



The Newsletter

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

Spring 2022

New Covered Bridge in Western New York



Cannon Bridge
Wyoming County
New York

Photos by John Kucko

Above: December 12, 2021



Right: February 9, 2022

In this issue

Membership.....	2	World Guide Updates	6
NSPCB Meeting Calendar	2	Covered Bridge Meetings & Events	7
In Memorium.....	3	2022 Covered Bridge Tour	8-9
President's Message	4	Saving Old Ironsides	10
Archives Update	4	Bridge News	11-20
Scholarship Update	6

The **NSPCB Newsletter** is published quarterly to keep the membership informed of current bridge news and upcoming events.

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Next Newsletter Deadline

The next *Newsletter* is scheduled to be mailed in early **June**, therefore, anyone wishing to submit articles should send them by **May 15, 2021**. Articles and photos can be emailed to nspcb@yahoo.com or mailed to Bill Caswell at the address above.

We appreciate any information sent in even if we cannot ultimately use it in the *Newsletter*.

NSPCB Website

www.coveredbridgesociety.org

Welcome New Members

Bridgekeepers, West Montrose, Ontario
Bessie Cuming, Temple, New Hampshire
Keegan Donegan, Cumming, Georgia
Jim & Joyce Duitsman, Atchison, Kansas
Tristram Evans, Madison, Alabama
Clay Kelley, Terre Haute, Indiana
Matt Light, Foxboro, Massachusetts
Mac McClaren, Woodbridge, Virginia
Kathy & Marvin Scholl, Frohna, Missouri

Welcome New Life Member

#205 – William McGuire, Knightstown, Indiana

2022 NSPCB Meetings & Events

All meetings begin at **1:00 PM** unless otherwise noted. If you plan to attend a meeting, please check the website (www.coveredbridgesociety.org) or contact Bill Caswell at nspcb@yahoo.com a couple days before the event to inquire if it has been necessary to make any last minute adjustments to the published schedule.

Sunday, March 27 – Horace Chase Masonic Lodge, Boscawen, New Hampshire.

Sunday, April 24 – 350 Revere Beach Blvd., Revere, Massachusetts.

Sunday, June 26 – Contoocook Covered Bridge, Contoocook, New Hampshire. Bring your own chairs.

Saturday, July 23 – Milhendler Room, Haverhill Public Library, 99 Main St, Haverhill, Massachusetts. Presentation by Bill Caswell on covered bridges of the Haverhill area.

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

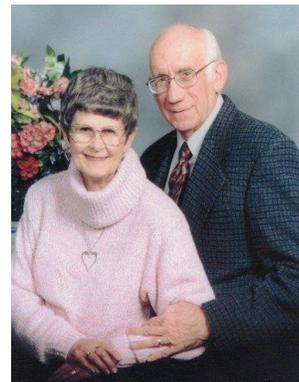
September 23-26 – Covered bridge tour of Georgia and Alabama.

Saturday, October 22 – NSPCB Annual Meeting and Dinner, Brigham Hill Barn, North Grafton, MA. Meal at noon, meeting starting at 1:00 PM.

In Memorium

Ben & June Evans

Benjamin D. Evans, 91, and June R. (Maxwell) Evans, 90, of Coopersburg, Pennsylvania passed away on December 16, 2021 and December 12, 2021 respectively. June was born in Philadelphia and graduated from Kensington High School in Philadelphia. Ben was born in Slatington, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Allentown High School Class in 1947. He received his B.S. in Music Education from the West Chester State Teachers College in 1951 and his Master's in Music Supervision from Temple University in 1954.



Ben worked in public schools developing and teaching music programs from 1952 until his retirement in 1987. In addition to holding positions as band, chorus and orchestra teacher/conductor and Music Coordinator for schools, he also served his church as organist and choir director 1958 until 1998. June was a full-time homemaker who worked behind the scenes to support all of Ben's musical productions, from altering band uniforms, to sewing Broadway play costumes, to providing insight on student auditions, as well as a key source of review and comment during dress rehearsals leading up to concert time.

Ben enjoyed many hobbies from model railroading, to catching, banding, and releasing birds as a volunteer for the Fish and Wildlife Commission; from oil painting to furniture making in his home shop, from breeding and selling tropical fish to establishing a family side business in scented candle making.

In retirement June wanted to visit the covered bridges near them. That inspired them to locate, research the history and engineering details, and photograph every bridge in the state to then co-author and publish *Pennsylvania's Covered Bridges, A Complete Guide* in 1994. They prepared an updated version in 2001. In 2004, they expanded their research beyond Pennsylvania to co-author *New England's Covered Bridges, A Complete Guide*. They served the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania as co-editors of its newsletter from 2002 to 2009.

They quite literally did everything together. Ben and June would have celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on December 20th.

Ellen (Ellie) Ruth Everitz

Ellen (Ellie) Ruth Everitz, age 89, passed away on November 15, 2021 at the McClure Miller Respite House in Colchester, Vermont. She was born on October 22, 1932 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Her family moved to Burlington, Vermont in 1940. She was a Life Member of both the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges and the Vermont Covered Bridge Society. Her talents were writing poetry, which she often did for special occasions, and writing anecdotes about everyday life. She travelled extensively throughout Vermont focusing on the scenery, special attractions, and covered bridges. She visited all but two of Vermont 251 organized towns and cities and visited many other states plus all the Canadian provinces except for Newfoundland and Labrador.

Richard Shultz

On January 29, 2022, Richard Donald Shultz passed away peacefully in Towson, Maryland. He is the beloved husband of the late Caroline Evelyn Shultz (nee Frink); devoted father of David Wayne Shultz (Elizabeth) and Thomas Edward Shultz (Deborah); loving grandfather and great-grandfather. Richard had been an NSPCB member since 1993. He donated his covered bridge items to the NSPCB and Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania shortly before he passed.



President's Message

I hope that this message finds you healthy and well as we begin a new year together.

After having the last five Newsletters show destroyed covered bridges on the covers, this time we celebrate the construction of a new bridge in western New York. More details on the Cannon Bridge are elsewhere within this issue.

Winter is transitioning into Spring and we have seen many beautiful photos from a few of you who have been able to get out and visit some bridges. During the winter, Jenn and I had an opportunity to travel south to work on plans for the fall tour of Georgia and Alabama. I want to thank the members in those states who have offered to help with the planning. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Except for one day of heavy rain and a tornado warning while in Alabama, we had mostly cool, crisp days. The routes we set prior to the trip were mostly okay, but need a little refinement based on our experience there. We are still working on finding good hotels and planning meal options. More details are in a separate article. We hope that many of you can join us.



Watson Mills Bridge, Madison & Oglethorpe Counties, Georgia

Alan Hartmann's work on the covered bridge website is bringing the World Guide to Covered Bridges into the digital age. The basic structure of the site has been in place for a couple years now and we are adding new features such as details of news about the bridges. If you have not visited the site yet, the address is www.abhdemo.com. We are working on merging it with the Society's website (coveredbridgesociety.org) so there is a single location for our web presence. Alan has also created a phone app which works in conjunction with the website. It is presently available for testing on Android phones. Development of the iPhone version is just getting underway.

We have been exploring different avenues to introduce new people to our organization and our mission to help preserve our historic covered bridges. Last year, we had the opportunity to offer technical assistance to sculptor Jeffrey Briggs as he designed a sculpture of Timothy Palmer, the builder of America's first covered bridge in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Briggs has spent the past few years creating sculptures of people from the history of Newburyport, Massachusetts. An exhibit featuring those works will open at the Custom House Museum in that town in April and continue until the end of 2023. The NSPCB will be credited for its contribution to the Palmer statue.

Please continue to keep us informed of covered bridge news so we can share it with the rest of our members. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings and events in 2022.

Bill Caswell

Archives Update

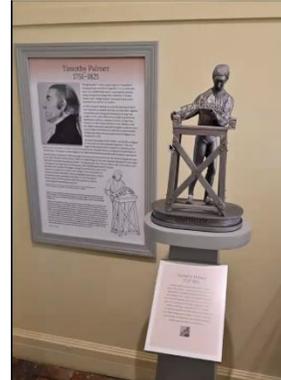
In late January, the Executive Board approved an expansion of the archives storage room. At the time of Dick Roy's passing in 2017 he was housing the back issues of Covered Bridge Topics and Newsletters along with numerous boxes of slides which had been donated to the NSPCB about forty years earlier. These items plus Dick's personal collection of covered bridge books, slides, photo albums, etc. were passed on to the NSPCB officers. Not having enough space in the present archives room, a separate storage unit was rented. With this expansion, the size of the climate-controlled archives room has been increased by 225 ft² at a cost equivalent to the unheated 50 ft² storage unit.

Thanks to Jim & Gloria Smedley for picking up a collection of items donated by the late Richard Shultz of Maryland. Michael Delage is continuing to scan slides donated to the archives so we have a digital copy of the collection. After working on some smaller collections, he has now started on the thousands of slides left to us by Dick Roy.

Winter Board Meeting

The Winter Executive Board meeting was held via Zoom on February 12th. In addition to assessing the Society’s financial condition and meeting calendar, the Board members reviewed potential donations and projects for the upcoming year.

After the business meeting was over, Bob Watts offered a preview of the Legendary Newburyporters exhibit featuring sculptures by Jeffrey Briggs which will open at the Custom House Maritime Museum in Newburyport, Massachusetts on April 2nd and run until the end of 2023. The NSPCB was a technical consultant for the design of the Timothy Palmer sculpture. We are hoping to hold one of our 2023 meetings at the museum.



Quilt Raffle

Life member Jennifer Risley donated this 72” x 86” covered bridge quilt to help the Society raise money for our bridge preservation work. At the June 2021 meeting, the group decided to hold a raffle for the quilt. The drawing for the winner took place via Zoom on December 11th.

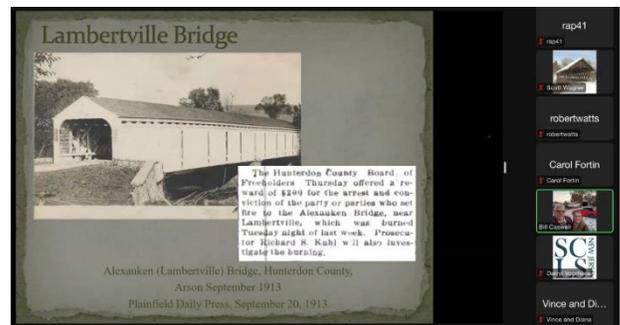
Jenn Caswell, assisted by nieces Kendra and Miranda Brunt drew the winning ticket. Congratulations to member Donald Mudge of Rye, New Hampshire.



The quilt was made by Sue Peterson and Suzette Sasman. The raffle raised about \$676 towards our fund for providing fire retardant to historic covered bridges. Thank you to all who participated.

New Jersey’s Covered Bridge Presentation

On January 24th, Bill Caswell offered a presentation on New Jersey’s covered bridges for the Somerset County Library. The hour-long presentation included many photos from the NSPCB archives. The presentation discussed the history of New Jersey’s last remaining historic covered bridge along with 20 others which used to exist. Half of those crossed the Delaware River into Pennsylvania. The presentation also included information on bridge builders Amos Campbell and Solon Chapin. Bill will also offer the presentation at the March 27th meeting. Image courtesy of Scott Wagner.



2022 Eric DeLony Scholarship

The National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges invited applications for the 2022 Eric DeLony Scholarship. The scholarship honors Eric DeLony, who served as chief of the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) from 1971 to 2003 and is a noted historic preservationist. Mr. DeLony was particularly interested in the preservation of historic bridges. The invitation was sent to over 60 colleges and universities throughout the United States which offer degrees in historic preservation programs. This year, a \$5000 scholarship was awarded to Tristram Evans of Madison, Alabama who is working on earning a Master of Arts degree in Historic Preservation Program at Goucher College near Baltimore, Maryland.

The Importance of Preserving our Historic Covered Bridges

With their historically distinct and uniquely American appearance, these diverse, delightful and yet enduringly functional structures have become a defining feature of America's ancient waterways.

Their importance is manifold. There is inherent value in the historic fabric of the bridges themselves; their timbers are imbued with a perpetual worth that only increases with the passage of time. Their pressing legacy of nigh-forgotten craftsmanship and material nuances demands our curation and focus. The places and peoples that the bridges have helped connect and their consequent contribution to a place's growth adds real social value to their physical aspect.

From a more lyrical, but no less important perspective, covered bridges are the timetravelers of America's rural waterways. It is the myriad events to which they have borne witness and the stories that they both conceal and reveal that renders their faded beams and creaking boards especially meaningful.

~ Tristram Evans

Updates to the 2021 World Guide to Covered Bridges

For a complete list of changes, please visit the website at www.coveredbridgesociety.org and click on the World Guide link.

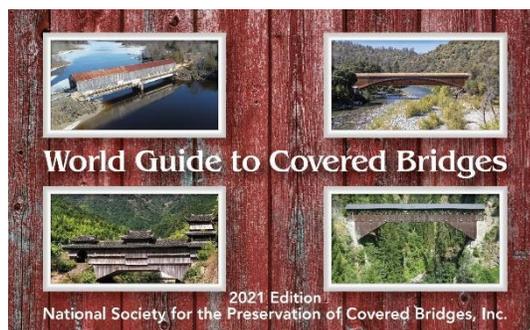
Page 2, Cullman County, Alabama, AL/01-22-01, correct the number of spans to **4** and construction date to **1922**.

Page 4, Stanislaus County, California, correct the length of the Knight's Ferry Bridge, CA/05-50-01, to **379'**.

Page 7, Cobb County, Georgia, new research has uncovered a revised construction date of the Concord or Ruffs Mill or Nickajack Creek Bridge, GA/10-33-02, to **1891**.

Page 21, Parke County, the directions for the Big Rocky Fork or Murphy Bridge, IN/14-61-01, mention CR7205, it should be **CR720S**.

Page 139, Caledonia County, Vermont, the Sanborn of Centre Bridge, VT/45-03-05, is no longer privately-owned. It has been purchased by the town of Lyndon.



Copies of the new *World Guide to Covered Bridges* can be obtained for \$19 per copy for media mail shipping or \$23 each for priority mail shipping. They can be purchased through the NSPCB website (coveredbridgesociety.org) or by sending a check or money order made out to **NSPCB** to Bill Caswell, 535 2nd NH Tpke, Hillsboro, NH 03244.

Due to high international postage rates, they can only be mailed to US addresses.

Upcoming Covered Bridge Meetings & Events

For more information on these events from other bridge societies, visit their websites.

- Covered Bridges Conservation Association of New Brunswick, Canada (CBCANB)
 www.facebook.com/groups/CoveredBridgesConservationAssociationNB/
 Indiana Covered Bridge Society (ICBS) www.indianacrossings.net/
 New York State Covered Bridge Society (NYSCBS) www.nycoveredbridges.org/
 Ohio Historic Bridge Association (OHBA)..... oldohiobridges.com/new/
 The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania (TBCBSPA) www.tbcbspa.com/
 Vermont Covered Bridge Society (VCBS) www.vermontbridges.org/

Due to the COVID-19 situation, meetings could be cancelled or rescheduled on short notice. If you plan to attend, please confirm that the meeting is actually taking place with the group hosting the event.

<u>March</u>	<p>Sunday, 6th – 2:00 PM, TBCBSPA Monthly Meeting at St. Paul Episcopal Church, 340 Locust St., Columbia, Pennsylvania.</p> <p>Sunday, 20th – 1:30 PM, OHBA Meeting, Ohio History Connection Auditorium, 800 E. 17th Ave., Exit 111 off of Route 71, Columbus, Ohio.</p>
<u>April</u>	<p>Sunday, 3rd – 2:00 PM, TBCBSPA Monthly Meeting at St. Paul Episcopal Church, 340 Locust St., Columbia, Pennsylvania.</p> <p>23 & 24 – ICBS Spring Tour of Marion and Hamilton Counties.</p> <p>Sunday, 24th – NYSCBS Annual Dinner at Spaghetti Warehouse, 689 N. Clinton St., Syracuse, New York. Doors open at 11:00 AM, Lunch at noon.</p>
<u>May</u>	<p>Sunday, 1st – 11:00 AM, TBCBSPA Anniversary Dinner at Yoder’s Restaurant, 14 South Tower Road, New Holland, Pennsylvania.</p> <p>Sunday, 15th – OHBA Spring Tour, Location TBD.</p> <p>Saturday, 21st – TBCBSPA One-Day Safari to the Northwest area of Lancaster County</p> <p>Sunday, 22nd – 1:00 PM, NYSCBS meeting at the Klyne Esopus Museum, 764 Rte. 9W, Ulster Park, New York</p>
<u>June</u>	<p>Sunday, 5th – 2:00 PM, TBCBSPA Monthly Meeting at St. Paul Episcopal Church, 340 Locust St., Columbia, Pennsylvania.</p> <p>Saturday, 18th – Barrackville Covered Bridge Festival, Barrackville, West Virginia.</p>
<u>July</u>	<p>Sunday, 10th – 1:00 PM, NYSCBS meeting, Smithville Fire Hall, Jefferson County, NY</p> <p>Sunday, 10th – 2:00 PM, TBCBSPA Monthly Meeting at St. Paul Episcopal Church, 340 Locust St., Columbia, Pennsylvania.</p> <p>16 & 17 – ICBS Summer Tour of Putnam and Montgomery Counties.</p> <p>Sunday, 17th – 12:00 noon, OHBA Summer Picnic, Salt Creek Covered Bridge, Arch Hill Road, east of Zanesville, Ohio.</p>
<u>August</u>	<p>6-7 – NYSCBS Safari, Perry County, Pennsylvania</p> <p>Sunday, 7th – 2:00 PM, TBCBSPA Monthly Meeting at St. Paul Episcopal Church, 340 Locust St., Columbia, Pennsylvania.</p> <p>27-28 – TBCBSPA, Tentative dates for 2022 Safari to Bucks County, Pennsylvania.</p>
<u>September</u>	<p>9-11 – Cumberland (Indiana) Covered Bridge Festival at the bridge, northeast of Matthews. For more details, visit http://www.matthewscoveredbridgefestival.com/.</p> <p>Sunday, 11th – 1:00 PM, NYSCBS virtual meeting.</p> <p>Sunday, 11th – Noon, TBCBSPA Annual Picnic and meeting at Poole Forge Bridge.</p> <p>24 & 25 – ICBS Fall Tour of Rush County.</p>

NSPCB 2022 Covered Bridge Tour – Georgia & Alabama

Planning is underway for this year’s Fall tour of Georgia and Alabama September 23-26 (Friday-Monday). The southern states may not be as densely populated with covered bridges as those farther north, but the few that they do have are well worth the extra time and effort necessary to visit them.

We are planning for a four-day tour. We are hoping to offer a 12-15 passenger van for those who prefer to let someone else do the driving. There will be two different hotels. The first one will be northeast of Atlanta, Georgia. Then we will move to a second location north of Birmingham, Alabama.

Note that the Washington W. King Bridge, GA/10-44-01, in Stone Mountain Park will not be included in the tour because there is a \$20 admission fee to visit it. The hotel for that portion of the tour will be about a half hour from the park so those wishing to visit the bridge can do so on their own time.

Day 1:



Auchumpkee Creek Bridge, Upson County, Georgia, GA/10-145-02#2, built 1997



Red Oak Creek or Imlac Bridge, Meriwether County, Georgia, GA/10-99-02, built c1840.

Day 2: Northeast Georgia bridges



Elder's Mill Bridge
Oconee County, GA/10-108-01,
built 1897, moved 1924



Howard Bridge
Oglethorpe County
GA/10-109-01, built 1905



Watson Mill Bridge
Madison & Oglethorpe Counties
GA/10-97-01, built c1885



Hurricane Shoals Bridge
Jackson County,
GA/10-78-01#2, built 2002



Stovall Mill Bridge
White County
GA/10-154-03#2, built 1895



Poole's Mill Bridge
Forsyth County
GA/10-58-01, built 1906.

Day 3: Georgia and Alabama



Concord Bridge, Cobb County, Georgia, GA/10-33-02, built 1891 (date in WG is incorrect).



Euharlee Creek Bridge, Bartow County, Georgia, GA/10-08-01, built 1886. Lunch stop.



Shiloh Walking Trail Bridge, Carroll County, Georgia, GA/10-22-a, built 1993.



Coldwater Bridge
Calhoun County, Alabama
AL/01-08-01, built around 1850.



Waldo Bridge
Talladega County, Alabama
AL/01-61-02, built around 1858.



Kymulga Bridge and Mill
Talladega County, Alabama
AL/01-61-01, built around 1860.

At the Concord Bridge one of our members living in the area will be sharing some of the area's history. The Shiloh Walking Trail Bridge is not presently listed in the World Guide. This 42' long structure is all wood construction and could be included if time permits. The property containing the Waldo Bridge is presently for sale. We do not know what it's status will be at the time of the tour.

Day 4: Alabama



Clarkson or Legg Bridge, Cullman County
AL/01-22-01, built in 1922.



Swann or Joy Bridge, Blount County
AL/01-05-05, built 1933



Old Easley or Rosa Bridge, Blount County
AL/01-05-12, built 1927



Hortons Mill Bridge, Blount County
AL/01-05-07, built 1935

This last day will only be a half-day. We are planning to have lunch in Oneonta to end the tour.

Saving Old Ironsides

[Editor's note: The NSPCB was contacted by member Ian Duncan who is looking for help with repairs to the 60' long covered bridge on his property. We are including the following information in this issue with the hopes that one or more of our members are able to assist in some way. Ian can be contacted at 38 River Rd, Rutland MA 01543 or email him at flyian@charter.net]

I own "Old Ironsides", #MA-14-L, in Rutland Massachusetts. According to *Covered Bridges in the New England States* by Warren White it is one of only 14 authentic covered bridges in the state, one of two in Worcester County and the only access to my home. (Unless one considers the ford immediately upstream of the bridge) It is in poor repair and in need of (at least) a new roof and better abutments to sit on. While applying for regulatory approval for this work I was informed by the state I must install a new bridge to ensure no vehicular traffic uses the ford. Currently anything larger than a minivan fords the river due to the bridge's low clearance.

Because the Society's title states it is for the preservation of covered bridges I am appealing to the Society for help as there is a very real possibility I will be forced to remove the covered bridge. This is because the simplest and by far least expensive solution is to remove the existing covered bridge, pour concrete on the existing dry-stone abutments, install some steel I-beams and cover it with pressure treated beams. No change in footprint, no wetland impact, no bordering vegetative impact, but worst of all – no covered bridge!



The state has agreed that I may install a new bridge next to the covered bridge and then repair the covered bridge. But this of course will be considerably more expensive and complex. And because this is a private bridge, the funding comes out of my own pocket. The question I face is how much can I personally spend to save the covered bridge? I am refinancing my house for this project, giving me strict financial limitations. The lower the total cost, the greater the chances are that I can keep the covered bridge. And that is where you come in. I would like to appeal to you for technical support. Specifically, I need to find:

- An engineer to design abutments, both for the existing covered bridge and the new bridge.
- An excavating company to dig the abutments and concrete contractor to pour them.
- An engineer to design the new bridge and a contractor to build it.
- A covered bridge engineer to certify repair plans to the building inspector's satisfaction
- A wetland specialist to help design a wetland replication area.
- Someone familiar with all the forms required in Massachusetts by the DCR, NHESP, DEP, Local Conservation Commission, etc.
- An attorney to help me with any legal aspects that may arise.
- Alternatively, someone to move the covered bridge to another location on my property.

I've been working on this project for five years now. Its complexity and cost are growing exponentially reaching the point where I must consider replacing the covered bridge, not adding a new bridge. **I need to secure qualified, preservation minded professional help at a reasonable cost.** Without it the covered bridge will be lost. Any help will be greatly appreciated! Thank you.

Covered Bridge News

Alabama

Swann Bridge, Blount County – AL/01-05-05

On November 15th, an oversized rental truck entered the bridge damaging several boards on the portal.



As it exited, it tore off all the portal covering on that end. The bridge was closed until repairs could be made. Those repairs were scheduled to be completed by Thanksgiving, but were delayed due to illness of the contractor. The work was completed on December 4th and the bridge is once again open to traffic. Blount County 911 was able to obtain the tag number of the vehicle causing the damage. The company was notified of the situation, and the repair costs will be reimbursable through the company's insurance coverage. Friends of the Locust Fork River planned a riverbank cleanup at the bridge on January 8th. *The Blount Countian*,

December 08, 2021. Photo by Jim Smedley.

Delaware

Smith's Bridge, New Castle County - DE/08-02-01#2

A Delaware Department of Transportation press release on January 19th announced that the bridge was to be closed between January 31st and February 11th to repair the "wooden framing components to the bridge 'cover' that were damaged." The repairs may be related to the damage caused by a tractor-trailer attempting to cross the bridge on April 19, 2021, which we reported in the Summer 2021 Newsletter on page 14. The bridge was built over Brandywine Creek in 2002 to replicate a covered bridge which stood at this location from 1839 until it was lost to arson on Halloween 1961.

Indiana

Cades Mill Bridge, Fountain County – IN/14-23-02

On December 20th, Inside Indiana Business reported that Indiana Landmarks awarded a grant for \$3,500 for a structural analysis of this bridge. It is the oldest covered bridge in Indiana still in its original location. Fundraising is underway for the estimated \$400,000 necessary to properly restore the bridge. The committee is currently about halfway to its goal. Donations for restoration of the bridge can be made to the Western Indiana Community Foundation, P.O. Box 75, Covington, IN 47932. Photo by Greg McDuffee.



Richland Creek or Plummer Bridge, Greene County – IN/14-28-01

On December 20th, Inside Indiana Business reported that Indiana Landmarks awarded a grant for \$2,500 for a structural analysis of this bridge. The bridge suffered some damage from an attempted arson on February 7, 2021, which was reported in the Spring 2021 issue on page 11. The 1883 single-span bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.



Indiana (continued)



Williams Bridge, Lawrence County – IN/14-47-02

The fourth annual Williams Covered Bridge Dinner is planned for September 10th. About 200 people are expected to attend. Proceeds from the event will be used to help the Williams Community Center with future projects. The two-span Howe truss bridge was built by Joseph J. Daniels in 1884. *WBIW Radio, February 7, 2022. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

Kentucky

Colville Bridge, Bourbon County – KY/17-09-03#2

On December 6th, Melissa Jurgensen and Lori Ulrich alerted us to damage at this bridge. The boards covering one of the portals are missing. The single-span multiple kingpost truss bridge was opened to traffic in 2001 replacing an 1877 covered bridge that was badly damaged by floodwaters on March 1, 1997. *Photo by Melissa Jurgensen.*



Maryland

Utica Mills Bridge, Frederick County – MD/20-10-01

On December 10th, the Frederick News-Post reported that the repairs to the bridge over Fishing Creek had been completed and the bridge was opened to traffic. It was damaged when a truck struck it on June 26, 2021. Dean Fitzgerald of Fitzgerald's Heavy Timber Construction, worked on the repairs. The repairs were expected to cost \$185,000. The bridge has a weight limit of 30,000 pounds and clearance of 9' 6". *Frederick News-Post, December 10, 2021. Left Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell, November 12, 2021. Photo Courtesy Frederick County.*



Missouri

Locust Creek Bridge, Linn County – MO/25-58-01

On December 10th, the Linn County Leader reported that the County Commission met on November 16th and signed a letter in support of relocating this bridge. The letter was sent to Missouri Department of Natural Resources. We have not yet been able to obtain any other details. *Linn County Leader, December 10, 2021. Photo by Bob Hamilton.*



New Hampshire

Squam River Bridge, Ashland, Grafton County – NH/29-05-112

The bridge was closed for about 3 weeks this past winter for some routine repairs and maintenance. It received new floor boards, extra sheathing on the walkway to help prevent people from kicking out the side boards, new wooden guard rail approaching the bridge and new portals to fix damage from vehicles strikes. The project took a little longer than expected due to subzero temperatures. The single-span Town truss bridge was built by Milton Grāton and sons in 1990. *Photo and Details Courtesy Arnold M. Grāton Associates.*



New York

Cannon Bridge, Wyoming County – under construction

As mentioned in the previous issue and pictured on the cover, a new covered bridge is being constructed at the location of the former Mosier Bridge on Schoellkopf Road near Cowlesville, in the town of Bennington, in western New York. The former covered bridge was built in 1845 and was replaced by a metal one around 1933. Photos posted in early January showed the two trusses and deck in place and work starting on the roof. The bridge is expected to be completed in the spring. This rendering of the bridge was provided by the Wyoming County Highway Department.



Ohio

Lynchburg Bridge, Clinton & Highland Counties – OH/35-14-11 & OH/35-36-06

According to information from Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), a project to rehabilitate the historic covered bridge in Lynchburg was set to begin Monday, January 17th. The bridge will remain closed for the duration of the project, which is scheduled to be completed in the fall of this year. The rehabilitation



includes the replacement of damaged and missing truss/cord members and the removal of the steel suspension system, supplemental pier supports and steel channel at the abutments. The missing and damaged truss/cord members will be replaced with salvaged or new truss/cord members. Authentic construction methods will be used as much as possible for the project. The bridge over the east fork of the Little Miami River was built in 1870 at a cost of \$3,138.66 by local bridge builder John C. Gregg of Hillsboro. It was bypassed in 1969. Lynchburg was awarded \$300,000 from the

state and \$350,000 from the federal government in early 2019 to rebuild the bridge. *Hillsboro Times-Gazette, January 17, 2022. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

Bell Bridge, Washington County – OH/35-84-12

On December 16th, the Washington County Board of County Commissioners advertised for bids to repair this bridge. Bids were to be opened on January 11th. The estimated cost of the project is \$936,824. According to the January 27th Commissioner’s Meeting Minutes, the County Engineer received seven bids for the project. The Commissioner’s voted to award the contract to the apparent low bidder, Shelly & Sands Inc., at a cost of \$896,036.05. The single-span Howe truss bridge was built in 1888. *Photo by Gloria Smedley.*



Hills or Hildreth Bridge, Washington County – OH/35-84-24



On December 16th, the Washington County Board of County Commissioners advertised for bids to repair this bridge. Bids were to be opened on January 11th. The estimated cost of the project was \$660,228.88. According to the January 20th Commissioner’s Meeting Minutes, the lowest bidder, RC Construction, withdrew their bid due to missed items. The other two bids were more than 10% over the Engineer’s estimate so the project could not be awarded. The single-span Howe truss bridge was built in 1878. *Photo by Gloria Smedley.*

Pennsylvania

South Perkasio Bridge, Bucks County – PA/38-09-05

This bridge was another victim of tropical storm Ida’s wrath of September 1st. It was originally built in 1832 and moved to a local park in 1958 to save it from destruction. Local officials were already in the process of arranging for the repairs when the torrential rains flooded the park which lifted the bridge off of its abutments. The Borough of Perkasio released an advertisement soliciting proposals for engineering and design consultation services for the bridge repairs. Two bids were received. At our press deadline, the Borough Council was working with FEMA to evaluate funding options before awarding a contract. *Information from Scott Bomboy. Photos courtesy of Scott Bomboy and Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



Photo taken the day after flooding, September 2nd.



Photo taken the day after flooding, September 2nd.



Bridge on cribbing and cabled for support. November 14th.

Gibson's or Harmony Hill Bridge, Chester County – PA/38-15-10

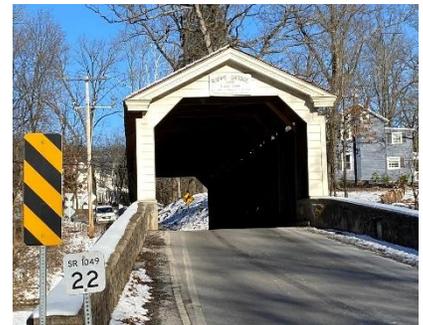
This single-span Burr truss structure was built over the East Branch Brandywine Creek in 1872. On September 1st, it sustained damage from the unprecedented rainfall associated with tropical storm Ida. On January 13th, member Connie McLaughlin reported seeing work being done on the bridge. Jim & Gloria Smedley visited the bridge on February 9th and found that it had been repaired and was open to traffic. Photos by Gloria Smedley. The left two photos were taken before the repairs and right photo afterwards.



Rapp’s Dam Bridge, Chester County – PA/38-15-14



In the last issue we noted that a crew from Lancaster County Timber Frames was repairing the damage caused by Tropical Storm Ida in early September. Jim & Gloria Smedley visited the bridge on January 8th and found that it was repaired and open to traffic. The single-span Burr truss bridge was built in 1866. *Photos by Gloria Smedley.*



Pennsylvania (continued)

McConnell's Mill Bridge, Lawrence County – PA/38-37-01



Scenes for an upcoming film starring Christian Bale, called “The Pale Blue Eye,” were filmed at the bridge in December. The film is an adaptation of the 2006 book by the same name. It follows a detective investigating a series of murders, helped by a detail-oriented young cadet who will later become the world-famous author Edgar Allan Poe, according to the Internet Movie Database, or IMDb. The bridge was to be closed for around three weeks, although emergency vehicles were allowed to pass through at any time, even if the movie is in the middle of filming. *Ellwood City Ledger, November 30, 2021. Photo by Greg McDuffee.*

Banks Bridge, Lawrence County – PA/38-37-02

In the Summer 2021 issue (page 22), we reported that the Lawrence County commissioners approved a contract with Allison Park Contractors Inc. of Gibsonia for repairs to the bridge. unspecified steel and wood repairs totaling \$440,000. The single-span, Burr truss bridge over Neshannock Creek was built in 1889. On November 18th, the New Castle News reported that the bridge was to be re-opened at the end of the workday on November 22nd. *New Castle News, November 18, 2021. Photo by Greg McDuffee.*



Geiger's Bridge, Lehigh County – PA/38-39-05

On January 21st, WFMZ-TV reported that the bridge was to be closed for repairs from January 24th until about mid-June. No details of the project were provided. This could be the project we reported in the Winter 2020/2021 Newsletter (page 22) where the county was awarded a grant for \$325,000 to repair and restore the bridge. The bridge was built in 1860 in the North Whitehall Township section of the Trexler Nature Preserve and is on the National Register of Historic Places. An email received from PennDOT on October 29, 2020, stated that the “project will include rehabilitation & repair of the timber bridge components, repair/replace slate roof and roofing boards as directed, redecking of wooden riding boards, clean and paint steel members, scour mitigation as



needed, and repair of approach pavement.” *Jenn Caswell Photo.*

Sam Wagner or Gottlieb Brown Bridge, Montour & Northumberland Counties – PA/38-47-01 / PA/38-49-11

On February 13th, WKOK Radio reported that Pennsylvania State Police have closed the bridge located on Bridge Road in East Chillisquaque Township until repairs can be made. Troopers say the bridge was hit sometime in the prior month by an over height vehicle damaging the bridge’s roof rafters. The single-span Burr truss bridge was built in 1881. *WKOK Radio, February 13, 2022. Photos by Gloria Smedley.*



Pennsylvania (continued)

Shaffer’s Bridge, Somerset County – PA/38-56-11

On February 15th, Somerset commissioners approved repairs to the bridge. Work could be underway by summer although nationwide supply chain issues will play a big role in determining an exact start date. The \$152,700 project was awarded to Butler County-based Thornbury Inc. The project is years in the making and follows periods where the bridge had to be closed to traffic due to deteriorating roof support beams. A temporary system was installed in 2020 to maintain the bridge's roof until a permanent fix is completed. Treated hardwood beams will replace rotting ones. A Commissioner noted that there is currently a backlog on the timber needed. That means the bridgework isn't likely to occur in the next few months. But the hope is for the work to be completed in the summer or fall at the latest to enable the bridge to be used next winter. The county received a \$100,000 Department of Community and Economic Development grant last summer to stabilize the structure. The remaining costs will be covered by the county's annual liquid fuels funds. *The Tribune-Democrat, February 15, 2022. Greg McDuffee Photo.*



Hassenplug Bridge, Union County – PA/38-60-03

In the Summer 2021 Newsletter (page 22) we reported that the Union County Commissioners approved a \$1.6 million contract with Nestlerode Contracting to complete repairs to three bridges, one of them being the Hassenplug Bridge. The notes did not specify any details of the project. On January 8th, The Daily Item reported that the work was to begin sometime this spring. *Photos by Tim & Connie McLaughlin.*



Tennessee

Covered Bridge Related Events in Elizabethton

The Elizabethton/Carter County Chamber of Commerce hosted a Gingerbread Covered Bridge Contest in November. The entries went on display on November 14th and were judged November 27th with the two winning entries shown here. The youth category winner (left) was Hadley Vines and the amateur category winner (right) was Jannice Conner. On December 4th, the Elizabethton Arts & Cultural Alliance hosted “Christmas in Oz” fundraiser at the covered bridge. Visitors could buy tickets from Professor Marvel (NSPCB member Robert Benfield) and have them punched by various Oz characters. Tickets punched by all characters were entered into a raffle for a large gift basket. *Details and photos of the gingerbread houses from the Chamber’s Facebook Page. Photo of Professor Marvel courtesy Mary Ruden.*



A 140th birthday celebration was planned for the bridge (TN/42-10-01) on February 25th. Built in 1882, the bridge has seen Elizabethton grow from a small agricultural village to an industrial town in the early part of the 1900s, to now a business center. *Elizabethton Star, February 10, 2022.*

Vermont

Bennington Covered Bridge Museum, Bennington

In 2017, the founders of the Bennington Center for the Arts, which included the Covered Bridge Museum, donated the property to the former Southern Vermont College, which subsequently declared bankruptcy. The property includes a 315-seat theater, seven galleries, offices and other spaces. The grounds include a covered bridge museum and gardens. After the bankruptcy filing, the founders attempted to have their donation returned to them but were not able to obtain it. In mid-January, they expressed their interest in purchasing the property through the non-profit Bennington Center for the Arts Inc. offering \$500,000. Other bids are allowed provided that they are at least \$25,000 over the current offer and must be submitted by February 4th. As of the bankruptcy filing date in 2020, the property was valued at \$4.2 million. Any amounts owed the town of Bennington also would be deducted at the sale.

Sanborn Bridge, Lyndonville, Caledonia County – VT/45-03-05

A report from the Preservation Trust of Vermont (PTV) estimated that it will cost around \$1.3 million to repair the bridge. Town Planning Director Nicole Gratton is working on grant funding with additional assistance from state and national covered bridge societies. On January 13th, PTV announced that the town had been awarded a \$100,000 Bruhn Revitalization Grant. To supplement grant funding, the town hopes to partner with a non-profit and launch a community fundraiser to cover remaining project costs. The town also maintains a bridge restoration fund, which could be used for grant match purposes. Gratton said the estimate includes the structural rebuild of the bridge and abutments and was in line with similar projects elsewhere. The bridge is key to a plan to revitalize downtown Lyndonville. It is the last of the large Paddleford truss covered bridges in Vermont. On February 7, 2022, the town Select Board voted unanimously to enter into a purchase-and-sale



agreement to buy the historic bridge and 1.5 acres of abutting land for \$10,000. The acquisition brings all five of Lyndon's covered bridges under town ownership and allows the town to proceed with plans to turn the bridges into tourist attractions and cultural hubs. *Preservation Trust of Vermont Press Release and Caledonian Record, December 23, 2021 and February 10, 2022. Photo by Betty Pauwels.*

Miller's Run or Bradley Bridge, Lyndonville, Caledonia County – VT/45-03-06#2

A surveillance camera near the bridge recorded another oversized truck damaging it on December 20th. The white box truck damaged and dislodged a number of boards on the portal and caused some damage inside the bridge. The box truck pulled into the adjacent Park & Ride lot briefly before continuing on its way. After a crash last year, the town installed flashing signs to alert drivers of the low clearance. The Lyndon Select Board later voted to triple the fines for height and weight limit violations on the town's two drivable covered bridges, Miller's Run and Chamberlin Mill. Drivers violating the set limits will be subject to fines of \$5,000 for a first offense, \$10,000, for a second offense, and \$15,000 for third and subsequent offenses. The fines will help fund mitigation measures for the bridge. The town will be installing steel I-beam structures at both ends of the bridge to block tall vehicles. Plans to install surveillance cameras to capture offenders' license plates are under consideration, with Select Board support. Repairs to the latest damage are expected to cost around \$2,000. *WCAX-TV & Caledonian Record, December 21, 2021. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



Vermont (continued)



Red Bridge, Morrystown, Lamoille County – VT/45-08-11

On December 26th Catherine Judkins notified the Vermont Covered Bridge Society that this bridge near Morrystown was damaged by an oversized truck. Witnesses saw a Lowe's truck drive through the bridge and cause damage to the overhead beams. The bridge seems fine structurally, with only minor damage. *Photo by Gloria Smedley.*

Sayre or Thetford Center Bridge, Orange County – VT/45-09-06

Thetford Police are seeking the public's help in identifying the driver of a White Freightliner which struck the bridge on the afternoon of January 14th and left the scene. Details of the damage were not included in the article. The single span bridge with an unusual truss design was built in 1839. The name is often mis-spelled as Sayer. *Newport Dispatch, January 17, 2022.*



Warren Bridge, Warren, Washington County – VT/45-12-12



In the previous issue, we noted that the only bid received for work planned for this bridge was significantly higher than the estimate and rejected. On January 11th, the town Select Board mentioned that the bridge will be closed for repairs sometime this summer and remain closed for about six months. The Board is considering permanently closing the bridge to motor vehicle traffic after repairs are completed. That option will be discussed once they experience the impacts of the temporary closure. The upcoming work is being funded by a grant received in 2014. The bridge has also received some cosmetic damage from oversized vehicles. The town has placed orange barriers in the roadway to restrict the size of the bridge's opening to deter oversized

vehicles. *Valley Reporter, January 14, 2022. Photo Courtesy DuBois & King, Inc.*

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West Virginia

Barrackville Bridge, Marion County – WV/48-25-02



The Barrackville Covered Bridge Preservation Association has been doing a great job of getting the community involved in their efforts to have the bridge repaired. Resident Graham Curry has created artwork that could be used on merchandise to raise money for the project. Preliminary estimates place the repair costs around \$500,000. Diana Marple, who has been leading the effort (and is also a NSPCB member), has been working with State Delegate Guy Ward, to find potential state funding and grants. In November, they were able to have a power pole installed at the bridge. The group decorated the bridge for Christmas and on November 28th they hosted an event to light the bridge. The ceremony was held in memory of Diana's husband, Will Marple, who passed away in August. Last year, the Marple's

decorated the bridge together with lights and a tree powered by a donated generator. The group is working on several plans to raise the funds to fix the bridge, including planning a festival on June 18th. The Barrackville Town Council donated \$1,000 for application fees toward submission of a 501C3 nonprofit status. For more information, visit the association's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/SavetheBarrackvilleBridgeAgain>) or email them at saveourbridge@aol.com. Bridge photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell. Lighting ceremony photo taken from the live broadcast of the event.

Donations to the Barrackville Covered Bridge Preservation Society can be made out to that organization and mailed to Lion's Club, P.O. Box 429, Barrackville WV 26559.

Carrollton Bridge, Barbour County – WV/48-01-02

In the Fall 2021 Newsletter (page 23), we reported that the state Division of Highways had designed repairs to the bridge and awarded a project to begin the work. After being partially burned on August 10, 2017, the bridge was reopened to traffic a month later. The blaze, which was ruled arson, destroyed much of the bridge's outer covering but left the concrete deck, which replaced the wooden floor system in 1962, mostly intact. No arrests have been made in the case, to date. According to the MetroNews article, District 7 Engineer Brian Cooper stated that "all the wooden outer shell was damaged or destroyed. This is going to be a complete restoration to remove all the damaged members, clean what is salvageable, and repair it to its original condition." Contractors for Span 1, LLC are installing scaffolding and rigging to replace the bridge's wooden siding and portions of the upper superstructure. The work could be finished by the end of August. *MetroNews, February 5, 2022. Photo by Michele Lee Victor.*



Canada – New Brunswick

MacFarlane or Ward's Creek #2 Bridge, Kings County – NB/55-06-13

Photos on Facebook in late January showed the bridge sporting a new roof and siding. The 63' (19m) long Howe truss structure over Ward's Creek was built by A.E. Smye in 1909 who won the contract with his bid of \$1,694.00.

Ontario

West Montrose or Kissing Bridge, Waterloo County – ON/59-50-01

As noted last quarter, the bridge over the Grand River will be closed for about a year to undergo a \$4-million rehabilitation. The Region of Waterloo provided information on the intended repairs and solicited comments. We recommended that they contact the staff at Wood Research and Development (WRD) for additional advice on the project. We learned that they are working with Dr. Dan Tingley of WRD for his specialized expertise in strengthening of wood truss bridges. The WRD technique involves installation of additional layers of timber and carbon fiber to the bottom chord of the truss. For more information, visit <https://www.engagewr.ca/west-montrose>. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



Québec

We are grateful to Pascal Conner whose *Blogue sur les ponts couverts* (pontscouverts.com/blogue/) provides most of the Québec news each quarter. Unless otherwise noted, all Québec articles were derived from that website.

Pont Perrault, Chaudière, Appalaches Region – QC/61-06-01

As we have reported in previous issues, the 1928 bridge was closed to all traffic on February 16, 2018 by the Ministère des Transports du Québec (MTQ). According to Mayor Alain Veilleux, the former and present Notre-Dame-des-Pins city council has rejected two tenders to repair the bridge because they were much higher than the estimates and money available. “The project, even with grants and partners, is at least \$750,000 more than the initial evaluation (\$2.5 million),” Mr. Veilleux stated. City officials will continue their fundraising campaign and encourage local businesses to continue contributions towards the project. Built in 1927, the Perrault Bridge is the longest covered bridge in Quebec at 495 feet. *L’Éclaireur Progrès, January 26, 2022. Photo by Pascal Conner.*



Pont Prud’homme, Laurentides Region – QC/61-72-01

Last quarter, we reported that a group called SOS Pont Prud’homme was actively pursuing efforts to have the bridge restored and open to traffic. The bridge has been completely closed since December 2019. On January 13th, the Ministère des Transports du Québec (MTQ) posted a sign near the bridge announcing the construction project. Work in the area started in early

February. We look forward to seeing updates on this project. *Photo by Gérald Arbour.*



NSPCB Facebook Page

To help spread the word about our mission, the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges, Inc. has a Facebook page. The page is used for sharing current bridge related news and Society meeting information. If you use Facebook, visit us at <http://www.facebook.com/nspcb>. “Like” our page and share it with your friends.

