Day Tripping - August 2022

I have always had a fascination with covered bridges. Most of us are aware that Lancaster County is known for many covered bridges, but did you know that there are 19 of them in Columbia County. This is Pennsylvania's third largest concentration of covered bridges. Besides the ones in Columbia County, Montour County has two covered bridges, and four additional bridges span the divide between Columbia & Northumberland counties.

There is a brochure available that gives the tour of these bridges. You can find it on the Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau website. You can either order it by mail or there is a downloadable version available. The url for the Visitors Bureau is https://itourcolumbiamontour.com/simpleview_listing/covered-bridges-of-columbia-montour-counties/

The website also mentions a Covered Bridge Passport.Everyone who visits at least 13 bridges and checks in using the passport will be mailed a special embroidered Covered Bridge patch to commemorate your accomplishment - completely Free. And if you check in at all 25 of the bridges, you will entered to win a $750 grand prize getaway package.

All of this tour information was taken from the brochure *Covered Bridges of Columbia & Montour Counties*

Tour 1: Bridges north of I 80

Take Rt I80 west to exit 232, turn right onto SR 42 N. At the stop sign, turn left and continue on SR 42 N for 1 mile. Turn right onto Twp. Rt 493 (Covered Bridge Road) and **Wanich Bridge** is there.

Wanich Bridge was built by George Russell in 1844 at a cost of $500. The bridge was named for a farmer who resided nearby. It is located on Little Fishing Creek. Truss: Burr

Return to Rt 42 N. Travel 8 miles and bear left onto SR 442 W at Iola. After about 1 mile, turn left on Twp. Rt. 621 (Chestnut Lane). The **Shoemaker Bridge** is there.

Shoemaker Bridge was built by T.S. Christian at a cost of $322. Named for Joseph Shoemaker, a nearby farmer and lumberman. It spans the West Run which flows into Little Fishing Creek. Truss: Queenpost

From the here, turn right onto SR 442 S. Travel 1 mile and turn left back onto SR 42 N. Continue for another 1.2 miles. Turn right onto CR 4031 (Sereno Road). Continue 1.7 miles to the **Sam Eckman Bridge.**

Sam Eckman Bridge was built by Joseph Redline in 1876 for $498. The bridge was named for a prominent local businessman who operated a farm, shingle mill, and birch oil factory. He later established the Millville Creamery.. It crosses Little Fishing Creek. Truss: Queenpost

Continue on CR 4031 for 1.1 mile to a "T". Turn right. Continue on SR 4031 for .5 mile. The **Jud Christian Bridge** is on the right on Twp. Rt. 685 (Arden"s Hill Road)

Jud Christian Bridge was built by William L. Manning for $239 and named for a nearby farmer and lumberman. This bridge is in near-perfect condition: the stone and mortar abutments are solid;

the wood ribbing of the roof is uniform; the wooden pugs are still in evidence, and the wall covering is in excellent condition. It crosses Little Fishing Creek. Truss: Queenpost.

Continue on CR 4031 for .6 mile to stop sign (intersection of Sereno Road and Austin Trail). Go straight on CR 4039 (Austin Trail). In .8 mile, bear left down to **Creasyville Bridge.**

Creasyville Bridge was built in 1881 by T.S. Christian for a cost of $301.25. It is located near Iram Derr's sawmill and is thought to have first been known as the Derr bridge. It crosses Little Fishing Creek. Truss: Queenpost

Turn around and retrace route back to intersection of Sereno Road and Austin Trail. At the intersection, take the left up the hill to a stop sign. Turn right, then make a quick left. Stay on CR 4039 (Austin Trail) for approximately 4.2 miles to SR 254. Turn left at the stop sign onto SR 254 and after .3 mile, make a right turn at the stop sign onto CR 4041 (Rohrsburg Road). Proceed for .7 mile and make a right turn onto SR 456 (Utt Road). Travel another .5 mile and turn left onto Twp. Rt 572 (Turkeypath Road). Just ahead is the **Kramer Bridge.**

Kramer Bridge was built by C.W. Eves in 1881 for $414.50, named after a local farmer who also bid on its contruction. It crosses Mud Run, a tributary of Green and Fishing Creeks. Truss: Queenpost

After turning around, return to the stop sign and turn back onto Utt Road to return back to CR 4041 (Rohrsburg Road). Turn right onto CR 4041 and go 1 mile to the **Patterson Bridge.** It is located off CR 4041 on Twp. Rt. 575 (Hartman Hollow Road).

Patterson Bridge was built by Frank Derr in 1875 at the cost of $804. It was named after Patterson's sawmill, located nearby. It spans Green Creek. Green Creek flows into Fishing Creek in Orange Township. Truss: Burr

Stay on CR 4041 and continue 1.7 miles to the junction of SR 487. At the stop sign, turn left. Proceed north for about 2.9 miles. Run right onto CR 1020 at the steel gate bridge (There is a sign for the Twin Covered Bridges on the right side of the road.) and go .3 mile. You are at the **East and West Paden (Twin Covered Bridges).**

East and West Paden are the only twin covered bridges in the United States. They were constructed by Peter Ent in 1850 for $720. They were rebuilt by W.C. Pennington in 1884, and named for John Paden, who operated a nearby sawmill. They span Huntington Creek. Truss: Queenpost, Burr

Continue on CR 1020 and go 1 mile. You are at the **Josiah Hess Bridge,** located to he left and closed to traffic.

Josiah Hess Bridge was built byJoseph Redline in 1875 at the cost of $1,349.50. It was named for the Hess family, who owned a sawmill and farm nearby. It is located on Huntington Creek. Truss: Burr

Turn around, bypass Josiah Hess and the Twin Bridges to return to SR 487. Turn right on 487 N. Go 3.2 miles to the steel bridge in he village of Stillwater. Just after the steel bridge, turn right onto Lower Ravens Creek Road and take the first right. In view is the **Stillwater Bridge.**

Stillwater Bridge was built by James McHenry in 1849 for the cost of $1,124. The McHenry family was the first to settle in Stillwater and are know for their whiskey-making. They

founded the McHenry Distillery business. The bridge is located on Big Fishing Creek. Truss: Burr

Return to SR 487 and turn left onto SR 487 S. In the town of Orangeville turn left onto SR 93 S. Continue for 6.7 miles to CR 1017. Turn left on CR 1017 (Lake Road) at the Stone Church. Continue on CR 1017 and bear right at the stop sign. Proceed to the entrance of Briar Creek Park. Follow the park road until you arrive at the **Fowlersville Bridge.**

Fowlersville Bridge was built by Charles Krug in 1887 for $397 and was one of the last bridges built in the County. It was named after the Fowler family, who settled in the area after the Revolutionary War. It is on a branch of Briar Creek. Truss: Queenpost.

Retrace your steps back to Orangeville. At That will take you back to the Lightstreet Exit 236 of I80.

Tour 2: Bridges south of I 80

Take I 80 to exit 232, turn left onto SR 42 S. Travel 1.5 miles and turn left on CR 4004 and another quick left at the stop sign onto CR 4003 (Red Mill Road) and then a quick right turn onto Hunt Club Drive. The **Wagner Bridge** is here at the entrance to the Foxtail Development.

Wagner Bridge was originally located about 10 miles from its current site, but in March 1981 it was dismantled and put into storage. Then about 5 years it was rebuilt at the entrance to the Foxtail Development. It was originally 62 feet in length when it crossed the North Branch of Roaring Creek and was built in 1874 by A.J. Knoebel.

Retrace your steps to return to SR 42. Turn left and continue on SR 42 S. Follow signs to Catawisssa. Travel 1.6 miles and turn left onto CR 4001 (Rupert Drive). Travel .2 mile. Turn left onto Train Street and to the left on Reading Street is **Rupert Bridge.**

Rupert Bridge was built in 1847 by Jesse W. Beard, at a cost of $1,637. It was named for the nearby village which was settled by Leonard Rupert in 1788. Rupert established a ferry across the river and his home became a popular stop off place for travelers. It spans Fishing Creek. Truss: Burr

Return to SR 42 S and proceed through the the borough of Catawissa, (about 2.5 miles). Cross the bridge and turn left. After less than .1 mile is the intersection of Mountain Road and Schoolhouse Road. Bear left on Mountain Road. After .6 mile, **Hollingshead Bridge** will be on the left.

Hollingshead Bridge was built by Peter Ent in 1851 at a cost of $1,180. The bridge was named for Henry Hollingshead, who owned a nearby mill. It spans Catawissa Creek. Truss: Burr

Turn right onto Old Reading Road. Travel approximately 1 mile to yield sign. Turn tight onto Schoolhouse Road. Travel .5 mile back to SR 42, and turn left onto 42 S. Soon, you will come to the junction with SR 487, but stay on SR 42 S (bear left at the junction). Proceed another 3.4 miles and turn left onto CR 2001 (Ideal Park Road/Mill Road). Continue another 1.3 miles and turn left at Twp. Rt. 361 (Rarig Road). Just ahead is **Snyder's Bridge.**

Snyder's Bridge was built in 1876. The builder and cost are unknown. It is listed as being near John Snyder's grist mill and spans the North Branch of Roaring Creek. Truss: Queenpost.

Turn around and pass through the bridge once again and at the stop sign turn right onto CR 2001 (Ideal Park Road/Mill Road). Retrace your steps back to SR 42. Turn right on SR 42 N. Travel 1.0 mile and turn left onto Twp. Rt. 377 (Queen City Road). Travel through thick woods for .9 mile to arrive at the **Davis Bridge.**

Davis Bridge was built by Daniel Kostenbauder in 1875 for $1,248. In the late 1800's, a Davis who lived on a nearby farm began repairs on the bridge and gave it his name. It spans the North Branch of Roaring Creek. Truss: Burr

Continue on Twp. Rt. 377 for 1.0 mile. You will come to a "T". Bear right and make another quick right. Straight ahead is the **Esther Furnace Bridge.**

Esther Furnace Bridge was built by E.W. Eves in 1881 for $1,044.75. It is named after the Esther Furnace which was built in 1817 to smelt iron. It spans the North Branch of Roaring Creek. Truss: Queenpost

Pass through the bridge, for 0.3 mile and bear left at the "y". At the next stop sign, ross over CR 3003 and turn left onto Twp. Rt. 328 (Parr's Mill Bridge Road) to the **Parr's Mill Bridge.**

Parr's Mill Bridge was constructed by R.L. Shuman in 1866 for $1,275. In 1875 Washington Parr purchased the Willow Grove Grist Mil which was located near the bridge. It spans the North Branch of Roaring Creek. Truss: Burr

Pass through the bridge, turn around, and come back through. At the stop sign, turn left onto CR 3003. Go approximately .3 mile to the junction of SR 487 S. At the stop sign, turn left on SR 487 S. Travel 3.9 miles and turn left at the Knoebels Campground entrance (not the entrance to the park.) Proceed into the park and in .4 mile, the **Lawrence L. Knoebel Bridge** will be on your right.

Lawrence L. Knoebel Bridge is located in Knoebels Amusement Resort, connecting the park and campground. This bridge was originally built by J.J. McHenry in 1881 at a cost of $380 to span West Creek in Benton. In 1936, H.H. Knoebel purchased it and moved and rebuilt it in Knoebels Amusement Resort where it connects the park and campground. It now spans the South Branch of Roaring Creek. Truss: Queenpost

Within the park is the **Knoebels Grove Bridge.** It is located just a short walk from the Lawrence L. Knoebel Bridge past the swimming pool.

Knoebels Grove Bridge spans the South branch of Roaring Creek in Knoebels Amusement Resort. It is located 100 feet downstream from the birthplace of the resort and the original Knoebels Bridge location. Turn of the century visitors came to the park to swim in the creek and jumped from that bridge to the waters below. The bridge was rebuilt in 1975 at a cost of $10,000. The main roof beams were hand hewn in 1865 and came from the Berninger Grist Mill. The beams measure 14" x 16" and are 51 feet long. Truss: Queenpost

Use the cement bridge to get into the campground and proceed up the hill. At the top of the hill, turn left onto Campground Road. Travel 1.0 miles past the parking lot for Knoebels Park and at the next stop sign, turn right onto Twp. Rt 337 (Pine Swamp Road). Travel .5 mile and turn right onto Twp. Rt. 320 (Bethel Road). Just ahead is the **Johnson Bridge.**

Johnson Bridge was constructed by Daniel Stone in 1882 for $799. The bridge was named after Adam M. Johnson, a farmer in the area, who also owned a boot and shoe store

near the site. It spans Mugser Run, a tributary of the South Branch of Roaring Creek. Truss: Queenpost

Retrace your steps back to Campground Road. Turn left and follow 1.3 miles to **Richards Bridge,** also known as **Reichard Bridge.**

Richards Bridge was built by Obediah Campbell circa 1871 at a cost of $565. The bridge was named for John Richards, who originally owned a farm near the bridge site. It spans the South Branch of Roaring Creek. Truss: Queenpost with Kingpost.

Just before Richards Bridge, turn left onto Happy Valley Road. After .5 mile, Happy Valley Road bears left. Then, after .6 mile, bear to the right at the intersection of Happy Valley Road and Cleveland Road (Green road sign on right). Go to the stop sign and turn right. After .6 miles, **Krickbaum Bridge** is on the right on All Saints Road.

Krickbaum Bridge was built by George W. Keefer in 1876 for $732. The bridge was named for William Krickbaum, whose grist mill was once situated near the bridge site. It spans the South Branch of Roaring Creek. Truss: Queenpost

Turn around and retrace Happy Valley Road to Richards Bridge. Pass through Richards Bridge and return to SR 487. To return to Bloomsburg, follow the signs for SR 487 N.

There are 2 additional bridges in nearby Montour County. To visit these take I 80 to exit 224. Turn onto SR 54 West. Travel approximately 5 miles to traffic light in Washingtonville. At traffic light, turn left onto SR 254 West. Proceed .6 mile to Mexico Road. Turn left onto Mexico Road, for .5 mile, then turn left onto Keefer Mill Road. (You will pass a right turn for Keefer Mill Road. Do not turn.) **Keefer Bridge** will be in site.

Keefer Bridge was built by William Butler in 1853 for $498. The site was near the old Geringer's Mill. It was named after the well-known local bridge builder, George W. Keefer. It spans Chillisquaque Creek. Truss: Burr

Turn around and return to Mexico Road. At stop sign take a left onto Mexico Road, and proceed to stop sign at Follmer Road. Turn left and travel under overpass for I 80. Stay left. **Sam Wagner Bridge** is .5 mile ahead on Bridge Road.

Sam Wagner Bridge was built in 1881. This 78 foot bridge was once known as the Gottleib Brown Bridge. It crosses Chillisquaque Creek. Truss: Burr

Cross the bridge and continue on Bridge Road for Approximately 1.4 miles to stop sign. Turn left onto SR 642 East. Follow 5 miles to intersection. A left turn onto SR 54 West will take you back to I 80.