



## Road Trip to the Covered Bridges

As requested from a ComeToOxford visitor, a road trip to the covered bridges of the OASD.

The Oxford area has four covered bridges still standing. There was one West Nottingham named McCleary's Black Run Bridge, that was built in 1860, but that was destroyed by fire in 1967.

The historical information about each of the bridges is from the Chester County Tourist Bureau. The road trip is provided by this website. As every effort has been made to give you the best route, we do not accept any responsibility if you get lost. Also, some of the roads can be twisty, so please use care and drive within the speed limit.

### Start your Road Trip

This trip begins in the center of Oxford Borough, where Rt. 472 meets Rt. 10, near the firehouse. Plan about 30 miles for this trip, which may take you an hour or more to travel, especially if you stop to take photos.

Drive south on Rt. 472 until you come to Kings Row Road, about 4.5 miles from the firehouse. This road is a left hand turn and it comes at the crest of a hill. Be careful of oncoming traffic. Take a left onto Kings Row Road. Follow this road until you come to:

#### **Linton Stevens Bridge** (East Nottingham, Elk, and New London Townships).

Originally built in 1886 over Big Elk Creek by J. Denithorne & Son using the Burr Truss. The 102' span (15' wide) is in good condition, owned by Chester County, listed on the National Register, and open to vehicular traffic.

The bridge was named in honor of the local postmaster of Hickory Hill, Linton Stevens, who operated the post office of out his general store. Originally, a simple footbridge crossed the creek at this site. In 1875 an iron bridge was built, but suffered heavy damage in the 1884 flood. Two years later, the covered bridge was constructed and remains in good condition. The bridge was closed in the mid 1990's, but was reopened after a reconditioning in 1996. The flooding has eroded the road that continues beyond the bridge and it is closed to traffic. It is passable, but you do so at your own risk.

Best to turn around and drive back to Rt. 472. Take a left on Rt. 472. When Rt. 472 doglegs to the right, go straight onto Camp Bonsul Road until you come to:

#### **Rudolph & Arthur Bridge** (New London & Elk Townships).

Originally built in 1880 over Big Elk Creek by Menander Wood (woodwork) and Richard T. Meredith (stone work) for \$2,334 using the Burr Truss. The 90' span (15' wide) was repaired twice (in 1884 and 1915) after suffering serious flood damage. The bridge is in good condition, owned by Chester County and open to vehicular traffic.

Between 1850 and 1909 a large dam above the bridge supplied power to a paper mill on the east side of Elk Creek. The Rudolph family, who operated the mill, and Charles Arthur, used their considerable influence to have the County build the covered bridge here.

Drive over the bridge and continue on Camp Bonsul Road until you come to Lewisville Road. Take a right and follow this road as it becomes Rt. 841S until you come to the intersection of Rt. 472. Take a right onto Rt. 472. A little ways up the road you will see Blake Road that veers off to the left. Take Blake Road until you come to Hickory Hill/Little Elk Creek. Take a right and follow this road until you come to:

### **Glen Hope Bridge** (Elk Township)

Originally built in 1889 over Little Elk Creek by Menander Wood and George E. Jones for \$1,767 using the Burr Truss.

Steel Stringers were added to the 65' span (16' wide) after a truck (which grossly exceeded the posted weight limit) fell through the bridge deck in 1968. Significant rehabilitation work was done in 1990-91 after the bridge roof was burned. The bridge is owned by Chester County and is open to vehicular traffic.

Continue over the bridge until you come to State Road. Take a left on State Road, bearing right at the Y you will come to onto Chrome Road.

Stay on Chrome Road until you come to a 5-point intersection. Drive straight across onto Rt. 272. Slow down as you come into the town of Nottingham. Take a right onto Rt. 1 at the stop sign. Take your next left onto Forge Road, staying on Forge Road until you come to:

### **Pine Grove Bridge**

The first bridge was built here over the Octorara in 1816 (the first built between Chester & Lancaster Counties) but was destroyed by a storm. The second bridge was built in 1846, but was destroyed by ice. The present 204', two span (15' wide) structure was constructed in 1884 over the Octorara Creek by Elias McMellen for \$4,450.

This is the only two span covered bridge remaining in Chester County and was one of the longest in Chester County. The name was chosen because the nearby woods were filled with pine trees. In its early days, the bridge was very important to the stage coaches traveling along the National Highway between New York and Washington/Baltimore.

Turn around and travel back a bit until you come to Street Road on your left. Take a left and follow Street Road until it reaches Lancaster Road (Rt. 472). Take a right and Lancaster Road will take you into the center of Oxford near the Presbyterian Church.