



The Newsletter

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

Summer 2024

Help Us Raise Money to Repair the Edgell Bridge



Lyme, Grafton County, New Hampshire, World Guide Number NH/29-05-11

Photo by Bill Caswell

More information in article on back cover

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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 **September**, therefore, anyone wishing to submit articles should send them by **August 5, 2024**. 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

Rosalie & Terry Miller, Saint Joe, Indiana
Susan Napolitano, Middletown, New York
Tess Tremblay, Center Tuftonboro, New Hampshire

Welcome New Life Members

#215 – Alan Hartmann, Branchburg, New Jersey
#216 – Gregg Obst, Blandon, Pennsylvania

2024 NSPCB Meetings & Events

All meetings begin at **1:00 PM** unless otherwise noted. If you plan to attend a meeting, please check the NSPCB 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, June 23 – Contoocook Covered Bridge, Contoocook, New Hampshire. Bring your own chairs.

Sunday, July 28 – Perrine's Bridge, New Paltz, New York. Ron Knapp to speak.

Sunday, August 25 – Annual picnic at Beaver Meadow Village at the end of Waumbec Road, Concord, NH. The cookout is at noon and the meeting at 1 pm.

Sunday, September 22 – Scott Bridge, Townshend, Vermont. Bring your own chairs.

October 12-13 – Warner Fall Foliage Festival, Warner, New Hampshire.

Saturday, October 26 – NSPCB Annual Meeting and Dinner, Brigham Hill Barn, North Grafton, MA. Meal at noon, meeting starting at 1:00 PM.

Annual Meeting

As noted above, the annual meeting has been confirmed for Saturday, October 26, 2024 at the Brigham Hill Community Barn, North Grafton, Massachusetts. Our speaker will be Scott Bomboy of Perkasio, Pennsylvania. Scott is the author of *The Lost Covered Bridges of Montgomery County* and *Wooden Treasures: The Story of Bucks County's Covered Bridges*. He is chair of the Bucks County Covered Bridge Society and an advocate for restoration of the South Perkasio Bridge (PA/38-09-05). In his journalism career, he received five Edward R. Murrow awards in television, and he currently is the editor-in-chief of the National Constitution Center.

President's Message

I hope that this message finds you healthy and well. As I write this in mid-May, spring is in full bloom here in New Hampshire. As your editor, I truly appreciate the articles submitted by members that are included with this issue. There were more contributions than normal this quarter. Thank you!

In recent *Newsletters* you have seen articles about enhancements to the covered bridge phone app developed by Alan Hartmann. Alan has volunteered countless hours developing the website and companion phone apps based on the *World Guide to Covered Bridges*. To show our appreciation for that effort, Alan was presented with a plaque at the March meeting and granted an honorary life membership.

The two bills introduced into the New Hampshire legislature January 3rd to help protect the state's remaining historic covered bridges are still moving through the system. Both have passed the House and Senate and should be moving along to the Governor's desk for his signature by the time you read this. House Bill 1217 will allow the state or a municipality to use video monitoring to identify the cause of damage to historic covered bridges. This will help identify vehicles causing damage during hit-and-run incidents. House Bill 1457 establishes penalties for vehicular damage to covered wooden bridges and driving over covered bridges in vehicles that exceed posted limits. Presently, a driver causing damage to a bridge with an oversize vehicle in New Hampshire is subject to a \$62 ticket for "disobeying a traffic control device." The bill proposes to increase the fine to \$1,000 for a first offense. Motorists can also be charged up to \$2,000 for a first offense if a vehicle "substantially impedes the flow of traffic." Drivers are also responsible for the cost of repairs.

For anyone planning on sending material for the Fall Newsletter, please be aware that the deadline will be August 5th, ten days earlier than normal. Our middle daughter, Jackie, will be getting married on August 31st and we plan to have the Fall publications in the mail before the wedding.

I was invited to speak at the dedications for the new signs on the two covered bridges in Warner, New Hampshire on May 18th. Details of that event are in a separate article. It was a good opportunity to share some tidbits about each bridge and let residents know how events like this help preserve the bridges. While our organization can offer our support, a critical part of covered bridge preservation is community interest and involvement. Our letters to local officials about damage or needed repairs are not nearly as effective as in those communities where the spans are appreciated and valued. While installing those new signs may seem like a small gesture, it shows an appreciation of the bridge as part of the town's history and may also provide an economic benefit by drawing visitors to the spans thereby improving their chances of being around for the next generation.

Remember, it is up to every one of us to help preserve our historic covered bridges. If you see something that isn't right, say something. Whether it is a bridge in need of repair, excessive graffiti or an oversized vehicle using the bridge, let the proper authorities know about it. Local/County/State government officials need to know that we care about these structures and want them to be around for future generations to enjoy and learn from.

This quarter we heard about more member presentations than normal. Thank you to all of you who help spread the word about covered bridge history and preservation. Please continue to keep us informed of covered bridge news so we can share it with the rest of our members and as you travel to visit our bridges, please share photos with us.

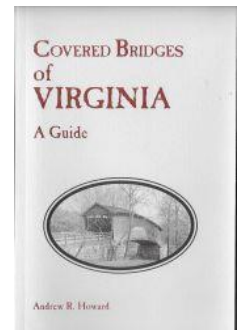


*Powerscourt Bridge, QC/61-27-01, the only remaining McCallum truss covered bridge
Hinchinbrooke, Québec, March 2, 2024*

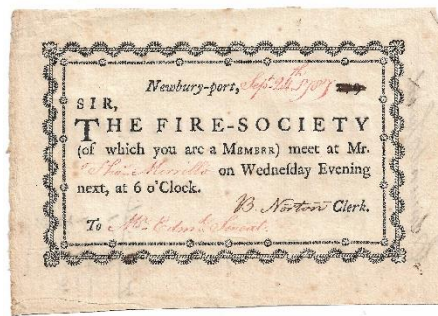
Bill Caswell

Archives Update

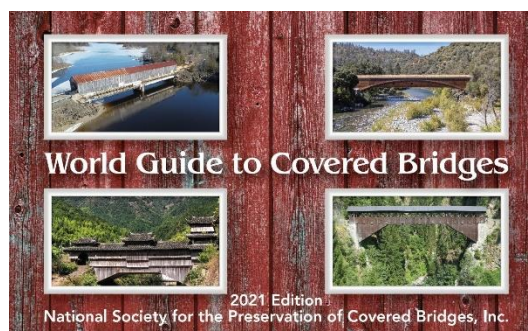
In the previous Newsletter, we mentioned that when member Andrew Howard passed away, he left a significant supply of his books behind. Many of you may have copies of at least one of the six books he published. Most of them were about 8¾" x 6" paperback and 40-50 pages in length. Mr. Howard's daughter and son-in-law who live in Virginia have donated the remainder of his stock to the NSPCB so they can find their way to good homes. Dan Brock, who keeps the official record of World Guide entries, met them in Connecticut to accept the donation. Bill & Jenn visited Dan shortly after to bring them to the archives in New Hampshire. We will have them available at our meetings and events this year.



Last summer, the NSPCB received a donation which included a number of historic documents. While many of them pertained to covered bridges, there were a few which were associated with Newburyport, Massachusetts. Since they did not contribute to our mission of preserving covered bridge history, the Executive Board approved a request to donate them to the Museum of Old Newbury. On April 1st, Bill and Jenn Caswell and Bob Watts visited the museum to meet with Bethany Groff Dorau, it's Executive Director to transfer ownership of those items. We are happy to see these documents, dated between 1787 and 1875, returned to the town of their origin.



In late February we were contacted by Toby Burroughs of Manchester, Massachusetts, who offered to donate an album of covered bridge photos belonging to her mother, Dee Burroughs, who passed away on September 15, 2021 at age 100. Thanks to Vice President Bob Watts for arranging to meet Toby to pick up the album. The album contains photographs of covered bridges throughout New Hampshire taken mostly in 1936. The example here is the former Roby Bridge in Warner, taken on November 11, 1936, shortly before the bridge was removed. Mrs. Burroughs, who earned a degree in chemistry/biology from Perdue University and a master's degree in early childhood education from Wheelock College, enjoyed stopping at yard sales and likely acquired the album at one of those stops. The photographer is not known.



World Guide to Covered Bridges

Copies of the latest World Guide to Covered Bridges can be obtained for \$19 per copy for media mail shipping or \$23 each for priority mail shipping to US addresses. To purchase a copy, order through our website or send a check or money order made payable to **NSPCB** to Jenn Caswell, 535 2nd NH Tpke, Hillsboro, NH 03244.

March Meeting

The March meeting was planned to be a combined in-person and Zoom gathering hosted at the Masonic Lodge in Boscawen, New Hampshire. However, a winter storm the previous day knocked out power to thousands of New Hampshire residents including the meeting venue. The Zoom meeting was well-attended with 34 members from 13 states participating. To start the meeting, Bill invited Jim Huey to talk about his interest in covered bridges. We initially learned the intriguing details of Jim's story through a podcast titled "Musician, M.D. and Man on a Mission" described in the previous Newsletter. The podcast can be found at: <https://verbaljournalism.substack.com/p/musician-md-and-man-on-a-mission>.



The by-law amendment to remove the restriction that the annual meeting be held in Massachusetts was approved by those in attendance. Alan Hartmann was presented with a plaque and honorary life membership in appreciation of the countless hours he has volunteered creating and enhancing the covered bridge website and phone apps. The group also approved the purchase of video conferencing equipment to improve our ability to host virtual meetings and improve the quality of those meetings.

April Meeting



Director Carmela Sciandra hosted the April meeting in Revere Beach, Massachusetts. It was the first time we set up the video conferencing equipment approved at the March meeting. Thanks to the virtual connection, we had 26 attendees from 8 states.

The group approved the purchase of fire retardant for two covered bridges in Carroll County, Indiana, the 1872 Adams Mill Bridge over North Fork of Wildcat Creek and the 1872 Lancaster Bridge over Wildcat Creek. Both are single-span Howe truss structures.

They also approved the printing of a 28-page booklet documenting the past and present covered bridges of Warner, New Hampshire prepared by Bill & Jenn Caswell, Kim Varney Chandler and Rebecca Courser of the Warner Historical Society. Copies of that booklet will be available for sale at our events.

Upper photo by Scott Wagner, lower photo by Bob Watts.



Kirker Bridge Struck by Tornado

Shortly before 8 PM on April 2nd, a tornado badly damaged the single-span Governor Kirker Bridge (OH/35-01-10) over the East Fork of Eagle Creek in Adams County, Ohio. Jim Huey visited the site on April 4th and provided these photos. The bridge is owned by the county and has been maintained by the Adams County Travel and Visitors Bureau. On April 8th, the Adams County Commissioners supported restoration of the bridge. The NSPCB has also offered support for the repairs. The bridge was built in 1890, and named after former Ohio Governor Thomas Kirker, who served in the early 1800s. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on October 29, 1975. *Highland County Press, April 4, 2024 and WKRC, April 9, 2024.*

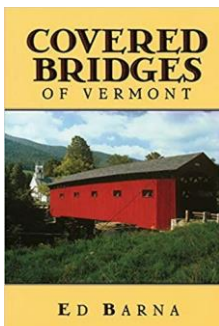


The Adams County Land Bank provided funding for the cleanup of the site during the week of April 22nd. Materials that are salvageable will be saved and stored in a secure location. They will be saved for public auction later to be a potential source of revenue for reconstruction. The Adams County Economic Development Office is considering four potential courses of action for the site.

- 1: Restore the bridge to a usable condition. This would include the addition of a new roof, to include rafters and metal roofing materials. This option would not address the undermining of the bridge foundations. Our first estimate came back for \$27,500 to repair the roof. Additional estimates have been requested.
- 2: Restore the bridge to a new condition. This option would include restoration of the roof and address the undermining issues to the bridge foundations. This option will be the most expensive, but it will provide the most durable and sustainable option.
- 3: Dismantle the bridge and move it to another location in Adams County for reassembly. The remaining infrastructure of the bridge would systematically be taken down and stored. Once a suitable location is found, the bridge would be reassembled and open to public use.
- 4: Put the bridge up for public auction. No repairs would be completed, and the Board of Commissioners could put the bridge up for auction and remove the liability of repairs and future damage to the structure.

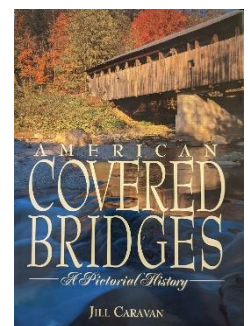


Used Books



We occasionally receive donations that include covered bridge books. While some of the books are added to the Society's permanent collection in the archives in Concord, New Hampshire, others are available for sale. We do not include the list in the *Newsletter* because it often changes and would be outdated before you receive it. There is a list on the website which is updated as new items are received and others are purchased. For more details, visit

<https://www.coveredbridgesociety.org/books-used.htm>.



New Signs for Warner's Covered Bridges

On May 18th, dedication ceremonies were held at this central New Hampshire town's two covered bridges to unveil new signs carved and painted by Warner resident Jim McLaughlin.



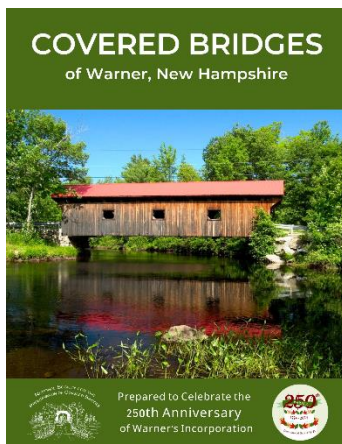
The event started at 10:00 at the Dalton Bridge (NH/29-07-05) and was followed by a dedication at the Waterloo Bridge (NH/29-07-04) at 11:00. There was a good turnout at both locations.



The event was one of many celebrations taking place throughout the year to celebrate the town's 250 years of incorporation. Rebecca Courser of the Warner 250th Birthday committee introduced the speakers: Jim McLaughlin, Select Board member Faith Minton and NSPCB president Bill Caswell.

The NSPCB and Warner Historical Society collaborated on a 28-page booklet about the town's past and present covered bridges which was available for sale at each location. The NSPCB and Warner Historical Society plan to have copies of the booklet available at their other events this year.

Photos by Rebecca Courser, Ken Parnell, Jenn Caswell and Bill Caswell.



Kingsley Bridge Update

[Editor's note: The following information was provided by Beth Brown of the Vermont Covered Bridge Society and Jim Ligon of Alpine Construction on May 6th. Photos by Beth Brown.]

Jim Ligon is shown here at the east portal of the nearly finished Kingsley covered bridge (VT/45-11-03). Alpine's crew of five (from New Hampshire and New York) were working diligently on a beautiful May day. The inside members of the bridge were sprayed with No-Char fire retardant that morning (see photo of still wet lattice truss). The previous week another fire retardant, PolaSeal EFM, was applied to exterior surfaces and weather boards at both portals. The interior was also treated with the insecticide Shell-Guard to protect the structure from wood-destroying pests and fungi. All these coatings were professionally applied and environmentally protected by licensed applicators, Vermont Protective Coatings of Brandon, Vermont. Jim says, "We'll get it open as soon as we can! It's more than 90% done right now."



The new roof and siding are done and the floor planks (3" oak over hemlock sub-floor) are being laid. Some of the support and access caging has been taken down. Jim noted that the bridge has been self-supporting since the shoring was released in February. Once the decking is complete and remaining shoring removed, they will work on the roadway approaches and drainage.

Plans for a ribbon-cutting and grand-reopening celebration (organized by VCBS, Clarendon Historical Society, and perhaps Ludlow Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce, along with neighbors) are being made. The date is still to be determined.

"We've done a lot of covered bridges in the last 27 years, but not as many in the last 10 years as the decade before," Jim said. "The flooding last July set us back 2 months on this project, but she'll last a good long time when we're done."

The 1870 single-span Town lattice bridge was added to the National Register of Historic Places on February 12, 1974.

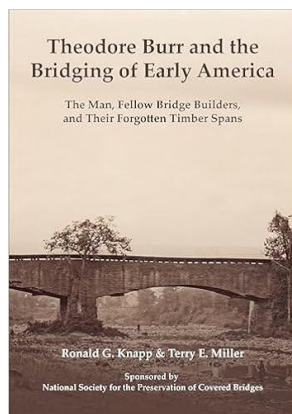


Theodore Burr and the Bridging of Early America:

The Man, Fellow Bridge Builders, and Their Forgotten Timber Spans

Authors Ron Knapp and Terry Miller collaborated to create a 500+ page story of Burr's bridge-building career and aspects of his personal life discovered during their three years of research. They provide a compelling narrative of a very interesting man who lived during an important period of American history.

The NSPCB is proud to sponsor this significant contribution to the history of covered bridge building in America. Proceeds from book sales are being donated to the NSPCB to be used for covered bridge preservation projects.



The book is divided into three parts.

- An introduction to Theodore Burr and family.
- Chronicles of Burr's bridges with individual chapters dedicated to more significant ones.
- Burr's legacy and use of the "Burr Arch-Truss" after his death.

It is available from Amazon in Kindle, softcover and hardcover versions. Search for it on amazon.com or scan this QR code for additional details.



Sanborn (Centre) Covered Bridge Update

[Editor's note: We are grateful to Nicole Gratton of the Preservation Trust of Vermont and Bob Durfee of DuBois & King Inc. for providing this update on the Sanborn Bridge project.]

The Town of Lyndon, Vermont selected DuBois & King, Inc., of Randolph, Vermont & Laconia, New Hampshire, to complete Study, Preliminary and Final Design plans and Permitting for a complete rehabilitation of the Sanborn (Centre) Covered Bridge (World Guide No. VT/45-03-05).

The bridge was originally constructed on Centre Street by the Town in 1867, sold and moved to its present location in 1960, and then reacquired by the Town in 2022. The Town plans to rehabilitate the bridge for continued use as a trail bridge, and develop a park at the south approach to the bridge.



The bridge provides pedestrian access over the Passumpsic River and is one of the few examples remaining of a Paddleford Truss-supported covered bridge. There are only two Paddleford truss bridge types remaining in Vermont. D&K is working with the Town of Lyndon, abutters, and stakeholders to evaluate rehabilitative measures to restore the timber superstructure, as well as replace the stone & concrete substructure (abutments).



The project has received funding from numerous Federal, State and Local Agencies, including a USDA Rural Business Development Fund Grant, VTrans TAP funds and Northern Border Regional Commission funds. Working with a historic resource consultant, D&K is developing rehabilitation design concepts that adhere to the US Secretary of Interior's *Standards for Rehabilitation for Historic Structures* and *Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Covered Bridges*.

The project has also been financially supported with the creation of a Lyndon Covered Bridge endowment, made possible by the generous support of Dale and Betty Lawson. Dale grew up in Lyndonville, and has left \$250,000 to be invested with Preservation Trust of Vermont for the support of all the covered bridges in Lyndon. The first draw from the endowment will be in support of the Sanborn Covered Bridge project, and requires a 50% match. A small capital campaign will launch in the summer of 2024 to raise the required \$40,000.

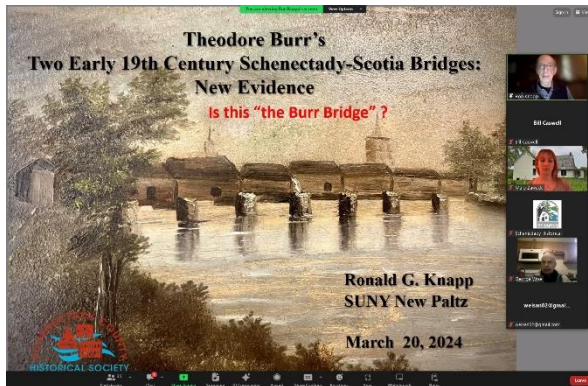
D&K is currently preparing Final Design documents (Plans, Specifications and Construction Cost Estimate) for submission to the Town and Federal/State Agencies. It is anticipated that construction will begin no later than spring 2025, with a twelve (12) month construction schedule to completion.



Top photo from the NSPCB Archives, group photo by Bob Watts, failed abutment photo by Scott Wagner.

News of Members

"Theodore Burr's Two Early 19th Century Schenectady-Scotia Bridges: New Evidence"



Ron Knapp offered a Zoom presentation for the Schenectady County Historical Society on Wednesday, March 20th. The presentation focused on one of the most unique covered bridges ever constructed, Theodore Burr's crossing of the Mohawk River between Schenectady and Scotia, New York. Burr designed an experimental wooden suspension system for the structure which appeared as arches over each pier and suspension "cables" in between. The bridge was opened to traffic on December 3, 1808. Initially an open bridge, it was covered sometime before 1831 concealing the unique suspension system. As the bridge aged, it began to sag so four additional piers were added. The bridge was dismantled and replaced in 1874.

"Epsom's Lost Covered Bridge"

Vice President and *Topics* editor Scott Wagner offered a presentation for the Epsom Historical Society in Epsom, New Hampshire on April 14th. After some introductory information about covered bridges in general, Scott focused on the only covered bridge known to have been built in Epsom, the Short Falls Bridge (NH/29-07-48x) which was believed to have been built in 1831. It was bypassed by a new bridge in 1950 and later removed. He also discussed some of the other covered bridges in surrounding towns. The results of his research for this presentation can be found in this quarter's *Topics*.



Hillsboro Railroad Bridge, NH/29-06-01x.
Lost to arson on October 30, 1985.

Covered Bridges of New Hampshire

On April 15th, Bill Caswell offered his semi-annual presentation on the Covered Bridges of New Hampshire for the Oscher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). The on-line presentation spotlights many of the state's current and former covered bridges plus information about some of the builders. The next one is scheduled for September 30th.

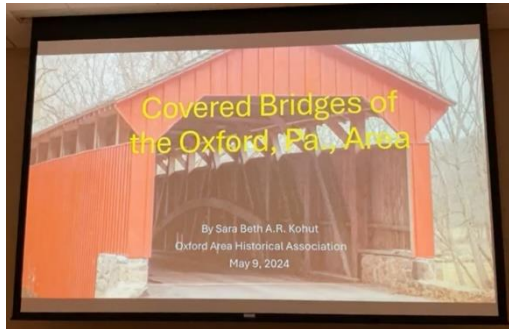
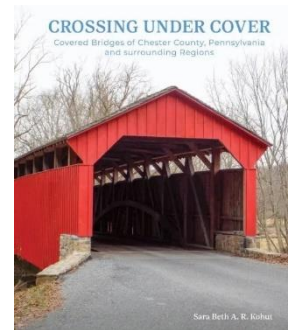
Bill will also be offering a presentation on the covered bridges of the Hillsboro, New Hampshire area for the Fuller Public Library in Hillsboro on May 28th.

News of Members (continued)

Crossing under Cover:

Covered Bridges of Chester County, Pennsylvania, and Surrounding Regions

Sara Beth Kohut has written a 112-page book profiling the history, architecture, conservation status, and visit details of the 24 covered bridges located in the tricounty/state area of Chester County, Pennsylvania; Cecil County, Maryland; and New Castle County, Delaware. It includes a profile of each bridge, including photographs by Jim & Gloria Smedley, with interesting local facts and lore about the spans. The book also includes a map and detailed driving tour that readers can follow to visit all the bridges. The book is expected to be available on June 28th.



Sara Beth grew up in Chester County and has written, published, and presented about local history and events. She serves on her township's historical commission and works as an attorney, writer, and historian. On May 9th, she offered a presentation about the Covered Bridges of Oxford, Pennsylvania Area for the Oxford Area Historical Association.

Covered Bridges of Pennsylvania

On May 13th, Treasurer Gloria Smedley offered a presentation about the covered bridges of Pennsylvania at the Windy Hill Senior Center in Spring Grove, Pennsylvania. She mentioned that the audience was quite engaged with good questions. Photo by Jim Smedley.

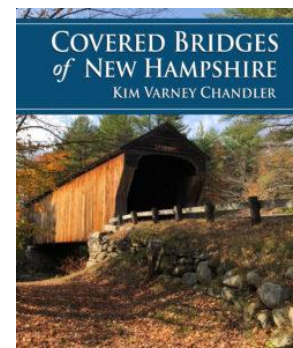


Photo Contest Winner

Karl Young won first prize out of 129 pictures entered into a contest at the Orleans Camera Shop in Orleans, Massachusetts. The photograph of the covered bridge at Clark's Trading Post in Lincoln, New Hampshire, was on display at the store for almost a month with other entries. Karl said that he had only entered "for the fun of it," not really expecting to be able to compete against the professional photographers in the running. Karl is in the center holding his photo flanked by the couple who bought it.

Covered Bridges of New Hampshire

Kim Varney Chandler has been regularly offering programs throughout New Hampshire in support of her book about the state's covered bridges. A schedule of upcoming presentations can be found at <https://coveredbridgesnh.com/>. The website also includes details about the book and links to podcasts on a variety of covered bridge topics.



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.indianacoveredbridges.org/

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 (TBCBSP) www.tbcbspa.com/

Vermont Covered Bridge Society (VCBS) www.vermontbridges.org/

Events could be cancelled or rescheduled on short notice. If you plan to attend, please confirm that the event is actually taking place with the group hosting it.

<u>June</u>	<p>Sunday, 2nd – 2:00 PM, TBCBSP Monthly Meeting at St. Paul Episcopal Church, 340 Locust St., Columbia, Pennsylvania.</p> <p>Saturday, 8th – VCBS Spring Meeting, Charlotte Senior Center, 212 Ferry Rd, Charlotte, Vermont.</p> <p>Sunday, 9th – NYSCBS meeting, Oxford Memorial Library, 9 Fort Hill Park at the Theodore Burr house, Oxford, New York</p> <p>Saturday, 15th – Barrackville, West Virginia, Covered Bridge Festival. For additional details see https://www.facebook.com/SavetheBarrackvilleBridgeAgain.</p>
<u>July</u>	<p>Sunday, 7th – TBCBSP Fundraiser meal at Hoss's Steak & Sea House, 3604 Market St., York, Pennsylvania. Lunch at 12:30 PM followed by monthly Business Meeting. A percentage of proceeds will be donated to the TBCBSP Preservation Fund.</p> <p>Sunday, 14th – 1:00 PM, NYSCBS meeting, Edinburgh Historical Society, 8 Tange Road, Edinburg, New York</p> <p>Sunday, 21st – 12:00 noon, OHBA Summer Picnic, Salt Creek Covered Bridge, Arch Hill Road, east of Zanesville, Ohio.</p> <p>27 & 28 – ICBS Summer Tour in Lake County.</p>
<u>August</u>	<p>Saturday, 3rd – 6:30 PM, Dinner on the Bridge, Medora, Indiana. For more details, visit https://medoracoveredbridge.org/events.</p> <p>Sunday, 4th – 2:00 PM, TBCBSP Monthly Meeting at St. Paul Episcopal Church, 340 Locust St., Columbia, Pennsylvania.</p> <p>10-11 – NYSCBS Safari, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania</p>
<u>September</u>	<p>Sunday, 8th – 1:00 PM, NYSCBS virtual meeting.</p> <p>Sunday, 8th – Noon, TBCBSP Annual Picnic and meeting at Poole Forge Bridge.</p> <p>Saturday, 21st – OHBA Fall Tour, TBA.</p> <p>28 & 29 – ICBS Fall Tour in Carroll and Howard Counties.</p>
<u>October</u>	<p>3-6 – Columbia-Montour County (Pennsylvania) Covered Bridge and Arts Festival. See https://itourcolumbiamontour.com/covered-bridge-festival/ for details.</p> <p>11-20 – Parke County (Indiana) Covered Bridge Festival. Events at various locations. See https://www.coveredbridges.com/covered-bridge-festival for details.</p> <p>12 & 13 – Madison County (Iowa) Covered Bridge Festival. Events at various locations. See https://www.exploremadisoncounty.com/covered_bridge_festival/ for details.</p> <p>Sunday, 13th – 2:00 PM, TBCBSP Monthly Meeting at St. Paul Episcopal Church, 340 Locust St., Columbia, Pennsylvania.</p>

Covered Bridge News

Georgia

Concord Road Bridge, Cobb County – GA/10-33-02

On March 23rd, the Cobb County Government posted a note on their Facebook page stating that CobbDOT crews were resetting the barrier in front of the bridge after it was struck by a small school bus. “The bus had passengers, but we understand everyone is okay. Police have been on the scene.” Two days later, the following statement appeared, “CobbDOT has Concord Road closed again at the Covered Bridge after a vehicle hit the protective beam at the bridge's entrance. This time the offending vehicle had fled the scene before police arrived. This is the second incident at the bridge this week. Work to reopen the road should be complete in the next hour or two.” The two-span modified queenpost truss bridge over Nickajack Creek was built in 1891. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on November 24, 1980. *Photos Courtesy Cobb County Government.*



Illinois

Red Bridge, Bureau County – IL/13-06-01



A crew from the Illinois Department of Transportation installed temporary shoring in December to stabilize the roof until a permanent fix can be made. Because of the historical significance and its listing on the listing on the National Register of Historic Places, repairs will require coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and other agencies. The DOT's District 3 Program Development bureau will be leading the repair and restoration efforts.

After a thorough inspection of the bridge, a scope of work and preliminary estimate will be prepared.

This process, including coordination with various agencies, could take about 18-months to complete. Preparation of plans and the bid process could take an additional 12-18 months. The single-span Howe truss bridge over Big Bureau Creek was built in 1864. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on April 23, 1975. *Shaw Local, March 4, 2024. Photos by Bill Bowser.*



Indiana

Adams Mill Bridge, Carroll County – IN/14-08-01

Lancaster or Beard Bridge, Carroll County – IN/14-08-02



Adams Mill Bridge

A request for a donation of fire retardant for these two bridges was approved at the April meeting in Revere Beach. The Adams Mill Bridge is a single-span Howe truss with arch built over North Fork, Wildcat Creek. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on January 11, 1996. The Lancaster Bridge is a single-span Howe truss crossing Wildcat Creek. Both bridges were built in 1872.

Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell.



Lancaster or Beard Bridge

Longwood Bridge, Connersville, Fayette County – IN/14-21-01

On April 25th, the Connersville News-Examiner reported that repairs to the bridge are now complete. Timber Frame Reclaim was in charge of the \$330,000 project which constructed new abutments, repaired structural timbers, replaced siding among other tasks. The NSPCB Executive Board approved a request for a donation of fire retardant to help protect this structure. The single span Burr truss was built by the Kennedy family in 1884 and moved to Roberts Park in Connersville in 1984. *Connersville News Examiner, April 25, 2024. Greg McDuffee Photo.*



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



For over three years, we have been following the efforts of the Fountain County Art Council Historic Committee to raise the funds needed to have the single-span 1854 Howe truss bridge over Coal Creek repaired. This is Indiana's oldest covered bridge still in its original location. Now that design is complete, Structure Systems Repair Group (SSRG) of Cincinnati, Ohio, a company that specializes in historical structures, is expected to begin work on the bridge in June. Details of the project were included on page 19 of the previous *Newsletter*. The structure, along with the other two covered bridges in Fountain County, were added to the National Register of Historic Places on May 24, 2021. *Photo by Greg McDuffee.*

Although the project is now underway, it is not yet fully funded.

At the end of December, the NSPCB contributed \$20,000 to help reduce the gap. More contributions are still needed.

Donation checks should be made out to Western Indiana Community Foundation and sent to them at
P.O. Box 75, Covington, IN 47932

Indiana (continued)

Melcher Bridge, Parke County – IN/14-61-26

On page 20 of the previous Newsletter, we reported that this bridge was in the process of being repaired. On April 23rd, Indiana's Department of Natural Resources announced that a grant for \$100,000 was awarded to Parke County for repairs to the structure. Daniel Kurdziel of Kurdziel Barker Engineering informed us that the bridge itself was in pretty good condition. The primary problem was with the sandstone abutments. "After 100+ years in service, the acidity from the rain and runoff dissolved the calcium in the sandstone and left only the silica, basically sand. The abutment, in many places, is basically comprised of highly compacted sand, which you can pull out with your hand." New concrete abutments will be constructed to support the structure. The single-span Burr truss bridge over Leatherwood Creek was built by J. J. Daniels in 1896. *Photos courtesy Kurdziel Barker Engineering.*



Kentucky

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

Officials in Bourbon County have been dealing with vandalism and damage to the bridge. County crews paint over the graffiti, but that only results in new graffiti. They are asking residents, drivers, and neighbors to report any suspicious behavior so that the individuals can be caught. The single-span multiple kingpost truss bridge over Hinkston Creek was built in 2001 to replace the historic span from 1877. *WKYT, February 26, 2024. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



Ringos Mill Bridge, Fleming County – KY/17-35-04

In February, Arnold M. Grāton Associates, Inc. inspected the bridge and noted the following concerns:

- Leaks in the roof have caused considerable damage and rot to the top chords and the top of the posts. The roof needs to be replaced and portions of the upper chords will need to be replaced.
- The lower portion of the bridge is also in very poor condition due to the flooding of the bridge over many years. The full extent of the damage would not be known without more extensive investigation.
- Several knee braces are missing. These are very important to keep the trusses from racking.
- Several upper lateral braces are missing so the system is not functioning.
- Both abutments are deteriorated and need repair.



This work got underway in mid-May. The single-span multiple kingpost truss span over Fox Creek was built in 1867. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on March 26, 1976.

Kentucky (continued)

Grange City Bridge, Fleming County, Kentucky – KY/17-35-05

Work is continuing on the restoration of this bridge. In mid-April, the crew was rebuilding the lower



chords as shown in the photos on the left and right. By early May, the bottom chord was complete, repaired diagonals and vertical posts were in place, splice blocks done, and shear blocks were in place. The bridge was ready for some of the shoring to be removed so it can carry its own weight again.



At the start of the project the camber was a sag of 10½ inches. With the lower chord replaced and new wood spliced onto the rotted portions of the vertical posts, the camber is now a positive 4¾

inches. The single-span multiple kingpost span was built over Fox Creek around 1867. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on March 26, 1976. *Photos Courtesy Arnold M. Graton Associates.*



Maryland

Utica Mills and Loys Station Bridges, Frederick County – MD/20-10-01 and MD/20-10-03#2

In previous issues we reported on the recent damage to the Loys Station Bridge caused by an oversize vehicle. On April 1st, WFMD reported that height restriction portals were going to be installed at the Utica



Mills and Loy's Station bridges. The work was expected to begin in April. They were to be similar to ones at Roddy Road Bridge. Installation was expected to take two days at each location. The two-span Utica Mills Bridge over Fishing Creek was built around 1850 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places on



June 23, 1978. The two-span Loys Station Bridge over Owens Creek was built in 1994 to replace an historic covered bridge. *WFMD, April 1, 2024. Photos of the Utica Mills Bridge by Gloria Smedley.*

Minnesota

Zumbrota Bridge, Goodhue County – MN/23-25-01

On May 18th, a kitten was rescued from Minnesota's only historic covered bridge. A couple heard the kitten's cries and contacted a firefighter. Firefighters located it in the eaves at the top of the bridge and brought it down safely. The 2-span Zumbro River bridge was built in 1869. *Republican Eagle, May 20, 2024. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



New Hampshire

Whittier or Bearcamp Bridge, Carroll County – NH/29-02-08

On May 7th, the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance announced their 2024 Preservation Achievement Awards. One of those awards went to the Town of Ossipee for the rehabilitation of this bridge. “The Town of Ossipee, its citizens advisory group and its engineering and construction team executed a complex, three-phase plan over 14 years to restore and revive this rare single-span Paddleford truss design bridge. Although the nearby hotel where poet John Greenleaf Whittier spent five summers is long gone, his memory remains strong in this picturesque setting.” The structure over the Bearcamp River was built around 1870. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on March 15, 1984. *Photos by Ken Parnell.*



New Hampshire & Vermont

Mount Orne Bridge, Coös County, NH & Essex County, VT NH/29-04-08#2 & VT/45-05-03#2

In the previous issue, we reported that metal bars had been hung from both portals during repairs from damage caused by an oversize vehicle last November. The bridge was re-opened to traffic on February 21st and closed the following day after it was struck again.

The two-span Howe truss structure over the Connecticut River was built in 1911. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on December 12, 1976. *Photo courtesy Arnold M. Graton Associates.*



New Jersey

Green Sergeants or Sergeantsville Bridge, Hunterdon County – NJ/30-10-01

In the previous issue, we noted that repairs to this bridge were completed and it was open to traffic in mid-January. Details of the project were listed on page 19 of the Fall 2023 *Newsletter*. A ribbon-cutting



ceremony planned for January 19th had to be postponed due to inclement weather. It was rescheduled to March 22nd. The bridge was constructed in 1872 by Charles Ogden Holcombe of Lambertville and added

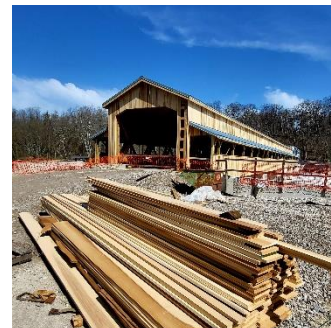
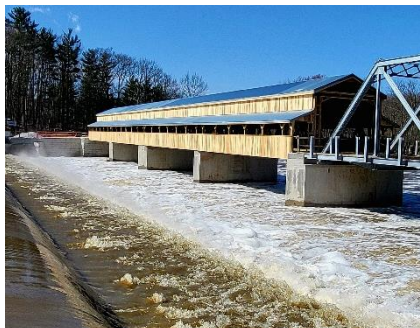


to the National Register of Historic Places on November 19, 1974. *Photos by Sandy Adrion.*

Ohio

Harpersfield Bridge, Ashtabula County

As we continue to follow this project, we can see that the reconstruction of the bridge is nearly complete and could be finished by the time you receive this. Walter Gunter took these photos on April 14th.



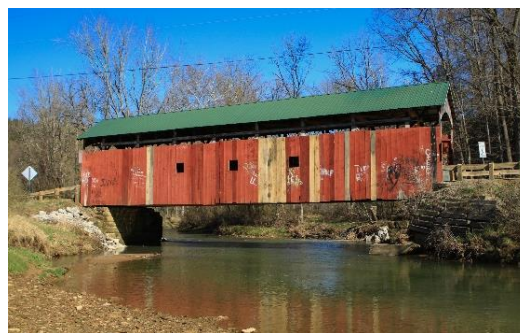
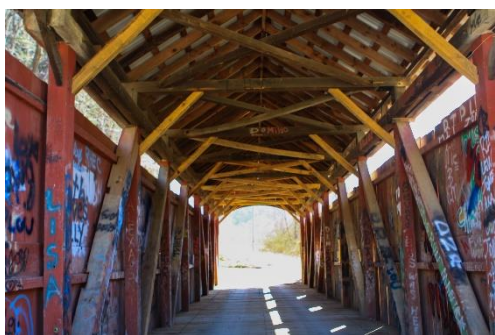
Zeller-Smith or Sycamore Park Bridge, Fairfield County – OH/35-23-19

The Ohio House of Representatives passed a \$350 million plan for various projects throughout the state. One of those listed was \$350,000 to rehabilitate this bridge in Sycamore Park in Pickerington. The bill still needs Senate approval before it is passed on to the governor. The single-span multiple kingpost truss bridge was built over Sycamore Creek in 1905/06 and moved to its present location in 1986. *Lancaster Eagle Gazette, February 24, 2024 Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



Shoults or Girl Scout Camp Bridge, Licking County – OH/35-45-05

Jeff Griffen visited the site in March and reported that siding which has been missing from the bridge for many years, has finally been replaced. This will help slow down the deterioration of the truss members. Jeff provided side views of the bridge before (left) and after (right) the work. Jeff's interior photo shows that the bridge is still extensively covered in graffiti, an unfortunate result of its remote location. The single-span multiple kingpost bridge was constructed over Wakatomika Creek in 1879.



Ohio (continued)

Knowlton or Long Bridge, Monroe County – OH/35-56-18

The bridge project is moving along nicely. The original three-span, 192-foot-long structure over the Little Muskingum River was built in two parts. The center span was built in 1867. The two approach spans were added in 1884. The bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on March 11, 1980. It was closed to traffic in 1983. While plans were in the works for needed repairs, the center span collapsed late in the afternoon of July 5, 2019. Those plans were being revised when a second span collapsed on June 17, 2020. The one remaining span has been rehabilitated and the two collapsed ones reconstructed. Jeff Griffen sent along the photo on the right in March.



In early May, Mike Killilea from The Righter Company mentioned that all 3 trusses are now set on their bearings. The floor beams and flooring have been installed on span 1 and span 2. By the time you read this, the stringers and decking should be completed on the 3rd span. The photos below from The Righter Company were taken on May 6th.



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

In the previous Newsletter, we reported on graffiti at this location which recently underwent extensive repairs. On February 23rd, the Parkersburg News and Sentinel reported that County Engineer Roger Wright has been working with the Sheriff's Department to install better cameras and have "more robust security at the bridge." *Photo Courtesy of The Righter Company.*

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.



Oregon

Cottage Grove, Lane County

The Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce and Cottage Grove First Presbyterian Church have partnered to offer covered bridge thank you cards to spread good will and appreciation among local residents and businesses. The cards feature watercolor paintings of four covered bridges by local artist, Jeanne Hinojosa. The cards feature the Currin Bridge, Chambers Railroad Bridge, Mosby Creek Covered Bridge and the Centennial Covered Bridge on the front. The text on the back is: Thank you cards made available by your Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce and the First Presbyterian Church of Cottage Grove to promote goodwill and appreciation for each other. The intent is for people to hand them out to anyone who makes their day a little better. The free packs of four cards are available at numerous locations around town. *Cottage Grove Sentinel, February 25, 2024.*



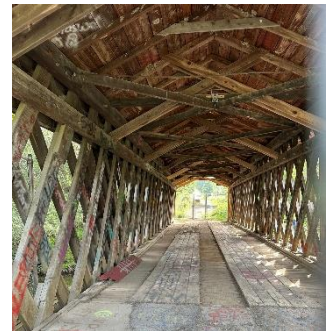
Pennsylvania

Waterford or Niemeyer Road Bridge, Erie County – PA/38-25-04

In last winter's Newsletter, page 21, we reported that the 85-foot-long Town lattice truss structure built in 1875 was to be dismantled for repairs off-site during the winter and then reconstructed this year. Work



this year will include the construction of new abutments, beams and decking. When completed, the bridge will be repainted in traditional barn red and will be posted with a 15-ton weight limit, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. It was closed to traffic in May 2011 due to safety concerns. The work was contracted to Chivers Construction Company, of



Fairview, PA, at a cost of \$3,473,690. This project is funded in part by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 17, 1980. *GoErie.com, March 12, 2024 and The Corry Journal, March 28, 2024. Photos by Paul Chandler.*

Saint Mary's or Shade Gap Bridge, Huntingdon County – PA/38-31-01

Huntingdon County Commissioners met on Thursday, February 29th to discuss work needed on this



bridge. County employees have been patching holes in the roof and indicated that the problem is much larger. The corrugated metal sheeting is deteriorating, and the bridge really needs a new roof. The work would be funded through the county's state-funded liquid fuels account. The single-span Howe truss bridge over



Shade Creek was built in 1889. The bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on March 20, 1980. *Huntingdon Daily News, February 29, 2024. Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

Pennsylvania (continued)

Jackson's Sawmill Bridge, Lancaster County – PA/38-36-33#2

Sara Beth Kohut visited this bridge to discover that it received roof repairs. The single-span Burr truss bridge over West Branch Octoraro Creek was built in 1985 to replace an historic covered bridge. The first two photos were sent to us on April 13th and the rightmost photo of the completed project on May 2nd.



Bogert's Bridge, Allentown, Lehigh County – PA/38-39-01

On May 6th, we heard from the City that the design phase of the project is nearly complete with an anticipated advertisement for bids in July with a bid opening in November. Once underway, construction will be completed in about 6-12 months. The Burr truss bridge over Little Lehigh Creek was built in 1841. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on December 1, 1980. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



Lower Humbert or Faidley Bridge, Somerset County – PA/38-56-12

Somerset County was awarded \$1.1 million in grants for three projects focused on safe and effective transportation for the community. That includes a grant of \$244,801 to help repair this bridge. The article did not include details of the work that is needed. The single-span bridge over Laurel Hill Creek was built in 1891 and added to the National Register of Historic Places on December 10, 1980. *WTAJ, March 26, 2024. Photos by Todd Clark.*

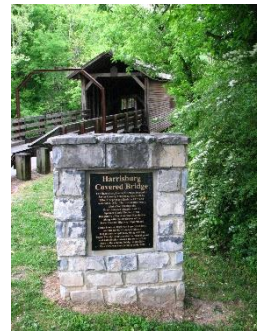


Tennessee

Pigeon or Harrisburg Bridge, Sevier County – TN/42-78-01



In early April, the Sevier County Government posted a request for bids to replace the roof of this structure. Bids were to be opened on April 25th. The single-span queenpost bridge was constructed over the East Fork of Little Pigeon River in 1875. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on June 10, 1975. *Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



Vermont

Halpin or High Bridge, Addison County – VT/45-01-03



A couple in Ripton, Vermont prepared new signs for some of the covered bridges near them. This photo of the Town of Middlebury road crew after installing the new sign at the Halpin Bridge was sent to us by Paul Limmer. The single-span Town lattice truss bridge was built over the Muddy Branch of the New Haven River in 1840. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on September 10, 1974.



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



On March 20th, the NSPCB was mentioned in an Associated Press article about this bridge and its frequent damage from oversized vehicles that was published by dozens of newspapers and media outlets throughout the country. The article included comments from Bill Caswell, Lyndon's Town Administrator Justin Smith and Police Chief Jack Harris. Hopefully, it will raise awareness of the challenges of keeping covered bridges safe from inattentive drivers. The clearance of the structure is clearly posted near each end and on one side the town has even tried a flashing sign to alert drivers. Most of the incidents are associated with rental trucks and delivery vehicles.

On March 27th, WCAX reported that the bridge had been struck again. Aliyu Nuhu, 39, of Adelphi, Maryland, said that he knew the box truck he was driving he wouldn't fit under the bridge but didn't stop before hitting it.. He was issued a ticket at the scene and could face a \$5,000 fine. *Photo of an earlier incident by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

Vermont (continued)

Lake Shore or Holmes Creek Bridge, Chittenden County – VT/45-04-01

On February 15th the town received a notice from the Vermont Department of Transportation that an inspection revealed the bridge had “structural deficiencies.” Unless repairs were made promptly, the load rating would need to be reduced from 5 tons to 3. The town contracted with Miles Jennes of Vermont Heavy Timber of Huntington to accomplish the work for \$6,450. The work was completed before the March 15th deadline.



The more involved project to renovate the span was discussed at the May 6th meeting of Charlotte’s Selectboard. Representatives of Hoyle Tanner, an engineering firm consulting on the bridge, presented several options for rehabilitating it. Like so many others, the bridge has sustained damage from oversize vehicles. Although the engineers presented a number of options for the bridge renovation, Josif Bicja, technical lead for the project, said, “the number one goal of the project is to preserve the historic fabric as much as we can.” Engineers



explored options for rehabilitating the bridge to a 5-ton, 12-ton or 20-ton capacity. The higher the capacity of the rehabilitated bridge, the less historical structure that can be preserved. The work will be coordinated with the National Historic Preservation Act, the State Historic Preservation Office and the State Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Committee. The work will be almost completely federally funded with the Town’s share between 2.5% and 10% for design and “right-of-way” costs. The kingpost truss and tied arch span over Holmes Creek was built in 1870. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on September 6, 1974. *The Charlotte News, March 7, 2024 & May 16, 2024. Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

Red or Sterling Brook Bridge, Lamoille County – VT/45-08-11

On April 22nd and 23rd, multiple Vermont media outlets shared a press release about this bridge being struck by a white box truck on April 19th. The bridge sustained unspecified damage. The span over Sterling Brook was built in 1896. The bridge is supported by a unique kingpost with a superimposed queenpost truss. After damage from a windstorm on October 16, 1897, thirty-eight iron rods were added to each truss for added support. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on October 16, 1974. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



Hall or Osgood Bridge, Windham County – VT/45-13-07#2



Kim Chandler visited this bridge on April 7th and noted this damage to one of the portals. No further details are available at this time. The single-span Town lattice bridge was built over Saxtons River in 1982 after the previous bridge at this location collapsed under the weight of an overweight truck on October 3, 1980.



West Virginia

Laurel Creek or Lillydale or Arnott Bridge, Monroe County – WV/48-32-01

On Friday, March 22nd, West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) bridge engineers discovered the bridge leaning precariously to one side. It had apparently been hit by an oversized truck. District 9 District Forces, or DisForce, used a come along winch tied to a tree to pull the bridge back upright and immediately installed temporary beams in the roof to keep the bridge from collapsing until permanent repairs could be made. The crew returned the following week to replace broken beams and rafters using locally sourced hemlock and restore the span to its original condition. The work on the 1911 span over Laurel Creek was completed on March 29th. The bridge was added to the National Register of Historic Places on June 4, 1981. News and photos from a West Virginia DOT Press Release, April 1, 2024.



Canada – New Brunswick

Germantown Lake or Shepody River #3 Bridge, Albert County - NB/55-01-08

We have heard that this 1903 span over the Shepody River might see some work this summer because of erosion at the abutments and a leaky roof. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



William Mitton Bridge, Albert County – NB/55-01-22



We have been following the slow, steady decline of this bridge for years now. Surprisingly, it survived another winter. Ray Boucher, president of the Covered Bridges Conservation Association of New Brunswick continues to work with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DTI) trying to save the bridge before it collapses into the Branch of Turtle Creek. The origin of this Burr truss structure is not known, but it is believed to have been moved to this location in 1942. *Photo by Ray Boucher.*

New Brunswick (continued)

Benton or Eel River #3 Bridge, Carleton and York Counties – NB/55-02-15 & NB/55-15-12

On April 29th, Richard Ames, New Brunswick's Minister of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure posted this photo showing that the project to replace the roof and siding of this bridge has been completed. The single span structure was constructed over Eel River in 1927. It is New Brunswick's only remaining covered bridge spanning two counties.



Ontario

Sydney Creek Bridge, Timiskaming District

Pierre Duff shared photos of this uncovered wood truss bridge in northern Ontario that he visited last summer. After seeing the bridge in a photo in a Canadian Geographic article about mining in the area, he did some research to determine the location of the structure. The bridge stands along Route 65 between Elk Lake and Matechewan, about 2½ hours north of North Bay, Ontario. It has an interesting design and appears similar to a Howe truss with the upper chord being an arch. He has not yet discovered any additional information about it. That section of road was acquired by the provincial government on August 7, 1937, and designated as route 65.¹ The GPS coordinates are N47° 50.564' W80° 29.758'.

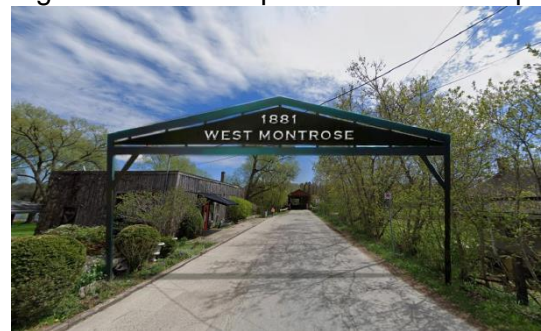


West Montrose Bridge, Waterloo County – ON/59-50-01

On February 21st, the Waterloo Regional Council approved the plan for repairs to the bridge. Details of that work have been included in previous Newsletters. The Region of Waterloo provided this concept



of what the height restriction bar on the north side of the bridge might look like. Due to its proximity to an intersection, the south approach will be narrowed with guiderails. The work



is expected to begin in the Spring of 2025 and be completed in one year. *Bridge photo by Bob Hamilton.*

¹ "Appendix No. 3 - Schedule of Assumptions and Reversions of Sections of the King's Highway System for the Year Ending March 31, 1938". Annual Report (Report). Department of Highways. March 31, 1938. p. 80.

Québec

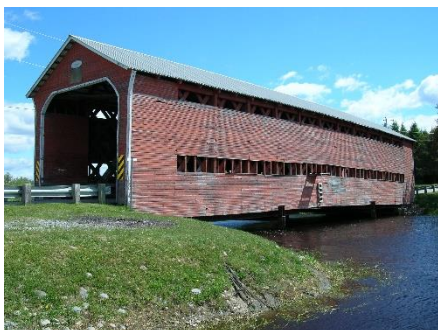
We are grateful to Pascal Conner whose *Blogue sur les ponts couverts* (pontscouverts.com/blogue/) provides most of the Québec news each quarter. Unless otherwise noted, all Québec articles were derived from that website.

Pont Alphonse-Normandin, Abitibi-Témiscamingue Region – QC/61-01-05

In previous Newsletters, we have reported that this single-span Québec-style Town lattice truss bridge was dismantled last summer and moved off site for repairs to the trusses. We also noted that during the reconstruction on its new higher abutments, a large wooden arch was added to the truss. Pascal Conner visited the site in mid-March and found that work on the bridge is complete leaving only the roadway approach work when construction resumes in the spring. The bridge was built over Rivière Davy in 1950. *Photo by Pascal Conner.*



Pont Champagne or Vassan, Abitibi-Témiscamingue Region – QC/61-01-29



Concerns discovered during an inspection of the bridge by the Ministry of Transport of Quebec (MTQ) caused them to reduce the load limit from 12 tons to 5. The MTQ did some work to stabilize the structure in January but does not have plans for the more substantial repair work needed. The reduced load limit is troublesome to local farmers who can no longer drive their equipment over the structure. The City of Val-d'Or has requested emergency repairs so that farm vehicles can be allowed to cross again. The single span over Rivière Vassan was built in 1941. It is supported by a variation of the Town lattice truss common in Québec. *Radio-Canada, March 8, 2024. Photo by Simon Pratte.*

Pont McVetty-McKenzie, Cantons de l'Est – QC/61-18-08

On April 3rd, the bridge was barricaded prohibiting any access through the structure. Town residents were not previously alerted that this was to happen. When questioned about it, Lingwick Mayor Robert Gladu indicated that the municipal council made the decision after receiving a letter from their insurance company indicating that the bridge was in need of repair and must be closed for safety reasons. Earlier assessments of the bridge's condition estimated repair costs at \$800,000 to \$1,000,000.

A group of residents unhappy with the closure formed and is challenging the decision of the mayor and municipal council. The group wishes to explore solutions and help the council restore safe and insurable pedestrian access to the municipality's primary tourist attraction. On May 16th, *la Tribune* reported that a petition to re-open the bridge has been signed by more than half of residents. It was built over Rivière au Saumon in 1893 using the variation of Town's lattice truss common in Québec. It is the longest covered bridge in the Eastern Townships. *Radio Canada (Estrie), April 12, 2024. Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



Québec (continued)

Pont Bordeleau, Mauricie Region – QC/61-13-03

On page 23 of the Spring 2023 Newsletter, we reported that the bridge was to be moved a few meters



to the south, then replaced by a modern structure that meets current standards. The bridge over Rivière des Envies was to receive some repairs, be repainted and serve as a rest stop with picnic tables, but nothing has happened yet. On May 10th, Jean-Noël Lamothe visited the bridge and noticed



that core samples had been taken around the bridge. This may indicate that the planned project is in the works. The single-span Québec-style Town lattice truss structure was built in 1932 and has been closed to all traffic since October 6, 2017. *Photos by Gérald Arbour.*

Pont Savoyard or Grand-Remous, Outaouais Region – QC/61-25-15

In the Summer 2023 Newsletter, we reported that the bridge was closed to all uses on May 2nd after an inspection by the Québec Ministère des Transports (MTQ) determined that it was unsafe. On February 29th, CHGA announced that it is now also closed to pedestrian traffic. The Mayor of Grand Remous,



Jocelyne Lyrette, stated that fences will be installed on both ends. MTQ indicated that the heritage structure will be closed indefinitely. The mayor contacted



Gatineau Member of Parliament Robert Bussière to put pressure on the MTQ to have the bridge repaired. The two-span structure was built over Rivière Gatineau in 1931. *CHGA, February 29, 2024. Photos by Gerâld Arbour.*

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

On May 6th, the SOS Pont Prud'homme citizen committee sent out a press release inviting all interested parties to participate in a parade to denounce the five years that the bridge has been closed and the resulting separation of the two parts of the community. "Come join the tractors, trucks, cars, motorcycles and bicycles (30km/h) which will travel the 12 kilometers separating the two banks." The procession will begin on the west bank of the river and travel along the



detour to the east side. A project to restore the bridge was announced in 2021 but has yet to get underway. The event was scheduled to take place on May 22nd, rain or shine. The single span bridge over Rivière du Diable is supported by the Québec variation of the lattice truss. *Photo by Jean-Marie-Savard.*

Fundraising for the Edgell Bridge, Lyme, New Hampshire



Richard Sanders Allen Photo, September 16, 1940

The Edgell Bridge (NH/29-05-11) was built in 1885 by Walter Piper (1861-1913) and his father, John C. Piper (1830–1904), at a cost of \$1,842.77. The Piper's owned a mill in Lyme where the timbers for the span were cut. The bridge was assembled on the town common and moved by oxen to its present location over Clay Brook.

It is named after Civil War Veteran Major Frederick M. Edgell (1828-1877) who lived near the bridge. In 1936, it washed off its northern abutment. It was moved back and tied down with cables. The single-span Town lattice structure is considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

According to an assessment provided to the Town, the primary concern is that external cables providing lateral support have failed causing the structure to lean upriver. To correct this, the proposal is to remove the roof and decking providing access to the upper and lower chords. Then:

- Straighten the structure.
- Install lower lateral bracing below the deck of the bridge.
- Install upper lateral bracing in the roof system at the top chord elevation.
- Adjust and replace the 45-degree bracing that goes from the upper tie beams to the lower top chord.
- Install new decking.
- Install new roof.



William & Ida Cook Photo, 1961

Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Association of Pennsylvania

The estimate for this work is \$690,000. At the Town Meeting in March, residents voted to fund part of that repair through tax revenue.



On April 22nd, the NSPCB launched a fundraising campaign to help them meet their goal and will match the first \$10,000 in donations.

The donation page can be found by scanning this QR Code with the camera of your mobile device or www.coveredbridgesociety.org/edgell-donations.html and 100% of the donations received will be forwarded to the Town.



The NSPCB will also be featuring this project during the NHGives online fundraising event hosted by the New Hampshire Center for Nonprofits June 11 & 12.

*Photos by
Kim Varney Chandler*

