

The Newsletter

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

Summer 2026

Germantown Bridge



Germantown, Montgomery County, Ohio

OH/35-57-01, Photo by Gloria Smedley

Planned stop on a possible 2027 bridge tour, see details on the back cover

In this issue

Membership.....	2	APT-PETC Bridge Competition.....	5
NSPCB Meeting Calendar	2	Sanborn Bridge Project.....	6
In Memoriam.....	3	Covered Bridge Meetings & Events	7
Meeting Summaries.....	3	Covered Bridge News.....	9-23
President's Message	4	2027 Covered Bridge Tour	24

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 15, 2026**. 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

Brian Boudier, Ephrata, Pennsylvania
Sherman Cahal, Indianapolis, Indiana
Filtration Unlimited, Akron, New York
Mackenzie Schmid, Lafayette, Indiana
Rita Walters, Middletown, Ohio

Welcome New Life Members

#235 – Scott T.G. Labunski, Bloomington, Illinois
#236 – Elizabeth A.G. Labunski, Bloomington, Illinois

2026 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. Meetings will be available by Zoom when possible.

Sunday, June 28 – Contoocook Covered Bridge, Contoocook, New Hampshire. Bring your own chairs.

Sunday, July 26 – Tilton Mansion, Tilton, New Hampshire. (In-person & virtual).

Sunday, August 23 – Annual picnic hosted by Bill & Jenn Caswell, Hillsboro, NH. Cookout at noon and meeting at 1 pm.

Sunday, September 27 – Scott Bridge, Townshend, Vermont. Bring your own chairs for 1 pm meeting. You are welcome to bring a picnic lunch and join us earlier.

October 10-11 – Warner Fall Foliage Festival, Warner, New Hampshire.

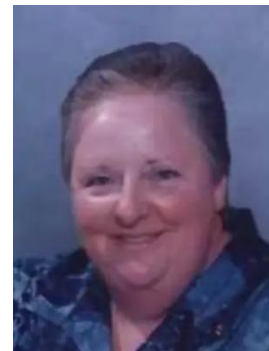
Sunday, October 25 – NSPCB Annual Meeting and Dinner, Community Harvest Barn, North Grafton, Massachusetts. Meal at noon, presentation by Tim Dansereau at 1:00 PM, business meeting to follow the presentation.

October 28-30 – APT-PETC Timber Bridge Design Competition, Indianapolis, Indiana

In Memoriam

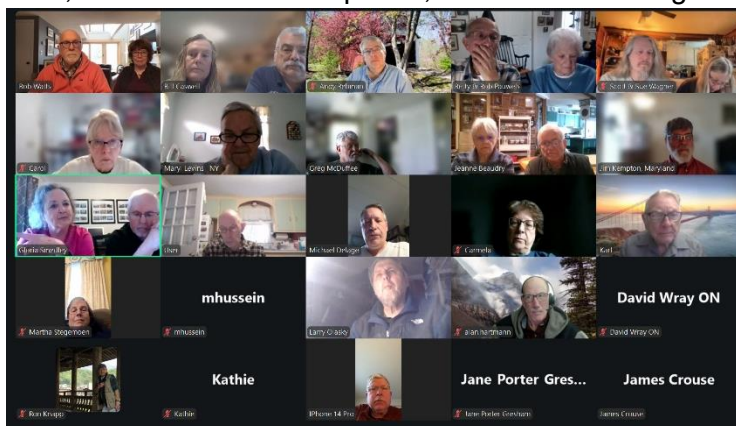
Sandy Adrion

Sandy Adrion of Pine Hill, New Jersey passed away on February 5, 2026 at the age of 71. Sandy had been a member since 1999 and kept us updated on the Green Sergeants Bridge, New Jersey's only historic covered bridge. She was also part of an informal group who worked on identifying unknown covered bridge photos. Sandy's collection of covered bridge items was donated to the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Resource Center in Oxford, New York. Sandy also had a collection of lighthouse postcards, books and collectibles. She is survived by a brother and sister.



March Meeting

Due to predicted winter weather conditions, in central New Hampshire, the March meeting was changed to a Zoom meeting with 33 members from eleven different states and the province of Ontario. The group approved a fire retardant request for Waggoner's Mill Bridge in Perry County, Pennsylvania, PA/38-50-15. The cost was only \$528 because Jim & Gloria Smedley offered to pick up and deliver the NoChar to avoid a shipping charge. The bridge already survived an arson attempt. Members of the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania will be applying the material to the span.



April Meeting

The April meeting was hosted by director Carmela Sciandra in Revere Beach, Massachusetts.



Thirteen people attended in person and nine others joined remotely. Bill started the meeting by sharing a sampling of items from the Society's archives such as photo albums, early newsletters and newspaper clippings. Co-vice president Bob Watts followed by



sharing items owned by the late Molly Shultz and recently donated to the Society. The group voted to donate \$480 to the town of Winchester, New Hampshire for repairs to the Ashuelot Bridge (NH/29-03-02).

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting with election of officers will be held on Sunday, October 25th at the Community Harvest Barn in Grafton, Massachusetts. Our speaker this year will be Tim Dansereau of Arnold M. Graton Associates. The meal will begin at noon, presentation at 1:00 and business meeting to follow the presentation. A reservation form will be included in the Fall mailing.

President's Message

It has been a busy spring with a variety of opportunities to share our interest in covered bridges. I was invited to give a presentation for the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania on April 12th. It was an enjoyable opportunity to speak to the group and catch up with many of the members who we haven't seen in a while. The icing on the cake was being able to spend the weekend with our dear friends Jim & Gloria Smedley and enjoying the beautiful day before the meeting visiting covered bridges in Perry County, Pennsylvania which Jenn and I hadn't seen in over a decade.

On May 6th, Jenn & I attended a Select Board meeting in Swanzey, New Hampshire with Kim Chandler to discuss the Pomeroy Sign Grant program with town officials and others in attendance. Kim made the initial contact with the town's administration and historical society. They were interested in what we had to offer and invited us to the meeting. The Select Board was in favor of having a National Register marker installed at the Thompson Bridge. We will now work on preparing that grant application.

"The only thing constant is change." That phrase and variations of it are usually credited to Greek philosopher Heraclitus although there is no record of his actual words. Regardless of the exact words he used, the idea persists. Time marches on and we must adapt to survive. That is not only true of us as individuals, but also organizations. The NSPCB was founded in 1950 and formally incorporated in Boston in the summer of 1954, 72 years ago. Over that time, there has been lots of change from a time when historic preservation was only advocated by small groups and historic structures of all types were routinely replaced in the name of progress until president Lyndon B. Johnson's signing of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 boosted the transformation to a point where preservation is now engrained into our way of thinking. Societal change isn't immediate; it is a slow process that occurs over generations.

Why the philosophical tone you ask? While I like to think that I still have many good years left and much to offer the covered bridge community, I feel that it is time for someone younger, with new, fresh ideas, to take the helm of this organization so it continues to grow and evolve. We need to continue, with other like-minded organizations, to lead the efforts to ensure that historic covered bridges remain for our grandchildren and their grandchildren to visit, to explore and to appreciate the craftsmanship of their builders who were on the cutting edge of bridge-building technology two centuries ago.

When I started attending NSPCB meetings a quarter-century ago I began having ideas of how I thought the organization could be improved. I am grateful to Dick Roy and Joye Olson for their support and encouragement during those first few years. After David Wright's unexpected passing, the Executive Board's support was crucial to getting us where we are today. For the past 12 years, I have been honored to have been only the eighth president in the Society's long history. However, there is much more work to be done and I hope that someone out there feels the calling to build upon what the Society's leaders have created over the past 72 years. My wish is to continue being involved in some capacity but leaving the leadership duties to another. Is that you?

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.



*Adair's Bridge, Perry County,
Pennsylvania, PA/38-50-04
April 11, 2026*

Bill Caswell

Leadership Opportunity at Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Resource Center

More than a decade after founding the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Resource Center with her husband, Bob, Trish Kane is getting ready for a richly-deserved retirement. She will step down from her post leading the organization December 31, though she will continue to assist after that.

Trish's wonderful work, and now her coming retirement, has created a tremendous opportunity for someone new to lead the Resource Center into a terrific future. The Resource Center already has a unique role as one of the foremost repositories for material about covered bridges in the world, and the picture is on the verge of becoming even brighter. The Resource Center will soon go live with its first ever website, providing researchers and covered bridgers all over the world with access to tens of thousands of postcards and photographs of bridges. Also, for the first time, every newsletter published by any covered bridge society, current or former, will be accessible in the same place.

We are actively looking for the next great volunteer leader of the Resource Center. The ideal candidate will have an interest in enhancing the website (the person will be the webmaster), educating others, and, most of all, care deeply about covered bridges. Relative proximity to Oxford, New York, where the physical headquarters of the Resource Center is, would be helpful but is not critical as almost all the work can be done remotely.



The Resource Center is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. The new head will be assisted by board members Bill Caswell, president of the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges, Andy Rebman, president of the Indiana Covered Bridge Society, and Noel Rubinton, senior advisor for the Resource Center.

This is a once in a generation opportunity to help advance the work of covered bridge preservation. If it sounds interesting to you or you have questions, please contact Trish (tskane68@gmail.com) or Noel Rubinton (noelrubinton@yahoo.com).

APT-PETC Competition

The Preservation Engineering Technical Committee (PETC) of the Association for Preservation Technology International (APTI) hosts an annual competition for college students. The whole competition spans a 9-month period with the final event being held in the fall. Each year they alternate between a masonry bridge project and timber bridges.

The 2026 competition will focus on timber bridges and culminate with an event in Indianapolis during the week of October 26th. Applications were received from seventeen teams representing twelve different colleges and universities. The students have selected a bridge to study and prepared reports detailing the bridge's history, a structural analysis of the span, detailed drawings and preparing a conservation plan. Reports were due by May 17th. The reports will be reviewed and teams selected from those submissions to compete in the finals.

As noted in the Spring *Newsletter*, the committee organizing this year's event includes four advisors from our membership. Tom Vitanza (retired) and Christopher Marston from the National Park Service, Daniel Kurdziel, a structural engineer from Kurdziel Barker Engineering, and Bill Caswell. This will be a wonderful opportunity to introduce our organization to college students who are already interested in historic preservation. Hopefully, it will result in a few new young members.

Visit <https://www.apti.org/petc-student-design-build-competition> for more information about the competition.

Sanborn Bridge Rebuild Project Abandoned

The single-span Paddleford truss bridge, World Guide #VT/45-03-05, was built on Center Street in Lyndonville in the late 1860s or early 1870s and moved to its present location in 1960. It was purchased by the town in 2022 along with the two-acre parcel on the south end and added to the National Register of Historic Places on June 20, 1974.

Over the past few years, we have included multiple articles on the efforts to repair and preserve this span, the last of Vermont's large Paddleford truss bridges which were once common in northeastern part of the



state. The project faced numerous challenges along the way. First was fundraising. The Town of Lyndon and Preservation Trust of Vermont applied for grants and took other measures to raise the money needed for the project. Engineering design was well underway when the severe flooding of July 2024 caused additional damage to the bridge. Then, the threat of another storm and flood event raised concerns that it could be completely lost and prompted the town to have the bridge removed from the river. That resulted in additional delays as the project needed to go back to the design stage.

The most recent plans called for the bridge to be reconstructed four feet higher than before. There were also plans to widen the channel to reduce the risk of flood damage. Those changes required expansion of the planned easement and additional property access which prompted additional regulatory review. Grants often include deadlines for using the funds or returning them to be available for other projects. As time went on, some of the grants obtained for this project were approaching their expiration dates and would no longer be available.



After five years of attempting to move this project forward, the town finally announced that they were abandoning plans to reconstruct the bridge at the location where it has stood since 1960. They will now be seeking alternative locations for the structure. Town officials said the project had secured about \$2.1 million in grant funding overall, though it remains unclear how much, if any, could be applied to a redesigned project. Of that total, about \$550,000 has already been spent, including emergency removal of the bridge and engineering work.

An option is being considered to reconstruct the bridge on dry land, possibly on the town-owned property where it is presently being stored.

Photos by Jeanne and Marcel Beaudry.

Covered Bridge Guide Phone App

Our *Covered Bridge Guide* phone app is now publicly available to download for free in the Apple App Store for iPhones and iPads and Google's Play Store for Android devices. Search for *Covered Bridge Guide*. If you find it useful, please leave a review.



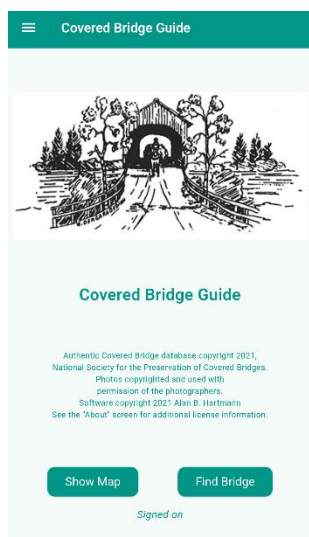
iPhone



The app includes data on all of the covered bridges listed in the most recent *World Guide to Covered Bridges* with additions and changes since the book was published. The app is available to all and, as a benefit to membership, NSPCB members have access to additional features if also signed up on the associated website (abhdemo.com)

There is information about each bridge as shown below plus the ability to include your vehicle's height to be alerted when viewing a bridge that might be too low for your vehicle. Very helpful for those exploring in RVs. If you find an entry for a bridge open to traffic which does not have this information, please let us know the posted clearance so it can be added. If the bridge has multiple clearances posted, please include all the information.

Works with
Android



Other bridges near the one being viewed are listed to make sure you don't miss one while in the area. There is also a map feature to view bridge locations. When visiting the location, you have the ability to add a photo from your phone to the bridge entry.

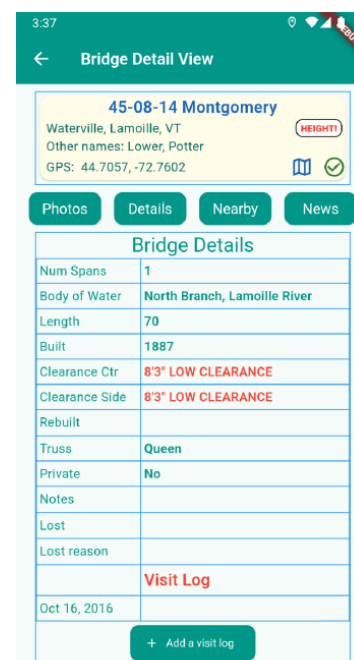
Reports can be generated listing the bridges you have visited during a specified period of time or bridges visited in a particular state or county.

The companion website, www.abhdemo.com, includes additional features such as a route planning tool to help plan the trip before leaving home. If you haven't used the website or tried the released version of the app yet, please visit and

register for access to the website. You will need a valid email address to register and then follow the instructions in the email to use the site. When you sign in for the first time, click "Contact" at the lower right. Identify yourself as an NSPCB member and the site administrators will elevate your account to "Member" status.

The site is open to the public, but some features, such as trip planning, are restricted to members only. Upgrading to member status may take a day or two, it is not an automated process. Members can download the phone apps for Apple and Android devices. The phone app can locate covered bridges near your location and sync the mobile device with updated information from the website.

Have ideas for ways to make it even better? Let us know.



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.

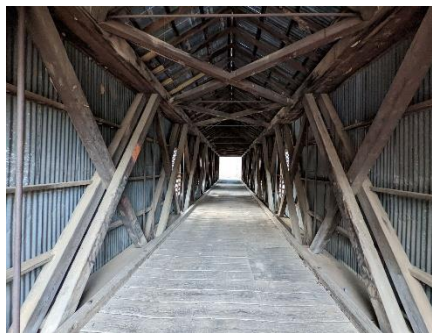
<u>June</u>	Sunday, 7th – 2:00 PM, TBCBSP Monthly Meeting at St. Paul Episcopal Church, 340 Locust St., Columbia, Pennsylvania. Saturday, 6th – 10:00 AM, VCBS Spring Meeting, Lunenburg Congregational Meeting House 47 Park Ave., Lunenburg, Vermont Sunday, 14th – NYSCBS meeting, Margaretville Telephone Company, Margaretville, New York followed by a mini-safari to nearby covered bridges. Saturday, 20th – Barrackville, West Virginia, Covered Bridge Festival.
<u>July</u>	Sunday, 5th – TBCBSP Fundraiser Dinner 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. Sunday, 12th – 1:00 PM, NYSCBS meeting, Shushan Covered Bridge Museum, Shushan, New York followed by a mini safari to nearby covered bridges. Saturday, 18th – 12:00 noon, OHBA Summer Picnic, Salt Creek Covered Bridge, Arch Hill Road, east of Zanesville, Ohio. 25 & 26 – ICBS Summer Tour in Greene and Vigo Counties.
<u>August</u>	Sunday, 2nd – 2:00 PM, TBCBSP Monthly Meeting at St. Paul Episcopal Church, 340 Locust St., Columbia, Pennsylvania.
<u>September</u>	Sunday, 13th – Noon, TBCBSP Annual Picnic and meeting at Poole Forge Bridge. Sunday, 13th – 1:00 PM, NYSCBS virtual meeting. Saturday, 19th – OHBA Fall Tour, TBA. 19-20 – Washington & Greene Counties Covered Bridge Festival. Events at various locations. Visit https://www.visitwashingtoncountypa.com/covered-bridge-festival/ for more details. 26-27 – ICBS Fall Tour in Fountain and Vermilion counties.
<u>October</u>	Sunday, 4th – 2:00 PM, TBCBSP Monthly Meeting at St. Paul Episcopal Church, 340 Locust St., Columbia, Pennsylvania. 8-11 – Columbia-Montour County (Pennsylvania) Covered Bridge and Arts Festival. See https://itourcolumbiamountour.com/covered-bridge-festival/ for details. 9-18 – Parke County (Indiana) Covered Bridge Festival. Events at various locations. See https://www.coveredbridges.com/covered-bridge-festival for details. 10-11 – Madison County (Iowa) Covered Bridge Festival. Events at various locations. See https://www.madisoncounty.com/covered-bridge-festival/ for details.
<u>November</u>	Sunday, 1st – 2:00 PM, TBCBSP Monthly Meeting at St. Paul Episcopal Church, 340 Locust St., Columbia, Pennsylvania.

Covered Bridge News

Alabama

Kymulga Bridge, Talladega County – AL/01-61-01

Kymulga Grist Mill and Park hosted the annual Grits Festival on Saturday, May 2nd. The event was a fundraiser for repairs needed to the covered bridge and the building housing the park store. More than 40 vendors offered arts, crafts, and other unique items. Food options included shrimp and grits, roasted corn, and boiled peanuts – plus burgers and hot dogs prepared at the Mayor's Grill House. The mill and Howe truss bridge over Talladega Creek are maintained by the City of Childersburg. The bridge built around 1860 is experiencing some deterioration and pending further inspection, is currently estimated to need about \$40,000 for repairs. In addition to the historic attractions, the park features more than eight miles of walking trails. Both the covered bridge and the grist mill were added to the National Register of Historic Places on October 29, 1976. *Sylacauga News, April 28, 2026. Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



Illinois

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

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has advanced the restoration project to Phase II which involves preparing detailed construction plans and specifications. This occurred after the State Historic Preservation Office approved the repair plans in April, confirming they will not adversely affect the 1863 bridge's historic character. A second review is expected this summer, with Phase II anticipated to be completed by the end of 2026. The 149-foot Howe truss span over Big Bureau Creek has been closed since November 2023, when a semitruck attempted to pass through the north end, damaging the bridge's façade and roof. Approximately \$1 million has been allocated for repairs and upgrades as part of its multi-year program.



Repairs include complete replacement of the roof and roof cross bracing, damaged roof cross bracing rods, floor beams and siding. Existing lighting and wiring will be replaced. Fire suppression piping and security cameras will be upgraded, and a fire-resistant coating applied to the interior with exterior painting and pump house repairs. Once Phase II is complete, the project will go out to bid to select a contractor. Construction is tentatively expected to take several months. *Shaw Local, April 28, 2026. Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

Indiana

Aqueduct or Duck Creek Bridge, Franklin County – IN/14-24-11



On April 16th, the Indiana State Budget Committee approved the release of \$7.4 million in previously allocated state funding for the Whitewater Canal State Historic Site Preservation Project. Combined with a \$7 million READI 2.0 matching grant secured earlier this year, the full funding package is now in place to move the project forward. The \$14.4 million project will move forward to repair the Laurel Feeder Dam, Locks 24 and 25, and the Duck Creek Aqueduct, the nation's only known surviving wooden aqueduct. These are the most critical components of the historic canal system. The historic site was created in 1946. The Duck Creek Aqueduct is a National Historic

Landmark. *The 765, April 17, 2026. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

North Manchester Bridge, Wabash County – IN/14-85-02#3

The bridge has been closed over concerns about increased traffic in the area. A nearby road is under construction prompting additional traffic to use the covered bridge as a detour. That raised concerns about the potential for the bridge to be damaged by an oversized vehicle. Although the closure is considered temporary during the construction, some are concerned that the bridge may remain accessible to pedestrian traffic only. The 1872 Smith truss span was constructed over the Eel River in 1872 and added to the National Register of Historic Places on September 30, 1982. *Photo by Greg McDuffee.*



Kentucky

Dover or Lee's Creek Bridge, Mason County – KY/17-81-01



As noted in the previous *Newsletter*, Arnold M. Grāton Associates began a long overdue project to repair this queen truss span over Lee's Creek in January. The bridge is often cited as the oldest remaining covered bridge in Kentucky. However, the recent inspection revealed that the structural timbers do not appear to be as old as formerly noted. Instead of construction dates reported as early as circa 1835, the span may be much newer than that. Two newspaper clippings from October 28, 1920 and November 25, 1920 indicate that the dilapidated bridge was replaced at that time. An early 20th century construction date is supported by the examination of the timbers and joinery by Arnold M. Grāton Associates who indicated that they appeared to be more likely from the early 1900s than early 1800s. The project was completed in April. The bridge was added to the National Register of Historic Places on March 26, 1976. *Photos provided by Arnold M. Grāton Associates.*



New Hampshire

Thompson or West Swanzey Bridge, Cheshire County – NH/29-03-04

On May 6th, Bill & Jenn Caswell and Kim Chandler attended Swanzey's Select Board meeting to discuss the sign grant options offered by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation. Kim initially contacted local historical societies and the Town Administrator who expressed interest in the program. At the meeting, the Select Board also offered their support for the project. We will work with town officials to prepare the grant application and look forward to seeing a National Register sign being installed at this location. The Town truss bridge was built over the Ashuelot River in 1832. It and the Bath Village Bridge are the state's oldest covered bridges.



bridges still open to motor vehicle traffic. The structure was added to the National Register of Historic Places on February 29, 1980. *Photo by Michael Darche.*

New York

Perrine's Bridge, Ulster County – NY/32-56-01

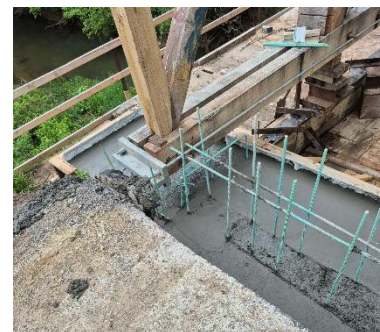
On April 27th, the NSPCB Executive Board approved a request for fire retardant for this bridge in the amount of \$1,623.77. Thank you to all who make donations and purchase Society items making these contributions possible. The single-span Burr truss bridge over the Wallkill River was added to the National Register of Historic Places on April 13, 1973. *Photo by Bob Watts.*



Ohio

Blackwood Bridge, Athens County – OH/35-05-06

Work to repair the trusses of this 1879 span over Middle Branch, Shade River are now complete. Work on the abutment beam seats is ongoing. This project is expected to be finished and the bridge opened to traffic sometime this summer. The county engineer estimated the cost at \$892,929.45. The bridge received its name from the Blackwood family who owned much of the land in the area near it. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on June 23, 1978. *Left photo by Connie Francis McLaughlin. Construction photos provided by The Righter Company..*



Ohio (continued)

Germantown Bridge, Montgomery County – OH/35-57-01

Work on this unusual inverted bowstring bridge over Little Twin Creek described in the previous *Newsletter* is now underway. The structure was originally built in 1865 and moved to its present



location in 1911. The existing bowstring suspension system and stone abutments will be retained. By limiting replacement activities to only deficient and substandard features, the project will retain approximately 93% of the original bridge fabric. On May 5th Mike Killilea from The Righter Company informed us that the temporary support structure has been constructed under the bridge, and the



temporary walkways have been installed. The bridge is considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Visit <https://www.transportation.ohio.gov/projects/projects/119404> for project updates,. *Photos provided by The Righter Company.*

Bigelow or Little Darby or Axe Handle Road Bridge, Union County – OH/35-80-04

On the afternoon of April 18th, a motor vehicle heavily damaged one side of the 1873 Partridge truss bridge over Little Darby Creek. The vehicle struck the side while entering the bridge and rolled over inside. The county engineer's office inspected the bridge and reported to the county commissioners that it was significantly damaged and will remain closed indefinitely while repair options are evaluated. *Photos posted on Facebook by Tricia Capadona.*



Eakin Mill or Arbaugh Bridge, Vinton County – OH/35-82-07#2

In the Summer 2021 issue (page 19), we reported that damage to the bridge over Raccoon Creek from a falling tree was to be repaired later in the year. At the



time, the county engineer had informed us that only the roof was damaged, not the truss structure and funding had been secured. After receiving photos showing that the damage had not been repaired by late 2022, we contacted the county engineer for an update. He informed us that the contractor withdrew from the project due to



staff shortages and the county is in the process of selecting another contractor. These photos were taken by member Jeff Griffen on February 28th showing that the damage has still not been repaired. When asked for an update, the county engineer indicated that there are plans to repair the span this summer. We will continue to check for updates.

Ohio (continued)

Hune Bridge, Washington County – OH/35-84-27

In previous issues, we noted that the 1879 bridge has been closed to traffic since January 7, 2020, due to the unstable embankment on the south bank of the Little Muskingum River. On March 26th, Washington County Engineer Roger Wright informed the county commissioners that there was only one bidder for repairs and it was \$600,000 over the estimated \$1.9 million cost. The project was rebid in April with two submissions received. The Righter Company was awarded the project with their bid of \$2,463,197. In addition to the complexity of the work, the project is further complicated by its proximity to the Wayne National Forest and campgrounds bringing additional environmental considerations and dictating when the work can be done. Since there is no intent to re-open the bridge to vehicle traffic, this project is competing for funds against other projects needed to maintain components of the active roadway network. The bridge was built by Rolla Merydith and its truss design is unique even among others built by him. See the in-depth discussion of this bridge in the Summer 2026 issue of *Topics*. The bridge was added to the National Register of Historic Places on October 8, 1976. *Marietta Times, March 27, 2026 & May 2, 2026. Photos by Michael Rudnick.*



Oregon

Pass Creek Bridge, Douglas County – OR/37-10-02

City officials in Drain are moving forward with the nomination of the 1925 Howe truss bridge to the National Register of Historic Places, taking a step toward formally recognizing and preserving one of the community's most significant historic resources. They are working in partnership with Oregon Heritage and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. The bridge remains largely unchanged from its original appearance. "Preserving the Pass Creek Covered Bridge matters not only to Drain, but to Oregon's broader transportation and settlement history," Drain City Administrator Simon Dwyer said. "Its loss would represent an irreversible loss of a rare historic resource." The span probably replaced an earlier covered bridge. Holes in the hand-hewn lower chords indicate that they may have been salvaged from another bridge. The bridge was closed to traffic in 1981. In the fall of 1987, the roof and siding were removed, all the pieces numbered, and a 90-ton crane moved the trusses 400 feet downstream where the structure was reassembled as a pedestrian bridge. *Roseburg News-Review, May 1, 2026. Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



Oregon (continued)

Goodpasture Bridge, Lane County – OR/37-20-10

In the Summer 2022 *Newsletter* (page 21) we reported that the Oregon Legislature authorized \$3.6 million to Lane County for a “seismic retrofit” of the state’s second longest covered bridge to improve its resilience to earthquakes. Retrofit elements are expected to include installing rock anchors at the west (highway) end of the bridge, and removing weak soil at the east end. In 2020, the Holiday Farm Fire came very close to the 1938 Howe truss bridge over the McKenzie River. It was saved by fire suppression efforts. To help improve its resilience to fire, the project is expected to include fire mitigation measures, such as sprinklers or fire-resistant materials. The project is funded by a FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant and a State General Fund grant. An engineering firm (DOWL) is performing the design and environmental studies. Construction is tentatively planned for 2027. The bridge was added to the National Register of Historic Places on November 29, 1979. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



Stewart Bridge, Lane County – OR/37-20-28

Currin Bridge, Lane County – OR/37-20-22#2

In December, new member Becky Walter informed us that work is needed on these two bridges. At their February 3rd meeting, the County Commissioners approved \$500,000 towards stabilizing the two Howe truss spans. Both are suffering from broken lower chords which could lead to collapse without warning. The Stewart Bridge also has a noticeable lean. On April 28th, the County Commissioners approved an expedited contractor selection process to quickly address the danger posed by the two historic bridges. The bridges are closed to pedestrians, but county staff say if they were to collapse, they could endanger people in the river or the environment downstream. The emergency stabilization could extend the life of the bridges 15 to 20 years to allow local governments time to determine the future of the two spans. Neither bridge has received significant repairs since 1995.



The Currin Bridge was constructed over the Row River in 1925. The Stewart Bridge was built over Mosby Creek in 1930. In December a segment of the approach span was removed from the Currin Bridge to prevent access to the structure. The Stewart Bridge has had chain link fence blocking its entrance for many years. We have contacted the Lane County Public Works Department and County Commissioners offering to help where we can. Both spans were added to the National Register of Historic Places on November 29, 1979. *KLCC Radio, April 28, 2026. Stewart Bridge photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell during the NSPCB tour on August 26, 2017. Currin Bridge photo by Becky Walter.*



Pennsylvania

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

As noted in previous *Newsletters*, the project to repair this structure damaged by Hurricane Ida in September 2021 is slowly moving forward. On May 7th, Scott Bomboy informed us that an archaeological investigation will be done by the time you read this. The project is using funds from



FEMA and needs to follow their procedures to advance towards construction. If all goes well, work on the structure could begin in the mid-August to early September timeframe with

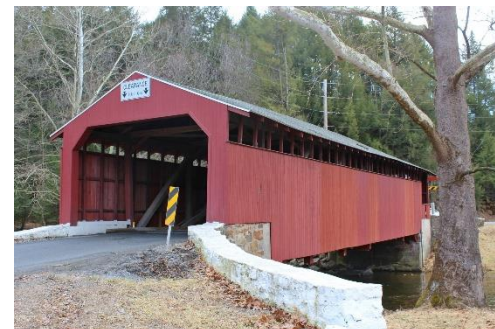


some possible pre-site planning before then. The Town truss span was constructed in 1832 and added to the National Register of Historic Places on December 1, 1980. Photos by Scott Bomboy and Bill & Jenn Caswell.

Visit perkasioborough.org/information/projects/south-perkasio-covered-bridge-rehabilitation/ for the latest information on the project's progress.

Little Gap Bridge, Carbon County – PA/38-13-02

Around March 5th, an oversize vehicle struck and significantly damaged the headache bar at this bridge. Fortunately, the 1860 span over Aquashicola Creek was not harmed. Due to the damage, the entire protective barrier must be replaced. The quote for that work was \$6,645 which will be covered by the county's liquid fuels fund. The news article indicated that a police report had been filed but did not publish information about the driver. The Burr truss span was added to the National Register of Historic Places on December 1, 1980. *Times-News*, March 21, 2026. *Photo by Michael Rudnick.*



Bartram's Bridge, Chester & Delaware Counties – PA/38-15-17 & PA/38-23-02



Lancaster County Timber Frames, Inc. has been working on timber repairs to the 1860 Burr truss span. The Crum Creek crossing was added to the National Register of Historic Places on December 10, 1980. *Pennsylvania Crossings*, Winter 2026, page 6. *Additional details from Jim Smedley. Photos by Tim McLaughlin.*



Pennsylvania (continued)

McGees Mills Bridge, Clearfield County – PA/38-17-01



A \$555,500 project is underway to address issues of scouring at four bridge locations within the county including this Burr truss span over the West Branch Susquehanna River. Scouring occurs at bridge piers and abutments when water washes away sand, gravel and rocks causing potential instability of the support structures. The project will add stone at the base of the span's abutments to stabilize the area and protect them from further damage. The work was estimated to be completed by March 20th. The 1873 crossing was added to the National Register of Historic Places on April 17, 1980. *The Clearfield Progress*, March 5, 2026. Photo by Tim McLaughlin.

Kintersburg Bridge, Indiana County – PA/38-32-05

Indiana County Parks & Trails has secured \$807,314 to restore and repair the bridge — one of only four Howe truss bridges remaining in Pennsylvania. The project, fully funded through a 2024 PennDOT Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside grant, will have the bridge repaired by Lancaster County Timber Frames of York, Pennsylvania.

Joe McCarthy of Lancaster County Timber Frames informed us that wood needed to replace deteriorated sections will arrive in mid-August and they plan to reconstruct the bridge onsite in mid-October. This is the first Howe truss bridge they have worked on. The structure will be pre-assembled at their shop before being moved to its abutments. They plan to have an open house while preassembling the trusses so visitors can see the parts that are normally hidden by siding. The bridge was added to the National Register of Historic Places on August 3, 1979. *Photos courtesy Indiana County Parks & Trails, Bob Griner and Lancaster County Timber Frames.*



Shearer's Bridge, Lancaster County – PA/38-36-31#2

On April 28th, the Manheim Borough Council approved a \$23,977 contract with Stable Hollow Woodworking LLC for repairs to bridge in Manheim Veterans Memorial Park. The Burr truss span was built in 1856 and moved to the park in 1971. The project will make repairs to the arches and the bridge will be closed to pedestrians during that time. The work is expected to be completed by October 5th so it is open in time for the Manheim Community Farm Show. The bridge was added to the National Register of Historic Places on December 10, 1980. *Lancaster Online*, May 1, 2026. Photo by Gloria Smedley.



Pennsylvania (continued)

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

Work continues on the 1841 Burr truss bridge over Little Lehigh Creek with an anticipated completion date at the end of August.



The \$2.57 million project was contracted to H & P Construction with P. Joseph Lehman Engineers providing design and project management services. The bridge has been partially disassembled to repair or replace deteriorated members of the trusses, arches, roof and floor systems and deck. On April



9th, Lehman posted these photos of the work in progress on their Facebook page. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on December 1, 1980.

Red Bridge, Perry County – PA/38-50-06

The Historical Society of Perry County has been raising money to repair the 1886 span over Wildcat Creek. The bridge was given to the Historical Society in 1961 when a new span was built



adjacent to it. The NSPCB donated \$2,950 towards work on the abutments which was completed in late March. There is still much more work to be done, and the group will continue as funds become available. The bridge was added to the National Register of Historic Places



on August 25, 1980. *Photos courtesy Nathan Lesh of the Historical Society and Gloria Smedley.*

***Donations can be sent by check or money order to:
The Historical Society of Perry County, PO Box 47, Landisburg, PA 17040.***

Waggoner's Bridge, Perry County – PA/38-50-15

This bridge was known by many names, Wagner's, Wagoner's, Waggoner's and Roddy's Mill. In the Fall 2022 *Newsletter*, we noted that the bridge had burned but was not destroyed. Gloria Smeldley, president of the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania (TBCBSP) has been in contact with the owner who indicated that although the roof and siding were consumed by the fire,



the structural timbers were still sound with only a small number near the portals needing to be replaced. The NSPCB voted to donate fire retardant for the single span Burr truss at its March meeting. The material was applied by members of the TBCBSP on May 7th. The bridge replaced one lost during a flood in 1889. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on August 25, 1980. *Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell on April 11th.*



Vermont



Westford or Brown's River Bridge, Chittenden County – VT/45-04-05

In the Fall 2025 *Newsletter* we noted that the town of Westford was to contract with Vermont Heavy Timber of Huntington for repairs to the bridge which will include repairing structural damage to the ends of the arches, bolster beams, bearing blocks and joists, as well as flashing and sheathing utilizing protective measures to prevent future damage. That work is now underway. The single-span Burr truss bridge over Brown's River is one of the oldest in Vermont having been built in 1837. *Photo by Gloria Smedley.*

Depot Bridge, Rutland County – VT/45-11-06

On May 5th, the 1853 Town truss bridge over Otter Creek in Pittsford was damaged by an oversize vehicle. Town officials stated that the damage was caused by a town employee crossing the bridge with a backhoe. The bridge was inspected and opened to traffic two days later. At press time there was no word on a repair plan. These photos were taken by Beth Brown-Limmer, president of the Vermont Covered Bridge Society. *WCAX-TV, May 7, 2026.*



Pittsford Bridges, Rutland County

On April 27th, the NSPCB Executive Board approved a request from the town of Pittsford for fire retardant for three of its covered bridges – Gorham Bridge (2004, VT/45-11-04#2, lower left), Depot Bridge (1853, VT/45-11-06, right) and Cooley Bridge (1849, VT/45-11-07, lower right) – totaling \$4,526.05. All three are single-span Town truss spans. The Depot Bridge was added to the National Register of Historic Places on January 21, 1974 and the Cooley Bridge three days later on January 24, 1974. Thank you to all who make donations and purchase Society items making these donations possible. *Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



Vermont (continued)

Village or Big Eddy or Great Eddy Bridge, Washington County – VT/45-12-14

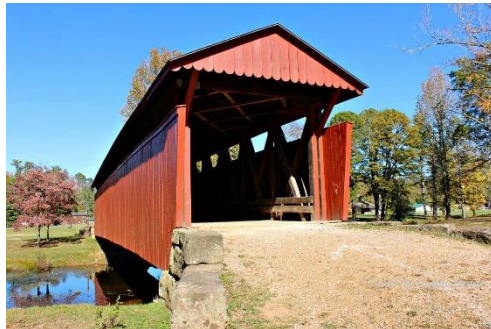
On March 28th, members of the Waitsfield Select Board met with timber specialist Miles Jenness of Vermont Heavy Timber to review findings from his inspection of the bridge. Some of the floorboards were loose due to their fasteners deteriorating. A more significant issue is that only 11 of the 46 deck joists are in sound condition. The remainder are in varying states of decay. Although the span is not in imminent danger, Jenness recommended closing the bridge due to the extent of the deterioration. The bridge is posted with a 3-ton weight limit knowing that heavier vehicles cross the span. The Select Board invited other covered bridge contractors to visit the site on May 5th when the span was to be closed for part of the day so a portion of the deck could be removed for a closer inspection. The Select Board will likely review findings from the inspection and consider whether to proceed with repairs at its May 11th meeting. The bridge was added to the National Register of Historic Places on September 6, 1974. *The Valley Reporter*, April 2, 2026 & May 2, 2026. Image from Mad River Valley Television's live webcam (<https://mrvtv.com/live-broadcasts/live-webcams/>).



West Virginia

Staat's Mill Bridge, Jackson County – WV/48-18-04

In 1983 a flood control project caused the bridge to be relocated to a site crossing a pond at the



Cedar Lakes Conference Center, three miles from its original location. On May 11th, that pond was drained when a pipe failed. The 1888 bridge was added to the



National Register of Historic Places on May 29, 1979. *WOWK-TV*, May 11, 2026. Photos by Greg McDuffee.

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

On March 27th, the Times West Virginian reported that the Barrackville Covered Bridge Preservation Society received a \$350,000 grant to aid in restoration of the 1853 Burr truss bridge. Historic Preservationist Jon Smith said the Buffalo Creek crossing has only been restored once, in the 1990s. The last time the bridge was restored, Smith said they replaced the siding, roof, and other important components. The Society is waiting for an agreement between the town and the West Virginia Department of Transportation, which owns the bridge, before restoration work can begin. The bridge was built by Lemuel and Eli Chenoweth of Beverly, West Virginia in 1853 as part of the Fairmont-Wheeling Turnpike. It was bypassed in 1992 due to its deteriorating condition. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on March 30, 1973. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.



Canada – New Brunswick

Peter Jonah Bridge, Albert County – NB/55-01-07

In the previous *Newsletter* we noted that Moncton, New Brunswick's Water Supply and Treatment Department is seeking an organization to assume ownership and maintenance of the structure. The bridge was moved to its present location on the Department's property in 2013 as part of a project to expand a nearby reservoir. The bridge is one of two remaining in the province with what has been described as a hip or cottage style roof where the ends of the roof slope towards the entrances. The other one is the Nelson Hollow Bridge in Northumberland County, NB/55-08-08, built in 1899, the province's oldest covered bridge. While unusual in North America, examples exist in Europe. Groups within the province are still working on possible solutions. This group photo was taken at the structure on July 27, 2019 during the NSPCB's three-day New Brunswick tour.



Hartland Bridge, Carleton County – NB/55-02-07

Hartland Town Council awarded a 125th Covered Bridge anniversary mural commission to Fredericton artist Bailey Hanson at the town council meeting February 10th. Bailey will receive \$5,620 for the project. The artwork will depict a historic view of the bridge from 1901 on one end and a present-day perspective on the other, with "Sal the Salmon" jumping over the center. The town will install the 4-by-16-foot mural on the library's north side in mid-July, ahead of the New Brunswick Day Covered Bridge Market and the 125th anniversary celebration on Monday, August 3, 2026. The bridge is currently closed to motor vehicle traffic for repairs. That work is expected to be completed prior to the anniversary celebration. *River Valley Sun, February 27, 2026. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



New Brunswick (continued)

Cameron's Mill or Kouchibouguasis River #5 Bridge, Kent County – NB/55-05-12

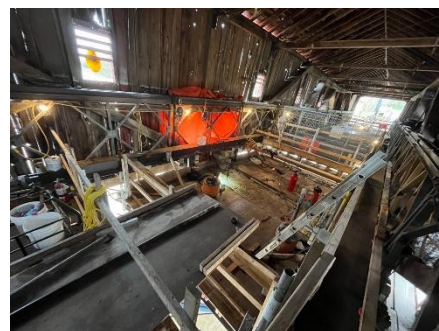
In the previous issue we reported that this bridge was closed by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DTI) on Christmas Eve after deterioration was discovered during a recent inspection. DTI was contacted for an update but did not receive a response in time to include with this issue. The single-span Howe truss bridge over the Kouchibouguasis River was built in 1950. *Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



Ontario

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

In the previous *Newsletter*, we mentioned that work on this span was well underway. Things slowed down during the winter and are resuming with the warmer weather. The work is expected to be completed in December 2026. The bridge will be closed for the duration of the project. An update on April 17th indicated that crews are repairing the abutments and preparing them for installation of the temporary support structure to keep the bridge stable while crews repair its main load-carrying components. Visit <https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/living-here/west-montrose-covered-bridge.aspx> for updates. *Photos by Gloria Smedley and the Region of Waterloo.*



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.

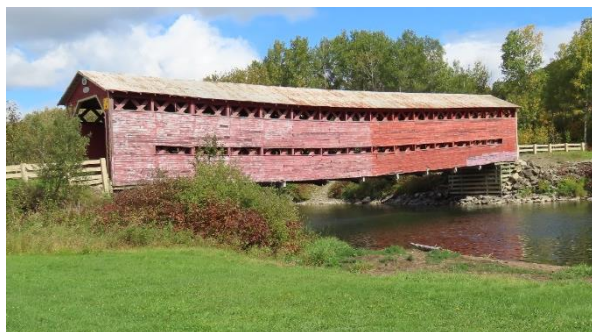
Pont McVetty-McKenzie, Cantons de l'Est – QC/61-18-08

In the Fall 2024 *Newsletter*, we reported that the bridge had been barricaded for safety reasons on April 3, 2024 and the previous issue noted that the Quebec Ministry of Culture has allocated \$200,000 towards its restoration. On April 11th, *la Voix de l'Est* reported that the bridge could re-open to pedestrian traffic in the fall if the repair work goes according to plan during the summer. On April 15th, the bridge was officially classified as a heritage building by the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications. The classification was retroactive to July 22, 2024 and may help obtain additional funding for the needed repairs. The bridge was built over Rivière au Saumon using the variation of Town's lattice truss common in Québec. *Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell before the bridge closure.*



Pont Heppell, Gaspésie Region – QC/61-43-02

Transport Canada is seeking bids for the rehabilitation of the 1909 bridge over the Matapédia River in Causapscal. The project will temporarily relocate the single-span Québec-style Town lattice truss bridge to the left bank of the river for its restoration. Once the work is complete, the bridge will be reinstalled on new, completely reconstructed concrete abutments. The work is scheduled to start on June 1, 2026 with completion expected on October 31, 2026. The span underwent \$2 million repair project in 2018 after being damaged by a freshet in the spring of 2017. *Le Soir, November 11, 2025. Left photo by Gérald Arbour, right photo by Pascal Conner.*



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.



Québec (continued)

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

In the previous issue we reported that Québec's Deputy Premier and Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility, stated that the bridge's rehabilitation was planned for 2025-2027 after being closed since 2019. After years of campaigning for its repair, SOS Pont Prud'homme has announced that the province contracted with a local firm, Gelco Construction, Inc., to repair the span which is about 2¼ hours northwest of Montréal. The \$3,475,000 (\$2.5M USD) project is expected to begin in June and be completed in the fall of 2027. We look forward to following its progress. The bridge was constructed in 1918 and has been closed to traffic since 2019.

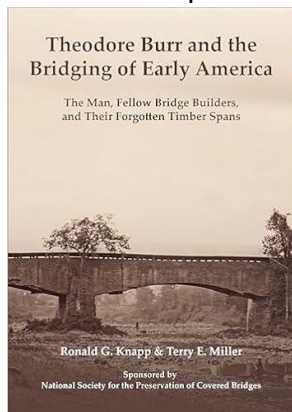
Photo Courtesy SOS Pont Prud'homme.



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.

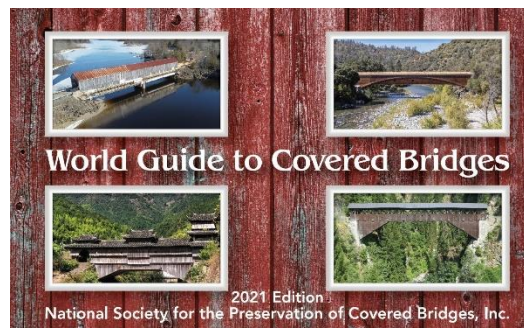


SCAN ME

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.

World Guide to Covered Bridges

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



2027 Covered Bridge Tour

A suggestion was made to offer a covered bridge tour for 2027. After discussing possible options, we are excited to announce that plans are in the works for a joint tour with the Ohio Historic Bridge Association and Indiana Covered Bridge Society. The tour will cover an area of southwestern Ohio and southeastern Indiana. Planning for the event is just getting underway so details are limited at this time. We are focusing on Butler and Preble counties in Ohio and Franklin and Fayette counties in Indiana.

The chosen spans include a variety of truss designs, some unique. In addition to the covered bridges, there will also be stops at metal truss bridges. Full details will be included in the Fall *Newsletter*.

Here is a sampling of the bridges being considered for the tour.

Right side:

Roberts Bridge, Preble County, Ohio, OH/35-68-05

Black Bridge, Oxford, Butler County, Ohio, OH/35-09-03

Duck Creek Aqueduct, Franklin Co., Indiana,
IN/14-24-11

Brubaker Bridge, Preble County, Ohio, OH/35-68-06

Bottom (left to right):

Snow Hill Bridge, Franklin County, Indiana, IN/14-24-09

Christman Bridge, Preble County, Ohio, OH/35-68-12

Junction Road Iron Bridge, Preble County, Ohio

Not pictured:

Longwood Bridge, Fayette County, Indiana, IN/14-21-01

Seal Barn Bridge, Franklin County, Indiana, IN/14-24-10

State Line Bridge, Butler County, Ohio, OH/35-09-02

Germantown Bridge, Montgomery County, Ohio,
OH/35-57-01

Harshman Bridge, Preble County, OH/35-68-03

Dixon Branch Bridge, Preble County, Ohio, OH/35-68-04

Geeting Bridge, Preble County, Ohio, OH/35-68-13

Warnke Bridge, Preble County, Ohio, OH/35-68-14

Hueston Woods Bridge, Preble County, OH/35-68-51

All photos by Greg McDuffee.

