



# The Newsletter

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

**Fall 2012**

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*Bower's Bridge (45-14-11) in Windsor County, Vermont*  
After being washed downstream by floodwaters in August 2011 (top) the  
bridge was repaired and set on new abutments on July 14, 2012 (bottom).

Photos by Bill Caswell

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

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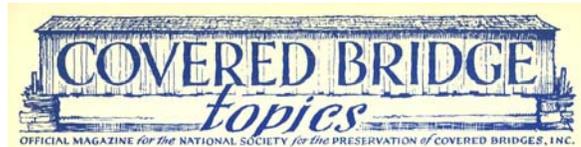
## From the Editor

Thank you to everyone who took the time to submit material for this Newsletter. Receiving articles and news items makes my job much easier. Also, thank you to those who offered comments and compliments regarding the changes I made to the Newsletter design. Members also pointed out an omission in the prior Newsletter. The Calendar of Events neglected to include the Fleming County Covered Bridge Festival at the Goddard Bridge in Fleming County, Kentucky on August 28<sup>th</sup>. That was an error on my part. The festival is listed on the Covered Spans of Yesteryear website calendar where I obtained my information for The Newsletter. However, it did not carry over to the Newsletter listing.

In recent years, the Winter *Topics* and newsletter have been mailed in January. However, since we will be away in early January, I plan to have The Newsletter completed and ready to mail by mid-December. If you would like to submit material for the Winter newsletter, please be aware of the December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

## 50 years ago - October 1962

The cover of the October 1962 issue of Covered Bridge Topics featured a photograph of the covered bridge at Bridgeport, California.



That picture kicked off a 4½ page article on the state's twelve remaining covered bridges. Of the twelve structures standing in 1962, nine still remain. The covered bridge over Mosley Slough in Humboldt County was lost shortly after the article was written. This bridge had 100' long wooden approaches. It was a Warren truss built with local materials in 1930 as a relief project during the Great Depression. At the time it was lost, it was the westernmost bridge in the continental United States being only a short distance from the Pacific Ocean and the only covered bridge over salt water. It was destroyed by the Columbus Day gale of October 12, 1962, one of the most destructive storms to hit the Pacific Northwest. The covered bridge four miles west of Sawyer's Bar in Siskiyou County had already been bypassed when the article was written. Although the US Forest Service and Siskiyou County were still maintaining the bridge after it was bypassed, it did not survive a winter storm in December 1964. The Glen Canyon Bridge at Santa Cruz was moved from its original location over Branciforte Creek to DeLaveaga Park in 1939. The bridge fell into disrepair and was nearly in ruins when it was repaired in the early 1960s. The bridge was ultimately removed in the Spring of 1993.

## NSPCB Facebook Page

To help spread the word about our mission, the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges 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.

## Winter 2012 Newsletter Deadline

The next Newsletter is scheduled to be mailed in December. Therefore, anyone wishing to submit photos, articles, etc., should send them to the EDITOR by **December 1, 2012**. In order to save us from a lot of re-typing, please submit your articles by e-mail or on a CD or DVD, if at all possible. If this isn't possible, then the regular mail will do just fine, as it always has. If you type the information, please use PLAIN WHITE PAPER. 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 interim editor, Bill Caswell, 535 Second NH Turnpike, Hillsboro, NH 03244 e-mail [bill@lostbridges.org](mailto:bill@lostbridges.org)  
We always appreciate any news that is sent in, even if we ultimately can't use it. *THANK YOU!*

## President's Message

Dear Fellow Members, Greetings:

Once again it is the time of the year when the Covered Bridge visiting season – and summer! – is fast drawing to a close. Fall will soon be upon us, with all the pleasures, and regrets, that the arrival of shorter days and colder nights can occasion. Fall has its many compensations, however, as we all know, as indeed has winter. One of the compensations afforded by Fall is the opportunity for a number of us who are National Society members to get together at a designated location for the Annual Meeting of the Society. This year, the Annual Meeting will be held in Newburyport, Massachusetts, on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup>, THE THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH. Please be sure to note, those of you who plan to attend our annual gathering, that is to take place on a SATURDAY, NOT A SUNDAY, AND THAT IT IS THE THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH, NOT THE FOURTH SUNDAY! I know that I am a creature of habit, sometimes more than I am wont to admit, and thus I suspect that some of you may be too, hence the repetition above of the day on which our Annual Meeting is to occur. Details as to the menu for the dinner, the price of it, and the exact locations where the two events of this meeting will take place, are discussed elsewhere in the present Newsletter. I hope that I shall see a goodly number of you in Newburyport on October 20<sup>th</sup>!

*[Editor's note: The President's message that was submitted for publication included nine pages of commentary titled "Remarks on the Article Re Wright's Covered Railroad Bridge Which Appears in the Accompanying Issue of Topics." Due to its considerable length, I chose to publish that text as a separate essay instead of including it within The Newsletter.]*

Happy Bridging! !

Sincerely,

David W. Wright

## NSPCB Annual Meeting

The Society's Annual Dinner Meeting will be held at 11:30 am on **Saturday**, October 20<sup>th</sup> at David's Tavern at 11 Brown Square in Newburyport, Massachusetts. After the meal and business meeting, we will move to the First Religious Society Church for a presentation at 2:00 pm which will include a discussion of one of the earliest covered bridge builders and Newburyport native, Timothy Palmer (1751-1821). From 1804 to 1806, Palmer built the earliest documented American covered bridge over the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia. The "Permanent Bridge", as it came to be known, was a continuous three-span arch truss consisting of two 150-foot spans and one 195-foot span. It is recorded that the city bridge committee insisted that the heavy timbers be covered with a roof and siding to preserve and protect the structure from weathering. The presentation will also include a slide show tour of some of the beautiful covered bridges of New England, from all seasons and states.

The architect of the First Religious Society Church is not known for certain. The building contractors were Spofford and Palmer. Timothy Palmer, may have been the primary architect. Another possibility is Samuel McIntyre of Salem, who is known to have provided the applied plaster ornamentation for the pulpit and galleries, and who a few years later designed a building with a very similar facade and steeple for a church in Salem. Local legend has it that much of the structural work was done by shipwrights.

The Palmer presentation is open to the public and we ask you to spread the word to invite others to attend. A dinner reservation form can be found at the end of this newsletter.



Bob Watts Photo

## Back Issues of Covered Bridge Topics

Copies of Covered Bridge Topics, as far back as the early 1960s, are available for \$3 each. Contact Dick Roy to see if the dates you are looking for are available. He can be reached by email at [dickroycb1@comcast.net](mailto:dickroycb1@comcast.net) or at 73 Ash St. #2, Manchester, NH 03104-4906.

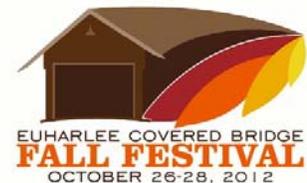
## Upcoming Covered Bridge Meetings & Events

### September

- 9 New York State Covered Bridge Society Meeting & Annual Auction**  
Hamden Town Hall. You can plan on being there any time after 11:00 a.m. and bring whatever you want for lunch. The meeting will start at 1:00 p.m.
- 16 National Society Meeting**  
Country Cow Restaurant, Blair Road, I-93 exit 27, Campton, NH. Join us for lunch at noon and Meeting at 1:00 p.m.
- 16 Ohio Historic Bridge Association - Fall Tour.** Details to be announced.
- 21 – 23 Union County (Ohio) Covered Bridge Festival**  
Village Park, North Lewisburg, OH. Covered Bridge Tours, Speakers, Presentations, arts and craft, live entertainment, old fashion food, kids activities, quilt show, heritage crafts, re-enactments, hot air balloons and more.
- 29–30 Indiana Covered Bridge Society - Fall Tour.** Dearborn, Fayette and Franklin Counties.

### October

- 4 - 7 Columbia-Mountour Counties Covered Bridge Festival,** Knoebles Park, Elysburg, PA.
- 6 – 7 Oregon Covered Bridge Festival,** Bohemia Park, Cottage Grove, Oregon.
- 7 Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society Meeting,** The Alamo Restaurant, Knoebels Amusement Park, Elysburg, PA - 2p.m.
- 13 - 14 Ashtabula County (Ohio) Covered Bridge Festival.**
- 13 - 14 Madison County (Iowa) Covered Bridge Festival.**
- 14 New York State Covered Bridge Society Meeting,** Broadalbin / Eagle's Mill Covered Bridge, Broadalbin, NY.
- 12 - 21 Parke County (Indiana) Covered Bridge Festival.**
- 20 National Society Annual Meeting and Dinner,** Newburyport, MA  
Note Saturday date. . Dinner at David's Tavern, 11 Brown Square at 11:30 am. Presentation at 1:30 pm at the First Religious Society Church, 26 Pleasant St.
- 20 1:00 PM CBSO (Oregon) Meeting location TBA.**
- 26 - 28 Euharlee Covered Bridge Fall Festival,** Frankie Harris Park, Euharlee, Georgia.
- 27 Blount County Covered Bridge Festival,** Oneonta, Alabama.



### November

- 4 Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society Meeting & Bake Sale,**  
Program: "Covered Bridges in the U.S., Then and Now" by Pat Cook. Manheim Township Building.
- 11 11:30 AM NYSCBS (New York) Meeting & Dinner - Location to be confirmed.**
- 17 1:00 PM CBSO (Oregon) Meeting location TBA.**
- 18 1:30 PM OHBA (Ohio) Annual Meeting - Location to be announced.**

**Recent NSPCB Meetings**

Seven people attended the NSPCB meeting at the Oxford Public Library in Oxford, NY, on July 22nd. Five of the seven people in attendance had never attended a Society meeting before. The business part of the meeting was kept short to allow ample time for Vicky House, Oxford Town and Village Historian, to make her presentation. Vicky has extensively researched the role that local residents played in the Civil War. She has discovered many examples of soldier's letters mentioning their crossing, taking shelter in, being imprisoned in, guarding, building and destroying covered bridges. Vicky, along with Bob & Trish Kane of the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Resource Center, created a very impressive display which covered the walls of the library's meeting room. The panels included Civil War era photos and descriptions of covered bridges in at least a dozen states and the District of Columbia that were in some way involved in the war.



*Bob Watts Photo*

Ten members attended the annual picnic and meeting in Westminster, Vermont, on August 26<sup>th</sup>. Everyone brought a dish to share and Jenn Caswell worked the grill to keep the burgers and hot dogs coming. It was a great time of fellowship.

**2013 NSPCB Meeting Schedule**

One of the items to be discussed at the annual meeting in October will be the preliminary meeting schedule for 2013. Our members live throughout the United States and in other countries. However, since most of the current officers live in New Hampshire, Vermont or Massachusetts, our monthly meetings tend to be located in that area. During the past two years we have reached out to other members by having one meeting per year in a location outside this region. We are now looking for suggestions for a 2013 meeting location, potentially on Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup> or Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you are interested in having a meeting near you, can suggest a possible location and feel that other nearby members will be interested in attending, please let us know so we can offer it for consideration during the annual meeting. Please send your suggestions to Bill Caswell. His contact information is on the lower left side of page 2.

**New Tuscarora Covered Bridge**

Arnold Graton has completed the new covered bridge to replace the Tuscarora Bridge (32-13-05) destroyed by Tropical Storm Irene on August 28, 2011. The new bridge has a kingpost truss. This bridge is located on the property of the Tuscarora Club south of Margaretville, New York, just off Mill Road. Note that this is private property and visitors must request permission before visiting the bridge.



*Arnold M. Graton Photo*

**Bower's Bridge (45-14-11) Back In Place**

During Tropical Storm Irene, the southerly abutment of the Bower's Bridge in Brownsville, Vermont, was washed away setting the bridge afloat on a 100-yard journey downstream where it came to rest at a bend in the stream. The bridge has been repaired and both abutments were replaced. On July 14<sup>th</sup>, the bridge was set back in place over Mill Brook.



*Bill Caswell Photo*

*Welcome to Our New Member!*

Ray Finklestein, Macungie, PA

## Ceylon Covered Bridge Restored

*Contributed by Andy Rebman.*

On Saturday, July 14, 2012, about a 100 people gathered at the Ceylon Covered Bridge in south Adams County Indiana to celebrate the rededication of the restored bridge. The event started a little after 4:00 PM and numerous dignitaries spoke including US Representative Marlin Stutzman. The theme of the speeches pointed to this restored covered bridge being the focal point of many hiking trails that are being planned for the future. If these are done, this bridge will be at the center of attention for many years to come. After the speeches and a quick ribbon cutting ceremony, a dinner was served on the bridge to finish out the celebration.

The contractor doing the restoration was able to save numerous original timbers. However, almost all of the lower chords had to be replaced due to the wood being damaged. About 30% of the deck was replaced as well. The siding of the bridge is new. Most of the truss members were salvaged and reused and very few of the cast iron boots were replaced. And of course, the bridge received a new coat of paint when all was done.

With all the work done to restore the Ceylon Covered Bridge, it will be standing when the next generation of Covered Bridgers goes on their safaris.



### Passing of Member Russell Whitney

We have learned that Russell J. Whitney, 91, passed away May 27<sup>th</sup> at Oak Knoll Healthcare Center in Framingham, Massachusetts. Russell had been a member since 1978 and regularly attended Society meetings for many years. He was a World War II Navy Seabee veteran having served in Guam and California. He was very active in the American Legion serving in official positions in Saxonville Post #256 and Nobscot V.F.W. Post #10313. Russell also served as Commander of Post #256 for 12 years, Commander of Sub-District #9 for 2 years and various other positions. He worked as a construction foreman for Stop & Shop for over 30 years. He is survived by his daughter, two grandsons, and five great-granddaughters.

### Passing of Member Ted Arthur

We have learned that member Theodore "Ted" Arthur, Jr., 83, passed away February 17, 2012 at his residence in Gastonia, North Carolina. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. Arthur served his country as a corporal in the United States Army Chemical Corps and retired after 40+ years as an analytical chemist at the Lithium Corporation in Kings Mountain, N.C. He was a long-time member of the First Presbyterian Church in Gastonia where he served as an usher. He had been an NSPCB member since 1993. In addition to his interest in covered bridges, he collected books, classical music recordings, and Native American artifacts.

## Bridges in the Covered Bridge Capitol of Alabama are Nearing Completion... (a Story of Determination)

*Contributed by Sharon R. Murphree, President, Friends of the Covered Bridges of Blount County, Alabama*

What a year it has been for the historic covered bridges in Blount County, Alabama. Since May of 2011 a handful of individuals have worked to bring about the refurbishment of the three remaining covered bridges in our county.

The group, Friends of the Covered Bridges of Blount County, Alabama met in the small meeting room of the Oneonta Public Library one evening in late May 2011. At the end of that meeting, officers had been elected and a plan of action was made to save the county's covered bridges that had been closed for upward of three years. To say they were dilapidated and an eyesore would be an understatement.

County officials were contacted about the problem with the bridges and the issue of it taking so long for them to be repaired was discussed once again. Grant money had been received prior to 2011 for the repairs but the structural plans were still being reviewed by the State.

While the county was looking into the status of the structural plans, the Friends made plans for work days at each bridge to remove the underbrush and litter and at least make the bridges presentable for those visiting them. The Friends were joined by the Blount County Master Gardeners and over the course of four long, hard work days spanning three months, the end result was wonderful. We could almost hear the bridges say "Thank you".

During the work days the Birmingham media began to take an interest in the group, Friends of the Covered Bridges, through followers on facebook. The Birmingham News sent photographers to the covered bridge work days and they became enchanted with the bridges. Throughout the following months more stories and photos followed in The Birmingham News and other newspapers in Alabama. In September 2011, Birmingham's NBC affiliate, WVTM-TV 13, did a story on the condition of the bridges which aired for over a month due to the popularity of the subject matter. This August, WVTM-TV 13 returned to do a follow-up story on the bridge refurbishment project.

In September 2011, the Blount County Commission let bids for the refurbishment and repair of the three bridges. Thirty days later one bid was received and opened, and later approved for construction to begin on the bridges. Total construction costs were in the range of \$700,000 for the restoration of all three bridges.

The Friends began promoting themselves beginning in September when they entered a booth in the Blount County Fair. The group was well received by those who stopped at the booth. Many shared stories, donations and new members were brought into the group. By the end of September, the Friends had filed the legal paperwork necessary with the State of Alabama to become a non-profit corporation and had registered their name.

October of 2011 brought the 27th Annual Covered Bridge Festival to Oneonta. What a great day that was. People stopped to visit us, share stories of fond and sometimes dangerous memories, and to purchase photo prints and postcards.

In December of 2011 construction began on the 324 foot Swann covered bridge. Realizing that working on old covered bridges was a new endeavor for the contractor, the contractor backed up and decided to take on the Easley bridge which is only 95 feet in length. Many new skills were learned by the three to four man crew and by the end of August 2012 we are proud to say two of the three bridges are structurally sound and awaiting the final touches to the ingress and egress of these two bridges before they can be reopened to vehicle traffic.

The oldest of the three and highest covered bridge in the Nation, the Horton Mill covered bridge, stands at 75 feet above the Calvert Prong of the Little Warrior River. Guess you could say they saved the best for last. As of this writing the runners and portions of the tin roof have been removed making it possible to assess the extent of the repairs that will need to be made.

The 28th Annual Covered Bridge Festival falls on October 27th, 2012. It is our hope all the bridges will be open for visitors and vehicles this year. Tours are planned of the bridges, open or not.

It has been a fast-paced and sometimes difficult process. However, the end result will bring the ability to drive across an old wooden covered bridge once again. That makes it all worth it.



*Horton Mill Bridge during repairs,  
Courtesy Friends of the Covered  
Bridges of Blount County*

## New Hampshire Span Moved to Ohio

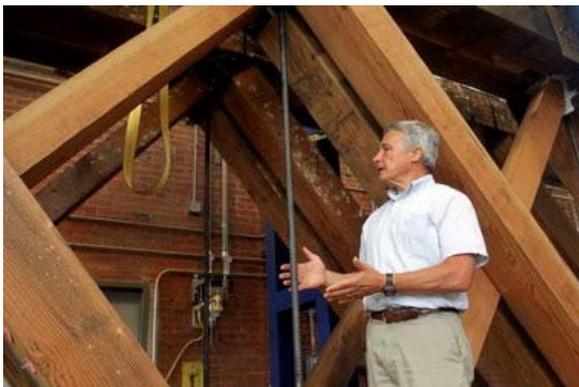
*(Some details were taken from an article in the Cleveland Plain Dealer of August 11, 2012)*

When Dario Gasparini of Cleveland's Case Western Reserve University, a civil engineering professor nationally known for his work on historic bridges, announced that he was looking to research the strengths and weaknesses of a Howe bridge truss, the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges had just what he needed.

The Moose Brook Bridge, built in 1918, was originally a railroad bridge in Gorham, New Hampshire. When the Boston & Maine Railroad tracks were removed, the right-of-way became a trail for off-road vehicles, snowmobiles and hikers. After an arsonist seriously damaged the bridge in May 2004, the Society was offered the remains of the structure. The charred trusses were removed from the site and set aside until someone could do detailed drawings of them. The Society planned to salvage the bridge and ultimately rebuild it.

William Howe's design, patented in 1840, replaced vertical wooden timbers with iron rods, which were tightened to pre-stress the bridge. The design was very popular for railroad bridges because they could be built cheaply and quickly with the rods and truss timbers being prefabricated shipped to the site.

An agreement was reached between the National Park Service (HAER), Case Western and the Society to reconstruct the 13,000-pound, 44-foot-long pony trusses, historically correct. This was made possible through a grant from the Covered Bridge Preservation Program offered by the Federal Highway Administration. With Federal grants secured, Society members under the leadership of Tim Andrews reconstructed both trusses and traveled to Cleveland to re-erect them inside Case Western's lab facility. The trusses will be returned to NH where the Society hopes to secure funds to reconstruct the bridge in all its original details, prominently displayed for all to enjoy.



*Dario Gasparini & the Gorham Bridge Trusses  
Lynn Ischay Photo,  
Courtesy Cleveland Plain Dealer*

## Arnold Graton Chosen Grand Marshall for Festival

*(Reported in The Ledger Independent, Maysville, KY, August 21 & 22, 2012)*

The Fleming County Kentucky Tourism Commission announced that covered bridge restoration and reconstruction specialist Arnold Graton was to serve as grand marshal for the 15th annual Covered Bridge Festival parade on Saturday, August 25. The Commission credited Graton as being the driving force behind the restoration of the Goddard-White Covered Bridge in 2006 and the Johnson Covered Bridge in Robertson County in 2009.

His work began in 1958 with his father, Milton S. Graton, who was also a covered bridge restoration specialist. Together, they reconstructed and restored numerous bridges, using historical methods. The Commission also decided to honor three individuals (posthumously) for their contributions to the Covered Bridge Festivals of the past: William T. (Bill) Walton, who passed away on Feb. 1, 2012; Peter (Pete) McNeill, who passed away May 9, 2012; and Judy Story, who passed away Jan. 7, 2012. They were to be honored during the opening ceremonies at the main stage area at the Goddard Covered Bridge.

## Passing of Leola Pierce

Although it happened over a year ago, I don't recall having seen any notice of Leola's passing. Leola Pierce died April 26, 2011 in Norfolk., Virginia at age 88. In March 1943, during World War II, Leola joined US Marine Corps Women's Reserve. After an honorable discharge in October 1945 with the rank of Technical Sergeant, she resumed her career in civil engineering. In 1957 she began working for consulting engineering firms and bridge designers, and received numerous awards for her renderings of highway blueprints, most notably her drawings for the Washington, DC beltway widening project.

In 1977, Leola accepted a position as chief bridge draftsman for the Suffolk Division of the Virginia Department of Transportation. She was promoted to bridge engineer in 1990 and retired in 1995.

After retiring, Leola spent years researching covered bridges in Virginia and subsequently wrote a book, *Covered Bridges in Virginia*, which documented her exhaustive study of Virginia's eight remaining covered bridges. In 2003, she founded the Covered Bridge Society of Virginia, the first chapter in the state, and successfully petitioned the state to offer a license plate with a covered bridge depicted on it.

## Covered Bridge Bicycle Route

The Covered Bridges Bikeway in Lane County, Oregon, is a 17-mile paved bike trail along the Row River. From parking areas in downtown Cottage Grove, visitors can travel 17 miles of smoothly paved off-street path along the Dorena Lake's north side, passing three covered bridges - Chambers Railroad Bridge (37-20-40), the only covered railroad bridge west of the Mississippi River, Mosby Creek Bridge (37-20-27), and Dorena Bridge (37-20-23#2). Visitors comfortable riding on the shouldered roadway can ride the 17 miles back to Cottage Grove on the road, and view the Stewart Bridge (37-20-28). For more information, visit <http://rideoregonride.com/road-routes/covered-bridges-scenic-bikeway-4/>

## Second National Covered Bridge Conference

Crowne Plaza Dayton Hotel, Dayton, Ohio, June 5-8, 2013

The Federal Highway Administration's National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Program (NHCBP) will be sponsoring the Second National Historic Covered Bridge Conference in Dayton, Ohio, June 5-8, 2013. Co-sponsored by the National Park Service's Historic American Engineering Record and the USDA Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory, this event will be held ten years after the First National Covered Bridge Conference in Burlington, Vermont.

The second national conference will follow up on several themes: reviewing several of the NHCBP-funded research and rehabilitation projects, exploring best practices for rehabilitation, and revisiting the Burlington Charter for the Preservation of Covered Bridges. We will also discuss the continuing threats and challenges to covered bridges, most recently illustrated by the flooding in New England from tropical storms Irene and Lee in 2011. These natural disasters resulted in the loss of the Blenheim Bridge, a National Historic Landmark, and damage to several others.

The Dayton Conference will feature presentations from some of the leading covered bridge engineers, scholars, and builders from across the country. The NHCBP invites proposals for papers to be presented at the Second National Historic Covered Bridge Conference. Deadline for proposals: Monday, January 7, 2013. For more information, contact David A. Simmons, Ohio Historical Society, 800 E. 17th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43211-2474; 614-297-2365; [dsimmons@ohiohistory.org](mailto:dsimmons@ohiohistory.org).

## Linn County Oregon plans upgrades to covered bridges

*(Reported in the Albany Democrat-Herald, August 29, 2012)*

Linn County plans to upgrade several covered bridges to get their weight limits raised. County Engineer Chuck Knoll said the county has been approved for \$2.7 million in Oregon Department of Transportation funding to repair the Short, Hannah, Hoffman and Larwood covered bridges.

The project will start with the Short Bridge (37-22-09#2) on the South Santiam River. Repairs on the bridge, about a mile west of Cascadia State Park, are expected to begin in October. The 105-foot long bridge was constructed in 1945 and connects High Deck Road with Highway 20. Knoll said the plan is to remove and replace the bridge's wooden shingled roof and to remove its asphalt roadway. He plans to replace the asphalt with wood. "Currently, the load limit is 20,000 pounds," Knoll said. "Our goal is to upgrade our load-limited covered bridges to 80,000 pounds." He also noted that the wooden shingles have been up for at least 25 years and need replacing before the fall rains. The bridge will also be painted. Estimated cost of the project is \$270,000, with \$110,000 coming from the Oregon Department of Transportation's covered bridge fund.

The county replaced the decking on Shimanek Bridge (37-22-03#2) two years ago and has rebuilt the approach abutments at the Hoffman Bridge (37-22-08).

The 105-foot-long Hannah Bridge spans Thomas Creek near Scio. It was constructed in 1936.

Hoffman Bridge (37-22-02) is 90 feet and is unique because it features Gothic-style windows. It was constructed over Crabtree Creek in 1936.

Larwood Bridge (37-22-06#2) is northeast of Lebanon. The 105-foot-long bridge was built in 1939.

According to the Covered Bridge Society of Oregon, there were once some 600 covered bridges in the state, but by 1977, that had dropped to 56. Now, 51 are left.



*Shimanek Bridge, Bill Caswell Photo*

## 2012 National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation (NHCBP) Program

On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Federal Highway Administration announced the projects that will be included under the National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation (NHCBP) Program. The NHCBP program supports the rehabilitation, repair, and/or preservation of historic covered bridges.

Amount of funds requested: \$13,510,025

Amount of funds awarded \$9,762,116

Number of applications received: 28

Number of applications selected: 22

State	Project	Description	Funding Amount
AL	Rehabilitation of Alamuchee Covered Bridge in Sumter County	This project will replace roof and deteriorated timber components and repair side panels to keep this historic bridge in a state of good repair and allow it to continue carrying pedestrian traffic.	\$96,949
CA	Rehabilitation of Bridgeport Covered Bridge in Nevada County	This project will replace damaged wood and metal components in order to keep this historic bridge in a state of good repair and allow it to continue to carry pedestrian traffic.	\$545,359
CT	Rehabilitation of Cornwall Covered Bridge in Cornwall	The project will repair structural components and abutments to keep this historic bridge in a state of good repair and allow it to continue to carry vehicular traffic.	\$300,000
IN	Rehabilitation of North Manchester Covered Bridge in Wabash County	This project will replace the roof, siding, floor beams and other deteriorated timber members, and install lighting to keep this historic bridge in a state of good repair and allow it to continue to carry vehicular traffic.	\$247,000
ME	Preservation of Robyville Covered Bridge in Corinth	This project will repair walls and install scour countermeasures to keep this historic bridge in a state of good repair and allow it to continue to carry vehicular traffic.	\$160,000
NH	Rehabilitation of Whittier Covered Bridge in Ossipee	This project will rehabilitate structural components, realign the arch, install fire retardant and protection/security system, and relocate the historic bridge back to its original location to keep it in a state of good repair and allow it to continue to carry vehicular traffic.	\$785,040
NH	Rehabilitation of Bement Covered Bridge in Bradford	This project will repair abutments, replace deteriorated timber members, and rehabilitate structural components to keep this historic bridge in a state of good repair and allow it to continue to carry vehicular traffic.	\$617,600
OH	Rehabilitation of Johnson Road Covered Bridge in Jackson County	This project will rehabilitate and repair structural components, replace deteriorated timber members, and install fire protection to keep this historic bridge in a state of good repair and allow it to continue to carry vehicular traffic.	\$150,400
OH	Rehabilitation of Otway Covered Bridge in Scioto County	This project will rehabilitate and repair structural components, replace deteriorated timber members, and install a new roof and new siding as well as fire protection to keep this historic bridge in a state of good repair and allow it to continue to carry vehicular traffic.	\$280,025
OH	Rehabilitation of Stevenson Road Covered Bridge in Greene County	This project will restore the structure to a single span, remove existing steel piers, and replace broken truss members, floor, roof and siding to keep this historic bridge in a state of good repair and allow it to continue to carry pedestrian traffic.	\$520,000

OH	Rehabilitation of Farver Road Bridge in Miami County	This project will replace the floor and deteriorated structural components to keep this historic bridge in a state of good repair and allow it to continue to carry vehicular traffic.	\$80,000
OR	Rehabilitation of Mckee Covered Bridge in Jackson County	This project will rehabilitate and replace deteriorated structural components, adjust truss for proper alignment, and repair deck and roof to keep this historic bridge in a state of good repair and allow it to continue to carry pedestrian traffic.	\$491,048
OR	Rehabilitation of Wildcat Creek Covered Bridge in Lane County	This project will replace deteriorated structural components and adjust truss for proper alignment to keep this historic bridge in a state of good repair.	\$330,655
OR	Rehabilitation of Office Covered Bridge in Lane County	This project will strengthen and replace floor beams, install a drainage system and replace deteriorated structural components to keep this historic bridge in a state of good repair.	\$317,285
OR	Preservation of Pengra Covered Bridge in Lane County	This project will replace the roof with cedar shingles to keep this historic bridge in a state of good repair.	\$214,555
OR	Preservation of Unity Covered Bridge in Lane County	This project will replace the roof with cedar shingles to keep this historic bridge in a state of good repair.	\$199,200
PA	Rehabilitation of Cox Farm Covered Bridge in Greene County	This project will replace deteriorated timber members and install steel beams to keep this historic bridge in a state of good repair and allow it to continue to carry vehicular traffic.	\$650,000
PA	Rehabilitation of Dreibelbis Covered Bridge in Berks County	This project will replace abutments and deteriorated structural components, repair siding, and install lighting to keep this historic bridge in a state of good repair and allow it to continue to carry vehicular traffic.	\$1,440,000
PA	Rehabilitation of Osterburg Covered Bridge in Bedford County	This project will repair substructure, replace non-structural members and apply paint and fire retardant to keep this historic bridge in a state of good repair and allow it to continue to carry pedestrian traffic.	\$325,000
VT	Rehabilitation of Longely Covered Bridge in Montgomery	This project will replace deteriorated floor beams, install a new deck and repair the roof to keep this historic bridge in a state of good repair and allow it to continue to carry vehicular traffic.	\$850,000
VT	Rehabilitation of Brown Covered Bridge in Shrewsbury	This project will repair deteriorated timber members and install a new deck to keep this historic bridge in a state of good repair and allow it to continue to carry vehicular traffic.	\$850,000
VA	Rehabilitation of Bob White Covered Bridge in Patrick County	This project will repair structural components, replace floor members and siding, and install fire protection to keep this historic bridge in a state of good repair and allow it to continue to carry pedestrian traffic.	\$312,000

Program Contact: Douglas Blades, Office of Bridge Technology, 202-366-4622, Douglas.Blades@dot.gov



## Covered Spans of Yesteryear

by Bill Caswell

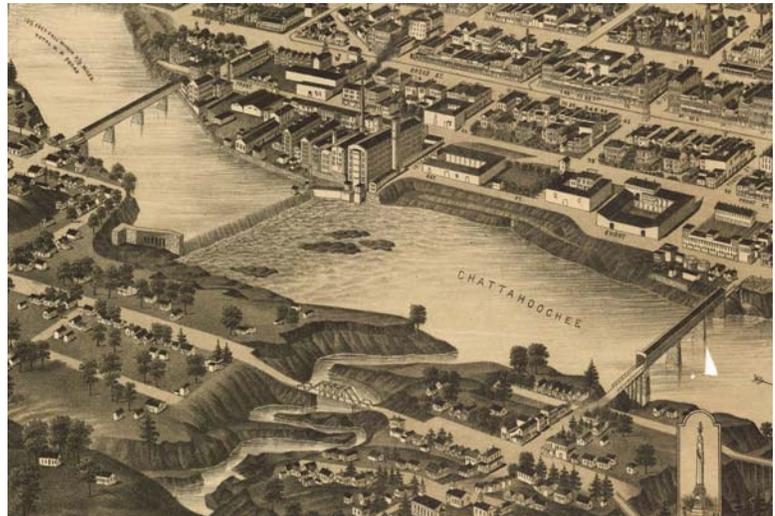
Welcome to fall foliage and covered bridge festival season. I hope you are able to get out and visit a few bridges. In July, Jenn & I traveled to New York to attend the NSPCB meeting at the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Resource Center at the Oxford Library in Oxford, NY. Bob & Trish Kane of the Burr Center and Vicky House, Oxford Village and Town Historian, were our hosts. Their presentation about the role that covered bridges played in the Civil War showed that they have done a great deal of research in this area and we found it to be very interesting and educational.

One of the panels discussed the covered bridge over the Pearl River in Jackson, Mississippi, that the Confederates converted into a prison following the Battle of Chickasaw Bayou, also called Walnut Hills, December 26 -29, 1862. "The Pictorial History of the Civil War in the United States of America, Volume 3" by Benson John Lossing described the conditions in the prison.

*"It was a portion of an old covered bridge over the Pearl River, which had been inclosed and converted into a prison for Union captives. There, over the often turbulent waters, in cold and storm, they had been crowded and most cruelly treated. Two or three were in it when Sherman's troops took possession of the town. It seems to have been selected by the Confederates as a place to torture and permanently disable their captives in, as was their practice elsewhere, for they had many other places in the city in which to confine prisoners."*

Another panel discussed the Battle of Columbus, Georgia (April 16, 1865), also known as the Battle of Girard, Alabama which was probably the last major battle of the Civil War. With the telegraph service disrupted, the Confederates were unaware their capital of Richmond had fallen to General Grant or Lee's surrender on April 9, 1865, so they continued on as if the Confederacy was still intact. Neither side was aware of the assassination of President Lincoln.

General Howell Cobb decided to defend the city on the Alabama side of the Chattahoochee River, in the town of Girard. The main objective was to defend the two covered bridges that connected Girard to Columbus. In addition to preparing strong fortified positions on the high ground in Girard on the west side of the Chattahoochee River, Cobb ordered the base of the bridges to be wrapped in cotton and doused with turpentine. This would allow the Confederates, as a last resort, to burn the bridges to prevent Wilson's troops from easy access to Columbus.



Between 1:30 and 2:00 PM on Easter afternoon, April 16, 1865, Wilson's raiders arrived at Girard and the fighting began.

Around 2:00 P.M., Union General Emory Upton's division launched an attack on the lower (southern) bridge. Meeting very little resistance, it appeared as if the brigade would cross the bridge and easily take Columbus. But recognizing the peril, the Confederates opted for their backup plan and ignited the lower bridge. Upton was forced to retreat. Wilson was compelled to turn his attention to the upper bridge. He planned an assault on the bridge at 8:00PM, after nightfall, and to have General Winslow's brigade lead the attack.

Around 10:00PM, the Confederate defenses in Girard had collapsed and attempted a retreat back across the Chattahoochee River into Georgia. At the same time, Winslow's Brigade was also eager to get across the upper bridge before it might be set afire by the Confederates. Side by side, both Union and Confederate soldiers raced across the bridge to Columbus. By morning, Union troops occupied Columbus. The upper bridge was not burned.

## Updates to the World Guide to Covered Bridges

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

Page 11, add Jackson Bridge, **13-18-01#2**, in Gallup, Cumberland County, Illinois

Greenup Embarras River Jackson 1 200' 2000 Modified Burr  
**1.5 miles west of Greenup on Cumberland Road.. N39° 14.33' W088° 11.24'**

Page 74, update directions and coordinates for Buckeye Furnace Bridge, 35-40-11. It was moved in June 2011

Milton Little Raccoon Creek Buckeye Furnace 1 59'  
 1871 (M2011) Smith  
 4.0 miles east of jct OH327 on OH124, then 2.0 miles right on Buckeye Furnace Rd. (CR58) and 0.7 miles right on Buckeye Park Rd. (TR165). South-southeast of Wellston, ¼ mile west of Buckeye Furnace. N39° 03.28' W082° 27.53"

Page 81, add 35-68-51, Hueston Woods Bridge, Preble County, Ohio

Isreal Twp Four Mile Creek Hueston Woods 1 span 108' 2012  
 3.5 miles north of County Line Rd. in College Corner on Eaton St. (becomes Camden College Corner Rd.). Northeast of College Corner. N39° 35.52' W084° 46.23'

Page 103, 38-15-03, research has shown that the bridge name should be **Linton Stephens**, not Linton Stevens.

Page 163, 55-01-01, Bamford-Colpitts Bridge, Albert County, New Brunswick, update directions

3.4 miles (5.5 km) southeast of jct NB112 on NB895, then 0.1 miles (0.2 km) left on private road. Southeast of Salisbury. Closed. N45° 59.30' W064° 58.43'

Page 167, 55-03-05, **McGuire** or Dyer or Digdeguash River #3, Charlotte County, New Brunswick, correct spelling of bridge name

Page 167, add: Village Historique Acadien Bridge, 55-04-11, Gloucester County, New Brunswick

Rivière-du-Nord stream Village Historique Acadien stream 1 71.7' 2000  
 Howe & Queen

2.4 miles (3.8 km) north of NB325 on NB11 on the left (14311-2 NB Route 11). West of Caraquet. Admission. N47° 47.22' W065° 06.37'

Page 170, 55-06-18, Plumweseep Bridge, Kings County, New Brunswick, correct town name to **Plumweseep**.

Page 170, 55-06-18, Urney Bridge, Kings County, New Brunswick, correct coordinates are **N45° 41.56 W065° 23.87'**

Page 170, 55-06-21, Kings County, New Brunswick, change bridge name to **Salmon or Kennebecasis River #7.5**

Page 171, 55-07-02, Boniface or Green River #3, Madawaska County, New Brunswick, update directions to:

3.2 miles (5.1 km) north of TCH2 exit 32 on Davis Rd., then just right. North of Rivière Verte. N47° 22.28' W068° 09.12'

Page 171, 55-07-04, Morneault Settlement or Baker Brook #2, Madawaska County, New Brunswick, update directions to:

3.1 miles (5.0 km) east of jct **NB161** on NB120, then 3.4 miles (5.0 km) left on Morneault Rd. (**Cyr Rd. on some maps**). North-northwest of Baker Brook. **Closed, bypassed**. N47° 20.31' W068° 32.98'

Page 171, 55-07-05, Quisibis River #2, Madawaska County, New Brunswick, update directions to:

8.6 miles (13 km) north of jct NB17 on **NB144**, then 1.5 miles (2.4 km) right on Sirois Rd. and 3.5 miles (5.6 km) left on Deschenes Rd. Northwest of Sainte-Anne-de-Madawaska. N47° 18.30' W068° 03.51'

Page 173, 55-13-03, Tomilson Mill or Odellach River #2, Victoria County, New Brunswick, update directions to:

10.9 miles (18 km) east of jct NB105 on NB109, then 0.4 miles (0.6 km) right on Birch Ridge Rd. and 0.1 miles (0.2 km) on **Tomilson Mill Rd**. N46° 46.81' W067° 29.77'

**Books Available from Bill Caswell**

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

**2009 World Guide to Covered Bridges**, .....\$19.95, includes priority mail postage.

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

**Everything You Need To Know About Covered Bridges  
On a Single Compact Disc**

This disc contains a PDF copy of the World Guide as it was published in 2009. 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.

The CD also includes:

- Several files of changes to the various editions of the World Guide.
- 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.
- An index to all copies of Covered Bridge Topics. Including an up-to-date table of contents for each issue, a list of subjects, a list of authors and photographers, poetry and obituaries.
- A bibliography of known books that pertain to covered bridges.
- Large sketches of common truss types, and
- A few more miscellaneous files.

Send a check for \$15 made out to Joseph Cohen. \$10 from each sale goes towards the Society's bridge preservation efforts.

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

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

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

**Books Available from the Society Store**

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

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

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

**Books by Andrew Howard**

All books, 6"x9" paperback

**C/B's of Madison County IA, A Guide**, 46 pgs..... \$6.50 plus \$2.00 postage and handling

**C/B's of Connecticut, A Guide**, 47 pgs ..... \$5.50 plus \$2.00 postage and handling

**C/B's of Virginia, A Guide**, 46 pgs ..... \$6.95 plus \$2.00 postage and handling

**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

# NSPCB ANNUAL DINNER

Saturday, October 20, 2012 at 11:30 am

This is the Annual Meeting with election of officers. It is being held at 11:30 on **Saturday**, October 20<sup>th</sup> at David's Tavern at 11 Brown Square, Newburyport, MA

David's Tavern is located in the center of Newburyport, two blocks south and east of the bridge over the Merrimack River, between Washington and Pleasant Streets. Dinner will be served at 11:30 am and the business meeting will follow. The meeting will be followed by a presentation at 2:00 at the First Religious Society Church, 26 Pleasant St., two blocks east of the restaurant, in the Lower Meetinghouse (enter on the side of the church via a new courtyard). There is a large Public Parking Facility immediately behind and next to the church

Cut off here or reproduce and send along with your check or money order. The meal is \$25/person.

**Dinner Reservation coupon for October 20, 2012 annual meeting. To be returned with payment as designated below. Please return no later than October 10, 2012.**

**First course (choose one per person)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Caesar salad

\_\_\_\_\_ Garden medley vegetable soup

**Main course (choose one per person)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Baked tilapia with coarse crumbs

\_\_\_\_\_ Grilled breast of chicken with sun dried tomatoes

\_\_\_\_\_ Sliced London broil with Dijon and fine herb marinade

**Dessert (choose one per person)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Lemon cheesecake with raspberry coulis

\_\_\_\_\_ Bread pudding w/Kentucky bourbon sauce

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

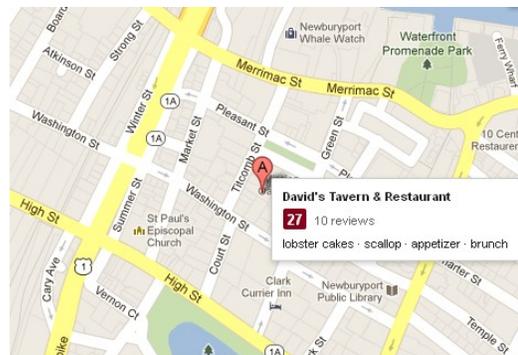
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to N.S.P.C.B. Inc.

Send to:

**Bob Watts, 21 Hospital Dr., Medfield, MA 02052**

**rwatts@nikon.net**



# National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges

## Renewal Notice



**Expired June 30, 2012**

Joe Bridger  
2262 Paddleford Lane  
Anytown, ME 04827

If your address label indicates that your membership has expired, please renew today to continue receiving Society mailings. You can also renew on-line. Go to <http://coveredbridgesociety.org/> and click on the "Membership Info" link. If you recently sent your renewal form, thank you.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### Optional Information

Your Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Birthday (month & day) \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Birthday (month & day) \_\_\_\_\_  
Anniversary (month & day) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Membership includes a subscription to *Topics* and the Newsletter.  
The membership year is from July 1 to June 30.

Individual or Family	Student (age 21 or under) .....	\$5.00
US Addresses.....	Individual Lifetime.....	\$350.00
Canadian Addresses .....	Couple Life .....	\$400.00
Other Countries .....	Corporate.....	\$1000.00

Membership:.....

### DONATIONS: (Tax Deductible.)

Queenpost Truss .....	\$10.00	Town Lattice .....	\$100.00
Howe Truss.....	\$25.00	Haupt Truss.....	\$150.00
Burr Truss .....	\$50.00	Whipple Truss .....	\$250.00

Make all checks for dues and donations payable to the **N.S.P.C.B. Inc.** and mail to:

Jennifer Caswell  
535 Second NH Turnpike  
Hillsboro, NH 03244

Donation:.....

Total:.....

Do you wish to have a membership card? **Yes / No**

Optional donations are added to the Eastman-Thomas-Merritt Fund.  
Please help keep the fund afloat for covered bridge preservation.