	Built Type
<b>Essex County</b>						
21-05-13	Gloucester	Sawyer Pond	Sawyer Pond	1	36'	1983 Town
1.1 miles east of jct US128 on MA133 (Essex Ave), (Exit 14) then 4.6 miles right to 138 Magnolia Ave. N42° 35.483' W070° 43.126'						
<b>Franklin County</b>						
21-06-01	Conway	South River	Burkeville or Conway	1	106'	1870 Howe
7.6 miles northwest of jct I-91 on MA116 (Exit 24), then just left on Poland Rd. At Burkeville. Closed, rebuilt 1999. (NR) N42° 30.473' W072° 42.644'						
21-06-02#2	Greenfield	Green River	Pumping Station	1	94'	1972 Howe
0.7 miles east of jct I-91 on MA2A (Exit 26), then 1.4 miles left on Conway St., 0.8 miles left (past municipal park), 0.1 miles right, 2.7 miles right on Plain Rd. and right on Eunice Williams Dr. Replaced a covered bridge built in 1870. Closed to motor vehicles. N42° 38.782' W072° 37.221'						
21-06-03#2	Colrain	North River	Arthur Smith	1	98'	2006 Burr Arch
1.2 miles southwest of Colrain town green on MA112, then 0.1 miles right on Lyonville Rd. Replaced a covered bridge built in 1870. N42° 40.196' W072° 43.093'						
21-06-04#2	Charlmont	Mill Brook	Bissell	1	92'	1951 Long variation
0.5 miles north of jct MA2 on MA8A. Rebuilt 2009 N42° 37.892' W072° 52.121'						
21-06-11	Ashfield	Creamery Brook	Creamery	1	40'	1985 Modified Queen
1.0 miles east of jct MA112 on MA116, then 1.6 miles left on west side of Creamery Rd. Private. N42° 31.191' W072° 48.036'						
Page 40						

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number of copies: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 each \_\_\_\_\_

Add \$4.95 for shipping 1 or 2 books: \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

