

The Bridger



The Vermont Covered Bridge Society Newsletter – Summer 2016

Issue #65

Events

Brown Bridge Dedication, July 5, 2016

Rehabilitation of the Brown Bridge in Shrewsbury, Vermont, is complete. Built by Nichols Powers in 1880, this Town lattice truss covered bridge was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2014.

A dedication ceremony will take place at the bridge on July 5, 2016, from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Please show your support for historic preservation by planning to attend the event. Dignitaries scheduled to attend include Governor Peter Shumlin, U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy, Vermont Commerce Secretary Patricia Moulton and others.

Photo provided by Devin Colman, Vermont State Architectural Historian.



Vermont History Expo 2016, June 18 & 19, 2016

The location and date for the fall meeting was discussed by the attendees of the Spring Meeting held in Jeffersonville last Saturday, May 21. Also discussed was whether the Society should continue to have spring and Fall meetings each year. The attendees selected Jeffersonville as the next meeting place, at the Visions of Vermont art gallery. It was understood that the questions discussed would be taken up by a meeting of the VCBS Board of Directors.

For details of the discussion, please go to the spring meeting minutes in this issue.

Vermont History Expo 2016, to be held on the weekend of June 18 & 19, Celebrates *The Power of Water in Vermont History*. The VCBS booth staffing is complete, and our display celebrating the role of waterpower is under construction.

If anyone has an artifact or curio celebrating waterpower, or our covered bridges that should be part of the display, please contact Joe Nelson at jnelson@together.net.

Hyde Hall Covered Bridge Celebration – Save the Date!

As many of you know, a lot has happened at the Hyde Hall Covered Bridge in the last 4 years and a celebration is being planned for Sunday, July 17, 2016 at 2 pm to commemorate these exciting changes. This event will take place right at the bridge and is being sponsored by NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Friends of Glimmerglass, Hyde Hall and the New York State Covered Bridge Society. During the event, we will be unveiling the beautiful new Interpretive Sign. Attendees will also have an opportunity to tour the historic Hyde Hall Mansion.

If you have any questions or would like to assist, please don't hesitate to contact Trish Kane at: 607-674-9656 or via email: bobtrish68@frontiernet.net.



For the first time in my memory we do not have a fall meeting planned. Our next membership meeting is scheduled for April 2017.

The original intent of VCBS, supported by our Constitution and By-Laws, was for a spring business meeting for all members, usually with a guest speaker and if feasible tours of the covered bridges in the immediate area. The fall meeting was considered to be more of a social meeting with only minimal business, guest speaker and lunch (or dinner), and bridge tours.

The Events Committee has the responsibility of arranging the meetings. At this time the Events Committee is non-functioning, therefore there is no one to make the necessary arrangements. Many of our committees at this time are non- or only marginally functioning. There is no magic genie that will arrange functions, do research on our bridges, write articles for the Bridger, etc. etc.

Like any organization, the Vermont Covered Bridge Society can be no more than what its members make it. Obviously we need more members, more younger members, more members willing to take a leadership role in the Society.

Bill Carroll, President, VCBS



Spring Meeting, 2016, Photo by Joe Nelson



Longley Bridge
WGN 45-06-08
Montgomery, Vermont

The Longley Covered Bridge was built in 1863 by the Jewett Brothers and is located at the intersection of Longley Bridge Road and VT Route 118. The bridge is an 84'-0" long single span Town Lattice Truss, which spans the Trout River near the northwestern boundary of the Town of Montgomery with the Town of Enosburgh. Several serious structural deficiencies were observed during a routine bridge inspection by Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) personnel in 2010. As a result of the inspection findings, the bridge was posted shortly thereafter for no trucks and a gross weight of 3 tons. The bridge remained opened to traffic until early fall of 2011 when its deteriorated condition prompted the Town to close it to all traffic. Vehicular traffic was bypassed at a temporary prefabricated steel truss type bridge (Acrow Bridge), which was erected downstream of the existing covered bridge. Rehabilitation plans will be approved in upcoming months by VTrans and include the preservation of the original design of the Town Lattice Truss by replacing the trusses in-kind to support a 20-ton design vehicle, installing new floor and lower lateral bracing system, retaining the majority of the roof framing and upper lateral bracing, substructure repairs, application of fire retardant, insecticide and fungicide coatings and installation of new approach timber railing. The project is scheduled to start construction in early winter of 2016 and is anticipated to be completed by early fall of the following year.



(Courtesy Josif Bicja, Hoyle Tanner & Associates, Photo by Bill Caswell)



Send news of Vermont covered bridges to editor Bill Caswell at 535 2nd NH Tpke, Hillsboro, NH 03244 or email at wscaswell@yahoo.com.

Green River Bridge
WGN 45-13-04
Guilford, Vermont

Structural problems were discovered in the west abutment of the Green River Bridge during wingwall repairs in 2014. Additional repairs designed by Hoyle, Tanner Assoc. will be made by Wright Construction in the summer of 2016.

The repairs include straightening the structure, new floor deck, replacement of some floor beams, replacing 1 piece of lower chord, 2 sister lattice installations and some other minor structural repairs. Also new standing seam roof to replace the existing asphalt shingle roof. The Green River Bridge is a 104 foot long Town truss built in 1870.

The project is scheduled to begin on May 23 although the bridge will remain open until school closes for the summer on June 20. The bridge must be re-opened to traffic by August 27.



(Courtesy Joe Poston, Wright Construction and Town of Guilford, VT, Website, Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell)

Bowers Bridge
WGN 45-14-11
West Windsor, Vermont

The West Windsor Selectboard is considering closing Bowers Bridge to vehicle traffic after a number of incidents involving oversized and overweight vehicles. The Board will visit the bridge on May 4th.

After being washed away during Tropical Storm Irene in 2011, the bridge was repaired and reopened in the summer of 2012. Within a year it suffered from a broken lower chord caused by a town road grader. An oil delivery truck damaged floor joists.

A façade was installed at the portals restricting the height to eight feet. It has been damaged and repaired numerous times after being struck by over height vehicles. The latest damage occurring in early April cost about \$800 to repair and will be covered by the truck driver's insurance.



(Valley News, April 28, 2016, Photo: Bill & Jenn Caswell)

Seguin Bridge, WGN 45-04-02, Charlotte, Vermont

The Seguin Bridge will receive some repairs this summer. The work will include new top chords, flooring and floor beams. The contractor will also apply insecticide/fungicide and fire-retardant coatings. Blow & Cote, Inc. of Morrisville, VT, was the low bidder at \$431,048.00. Work is expected to begin in mid-June and is to be completed by November.

Dingleton Bridge, WGN 29-10-02, Cornish, New Hampshire

Last quarter we reported that the was damaged when a school bus exceeding both height and weight capacities of the bridge, passed through on Saturday, February 20. Your editor visited the bridge on May 19 and found that the damage has been repaired.

Vermont Covered Bridge Society
Seventeenth Annual Spring Meeting, Jeffersonville, Vermont
 Saturday, May 21, 2016

The Seventeenth Annual Spring meeting of the Vermont Covered Bridge Society was held in The Visions of Vermont Fine Arts Gallery in Jeffersonville, Vermont on Saturday, May 21, 2016.

Twelve people were in attendance when President Bill Carroll called the meeting to order at 10:25am.

Minutes of the Annual Fall meeting of the Vermont Covered Bridge Society held at the Smuggler's Notch Resort in Jeffersonville, VT on Oct. 3, 2015 were not read as they appear in *The Vermont Covered Bridge Society Newsletter - Winter 2015*.

However, the correction was brought forward by the Secretary, Irene Barna, that the meeting was actually the Sixteenth Annual Fall Meeting of the VCBS. Documentation of meeting sites by town as well as by date was available to verify.

The minutes of the Annual Fall Meeting of 2015 were changed from *15th Anniversary Meeting* to the read: *Sixteenth Annual Fall Meeting*. There was no request for a vote on the acceptance of the correction.

Treasurer's Report

Neil Daniels reported the following for the period: *January 01, 2015 -- December 31, 2015*

INCOME

Donations.....	\$629.00
Dues.....	785.00
Events.....	950.00
Sales	<u>104.00</u>
Total income.....	\$2,468.00

EXPENSES

Communications	\$439.00
Events.....	1,999.00
Legislation.....	0.00
Membership	30.00
Office.....	114.00
Publicity	552.00
Total expense.....	\$3,134.00

LOSS\$666.00

BALANCE SHEET

Union Bank Checking 01-01-15	\$5,891.00
12-21-15	4,923.00
Change in account LOSS.....	\$968.00

SAVE-A-BRIDGE FUND

Value 01-01-15	\$7,193.00
Value 12-31-15	\$7,193.00
Balance is cash in Siebert Account.	

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Wendy Payson

In her absence, Wendy's report was read by Joe Nelson:

It is the season for long, winding road trips. Hopefully you'll find some time this summer to take in a couple of covered bridges as you're out exploring our beautiful countryside.

At VCBS we fully believe in the preservation of these beautiful historic structures and we're glad to be one of the organizations that support this preservation.

Please help us grow our membership. Spread the word about VCBS and why it's important to you and to our communities. Invite your family and friends to be a part. Mention us on social media and encourage people to check out our website and join our Facebook page. Perhaps you could even post a photo or two that you've taken of a Vermont covered bridge on the VCS Facebook page. Let's get the word out about VCBS.

It's never too late to renew your membership. If by chance you've forgotten, simply make your check payable to VCBS and mail it to: P. O. Box 267, Jericho, VT 05465-0267. If you are not a member, please consider joining us by visiting www.vermontbridges.com

If you'd like to help with membership activities, or if you have and questions for me, I can be reached at wpayson@gmail.com

Historical Committee: Bill Carroll -- no report

Communications Joe Nelson reports:

An editor is needed for *The Bridger* The duties include collecting articles for *The Bridger* four times per year, merging them into PDF format, and forwarding that to the Communications Committee for printing and distribution. The current editor will train. Vermont residency is not a requirement.

Steve Miyamoto, our web site guru is looking into modernizing and reorganizing our website to become www.vermontbridges.org rather than www.vermontbridges.com. "While this change is under construction, I plan to discuss with the VCBS Board of Directors about my surrendering my ownership of the website to the Society." reported Joe.

Steve mentioned that information can be posted on the new VCBS web site about bridge size and weight restrictions.

Sandy Herligh raised an issue in reference to the website upgrade such as implementing a site tally. She suggested Survey Monkey.

Dan Monger wondered why people are not visiting the web site. He asked if a new marketing approach was needed.

Bridge Watch

Irene Barna reported of recent upgrading of lighting in the Pulp Mill Bridge in Middlebury/Weybridge.

Archives

Several newspaper articles were given to Bill Carroll for their recording in the Archives. It was mentioned that GPS gives no mention of clearances -- resulting in damage to some bridges as drivers simply follow the GPS route and ignore the fact, and not think, that to attempt to drive through a covered bridge their vehicle dimensions will damage the bridge.

Bill Carroll mentioned the recently published book by the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) Covered Bridges and the Birth of American Engineering. HAER sent a complimentary copy of the book to each of the officers of the VCBS. Bill plans donate his copy to the VCBS Library for anyone to borrow. (Refer to the website to access the VCBS lending library)

OLD BUSINESS No old business to report

NEW BUSINESS

The Vermont History Expo 2016 will be held on June 18 and 19 in Tunbridge, VT. The staffing schedule was presented and new member Dan Monger stepped forward to fill the one remaining open spot. (A list of all of the Exhibitors as well as of the Presenters and the topics was available.)

Ruth Nelson suggested that some of the prints available at the Art Gallery hosting the meeting be available for sale at the VCBS booth at the EXPO as 100% of the profit would go to the VCBS.

Those present expressed concern for fellow board member, Johnny Esau, who is facing upcoming medical procedures in Boston. He was wished a successful recovery.

State funding: As a new member, Dan Monger asks if there is state funding is available to VCBS for bridge repairs – VAOT ought to know that there are interested people who care about their preservation and importance to the State of Vermont. It was then mentioned that VTRAN does have a Covered Bridge Committee on which VCBS does have a seat. Joe Nelson is usually the member in attendance. Warren Tripp, a VCBS member serves on that committee.

Discussion to have only one or stay with two meetings of the Vermont Covered Bridge Society per year:

Terry Shaw put forth a motion to have the Annual Spring meeting a membership meeting. Joe Nelson seconded. Not all present voted and two opposed the motion.

Joe mentions that, historically there was to have been one business meeting; but there would be smaller social meetings all over the state

It was then discussed that the fall meeting be a social meeting and the spring meeting be the business meeting. Terry Shaw thinks only one business meeting is necessary -- second meeting being social aka membership-driven.

Amended to continue for Board of Directors as is -
- Neil Daniels suggested an elaboration on the amendment to read 'one business meeting only'.

Vote on the discussion: Spring meeting only - 7
Both a spring and a fall meeting - 4

Tentatively the next meeting will be at this same site in Jeffersonville, VT at the Visions of Vermont Fine Arts Gallery in Jeffersonville on April 15, 2017. (Stay tuned)

The Board of Directors will take up the subject. Voting will take place either by e-mail or via phone. (Five members of the Board of Directors were present)

Adjournment 11:25. Terry Shaw moves Joe Nelson Seconds.

The presentation for the morning was by Laura Trieschmann, Vermont's State Historic Preservation officer. Laura who had been the speaker at the Fall meeting at the Smuggler's Notch Resort further elaborated at today's meeting on the status of the State support for covered bridges, answering several questions from those in attendance.

A question was asked as to why some towns are deferring maintenance of their covered bridge and why the state is not interceding.

One of the aspects of her official position is to influence further marketing of the covered bridges in the context of their importance to the economy of the state. The Historical Markers Program intends to place the recognizable large free-standing historic markers at all of the bridges that are officially listed as Historic Sites.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene R. Barna, Secretary

Historical Committee Report

Membership

The following items were received from Irene Barna for inclusion in the VCBS archives: Paper Mill Village Bridge, Bennington, 45-02-03. Illustrated article concerning removal of the dam by the bridge. *Perspective*, insert in *Rutland Daily Herald*, November 11, 2015.

Sanderson Bridge, Brandon, 45-11-02 #2. Illustrated article relating to snowplow and truck damage to the bridge. *The Reporter*, March 23, 2016.

Pulp Mill Bridge, Middlebury/Weymouth, 45-01-04. Two computer printouts of photographs of the bridge taken during the 2012 restoration. *Google maps*.

Dingleton Bridge, Cornish, Sullivan Co. N.H., 24-10-02. Illustrated article about the damage caused by an overheight and overweight school bus crossing the bridge. The school bus was carrying students from a school in the Rutland Vt. area for a sporting event and had gotten lost.

Many thanks to Irene for saving these materials for our archives. We ask our membership to save any clippings or other documents relating to covered bridges, and send them either to Bill Carroll as Chairman of the Historical Committee or to Joe Nelson.

It's the season for long winding road trips. Hopefully you'll find some time this summer to take in a couple of covered bridges as you're out exploring our beautiful countryside.

At VCBS, we fully believe in the preservation of these beautiful historic structures, and we're glad to be one of the organizations that supports this preservation. Please help us grow our membership. Spread the word about VCBS and why it's important to you and to our communities. Invite your family and friends to be a part. Mention us on social media and encourage people to check out our website and join our Facebook page. Perhaps you could even post a photo or two that you've taken of a Vermont covered bridge on the VCBS Facebook page. Let's get the word out about VCBS.

It's never too late to renew your membership. If by chance you've forgotten, simply make your check payable to VCBS and mail it to P.O. Box 267, Jericho, VT 05465-0267. If you are not yet a member, please consider joining us by visiting www.vermontbridges.com. All are welcome!

If you'd like to help with membership activities, or if you have any questions for me, I can be reached at wpayson@gmail.com.

Wendy Payson

Happy Birthday and Anniversary to:

June

04 Charlie Elflein
07 Carolyn Clapper
10 Ron & Marie Bechard
14 Dick & June Roy
20 Joanne Billie
20 Mark & Jan Bramhall
27 Glen Hall
27 Terry Shaw
28 Bob Kane
30 Lionel & Debra Whiston

July

02 Dick & Kathleen Howrigan
04 Neil & Suzanne Daniels
05 Bill & Ada Jeffrey
11 Charles & Evelyn Lovastik
11 Marie Bechard
20 Bob & Trish Kane
22 June Roy
22 Lou Zabbia
28 Ray Gendron
28 Dick Roy
28 Jan Lewandoski
28 Sandra Weaver

August

01 Irene Mele
03 Joanna Titcomb
05 Joe Nelson
08 Evelyn Lovastik
08 Virginia Eckson
10 Thomas Carpenter
13 N. David Charkes
17 Euclid & Priscilla Farnham
18 Ed & Irene Barna
27 Jenn Caswell
28 Mark Bramhall
29 Ray & Dolores Gendron
30 Ada Jeffrey
30 Robert McPherson



**This message is too important not to repeat it - Again:
It's Time to Come to the Aid of Your Society.**

As you know, our society is dedicated to the promotion and preservation of Vermont's remaining covered bridges. We have committed ourselves to generating public awareness of the importance of the preservation of our covered bridges. To do this:

1. We host two meetings each year, the **Annual Spring** and **Annual Fall Meetings** throughout the state. The public is always invited to attend.
2. We publish a quarterly newsletter, **The Bridger**, to our membership, to other societies, and to persons in business, state and local government.
3. We maintain a website, www.vermontbridges.com, and a Facebook page to present ourselves, and the news and doings of the covered bridge community.
4. We have **Bridge-watch** and **Adopt-a-bridge** programs.
5. To help preserve the covered bridge heritage, the Society collects, displays and preserves covered bridge artifacts, photographs, histories, and lore.
6. The VCBS provides fellowship for covered bridge enthusiasts with dinners, fairs, picnics, and other outings held in communities all over Vermont.
7. We have a seat in Vermont Transportation Agency's Historic Bridge Committee.

We have **Standing Committees** to do our work, each committee chaired by a member of the Board of Directors. However, some of the committees are not chaired, and other committees, while chaired, have no members. Much of the work listed above gets done, but much of it is neglected due to the lack of members to carry it out. A list of our needs follow. Because over half of our members reside outside

Vermont, committee members communicate by email, phone, and letter. **None of the committee positions require residence in Vermont.**

- **Needed:** a **newsletter editor trainee** to take over the editorship of **The Bridger**, a key element in the Vermont Covered Bridge Society's mission to promote the preservation covered bridges.
- **Needed:** A volunteer to **chair the Events Committee**.
- **Needed:** A volunteer to **chair the Publicity Committee**.
- **Needed:** A recording secretary to support the Society's Secretary.
- **Needed:** Volunteer to take charge of **Covered Bridge Market Place**. The market place brings us funds to support our Save-a-bridge program.
- **Needed:** **Committee members** for the VCBS Standing Committees, i.e. Bridge Watch, Events, Historical, Membership, Communications, & Publicity.
- **Needed:** **Bridge Watchers**. If there is a covered bridge in your locale, please sign up as a bridge watcher and keep your Society informed as to events involving your bridge.
- **Needed:** **Vermont Covered Bridge clippings** from your local newspaper. Please send them to Joe Nelson, jcnelson@together.net or VCBS, P.O. Box 267, Jericho, VT 05465. He will share them with the newsletter and with the Historical Committee.

For more information or to sign up for any of these positions, please contact Joe Nelson, VP, jcnelson@together.net or Bill Carroll, President, wcarroll@crocker.com

From the Archives

Hopkins Bridge WGN 45-06-01

Hopkins Bridge was built in 1875 by the Jewett Brothers, a lattice truss bridge 90 feet in length across the Trout River in the Town of Enosburg, just a stone's throw from the Montgomery town line. The bridge was found to be unsafe in the late 1990s and was completely rebuilt in 1999.

The road through Hopkins Bridge now dead ends at a nearby farm, although the USGS quadrangle map of 1925 shows the road going through to East Enosburg (USGS Jay Peak Vt. 15' quadrangle map, surveyed 1922/1923) In the VCBS archives we have the following: color prints of Hopkins Bridge taken in 2008; color Polaroid print with notes taken in 1987; undated black and white snapshot taken ca. 1950s.

Additional information is available in published works by Joe Nelson and by Ed Barna, both members of the VCBS; and on the website of the Covered Spans of Yesteryear project, www.lostbridges.org



Above: Jenn Caswell Photo

Below: Original Bridge, Richard E. Roy Collection



Maple Street or Village Bridge WGN 45-06-02

This 57 foot long lattice truss bridge crosses Mill Brook in the Town of Fairfax, a short distance north of the center on Maple Street. The bridge was built in 1865, and is attributed to Kingsbury & Stone, builders (although this is not documented elsewhere) The bridge was washed from its abutments in the 1927 flood, and was later replaced the wrong way around, so that the bridge appears to have a slight tilt. In the VCBS archives we have the following: copies of Kodacolor prints taken in 1993; copy of a Kodacolor print taken in 2008; copy of a Polaroid print with notes taken in 1987. Additional information is available as noted above.



Bill Caswell Photo

Grand Isle County

Because of the flat terrain and the lack of any significant streams, there are no covered bridges in this County, nor are there any records that there ever were any.

Quaint Covered Bridges Typify Vermont Scene

Floods and Traffic Rapidly Erasing These Fine Relics
by Louis B. Puffer

Burlington, Vt., June 17, 1939 - Since this writer began hunting and photographing Vermont covered bridges, mostly as a hobby, some five or six years ago, he has discovered that a surprisingly large number of other people are also interested in these old structures. This is particularly true of tourists, who often seem to regard the covered bridge as one of the most characteristic element or the Vermont rural scene. Its sturdy and enduring qualities, weather-beaten though it may be, are typical of the traditional Vermont character, while its venerable appearance delights the eye. Unfortunately, our covered bridges are rapidly diminishing in number, due mostly to the ravages of floods and the demands of modern traffic.

Most of those now remaining are to be found on the back roads, where the real charm of rural Vermont can best be seen and appreciated. Formerly tourists hesitated to try the back roads for fear of getting lost, but James Taylor's campaign to have every road intersection in the State properly signed has progressed so far that they need hesitate no more. Of course those whose chief interest is covering the greatest distance in the shortest time will not care to try back roads—but they might regard covered bridges merely as obstructions to traffic anyway.

The wooden covered bridge originated in Switzerland nearly 200 years ago, but was never a popular type in Europe, and the early Swiss bridges had been destroyed before the beginning of the covered bridge era in this country. The three most noted of the early American builders were Theodore Burr of Connecticut, Timothy Palmer of Massachusetts, and Louis Wernwag of Pennsylvania. None of these, so far as I know, ever did any work in Vermont, but they built many bridges famous in their day, over the larger rivers, such as the Hudson, Connecticut, Susquehanna and Schuylkill. Burr patented in 1817, a type of framing called the Burr truss, which is exemplified in Vermont by the double track bridge built about 1845 over the Lamoille at Cambridge. Incidentally, this is, I believe, the finest remaining covered bridge in Vermont, and should by all

means be preserved—no matter what changes may be made in the highway.

None of these early designers owed anything to their Swiss predecessors, for the first American bridges were of far more efficient and refined design than those in Europe. In 1820, Ithiel Town, a well-known architect of New Haven, Connecticut, patented the so-called Town lattice truss—the familiar plank lattice, fastened together with wooden pins. Because of its ease and simplicity of construction, this immediately became a very popular type, and doubtless proved quite profitable to its inventor, who charged a royalty of one dollar per foot for the use of his design. Most of the covered bridges built in Vermont, as well as most of the ones still in use, were of this type.

Questions often asked are how many covered bridges are there in Vermont, which one is the oldest, what stream has the most over it, which town has the largest number, and why were they covered? I do not know how many are left, for they have been falling before the march of progress in large numbers recently, but the State Highway Department is conducting a census which will not only show how many but where they all are.

The oldest is probably the venerable Paper Mill Bridge over the Otter Creek just north of Middlebury, another double track structure, which is certainly well over a hundred years old, though the exact date of construction has not been definitely fixed. Another fine old one is that across the Mad river in Waitsfield village, built a year or two after the flood of 1830 had destroyed a more primitive bridge.

The stream which is spanned by the largest number of covered bridges—about 15—is Otter Creek, probably because its valley is flatter and its current more sluggish than most Vermont streams, the Otter does not rise so high nor become so wild in times of flood. And, too, the Otter is the longest river in the State.

More than a century ago Timothy Palmer advocated covering bridges in order to protect

Quaint Covered Bridges Typify Vermont Scene (continued)



the timber from the moisture, which would promote decay, and this is, of course, the reason they were covered—not to keep the sun off, nor the snow out. Indeed, in the not so far past days when winter highway traffic went on runners, it was one of the country road commissioner's jobs to "snow" the covered bridges so that the sleds could travel through. I believe that Montgomery, up in Franklin county, has more covered bridge's than any other town in the State, with at least seven still in use—some on very back roads.

Not only our own highway department, but those of several other states have taken an interest in covered bridges, and some new ones have even been built, though none in Vermont. The youngest one in this State is probably the Moseley Bridge over Stony Brook in Northfield, built 40 years ago, while the one across the Lamoyille at Cambridge Junction is only about ten years older.

Half a dozen covered rail road bridges, all but the one on the St. J. and L. C. still remain in service in Vermont, and one of them over the Missisquoi at Swanton, is the longest covered bridge in the State. Those across the Connecticut river are, of course, in New Hampshire, since the Supreme Court made the west bank of the river the state boundary.

Certainly there is nothing beautiful about a wooden covered bridge by itself, but they seem to fit the setting of trees, hills, and clear streams in which most of them are found, better than any other type of structure, and they do have an appeal to the heart that steel and concrete never can. Let us hope that the day when the last one disappears from our Vermont highways is a long way off.

[This article from The Burlington Free Press, was contributed by Rae Laitres. Many thanks to Rae. Prof. Louis B. Puffer (1886-1951) of the University of Vermont, a widely known authority on the covered bridges of Vermont, graduated from R. P. I. with the class of 1909 with a Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree.]

VCBS Lending Library: a Learning/Research Source

The Vermont Covered Bridge Society Lending Library is featuring a new book produced by the National Park Service, Historical American Engineering Record (HAER), titled *Covered Bridges and the Birth of American Engineering*, a must read by those dedicating themselves to promoting the preservation of covered bridges.

The first paragraph of the introduction spells out the purpose of this publication:

A covered bridge in a bucolic setting has become a quintessentially American image, one meant to evoke a pastoral vision of nineteenth – century America. Underneath the housing of a covered bridge, however, is a more complex story. By manipulating a basic form—the triangle—civil engineers and builders developed truss types suitable for different topographies, spans, and modes of transportation. These wood trusses were later adapted for use with metal, which generally usurped wood bridge construction in the first part of the twentieth century. This book examines the development of wood trusses and covered bridge construction, explores the function of trusses in covered bridges, and looks at the preservation and future of these distinctively American bridges.

A borrower can contact Warren Tripp who will send the book by Postal Service Media Mail. Books are returned the same way.

Librarian Warren Tripp has created a detailed book list complete with a description and critique of each book. Copies of the index are available by mail, or you may contact Joe Nelson for an electronic copy at jcnelson@together.net.

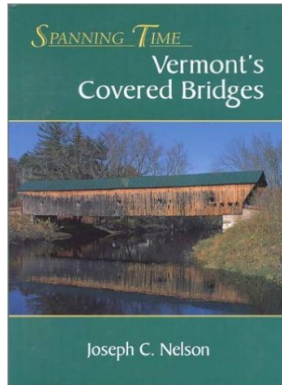
Send Warren the complete title of the book(s) you wish to borrow. He will respond with the mailing cost and mail the order when the fee is received. The borrower is then responsible to return the item(s) in a reasonable time, preferably not more than two months.

Contact Warren Tripp, P. O. Box 185, South Barre, VT, 05670, ftwbtt@yahoo.com, Phone (802) 584-3545

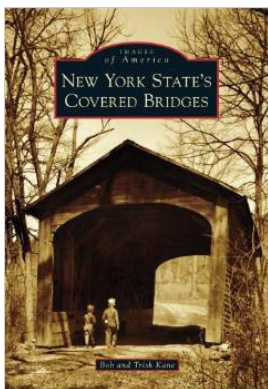
For Sale

Spanning Time: Vermont's Covered Bridges by Joseph C. Nelson features 102 color photographs of Vermont's covered bridges in fifteen chapters, each a guided tour. The tours are complete with maps, commentary on the uniqueness of each bridge, and historic highlights about the towns and villages in which the bridges stand.

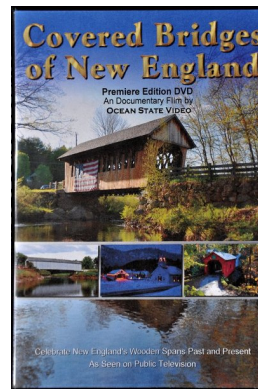
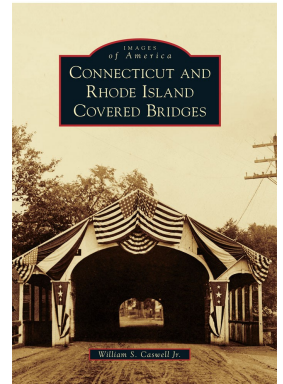
An appendix provides: A Summary of Vermont's Covered Bridges; A Covered Bridge Glossary; A Bridge Truss section, explaining how trusses work; Thumbnail biographies of people who designed and built the bridges; A Covered Bridge Reading List, for bridge and history buffs; A detailed Index. *Spanning Time: Vermont's Covered Bridges: 7" x 10", 288 pages. Published by New England Press at P.O. Box 575, Shelburne, VT 05482. Spanning Time is available directly from the author for \$39.00, free shipping. Go to: [www.vermontbridges.com/special% 20070514.htm](http://www.vermontbridges.com/special%20070514.htm). Also see: www.vermontbridges.com/bookreviews.htm.*



New York State's Covered Bridges - When one typically thinks of covered bridges, New York is not the first state to come to mind, but New York once had over 300 covered bridges. Floods, fires and progress have claimed all but 32. Readers will enjoy seeing NY's current bridges, including the oldest existing covered bridge in the U.S., the Hyde Hall Covered Bridge, located in Glimmerglass State Park, and the world's longest single-span covered bridge in the world, the Blenheim Covered Bridge, washed away by Tropical Storm Irene in 2011. This book also highlights the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Resource Center in Oxford, NY, the first ever center of its kind specifically designed for covered bridge researchers.



Connecticut and Rhode Island Covered Bridges – Price reduced! During their heyday in the mid- to late 1800s, more than 150 covered bridges dotted the landscape of Connecticut and Rhode Island. Since that time, floods, fires, and progress have claimed all but two of the historic structures. With over 200 images, this book provides insight into the covered bridge history of an area that has not been well documented in the past. To order your signed copy, send \$20.00 to Bill Caswell, 535 Second NH Turnpike, Hillsboro, NH 03244.



Covered Bridges of New England —DVD Produced by Ocean State Video of Rhode Island for Public Television. On Sale: \$20.00. Profits go to the Vermont Covered Bridge Society's Save-A-Bridge Program. For your copy send \$20.00 plus \$2.50 shipping to Joe Nelson, P.O. Box 267, Jericho, VT 05465-0267.

Coming Soon!

There will be four beautiful Eric Tobin Covered Bridge signed prints for sale in three image sizes; 10x12, 16x20 and 20x30, the profits will be shared with the VCBS. The price range will be from about \$100 to \$500 depending on size and framing.

Watch for them in The Bridger newsletter, and www.vermontbridges.com under Covered Bridge Market Place.



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