



The Newsletter

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

Winter 2014 / 2015

The Covered Bridge

© 2014 Robin A. Mitchell

The colors of New England's fall have passed
And soon the winter's winds will blow,
Too soon the valley's wand'ring stream will freeze
Covered in a blanket of snow.

A patchwork quilt of stone-lined fields and farm
A snow-packed path winds toward the stream
Where stands in grandeur the old covered bridge
Picturesque, as if from a dream.

It's 'over the river and through the wood'
Or so the old-time story goes,
Perhaps it was a covered bridge that crossed
Sheltering all from winter's snows.

The team worked hard to pull the sleigh across
the planks scarred by runner, hoof and wheel,
Within, initials found carved on truss-work -
As lovers expressed the way they feel.

A testament of her many years, yes
her beams do sometime complain and creak,
Stands strong through summer's heat and winter's cold
From her floor boards up to her peak.

So cherish the covered bridges' beauty
And reflect on her many years
For someday, you'll discover she stands no more
And see her only through your tears.

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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 ...

With the passing of another year, the season for family gatherings and reminiscing is now upon us. We all choose to celebrate this time of year in different forms and fashions with different traditions, some handed down over the years, some fresh and new, but however you choose to celebrate, may peace and happiness find each one of you.

As we enter a new year, may success be with all your endeavors, may health favor with you and your families whether close at home or far away, and may the desire for peace guide us all.

Happy Bridging!!

* * * *

If you have an interesting story about, or photographs of, a particular bridge seen during your travels, please pass it along. Remember to watch for signs of neglect, dangerous situations, or bridges in need of some attention, photograph them if safely possible and pass the information on to us. As members, you are our eyes and ears and best sources for the information concerning the condition of our bridges. Help preserve our covered bridge heritage!

* * * * *

A note to all you model railroad enthusiasts - please look through your old model railroad magazines and/or files and send us copies of the articles you may find regarding covered railroad bridges to the Newsletter editor. Based on a recently received article on the Chickaloon, Alaska Howe truss bridge mentioned last quarter I believe there may be more interesting information and photographs of railroad bridges that may no longer stand. (Please include magazine title, publication date and author)

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Spring 2015 Newsletter Deadline

The next Newsletter is scheduled to be mailed in March. Therefore, anyone wishing to submit articles should send them to the Editor by **February 15, 2015**. **Please note** that due to some nagging computer software problems, it is requested that your information be typed on plain white paper and include proper credit information (newspaper, magazine, or web site, etc.), or on CD (Microsoft *Word 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 ...

I start this message on a sad note. Our dear friend Ken Olson passed away on November 12th. Ken was a regular attendee at Society meetings for many years until his Alzheimer's advanced to the point where he was no longer able to participate. Ken was the husband of Recording Secretary Joye Olson and father of our Vice President, Ken Olson.

On November 3rd, the Dellville Bridge (WG#38-50-16) in Perry County, Pennsylvania burned. As I write this, investigators are treating it as arson. There are many ways that our covered bridges can be lost. Some beyond our control, but arson is preventable. We cannot change the root of the problem, why some people take pleasure in destroying historic relics, but fire retardants can be a successful deterrent. While some may say they cannot afford the cost of fire retardant, how does that compare to the cost of a new bridge? The bridge was probably kept from collapsing by the steel beams supporting the deck, and there appears to be some insurance money available. The Perry County Historical Society has already set up an account to donate towards reconstruction. Checks can be made to the Historical Society of Perry County, P. O. Box 81, Newport, PA 17074-0081. Letters of support should be sent to that address also. We will keep you posted as we learn more.

We had a great turnout for our Annual Meeting and excellent presentation on the restoration of Campton, NH's Blair Bridge by Tim Dansereau. Read the article later on for more details on the meeting. I want to state just how grateful I am for all the friends, colleagues and especially my wonderful wife who have been so helpful and supportive during this period of transition and orientation. Also, for their confidence in my abilities by electing me as President of this fine organization. We still have lots of work ahead of us and will be able to accomplish great things with everyone's help.

We have been fortunate to have some new members attending our recent meetings. We welcome their fresh ideas for promoting and growing the Society. One of the suggestions was to host a covered bridge festival such as the county-wide ones in Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and others. That was a bit ambitious for now so we decided to start small. We set up a table at the Warner, NH Fall Foliage Festival. It was encouraging to see so many people volunteer to staff the table. See the full report within this newsletter.

Most of you live too far away to attend our meetings. To provide an option for those outside New England to attend, in 2011 we started scheduling one meeting a year beyond our normal locations. Most of them have been well attended by members and guests. The 2015 "away" meeting will be our most ambitious one in this series, a weekend long tour of southeastern Indiana in conjunction with the Indiana Covered Bridge Society. I hope that many of you will set aside that last weekend in September to join us. More details will be available in the Spring 2015 Newsletter.

There are some individuals who deserve special recognition this quarter for their extraordinary service to the Society:

Joe Cohen has served the Society for many years as *Topics* editor and has held various official roles. For more than 40 years, he has also maintained indexes to *Topics* for the benefit of researchers. He has been providing discs for sale with this information and plenty of other helpful information about covered bridges. During this past summer, Trish Kane and I were discussing ways we might be able to make the *Topics* indexes more accessible since the discs that are distributed are outdated shortly after they are created. Since then, we have gone through every issue of the 72 years of *Topics* to confirm the contents of each one. Having proofread the indexes that Joe has so faithfully maintained for so many years, we are now making them available to download from the Society's website along with many other files from Joe's discs. Trish and I volunteered to update the indexes in the future allowing Joe to have a well-earned retirement from this task. The indexes can be accessed from the "Periodicals" link at the top of any Society web page or directly at <http://coveredbridgesociety.org/periodicals.html>.

In the early 1970's, the Society did not have a place to store items that were donated to us. At the time, Dick and June Roy offered to keep the collection at their house. When David Wright arranged for the room at the library in Westminster, Vermont to be available to the Society, it was quickly filled with Richard Sanders Allen's collection and a few other smaller collections. 40 years later, those earlier collections are still stored within the Roy's home. At the Annual Meeting, the members present approved an expansion of the recently acquired Archives Room outside Penacook, New Hampshire. With this expansion, we will finally be able to house the

Society's entire collection under one roof. Over the winter we will work towards organizing and inventorying the collection to provide researchers with a better idea of what is available along with some space to work.

There is one more bit of exciting news that I saved for last. The project to reconstruct the Moose Brook Pony-Truss Bridge (WG#29-04-P01) is underway. In the Spring of 2004, vandals set fire to this former Boston & Maine Railroad Bridge in Gorham, New Hampshire. The bridge has had an interesting journey since then with quite a story to tell. Read the separate article on page 16 for more details plus ways you can help.

I wish you all a safe and happy Holiday Season.

Bill Caswell

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Welcome New Members ...

Raymond & Eleanor Boucher – Riverview, New Brunswick

Christine Greene – Attleboro, Massachusetts

Barry Keohan – Sandown, New Hampshire

Arline E. French – Concord, New Hampshire

Cynthia Thorell – Pembroke, New Hampshire

Jerry Boucher – Salisbury, North Carolina

Welcome New Life Member ...

Richard Turner – Beverly, Massachusetts

Final Crossings ...

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

The Society notes the passing of Kenneth R. Olsen, 85, on November 12, 2014 following a long illness. Ken was the husband of the Society's recording secretary, Joye Olsen, together sharing 56 years of marriage. Ken was born in 1929 in St. Paul, MN, the second of three children (predeceased by an older sister and younger brother), served in the Korean conflict as a flight mechanic on C-119 aircraft and returned to NH to receive a degree in Civil Engineering from New Hampton School. He retired after 33 years from his position as Bridge Maintenance Engineer for the State of NH. Together with his wife they traveled extensively throughout the US as well as devoting time building and selling clock for craft fairs, working with the NSPCB and the Friends of the Concord City Auditorium. Attending various Masonic functions with his son, he was a 50-year member of Blazing Star Eureka Lodge #11, Horace Chase Lodge #72, the Scottish Rite bodies of the Valley of Concord and served as an advisor for Rumford Chapter and NH DeMolay.

He leaves his wife, Joye; a son, Karl; a daughter, Kendra; several grandsons, and was predeceased by a son, Kevin, in 1978. Interment was at Maple Grove Cemetery in West Concord, NH. In lieu of flowers, the family asked that donations be made to the Concord City Auditorium Lighting Fund, P. O. Box 652, Concord, NH 03302.

2015 *Eric DeLony Scholarship* ...

The National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges invites applications for the 2015 Eric DeLony Scholarship. The award honors Eric DeLony, who served as chief of the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) from 1971 to 2003 and is a noted historic preservationist. Mr. DeLony was particularly interested in the preservation of historic bridges.

The Society established this program to encourage students to pursue degrees that will lead to a career involving covered bridge preservation, repair and/or restoration. One or more awards may be offered for up to \$1000 each. The applicant must be enrolled in a graduate or undergraduate historic preservation degree program in an accredited institution.

All applications and supporting documents must be received by April 15, 2015 by United States mail or as an electronic file and must be fully completed to be considered. Award decisions recommended by the Scholarship Committee will be confirmed at the Society's executive board meeting in May with awards distributed by July.

To Apply ...

Download the application from the Society's website at <http://coveredbridgesociety.org/scholarship.html>.

Complete the application form including the required 150-word essay about "The Importance of Preserving our Historic Covered Bridges." Also arrange for a transcript together with one personal and two academic letters of recommendation. Recipients must provide proof of current registration and the previous term's grades.

Applications will be evaluated on

- 1) the application itself,
- 2) academic achievement, and
- 3) past and planned involvement within historic preservation-related fields.

* * * * *

A New Covered Bridge Being Built in Connecticut

Arnold M. Grāton Associates Inc., is building a new 60' Town lattice covered bridge in Norwich, Connecticut on a private farm. The bridge will be built traditionally starting with drylaid stone abutments. Much of the bridge will be built in New Hampshire at Arnold's shop and then transported to the site.

The sides will be raised using ginpoles and the bridge will be pulled into place with oxen or horses. The Owner would like to share this building experience with folks that are interested and will welcome Society members to the project site.



The project is at the beginning stages and we will keep you posted on the progress. At this time, we ask that you respect the owner's privacy and not visit the property without prior permission. Details about visiting the site and the owner's contact information will be included in the Spring newsletter.

The goal is to have the bridge completed by Thanksgiving of 2015.

2015 NSPCB Meeting Schedule ...

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

Sunday, March 22, 2015 – Masonic Lodge, Main Street, Boscawen, NH.

Sunday, April 26, 2015 – Harvard Historical Society Meetinghouse, 215 Still River Road, Harvard, MA. Presentation by Terry Miller and Ron Knapp, authors of *America's Covered Bridges: Practical Crossings, Nostalgic Icons*. In addition to the marvelous photos by Chester Ong, the book includes many photos from the NSPCB archives. Copies of the book will be available – a most comprehensive resource for covered bridge enthusiasts. The authors will sign all copies, including ones you may have already purchased.

Sunday, June 28, 2015 – Contoocook Covered Bridge, Contoocook, NH.

Sunday, July 26, 2015 – Gorham, NH to view progress on the Moose Brook Bridge reconstruction.

Sunday, August 23, 2015 – Annual picnic at Beaver Meadow Village at the end of Waumbec Street, Concord, NH. The cookout is at noon and the meeting at 1 pm.

Saturday & Sunday, September 26 & 27, 2015 – Fall tour and combined meeting with the Indiana Covered Bridge Society. The tour will cover Rush County and surrounding areas of southeastern Indiana. Full details will be in the Spring Newsletter and Society website.

Sunday, October 25, 2015 at noon – NSPCB Annual Meeting and Dinner. More details to follow.

Other Upcoming Covered Bridge Meetings & Events ...

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

Sunday, February 1, 2015 at 2 pm – Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania, Monthly meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Manheim, PA. Program: "Covered Bridges of Columbia County" by Bob Kuether.

Sunday, March 1, 2015 at 2 pm – Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania, Monthly meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Manheim, PA. Program: "Sisters Bridges Agreement of the Wenzhou Covered Bridge Society of China and the Ohio Historic Bridge Association" and "From the Hudson Valley to the Ohio: A Western Transfer of the Burr Truss" by David Simmons, President of the Ohio Historic Bridge Association.

Sunday, April 12, 2015 at 2 pm - Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania, Monthly meeting & Bake Sale at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Manheim, PA. Program: "Owning a Covered Bridge" by Chris Young, Columbia County Commissioner & President of Columbia County Covered Bridge Association.

Saturday & Sunday, May 2 & 3, 2015 – Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania, Annual Safari – Chester County, PA. We will visit all 15 covered bridges in Chester County.

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.

Annual Meeting Summary ...

The 2014 Annual Meeting was held at O'Connor's Restaurant in Worcester, Massachusetts with 25 people in attendance. After a wonderful meal we were treated to an excellent presentation on reconstruction of the Blair Bridge in Campton, New Hampshire by Tim Dansereau who was introduced by Arnold Graton.

Those of you who corresponded with David Wright are very familiar with the typewritten letters on lined yellow paper. At the auction of David's belongings, Tim and Michelle Andrews purchased a 1920's era Remington typewriter that he used to write many of those letters. At the meeting, Michelle donated that typewriter to the Society to be kept in the archives.

A committee was formed to handle matters related to David Wright's estate. David willed his home in Westminster, Vermont to the Society after a life tenancy by his friend, Mary Hancock.

The desire to gather all of the Society's belongings under one roof prompted a motion to expand the room acquired last Spring when the archives material stored in Westminster, Vermont needed to be relocated. The expansion will provide plenty of room for the Westminster collection plus a substantial amount of additional material that had been housed by David Wright and Dick Roy. We will work on organizing that space and cataloging the collection during the Winter and hope to have it available for researchers next Spring.

The Society's participation in the Warner, New Hampshire Fall Foliage Festival and Moose Brook Bridge project are discussed in separate articles.

Members in attendance approved a request to offer another scholarship for 2015. Information about that will be distributed to colleges and universities with historic preservation programs.

A motion was approved to authorize the Executive Board to draft and issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking consulting services in public relations, financial and membership development, board development, and other enhancements to the Society's organization and programs. A Board meeting will be scheduled for late January to discuss this and other financial matters.



Photos by Bob Watts and Bill Caswell

Meetings and Society Events ...

July "Away" Meeting

We had a great turnout of members and guests at our July meeting at the East Finley Township Park, site of the Wyt Sprowls Bridge (38-63-29), in Washington County, Pennsylvania. After the meeting, Tom Walczak, president of the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania, led us on a tour of nine covered bridges in the area. We were fortunate that the forecasted rain and thunderstorms held off until near the end of the tour. Tom took a group photo at the final stop, the Brownlee Bridge (38-63-09).



August Picnic

Dave and Cheryl Krumenacker of Manchester, New Hampshire, hosted our annual picnic on a beautiful summer afternoon. 19 members and guests attended. After enjoying our fill of burgers, salads, chips and desserts, Scott Wagner presented the Society with seven banners he designed and printed for use at our events.

We voted to accept an offer from Terry Miller to purchase discounted copies of *America's Covered Bridges*, which he co-wrote with Ron Knapp, to resell at Society events to raise money for our projects.

We also discussed expanding the Archives room to provide sufficient space to move the Society's entire collection under one roof. The additional space will also provide room for researchers to work within the archives.

Photos by Susan Wagner.



September Meeting

In September, Carmela Sciandra hosted our meeting at her home in Lunenburg, Vermont. 15 members and guests attended. We discussed plans for the upcoming Warner Fall Foliage Festival and collection of files from David Wright's estate. We voted to purchase NoChar to be applied to the Hyde Hall Bridge (32-39-01) near Cooperstown, NY, the nation's oldest standing covered bridge.



Photo by Bob Watts

Warner Fall Foliage Festival

The Society set up a table at the Warner, New Hampshire, Fall Foliage Festival over Columbus Day Weekend. At the event we handed out information about the Society and the six covered bridges in the immediate area. In addition to selling a few items to raise money towards our preservation efforts, three people decided to join the Society during the event and one more sent in a membership application afterwards.

Thank you to all our volunteers: Bill & Jenn Caswell, Joye Olson, Carmela Sciandra, Dick Roy, Karen Capen, Karl Olson, Tina Stockbridge, Scott Wagner and Bob Watts. The banners were created and donated by Scott Wagner. Tables provided by the Caswell's and Olson's, canopy provided by Kingman Wylie. Thank you all for your help.



*Dick Roy, Karen Capen & Jenn Caswell
Bill Caswell Photo*



*Carmela Sciandra, Joye Olson & a visitor
Betty Pauwels Photo*

Season's Greetings



*Creamery Bridge
Brattleboro, Vermont
45-13-01
Todd Clark Collection*



*High Bridge
Waitsfield, Vermont
45-12-96
Todd Clark Collection*



*Hyde Hall
Ostego County,
New York
32-39-01
Photo Courtesy Trish Kane*

From the NSPCB

*Bump Bridge
Campton,
New Hampshire
29-05-08#2
Bill Caswell Photo*



*Cilleyville Bridge
Andover,
New Hampshire
29-07-01
Betty Pauwels Photo*



*Stark Bridge
Stark,
New Hampshire
29-04-05
Photo Courtesy
Scott Wagner*



Notes of Interest ...

Please respect our covered bridges and their height and weight restrictions. They are old and should be treated with care. Please read caution signs posted, know how high or heavy your vehicles are before you proceed. Above all, should you witness or be involved with accidental collision, stop. Don't drive through and cause more damage by knocking it apart. Contact the appropriate authorities and report the incident. These bridges belong to all of us. Take pride in your covered bridge heritage, enjoy their beauty, and drive through them slowly and safely.

National Landmark Status Achieved ...

In October, Christopher Marston – Architect & Project Leader for the National Park System Historic American Engineering Record's (HAER) National Covered Bridge Recording Project – announced that the Brown Bridge (45-11-09) in Shrewsbury, Vermont, and the Duck Creek Aqueduct (14-24-11) in Metamora, Indiana, have both been officially designated as National Historic Landmarks.

The Brown Bridge was built in 1880 and is one of the most outstanding examples of a Town Lattice Truss. The Duck Creek Aqueduct was built circa 1846 and is an exceptional example of 19th century covered bridge construction, a rare surviving component of the American canal system, and, the only historic covered wood aqueduct in the United States,

They represent a 12-year effort by HAER as part of the Federal Highway Administration's National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Program (NHCBP). Marston went on to acknowledge historian Lola Bennett, who researched and authored the National Covered Bridge Context Study, and, the support of Joseph Conwill, who shared "his encyclopedic knowledge of historic covered bridges".

These two bridges join the Humpback Bridge (WG#46-03-01) in Virginia and the Knight's Ferry Bridge (WG#05-50-01) in California designated National Historic Landmark's in 2012.



*Interior of Brown Bridge
Bill Caswell Photo*

Dellville Bridge Burned

On November 3rd, the Dellville Bridge (38-50-16) in Perry County Pennsylvania burned. Officials are treating the fire as an arson. Clint Frackman visited the bridge on the day of the fire and provided this picture of the damage.

Perry County Historical Society members have started a fundraising effort, aptly dubbed the Phoenix Initiative, geared toward rebuilding the historic Dellville covered bridge from its charred remains. Historical society president Dennis Hocker said the initiative was set up with a goal of raising \$100,000 for bridge repairs.

The bridge is covered by insurance, and earlier this month commissioners said a rebuild wasn't out of the question. Commissioners are awaiting an engineer's report on the bridge's viability. In the meantime, the historical society is working to raise funds, hoping that show of support will persuade the commissioners to rebuild the bridge. Donations can be sent to the Perry County Historical Society at P.O. Box 81, Newport, PA 17074. In addition to donations, Hocker said the historical society plans to sell posters, featuring all 14 county covered bridges, and commemorative T-shirts.

Hocker said all Phoenix Initiative funds are to be used to rehabilitate the Dellville bridge, but, if commissioners decide against rebuilding, the money will go toward repairs at the other 13 county covered bridges.



Covered Bridge Happenings ...

Greenfield, Massachusetts Covered Bridge Reopens To Vehicles After 12 Years

Closed since 2002 due to safety concerns then badly damaged and knocked from its abutments by the remnants of Hurricane Irene in August 2011, the Pumping Station Bridge (WG#21-06-02 #2) was restored to its position across the Green River on October 9th. The current bridge was built in 1972 replacing a near 100 year old structure. The \$1 million restoration project, 60% of the cost being provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, included reconstructed abutments, replaced floor beams and repaired truss work, siding and roof.

(Compiled from Associated Press/Patriot Ledger article October 11/12, 2014 (Massachusetts))

On Wednesday, November 12th, the Pumping Station Covered Bridge (WG#21-06-02 #2) was reopened to pedestrian and vehicular traffic almost twelve years to the day from its closing in 2002. The bridge will be limited to 15 tons total weight. Height restrictions will be enforced with 'tell tales' at both ends of the bridge. The bridge was rebuilt by volunteers after the original 19th-century structure was destroyed by arson in 1969. The site is included in the Historic Marker database and the Massachusetts Bay Colony Tercentenary Commission marker series.

(Compiled from Greenfield Recorder article November 11, 2014 (Massachusetts))(Thanks to Bill Caswell)

Yachats River Covered Bridge Restoration Underway

As previous editions of this Newsletter have indicated, the proceedings regarding this bridge have been far from simple. Although the allegations of an abutter claimed that the bridge on the northern end was on private property and not a public road, extensive investigation and public hearings determined that the bridge had originally been built with public funds and connected to a public road in the early part of the 20th century and remains a public road today. A temporary bridge is being constructed next to the 75-year old Yachats River Bridge (WG#37-21-08) to allow access to a private residence north of the bridge and for work crews during reconstruction. Funding is in large part being provided by the federal government through the National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Program with additional monies from the Oregon Department of Transportation and Lincoln County. Work is expected to be completed in late October or early November of this year.

(Compiled from News Lincoln County article September 2014 and News-Times article October 2014 (Oregon))

(Thanks to members Bill Cockrell and Bill Caswell)

Resident Makes A Difference in Lane County, Oregon

An observant resident witnessed three overweight empty rock quarry trucks cross the Belknap Bridge (WG#37-20-11) and contacted authorities. The bridge has a weight limit of 11-tons (22,000 pounds) and each truck (empty) weighed in at 2,700 pounds above the limit. According to reports, the driver was trying to shave 2-miles from his trip. The Class C Misdemeanor cost the driver a \$605 fine. The incident was broadcast on the local TV news. Fortunately there was no damage to the bridge which has been under the weight limitation since 2011 when inspection revealed that major rebuilding was required.

[Thanks to that observant resident. Keep your eyes and ears open everyone! – Ed. Note]

(Compiled from article Lane County News and Information article October 2014 (Oregon)-(Thanks to Bill Cockrell)

Romantic Shelter Dedication

The New England Maple Museum in Pittsford, VT held its Open House and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on October 4th featuring the dedication of their covered bridge (Romantic Shelter #45-11-f) and the addition to the pond.

(Compiled from Rutland Daily Herald article October 2, 2014 via email from Thomas Carpenter/Bill Caswell (Vermont))

Updates on Oregon Covered Bridges

Chitwood Bridge (WG#37-21-03) Lincoln County: In late August 2014 a crane placed a 45,000 pound, 90-foot, single lane temporary bridge alongside the Chitwood Bridge to allow restoration work expected to be completed by end of November. The \$1.4 to \$1.5 million project is being funded 75% by the federal National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Program of the National Park System with the remaining 25% funded by Lincoln County. Restoration is to include new roof and siding materials, repair to truss members and a fresh coat of red paint. Although consideration was given to an increase the weight limit of 15 tons is expected to remain after restoration is complete. Lincoln County Engineer Steve Hodge said, it's an historic structure and you have to stick with the historical design. Extensive structural repair – needle beams, lower chord members, approaches, frame and cedar covering – was last undertaken in 1984. The bridge, a 96-foot Howe Truss built in 1926, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.

Mosby Creek Bridge (WG#37-20-27) Lane County: All reconstruction work was to have been completed in time for the annual Fall Covered Bridge Festival in Cottage Grove. The work included new decking, new glue-laminated and pressure treated needle beams, siding and portal boards, roofing, railings and a fresh coat of white paint. The bridge, a 90-foot Howe Truss built in 1920, is the oldest covered bridge in Lane County. As of October 4th, the bridge was still not completed.

Hannah Bridge (WG#37-22-02) Linn County: Completion of the rehabilitation work was expected in August. Work included new glue-laminated and pressure treated needle beams, tension rods, new stringers, decking, siding and a fresh coat of white paint. Built in 1936, the 105-foot Howe Truss bridge spans the Thomas Creek.

Larwood Bridge (WG#37-22-06) Linn County: The August completion of the rehabilitation work was delayed to the end of November as inspections found decay in the bottom chords of the truss which would require more extensive dis-assembly and timber replacement than originally anticipated. Built in 1939 to replace an old covered bridge at the same site, the bridge is 105-foot Howe Truss spanning the Crabtree Creek.

Pengra Bridge (WG#37-20-15#2) Lane County: This bridge, built in 1938 is a 120-foot Howe Truss that spans the Fall Creek, was closed in early August to allow repairs to the roof.

Unity Bridge (WG#37-20-17#2) Lane County: Work began on roof repairs in July 2014 and was reopened to traffic in August. The bridge, built in 1936 is a 90-foot Howe Truss and spans the Fall Creek. It replaced an earlier Nels Roney – built 129-foot structure built in 1890. An entry made in the 1917 bridge inspection log states, “All in good shape except pier. Lower chords wormy. Good for 10 to 15 years. J. W. McArthur.”

(Compiled from Bridge Tender and News-Times articles Fall 2014 (Oregon))
(Thanks to Bill Cockrell and Joseph Conwill)



*Top to Bottom:
Chitwood Bridge
Mosby Creek Bridge
Hannah Bridge
Larwood Bridge
Photos Courtesy Bill Cockrell*

Stonelick Covered Bridge Work Continues

Construction of the new Stonelick Covered Bridge (WG#35-13-02) in Clermont County is progressing. Steel I-beam false work is in place with a temporary work platform. While the original bridge utilized 4-member lower chords, the new construction will consist of 6 12x6's spanning the length of the 140-foot structure. Wooden 6x6 cross braces with 1" steel rods, nuts and washers space the two chords. 4x14 floor beams on 16" centers are positioned across the chords with 7 1/4x 3 1/2 floor planks laid on the beams. Railings, curbing, truss work and roof will follow. [You may recall the Stonelick Covered Bridge collapsed during reconstruction in February of 2014. The bridge, being restored and retaining its historic characteristics, is the only covered bridge left in the county. – Spring 2014 NSPCB Newsletter]

(Compiled from October 2014 The Clermont Historian, Clermont County Historical Society (Ohio))

Whittier Covered Bridge Rehabilitation

Press release from DuBois & King, Laconia, NH

The Town of Ossipee, New Hampshire has received a National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Grant and a Land and Community Heritage Investment Program Grant for the rehabilitation of the Whittier Covered Bridge, (World Guide No. 29-02-08), which crosses the Bearcamp River. The 132 ft. bridge was originally built in the 1870s and used a unique timber truss construction. Due to the condition of the bridge, it has been closed to vehicular traffic since 1989.

DuBois & King consulting engineers of Laconia, New Hampshire and Stan Graton/3G Construction of Holderness, New Hampshire were selected by the Town as the design-build team to rehabilitate the bridge. In 2008, the bridge was moved off its abutments and supported on blocks, shored and stabilized. The rehabilitation work for the timber superstructure is being conducted while the bridge is off its abutments, which will allow restoration of the stone and concrete abutments at a later date. Bridge rehabilitation construction began in early September of this year and is scheduled to be completed in March of 2015.



Stan Graton of 3G Construction has family history with the bridge. “We are very pleased to have been selected for this project,” says Stan Graton, President of 3G. “My grandfather Milton Graton repaired this bridge in 1983. I look forward to continuing the family tradition with this bridge.”

“This is a challenging rehabilitation,” says Robert H. Durfee, PE, Project Manager and Vice President of DuBois & King. “The bridge is a Paddleford Truss, which has a unique framing style, only occurring in a few northern New England Covered Bridges. We believe this bridge is the longest single-span Paddleford Truss in existence. Rehabilitation to support higher (6-ton) truck loads, wind and snow loads can be complex on a Paddleford Truss, while at the same time being historically sensitive,” said Durfee.

“This has been a long process, and the first to employ the design-build approach in New Hampshire to rehabilitate an existing covered bridge,” says Brad Harriman, Public Works Director for the Town of Ossipee. “We are very anxious to complete the rehabilitation of the bridge and move it back onto the abutments,” said Harriman.

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Thanks to all contributors !!

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Reconstruction of the Moose Brook Pony Truss Bridge Gorham, New Hampshire

By Bill Caswell

Much has been written about this project in this Newsletter over the years so I will quickly summarize the highlights for the benefit of our newer members.

In the Spring of 2004, vandals set fire to the Moose Brook Pony truss bridge in Gorham, New Hampshire. Shortly after the fire, member Jim Garvin, who was employed at the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources at the time, and late President David Wright campaigned for the bridge to be reconstructed. An opportunity arose when we learned of a research project proposed by Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) of Cleveland, Ohio. Dario Gasparini was interested in testing the strength of Howe trusses. Director Tim Andrews and Christopher Marston of the National Park Service recommended using the remains of the Moose Brook Bridge for this project. Through the combined efforts of all these people, a grant was obtained for the project and the trusses reconstructed on the CWRU campus. This picture shows them in Cleveland shortly before the return to New Hampshire.



Christopher Marston, David Wright & Dario Gasparini at the charred Moose Brook Bridge.

After evaluating a number of potential locations for the structure's permanent setting, the Gorham Historical Society site stood out as an ideal location. On October 28th, the trusses arrived in Gorham along with some additional parts salvaged from the fire which had been stored by Tim's brother Jeff Andrews. Local contractor Lee Corrigan offered his services to tackle the heavy lifting. Gorham Historical Society President Reuben Rajala and Vice President Tim Sappington were on hand to assist. Tim Sappington has been providing architectural services for the project.



Bids for the reconstruction were requested from three respected covered bridge contractors and two were received, Arnold M. Graton Associates and Barns & Bridges of New England. At the bid opening on October 30th, Barns & Bridges was the low bidder and awarded the contract. I would like to thank Josif Bicja of Hoyle, Tanner & Associates for his invaluable help during the bid process.

The location is owned by the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railway and is leased to the Gorham Historical Society. Once we receive approval from the Railroad and necessary Town approvals, construction can begin. We will keep you posted on progress. For the latest updates, check the Society's Facebook page.

The Park Service grant provided us with \$110,000 towards rebuilding the bridge. It is up to us and the Gorham Historical Society to provide a 20% match to the grant or \$22,000. That match can be in the form of donated time and materials. If you are asking yourself, "How can I help?", here are some volunteer opportunities that can contribute towards the matching funds:



Moose Brook Bridge (continued)

- Designing some eye-catching flyers promoting the project that could be used for fundraising if additional money is needed.
- Helping design the interpretive panels which will be placed along the bridge to tell its story to visitors. If you are interested, we can provide you with details and pictures.
- If you are in the area, there will be volunteer opportunities at the job site such as staining the timbers before they are assembled and landscaping at the end of the project. If you might be interested in hands-on work, email me at nspcb@yahoo.com and I will keep you updated when opportunities are planned.

There are some great people in Gorham excited about this project and eager to help. However, even with their generosity, we will still need to purchase some items for the project. That might require additional funding beyond the Park Service grant. If you are able to help with a donation, please send a check made out to NSPCB to me at 535 2nd NH Tpke, Hillsboro, NH 03244. Be sure to note that it is for the Gorham Bridge Project.



First Ever, Fall Foliage New York Covered Bridge Bus Tour a Huge Success

Submitted by Bob and Trish Kane

The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Resource Center sponsored, for the very first time, a Fall Foliage Covered Bridge Bus Tour as a fund-raiser for the Center. Leaving from Hamilton, NY, on October 9th, fifty six feisty individuals participated in the tour. We were fortunate that Mother Nature cooperated and provided us with a beautiful autumn day with plenty of sunshine. A total of six covered bridges; one private and five public bridges were visited. After a brief stop in Esperance, where everyone enjoyed coffee and homemade muffins, the group continued on to our first bridge, the Waldbillig Covered Bridge in Albany County. We were warmly greeted by owner Michael Waldbillig who answered questions from a very inquisitive crowd.

We continued on to visit New York's only inter-county covered bridge, the Buskirk, which is shared between Rensselaer and Washington Counties where the group enjoyed a bountiful bag lunch. Following lunch, we continued on to the three remaining bridges in Washington County; Rexleigh, Shushan and Eagleville. Participants enjoyed learning about our bridges and the various truss types and unique features of each bridge.

After leaving Washington County, everyone enjoyed watching The Bridges of Madison County during the two hour drive to our next bridge, Hyde Hall at Glimmerglass State Park. Our day ended with a lovely and bountiful harvest dinner in the Lake View Room overlooking beautiful Otsego Lake sponsored by the Friends of Glimmerglass. Throughout the day everyone enjoyed the many door prizes that were offered in addition to two wonderful gift basket raffles. Participants departed with a bag full of covered bridge information and some wonderful memories of a fantastic tour of some of New York's Covered Bridges.

According to the survey that was completed at the end of the tour, everyone had a wonderful time and wanted to know when the next tour would be offered. Well, we'll have to see about that!

Summer Road Trip

Member Pat Tabor shared some photos of Iowa bridges taken during a recent trip.

Imes Bridge (15-61-06) is the oldest of the remaining Madison County covered bridges being built in 1870. It was originally located over the Middle River west of Patterson. In 1887 it was moved to a spot over Clinton Creek southwest of Hanley. Imes Bridge was moved again to its present site over a natural ravine just east of St. Charles in 1977. It was renovated in 1997 at a cost of \$31,807.



Holliwell Bridge (15-61-05) was built over the Middle River in 1880 by Benton Jones. The 113' bridge is supported by a Town lattice truss and arches. It was renovated in 1995 at a cost of \$225,000.

The Hogback Bridge (15-61-04) was built over the North River by Benton Jones in 1884. The name comes from the limestone ridge which forms the west end of the valley. It was renovated in 1992 at a cost of \$118,810.



The original Cedar Bridge was moved to this location over Cedar Creek in 1921. The bridge was bypassed in 1964. In Robert James Waller's novel, *The Bridges of Madison County*, this is where Francesca Johnson goes to meet Robert Kincaid to help him take photographs. Cedar is also the bridge on the novel's cover. The original Cedar Bridge was destroyed by an arsonist on September 3, 2002. This replica of the bridge (15-61-03#2) was built from the original plans using authentic materials and methods. The new bridge was dedicated on October 9, 2004.

The Cutler-Donahoe was built by Eli Cox in 1870. It is 79 feet long and features a pitched roof where most other Madison County covered bridges have flat roofs. Originally located over the North River near Bevington, it was moved to Winterset's City Park on its 100th birthday in honor of the first Covered Bridge festival in 1970. It was placed across a ravine near the north entrance to the park where it is closed to traffic. The bridge is named for the Cutler and Donahoe families.



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 and click on the World Guide link.

Page 4 add Simpson Ranch CB in Meadow Vista, California

05-31-08 Meadow Vista Wooley Creek Simpson Ranch or
Foothill Roots Farm 1 span 22' King

Northeast of Meadow Vista. 0.85 miles northeast of Combie Rd. on Placer Hills Rd. in Meadow Vista, then 200' on walking trail on the northwest side of the road to the bridge. N39 00.60 W121 00.67

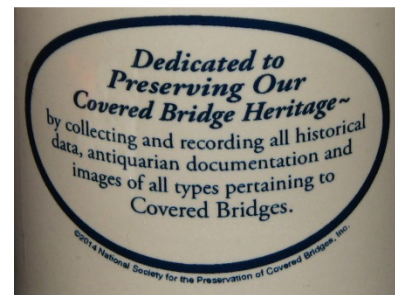


Simpson Ranch Bridge
Photo Courtesy Sandra Adrion

Mugs, Anyone?

The Society is considering preparation of mugs to help raise money towards our projects. Two different options are being considered. Before committing to a purchase, we need to know that there is interest in one or both of them. All items will include an NSPCB logo on one side and an abbreviated mission statement on the reverse.

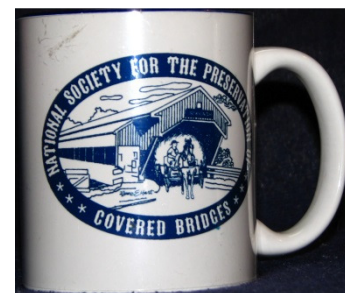
We need at least 20 confirmed sales before placing an order. Please contact Bill Caswell at wscaswell@yahoo.com if you would be interested in purchasing one or more.



Ceramic Mug

11 oz. white ceramic mug

estimated sale price - \$10 in person, \$15 by mail.



Ceramic Stein

22 oz. white ceramic stein

4¾" tall and 3" diameter

estimated sale price \$12 in person, \$18 by mail.



The Society Bookstore ...

Order from Bill Caswell, 535 Second NH Turnpike, Hillsboro, NH 03244,
E-mail: wscaswell@yahoo.com

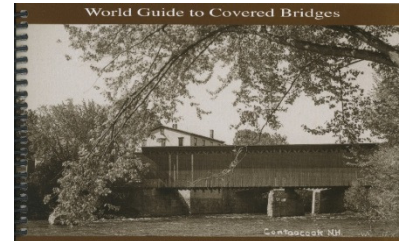
2009 World Guide to Covered Bridges

\$19.95, includes priority mail postage.

Connecticut & Rhode Island Covered Bridges

by Bill Caswell; Arcadia Press, Images of America Series, 2011, 6.5 x 9.25
soft cover, 128 pgs.

\$26.00, includes priority mail postage.



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

Covered Bridges of Vermont by Ed Barna, 6 x 9 soft cover, 216 pgs..... Postpaid, \$17.00

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

Books by Andrew Howard

All books, 6"x9" paperback

- C/B's of Madison County IA, A Guide, 46 pgs \$6.50 plus \$2.00 postage and handling
- C/B's of Connecticut, A Guide, 47 pgs..... \$5.50 plus \$2.00 postage and handling
- C/B's of Virginia, A Guide, 46 pgs..... \$6.95 plus \$2.00 postage and handling
- C/B's of Bennington County VT, A Guide, 49 pgs..... \$6.50 plus \$2.00 postage and handling
- C/B's of Massachusetts, A Guide, 80 pgs..... \$6.95 plus \$2.00 postage and handling

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