

The Newsletter

National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges, Inc.

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Pioneer's Safari at the Dingleton Bridge in New Hampshire

Photo taken by Bob Watts Sept. 25, 2010

(See the story on page 13)

Pioneers Safari 2010

The seventh annual Pioneers Safari was held in September 2010, beginning on Friday the 25th for an evening dinner gathering at the Royal Springfield Diner in Springfield, VT, then continuing on the following Saturday and Sunday. The main focus of the safari was to visit the many covered bridges in the area of the Connecticut River Valley. A total of 35 people were on the list of adventurers. A total of eight states were represented on the roster of safari attendees. (Oddly, not one person was from Vermont!) Safari Headquarters was at the Holiday Inn Express in Springfield, VT.

The Safari was well organized by Bill and Jenn Caswell, and George Conn. They spent a lot of time working out the details and making sure everything was going to flow smoothly.

The Pioneers Safari has evolved over the years, first being named the Richard Donovan Memorial Safari in honor of our friend, well known covered bridge enthusiast Richard T. Donovan.

After the untimely passing of another highly admired bridge enthusiast, Richard Wilson, the safari was renamed the "Pioneers Safari". It is also intended to honor the world's greatest covered bridge historian, Richard Sanders Allen.

There wasn't a safari in 2011 due to the fact that no one was available to do all the work in setting it up. Hopefully, a 2012 safari can be organized by someone.

Bill Caswell produced a beautiful spiral bound booklet for the 2010 Safari which makes a wonderful souvenir. Bob Watts took many spectacular Fall photos along the way with his Nikon cameras.



Group Photo at the Corbin Bridge on Sunday morning Sept. 27, 2010

Kneeling L-R: Mirikka Guay, K.C. Klingensmith, Tina Conn, Cliff Stevens, Jackie Stevens, Bob Griner, Margaret Moore, Martha Moore, Bob Watts, David Guay.

Standing L-R: George Conn, Sharon Ohlemacher, James Lewis, Carmela Sciandra, Chuck Davis, Clyde Scheib, Alda Scheib, Karl Olson, Bonnie Shultz, Tina Stockbridge, Patricia Cook, Eugene Bisanti, Bernadine Bisanti, Reid Bader, Joye Olson, Ken Olson, Alice Bader, Ed Sides, Carole Sides, Bill Caswell (The photo was taken by Bob Watts)

2012 Meetings, Dinners, Dedications & Events

- March 18** **Ohio Historic Bridge Association Meeting**
1:30 p.m. at the Norwich Township Safety Services Building, 5181 NW Parkway, Hilliard, OH
Program by David Simmons: Covered Bridge Country, the Covered Bridges of Ashtabula County
- March 25** **National Society Meeting**
Lunch at 12:00 p.m. at MoeJoe's Restaurant, 2175 Candia Rd., Manchester, NH
The Meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m.
- April 1** **Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania**
2:00 p.m. Bake Sale and Meeting at the Manheim Twp. Municipal Building. Program is "Covered Bridges of New England" a documentary film produced by Ocean State Video. It will be presented by Ben and June Evans.
- April 15** **NY State Covered Bridge Society Meeting**
At the **Spaghetti Warehouse**, 689 N. Clinton St., Syracuse, NY 13210 Phone: 315-475-1807 www.meatballs.com
Price is \$16.00 per person, payable to the NYSCBS. Send to Ron & Al McGay, 105 Rebecca St., N. Syracuse, NY 13212 by April 3rd. Dinner is at noon. You may arrive early and decide on your entree after you get there.
- April 22** **National Society Meeting**
1:00 p.m. at the Harvard, Mass. Historical Society Building, 215 Still River Rd. in Harvard
The program has not been decided upon at this time.
- April 28 & 29** **Indiana Covered Bridge Society**
Spring Trip to Carroll, Howard, and Grant Counties. Contact Margaret Smith at margaret.smith803@gmail.com
- April 28** **Vermont Covered Bridge Society**
10:00 a.m. Spring Meeting at the Bennington Center for the Arts Covered Bridge Museum, 44 Gypsy Lane
- May 6th** **Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania 53rd Anniversary Dinner**
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Hershey Farms Restaurant & Inn at Strasburg/Ronks, PA
Address: 240 Hartman Bridge Rd., Ronks PA 17572 (This is PA 896)
Dinner is to be served at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$18.00 per person
Reservations must be made by April 27, 2012
- May 18-20** **NY State Covered Bridge Society Safari**
Southeast Vermont, Southwest New Hampshire, and Northern Massachusetts
- May 19-20** **Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania Annual Safari**
A trip to Perry County and its 14 covered bridges.
Headquarters are at the Holiday Inn Express, 2055 Technology Parkway, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050.
Phone: 717-732-8800. Rooms are \$79.00 + tax per night. If you call for reservations, be sure to mention that you are with the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society Safari in order to get the Special Group Rate.
- May 20** **Ohio Historic Bridge Association Spring Tour**
Time & Location are to be announced
- June 3** **Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania**
11:00 a.m. a meeting will be held at the Kreidersville Covered Bridge Festival in Northampton County

2012 Meetings, Dinners, Dedications & Events

- June 7-9 Elizabethton, Tennessee Annual Covered Bridge Celebration**
The three day festival features arts/crafts in the Covered Bridge Park live bands each night, food and games. We are planning a large ribbon cutting ceremony for the renovated bridge. This year also marks 130 years for the bridge. We would like to invite you to visit Elizabethton and our Covered Bridge during this time and also help us spread the word about this great accomplishment amongst other Covered Bridge enthusiasts.
- June 10 NY State Covered Bridge Society Meeting**
Meeting will be held at Myers Gardens, 1071 Michigan Hollow Rd., Spencer, NY. There is a picnic shelter, a private covered bridge and a gazebo, along with a lily pond and flower garden.
- June 15-17 Zumbrota Covered Bridge Festival**
- June 24 National Society Meeting**
1:00 p.m. at the Contoocook Railroad Bridge in Contoocook, NH
Lunch is at noon at the pizza shop next to the bridge. The meeting begins at 1:00 p.m. inside the bridge
- July 1 Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania**
12:00 noon Annual Picnic at the Historic Poole Forge and Covered Bridge Park
Everyone bring a dish to share with 8 to 10 people. Also bring your own tableware and beverages.
- July 8 NY State Covered Bridge Society Annual Picnic at the Shushan Covered Bridge**
Lunch is at 12:00 noon, meeting is at 1:00 p.m
- July 15 Ohio Historic Bridge Association Annual Picnic**
Meet at 12:00 noon at the Salt Creek Covered Bridge in Muskingum Co.
The program will be presented by speaker Julie O'Keefe McGhee, "Teller of Tales that weave folklore into our lives"
- July 22 National Society Meeting**
1:00 p.m. at the Theodore Burr Resource Center in Oxford, NY
Located inside the Oxford Public Library, 8 Ft Hill Park, Oxford, NY
Program: Covered Bridges in the Civil War by Bob and Trish Kane
- July 21 & 22 Indiana Covered Bridge Society**
Summer Trip to the French Lick Area
- August 12 Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania**
Meeting at the Ebenezer Covered Bridge in Mingo Park (Washington County)
There will be a mini tour of covered bridges in the morning, then a lunch time and meeting at 2:00 p.m.
- August 14 NY State Covered Bridge Society Meeting at the Jay Covered Bridge**
- August 25 Fleming County Covered Bridge Festival (Kentucky)**
This year will be the 15th Annual Fleming County Covered Bridge Festival. The festival always takes place on the fourth Saturday in August, so this year it will be on August 25, 2012, from 9 am until 5 pm, next to the Goddard Covered Bridge, on Highway 32 just outside Flemingsburg, KY. Admission is free. The festival features arts & crafts vendors, food vendors, heritage demonstrations and live music (country, bluegrass & gospel). There is a Civil War living history encampment and the festival kicks off each year with an antique car and tractor parade that moves through the Goddard Covered Bridge onto the festival grounds. There will be information available on the other 2 bridges in Fleming County and maps to show how to reach them if anyone wants to see all 3 bridges during their visit. We also try to have someone on hand each year to answer questions about the bridges and their history. The Annual Fleming County Covered Bridge Festival is sponsored by the Fleming County Tourism Committee.

2012 Meetings, Dinners, Dedications & Events

- August 26** **National Society Meeting and Picnic**
At the Westminster Fire Station
Lunch at Noon, Meeting at 1:00 p.m.
- Sept. 9** **NY State Covered Bridge Society Annual Auction**
The NYSCBS major Fund Raiser will be held at the Hamden Town Hall beginning at 11:00 a.m. Bring items for donations but limit them to a maximum of 10. Wayne and Karen Marshfield will provide refreshments and dessert. The town hall is on Rt. 10, west of Delhi, NY, 1/2 mile north of the Hamden Covered Bridge.
- Sept. 16** **Ohio Historic Bridge Association Fall Tour**
Time and place to be announced
- Sept 23** **National Society Meeting**
Time and place are not decided, yet.
- Sept. 29 & 30** **Indiana Covered Bridge Society**
Fall Trip to Dearborn, Fayette, and Franklin Counties
- Oct. 14** **NY State Covered Bridge Society Meeting**
At the Broadalbin/Eagle Mill Covered Bridge
- Oct. 28** **National Society Annual Meeting**
Time and place are not decided, yet.
- Nov. 11** **NY State Covered Bridge Society Harvest Dinner**
There will be a Christmas Card exchange. Other details have yet to be decided upon at this time.
- Nov. 18** **Ohio Historic Bridge Association**
Meeting in Hilliard, OH at 1:30 p.m.
Exact location and program are to be announced.
- June 2013**
- June 5-8** **Second National Covered Bridge Conference, Crowne Plaza, Dayton, Ohio**
Sponsored by FHWA, NPS, and USDA Forest Products Laboratory, this event will be held ten years after the first conference in Burlington, VT in 2003. Papers are sought addressing covered bridge research and rehabilitation projects, best practices for covered bridge rehabilitation, history of covered bridges, and continuing threats and challenges to saving covered bridges. The deadline for proposals is January 7, 2013. Paper Chair: David Simmons, dsimmons@ohiohistory.org
Conference Chair: Christopher Marston, christopher_marston@nps.gov

The conference will offer the opportunity for exchange between a diverse audience of civil engineers, public transportation officials, academics, trades people, historians, architects, and covered bridge enthusiasts. More information will be made available on the conference website, <http://www.woodcenter.org>. Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

Welcome to Our New Members!

Mark Hamouz, 8237 South Jasmine Court, Englewood, CO 80112

Bridgeport Bridge 05-29-01

Bridgeport's historic covered bridge will turn 150 years old, and the South Yuba River State Park is planning a celebration April 27-29, according to Don Denton, a park docent. "It will be the biggest birthday that Bridgeport has ever seen," he said. Built in 1862, the 229-foot single-span wooden covered bridge near Yuba County is the largest of its kind in existence, now that the Blenheim Bridge in New York is gone. David Wood, an entrepreneur, who knew he could turn a comfortable profit by charging people to cross the bridge, built the structure to allow many of the miners a safe crossing, said Glenn Fuller, member of the South Yuba River Park Association board. The bridge was designed to support 15 tons, surpassing the capabilities of other bridges by a long shot, Fuller said. Not only did it serve the miners from California's famed Gold Rush, but served as the main passage for heavy freight wagons on their way to the silver mines proliferating in Virginia City, Nev. April 28 will feature a full-fledged pageant, where actors will impersonate David Wood, Mary Ann Cole, Andrew Kneebone and other historic people affiliated with the bridge. On April 29, the ceremony will be combined with the annual Spring Festival to commemorate the anniversary. Bridgeport is west of Grass Valley and eight miles north of Penn Valley on Pleasant Valley Road where it crosses the South Yuba River. *(Taken from The Union of Grass Valley 2-2-2012)*

Comstock Bridge 07-04-01

The 90-foot covered bridge over the Salmon River, north of Route 16 was closed in March of 2009 so work could begin on the \$1.1 million restoration project, according to the Connecticut State Department of Transportation. It is one of only three covered bridges remaining in Connecticut, the DOT said.

"It's a very unique and historical bridge," DOT spokesman Kevin Nursick said. "There's been a bridge at that spot since the 1700s." Funding for the project came from the federal National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Program, as well as 20 percent in matching state funds.

"It's partially open to pedestrian traffic now, with some sporadic closings," Nursick said. "It's scheduled to be fully complete next month, with some planting and landscaping in the spring."

The work involved disassembling and removing the existing bridge, built in the 19th century and renovated in the 1930s and 1970s. The main structural components were reinforced and the bridge then was rebuilt over the same spot, appearing as it had before. "We were able to reuse about **50 percent** of all the wood from the bridge," Nursick said. It also was reinforced to better withstand heavy winds. Gone also are steel beams that had been installed in recent years to help support the bridge, which had begun to deteriorate rapidly. *(From The Norwich Bulletin.com Jan 13, 2012)*

Darlington Bridge 14-54-01

For the last 144 years the white covered bridge that spans Sugar Creek has been a landmark for the small town of Darlington. Completed in 1868 for \$1,585, it is one of two covered bridges left standing in the county, and it is in need of restoration.

An effort is underway by the town of Darlington to renovate the 166' Howe Truss.

Darlington residents Richard Ames, president of the park board and Judy Anderson, town clerk-treasurer asked the Montgomery County Commissioners Monday, Feb. 13th for money out of the County's Covered Bridge fund to help with the restoration.

The commissioners approved the transfer of \$31,423.04 to the town of Darlington to help with the restoration effort. The county receives money from the state on a yearly basis for covered bridge maintenance.

Ames said the town has just begun its efforts to renovate the bridge. He said project will cost somewhere around \$200,000.

Ames said they are looking for ways to fund the restoration including securing different grants, and that the county money will give them a start. *(From The JournalReview Feb. 14, 2012)*

Cabin Creek Bridge 17-68-03

Contractors had until January 15, 2012 to submit their bids on the restoration of this 114' Multiple Kingpost truss, located in Lewis County. The contract is supposed to be awarded on May 15, 2012. The cost of the project is estimated to be \$1.3 million, which will be provided by the National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Program, the Dept. of Parks, and a Transportation Enhancement. The date set for completion is January 2014. Your editor saw this bridge shortly after Arnold Graton and his crew had installed a metal truss inside the bridge to keep it from collapsing. (The photo was taken by Brian McKee Sept 5, 2009)



Stark Bridge 29-04-05

The Stark board of selectmen recently chose H.E. Bergeron Engineers (HEB) of North Conway as the engineering consultant for the estimated \$1.1 million project to rehabilitate the historic Stark Covered Bridge over the Upper Ammonoosuc River.

HEB was one of three competing engineering firms to submit their qualifications. In a final step, HEB's selection was then approved by the state Department of Transportation (NHDOT).

The bridge, which was built in 1853, is one of the state's most photographed covered bridges.

It is on the 'Municipal Red List' of those in need of repair and also listed as 'Structurally Deficient' in the National Bridge Inventory.

The first public hearing was set at 7 p.m. on Feb. 29 in the Stark Town Hall.

The bulk of the rehabilitation costs will be paid through a \$904,000 federal National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Program grant, administered through NHDOT State-Aid Bridge Program. The Paddleford-style truss bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is one of the few remaining covered bridges of this style still in use in the Granite State.

The state is committed to paying 80 percent of the remaining 20 percent, with the town of Stark paying the final 20 percent, expected to be in the \$45,000 range.

If all goes as planned, the project could go out to bid in December, then workers would be on site in late spring 2013 and continue to work steadily over the summer, with the hope that the bridge would be ready for photographers when the leaves turn brilliant colors in late September. *(From The Coos Co. Democrat 2-15-2012)*

Mt. Orne Bridge 29-04-08 45-05-03

The bridge that connects Lancaster N.H. to Lunenburg VT. will be getting repairs during the next three months. It has been closed to all traffic since May 2010. Our records show that it was built in 1911 over the Connecticut River. 32 feet of the bridge are owned by Lancaster and the remaining section of the 266 ft structure are owned by Lunenburg. It received major repairs in 1983. *(from the BostonGlobe.com 1-10-2012)*

Tuscarora Club 32-13-05

This private covered bridge was washed out during the flooding from Hurricane Irene on August, 28 2011. It was moved to this location from Dunraven in 1935, when it became one of the most elusive covered bridges for bridge hunters to find.

Originally a Multiple Kingpost truss, it wasn't rebuilt authentically, so it has technically been a stringer. The club has hired Arnold Graton & Assoc. to build a new covered bridge in its place, and it will certainly be an authentic timber truss. We hope to have more information about this project in the next issues of this *Newsletter*.

(Photo by Brian McKee)



Deacon's Station (Replica) 33-34-A

York Bridge Concepts is constructing a "timber covered" vehicular bridge for Deacon's Station, a unique, all-student development located in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Deacon's Station is located near the Wake Forest University. The 62-foot long, wood covered bridge will be the focal point of the Deacon's Station community allowing the students to be bused from Deacon's Station to Wake Forest University, less than a mile away. The entire bridge is being built on-site, including the superstructure, heavy timber rafters, roofing, columns and rails. York Bridge Concepts anticipates the completion of this covered bridge in early February, 2012. To track the progress of the construction of the bridge, please follow [York Bridge Concepts](#) on Facebook to see the latest pictures of the bridge being built. *(Info from PRWEB) January 31, 2012*

Stonelick/Perintown Bridge 35-13-02

The bridge has stood along Stonelick-Williams Corner Road since 1878. Recently, its neighbors have gathered about 200 signatures to halt an upcoming construction upgrade project. It has been closed for more than two years due to its poor condition, and now, officials plan to add a modern support structure. The neighbors fear that will tarnish the old bridge's historic qualities. County commissioners have heard objections to the construction plan, which would add an additional structure inside the bridge to allow it to carry heavy vehicle traffic, and the outside would also be restored. Opponents of that plan want to see it restored to its previous "original" state.

Ohio

McClellan Bridge 35-15-02

On a recent visit to Columbiana Co., Ohio, your editor and Karen Bittinger re-visited several covered bridges that we hadn't seen for a few years. Most of the county's covered bridges can't be considered authentically historic anymore due to poor restoration jobs or just total replacement. One of our favorite covered bridges is the **Jim McClellan Bridge**, located on a little used county road. It is a wonderful location for the bridge, giving the visitor an idea of what traveling was like back in the late 1800's. We were shocked to find a very dilapidated structure that was sagging and leaning to the point of near collapse! I walked across it slowly, as not to shake it and possibly bring it down on top of me. The most amazing thing was that it was not closed to traffic. There was a swinging gate at one end, but it was wide open and there were no warning signs at all. We can only hope that this "almost original" historic bridge gets some support and proper repairs before it is too late.

The **McClellan Bridge** is a 53' Multiple Kingpost truss built in 1879 over West Fork of the Little Beaver Creek in Center Township.



Photos of the McClellan Bridge were taken by Brian McKee and Karen Bittinger
November 23, 2011

Ohio

Johnston Bridge 35-23-16

Mink Hollow Bridge 35-23-43

The Mink Hollow covered bridge was recently given a new “canopy” (which we assume means “roof over the windows”), and the Johnston Bridge will get a new canopy in the very near future, thanks to funding from a 0.4 mil levy that was passed back in November 2011. The levy should bring in \$400,000 to \$500,000 in April and a similar amount in September. The two covered bridges will use about \$50,000 of the funds, while the remainder will go to numerous other projects within Lancaster County’s historic parks. (From *The LancasterEagle Gazette* March 2, 2012)

Charleton Mill Road Bridge 35-29-16

The Greene County Engineer’s Office hopes to breathe new life into one of the county’s covered bridges this summer. The reconstruction of the Charleton Mill Road Covered Bridge is one of many projects in the Greene County Engineer’s 2012 Road and Bridge Program. The bridge closed on Nov. 28, 2011 after Greene County Engineer Robert N. Geyer determined that the structure was no longer safe for traffic. Abuse from the elements and vehicles exceeding the load limit had left the bridge with broken connections, rotted timber and stress-related damage.

According to Geyer, the bridge had reached a point where it could no longer even hold two and a half tons.

The reconstruction project has been tentatively planned to start somewhere in July. Once the project begins, Geyer estimates that it will take approximately 120 days to complete. The structure will be disassembled and the trusses will be rebuilt out of glued laminated timber, also known as glulam. The end result will be a bridge that will be able to stand up under the weight of the legal load limit.

“It will be able to carry legal loads when we’re done,” Geyer said. “School buses, trucks and construction vehicles will be able to go across it.”

According to the Greene County Engineer’s 2012 Road and Bridge Program, the project is estimated to cost \$800,000. The Ohio Public Works Commission will provide \$400,000 for the reconstruction. Bridge levy money will cover the county’s share of the project.

Oregon

McKee Bridge 37-15-06

Jackson County, Oregon has applied for a \$550,000 federal grant to restore the historic McKee Covered Bridge spanning the upper Applegate River. Built in 1917, the bridge is just off Upper Applegate Road, about 16 miles south of Jacksonville. It will be several months before officials will know whether the request is approved. The grant application doesn't specify when an award will be announced, but it will probably be sometime before the end of spring. The covered bridge has been closed to vehicular traffic since 1956, then became off-limits to pedestrians last fall after inspectors determined its wooden timbers had suffered significant decay. The grant request is through the DOT's National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Program, which provides about \$8 million a year in grants to repair or rehabilitate covered bridges around the country. If the request is approved, the McKee Bridge Historical Society would be required to come up with a 10 percent matching fund of \$55,000. While the bridge technically belongs to the county, the nonprofit society has taken on the responsibility for its upkeep and maintenance. The new repair work would take an estimated two to three years to complete. (From *The Mail Tribune* 2-14-2012)

Grave Creek or Sunny Valley 37-17-01

On Thursday Feb. 16, 2012 Josephine County Commissioners approved spending of \$45,000 to match a \$400,000 federal grant to repair the Grave Creek covered bridge, in Sunny Valley.

The 92-year-old bridge has had paint and roof repairs and other major maintenance in recent years, but now cracks under the structure need attention. Josephine County Public Works Director Rob Brandes says actual work will be done in 2013.

The Grave Creek covered bridge is the only covered bridge in Oregon that can be seen from Interstate 5. It is a 105' Howe Truss built in 1920. (From *KDRV.com Newswatch* 12, Feb 16, 2012)

Oregon

Goodpasture Bridge 37-20-10

This Historic Covered Bridge, that serves as both a tourist attraction and a vital gateway for logging trucks, is getting \$2 million in repairs, according to a story from The Associated Press. It is the second-longest covered bridge in Oregon, and has structural damage that is limiting the type and number of vehicles that can cross it. The bridge was last rebuilt in 1987. According to a report in "The Bridge Tender", the bridge will remain open to light traffic while the repairs are being made. It will be supported by a temporary steel structure, which will be removed when the repairs are finished.

The Goodpasture bridge, with its many windows, is one of the most scenic and photographed covered bridges in the state. It was designed by the Oregon State Highway Department and built by Lane County in 1938 for \$13,154. Gothic-style windows decorate both sides of the structure.

At 165 feet, the span is the longest covered bridge in Oregon still in daily use. It spans the mighty McKenzie River. It connects homes, recreational users and logging trucks on the south side of the river with busy Oregon 126. The project is funded through a federal highway grant program and a 10 percent match from the Lane County road fund. *(From The Oregonian Jan 17, 2012)*

Pennsylvania

Knecht's Bridge 38-09-02

At a recent meeting of citizens interested in protecting the historic Knecht's Covered Bridge in Springfield Township, the conversation included the excessive array of signage that Bucks County has deemed appropriate to place in front of this beautiful structure. The majority of residents felt the signage was too much. "We understand the need for safety and to protect the bridge from damage by vehicle strikes, but the view of the bridge has been thoroughly trashed with signage, which devalues its historical importance. We think something could be done to eliminate or at least mitigate the stark visual intrusion while meeting reasonable notification requirements". 14 signs are placed in front of the bridge, several of them being duplicates. "Alas, the folks in Doylestown insist that signs are needed to protect the bridge from vehicle strikes, and that all the signs you see in the photo, approaching the west side of the bridge, are required to meet PennDOT standards". But not all of the bridges have similar arrays consisting of 13 on seven posts, as does Knecht's. In fact, the western approach to Knecht's has far fewer, though they're still the same green hue".

The county owns seven historic bridges, and self-insures against vehicle-strike damage. Supposedly, instances of cars or trucks hitting the bridges have subsided since the signs were posted about five years ago. *(From "The Morning Call" Feb. 27, 2012)*

Dimmsville Bridge 38-34-02

Juniata County's Dimmsville Bridge, which is privately owned, is in such poor condition that it is likely to collapse. Mrs. Pat Cook has sent pictures to share with us. See the 2 photos below. The bridge is buried in dense brush and is severely leaning and sagging. The owners are trying to get the Juniata Co. Historical Society to take ownership of the bridge and also the maintenance of it. The Dimmsville Bridge is a 109' Burr Truss, built in 1902 over the Cocolamus Creek. *(Pat Cook Mar. 4, 2012)*



Pennsylvania

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

Please correct your World Guide information about this bridge. We thank our members Eugene and Bernadine Bisanti for sending us the following information:

We visited the newly reassembled Keller's Mill (38-36-13) bridge in Lancaster County, PA on January 30, 2012.

It is now located about 2 miles from its original location. Its on Middle Creek Road, about 1/2 mile from the intersection of Rothsville Road and Middle Creek Road in Ephrata, PA. The new GPS coordinates are N40 09.855 W076 13.954

Tennessee

Elizabethton Bridge 42-10-01

"Elizabethton Tennessee is home to a historic covered bridge built in 1882. This past year the city secured a match grant to make repairs to the bridge which are currently under way now. We will be having our annual Covered Bridge Celebration June 7-9th. The three day festival features arts/crafts in the Covered Bridge Park live bands each night, food and games. We are planning a large ribbon cutting ceremony for the renovated bridge. This year also marks 130 years for the bridge. We would like to invite you to visit Elizabethton and our Covered Bridge during this time and also help us spread the word about this great accomplishment amongst other Covered Bridge enthusiasts. Thank you in advance for your time".

Felicia English
Chamber Director
(423) 547-3859

Vermont

Pulp Mill Bridge 45-01-04

State police are trying to track down a copper thief who stole some copper wire from this historic covered bridge. The Pulp Mill Bridge spans the Otter Creek between Middlebury and Weybridge. It was built in 1820 and is currently undergoing a one and a half million dollar renovation. Police say some time Monday night or early Tuesday morning someone swiped about 350 feet of copper wire from the restoration project. (From WCAX.com Jan. 13, 2012)

Bartonsville Bridge 45-13-11

On January 17th, The Rockingham Selectboard, approved a motion to award funds to a Vermont business to manage the debris from the old Bartonsville Covered Bridge, which was washed away by Tropical Storm Irene in August 2011.

The board voted to accept Barns & Bridges/Adam's Trucking's bid of \$123,190, which was received and opened on Friday, Dec. 9, for the proper removal of the wreckage. The ultimate goal is to salvage and store away as much of the original structure as possible. According to Municipal Manager Timothy Cullenen, the town's insurance policy -- through the Vermont League of Cities and Towns -- on the bridge will cover the entire operation of removal. This is, he stated, in addition to the \$1-million coverage for its replacement. In a statement, Cullenen said the VLCT released a response that mentioned, in part, that going with the bid will in essence "help in lowering the overall cost of the loss with using what can be used for the new bridge along with an opportunity for salvage." (From The Brattleboro Reformer 1-23-2012) Photo by Brian McKee May 2010



Vermont

Scott Bridge 45-13-13

The Scott Bridge, a 277' covered bridge built in 1870 over the West River, is listed as the longest wooden covered bridge located entirely in Vermont.

The bridge has deteriorated to the point that a minor incident could cause it to collapse. The Vermont Agency of Transportation says the 19th century timber bridge in Townshend has been closed to all traffic including pedestrians. The agency will work with the state Division for Historic Preservation to develop a plan and raise funds for repairs.

Vermont Public Radio reports that Transportation Secretary Brian Searles says "the Scott Bridge has been patched several times over the years". (From WPTZ.com 2-14-2012) Photos taken by Brian McKee May 27, 2010



Taftsville Bridge 45-14-12

At the time of the publication of this newsletter, half of the Taftsville Covered Bridge has been dismantled and put into storage for reassembly at a later date. The bridge and its abutments were damaged by flooding during Hurricane Irene in August of 2012.

Quechee Bridge 45-14-A

Residents of this quaint Vermont village will soon decide whether to repair their covered bridge that was damaged in the flooding last August, or to replace it with a new one. The bridge, despite being a stringer, is important to the village businesses and homes. Residents will vote on a bond which will finance the new bridge project. If the bond issue fails, then the damaged bridge will be repaired.

Our records show that the Quechee Bridge is a steel stringer and concrete slab with a wooden box and roof on top of it. It is 72 ft. long and was built in 1970. (From the Vermont Public Radio web site 2-14-2012) Photo by Brian McKee May 28, 2010



Bowers Bridge or Brownsville Bridge 45-14-11

This small 44 ft. long tied arch covered bridge was washed out by flood waters caused by Hurricane Irene last August. Local craftsman, Steve Bodley of Brownsville, VT has taken on the job of replacing the lost structure with a new one. Bodley will build a new "box and roof" over the remaining deck, which was repaired, and upgraded. According to the article in WPTZ.com, the original **Bowers Bridge** was built in 1884, however the **World Guide to Covered Bridges** lists the date as c1919. The **Bowers Bridge** is a twin of the **Best Bridge** 45-14-10 which is also a short tied arch. The **Best Bridge** is listed as having a construction date of 1889. (Taken from an article in WTPZ.com 2-14-2012)



Covered Spans of Yesteryear

by Bill Caswell

I recently received an email from the Elizabethton Tennessee Chamber of Commerce promoting their annual Covered Bridge Celebration June 7-9th. It stated that the city secured a match grant to make repairs to the 1882 covered bridge last year and those repairs are currently under way. The three day festival features arts and crafts in the Covered Bridge Park, food, games and live bands each night. The city is planning a ribbon cutting ceremony for the renovated bridge during the festival. For more details, visit the Chamber's website at <http://coveredbridge.elizabethtonchamber.com/>.

Elizabethton is in Carter County in the far eastern part of Tennessee. In 1882 the County Court approved \$3,000 towards a bridge to span the Doe River in Elizabethton plus \$300 for its approaches. After county officials were unable to find a bridge contractor, a local doctor, E.E. Hunter, accepted the contract and hired carpenters to work on the bridge. Hunter also hired Thomas Matson, an engineer for the East Tennessee and Western North Carolina Railroad (ET&WNC), as engineer and architect. The Elizabethton Bridge was originally left open. The distinctive hip roof and siding were added the following year. In 1901, a disastrous flood destroyed every major bridge in the area except this one. In 1926, Carter County and the City of Elizabethton agreed to share the expense of repairing the covered bridge. At that time, the city took over responsibility for the structure. Sometime before 1938, the cedar shingle roof was replaced with a metal roof. That was replaced with wood shingles in 1993. In 1972 the covered bridge was declared unsafe and received substantial repairs. The following year, the Doe River Bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing structure to the Elizabethton Historic District.



During the Civil War, Carter County minister William B. Carter left his mark on east Tennessee's bridge history. Carter, a Union sympathizer, formulated a plan to disrupt a Confederate supply chain. The plan was to destroy nine railroad bridges along a line from Bluff City, Tennessee, near the Virginia state line, southwest to Bridgeport, Alabama. Carter expected that Union troops would invade eastern Tennessee following the raid. With President Lincoln's approval, he assembled a group of men to carry out the plan.

The nine bridges targeted were, from northeast to southwest: the bridge over the Holston River at Union (now Bluff City); the bridge over the Watauga River at Carter's Depot (now Watauga); the bridge over Lick Creek, near modern Mosheim in Greene County; the bridge over the Holston at Strawberry Plains; the bridge over the Tennessee River at Loudon; the bridge over the Hiwassee River at Charleston; two bridges over Chickamauga Creek in the vicinity of Chattanooga; and the bridge over the Tennessee at Bridgeport, Alabama. So far, only the Hiwassee River Bridge is known to have been covered.

On November 8, 1861, the bridge-burners set out to destroy their assigned structures. They were only partially successful, having burned four of the nine bridges: Union, Lick Creek, Hiwassee River and Chickamauga Creek. One of the bridge burners, Alfred M. Cate, described the Hiwassee River structure this way: "The bridge was a splendid piece of architecture, several hundred feet long, boarded up the sides, covered and pitched upon the top, and very dry. The igniting flame seized the turpentine, flashed to the pitch, seemed to run all over the top like electricity, and before we were out of sight looked like the whole current of water could not be made to quench the flame." The quote was taken from an article in the Knoxville News Sentinel of November 5, 2011. The anticipated Union invasion of eastern Tennessee did not immediately follow the raid. Over 150 people were arrested on suspicion of supporting the raid and at least five men were hanged for their involvement.

For information about other former covered bridges, visit our website at www.lostbridges.org. If you have information or pictures of the former bridges in your area, please share that with us. There is still a vast amount of territory to cover and any assistance will be greatly appreciated. Email is usually the most effective way to contact me - bill@lostbridges.org.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COVERED BRIDGES

On a Single Compact Computer Disc

For several years now we have published an ad offering a copy of the World Guide on a computer disc from member Joe Cohen. Until recently it was \$5. At the request of NSPCB Board of Directors the price changed to \$15 with \$10 going to the Society. Joe has kept the price low as a service to the Society.

The disc contains many more files than just the World Guide. The World Guide is included that is an exact copy of the book. However, since that copy cannot be changed a World Guide file in Word format is included so each copy can be updated. That file is updated as more information is received.

It includes several files of changes to the various editions of the World Guide.

It includes a file of Romantic Shelters, i.e. unauthentic bridges. Many changes were made in the latest World Guide that redefined an authentic covered bridge. Those bridges that were reclassified can be found in the Romantic Shelters file.

The disc contains an index to all copies of Covered Bridge Topics. This includes a table of contents for each issue, a list of subjects, a list of authors and photographers, poetry and obituaries. This is kept up to date.

There is a bibliography of known books that pertain to covered bridges.

Also included are large sketches of common truss types.

There are a few more miscellaneous files.

Send a check made out to Joseph Cohen.

From September to March: 210 Wellington F, West Palm Beach, FL 33417-2559

From April to August: 130 Westfield Drive, Holliston, MA 01746-1257

The following items are still available through the Society

Covered Bridge Polo Shirts

A **white Polo Shirt** with a blue NSPCB logo, send \$10.00 plus \$4.50 for shipping and handling. Specify, Medium or Extra Large. Shirts are 100% pre-shrunk cotton. This is a fund raiser for the preservation fund. Buy several as gifts for your family and friends.

Society Arm Patch with N.S.P.C.B. logo 3" arm patch available for \$1.75 + 55 cents P&H.

Please order any of the items above from Mrs. June Roy, 73 Ash Street, Manchester, NH 03104-4906
or E-mail: dickroycb1@comcast.net

Summer 2012 Newsletter Deadline

The Summer Newsletter is scheduled to be mailed in March. Therefore, anyone wishing to submit photos, articles, etc., should send them to the EDITOR by **June 1, 2012**. In order to save us from a lot of re-typing, please send your articles by e-mail or on a computer disc (no floppies, please), if at all possible. If this isn't possible, then the regular mail will do just fine, as it always has. If your submissions are extracted from a published newspaper or magazine, or an internet web site, include the source of the information so that we can give proper credit. Send all items to the editor, Brian McKee, 13008 TH60, Upper Sandusky, OH 43351 e-mail bjmckee@gmail.com

We are getting most of the news and information from the internet these days and not very much from our members. Maybe this is a sign of the times, but we would really like to have more covered bridge news sent to us from our members, especially photos. Please remember that we always appreciate **any** news that is sent in. *THANK YOU!*

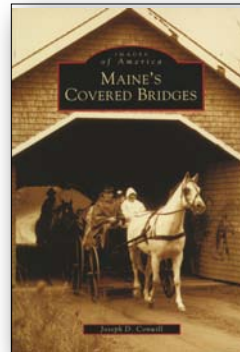
Books Available from the Society Store

“Covered Bridges of Vermont” by Ed Barna. This is an excellent book depicting all the covered bridges in Vermont in the year 1996. 6x9 soft cover, 216 pgs., Pub: The Countryman Press, ISBN 0-88150-373-8 Post-paid \$17.00

“Vermont Covered Bridges” A book by Joseph D. Conwill:
The Arcadia Press Images of America Series

Pub in 2004, 6.5x9.25 soft cover, 128 pgs., ISBN 0-7385-3598-2

It sells for \$19.99 each plus \$3.00 shipping and handling.



Books by Andrew Howard

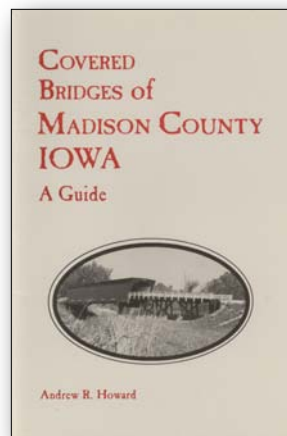
C/B's of Madison County IA, A Guide.....\$6.50
6x9 format paperback, 46 pgs., ISBN 0-940310-07-4

C/B's of Connecticut, A Guide.....\$5.50
6x9 format paperback, 47 pgs., ISBN 0-940310-04-X

C/B's of Virginia, A Guide.....\$6.95
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C/B's of Bennington County VT, A Guide.....\$6.50
6x9 format paperback, 49 pgs., ISBN 0-940310-06-6

C/B's of Massachusetts, A Guide\$6.95
6x9 format paperback, 80 pgs., ISBN 0-940310-03-1
(There is a \$2.00 postage and handling charge for each book)



All the books above should be ordered from Mrs. June Roy, 73 Ash St. #2, Manchester, NH 03104-4906
E-mail address: dickroycb1@comcast.net

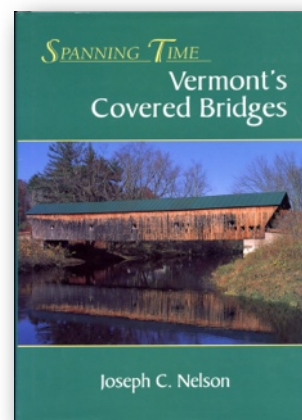
There is another excellent book on Vermont covered bridges called **“Spanning Time: Vermont Covered Bridges”**, by Joseph Nelson, who is the President of the Vermont Covered Bridge Society. It is a superb hardbound book containing wonderful color photos, maps and information about each Vermont covered bridge. The book is 7.5 x 9.25 in. and has 271 pages.

ISBN 1-881535-25-8

For ordering information contact the author at 2 Sugar Hill Road, Underhill, VT 05489

or on the Web www.vermontbridges.com

(This book isn't available from the society store).



Web Sites

www.lostbridges.org A very informative and useful web site listing all known historic/authentic covered bridges. It is a wonderful research tool. Maintained by Bill Caswell.

www.dalejtravis.com An extensive site listing all existing covered bridges, including replicas, and round barns, and some other interesting misc. items.

www.bridgehunter.com A huge database of Historic Bridges of all types, Iron, Stone, Covered, etc. This may be the most well designed bridge related web site on the internet.

<http://www.woodcenter.org/CoveredBridges/queryMain.cfm>

A searchable database using information in *The World Guide to Covered Bridges*, plus other important information about covered bridges.

www.coveredbridges.com The official site of Parke County Indiana

www.coveredbridgemap.com A wonderful new web site which shows all existing authentic covered bridges on Google Maps. It is very well organized and easy to use.

www.vermontbridges.com The Vermont Covered Bridge Society's official web site

www.mdcoveredbridges.com A web site devoted to Maryland's covered bridges by Jim Smedley

www.nycoveredbridges.org Official web site of the New York State Covered Bridge Society

50th ANNIVERSARY ITEMS

We still have a few nice items regarding the commemoration of the
50th Anniversary of the National Society

Tote Bag — Has the *National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges* emblem in dark blue on front pocket measuring 12 1/2" by 15 1/2" with a top snap and 20" handle straps. \$15 (includes shipping)

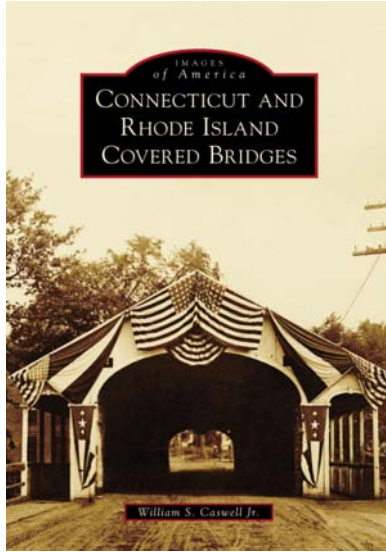
Ornament — A 3" round glass maroon ornament with the Society emblem in gold. Cost: \$7.00 (includes shipping)

Pens — Pens have "I love Covered Bridges – N.S.P.C.B." written on them. Cost \$1.25 each (includes shipping)

SPECIAL OFFER!!

You may want to have them all. One of each... tote, ornament and pen will be available for only \$20 including shipping! They are great gifts for family, friends and other bridge enthusiasts!

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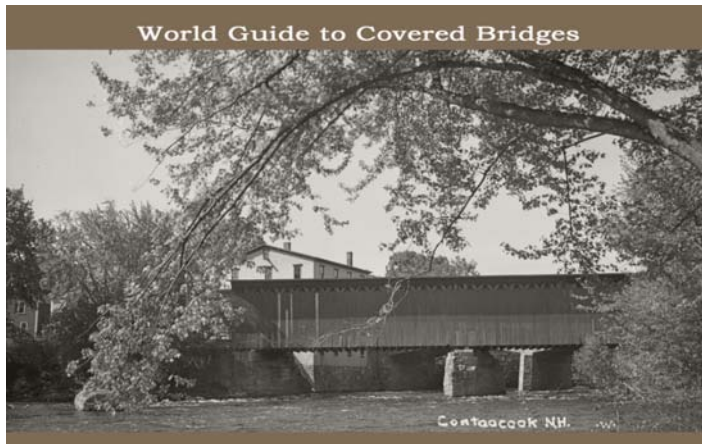
Connecticut and Rhode Island Covered Bridges

Released September 12, 2011

128 pages containing 200 photos and historical notes

During their heyday in the mid- to late 1800s, more than 150 covered bridges dotted the landscape of Connecticut and Rhode Island. Since that time, floods, fires, and progress have claimed almost all of the historic structures. Covered bridges were heavily concentrated in the hills of northwestern Connecticut, spanning the Farmington, Housatonic, and Naugatuck Rivers. In Rhode Island, most were built by the railroads in Woonsocket, Providence, and other communities in the northern part of the state, though few pictures are known to exist. Connecticut was the birthplace of two of the nation's best-known covered bridge designers: Ithiel Town and Theodore Burr. Half of the covered bridges currently standing in the United States are supported by trusses patented by Town or Burr.

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National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges

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Every year, \$1000 is remitted to the Eastman-Thomas-Merritt Fund from optional donations. Please help keep the fund afloat for covered bridge preservation.