

The Bridger



The Vermont Covered Bridge Society Newsletter

SUMMER, 2005

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Vermont History Expo 2005 coming in June Tunbridge Fairgrounds June 25, 26

The Vermont Covered Bridge Society will again have a booth in the Floral Hall. We will be located at the inside wall in the rear of the building--the same spot we have had in the past.

This year our presentation will be about the national project of documenting North America's lost covered bridges, of which there have been thousands. The purpose of this national project is to compile a listing of all known covered bridges in the United States and Canada that are no longer in existence.

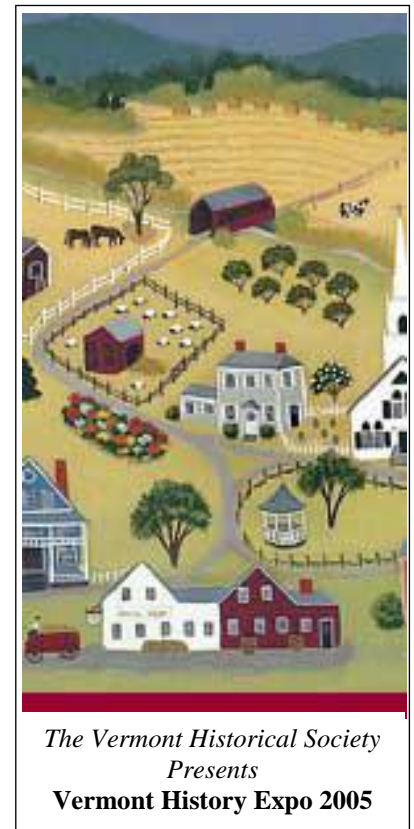
Bill Caswell of Boscawen, New Hampshire has compiled a continuously running laptop presentation for our EXPO booth describing the project and featuring photos of lost bridges.

We will continue this year to display an enlarged map of the state of Vermont with the locations of the existing covered bridges indicated.

Additionally, locating by-gone bridges--hoping to spark the recollections of passers-by to say, "Oh, I remember a bridge that was....." and to locate where historically there have been bridges-- that spot on our map can then being identified with a different type of marker. This map, the brainstorm of John Dostal, is a permanent presentation on display in the Covered Bridge museum adjacent to the Bennington Center for the Arts in Bennington, Vermont.

I encourage, no, actually I plead, fellow bridgers to spend some time staffing the booth Saturday and/or Sunday. A very few of us have given our time and every-day drives to Tunbridge year after year to get awareness of the VCBS out to the public. Your participation in staffing the booth is welcomed.

It IS FUN. Lots of interesting people go by and stop to chat. After all, they are all at the Expo because of their interest in history and preservation. I will be creating the schedule for Saturday and Sunday. Please phone me at 802-388-0247 or e-mail ibarna@middlebury.edu for a time convenient for you to help out at the booth. Booths are open from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. both days.



SAVE THE DATES: JUNE 25 AND 26 TUNBRIDGE

Vermont Covered Bridge Museum and WTIU Public Television to host documentary screening

The public television documentary *Spanning Time: America's Covered Bridges* will make its east coast debut on the afternoon of Saturday, May 14, at 2:00 with a free public screening at the Vermont Covered Bridge Museum in the Bennington Center for Natural and Cultural Arts, Bennington, Vermont. The Center for the Arts is located on West Road at Gypsy Lane off of Route 9 just west of the Bennington Monument. The afternoon's events will include a welcome by museum founder and chair of trustees Bruce Laumeister, a large-screen showing of the 57-minute documentary, remarks on restoration theory by David Wright, President of the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges and an opportunity to question the documentary's producers, Eugene Brancolini and Susanne Schwibs. The formal program will be followed by an informal reception with refreshments.

Produced by public television station WTIU, Bloomington, Indiana, with funding from the Federal Highway Administration, *Spanning Time: America's Covered Bridges* explores the affection Americans have for their wooden covered bridges. Actor/songwriter Tim Grimm guides us through this instructional, entertaining, and sometimes whimsical look at covered bridges throughout the United States - their cultural significance, history, construction, preservation, and tourist activities surrounding them. Commentary by eminent New England bridge wrights Arnold Graton and Jan Lewandoski provide the builder's perspective, while preservationists, engineers, public officials, tourists and all manner of covered bridge enthusiasts share their point of view. The program features covered bridges and scenic footage from Indiana, Ohio, Oregon, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania and Vermont.

Spanning Time: America's Covered Bridges will be distributed nationally this spring by American Public Television. Over 95 public television stations throughout the country have indicated that they will be airing the program.

VCBS 6th Annual Spring Meeting

Lyndon, May 7, 2005 - Twenty people attended the sixth annual spring meeting of the VCBS in the Grange Hall in Lyndon, Vermont. President Joe Nelson opened the meeting with a thank you to Kathryn Ramsey for the arrangements for the meeting and greeted all giving a reiteration of recent activities of the organization.

Joe acknowledged that it was five years ago, in September of 2000, that the Vermont Covered Bridge Society held their first meeting in Lyndon on the Sanborn Covered Bridge.

Joe also acknowledged Jim Fearon for his insight into the preservation of covered bridges and for the efforts he made as a bridge-watch chairman in the Lyndon area and the declaration of the area as the "Covered Bridge Capital of the Northeast". Jim passed away in 2003. At the annual Directors meeting in 2004 it was voted that the Society establish a fund into which monies can be deposited to grow for the purpose of making contributions to groups actively preserving their covered bridge. This year that fund was given the name of "The Jim Fearon Save-a-Bridge Fund". To start the Fund the oil painting "Cambridge Junction Covered Bridge" by artist Eric Tobin has been donated, the sale monies to go to the preservation of our covered bridges. The artist has authorized the sale of Gicleé prints of this painting to also go toward the Fund. These prints are available through the VCBS web page, the newsletter, and at Society meetings.



The VCBS Annual Meeting held May 7, 2005. Speaker Bill Caswell holds attendees in rapt attention. Photo by Joe Nelson

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report submitted by Neil Daniels declares that the balance sheet shows \$6,212.26 at December 31, 2004. Income statement is \$4,171.46 less expenses of \$2,945.45. The current year budget expense is \$2,791.00.

The Save-a-Bridge Fund for the years 2003 and 2004 is \$2,276.89 from donations, memorabilia sales, calendar sales, and patch sales. This amount is now part of the bank balance.

Neil also reports that the VCBS has been reaffirmed with the IRS as a publicly supported organization vs. a private foundation. We have tax exempt status under section 501 C3.

Membership Report: The membership report of Trish Kane was read in absentia by President Joe Nelson. As of October 29, 2004 total memberships, 150; Deleted memberships, 4; New memberships, 11; As of May 7, 2005 Total memberships 157. Memberships are represented in 22 states, D.C., and Ontario, Canada.

Minutes: The minutes of the fifth annual fall meeting of the VCBS at Marshfield, Vermont were read by Secretary Irene Barna.

Expo 2005: The upcoming Vermont History Expo scheduled for June 25th and 26th was mentioned and help staffing the VCBS booth in the Floral Hall was requested. John Weaver, Will Thompson, and Joe Nelson signed at the meeting to staff the booth. More volunteers were encouraged.



Chamberlin Bridge [45-03-04] located at York Street in Lyndon Corners, a short walk from the Grange Hall. Photo by Joe Nelson

Other Reports:

John Weaver, Bridge-Watch Chair, reports that there are new copies of the Bridge-Watch Handbook available.

On the to-do list for Bridge-Watchers, it is hoped that two site visits are made to each bridge in their area.

Things going on: Monies from the Jeffords Fund have allowed work on 15 bridges with work such as the application of fire retardant materials and the rehabilitation of guardrails. John reports that the stabilization of the Hammond Bridge has just gotten advertised this first week in May! The bridge survived the winter as, because of the state of deterioration, there was fear that it could collapse under snow load.

Terry Shaw, Legislation Committee Chair elaborated on the VANPO Non Profit Visibility Day at the Vermont State House he attended with Joe Nelson. Two legislators with whom they spoke elaborated on the lack of money forthcoming from both Washington as well as Montpelier to help support nonprofit activities.

Joe and Terry attended a caucus of the Vermont Arts Council where they hope to increase the cap of money available to support arts. The VCBS inclusion in the caucus was a result of our position as a group that helps define the Vermont Quality of Life. Any activity or organization which assists in Historic Preservation of our state treasures is considered to be a part of the promotion of visual and performing arts. The VCBS may use the Vermont Arts Council as a resource to help educate the general population of the Covered Bridge Society mission.

Conversation with Representative Richard Westman, chair of the House Transportation Committee, was had to inform him of the status of the three primary initiatives in discussion with the Secretary of Transportation, Dawn Terrill. These three being:

- 1) Changes in penalties involving damage to structures on the National Historic Register,



Greenbanks Hollow Bridge [45-03-01] in Danville. This bridge is a must-see. It has been recently renovated converting it from a cripple supported by piers and I-beams to a fully functioning, self supporting wooden covered bridge, just as it's original builder meant it to be. Photo by Joe Nelson

- 2) The VCBS position on Historic Covered Bridge Preservation plan for towns, and
- 3) The installation of signs directing interested travelers to our covered bridges.

Terry is anticipating a follow-up soon on all of these issues.

Bridge Watch Areas reporting:

Ed Rhodes--Stowe Bridge-watch reports that the spring check-up of their bridges finds that winter was kind to the bridges in the Stowe area.

John Dostal--Bennington Bridge-watch; John is still diligent in his persistence with the Town of Bennington officials to have fire retardant materials applied to the Bennington bridges. He has been pursuing this issue with them for three years.

John reports that The Covered Bridge Museum, adjacent to the Arts Center, is a significant help in supporting the Bennington Center for the Arts. "Visitors to the Museum, coming from states such as Pennsylvania, Indiana, Kentucky, Texas, you name it, pass along information that they come along with and sometimes leave behind memorabilia". One such piece of memorabilia was an article appearing in an issue of The Saturday Evening Post of 1953. In this article, "Bridges With a Past" written by Neil Clark about Richard Sanders Allen and his investigation of covered bridges, the last paragraph mentions that one of Allen's ambitions, in addition to writing a proper history of covered bridges, was to have a covered bridge museum. Allen's collection would go a long way to filling the museum which he envisioned would have wall murals of famous covered bridges, shade boxes, dioramas, a model railroad traveling through covered bridges, visual demonstrations of the various trusses, and a library housing in it everything ever written about covered bridge. In 1953 Richard Allen was living in Round Lake, New York and the postmaster of Round Lake said that he needed an angel to make this happen: "an unemployed angel".

Bruce Laumeister is that benefactor who built that museum in Bennington, Vermont adjacent to the Bennington Center for Natural and Cultural Arts.

Also to be shown at the Museum on May 14th is the showing of *Spanning Time: America's Covered Bridges*, a documentary produced by public television station WTIU in Bloomington, Indiana with funding from the Federal Highway Administration exploring the affection Americans have for their wooden covered bridges. American Public Television will distribute this documentary to over 95 public television stations throughout the country who have indicated they will air the program.

The meeting concluded with the drawing of raffle tickets. The drawing netted \$36.00 and a new member signed up paying in \$10 in dues. The sales table brought in \$34.50.

Bill Caswell, the featured speaker, spoke to those present about lost bridges. He is part of a group, "Covered Spans of Yesteryear", researching long-gone covered bridges and recording their history. Much of their material comes from participating covered bridge historians among the covered bridge societies. Bill and the group host an excellent website www.lostbridges.org. Bill encouraged anyone having any information on bridges that has not been posted on the site to please contact him or to use the site as a means of supplying information.



Marge & Francis Converse at the Spring Meeting. Best dressed, best costumes, good fun. Photo by Joe Nelson

At 12:45 lunch was served by the folks of the Lyndon Grange.

Respectfully submitted,
Irene Barna, Secretary

Comment and Commentary on the First Covered Bridge in America

by Richard Sanders Allen*

[This article was selected to answer one of the two questions most often asked by the general public (read non-bridgers), i.e. Why are covered bridges covered, and, where was the first, or oldest American covered bridge built? Author R.S. Allen answers the second question in this article.]

The great controversy on the location of the FIRST covered bridge built in America still rages, but we can throw new light on some of the bridges that have been cited as contenders. Personally, we believe that the "Permanent Bridge" over the Schuylkill River at Philadelphia, Pa., was the first known covered bridge built in America. This bridge, built under the direction of Timothy Palmer of Newburyport, Mass. was several years in building and was opened to traffic on January 1, 1805. Because of the existence of an engraving showing the "Permanent Bridge" without covering, it was long thought that the structure was not originally covered. But later research showed that in 1804 Palmer's trusses were weather boarded and roofed by an individual recorded in history as "Owen Biddle" (a good Philadelphia name!). The idea for the covering is said to have been originated by Judge Richard Peters of Philadelphia, and Timothy Palmer is quoted as favoring the covering in connection with this bridge.

In Charles Wilson Peale's "Essay on Building Wooden Bridges", published in 1797, the author states that: "It has been advised to make roofs to cover bridges, *and some are so constructed in America . . .*" To date, research has failed to disclose where any covered bridges stood in America in 1797.

In the "Columbian Magazine" of January, 1787, (a copy of which is in the possession of collector George B. Pease of North Sandwich, N.H.), appears a copper plate engraving of a bridge "suggested" for the site across the Schuylkill at Philadelphia, occupied 18 years later by Palmer's "Permanent Bridge". Who drew this plate or devised this bridge is not known, but it is quite certain that it was never built. However, this place and accompanying article are the earliest known reference to covered bridges in America.

First was a scholarly article by Milton M. Cranston of Providence, R.I. concerning the Old Washington Bridge over the Seekonk River at Providence. Mr. Cranston tells of the original bridge being built in 1793, by John Brown and associates. This was destroyed in a great storm in 1807. Replaced, it was again washed away by the memorable "Great Gale" of 1815. Not until 1850 does a direct quote, from the "Manufacturers and Farmers Journal", describe this *third* bridge (built after 1815) as a "long wooden bridge and three-quarters of its length covered by a house". We have nothing to prove that the first bridge was in reality a covered bridge.

The other "nomination" by S. E. Reed of Bradford, Ill. quotes a letter from the librarian of the Lancaster County Historical Society of Lancaster, Pa. which tells of the Stoneman Bridge over Little Conestoga Creek. The letter quotes from Page 868 of Ellis & Evans "History of Lancaster County" (1883) . . . "Christian Stoneman was one of the Mennonite pioneers who came to America in 1729. One Hans Brubaker sold his mill to Mr. Stoneman, the deal including a 150-acre farm, and said Stoneman erected a covered bridge for the convenience of customers who carried their grist to his mill. This covered bridge was completed in 1730." Apparently the librarian was a bit over-zealous for what page 868 actually says is: "For the convenience of travelers and customers who carried their grist to his mill, Mr. Stoneman erected a *bridge* over the creek at his mill, which was completed in 1730." No mention of a *covered* bridge.

Harder to refute is a letter quoted in Rev. Edward T. Fairbanks' "The Town of St. Johnsbury, Vermont", published in 1914, and loaned to us by J.M. Puffer of Foxboro, Mass. In the summer of 1787, Jonathan Arnold, founder of the Town of Saint Johnsbury, was engaged in clearing 7 acres of virgin forest. He wrote to his father as follows: ". . . When I had chopped as much as I judged prudent, I employed my hands in making roads and bridges and in surveying townships. I have cut out 16 miles of roads, dug and bridged where necessary; one bridge I built 12 feet high and covered 80 feet long . . ." At first glance it would seem that here was a direct mention of a very early covered bridge. But consider the times - 1787 a clearing in the wilderness, six men working to clear all they could and get a log house or two up before winter. Would they take the time to build a covered bridge? It seems very unlikely. "12 feet high and covered (no comma) 80 feet long." It is our conjecture that what Jonathan Arnold meant in his father's letter was that one bridge which he had built was 12 feet above the water, and covered a *distance* of 80 feet.

That's all we have. The bridges that Charles Wilson Peale knew of in 1797 are still shrouded in the mists of mystery. Until one of them emerges, clear-cut, with a quotation from a reliable publication of the time, we will call Timothy Palmer's "Permanent Bridge" at Philadelphia the First Covered Bridge in America. – RSA

[*Taken from the Summer, 1953 Covered Bridge Topics newsletter, with the permission of the NSPCB. Richard Sanders Allen was founding editor of TOPICS and later served as Editorial Consultant. Mr. Allen, dean of covered bridge writers, retired to Idaho where he currently resides - JCN]

Covered Bridge Community News Notes

Bridgeton Covered Bridge Association Starts Fund

May 3, 2005 - Bridgeton, Indiana - The Bridgeton Covered Bridge Association has opened a Bridge Replacement Fund at the Old National Bank in Rockville. Anyone interested in assisting the people of Bridgeton with the bridge building/fund-raising task is welcome. To donate to the new historically correct bridge, the address is: Old National Bank, P.O. Box 167, Rockville, IN 47872. Checks should be made to: Bridgeton Covered Bridge Association Bridge Replacement Fund. For the continuing story go to the Parke County Website: <http://www.coveredbridges.com/home.htm>



Bridgeton Covered Bridge fire. Photo by Cathy Harkrider May 28, 2005

Bridgeton Covered Bridge Burned, Arson Indicated

April 28, 2005 - Bridgeton, Indiana - According to Tribune-Star Reporter Patricia Pastore the fire started at about 12:20 a.m. and the bridge was fully engulfed when the fire department arrived shortly after getting the call. Early reports indicate arson was the cause. The Parke County Sheriff's Department announced that it had a suspect in custody. The World Guide to Covered Bridges published by the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges describes the Bridgeton Covered Bridge, WGN 14-61-04, as 245-foot span long built in 1868 using the Burr Truss to cross the Big Raccoon Creek in two spans.



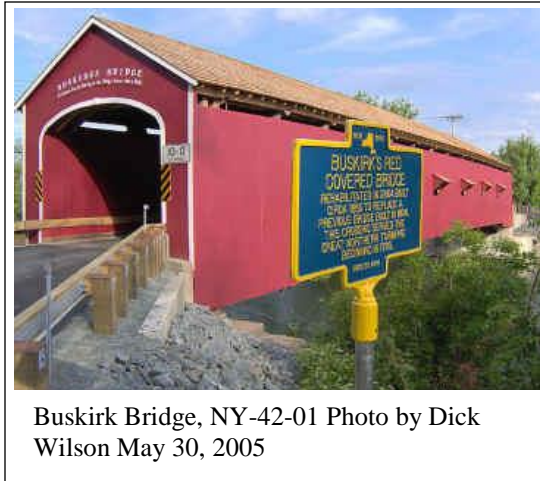
Bridgeton CB (14-61-04) in 1966. Photo by Margaret Poetker

Buskirk Bridge Update

June 2, 2005, Buskirk, NY - Joe, To keep you updated on the Buskirk Covered bridge, the bridge is now completed and open to all traffic. Here are some pictures taken on Memorial Day weekend. No one was around to talk to, so I do not know at this time if there will be an official opening.

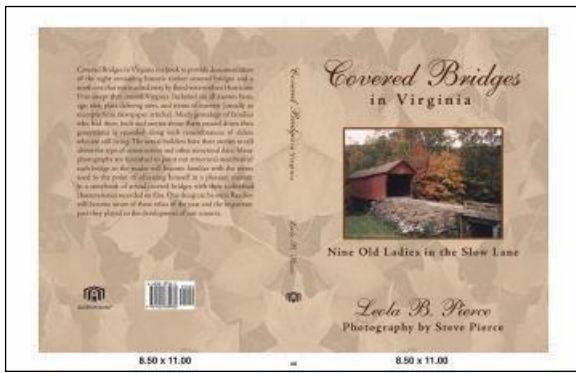
The repaired bridge looks just like the old Buskirk Bridge and a traditional floor was put in instead of the laminated floor. I was sure happy to see that. I will let you know when I find out more information.

Dick Wilson



Buskirk Bridge, NY-42-01 Photo by Dick Wilson May 30, 2005

Leola B. Pierce Has a New Book



COVERED BRIDGES IN VIRGINIA
 Nine Old Ladies in the Slow Lane
 by Leola B. Pierce
 ISBN # 1-4208-3998-5
 Can be ordered at www.authorhouse.com
 Go to Book Store
 Go to Search
 Enter Leola B. Pierce
 Toll free book order dept:
 1-888-280-7715
 Price \$74.25 plus 5% Hst \$5.75 one copy,
 \$6.75 two copies

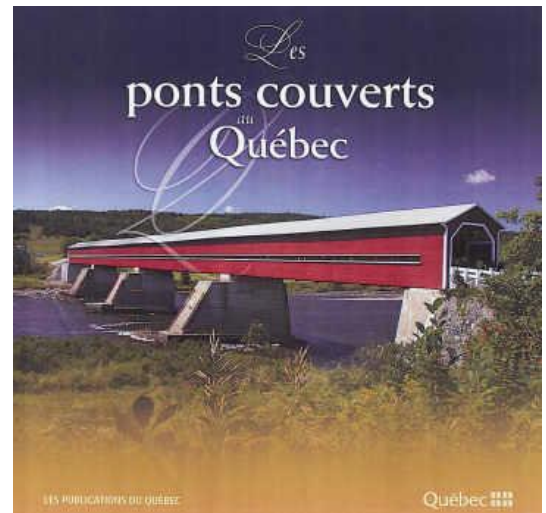
Quebec's Covered Bridge Book

Now available! *Les ponts couverts au Québec*, the first complete book about wooden covered bridges in Quebec. 216 pages, hard cover, over 200 pictures, black & white and color. Many never seen. Maps, data and pictures for all historic existing bridges.

Most of the book was written by Gerald Arbour, former President of Quebec's Covered Bridge Society (SQPC), one chapter written by Jean Lefrançois, a DOT officer. This book is a Quebec's Department of Transportation project. Edited by the Government printer.

How to order:

- Bookstore: Renaud-Bray, in Montreal. English spoken.
- Toll free number: 1-888-746-2283 ext.227.
- Payment: credit cards only.
- Delivery: ± 15 days.
- Price: \$34.95can. No taxes.
- Shipping: \$7 can. + \$2 for each additional book, no matter the weight.
- ISBN: 2-551-19636-1. This number refers to the exact title of the book. You'll avoid many questions by using this number.





Dear Mr. Meyer-Usteri:

A friend has shared his photo tour of Switzerland with us for posting on www.vermontbridges.com. Because he and his wife took many of their photos of the covered bridges through the window of a railroad coach, the identity of [some of] those bridges is in doubt. We would be grateful to you if you would view the article "Touring Switzerland with the Keatings," and name the bridges for us.

Yours in bridging,
Joe Nelson

Commentary on Touring Switzerland with the Keatings
by Konrad Meyer-Usteri, Switzerland.

Dear Joe: I worked through the Keating's report about their "Touring in Switzerland". It is amazing what they all have visited in only two weeks. Especially I am surprised about the hike deep in the Emmental, where they have also seen many milk-cows for the Emmental cheese and of course could "touch" excellent examples of Swiss covered bridges.

Out from the train in the Simmental some CB's are mixed up and it is not easy to put the photo and the right name together. I hope. . .you can open and make use of [my attachment] with some of my photos.

On the way up to Zermatt Mrs. Keating got a rare glimpse of the Hohsteg-Bridge, not in the World Guide, through an avalanch-gallery 2 miles north of Zermatt in the direction of Täsch-Visp. In 1985 this C.B. was rebuilt for pedestrians (Wanderweg) with two glued-laminated girders.

On the way back to Interlaken the 1st photo shows S- 06-27, the **Rüdlebrügg** the 2nd photo S-06-28 the humpback called **Schützenbrücke**, both in the community/location of Reichenbach on the river Kander.

Two very nice photos show in Eggwil the **Dörflibrücke** across the Roethenbach, with nr. S-06-62 built in 1985 in completely new technique instead of the old bridge of 1885. S-06-17, Eggwil, Emme,

Dieboldswilbrücke, built in 1887, reinforced by two arches in 1979.

S-06-14 Signau/Schüpbach, Emme, **Bubeneibrücke**, 165' long, built in 1988 our 2nd and last example of new wooden bridge in new technique but in the historic form with roof; it did cost us just 55% more than the same bridge in concrete. The next, new wooden bridges have new forms.

S-06-16 Eggwil Emme **Horbenbrücke** posted for 32t = 70,000lbs, 147' 1834, but reinforced 1990, the inside shows the skillful timber work. The Keatings missed two well preserved bridges, of which I give pictures below, the last one is in very bad shape, and a new wooden bridge will be built, as soon the court "puts the lights on green".

S-06-09 Signau Emme **Schüpbachbrücke**, posted 28t= 62,000lb, 175' built 1839 and several times reinforced, it will keep the full load of today for many years (old nr.10).

Not yet in the World Guide: We moved the old Bubeneibrücke built in 1838 2 miles down the Emme and rebuilt it in 1991. It has 1 span, long 132'; still used for pedestrians and bikes. It is called now

Brunnmattbrücke on the Emme in the communities Signau and Lauperswil

Yours in bridging,
Konrad

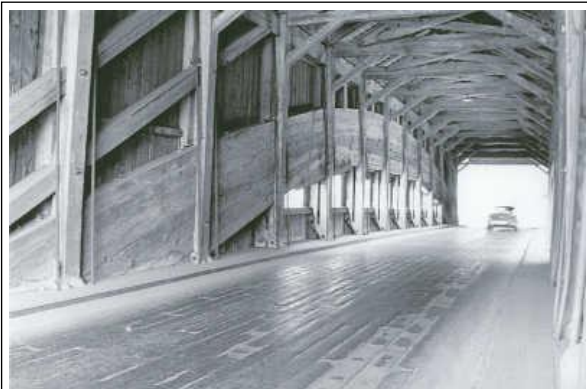
[For more on the Keatings trip and the rest of the pictures go to the VCBS website: www.vermontbridges.com.
Ed.]



Dieboldswibrücke S-06-17.
Photo by Konrad Meyer-Usteri



Horbenbrücke S-06-16.
Photo by Konrad Meyer-Usteri



Schüpbachbrücke S-06-09.
Photo by Konrad Meyer-Usteri



Brunnmattbrücke [no number].
Photo by Konrad Meyer-Usteri

A Note from Richard Sanders Allen

Dear Friends of VCBS:

I continue to be pleased that you keep me informed of the world of covered bridges, via **THE BRIDGER**. Especially liked to see a picture and write-up on the Winooski St. Bridge in Waterbury. That was entirely “new-to-me”.

The Swiss pix and info was also nice to know about.
Thanks much for your informative sharing of c.b. data.

Best wishes for all your endeavors,
Richard Sanders Allen

Old Pompy

June 4, 2002 - Just a Note. My family owned a home near Norwich VT on Pompanoosuc River. There was an old abutment for a bridge that spanned the river just before it joined the Connecticut River, I was always curious regarding the history of this bridge. I could never uncover any information about this structure.

Do you have any suggestions regarding where I might find such information?

Regards, Tim Ullrich

June 6, 2002 - Pompanoosuc Village Bridge

Dear Mr. Ullrich: In 1962 a small book entitled "Rare Old Covered Bridges of Windsor County (Vermont)" was written by Richard Sanders Allen, one of the foremost authorities on covered bridges. On page 21 of the above title is information on the Pompanoosuc Village Bridge, World Guide Number 45-14-67. I quote from this book: "Drowned out . . . the subject of thousands of photographs, was the big bridge on U.S. 5 at Pompanoosuc village. This long span was a valley landmark for nearly a century. Pompanoosuc Bridge was built in 1866 by Bela J. Fletcher of Claremont, New Hampshire, who received \$9,913.35 "For work done." Describes as "a practical bridge builder and general carpenter," Fletcher is thought to have had a hand in the building of similar bridges over the Connecticut at Fairlee-Orford and Lewiston-Hanover. He collaborated with James F. Tasker on the Windsor-Cornish Bridge and, being fifteen years older, may well have taught the latter a great deal of trade.

Pompanoosuc Bridge used a new system of lattice which Fletcher may have thought up himself, adapting the original Town "mode." The lattices were square timbers instead of usual planks, pinned together with iron bolts held by nuts and washers.

Even after U.S. 5 was changed in 1937 to a new crossing further downstream, Pompanoosuc Bridge continued to be used until nearly flooded out. Considered a menace when left only just a bit above the level of waters resulting from the new Wilder Dam, it was razed in 1954."

I hope that this helps out a bit.

Dick Roy, Historian, National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges

[This article taken from Vermont Bridges Dot Com - Letters. - Ed.]



Pompanoosuc Village Bridge [45-14-67]
Razed in 1954. From old postcard.



by Trish Kane, Membership Coordinator

Spring has arrived so put away those winter coats and boots, grab your cameras and go bridging! Spring is a wonderful time to photograph our bridges. So many of our bridges have so much brush around them that springtime is a great opportunity to see our bridges in their entire splendor. The budding trees help add a little color to the photograph without covering up the bridge itself, so take advantage of this great time of year.

Please join me in welcoming the following new members to our Society: Beverly Delaney from Cleveland, OH; Mary Fearon from Lyndonville, VT; Thomas Hildreth from Chester, VT, Richard Howrigan from Jeffersonville, VT and the East Montpelier Historical Society. A warm Vermont welcome to each of you!

Email update

Don't forget to send me your new or updated email address. Email is an effective way for us to communicate with our members and saves the society money on postage. Please know that your email address will not be shared with anyone and will only be used for official VCBS business. So please, if you don't mind sharing your email address with us, send it along to: **bobtrish68@frontiernet.net**. *Please be sure to put VCBS in the subject line.*

Yours in Bridging,
Trish Kane Membership Coordinator

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Please note: If you would like your birthday or anniversary listed, please send me an email with the dates.

June

4	Charlie Elflein
9	Carleton Corby
10	Fred & Linda Spink
14	Dick & June Roy
20	Joanne Billie
24	Dick & Jeanette Wilson
28	Bob Kane

July

1	Melvin & Judith Marolewski
5	Bill & Ada Jeffrey
11	Charles & Evelyn Lovastik
11	Francis Converse
20	Bob & Trish Kane
22	June Roy
22	Lou Zabbia
28	Raymond Gendron
28	Richard Roy

August

2	Conrad Nagengast
5	Joe Nelson
8	Ray & Dolores Gendron
8	Evelyn Lovastik
23	Kathy Ramsey
25	Jim and Linda Crouse
28	Ed & Irene Barna
29	Melvin Marolewski
30	Ada Jeffrey
30	Henry Messing

Our Kathy Ramsey has been ill and despite this, she hosted our Spring Meeting, held May 7 in Lyndon. Let us thank her for her good work and send her our wishes that she get well soon: P.O. Box 795, Lyndonville, VT 05851.



PREZ SEZ

Our Spring Meeting was a success in more ways than one: Most of our regulars were there making it a meeting of old friends; Our speaker Bill Caswell gave us a most professional and very interesting show and tell; and the old fashioned Vermont style Chicken and Biscuit dinner was superb. Our thanks to Kathy Ramsey who did a great job hosting our meeting and our thanks to the folks of the Lyndon Corners Grange for their excellent

hospitality. We also owe thanks to Mike Gaito of VANPO for arranging for us to borrow the digital projector used by our speaker.

The only thing that could make our meetings better would be for some of you folks who have yet to attend join us at our revels—we are a friendly bunch. Our Annual Fall Meeting will be hosted by Neil Daniels in the Weathersfield area, probably sometime in October. Time and place will be announced in the fall newsletter. Weathersfield is rich in covered bridge tradition and I, for one, am looking forward to enjoying it.

Speaking of our speaker, Bill Caswell, he and his traveling show will be featured at our booth at the Vermont Historical Society Expo in Tunbridge June 25 and 26. If you want to know what his show is like, check it out at www.lostbridges.org.

The Windsor Tollhouse Committee met at the Toll House in Windsor May 21. As you know from past newsletters, the owner, Sue Richardson, wants to turn the building into a museum featuring 19th century architecture, joinery, and covered bridges. Sue has been looking for a sponsor and with the help of Neil Daniels, she has found one. She is currently going for a grant of \$300,000 from the 2006 Enhancements Program managed by the Vermont Agency of Transportation. The VCBS has pledged to support the museum by helping to provide educational material about covered bridges. There will be more information about the project as the situation develops.

I am yours in Bridging,
Joe Nelson, President, VCBS

Oops! In the last **Prez Sez**, a line should have read "*When we met in September 2000, our host was Jim Fearon . . .*" We regret any confusion the typo may have caused.

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