



# The Newsletter

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

Fall 2014

## Bridges of Yesterday

By: Suzanne Bednar

Reprinted from NSPCB Topics Winter 1979

*Rickety old bridges  
Of yesteryear;  
Appreciated by so few today.  
But they have served  
Their purpose well,  
Bringing many a weary passenger  
Closer to home.  
And those cold, snowy winter days  
When sleigh bells jingled,  
Resounding throughout its wooden structure  
With horses' hoofs drumming away.  
When blizzards howled,  
The bridge was refuge.  
In spring and fall blending in  
So well with the countryside.  
Summer brought the  
Happy children, jumping  
Into their favorite pool.  
From their wooden friend.  
And hiding places were found to  
Catch unwary travelers.  
Lovers too,  
Knew its comforts  
For cover for unseen kisses.  
O Bridge  
You served your purpose well.  
And are dear to the hearts  
Of the few who  
Know of you today.*

\* \* \* \* \*

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

#### NSPCB Contacts

##### President

William S. Caswell, Jr.  
535 Second NH Turnpike  
Hillsboro, NH 03244-4601  
[WSCaswell@yahoo.com](mailto:WSCaswell@yahoo.com)

##### Corresponding Secretary

Robert Watts  
21 Hospital Road  
Medfield, MA 02052  
508-359-8534  
[rwatts@nikon.net](mailto:rwatts@nikon.net)

##### Membership Dues and Address Changes

Jennifer Caswell  
Membership Chair  
535 Second NH Turnpike  
Hillsboro, NH 03244-4601

##### Topics Back Issues, \$3 each

Richard E. Roy  
73 Ash St., Apt. 2  
Manchester, NH 03104-4906  
[Dickroycb1@comcast.net](mailto:Dickroycb1@comcast.net)

##### Treasurer

Michelle Andrews  
9 Damson Lane  
Gilford, NH 03249

##### Newsletter Editor

Robin A. Mitchell  
P. O. Box 375  
Marshfield, MA 02050-0375

### Editor's Comments ...

*This past June my wife and I celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with a marvelous vacation to our 49<sup>th</sup> state, Alaska. For those of you who may not yet have ventured to this extraordinary place, I encourage you to do so, at least once (believe me, you can't see it all on one 10-day trip). In addition to the magnificent views of snow capped mountains - especially, if you're fortunate to see Mt. McKinley, numerous types of wildlife - grizzly bear, caribou, moose, whale, otter, and many others, winding river valleys, glaciers of all size and description, and the vast expanse of the tundra, you will find your long standing perception of both size and distance will be forever changed. Even on rainy days, and whether on foot, by train, boat, bike, plane or car, the breathtaking beauty of Alaska abounds.*

*While there, time was 'scheduled' to look for an old railroad bridge believed to exist in the area of the Chickaloon coal mine just northeast of the town of Wasilla outside of Anchorage. Topics editor, Joseph Conwill, had alerted me to its possible existence although virtually no discussion about the bridge nor any information had been obtained during the last 25-years. Our quest was successful finding the 120-foot Howe truss (unenclosed) alongside the road where it had been moved for preservation more than 30-years ago. In future issues of this Newsletter, and possibly Topics as well, more information about this and similar bridges which over the years have escaped the Society's radar will be provided.*

*I trust everyone has had a delightful and safe summer with many bridge sightings. If you have an interesting story about a particular bridge seen during your summer travels, please pass it along. Remember, watch for signs of neglect, dangerous situations, or bridges in need of some attention, photograph them if safely possible, and pass the information on to us. As members, you are our best sources for the information concerning the condition of our bridges. Help preserve our covered bridge heritage.*

*Happy Bridging!!*

*P.S. As a personal note, I want to thank Bill Caswell for his gracious assistance with this quarter's Newsletter.*

\* \* \* \* \*

### Winter 2014 Newsletter Deadline

The next Newsletter is scheduled to be mailed in December. Therefore, anyone wishing to submit articles should send them to the Editor by **November 15, 2014**. **Please note** that due to some nagging computer software problems, it is requested that your information be typed on PLAIN WHITE PAPER and include proper credit information (newspaper, magazine, or web site, etc.), or on CD (Microsoft Word format, 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 ...*

I hope many of you were able to get out and visit a few covered bridges during the summer. I started writing this as we traveled towards southwestern Pennsylvania for the Society's July meeting. On that trip we were fortunate enough to spend some time in Ohio and attend the Ohio Historic Bridge Association's annual picnic at the Salt Creek Bridge near Zanesville. In 1959, the OHBA took up a collection to purchase the bridge and save it from destruction. Since then, members have kept up the area around the bridge to make it an attractive place to visit. After enjoying a wonderful lunch, OHBA President, David Simmons, offered me an opportunity to update their members on recent news within our Society. That was followed by Terry Miller, co-author of the recently released *America's Covered Bridges*, discussing his experiences and the challenges preparing a book on such a broad topic, while staying within the page limit set by the publisher. If you haven't seen this book yet, it is one you will want to add to your collection. Terry Miller and Ron Knapp have packed a great deal of interesting information into its pages along with Chester Ong's fantastic photographs.

I am sorry to say that not all our experiences in Ohio were so enjoyable. After the picnic, we spent some time with Terry and his wife, Sara, visiting bridges in Perry County. Terry has been interested in covered bridges since he was a child in the 1950's. One of the bridges, *Jack's Hollow* (WG#35-64-05), was covered in graffiti. It reminded us of Ohio's *Humpback Bridge* which we saw last year, only a few days before it was lost to arson. While exploring Licking County the following day, Jenn and I came to the *Girl Scout Bridge* (WG#35-45-05) and found it to be in sad condition. Many of the side boards had been knocked out and the interior was covered in graffiti. Both of these bridges are in remote locations on roads that see very little traffic. I was moved to send letters and photos to the County Commissioners of both counties expressing my concerns about the future of these two structures and suggesting methods for removing the graffiti. I will take the liberty of borrowing Homeland Security's phrase, "If you see something, say something," with the hopes that you too will let bridge owners know that we care about the condition of their bridges.

On a more positive note, I wish to commend the efforts of David Fey, Director of Fairfield County Historical Parks. Last year he had three of the bridges he oversees "soda blasted", a process similar to sand-blasting which uses less abrasive baking soda in place of sand, to remove the graffiti. The project was successful. Today the bridges look great. When I contacted Dave after our trip, he said that they are seeing more visitors to the bridges this year and less vandalism. Voters have also approved a small levy to help fund routine maintenance of the bridges in Fairfield County parks. More evidence that if the bridges are cared for, people will have a greater appreciation of them.

There has been a new addition to the Society's website, a page listing current covered bridge projects under design or construction. This is a project I have wanted to take on for a long time and was finally able to pull it together. Information changes almost daily so your help is needed to keep it up-to-date. If you find any projects missing information or information that needs to be updated, please let me know – [bill@lostbridges.org](mailto:bill@lostbridges.org). Any other feedback is welcome. To visit the page, go to the Society's website – [www.coveredbridgesociety.org](http://www.coveredbridgesociety.org) – and click on "Bridge Projects" on the top navigation bar. We will attempt to keep this information updated in the Newsletter, but there may not be space to fit all the details. The website will be updated as information is received.

If you live near a project in the planning and design stages, I am urging you to attend a public meeting to learn about the project and voice your desire to have the bridge restored in an historic manner. If you don't live nearby, send a letter to express your interest in the historic preservation of the structure. Encourage your family, friends and co-workers to do the same.

One of the projects that the late David Wright was deeply involved in before his untimely death has now been completed, the restoration of the *Bath Covered Bridge* in Bath, New Hampshire. One of David's wishes was to remove the wainscoting inside the bridge which was added to prevent people from kicking out the sideboards. Unfortunately, it also trapped debris and moisture around the truss members. During the restoration, Wright Construction (no relation) reinforced the areas where people have historically kicked out the sideboards for access to the river while allowing more of the truss and arch timbers to be visible to travelers. This bridge is truly a unique structure and now visitors will have a more impressive view of just how complicated the structural design is.

We hadn't finalized the decision of the scholarship awards before the last Newsletter went to press. That information is included in this issue. The high quality of applicants encourages me to recommend that the Board offer the scholarship again next year.

A few of you have not yet renewed your membership for the coming year. I hope this is only an oversight and not a decision to leave us. If you have chosen not to renew your membership, I would be grateful if you could take a moment to let me know why. We need everyone's help to see that our historic bridges are properly cared for.

Make a note on your calendar to attend the Society's annual meeting on **Saturday, October 25, 2014** at O'Connor's Restaurant, 1160 W. Boylston St., Worcester, Massachusetts. The meeting will be on Saturday this year because the restaurant is not open on Sunday's. More details and a reservation form are included with this Newsletter. As I mentioned last quarter, I have invited Arnold Graton and Tim Dansereau to speak about a recent project they have worked on. Arnold Graton has been building and restoring covered bridges for more than 50 years. Tim Dansereau has worked with Arnold for many years and has gained a great deal of knowledge and experience. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Before I close, we have a recent anniversary to mention. From the Fall 1954 *Topics*, 60 years ago:

*“On August 9, 1954, a group of officers of the NSPCB assembled in the State House in Boston to receive personally from the Secretary of State Edward J. Cronin the corporate charter of the Society. Secretary of State Cronin spoke of the constructive work which our hard-working group has accomplished, and of the opportunities ahead in the preservation field.”*

The Society had been formed four years earlier by a group of friends interested in sharing stories and photos of their visits to covered bridges.

In closing, I wish to thank all of you who sent news articles and photos for this Newsletter. I wish you all safe travels this fall.

*Bill Caswell*

## *Warner Fall Foliage Festival*

The Society will have a booth at the Warner, NH, Fall Foliage Festival October 11 & 12. This is an excellent time to be visiting the covered bridges of central New Hampshire. Please stop in to visit if you are nearby. Festival hours are 9:00 to 6:00 each day. For more information, visit [wfff.org](http://wfff.org).

## *2014 NSPCB Meetings & Events ...*

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

**Sunday September 28 at 1pm** The Fall meeting will be hosted by Carmela Sciandra at her home, 201 Russell Farm Road, Lunenburg, VT

**October 11-12, 2014** – Warner Fall Foliage Festival, Warner, NH.

**Saturday, October 25** NSPCB Annual Meeting and Dinner, O'Connor's Restaurant, 1160 W Boylston St, Worcester, Massachusetts.. Buffet lunch at noon, meeting at 1:00. See insert for full details and the reservation form.



Secretary of State Edward J. Cronin, of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, personally presents the corporate charter to officers of the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges: Left to right - Charles H. Watkins, Director; Edward J. Cronin, Secretary of State; Charles Wilson, Director; Leo Litwin, President; John Brooks, NSPCB attorney; and Roger D. Griffin, Treasurer.



*Waterloo Station Bridge  
Warner, NH  
Scott Wagner Photo*

### *Other Upcoming Covered Bridge Meetings & Events ...*

**Sunday, September 7, 2014** – Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania, monthly meeting at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Manheim, PA

**September (Dates not yet confirmed)** – Ohio Historic Bridge Association Fall Tour

**September (Dates not yet confirmed)** – Indiana Covered Bridge Society Fall Tour

**September 13-14, 2014** – New York State Covered Bridge Society, 2014 Safari - Columbia County, PA. For more details - <http://www.nycoveredbridges.org/meeting-schedule/>

**October 2-5, 2014** – Columbia-Montour County Covered Bridge Festival at Knoebels Amusement Resort (391 Knoebels Boulevard, Route 487, Elysburg, PA 17824). Thursday to Saturday 10-6, Sunday 10-5.

**October 11-12, 2014** – Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival, celebrating its 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Festival

**Sunday, October 12, 2014** – New York State Covered Bridge Society, Hamden Covered Bridge, Hamden, NY

**October 10-19, 2014** – Parke County Indiana, Indiana, Covered Bridge Festival at various locations throughout the county.

**Sunday, November 2, 2014 , 2pm** – Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania, monthly meeting and Bake Sale at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Manheim, PA

**Sunday, November 9, 2014** – New York State Covered Bridge Society, Harvest Dinner, Oxford Memorial Library, Oxford, NY

**Sunday, December 13, 2014, 11am – 3pm** – Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania, Annual Christmas Dinner and Party at Dutch-Way Farm Market and Family Restaurant, Gap, Lancaster County, PA

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

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

Page 66 update directions to the Blue Bird Farm CB (35-10-14) in Carroll County, Ohio

**0.1 miles southwest of Main St. in Carrollton on South Lisbon St., then 0.6 miles left on 3rd St. SE (becomes Alamo Rd.) to 190 Alamo Rd. on left (Blue Bird Farm). Park at the end of the driveway and follow trail to the bridge. Trail open dawn to dusk.**

Page 104, a member attempting to see the Speakman #2 (38-15-06) and Hayes Clark (38-15-07#2) Bridges has reported that membership in the Brandywine Conservancy is required to visit this area.

Page 112 update coordinates of Carmichael’s Bridge, 38-30-21#2, to **N39° 53.92' W079° 58.63'**

Page 121, replace 38-39-01, Schlicher's Bridge with 38-39-01#2 constructed in 2014. About 10% of the former bridge timbers were used in the new bridge.

Page 164, update directions of Peter Jonah Bridge, 55-01-07, in Albert County, New Brunswick. It has been moved to a new location over dry ground **2.9 miles (4.6km) north of Turtle Creek on NB 910, then just left (ahead) on Dewey Rd. N46° 00.175' W064° 54.01'**



*New Schlicher's Bridge, July 2014  
Photo Courtesy of Barbara McCauley*



*Peter Jonah Bridge at its new location  
© Raymond Boucher*

## *Welcome New Members ...*

Kathryn Drue Bormann – Wheeling, WV  
 Michael Chorazy – Media, PA  
 Murray Elliot – Rigaud, Quebec  
 Janis Ford – Columbus, OH  
 Dave & Marikka Guay – Glens Falls, NY  
 Jay Hart – Geogretown, MA  
 Robert Griner & K.C.Klingensmith – Revere, MA  
 P. Moretti – Fairbanks, AK

Betty & Bob Pauwels – Franklin, NH  
 Richard Perry – Norwich, CT  
 Kate Reggev – New York, NY  
 Dr. & Mrs. Allen C. Struble – Ellwood City, PA  
 Abby Tesfaye – College Park, MD  
 Scott & Susan Wagner – Northfield, NH  
 LoriAnn & Charles Wall – Doylestown, PA

## *Final Crossings ...*

**Ed. Note:** The Society offers its sincere condolences to the families.

Long-time life member Roger Easton died peacefully on the morning of May 8, 2014. In addition to his many years of service to the Society as vice president and custodian of our financial investments, Roger was best known as the Father of the GPS. Roger held the patent for the concept of satellites transmitting timed signals to pinpoint location that is the foundation for GPS receivers. In 2004, President George Bush awarded him the National Medal of Technology, and Roger was inducted into the National Inventor's Hall of Fame in 2010.

\* \* \* \* \*

We have learned of the passing of members Jim & Lise Kendall of Winslow, Maine. They had been members of the Society for more than 20 years. Jim passed away on Sunday, January 26, 2014. Lise joined him on Thursday evening, April 17, 2014.

\* \* \* \* \*

We have learned of the passing of life member Michael E. Minor of Cleves, Ohio, on May 19, 2014 at age 71.

\* \* \* \* \*

We have learned of the passing of member Mary Zabbia of Deer Park, NY, on February 21, 2014.

\* \* \* \* \*

## *Passing of Senator Jim Jeffords*

On August 18<sup>th</sup>, the covered bridge community lost one of its most influential advocates of the past two decades. James Merrill “Jim” Jeffords was born in Rutland, Vt., on May 11, 1934. His father, Olin Jeffords, served as chief justice of the Vermont Supreme Court, and his mother, Marion Hausman, was a homemaker. He attended public schools in Rutland, and received his undergraduate degree from Yale University in 1956. He served three years in the Navy before he attended Harvard Law School, where he was awarded his degree in 1962. While practicing law in Shrewsbury, Vt., he got involved in local politics and was elected to the state Senate in 1966. As Vermont's attorney general from 1969 to 1973, he helped draft landmark environmental laws, including a ban on billboards and land protection legislation.

In 1998, Jeffords authored the bill that became known as the National Covered Bridge Preservation Program or often referred to as the Jeffords Bill. Because of this bill, dozens of covered bridges throughout the country have received repairs or major restorations that would otherwise not have been possible. Although funding for the bill has ended, its impact is still being felt as the few remaining projects continue on.

Jeffords served more than 30 years in Congress, starting when he was elected to the House of Representatives in 1974. He moved to the Senate in 1988. "In 2001, he displayed enormous courage by leaving a party that, he often said, had left him because of its dramatic move to the right," said Sen. Bernie Sanders who succeeded Jeffords. "Jim was one of the most popular elected officials in the modern history of the state." "He was a Vermonter through and through, drawn to political life to make a difference for our state and nation," said Sen. Patrick Leahy, a Democrat who is Vermont's other senator. He decided not to run for a fourth term and retired from the Senate in 2007, citing his and his wife's health problems. His wife, Elizabeth "Liz" Daley, died that year. Jeffords died at a military retirement residence in Washington, D.C. at age 80.

## David Warren Wright

As most of you know, David Wright, past NSPCB President, passed away unexpectedly last December. A memorial service was planned, but no date set until now. On August 27, 2014, we received the following details:

### *Westminster, Vermont*

*A memorial service will be held for David Warren Wright on the afternoon of September 4 at 1:00 at the Westminster New Cemetery on Kurn Hattin Road in Westminster, Vermont.*

*A reception following the graveside service will be held at the Westminster Butterfield Institute, which is the red brick building on Main Street in the center of Westminster Village.*

David was born on November 18, 1940 in Short Hills, New Jersey, the only son of Alfred and Margaret (Potter) Wright. He died in his home in Westminster on December 29, 2013.

David grew up in New Jersey, attended Bard College in New York and later travelled to Paris to study piano with the world renowned French composer, conductor, teacher and pianist Nadia Boulanger. He subsequently became a friend and assistant to Madame Boulanger and remained in Paris for 19 years, after which he returned to the United States and a family home in Westminster to care for an ill parent.



David was a studied eccentric and a delighted contrarian with a well-honed sense of humor. He loved to recount boyhood practical jokes and experiments gone awry and among his favorites was the black powder in the oven story. He was making black powder and had placed the mixture in the oven to dry, on very low heat, but had neglected to mention to his mother who was preparing for a dinner party. He was in the living room with his father watching a ball game when his mother turned up the heat, in preparation for baking. The explosion blew the door clear off the oven. “Fortunately,” recalled David, “Mother had already exited and gone upstairs to change.”

A descendant of Walpole, NH and Westminster, VT ancestry that harkened back to the 1700’s, David was intensely interested in history and was a vehement advocate for preservation and authentic restoration, with a particular passion for covered bridges. David had served as the president of the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges of North America since 1989.

The Town of Westminster, dedicating its 2013 annual report to David, paid tribute to his hard work and dedication and described him as a solitary man who cared deeply about his community. The report noted his long hours of work in the preservation and renovation of the Westminster Town Hall, and also his memberships on the Fire District #3 Prudential Committee, the Westminster East Parish Board for the Westminster Institute, the Westminster Historic Preservation Committee and his contribution as a Trustee of the Westminster Aqueduct Society.

David delighted in his cats, classical music and early recordings, vegetable gardens, orchards, the making of period paint, history, politics, and old film classics, and in his writing, in the extravagant use of exclamation points, frequently punctuating a sentence with as many as five.

Early morning breakfasts with his good friend Charlie Kelton had long been a favorite part of David’s daily routine.

David was predeceased by his parents. He is survived by an aunt, Theodora Wright Weston of Maine, an uncle, Bob Potter of Vermont and his wife, Clara, a cousin, Stephen Wright Weston of Maine and his partner, Terrilyn Simpson, several first and second cousins, and by his friend Marylynn Hancock.

Those who wish may make a contribution in David’s memory to the Westminster Fire Department, PO Box 98, Westminster, VT 05158; or to the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges Scholarship Fund at NSPCB Scholarship, 535 2<sup>nd</sup> NH Turnpike, Hillsboro, NH 03244

## *Eric DeLony Scholarship Essays & Winners ...*

When considering the awarding of this scholarship, the committee was torn between conflicting objectives. On the one hand, it is our mission to preserve covered bridges. However, if we limit our consideration to solely those candidates planning a future in covered bridge preservation, then none of our applicants qualified.

We chose instead to consider a broader goal of providing some measure of support and encouragement to three students who we felt understand the importance of preserving our nation's historic structures. Then, to encourage these students to continue their pursuit of historic preservation careers while making them more aware of the needs of the remaining historic covered bridges. These three students come from diverse backgrounds and all were supported by letters of recommendation commending their work ethics, dedication and determination.

The National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges, Inc. offered scholarship awards based on the student's selection of courses, letters of recommendation and the required 150-word essay regarding "**The Importance of Preserving Our Historic Covered Bridges**". The following are three of the essays received and all three students have given us their permission to publish their essays in this Newsletter.

The Society was pleased to present a \$1,000 scholarship award to Kate Reggev of New York City who is working on a dual Master's in historic preservation and architecture at Columbia University. She has demonstrated a strong interest in architectural preservation with numerous classes on the subject and a high level of capability as a historian with an impressive list of accomplishments. She has worked on a Historic American Building Survey (HABS) project, part of the Department of the Interior's National Park Service, receiving the Sally Kress Tomkins Fellowship, a joint program of the Historic American Building Survey (HABS) and the Society of Architectural Historians. The fellowship provides the student an opportunity to work with experienced HABS staff on a documentation project - Ms. Reggev received a glowing recommendation from one of the park service supervisors.

"It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words, but what about a physical structure? While the built environment provides space for certain functions, it is also a physical expression of ideas, history, integrating of cultures, and forward-thinking technology. Covered bridges are a testament to local craftsmanship and tell the story of improved wooden truss technology, travel and transportation, and the availability of local products. Although covered bridges exist nearly all over the world, their unique local characteristics render them critical in creating a sense of place and identity. As we move towards a more globalized world where architecture and engineering frequently create a "place-less" form of identity, the preservation of covered bridges combats this sense of sameness. Through this contrast between historic and contemporary, covered bridges not only help to tell the story of the past, but they also aid in depicting the stories of the present and future." - Kate Reggev, New York, NY

The Society felt that two other applicants merited awards and was pleased to present \$500 scholarship awards to both Kathryn Drue Bormann and Abby Tesfaye.

Ms. Bormann recently completed her first year in Building Preservation/Restoration program at Belmont College in Ohio. Belmont College's program is special in that it uses a hands-on approach to teaching historic preservation. The students not only receive classroom education, but have the opportunity to work on real projects during their time in the program. Ms. Bormann has an extensive archaeology background and worked as a crew chief at the Public Archaeology Facility at Binghamton University in New York prior to enrolling at Belmont. Drue later informed us that a family matter has prompted her to withdraw from Belmont so she will not be able to accept our award. We appreciate the integrity she has shown by informing us of this decision and feel that her essay deserves publication.



“We preserve art because it inspires and educates us. We protect paintings, sculptures, novels and films because of their ability to showcase a depth of human emotion and experience in an instant. But art is not solely what can be captured in museums. Architecture, as an example of human creativity, provides us a mirror to our collective past. Every slat and truss reveals the minds that conceived it, the many hands that built it, and the lives of those who inhabited it. A museum cannot contain them. Covered bridges are not preserved or saved if they exist only as a framed photograph in a local diner. That’s not where bridges belong. That’s not how they spent their lives. They lose their meaning; become lost when they are taken away from the communities that shaped them. They occupied a volume. They have a presence that cannot be conveyed in any other form”. - Kathryn Drue Bormann, Wheeling, WV

After receiving her Bachelor’s degree in Architecture, Abby Tesfaye of College Park, MD, continued her education as a graduate student at the University of Maryland pursuing a dual degree in Historic Preservation and Community Planning. Because of Ms. Tesfaye’s interest in community planning, she sees covered bridges not as individual structures, but as an integral part of their community.

“During undergrad I was able to investigate the great architectural movements of history. I was particularly drawn to Ancient Rome. One of the architectural lessons we draw from the Romans is the importance of place making. The triumphal arches of the Roman Empire have now spread across styles and cultures, as an iconic symbol of arrival.

Now in grad school I have extended my vision to planning and historic preservation. I was inspired by my exploration of Frederick, MD, where I discovered the transition of the triumphal arches of Rome to the covered bridges of Frederick.

These structures are unifying features that span landscapes across time. These markers create a strong sense of place. They bring preservation together with conservation, encouraged exploration and heritage trails. Their preservation is paramount, as they stand to remind us of the recent trends in preservation, looking beyond individual sites to the landscapes in between.”  
- Abby Tesfaye, College Park, MD

Being potential leaders in their chosen fields, we hope that by supporting their educational goals, they will be able to help us reach out to other like-minded college students and provide input on ways we can better promote the objectives of the Society to young adults. In addition to their monetary awards, all three students were given 2-year memberships in the Society

Congratulations to all of you!

### *Just a Reminder ...*

Check your address label for your membership expiration date. If you haven’t already ...

**Renew your membership today!!! You’re all important to us!!!**

## Covered Bridge Happenings ...

### Game Preserve Bridge Reopens Ahead of Schedule

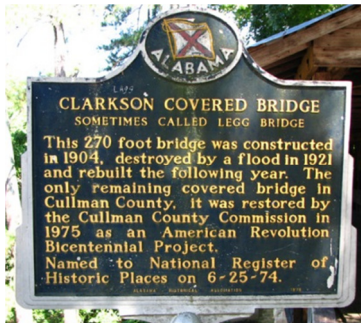
Schlicher's Covered Bridge (WG#38-39-06) has taken horse carts across the Jordan Creek in the Lehigh Valley from the time of its opening in 1882. With the advent of the motor-car era, the increased weights took their toll on the 110'-0" long, single span, Burr-Arch truss bridge until the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) determined the bridge was of questionable condition and opted to close the sagging bridge in 2010. Repairs to the bridge as determined by PennDOT utilized modern materials, including both wood and steel, but was designed to look like the old bridge. Environmental, historical and other reviews delayed the \$1.8 million reconstruction project but the North Whitehall Township bridge opened ahead of schedule around Independence Day. An estimated 10% of the original structure was retained from the original thus allowing the bridge to remain on the National Register of Historic Places. PennDOT stated that all covered bridges in Pennsylvania are listed on the National Register. The new stronger bridge is six feet longer and four feet wider than the original but the roof still prevents school buses, trucks and other large vehicles from crossing into the Lehigh Valley Zoo and Trexler Nature Preserve.

(Compiled from article, Dan Hartzell, June 30, 2014, The Morning Call (Pennsylvania))

### Clarkson Covered Bridge Restoration

In the works for more than a decade, the Clarkson (or Legg) Covered Bridge (WG#01-22-01) is progressing toward some much needed reconstruction. The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) last winter awarded the contract to Bob Smith Construction of Trussville, Alabama to begin the design and engineering phase for \$502,947, far below the original estimate of \$800,000.

Cullman County Commissioners received grants from ALDOT back in 2001 for the estimated 60-day renovation but held \$175,000 in required matching funds waiting for them to approve the project. The bridge, a 127-foot, single span, Town Lattice truss bridge was originally built in 1904 to cross the Crooked Creek. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is the only covered bridge remaining in Cullman County. It is currently the second-longest existing covered bridge in Alabama and one of the longest in the United States.



(Compiled from Tiffeny Owens Article, May 20, 2014, Cullman Times (Alabama), Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell, July 14, 2009)

### New Owners for Bartow County Covered Bridge

In June of this year, the ownership of the Euharlee Covered Bridge (WG#10-08-01) was transferred from Bartow County, Georgia to the city of Euharlee when County Commissioner Steve Taylor approved the quit claim deed. The 138-foot, single span, Town Lattice truss structure includes multi-span elevated approaches. "To be quite honest, I never realized the county owned the bridge. I just assumed it belonged to the city of Euharlee. Now it does." Taylor said. The bridge is on the National Register of Historic Places.

(Compiled from Neil B. McGahee Article, June 2014, The Daily Tribune News (Georgia), Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell, July 14, 2009)



### Linn County Covered Bridges Receive Restoration Funds

Linn County Road Department stated recently that restoration work on two county covered bridges has been completed and two others are in progress. The Larwood Covered Bridge (WG#37-22-06#2), a 105-foot, single span, Howe truss structure built in 1939 and the Hannah Covered Bridge (WG#37-22-02), a 105-foot, single span, Howe truss structure built in 1936 are both expected to be completed in August. The majority of funding is coming from the National Covered Bridge Restoration Program (NCBRP) with a 10% funding match from Linn County. With recent notification, the NCBRP will provide funding for the Gilkey Covered Bridge (WG#37-22-04), a 120-foot, single span, Howe truss structure built in 1939. Design work is expected to begin this winter with actual construction taking place in the summer of 2015 or 2016. The Hannah Covered Bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. The Mosby Creek Covered Bridge (WG#37-20-27) in Lane County, Oregon is expected to be closed until October 2014 for rehabilitation work – roof, decking, truss repair, post tensioning, new siding and paint. The Pass Creek Bridge (WG#37-10-02) in Douglas County, Oregon has been reopened to pedestrians following work including a new roof and several rafter replacements.

(Compiled from Alex Paul Article, June 21, 2014, Albany Democrat-Herald, and, Bill Cockrell correspondence June 2014 (Oregon))

### Mood’s Covered Bridge Celebrates 140 Year Anniversary

On June 7 2014, 10 years after being destroyed by arson, Bucks County, Pennsylvania officials held a



celebratory birthday party for Mood’s Covered Bridge (WG#38-09-07#2) a 120-foot, single span, Town Lattice truss structure which crosses the Perkiomen Creek. The bridge was built by Samuel S. Mood of Tincum, Pennsylvania who, as a young man, helped build the Continental Railroad before returning to the area. Mood’s Bridge was destroyed in 2004 by arson committed by three college students. The three turned themselves in, paid their percentage portion of the bridge’s reconstruction costs and performed community service advocating to school children why not to destroy covered bridges. The bridge was rededicated in 2008. Following the fire, the bridge was removed from the National Register of Historic Places.

(Compiled from Bob Keeler Article, May 21, 2014, Perkasie News Herald (Pennsylvania), Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell, May 18, 2012)

### Greenfield, Massachusetts Bridge Being Restored

Work has begun on the \$1.5 million restoration of the Eunice Williams (or Pumping Station) Covered Bridge (WG#21-06-02#2) damaged and knocked off its abutments by the remnants of Hurricane Irene in August 2011. Approximately 60% of the funding is being provided by the federal government with the balance coming from the town’s state road aid apportionment. The current 94-foot, single span, Howe truss bridge built in 1972 replaced the original 1872 structure destroyed by arson in 1969. The structure was lifted off its Green River location and placed adjacent to the river for repair and reconstruction while new concrete abutments are constructed. Officials hope the bridge will be reopened to light vehicular traffic and pedestrians sometime later this year.



(Compiled from Associated Press Article, May 2014,(Massachusetts), Jenn Caswell Photo, April 21, 2014)

## Lone Survivor of Scioto County Covered Bridges is Rehabilitated

The rehabilitation of the Otway Covered Bridge (WG#35-73-15), damaged by an F-0 strength tornado in March 2012, was completed in late August. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the 127-foot, single span, Smith truss bridge was built to cross the Scioto Brush Creek in 1874. In 1890, six layer laminated arches were added. The bridge remained in use until 1963 when it was bypassed. Completely restored by the village of Otway in 1974 it is the only survivor of the 80 covered bridges once found in Scioto County.

## Schuylkill County Bridge Begins Rehabilitation

June saw the beginning of the Rock Covered Bridge (WG#38-54-02) rehabilitation project funded by a



\$1.1 million federal National Historic Covered Bridge Grant. About 30% of the 50'-7" long, single span, Burr-Arch truss structure built in 1870 across Little Swarta Creek will need to be replaced. "The wood is actually in really good shape for how old it is" said Phil Seele, superintendent for Deblin, Inc. the firm in charge of the reconstruction. John Patrick, a design engineer from Larsen Design Group for the project, said no one will see the steel unless they are under the bridge. He added that while the exterior wood has been weathered, "the interior chestnut is like stone. You can't put a nail through it."

The reconstruction requires the dismantling of the bridge allowing steel beams to be installed and a widening of the roadway. One of only two covered bridges in the county, the Rock Covered Bridge, together with the Zimmerman Covered Bridge (WG#38-54-01) rehabilitated in 1996, were both added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. No date for anticipated completion was given.

(Compiled from Marrk Gilger, Jr. Article, June 14, 2014, The Republican Herald (Pennsylvania), Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell)

## Bridgeport Covered Bridge Restoration Funding Approved

California Governor, Jerry Brown, approved the state's final budget allocating \$1.3 million for the restoration and reopening of the Bridgeport Covered Bridge (WG#05-29-01) with work to begin immediately. A State and National Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the 233-foot bridge with its Howe and Arch truss is considered to be the longest single span wooden bridge in the world built in 1862. The grass roots campaign committee "Save Our Bridge" flooded the State Capitol with hundreds of letters, phone calls and emails demonstrating the power of a united community and proving that people can save the bridge. Closed in 2011 to all pedestrian and vehicular traffic due to structural problems, work to stabilize the bridge will begin this fall. (Ed. Note-For more information about this bridge see Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) #CA-41, as well as previous issues of the Newsletter. Repairs will begin on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.)



(Compiled from "Save Our Bridge" Article, June 20, 2014 (California), Photo by Robert Lowe)

## Horse Rescued from Covered Bridge

A horse escaped its harness of an Amish buggy and soon found itself trapped inside the Hunseckers Mill Covered Bridge (WG#38-36-06#2). Emergency personnel were summoned to the Conestoga River crossing scene, including a large animal veterinarian, who requested additional equipment including a horse sling. Rescue workers freed the horse without further incident.

(Compiled from Larry Alexander Article, April 24, 2014, Lancaster Online (Pennsylvania))

### North Fork Yachats River Covered Bridge Dispute Continues

As reported last quarter, the North Fork Yachats River Covered Bridge (WG#37-21-08) issue is anything but over. According to a recent report, the cost estimate to restore the 75 year old bridge has risen from \$655,000 in 2009 to \$820,000 in 2014. The National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Program agreed to provide nearly \$600,000 of the original figure. Unfortunately, a dispute between a property owner claiming to own the road on one end of the bridge, and Lincoln County officials who claim the road to be a county way, has stalled the project. In order for the county to be able to accept federal funding for the bridge rehabilitation project, the public must have access to the bridge from both ends. Hence the problem. In April, the county decided to “legalize” the portion of the road in question even though the property owner threatened to take the matter to court and obtain an injunction to stop the action. Sharon Salizar of the Oregon Covered Bridge Society testified that of the 26 covered bridges that once existed in Lincoln County only 4 remain today making the preservation of the bridge very important. The state lays claim to 52 covered bridges. The North Fork Yachats River Covered Bridge was built in 1938 and is 42’ feet long. It has been maintained by the county for more than 25 years when it rebuilt the abutments at taxpayer expense, as has the road in question, with the county citing examples of county maintenance during the last 30-years with sufficient documentation for the establishment of the road. The county further argued that a county road must have been there or the bridge would not have been built. The property owner disputes that information claiming the road was never a County Road and since the owner’s property extends on both sides of the roadway the county has no claim to the land. In June, County Commissioners did, in fact, “legalize” the 175-foot portion of road as a County Road as it extends north of the bridge. It is anticipated that work will begin soon and be completed by the end of this summer.



(Compiled from Dennis Anstine Article, June 20, 2014, News Times; News Lincoln County April 11, 2014 website (Oregon)  
Thanks to members Bill Cockrell and Joseph Conwill, Photo by Bill Caswell)

### New Hampshire’s Bath Bridge Restored

After nearly a two-year long, \$2.9 million renovation, the Bath Covered Bridge — the longest covered bridge located entirely within New Hampshire — re-opened on August 14<sup>th</sup>.

Built in 1832 for about \$2,900, the Bath Village Bridge is the fifth bridge to stand on the site, according to the New Hampshire Department of Transportation. Its rehabilitation was made possible through a federal historical preservation grant. Of the \$2.9 million project cost, the Town of Bath’s share is about \$130,000 while the federal government chipped in \$2.3 million and the rest came from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation.

Removal of the interior covering has exposed additional truss members that were previously hidden.

Originally planned to re-open in June, the project was extended after additional damage to structural timbers was discovered. Engineering work was done by Hoyle, Tanner and Associates with construction by Wright Construction Co.



*Interior of Bath Bridge, Bath, NH  
Scott Wagner Photo, August 16, 2014*

*Thanks to all contributors !!*

## *Update on Covered Bridge Restoration in the Willamette Valley*

From notes and photos sent in by Bill Cockrell, President, Covered Bridge Society of Oregon in early June.

### **Pass Creek Bridge (OR/37-10-02)**

Douglas County Bridge over Pass Creek in the town of Drain. Reports that repair work has been done and the bridge is open to pedestrian traffic.

### **Mosby Creek Bridge (OR/37-20-27)**

Lane County’s oldest covered bridge is expected to be closed until October 2014. Complete rehabilitation work is being done: roof, decking, truss repair, post tensioning, new siding and paint.



### **Larwood Bridge (OR/37-22-06)**

Linn County bridge over Crabtree Creek. Much like the work at Hannah Bridge, this will be a complete rehabilitation. The bridge will be closed until September 2014.



**Hannah Bridge (OR/37-22-02)**, Linn County bridge over Thomas Creek. Complete rehabilitation work is being done: new roof, decking, truss repair, new siding and paint. The work should be completed by September 2014.



## *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.

## A Visit to Switzerland



Kapellbrücke with Linda Palmer.



Spreuerbrücke



Members Mike and Linda Palmer of Massachusetts spent a few days in Lucerne Switzerland during a trip to Europe this past April.

They crossed the Reuss River numerous times using the Kapellbrücke (Chapel Bridge, CH-11-01) and Spreuerbrücke (Spreuer Bridge, CH-11-02).

Mike shared some photos from that trip.

## West Virginia in the Spring

Pat Tabor visited some WestVirginia bridges in May and shared many photos with us. She indicated that in general the bridges looked good except for some graffiti.



Staats Mill Bridge, 48-18-04  
Pat Tabor Photo, May 21, 2014



Fletcher Bridge, 48-17-03  
Pat Tabor Photo, May 19, 2014



Walkersville Bridge, 48-21-03  
Pat Tabor Photo, May 20, 2014



Sarvis Ford Bridge, 48-18-01#2  
Pat Tabor Photo, May 21, 2014

**Introduce a Friend to Covered Bridges**

**Give a Gift Membership This Holiday Season**



Help support preservation of our nation’s historic covered bridges while sharing your interests with a friend or relative.

Gift subscriptions will be mailed in mid-December with a card noting your generosity.



Use the form included with this newsletter or visit the Society website to introduce someone to covered bridge preservation.

**Books Available from Bill Caswell**

Order from Bill Caswell, 535 Second NH Turnpike, Hillsboro, NH 03244, E-mail: bill@lostbridges.org

**2009 World Guide to Covered Bridges**, .....\$20.60, includes priority mail postage.

**Connecticut & Rhode Island Covered Bridges** by Bill Caswell.; Arcadia Press, Images of America Series, 2011, 6.5x9.25 soft cover, 128 pgs., .....\$26.00, includes priority mail postage.

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).

**Books Available from the Society Store**

Order from Mrs. June Roy, 73 Ash St. #2, Manchester, NH 03104-4906, E-mail: dickroycb1@comcast.net

**Covered Bridges of Vermont** by Ed Barna, 6x9 soft cover, 216 pgs. Postpaid, \$17.00

**Vermont Covered Bridges** by Joseph D. Conwill.; Arcadia Press, Images of America Series, 2004, 6.5x9.25 soft cover, 128 pgs. ....\$19.99 each plus \$3.00 shipping and handling.

**Books by Andrew Howard**

All books, 6”x9” paperback

- C/B’s of Madison County IA, A Guide**, 46 pgs..... \$6.50 plus \$2.00 postage and handling
- C/B’s of Connecticut, A Guide**, 47 pgs ..... \$5.50 plus \$2.00 postage and handling
- C/B’s of Virginia, A Guide**, 46 pgs ..... \$6.95 plus \$2.00 postage and handling
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