



# The Newsletter

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

Fall 2016

## *The New-England Boy's Songbook about Thanksgiving Day!*

By: Lydia Maria Child

Over the river, and through the wood,  
To Grandfather's house we go;  
The horse knows the way  
To carry the sleigh  
Through the white and drifted snow.

Over the river, and through the wood,  
To Grandfather's house away!  
We would not stop  
For doll or top,  
For it is Thanksgiving Day.

Over the river, and through the wood,  
Oh, how the wind does blow,  
It stings the toes,  
And bites the nose,  
As over the ground we go.

Over the river, and through the wood,  
With a clear blue winter sky,  
The dogs do bark,  
And children hark,  
As we go jingling by.

Over the river, and through the wood,  
To have a first-rate play -  
Hear the bells ring  
Ting a ling ding,  
Hurra for Thanksgiving Day!

Over the river, and through the wood -  
No matter for winds that blow;  
Or if we get  
The sleigh upset  
Into a bank of snow.

Over the river, and through the wood,  
To see little John and Ann;  
We will kiss them all,  
And play snowball,  
And stay as long as we can.

Over the river, and through the wood,  
Trot fast my dapple gray!  
Spring over the ground,  
Like a hunting-hound,  
For it is Thanksgiving Day!

Over the river, and through the wood,  
And straight through the barnyard gate;  
We seem to go  
Extremely slow,  
It is so hard to wait.

Over the river, and through the wood -  
Old Jowler hears our bells;  
He shakes his pow, [sic]  
With a loud bow-wow,  
And thus the news he tells.

Over the river, and through the wood -  
When Grandmother sees us come,  
She will say, Oh dear,  
The children are here,  
Bring a pie for every one.

Over the river, and through the wood -  
Now Grandmother's cap I spy!  
Hurra for the fun!  
Is the pudding done?  
Hurra for the pumpkin pie!

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## *Editor's Comments ...*

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

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How many times have we all seen or heard the words of the Thanksgiving Day poem found on the cover of this quarter's Newsletter? We all probably know it better as "Over the River and Through the Wood". It was written in 1844 by Lydia Maria Child for a children's book of poems, "*Flowers for Children*", with the setting somewhere in New England. While the many verses of this poem never say anything about a "covered" bridge I think most of us probably can envision the scene of a horse-drawn sleigh gliding along the snow on a wooded country road as it leaves the cover of a wooden bridge behind, its occupants bundled together. Now I grant you that those living in regions that normally do not see snow may find this a bit harder to imagine, but nevertheless, the images such envisioned scenes can bring many folks a feeling of family closeness and warmth, fun and laughter, festive gatherings with friends, and the many other good things we tend to share as the Holiday Season approaches.

With the fall's endless palette of color again approaching with unbelievable speed, together with the always unexpected possibility of an early snow (with the heat and drought this year, it might actually be welcomed), try to take some time and visit one or more of our wondrous covered bridges and enjoy the spectacle of nature's beauty surrounding these marvelous structures of our past – some as old as the Newsletter's cover poem! Most of us haven't forgotten those words we often sing so let us not forget the importance of our covered bridges - one of which may very well have inspired the words to that poem.

To those of you who are journeying on the Kentucky/Ohio Covered Bridge Safari, I believe a great time will be had by all. For those of you who did not attend, I hope you have time to check out the many other self-guided tours available near you for a weekend trip or just a one-day adventure. With an overnite bag or just a picnic lunch, and your camera (or iPhone), investigate and enjoy a bit of covered bridge history near you! (Send along your stories and photos, too!)

Though perhaps a bit early, I would like to wish everyone - members, families and friends - the best of the season no matter if, or how, you celebrate, and trust that the 2017 will be kind to us all.

*Happy Bridging!!*

## *Winter 2016/2017 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, 2016**. **Please note:** it is requested that your information be typed or printed on plain white paper, including proper credit information (newspaper, magazine, or web site, etc.), and sent via U. S. Mail to: Rob Mitchell, NSPCB Newsletter Editor, P. O. Box 375, Marshfield, MA 02050. Thanks! Please, remember that we always appreciate any news or comments sent in even if we can't ultimately use it.

## *President's Message ...*

This has been a very busy summer for Jenn & I. We have attended a few events to make others aware of the Society and its goals plus a third trip to Kentucky to work out details of the fall tour. It was great to see many of our members at these events, some we recognize and others who we met for the first time. One of those events was the celebration at the Hyde Hall Covered Bridge in upstate New York. To help preserve this bridge, the oldest documented covered bridge in the country, NSPCB donated fire retardant which was applied to the structure during repairs last fall. Details of this celebration and the other activities that the Society has participated in are included in the following pages.

By the time you read this we will only be days away from our tour of covered bridges in north-central Kentucky and nearby Ohio. We have been planning and preparing for this event for a year and it will be exciting to see it all come together. I am very grateful to all the people who have helped with the process, most notably Ginny Reeves and Lori Ulrich. Ginny has been indispensable as the person arranging for our lodging, meals, parking and coordination with people in the area. Lori, as our liaison to the Buffalo Trace Wooden Covered Bridge Authority, has been helping us by coordinating speakers for Saturday's "Covered Bridge Trail" event and working with the Tourism Cabinet to promote the event and NSPCB.

The promotional items we ordered in June are selling well. Thank you all who have purchased them and are helping spread the word about the Society by wearing them. We took a chance by investing \$5,000 in promoting the Society and in the two months since then we have earned over \$2,400 from sales. At the August meeting, members authorized us to reinvest some of that income to restock supplies for the fall events. Once the initial investment is repaid, profits from sales will go towards Society projects such as donations of fire retardant.

We have received some photos of members wearing their NSPCB shirts and hats on their covered bridge visits and other travels this summer. While wearing my t-shirt at the Vermont History Expo in June, a couple stopped Jenn & I to ask for information about the Society. Fortunately, I had some membership brochures with me at the time. We also had another member come up to us to introduce himself. Thank you all for helping spread the word about our Society and its mission.

On July 30<sup>th</sup>, a number of members and guests joined us in the summer heat to participate in a research project which will help engineers evaluate the strength of covered bridges and evaluate potential deck configurations when designing repairs to our historic bridges. Check out the article on the Campton work day.

It looks like the Society may have its first calendar. After getting off to a slow start, Sue Blanchard stepped forward to make this suggestion a reality. For our first attempt at this, we solicited photographs from each of the state covered bridge societies. We are all working towards the same goal and this calendar intends to convey that message. It includes membership contact information for each of the state societies and one of the photos that each group contributed.

Two of our members have recently published books on covered bridges. See the inserts for more details.

Make a note on your calendar to attend the Society's annual meeting on **Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>** at O'Connor's Restaurant, 1160 W. Boylston St., Worcester, Massachusetts. Note the Saturday date. More details and a reservation form are included with this Newsletter. Our speaker will be David Simmons, president of the Ohio Historic Bridge Association.

Remember, it is up to every one of us to help preserve our historic covered bridges. If you see something that isn't right, say something. Whether it is a bridge in need of repair or an oversized vehicle using the bridge, let the proper authorities know about it. Local / County / State government officials need to know that we care about these structures and want them to be around for future generations to enjoy and learn from.

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



*Bob Hamilton Promoting NSPCB at  
Dogwood Canyon Nature Park in  
Missouri.*

*Photo by Megan Gipson*

*Bill Caswell*

## *Upcoming NSPCB Meetings & Events ...*

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

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

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

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

### *September*

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

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

**September 17 & 18, 2016**: Washington & Greene Counties (Pennsylvania) Covered Bridge Festival at various locations throughout the two counties. Visit the Washington County website for full details - <http://www.visitwashingtoncountypa.com/>.

### *October*

**Sunday, October 2, 2016**: – 2:00 pm. Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania Monthly Meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Manheim, PA. Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser - Dinner starts at 3 p.m. after the meeting. For details, visit <http://www.tbcbpspa.com/schedule.htm> or contact Gloria Smedley at 410-933-8684.

**October 6-9, 2016**: Columbia-Montour Counties Covered Bridge Festival, Knoebles Park, Elysburg, PA.

**October 8 & 9, 2016**: Ashtabula County (Ohio) Covered Bridge Festival, Jefferson, Ohio.

**October 8 & 9, 2016**: Madison County Covered Bridge Festival, Winterset, Iowa.

**October 14-23, 2016**: Parke County (Indiana) Covered Bridge Festival.

**Saturday, October 22, 2016**: Blount County Covered Bridge Festival, Oneonta, Alabama.

### *November*

**Sunday, November 6, 2016**: – 2:00 pm. Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania Monthly Meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Manheim, PA. Program: "Nova Scotia & New Brunswick" by Pat Cook

**Sunday, November 13, 2016**: New York State Covered Bridge Society Harvest Dinner at the Hamden Presbyterian Church Community Hall. Doors open at 11 AM, Dinner served at 12 Noon, and the meeting at 1:30 PM reservations must be in by November 4, 2016. Visit <http://www.nycoveredbridges.org/meeting-schedule/> for more details or contact Karen Marshfield at 607-746-6765.

### *December*

**Saturday, December 10, 2016**: Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society Christmas Dinner, Dutch-Way Farm Market Restaurant, Gap, Lancaster County, PA, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## *Membership*

### *Welcome New Life Member ...*

Bob Hamilton, Bentonville, Arkansas

### *Welcome New Members ...*

Brenda Plummer, Flemingsburg, KY

Ryan Crane, Hermon, ME

Joel David, Orefield, PA

Robin Gray, Warner, NH

Bill Eichelberger, Ft. Thomas, KY

Robert Miller, Whitehall, PA

Jane K.R. Porter-Gresham, Fort Wayne, IN

Steve Brown, Farmington, NH

John & Arlene Bower, Cherry Valley, NY

Mary Blanchard, Mattapoisett, MA

Clay & Jane Converse, Dryden, NY

Connie Colaianni, Hudson, MA

### *Final Crossings ...*

#### **Doris N. Schermerhorn**



Former member Doris Schermerhorn, 89, of Atlanta, Georgia passed away on June 26, 2016. She was the wife of William L Schermerhorn. She is survived by a niece, Rebecca Cossum of Lithia, FL and nephew, Christopher Allers of Stone Mountain, GA. Doris was born in Manchester, NH in 1926 and received her B.S. degree in Education from Boston University in 1947. She also attended Keene Teachers College. In addition to being a covered bridge enthusiast, Doris was a former librarian and associate editor of children's books at Houghton Mifflin. She loved domestic and international travel, music, reading and sang with various choruses and choirs in the greater Boston area.

#### **Richard "Dick" Swanson**



Richard "Dick" Swanson, age 71, of Edgewood, Washington and formerly of Olympia, passed away on July 22, 2016. A 1963 graduate of Lincoln High School, Dick always knew he wanted to be an architect. After graduation Dick spent two years at the University of Washington before beginning his career as a draftsman at Seifert, Forbes and Berry in Tacoma. Over his career he designed all types of buildings, residences, schools, commercial buildings, and several nursing / retirement homes, but his greatest pleasure was designing churches. He loved to meet with pastors and building committee members to help them come up with a plan for their building that was efficient and beautiful, and met the needs of the people who would use the building, using the Lord's money wisely. Dick married Janis Whitford in 1967, and their marriage of 49 years resulted in three children.

Dear Jennifer and the crew that publishes the NSPCB quarterly:

Dick and I have enjoyed our covered bridge hobby for 15 years or so and we loved getting the publications you print. It was very informative.

I will not be renewing our subscription however, because Dick has passed away and I won't be going on covered bridge trips without him. He was an architect who loved learning about how the bridges were constructed. He was known to climb under them and study their walls, ceilings, roofs, and floors. He loved to photograph them as well. The hobby really combined his love of construction, his love of travel off the beaten path, and his love of photography. I loved the stories behind the bridges, the history and significance of each one.

We had plans to see many more covered bridges, but God had other ideas. Dick's lung infection and other ailments caught up with him.

Thank you for your publication and for the work you do to preserve our covered bridges.

Sincerely, Janis Swanson



## Recent Meetings

### June Meeting at Contoocook Railroad Depot



In Bill's absence, the meeting was led by vice president Karl Olson. Members Dottie Brown and Brian Erickson provided us the opportunity to hold the meeting inside the Contoocook Railroad Depot in Contoocook, NH

Tim Andrews updated the group on the status of the Deck Testing project and invited volunteers to help during the actual testing on July 30.

Members who visited David Wright's house, which was left to the Society in his will, reported on the condition of the property. Jim Garvin received a round of applause for his excellent

documentation of the estate.

Thank you letters received from Scholarship recipients Mary Fesak and Jacqueline Matheny were read. Sue Blanchard updated us on the status of the 2017 calendar. The cover photo was chosen by popular vote of the attending members. Karl Olson and Tina Stockbridge modeled the new Society shirts and hats available. Other members had their items as well.

Photos by Bob Watts



### July Meeting at the Brigham Hill Community Farm



July's meeting was held at the Brigham Hill Community Farm in North Grafton, Massachusetts. This was our first time at this venue and it is a wonderful location. We will consider having another meeting here in the future. Thank you to long-time life members Val & Martha Stegemoen for making the arrangements. 16 members and guests were in attendance.

Bill Caswell showed photos of the progress on the Society's deck testing project in Campton, NH, along with photos from recent events that the Society has participated in.

Local author Brad Blodgett attended the meeting to share information about his upcoming book on the railroads of New Hampshire's Monadnock Region.

Photos by Bob Watts.



### August Picnic & Meeting



The annual picnic in Concord, NH, was attended by 23 members and guests. Jenn Caswell worked the grill and everyone else brought food to share. After a wonderful meal and time of fellowship, local artist and author Conrad Young shared information about his upcoming book with prints of his watercolor paintings of New Hampshire covered bridges. At the end of the meeting, Conrad also presented the Society with a framed print of his painting of the two covered bridges at Contoocook, NH. That item is now hanging on the wall of the Society's Archives room. Photo by Scott Wagner.

## *NSPCB on the Road*

### *Hyde Hall Covered Bridge Celebration*

On July 17, recent work on and around the Hyde Hall bridge (WG #32-39-01), the nation's oldest covered bridge, was celebrated. The single-span 53 foot long bridge, located within Glimmerglass State Park near Cooperstown, New York, was constructed in 1825. The event celebrated repairs to the structure, application of NoChar fire retardant, improvements to the area around the bridge including four flower gardens and a new Interpretive Sign. The NoChar was donated by NSPCB as part of our arson reduction incentive. Speakers included NSPCB president Bill Caswell, Donna Freeland, president of the New York State Covered Bridge Society and Ruth L. Pierpont, New York's Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation. After the remarks, the new interpretive sign was unveiled by park manager Rick Sheckells. The event was organized by Bob & Trish Kane.



Membership Chair Jenn Caswell and Treasurer Gloria Smedley greeted visitors at the Society booth. They were able to share information about the NSPCB with many visitors and welcomed two new members who joined at the event. Photos by Jenn Caswell and Jim Smedley.



### *Bogert's Bridge Celebration*

On June 12, 2016, the Society joined the Friends of the Allentown Parks in celebrating the 175th anniversary of Bogert's Bridge (WG #38-39-01) in Allentown, PA. NSPCB and the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania both had booths at the event. In addition to helping raise money for repairs to this historic bridge, we also had the opportunity to meet a few members who stopped at the booth to introduce themselves.





## *David W. Wright Scholarship*

The 2016 scholarship was made possible by a generous donation from the William Bradley Willard Foundation in remembrance of our late president, David W. Wright. The scholarship awards were announced in the Summer issue. As part of the application, the students were asked to write a 150-word essay on "The Importance of Preserving our Historic Covered Bridges."

By Mary Fesak, Master's Degree program in Historic Preservation at Clemson University.

In a time in which historic covered bridges are threatened by highway projects, increasing numbers of catastrophic weather events, neglect, and improper repairs, the preservation of historic covered bridges is important because their engineering and architectural ingenuity serve as physical manifestations of past Americans' ability to overcome technological problems posed by the need to create durable, long-spans to bridge bodies of water. Furthermore, covered bridges need to be preserved because they have become an integral part of American culture and imagination, inspiring countless artists, authors and poets in awe of their feats of engineering, aesthetics, and connections to the past. Because of their use of historic materials, craftsmanship, and structural systems are vital to their integrity, historic covered bridges must be repaired using traditional methods. I intend to work towards the preservation of these bridges through a career involving preservation engineering and the analysis of historic building materials, techniques, and treatments.

By Jacqueline Matheny, Master's Degree program in Historic Preservation at Eastern Michigan University

The last bit of evidence in America's frontier is covered bridges. The ingenuity and hand crafted construction, makes it important to preserve historic covered bridges. The abundance of wood made covered bridge building a romantic picturesque view that complemented the culture at the time. The style of the bridge gives a connection to our past, the value of creation and hard work. Covered bridges were created usually by local carpenters and the bridges made the towns unique.

The ingenuity and hand crafted construction of covered bridges is unique. The covered bridges where built to last, the solid timber framing all around made the structure rigid and strong. The bridges are made of heavy timber that is no longer the preferred method of construction and makes them a unique construction in their own right. There are several reasons why wooden bridges are covered, mainly because of the weather. The roof of the bridge kept elements out, this minimized the moisture and rot of the wood. The covered bridge allowed a safe place for travelers during a storm. Their beauty and picturesque views gives a glance into the past.

## *NSPCB Annual Meeting*

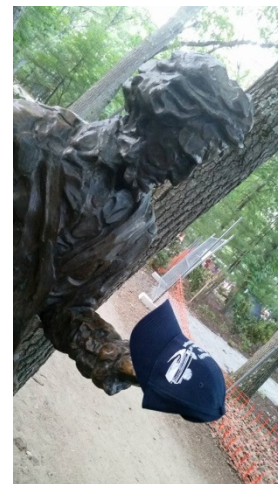
The Society's Annual Meeting with election of officers will be on Saturday October 22<sup>nd</sup> in Worcester, Massachusetts. All Society members are invited to attend. We hope that many of you will be able to join us and urge you to reply by the October 10th deadline so we can make sure the room is an appropriate size for the audience. A reservation form is included with this newsletter.

O'Connor's Restaurant is located at 1160 West Boylston St. in Worcester. Dinner will be served at 12:00 noon. A presentation by David Simmons, president of the Ohio Historic Bridge Association, is scheduled to follow the meal and then the business meeting with election of officers after the presentation.

## *Update to the World Guide to Covered Bridges*

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

Page 80, update coordinates of Blackburn or Brannon or Wesner Bridge in Pickaway County, Ohio to **N39° 45.747' W082° 50.873'**.



*Henry David Thoreau admiring the NSPCB baseball cap. Photo by Sue Blanchard*



## Archives Update

With all the other activities of the summer season, there hasn't been much time to work in the archives room. With winter fast approaching, we will be back to sorting through boxes of donations and cataloging items in the collection. Joseph Conwill has scanned many of the slides and negatives in the collection and is now working on scanning the printed photos. At this time, he is focusing his efforts in areas where photographic coverage is generally limited, the southern and western states. You are likely to see some of those photos appearing in future editions of *Covered Bridge Topics*.

Two of our members have recently published books and have offered to donate copies to the Society archives. Sharon Shannon Paximadis has donated a copy of her book entitled "*Georgia Under Cover - A Tribute to Georgia's Remaining Historic Covered Bridges*". Harold Rau has also offered a copy of his new book, "*A Guide to the Covered Bridges of Parke County, Indiana*."

At the August picnic, local artist and author Conrad Young donated a framed print of his watercolor painting of the two covered bridges at Contoocook, NH. The railroad bridge can be visited today while the highway bridge was replaced in 1935. This is a wonderful addition to the wall of the archives room.

Devin Coleman, Vermont's State Architectural Historian, donated a box of notes and photographs from Earl Cross, Underhill Vermont. His office also has other covered bridge photos and information from the 1950's and 1960's on bridges outside Vermont which will be added to our collection.



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## Did you know? ...

Scenes from the movie "The Hunger Games" in 2013 were filmed at various locations in North Carolina including the High Falls Trail at DuPont State Recreational Forest. Although not a "true" covered bridge (more of a Romantic Structure) it does make for quite a beautiful setting!

## 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.



Scott LaCroix & Scott Wagner with their NSPCB caps. Photo by Sue Blanchard

## *NSPCB Deck Testing Project*

Thank you to all the members and guests who joined us in Campton, New Hampshire on a hot day in July to assist with the testing on this bridge. We couldn't have done it without you!

The project is the result of a grant that the Society received from the National Park Service for testing covered bridge floor systems as part of the National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Program. The original intent was to use the salvaged Town lattice trusses from the historic Bartonsville Covered Bridge, which was swept away in tropical storm Irene in August 2011. However, those timbers were found to be too badly damaged to be used for this purpose so new wood was purchased for the project. Barns & Bridges of New England constructed the 40' Town lattice bridge in Campton, New Hampshire, to use for the testing. Jim Barker of VS Engineering provided engineering services and will prepare an analysis of the test results. Christopher Marston of the National Park Service was on hand for the testing which took place on July 30<sup>th</sup>.



The project's research objective is to establish a correspondence between measured stresses in the components of actual bridge decks and supporting beams under actual truck loads and the several ways of calculating the same values. This is viewed as important information to enable improved design procedures. The working hypothesis is that the bridge deck, when fastened to the supporting beams, strengthens those beams in ways that current design methods do not adequately address. It is further hypothesized that the amount of strengthening will vary with the quality and number of the fasteners (spikes or

screws). As a result, if the composite structural behavior of timber decks and floor beams is better understood, the actual strength of the floor system for load rating purposes will probably increase. Better understanding of behavior could lighten the floor beams and deck, which increases the capacity of the main trusses to carry vehicles. The results will probably help bridge owners replace decks with locally produced, historically correct decks. These should also be more economical than more drastic modifications.

Strain gages were installed on deck boards, floor beams and truss members. They recorded the bending moments of the bridge components. Additional devices were placed under the lower chords and the center floor joist to measure deflections as the vehicle crossed. Data was transmitted to a computer where the impact of the vehicle crossing the bridge could be reviewed in real time.



Before the testing, the test vehicle was loaded with timbers to bring it up to the test weight. The truck was weighed and test runs were made with a lighter vehicle to confirm that all gages and sensors were working properly.





### *NSPCB Deck Testing Project (continued)*

Members and friends of the NSPCB participated by assisting in the addition and removal of various deck configurations for the testing. Multiple passes at different speeds were recorded with each configuration.

For the first pass, the deck planks were tightly spaced without fasteners. A few screws were used on the planks nearest the trusses to keep the inner, loose planks, in place. After that, the planks were fastened with one screw on each deck plank at every joist crossing. Thirdly, a second screw was added at each joist crossing.



The more than 700 screws were removed and replaced with a single spike (60d nail, 6" long) at each joist crossing. Additional runs were made after a second set of spikes were added to the planks.

For the final arrangement, a second layer of planking was nailed onto the first.

At the end of the day, the remaining attendees unloaded the timbers from the test vehicle. Once all the work was done and the site cleaned up, we enjoyed some time to relax and reflect on the day's events before going our separate ways.

Once all the data is analyzed, a report will be prepared. Details of the results will appear in a future Newsletter.

Thank you to all who participated: Tim, Michelle & Evan Andrews; Christopher & Julia Marston; Jim Barker; Will Truax; Scott, Ron & Sue Wagner; Steve Brown; Matt Reckard; Jay Hayden; Karl Olson; Kyle Guay; and Bill Caswell. Photos by Scott Wagner, VS Engineering and Bill Caswell.



*Left to right: Karl Olson, Scott Wagner, Sue Wagner, Michelle Andrews, Steve Brown (in back), Christopher Marston, Evan Andrews, Julia Marston, Matt Reckard (kneeling), Jim Barker, Bill Caswell (in back), Ron Wagner, Tim Andrews, Kyle Guay, Will Truax (kneeling), Jay Hayden. Photo courtesy VS Engineering*

## Covered Bridge Happenings ...

### Indiana :

#### *Fate of Rob Roy Bridge Still in Limbo...*

Fountain County residents continue to campaign for repairs to the 1860, the Rob Roy bridge (WG #14-23-03) near Attica, Indiana. It has been closed to vehicles since 2014 because of safety issues. After residents started fund-raising, an anonymous donor came forward to cover the \$37,000 needed for repairs. On July 18, that information was shared with the county commissioners who must ultimately approve the work. Don Hesler, president of the commissioners, noted, "... is it worth taking the risk of something like the bridge being damaged because of traffic or because somebody runs too heavy of load over it? Is the bridge a treasure for our county that we just want to save and not use?" The commissioners plan to talk to experts and engineers about repairs. A public hearing would then take place before a decision is made. After the commissioner's meeting, two more donors pledged \$10,000 each to be used for maintenance of the bridge. The county commissioners will meet with an engineering firm and covered bridge expert Dan Collum to discuss options for the bridge.

(Reported by WLFI-TV July 19, 2016; Lafayette Journal & Courier July 27, 2016)

#### *Bureau of Motor Vehicles Considering a Covered Bridge License Plate ...*

In early August, the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles unveiled three potential designs for the state's new license plate. One of those designs features a covered bridge at the bottom. The BMV website provides visitors with the opportunity to vote for their preference. The website does not give any indication of how long the voting will last or when the winning design will be announced.



There could be some improvements made to the design. Jim Crouse contacted Senator David Long, President Pro Tempore of the Indiana Senate who in turn contacted the BMV. A member of his staff reported that the Bureau is interested in advice for improving the design if that one is chosen. If you would like to cast a vote or see the other two options, go to <https://secure.in.gov/apps/bmv/pick-a-plate/#/vote>

(Thank you Jim Crouse for sending this information)

#### *Still No Progress at Shieldstown...*

In the Winter 2015-2016 Newsletter, we reported that work at the Shieldstown Covered Bridge (WG #14-36-02) had been stalled. Our latest report indicates that the situation has not changed. Members Greg & Teresa McDuffee visited the site and took these photos on August 16, 2016.





## *Kentucky:*

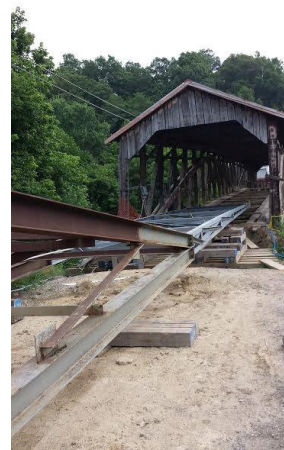
### *Beech Fork Restoration Underway ...*

Arnold Grāton and his crew have begun work on the restoration of the Beech Fork Bridge (WG #17-115-01) in Washington County, KY. The initial phase to remove the siding and floor to allow access to the structural members has been completed. As of this writing, a steel truss which will support the structure during repairs (right photo) is being inserted into the bridge. At 258 feet, this 1865 Burr arch structure is Kentucky’s longest covered bridge.

Work is expected to be completed in late 2017.



*(Bill & Jenn Caswell Photo)*



*Grāton Company Photo*

## *Maryland:*

### *Roddy Road Bridge Damaged By Truck, Again ...*

In the previous Newsletter, we reported that the Roddy Road covered bridge (WG #20-10-02) near Thurmont, Maryland was damaged by a box truck on May 18. The damage was promptly repaired. Shortly after it re-opened, the bridge was again damaged by an oversized vehicle on June 16<sup>th</sup>. This time the damage was much more significant and cannot be easily repaired. Frederick County officials will need to advertise for bids for the repairs.

*(Frederick News-Post, June 20, 2016)*

## *Michigan:*

### *Langley Warning Sign Destroyed...*



The decorative overhead low-clearance sign at the Langley covered bridge (WG #22-75-01) was destroyed beyond repair after being struck by two oversized vehicles. The sign was nine feet above the roadway with a PVC pipe hanging from it at the seven foot clearance mark. On July 17, an 11-foot high U-Haul box truck did the initial damage, pushing the center of the sign forward. Ten days later, a delivery truck struck it again shattering the PVC pipe and damaging the overhead sign beyond repair. The drivers of the vehicles will be billed for the costs of the new sign plus costs for the sheriff’s department to investigate the incidents and road crews to clean up the scene and install the new structure.

*(WLKM Radio, July 26, 2016 Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell)*

## *Whites Bridge Project Bid Delayed ...*

The following note was posted on the Rebuild Whites Bridge Facebook page on August 3:

We have been looking forward to the MDOT bid opening on Friday for our Covered Bridge project. Unfortunately, myself, the Ionia County Highway Engineer and the design engineers made the decision to withdraw the project yesterday and request it be put in the October 7, 2016 letting.

MDOT received some questions on the timber sizing last week we could not answer in a timely manner to allow for the best competitive pricing. Since supplying the timber and it's cost is such a big part of the project , we opted to postpone the bidding to get the information the contractors need to give us the best pricing possible.

Stay tuned!

Tom Byle, President, Whites Bridges Historical Society

(Rebuild Whites Bridge Facebook Page, August 3, 2016, Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell)



## *New Hampshire:*



### *Corbin Bridge Damaged by Hit and Run Driver...*

Police are seeking the public's help in finding the motorist that struck the eastern portal of the Corbin Covered Bridge (WG #29-10-05#2) causing significant damage on Saturday, August 20. Police said that the bridge remains structurally sound. The vehicle that hit the bridge fled the scene. Responding officers found extensive damage and vehicle car parts on the ground.

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

### *Historic Covered Bridge Damaged by Driver ...*

As reported in last quarter's Newsletter, the Dingleton Covered Bridge (WG #29-10-02) was damaged in February by a vehicle too tall to fit through the bridge. That damage was repaired and the bridge was re-opened. The single span, 78-foot, Multiple Kingpost Truss bridge was built in 1882 spanning the Mill Brook. Police say that it was struck again on June 13. The driver of that vehicle was not known at the time.

(Eagle Time, June 14, 2016)

## *Ohio:*

### *McClellan Bridge Rebuilt...*

The McClellan Bridge (WG #35-15-02) in Columbiana County, which went unmaintained for many, many years, finally received funding for long overdue repairs. Unfortunately, it was too late to save the old structure and only a small portion of the historic timbers could be used for the project. The contractor lifted the bridge off the abutments and swung it over to the bank where it was completely disassembled. The entire structure was then taken to the subcontractor's yard where all the pieces were inspected to see what could be reused. There were only 4 of the original north truss members that could be reused and none of the south truss members. None of the roofing or boards would be able to be reused. Of the remaining old truss members, some were cut down to be used as knee braces. As of this writing (August 30), the subcontractor has placed the frame of the bridge onto the abutments. By the time you read this, work will be underway on the roof and siding.

(Thanks to Mary Browne, PE, of the Columbiana County Engineer's Office)



## *Ohio (continued):*

### *Hocking County Engineer Wants a Covered Bridge...*

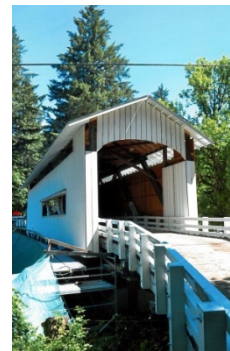
Hocking County Engineer William Shaw would like to see a covered bridge constructed within the county. At the August 16 County Commissioners Meeting, he presented several bids from several places for constructing a covered bridge on Blackjack Road, just outside of Logan. It is likely that the bids were too high for the County unless Federal funding can be acquired. Mr. Shaw noted that there were 46 covered bridges in Hocking County at one time. Now, there are none.

(Logan Daily News, August 17, 2016)

## *Oregon:*

### *Wildcat Bridge Work ...*

Lane County's Wild Cat Bridge (WG #37-20-04) is a 75' long Howe truss bridge spanning Wildcat Creek. The bridge has recently received a new metal roof, new rafters and bracing, new siding and portal boards, new guard rail and a post-tensioning system for additional support. Some rotted truss members also needed to be replaced. This is one of three Lane County bridges repaired under a Department of Transportation contract totaling \$1.68 million. Repairs to the Belknap and Office covered bridges were also included in this contract. The contract for the three bridges was awarded to Oregon Woods, Inc. on May 5, 2015.



(Thanks to Bill Cockrell, President, Covered Bridge Society of Oregon)

### *Gallon House Bridge Turns 100...*



On May 31, 1916, the Gallon House Bridge (WG #37-24-01) in Silverton, Oregon opened to traffic. The Marion County bridge was originally constructed for \$1,300 and is reported to be Oregon's oldest covered bridge still in active service. On May 31, 2016, residents celebrated the bridge's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. County officials noted that Gallon House Bridge was so-named because of its proximity to a local "gallon house" that reportedly sold bootleg spirits in the early decades of the 20th century. Mt. Angel was wet, Silverton dry. So the gallon house was on the north (Mt. Angel) side of the bridge.

The event included stories about the bridge from local historians and area residents, a ribbon-cutting ceremony, unveiling of an informational kiosk and some vintage vehicles from members of the Willamette Valley Model-T Club driving over the bridge. One of them, a 1906 Maxwell, was older than the bridge.

(Statesman Journal, June 3, 2016)

## *Oregon (continued):*

### *Upcoming Linn County Work...*

The Gilkey Covered Bridge (WG #37-22-04) reconstruction project mentioned in a previous Newsletter is still in the design phase. The project may be ready for bid as early as October but may be later. Construction is expected to occur during the summer of 2017.

Linn County is also in the process of designing repairs for the Shimanek Covered Bridge (WG #37-22-03#2). This structure was found to have significant, previously unknown, damage at key locations. Temporary steel bracing has been installed to keep the bridge open. The county has applied for federal funding. If they are awarded a grant for the repair work, they anticipate a 2018 construction project.

An April newspaper article mentioned a design flaw inherent to many Oregon covered bridges. This is due to the dap, or notch, cut into the upper and lower chords where the diagonal truss members are connected. It seems that many covered bridges were designed with this dap and the section loss from the dap was not subtracted from the loading capacity of the affected chord members. Linn County's new design will incorporate a larger beam section to compensate for this.



(Thanks to Darrin L. Lane, P.E., Roadmaster / Director, Linn County Road Department for this information)

## *Pennsylvania:*

### *Dellville Bridge to be Rebuilt...*

The Dellville Bridge (WG #38-50-16) was severely damaged by arson in November 2014. On June 27th, a contract was awarded to Lycoming Supply, the low bidder at \$862,247. The contract comes with several conditions. Lycoming Supply's work is not to exceed the contract amount, and several ancillary project items, including fire retardant, lighting and security cameras, can't use county money if the company installs them. Brenda Benner, commissioner's chairman, said the items that were not part of the original bridge will have to be paid for by donations. The cost for new lighting, security and fire prevention is nearly \$30,000. The contractor has received the Notice to Proceed and construction is likely to be underway by the time you read this.



(Photo by Jim & Gloria Smedley)

### *McConnells Mill Bridge receives New Coat of Paint...*



The McConnells Mill covered bridge (WG #38-37-01), built in 1874, will close for 60 days starting Monday, August 29, while the entire structure is repainted. Cost for the project is \$390,000 and Spartan Contracting of Hubbard, Ohio, will perform the work. Funding for the work will come from the liquid fuels allotment, which is the county's share of state gasoline taxes that can be used for road and bridge maintenance. The painting project was initiated last year by the county commissioners, who had been concerned about the span's appearance. In 2015, the commissioners approved work to clean the bridge covering and deck using plant husks so the structure would not be damaged.

(Ellwood City Ledger, August 17, 2016, Photo from Wikimedia Commons)



## *Pennsylvania (continued):*

### *Long Lines to Drive on Bridge...*

On August 13, more than 250 vehicles lined up for the opportunity to drive over Martin’s Mill Bridge (WG #38-28-01) in Antrim. Except for some special events in the 1990s, the bridge has been closed to traffic since 1986. It is the second longest covered bridge in the state, and is listed on the National Register of Historical Places.

The bridge, built in 1849, recently underwent a renovation and was the subject of an award presented to Antrim Township for historic bridge preservation, the Abba G. Lichtenstein Medal from the International Bridge Conference. The medal “recognizes a recent, outstanding achievement in bridge engineering demonstrating artistic merit and innovation in the restoration and rehabilitation of bridges of historic or engineering significance.”

To celebrate, local officials chose to open the bridge for a short time at the end of Greencastle-Antrim Old Home Week. The most recent \$1.1 million renovation was completed in 2015.

(Waynesboro Record Herald, June 24, August 11 & 14, 2016, Photo from Wikimedia Commons)



## *Vermont:*

### *Brown Bridge Dedication ...*

Bill and Jenn Caswell were invited to represent the NSPCB at the celebration opening the restored Brown covered bridge (WG #45-11-09) and creation of the Jim Jeffords State Forest on July 5<sup>th</sup> in Shrewsbury, Vermont. The bridge and area around it were damaged by tropical storm Irene in 2011. The bridge was recently designated as a National Historic Landmark.

The ceremony began with a number of speakers related to the creation of the new state forest. Next, were a group of speakers remarking on the bridge repairs and National Historic Landmark announcement. Devin Colman, Vermont State Architectural Historian, commented on the importance of preserving Vermont’s historic sites and the key role Senator Jeffords had in obtaining funding for covered bridge projects.

Rick Kendall of the National Park Service explained the significance of being a National Historic Landmark. He noted that there are more than 90,000 sites on the National Register of Historic Places, but only about 2500 have been elevated to National Historic Landmark status. During her remarks, Pat Moulton, Vermont Secretary of Commerce and Community Development, commended the work done by the NSPCB and the Vermont Covered Bridge Society towards preserving the nation’s historic covered bridges.



*Devin Colman, Vermont State Architectural Historian*



*Rick Kendall of the National Park Service*



*Pat Moulton, Vermont Secretary of Commerce and Community Development*

## *Green River Bridge Work Extended...*

While replacing siding on the bridge, a significant section of rot was discovered in the southeast upper chord of the Green River Covered Bridge (45-13-04). This was only revealed as a result of the change in scope requiring full replacement of the bridge's siding, rather than the 25% that was originally planned. All of the members of the project team: design engineer, construction engineer, contractor, State and the Town's project managers concur that the damage must be fixed now, as a part of this project, for the safety of those traveling on the bridge. The Town would be negligent to defer it.

To replace this section of the chord, additional shoring will be constructed. This will extend the project's original completion date from the end of August to September 30th. When local schools reopen on August 30th, the busses will be allowed to pass over the bridge. It will remain closed to all other traffic. The work is being done by Wright Construction.

(Information from Guilford, Vermont Town Website, August 4, 2016 and Joe Poston, Senior Project Manager/CFO, Wright Construction Company, Inc. Photo by Sue Blanchard, August 27, 2016)



## *Virginia*

### *Fund Raising for Bob White Covered Bridge Reconstruction...*



In four months, more than \$4,000 has been raised toward rebuilding the Bob White Covered Bridge (46-68-01). Last September, the 1921 was washed away in a flood. Patrick County Tourism Director Joseph Quesenberry started a fundraising campaign to raise money to rebuild the bridge, beginning with a page on YouCaring, an online site to receive donations. About \$30,000 is needed to prepare engineering plans for the project. As of August 10<sup>th</sup>, the Covered Bridge Committee has raised \$4,146.66. For information on how you can donate, visit the Patrick County website at <http://www.visitpatrickcounty.org/>. Neither the news article or

website provided a postal address or phone contact for donations.

(Martinsville Bulletin, August 10, 2016)

## *West Virginia:*

### *Philippi Work Nearly Complete ...*

Work on the Philippi Covered Bridge (WG #48-01-01) is nearly complete. On August 27, there was a dedication of a monument to remember the miners lost when an explosion and collapse in the Sago Mine on January 2, 2006 trapped 13 miners for nearly two days - leaving only one survivor. The celebration also included a dedication and ribbon cutting for the covered bridge although work on that project was not complete at the time.

The bridge was only open to pedestrian traffic and the construction supervisor for the project was on hand to answer questions.



(The Inter-Mountain, August 27, 2016.  
Photo by Jim & Gloria Smedley, December 31, 2015)



## Québec:

### *Pont de La Macaza Declared a Historic Monument ...*

The 129 foot long covered bridge at La Macaza, Québec (WG #61-33-10) was built over the Macaza River in 1904. On July 11, the efforts of a handful of local citizens were rewarded by the city council's declaration of the bridge as a historical monument. The group started their campaign about 4 or 5 years ago. (News and photos from Gérald Arbour, July 2016)



### *Pont Pierre-Carrier Damaged...*

The pont Pierre-Carrier in St-Ulric-de-Matane (WG #61-42-05) was damaged by an oversized vehicle sometime in June. The damage appears to be limited to the portal area.

(Information from Blogue sur les ponts couverts - <http://pontscouverts.com/blogue/>.)

### *Pont Brabant-Philippe Destroyed by Arson...Again!*

On June 21st, the 108' long Brabant-Philippe pedestrian bridge (WG #61-25-c#2) in Gatineau, Québec was lost to arson. The bridge had been built by volunteers using donated materials in 2015 after the previous bridge at the site was lost to arson in December 2011. It was one of 3 covered bridges on the city's Rivière Blanc trail. The city is looking into surveillance camera options for the remaining two covered bridges on the trail.

(Radio Canada, June 21, 2016 & July 27, 2016)

### *Pont Galipeault Moved for Repairs...*

On June 23, the 145' pont Galipeault (WG #61-23-01) in Grande Vallée was removed from Rivière de la Grande Vallée for repairs. The \$700,000 project will include repairs to the abutments and bridge. It is expected to be moved back into place by the end of August. Félix Tremblay's Facebook page includes a time-lapsed video of the bridge being prepared for the move by contractors Héneault et Gosselin, Inc.



(Information from Blogue sur les ponts couverts - <http://pontscouverts.com/blogue/>. Photo by Félix Tremblay)



### *Potton Covered Bridge Brochure...*

The Potton Heritage Association has recently released a brochure describing the known covered bridges of the township. Of the bridges documented, only the pont de la Frontière (WG #61-11-03) remains. A digital copy of the brochure is available on their website at [http://pottonheritage.org/libpha/WEB\\_ponts\\_couverts\\_de\\_Potton.pdf](http://pottonheritage.org/libpha/WEB_ponts_couverts_de_Potton.pdf). The Heritage Association is also hosting an exhibition on The Covered Bridges of the Eastern Townships. Visitors are welcome to view the exhibits at the round barn in Mansonville, Québec on Saturdays from June 25 to October 8, 2016 – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free.

(Information from Blogue sur les ponts couverts - <http://pontscouverts.com/blogue/>. Photo by Gérald Arbour)

## The Society Gift Shoppe ...

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

**Note: Books can only be shipped to US addresses.**

**America's Covered Bridges by Ron Knapp & Terry Miller**

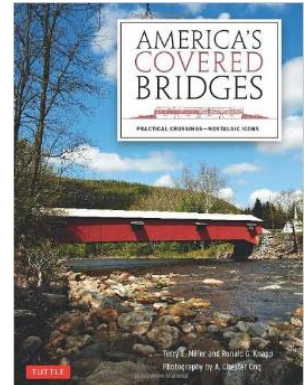
\$36.00, autographed copies, postpaid.

**2009 World Guide to Covered Bridges**

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

**Connecticut & Rhode Island Covered Bridges**

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



### Holiday Gift Ideas - Help Promote the NSPCB



Help promote the Society by purchasing some of our promotional items. They make great gifts for yourself and friends this holiday season. See the enclosed flyer for full details and ordering information.

New this season – NSPCB 22 oz. blue aluminum water bottles with the Society logo and website address. Includes a clip to attach it to a backpack. \$15 by mail.

Ceramic mugs - 11 oz. two-tone ceramic mug, dishwasher and microwave safe, with a bright white exterior and a rich royal blue interior, featuring an NSPCB design and an abbreviated Society mission statement on its sides. \$15 by mail.

A number of clothing items are available from baseball caps to t-shirts, polo shirts and sweatshirts. See the insert for full details.



### 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.

