



The Newsletter

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

Winter 2015/2016



Bob White Bridge: 1921 - 2015

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

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Editor's Comments ...

As another year draws to a close and winter fast approaches, we recognize how damaging the effects of heavy snows, brutal winds, raging rivers and streams can be to our covered bridges – especially here in New England. I know we all hate to believe that we are getting older but, like all of us, these wooden treasures around the world are also suffering the same fate. The meteorological turmoil that has plagued various parts of our country and around the world amplifies the responsibility of all our members to keep watch of our bridges and to do our best to protect these aging monuments to our early architects, builders and craftsmen from both natural events and from those who may seek to damage or destroy them. The NSPCB encourages its members to visit their local bridges after snow storms or heavy rains, if can be done safely, to check on their condition and to notify local authorities and the NSPCB if you are concerned about what you may find. Don't think that someone else did it or will do it. We would rather have multiple reports of possible problems than have received no reports at all when it is too late.

Consider winter photographs of your favorite snow-covered bridge(s), write a few lines of verse or a short story and share your winter excursions with our members. Our nation's bridges provide beautiful settings no matter what the time of year for photography, paintings, reminiscing or just plain enjoyment. Take advantage of the bridges in your area.

I would like to wish everyone, families and friends, the best of the season, no matter if or how you celebrate, and trust that the new year will be kind to us all.

Happy Bridging!!

On The Cover

Thanks to Jim & Gloria Smedley for the cover photo of the Bob White bridge washed away by floodwaters on September 29th.

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.

Spring 2016 Newsletter Deadline

The next Newsletter is scheduled to be mailed in early March. Therefore, anyone wishing to submit articles should send them to the Editor by **February 15, 2016**. **Please note**, it is requested that your information be typed on plain paper and include proper credit information (newspaper, magazine, or web site, etc.), or on CD (Microsoft *Word 2010* 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 ...

Your Society is operated by a small group of dedicated volunteers, often serving in multiple positions. Michelle Andrews has performed the duties of treasurer and financial secretary for many years and is ready to pass the torch to the next volunteer. For those of us who still need to make regular appearances at our paying jobs plus spending time with family during the hours we aren't working, adding a volunteer position to an already busy routine can be challenging. I am grateful for Michelle's dedication to the Society for all these years and am thankful that she is able to continue functioning in this capacity until a replacement is found. If you have an accounting background and able to help manage our finances, please let us know. For more details on the position, contact Michelle at tmandrews@metrocast.net. Although we would enjoy seeing the new treasurer at meetings if he/she lives near them, that is not a requirement. As long as reports can be emailed to me prior to a meeting, it doesn't matter where the treasurer lives.

This quarter we are saddened by the loss of another historic covered bridge and celebrate the construction of a new one. On September 29, 2015, heavy rains throughout the east coast caused many streams and rivers to rise high above normal levels. In Patrick County, Virginia, the overwhelmed Smith River destroyed the Bob White covered bridge. This leaves Virginia with only seven historic covered bridges. Two weeks earlier, we celebrated the new covered bridge built in Norwich, Connecticut by Arnold Graton and his crew.

The Fall was a busy and exciting couple months. At the end of August, six NSPCB representatives joined leaders from five other covered bridge societies in Oxford, New York for a weekend discussing a variety of topics. Agenda items covered a wide range of subjects such as increasing membership, using social media to promote our mission, fire retardants and other methods of protecting our bridges, working with public officials, and preserving archival data to name a few. It was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to share ideas about how our organizations can better meet our goals. There are more details in a separate article.

With the new Connecticut covered bridge celebration and Indiana tour in September followed by the Warner, NH, Fall Foliage Festival in October, we have had some wonderful opportunities to introduce many people to the Society and its mission. Hearing people say that they never knew such an organization existed motivates me to attend even more public events in 2016 to continue spreading the word.

We had a wonderful turnout for our Annual Meeting in Worcester, Massachusetts, with attendees from as far away as Kansas. Attendance exceeded our expectations so the room ended up being a little crowded. My apologies for the tight quarters, I have reserved a larger room for next year. We were honored to have Christopher Marston of the National Park Service speak about the work of the Historic American Engineering Record. I am looking for suggestions for next year's speaker. If you have someone in mind, please let me know.

After the meeting, some of us traveled across town to see Christine Ellsworth who lives in Worcester. Those of you who have been members for a long time may remember that Christine was corresponding secretary for many years and she loves sharing stories with members. Unfortunately, at age 91, she is no longer able to attend meetings and misses the time spent with friends and colleagues. We had a wonderful visit and look forward to spending more time with her in the future. After leaving, I couldn't help but wonder how many other elderly or disabled members would enjoy a visit from a member living near them.

In closing, I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings in 2016.

Bill Caswell

2015-2016 Officers

The 2015/2016 officers were elected at the annual meeting. They are:

President:..... Bill Caswell
 Vice President:..... Karl Olson
 Treasurer Michelle Andrews
 Financial Secretary Michelle Andrews
 Recording Secretary Joye Olson
 Corresponding Secretary Bob Watts
 Directors: Richard Roy (exp. 2016), Tim Andrews (exp. 2017), Carmela Sciandra (exp. 2018)

Appointments

Editor of Topics Joseph Conwill
 Newsletter Editor..... Rob Mitchell
 Official Historians Richard Roy, William Caswell
 World Guide Numbers and Updates Dan Brock, Bill Caswell
 Sales and Mailing Chair Bill & Jenn Caswell
 Membership Chair Jennifer Caswell
 Archivist Joseph Conwill
 Official Photographers Joseph Conwill, Bob Watts
 Web Master William Caswell
 Nominating Committee Richard Roy (exp. 2016), Tim Andrews (exp. 2017), Bob Watts (exp. 2018)
 Scholarship Committee James Garvin, Bill Caswell, Martha McShea
 Eastman Fund Custodians..... Michelle Andrews, Bill Caswell, Bob Watts

Welcome New Members ...

Marcie Burch, Waterford, CT	John Kochiss, Franklin, CT
Brian Erickson & Dottie Brown, Contoocook, NH	Caitlin Losi, Hyde Park, MA
Bob & Anita Ford, Bensalem, PA	Thomas Mikula, Norwich, CT
Robin Gray, Warner, NH	Denis Mudge, Fort Myers, FL
Patricia Hoffmannbeck, Dublin, OH	John Polaski, Norwich, CT
Dan Kelly, Norwich, CT	Jennifer Thompson, Newport, NH
Rick Kipphut, Campton, NH	Roger Weeks, Norwich, CT

Welcome New Life Members ...

John & Colleen Murray, Fort Wayne, IN

Final Crossings ...

Verla Huffaker

We have learned of the passing of long-time member Verla Huffaker, 91, of Princeton, Illinois on April 3, 2015. Verla had been a member for over 40 years. She was also a member of the Red Covered Bridge Association in Illinois and became an avid collector of "Red Covered Bridge" memorabilia.

Upcoming NSPCB Meetings & Events ...

2016 Meeting Schedule

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

Sunday, March 13 – Horace Chase Masonic Lodge, Main St., Boscawen, NH.

Sunday, April 24 – Hosted by Carmela Sciandra, Bob Griner & KC Klingensmith at 350 Revere Beach Blvd, Revere, MA

Sunday, June 26 - Contoocook Covered Bridge, Contoocook, NH.

Sunday, July 24 - TBD.

Sunday, August 28 - Annual picnic at Beaver Meadow Village at the end of Waumbec St., Concord, NH. The cookout is at noon and the meeting at 1 pm.

Friday-Sunday September 30, October 1 & 2 Tour of Fleming County Kentucky & vicinity. Based at Blue Licks Battlefield State Park. Full details coming in the Spring *Newsletter*.

SATURDAY, October 22 - NSPCB Annual Meeting and Dinner. O'Connor's Restaurant, Worcester, MA

Other Upcoming Covered Bridge Meetings & Events ...

Sunday, February 7, 2016 - 2:00 pm Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania Monthly Meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Manheim, PA. Program: "New York State's Covered Bridges" by Michael W. Chorazy

Sunday, March 6, 2016 - 2:00 pm Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania Monthly Meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Manheim, PA. Program: "Covered Bridges in the Civil War" by Jim Smedley

Sunday, April 3, 2016 - 2:00 pm Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania Monthly Meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Manheim, PA. Program: To be announced

Saturday, May 7, 2016 - 11 am to 3 pm Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania 57th Anniversary Dinner, Dutch-Way Farm Market Restaurant, Gap, PA.

Tuesday-Thursday, May 17-19, 2016 – Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania Annual Safari in New Hampshire and Vermont

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 and click on the World Guide link.

Page 6 add new Gold Mine Bridge in New London County, CT

07-06-21 Norwich stream Gold Mine 1 60' **2015** Town

128 Wawecus Hill Road, Norwich. Private. Ask permission to visit. N41° 31.154' W072° 07.636'

Page 155 delete Bob White Bridge, 46-68-01. Destroyed by floodwaters on September 29, 2015

NSPCB Annual Meeting

The 2015 Annual Meeting was held at O'Connor's Restaurant in Worcester, Massachusetts with 39 members in attendance. We had only planned for 35 so it was somewhat of a tight fit. There were attendees from as far away as Kansas.

After a wonderful meal we were treated to an excellent presentation by Christopher Marston of the National Park Service. He oversaw the documentation of nearly 100 covered bridges, and the designation of five as National Historic Landmarks. He is co-editor of the forthcoming book, *Covered Bridges and the Birth of American Engineering*. Christopher discussed the history of the Historic American Building Survey (HABS) and Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) programs providing examples of the work they have done to document our nation's historic covered bridges.

The presentation was followed by a brief business meeting. Bill Caswell thanked all those who have volunteered to help at Society events this year. The Society's participation in the new bridge celebration in Connecticut and the Warner, New Hampshire Fall Foliage Festival are discussed in separate articles.

It was announced that the 2016 scholarship will be made possible through a donation from the William Bradley Willard Foundation. One of our 2015 scholarship awardees, Amy Jagaczewski, was able to join us. Amy told the group about her interest in historic bridge preservation and is working on obtaining her Master's degree in engineering. Information about the 2016 scholarship will be distributed to colleges and universities with historic preservation programs.

The election of officers and appointments were next on the agenda. The results are included after the President's Message. Bill ended the meeting with a slide show of the Society's events for the year.



Photos by Bob Watts and Scott Wagner

Covered Bridge Leader's Summit

By Bill Caswell

On the weekend of August 29 & 30, leaders from five state covered bridge societies and the National Society gathered at the Oxford Memorial Library in Oxford, New York for a weekend discussing a wide variety of topics such as non-profit status, national historic register eligibility, protecting our bridges, working with community leaders, increasing membership, promoting the society and thoughts for the next *World Guide to Covered Bridges*.

The Summit was conceived and organized by Bob & Trish Kane. They are to be commended for all their time and effort promoting, planning and executing this incredibly successful event. The gathering was by invitation only and I feel that they included an ideal mix of people who have been involved with covered bridge societies for many years and relatively new people with fresh ideas. We could not think of any similar event with so many societies represented.



Attendees represented the NSPCB, the Vermont Covered Bridge Society, the New York State Covered Bridge Society, the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania, the Ohio Historic Bridge Association and Indiana Covered Bridge Society.

The event started with a welcome from Trish Kane and Bill Troxell, Financial Secretary for the Oxford Memorial Library Board of Directors. Guest speakers included Darcy Aldous a CPA who discussed various aspects of non-profit 501(c)(3) status; Kathleen LaFrank discussing the process for including structures on the New York State Register of Historic Places and Steven Sass of Crestline Industries sharing information about his fire-retardant product NoChar. Doug Miller and Elma Lee Moore from Ohio presented two examples of projects where they were involved with the public meeting process and worked with local officials. VCBS President Bill Carroll offered an enlightening presentation on preservation of historic documents.

Sunday's agenda included a presentation by Jim & Gloria Smedley representing the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania offering suggestions for increasing membership and encouraging members to be more active within the Society. Trish Kane moderated a group discussion regarding some of Saturday's topics plus thoughts on promoting our organizations within schools. After lunch, I moderated a discussion on the *World Guide to Covered Bridges*. The next *Guide* is only in the planning stages at this time. To start that planning process, the National Society is soliciting input from all interested parties. A committee for planning the next *Guide* has been formed from volunteers at the Summit. Terry Miller closed the conference with slides of his recent trip to Switzerland and Austria.

In the end, a few people recommended another gathering in the future. After discussing this with Bob & Trish, we feel that about three years would be a good time to plan the next event. Not too soon yet close enough to build on the momentum we have started.

Back Row: Andy Rebman, Indiana Covered Bridge Society; Bill Caswell; David Simmons, Ohio Historic Bridge Assoc.

Front Row: Donna Freeland, New York State Covered Bridge Society; Tom Walczak, Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania; Bill Carroll, Vermont Covered Bridge Society.

Photos by Bob Watts



September Tour in Indiana

by Bill Caswell

During the weekend of September 25, 26 & 27, fifty-four, yes that's correct, fifty-four covered bridge enthusiasts gathered in southeastern Indiana for a time of catching up with old friends, meeting new ones and visiting covered bridges. The gathering was organized by Andy Rebman, President of the Indiana Covered Bridge Society and I am sure all will agree that he arranged a fantastic event. We were also blessed with acceptable weather where the predicted rain and thunderstorms didn't materialize. Attendees joined us from Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Those who were in the area on Friday met in Metamora to explore the covered aqueduct (WG #14-24-11). A few were treated to the full historic experience by taking the horse-drawn boat ride through the bridge. We visited the shops in town, enjoyed home-made ice cream and socialized. After dinner at the Brau Haus in Oldenburg, we headed to the Hampton Inn in Greensburg to prepare for the tour.

Saturday was our day to admire the craftsmanship of the prolific Kennedy family of bridge builders in Rush County. Three generations of the Kennedy family built covered bridges in southeastern Indiana from 1870 to 1918 and are credited with having constructed fifty-eight structures. Archibald McMichael Kennedy was the first of the builders. His sons Emmett and Charles later joined in.

The first stop on the tour was the recently reconstructed Homer Bridge (WG #14-70-09). This bridge served most of its life as a barn after being washed downstream by floodwaters a few years after it was built. In 2009, the Homer Bridge was relocated and reconstructed as a bridge on private property south of Rushville. Although most Kennedy bridges were built with the Burr Arch Truss, this is a multiple kingpost structure.

The Smith Bridge (WG #14-70-01) is a more typical example of the Kennedy family's work. It is also a good example of the ornate decorations added to the portals of many Kennedy bridges.

The Norris Ford Bridge (WG #14-70-08), built in 1916 by Emmett Kennedy and Sons, was one of the last that the family constructed. The lower photo shows one of the truss connections within this bridge. The Kennedy's believed that this two-step notch was stronger than the more typical single cut because it didn't need to cut as deep into the vertical timber.

After Norris Ford, we made a stop at the Kennedy homestead in Rushville. The house was built by Archibald Kennedy in 1864, shortly after he settled in Rush County.

At our next stop, Offutt's Ford Bridge (WG #14-70-02), we were joined by members of Rush County Heritage Inc. who hosted a picnic at the bridge. Becky Webb, a descendant of



The Friday portion of the tour included a horse-drawn boat ride through the Duck Creek Aqueduct covered bridge.



Homer Bridge



Smith Bridge



Truss connection in the Norris Ford Bridge

Emmett Kennedy, spoke during the lunch. Becky shared stories of the Kennedy's which have been passed down through her family. Her presentation was highlighted by the 42 inch long hand carved model made by Emmett Kennedy in 1872. This model was used in presentations to county commissioners to explain the strength and advantages of their bridges because most commissioners were not familiar with the various truss designs. To demonstrate the strength of the truss, even in miniature form, the 250 pound Archibald Kennedy would support the model between two stacks of books and then stand on it. The Kennedy family usually got the contract.

After lunch, we moved on to the Forsythe Bridge (WG #14-70-04) and our final stop for the day, the reconstructed Moscow Bridge (WG #14-70-07#2). The previous Moscow Bridge was destroyed by a tornado on June 3, 2008. Thanks to a great deal of public support, the services of engineer Jim Barker and timber framer Dan Collom, the bridge was reconstructed. This new bridge includes some timbers salvaged from the previous bridge. Jim Barker joined the tour at this point to share interesting details of the structure. This was also the location of our group photo.

The day ended with an excellent fried chicken dinner provided by Koch's Katering of Greensburg. With the assistance of local resident Jim Blankman, we were able to donate the leftover chicken to a local family in need. After dinner, Jim Barker offered a wonderful presentation on efforts to save Rush County's bridges. Nearly all the bridges we saw on Saturday were almost lost in recent years due to age, fire and tornado, yet each one ended up being repaired.

Sunday started with a visit to the Westport Bridge (WG #14-16-01) in Decatur County. The bridge was built by the Kennedy's in 1880. The single span bridge was bypassed in 1975 and remains open to traffic.

Next on the list was the James Bridge (WG #14-40-02) in Jennings County. The bridge has been recently repaired and was looking good. Our second stop in Jennings County was at the Scipio Bridge (WG #14-40-01) which has been bypassed and repaired. It was still closed when we visited.

By the time we got to Columbus, it was time for lunch. Those of from outside were introduced to Zaharakos Restaurant. Zaharakos is part museum and part old-fashioned soda shop and ice cream parlor. The museum portion has a wonderful display of multi-instrumental music boxes and soda fountain equipment. The tour sort of broke up here as some people headed for home and others selected different bridges to fill their afternoon. We moved on to the New Brownsville Bridge (WG #14-03-08) in the city park and then the fine double-barrel Ramp Creek Bridge (WG #14-07-02) in Brown County.

Next year, we will tour Kentucky on September 30, October 1 & 2, 2016. We will be based at Blue Licks Battlefield State Park and visit bridges in the area. Full details coming in the Spring.



Andy Rebman, Becky Webb & Bill Caswell holding Emmett Kennedy's 1872 bridge model at Offutt's Ford Bridge



Moscow Bridge



Jim Barker's Presentation



Scipio Bridge



Westport Bridge

Bridging the Gap

[Editors note: This article was contributed by the Shawnee Indiana Township Board]

Everyone knows how popular Parke County Indiana's covered bridges are, but there are also 3 remarkable covered bridges right here in Fountain County. The Wallace Bridge (WG #14-23-01), built in 1871, is an 81-foot Howe truss bridge associated with a local baseball field. The Cade's Mill Bridge (WG #14-23-02), built in 1854, is believed to be the oldest existing covered bridge in the state. The Rob Roy Bridge (WG #14-23-03) is also a Howe truss covered bridge. It was built in 1860 and is the only covered bridge left in Fountain County that, until recently, was still open to vehicle traffic.

All 3 of our covered bridges are historic treasures. The Rob Roy Bridge was built before the start of the Civil War, yet it still carried vehicles across Big Shawnee Creek until about a year ago. Now it's in need of repair. Working with the Fountain County Commissioners, the Shawnee Township Trustee and Advisory Board want to ensure that this piece of living history survives for another 155 years. The township has met with the county board, and both levels of local government have met with a covered bridge repair/restoration specialist, Dan Collom. Dan has a real passion for these bridges and is an expert in repairing them correctly. When Dan came to assess the Rob Roy Bridge after it was closed recently, he was pleasantly surprised at how good its overall condition is. Compared to many covered bridges he has saved, this one is in very good condition. Still, working on these old structures isn't cheap. The total cost of repairs to re-open the bridge will be around \$37,000.

Fountain County, like most rural Indiana counties, already has a thinly stretched road and bridge budget, and the record rainfall earlier this year certainly didn't help matters any as many roads and bridges were damaged by high waters. Still, the County Commissioners agree in principal that the Rob Roy Bridge should be repaired, and they've already committed to addressing a drainage issue to prevent any further damage to the bridge in the short term. After all, unlike the Wallace and Cade's Mill bridges, the Rob Roy Bridge has neither a bypass bridge nor any kind of public parking or access. Left closed to traffic and without any public access, it wouldn't be likely to survive for long because it would be almost impossible to justify the resources to continue maintaining it. The county has some of the funds available to repair and re-open the Rob Roy Bridge, but not enough.

The township board is doing all it can to work in partnership with the county and help raise the additional funds. It is currently pursuing avenues to have the bridge's historic status elevated to make it eligible for grant funding. This could be a great help for future maintenance, but grants take a long time to process. In the shorter term, the township board has also enlisted the help of the Indiana Covered Bridge Society and the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges, both of whom are dedicated to preserving covered bridges. The board has also created a fund to receive donations and is asking anyone who would like to see this bridge preserved to contribute. You can do so by contacting or sending donations to Central National Bank in Attica and making a donation in the care of the Shawnee Township Rob Roy Covered Bridge Fund. If we can raise an additional \$20,000 by spring, we will have the resources we need to restore this historic landmark to its intended purpose for over a century and a half – carrying people across Big Shawnee Creek in style.

Special thanks: Andy Rebman, Indiana Covered Bridge Society
Bill Caswell, National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges
Fountain County Commissioners

To Donate: Central National Bank, c/o Shawnee Township Rob Roy Covered Bridge Fund
P.O. Box 249
Attica, IN 47918 - or call: 765-762-2414

Warner Fall Foliage Festival

By Bill Caswell

For the second year, the Society set up a table at the Warner, New Hampshire, Fall Foliage Festival during Columbus Day Weekend. This year, we were offered a prime location next to the Concord Coaches of the Abbot-Downing Historical Society. We are very thankful to MainStreet Bookends of Warner for allowing us to set up our booth in their parking lot.



At the event we were able to speak to hundreds of people about the importance of preserving our nation's covered bridges. In addition to providing them with information about the Society, we handed out directions for a driving tour of the six covered bridges in the immediate area. That included pictures and notes about each bridge.

This year we made a special effort to provide copies of the *K-12 Educational Guide on the History of Covered Bridges in the United States* to educational professionals and parents of school-age children. We feel that introducing covered bridge history to children will increase their appreciation of the structures as adults. We welcome the four new members who joined after visiting with us.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped at this year's event: Bill & Jenn Caswell, Rebecca O'Leary, Bob and Betty Pauwels, Scott and Sue Wagner, Sue Blanchard, Scott LaCroix, Fred and Martha McShea, Karl Olson, Tina Stockbridge, Dick Roy and Bob Watts. The banners were created and donated by Scott Wagner. Tables provided by the Caswell's and Olson's, canopy provided by the Caswell's. Your help is greatly appreciated.



Gold Mine Bridge Moved Into Place

By Bill Caswell

On September 13th, about 250 people gathered at Richard Perry and Judy Zimmer's Greenbrier Farm in Norwich, Connecticut to watch Arnold Graton's 17th new covered bridge be moved into place. The celebration was open to all interested and weather cooperated despite the thunderstorm prediction.

Gold Mine Bridge (07-06-21), named after a nearby abandoned gold mine, is a 60-foot long Town lattice bridge modeled after the Squam River Bridge (29-05-112) built by the Graton's in Ashland, New Hampshire in 1990.

Steel beams spanned the crossing to provide a path for the bridge to travel over. The four corners of the bridge rested on wooden rollers which were relocated as the bridge progressed over the steel beams. Don Walker and Tim Dansereau spent the day under the bridge keeping the rollers on track and moving them forward.

The 45-ton structure was moved by Mike and Brock, two Chianina oxen owned by Adam Coats of North Stonington, CT. The two oxen walked in circles around a capstan. As the capstan turned, it wound up the rope attached to the bridge slowly inching it forward. The person seated at the capstan needs to keep tension on the rope so it is tight against the capstan and doesn't slip as the device turns. I enjoyed my opportunity to have a turn pulling the rope to help with that task.

While his guests watched the gradual progress of the oxen, Mr. Perry spent the day in character as Ithiel Town answering questions about his life, covered bridge construction and history. He, with the help of his family, friends and neighbors, provided his guests with soft drinks, coffee and snacks. We were entertained by a wide variety of local musicians from folk bands to an opera singer and offered a seemingly endless supply of pizza for lunch.

The Society received some free publicity in a wonderful New York Times article. The Norwich Bulletin also included an article in their paper.

For those who were able to join us, thank you for taking the time out of your busy lives to travel to this historic event. I am aware of 26 NSPCB members in attendance, 32 if you add the 6 people who joined at the event or sent in applications afterwards. There may have been others who did not introduce themselves or that we didn't recognize. We also had the pleasure of meeting one of our scholarship award winners, Amy Jagaczewski, who brought her parents and boyfriend to the event. Special thanks to Jenn Caswell, Bob & Trish Kane and Bob & Betty Pauwels for spending most of the day setting up, staffing and repacking the NSPCB booth at the event plus Jeff Colburn who helped with parking and whatever else needed to be done.

The event added six new members to the roster. As wonderful as that is, we cannot underestimate the potential impact we may have had on the 183 people who signed the guestbook at our table or the tens of thousands who read the newspaper articles.

Mr. Perry welcomes visitors to his covered bridge. However, keep in mind that the bridge is on private property. Please respect Mr. Perry's privacy by contacting him before visiting the bridge. He can be reached by email at Richard.Perry@jud.ct.gov or phone at 860-889-9850.

Photos by Bill Caswell and Betty Pauwels.



David W. Wright Scholarship Announced

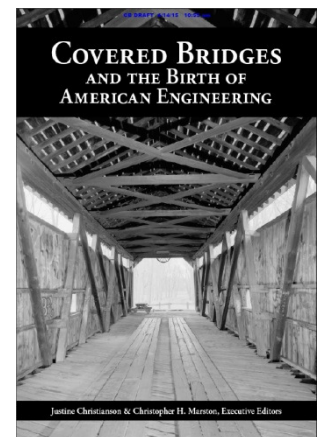
The Society has received a very generous \$3,000 donation from the William Bradley Willard Foundation. The Foundation requested that the donation be used towards a scholarship in memory of our late president David Wright. Details of the scholarship are being forwarded to colleges and universities with historic preservation programs. Applications will also be available on the NSPCB website beginning in December.

New Book Coming in January

The Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), a division of the National Park Service (NPS), Heritage Documentation Programs, announces the publication of *Covered Bridges and the Birth of American Engineering*, edited by Justine Christianson and Christopher H. Marston.

The book represents the culmination of research under the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)-sponsored National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation (NHCBP) Program. HAER and the FHWA's Office of Infrastructure Research and Development have maintained a joint research and technology program for historic covered bridges since 2002. This partnership has also included a variety of initiatives including documentation, engineering studies, National Historic Landmark designations, conferences, and a traveling exhibition.

This book examines the development of wood trusses and covered bridge construction, profiles the pioneering craftsmen and engineers involved, explores the function of trusses in covered bridges, and looks at the preservation and future of these distinctly American bridges. The editors have collaborated with some of the leading historians and engineers of historic covered bridges in the country to produce this volume. Contributors include Jim Barker, Lola Bennett, Joseph Conwill, Dario Gasparini, Matthew Reckard, and Rachel Sangree. Richard O'Connor and Sheila Rimal Duwadi supplied overviews of the HAER and NHCBP programs, and Michael Harrison and David Simmons provided invaluable editorial assistance.



HAER is distributing this publication to members of the covered bridge community nationwide. NSPCB will receive a number of copies which will be available to members at our meetings and events. Additional copies may be requested while supplies last, by contacting Christopher H. Marston at christopher_marston@nps.gov. A PDF version of the book, along with other related NHCBP publications, is available electronically through the National Center for Wood Transportation Structures, at www.woodcenter.org.

Bob White Bridge Lost to Floodwaters

On Tuesday, September 29th, heavy rains along the east coast caused the Smith River in Patrick County Virginia to rise well above its normal level. The resulting surge destroyed the Bob White covered bridge (World Guide #46-68-01). Jack's Creek bridge, less than a mile away, survived the flood. The Bob White bridge was built in 1921 by Walter Weaver. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on May 22, 1973.

Patrick County had recently received approval from the Virginia Department of Transportation to restore the bridge, which was beginning to shift slightly and was no longer safe for vehicles. It is not known if that money can be put towards construction of a new bridge.

News From the Road

Pat & Charlie Tabor shared some information and photos from their trip through West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

In July 1888, county voters approved \$1200 to construct the Locust Creek Bridge (48-38-01). The contract was let to R.N. Bruce who completed the hemlock structure by mid-November. In 1990, a new span was built adjacent to it to carry vehicular traffic.



Indian Creek Bridge (48-32-02) was built in 1903 for \$403 by Ray & Oscar Weikel, ages 18 and 16 at the time. The bridge was bypassed around 1930 and leased to the county historical society in 1965. Pat Tabor noted graffiti inside the bridge.

At 25 feet, the Laurel Creek Bridge (48-32-01) is the shortest authentic covered bridge in West Virginia. It was built of oak for \$365 and completed in August 1911. A steel deck was added in 1976, but removed during renovations in 2000. The Tabor's report graffiti and peeling paint on the bridge.



The Schaffer or Campbell Bridge (35-07-05) was moved from Fairfield County to the Ohio Univ. Belmont campus in 1973. The bridge appeared in good condition with some graffiti.

The Sawhill Bridge (38-63-34) in Washington County, Pennsylvania is the last surviving of at least fifteen known covered bridges that crossed Buffalo Creek. It appeared to be freshly painted and in good condition.



Covered Bridge Happenings ...

California

Bridgeport Update

We have received an update on the Bridgeport Covered Bridge (WG #05-29-01) from Doug Moon, chair of the Save Our Bridge Campaign Committee. The assessment work to determine exactly what needs to be repaired or replaced is complete. The engineering drawings should be 80-90% complete by the end of November. By December 2015 we should have a fairly accurate estimate of costs for the renovation and repair work. The Save Our Bridge Campaign Committee will be meeting again with Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) staff in December to review these findings. We will be made aware at that time of the recommended work to be done, the cost estimate and DPR's plans to move the project forward. The Committee will let everyone know of these findings following this meeting.

With the engineering drawings near complete, the next phase of the project involves obtaining all of the necessary permits from several Local, State and Federal Agencies. Applications for the permits should begin in early 2016. We have been warned this can be a long process however we hope to move the process along faster with help from our supporters, including Local, State and Federal officials. Stay tuned for alerts on how you may be able to help encourage agencies to fast-track these permits so the actual construction work on the Bridge can begin.

Indiana

Work Delayed at Shieldstown

Work at the Shieldstown Covered Bridge (WG #14-36-02) has been stalled for about eight weeks because nearly 70 percent of the wood the contractor, Duncan Robertson Inc. of Franklin, obtained for the sides of the bridge was rejected. It was not up to national historic preservation standards.

(WIBW, November 24, 2015)

Iowa

Wilkinson Park Bridge Closed

The Wilkinson Pioneer Park covered bridge (WG #15-71-A) was closed by the Cerro Gordo County Conservation Board in September when it didn't pass the yearly inspection. "The engineering report showed that the Wilkinson covered bridge will need to be straightened back to original condition and then reinforced to try and control future movement," said Conservation Board Director Mike Webb. "Some areas of the approach ramps will need repair work." Estimated costs could be anywhere from \$86,000 to \$317,000, depending on the type of repair. The board owns the bridge and, as of late last week, no timetable for repairs has been set. The original bridge was constructed by volunteers in 1969 but was burned in a fire in 1997. It was rebuilt by volunteers in 1998.

(The Globe Gazette, November 23, 2015)

New Brunswick

Nelson Hollow Bridge

As we were going to press, we received a note of concern that the Nelson Hollow Bridge (WG #55-08-08) is in serious need of repair. We will work on gathering more details for the Spring Newsletter.

Maryland

Jericho Repairs

For months, the 150-year-old Jericho bridge (WG #20-03-02 / 20-12-01) has been sitting off its base over Little Gunpowder Falls as it was painstakingly repaired. Over the months, Tim Andrews' team at Barns and Bridges of New England replaced rotted and damaged wood while trying to keep as much of the original wood from 1865 as possible. With the restoration work complete, the arch-and-truss frame is slowly being put back into place atop a restored wooden roadbed.

A team from Kinsley Construction and Barns and Bridges of New England used a steel cable to connect the bridge with a winch. With each pull of the lever, the bridge moved a fraction of an inch. When it's back in place, it will resume carrying one lane of traffic over Little Gunpowder Falls.

Thomas F. Forsyth built the bridge in 1865 for \$3,125. The current restoration project has a \$1.8 million budget, most of it from a federal grant program for historic covered bridges. Baltimore County and Harford County are each kicking in 10 percent of the cost.

After the bridge is secured back to its decking, it will get new siding and roofing to protect it from the elements. If the weather cooperates, the work could be complete and the road reopened by mid-February. The restored bridge will have a slightly different look. In place of the dull brown color it has long sported, it's getting a new color: bright barn red.



(Compiled from a Baltimore Sun article on October 29, 2015, photo by Jim Smedley.)

Ohio

Award Presented for Otway Bridge

Scioto County Engineer Craig Opperman was recently awarded a preservation award for his efforts in the restoration of the Otway Covered Bridge (WG #35-73-15). The award was given by the Federal Highway Administration and the Ohio Department of Transportation, State Historic Preservation Office and the County Engineers Association of Ohio. The engineering firm of Jones-Stuckey, co-recipient of award, was selected to design and draw a set of plans to rehabilitate the bridge. Once the plans were approved then the project was bid. The Righter Company, of Columbus, was awarded a contract for \$421,900, in November of 2013, to complete the work.

(Portsmouth Ohio Daily Times, September 14, 2015)

Knowlton Bridge Study

Monroe County commissioners have approved \$10,000 for a feasibility study for the Knowlton bridge (WG #35-56-18). The bridge is in need of extensive repairs.

(Times Leader, November 18, 2015)

Ontario

Police Investigate Fire on Guelph's Covered Bridge

Police are looking for suspects after a fire was set on the iconic covered bridge. The damage to the bridge is considered minor but officers said repair will be necessary.

(Guelph Ontario Mercury, November 3, 2015)

Oregon

Update on Douglas County Covered Bridges

In the Summer and Fall Newsletters, we mentioned that Douglas County is working on three of its covered bridges: the Neal Lane Covered Bridge (WG #37-10-07), the Cavitt Creek Bridge (WG #37-10-06) and the Rochester Bridge (WG #37-10-04). The \$2.2 million project included the replacement of roof and siding as well as replacement of other structural components while maintaining the original look of the structures.



*Pengra Bridge, August 2015
Bill Cockrell Photo*

Work on the Cavitt Creek Bridge is now complete and the bridge was re-opened to traffic on August 29, 2015. The bridge has a new roof and siding along with new decking and rails. A post-tensioning system has been added for additional support. If you visit this bridge, note the logs used for upper and lower chords.

Work as to begin on the Rochester Bridge in early September and expected to be completed by the end of November.



Cavitt Creek Bridge, August 2015



Note log used for upper chord

(News and photos contributed by Bill Cockrell, President, Covered Bridge Society of Oregon.)

Two More Get Some Attention

Bill Cockrell, President of the Covered Bridge Society of Oregon, reports that the Pengra Bridge (WG #37-20-15) in Lane County and Larwood Bridge (WG #37-22-06) in Linn County were cleaned and painted over the summer.

Office Bridge Repaired

The Office Bridge (WG #37-20-39) was closed from mid-August until the end of October. We do not know what work was done to the bridge.



Pennsylvania

Dellville Update



Less than a year after an arsonist torched it, Perry County commissioners are moving ahead with plans to resurrect the historic Dellville Covered Bridge (WG #38-50-16). Commission Chairman Brenda K. Benner stated that engineers are developing specifications to be sent to prospective contractors. If all goes well, reconstruction could begin next spring. The county has slightly more than \$1 million in insurance money and donations to finance the project. If reconstruction bids exceed that, commissioners would have to decide whether to proceed since the county then would have to pay extra cost.

Some of the burned bridge can be salvaged, including the steel support beams. Some of the wooden beams are just charred. The bulk of the money tagged for the rebuild comes from insurance proceeds, Benner said. The Historical Society of Perry County started a fund drive to help finance the project at www.gofundme.com. A petition supporting the reconstruction garnered several hundred signatures. State police have not made any arrests in connection with the bridge fire.

(PennLive, October 6, 2015. Photo by Jim & Gloria Smedley)

Repairs Begin on Rapps Dam Bridge

The historic Rapp's Dam covered bridge (WG #38-15-14) has received \$360,000 worth of repairs after being damaged by a truck and flooding in April 2014. The bridge was re-opened to traffic in early October.

(Reported in The Mercury, Pottstown, PA, October 8, 2015, Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell, April 2012)



Martin's Mill Bridge Repaired

Martin's Mill Bridge (WG #38-28-01) in Franklin County, PA has received \$1.1 million in repairs. The work included installation of steel support beams, new siding and portals, as well as the replacement of its roof, wooden deck and decayed wooden structural members. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on October 13th to celebrate the renovation.

(Herald-Mail Media, October 13, 2015)

Bitzer's Mill Bridge Damaged

Bitzer's Mill Bridge (WG #38-36-04) in Lancaster County, PA, was damaged on October 7th by an over-sized vehicle drove across it, damaging wood beams and trusses. PennDOT made temporary repairs to the structure so it could be reopened to traffic the following week. PennDOT spokesman Greg Penny said last week that officials would work with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in making permanent repairs that retained the "historical integrity" of the structure.

(Lancaster Online, October 11, 2015)

Pennsylvania (continued)

Frankenfield Bridge Damaged

The Frankenfield Covered Bridge (WG #38-09-09) was hit by a large box truck making a local delivery on October 10th. The truck took out rafters and forced Bucks County officials to close the heavily traveled span.

(The Intelligencier, October 16, 2015)

Québec

Pont Félix-Gabriel-Marchand to be Repaired

Quebec's ministry of transport has received a study outlining different options for repairing the Félix-Gabriel-Marchand (WG #61-53-01) covered bridge in the Pontiac, which was closed for emergency repairs last spring. The bridge was closed for safety reasons in May 2014 after a structural evaluation. The ministère des Transports du Québec will likely call for offers over the next few months.

(CBC News, November 3, 2015)

Vermont

Scott Bridge Undergoes \$2.2 Million Renovation

A contractor has begun a nearly \$2.2 million, 14-month rehabilitation project designed to restore pedestrian access and ensure long-term preservation of the 145-year-old Scott bridge (WG #45-13-13). The bridge has been closed to pedestrian traffic since early 2012. It has been closed to motor vehicles since 1955. A 2012 engineering report by Hoyle, Tanner & Associates listed numerous problems including trusses that were in "imminent failure condition." A "no-build" alternative, the report said, "would not prevent further deterioration, which could cause eventual collapse of the covered bridge into the West River."

Emergency stabilization work performed later that year kept Scott Bridge standing and extended its life until money could be found for further repairs. 81 percent of the cost will be covered by federal funding, with the remainder coming from the state. Vernon-based Renaud Brothers Inc. was chosen for the job. The company has extensive local covered-bridge experience, having worked on the Dummerston bridge as well as Brattleboro's Creamery Bridge. Construction is underway with completion scheduled for the end of 2016.

The initial portion of the project – insertion of steel beams – will support the structure during the project. The work that will follow includes installation of a new roof, a lighter deck and replacement of lattice that is "split or rotten or cracked," Sargent said.

(Vermont Digger & Townshend Historical Society Newsletter)

Washington

Covered Bridge Dinner

The 8th Annual Covered Bridge Dinner was held on October 3rd on the Gray's River Bridge (WG #47-35-01#2) in southwestern Washington. The dinner included music and auctioning of donated items to raise money for 4-H youth programs.

(Wahkiakum County Eagle, October 8, 2015)

The Society Bookstore ...

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

Note: Books can only be shipped to US addresses.

America's Covered Bridges by Ron Knapp & Terry Miller

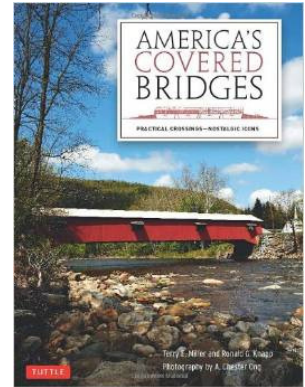
\$36.00, autographed copies, postpaid.

2009 World Guide to Covered Bridges

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

Connecticut & Rhode Island Covered Bridges

\$22.00, for an autographed copy, includes priority mail postage.
 (Note reduced price!)



NSPCB Mugs

Do you know someone who would enjoy a hot cup of coffee or tea in an NSPCB mug? Would you like to help support one of the Society's current ongoing restoration projects but weren't sure how? Why not do both?

The National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges commissioned Mr. Bruce E. Hart of Hart Design Studio on Cape Cod, Massachusetts to design artwork for a new Society mug. The 11 oz. two-tone ceramic mug, both dishwasher and microwave safe, features a bright white exterior with a rich royal blue interior. On the mug, also in rich royal blue, a NSPCB logo can be found on one side while an abbreviated Society mission statement is found on the other side.

Proceeds from the sale of these mugs will help support the restoration efforts for the Moose Brook Pony-Truss Bridge located in Gorham, New Hampshire. [Find additional information about this bridge in the Winter 2014/2015 issue of the *Newsletter*.]

Mugs are \$10.00 each (in person) or \$15.00 (\$10 + \$5 postage) each (by mail). For orders of three (3) or more – contact Bill Caswell for actual postage costs. Send mail orders to Bill Caswell, 535 Second NH Tpke, Hillsboro, NH 03244.

*If you don't already have one,
 Order yours, today!*

