

# The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Resource Center

Oxford, NY

Trish Kane  
Collections Curator

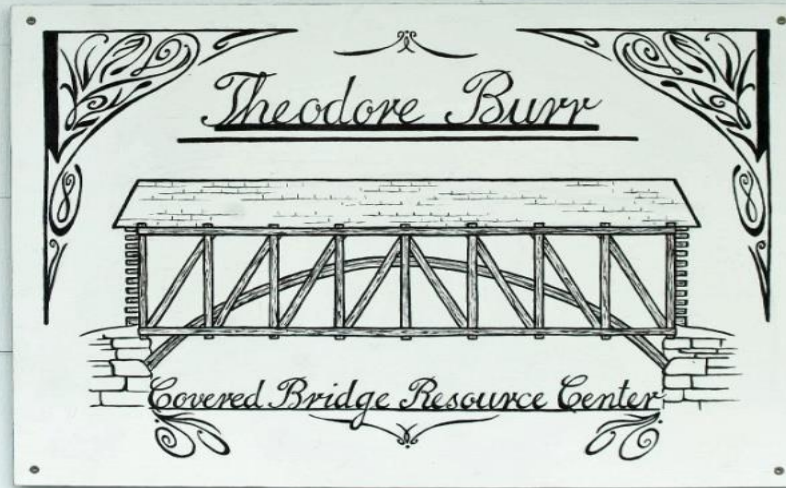


The Center is housed upstairs on the second floor in the historic Oxford Memorial Library in the picturesque village of Oxford, NY. The library is located on the site of an ancient Indian Fort on Fort Hill Park.

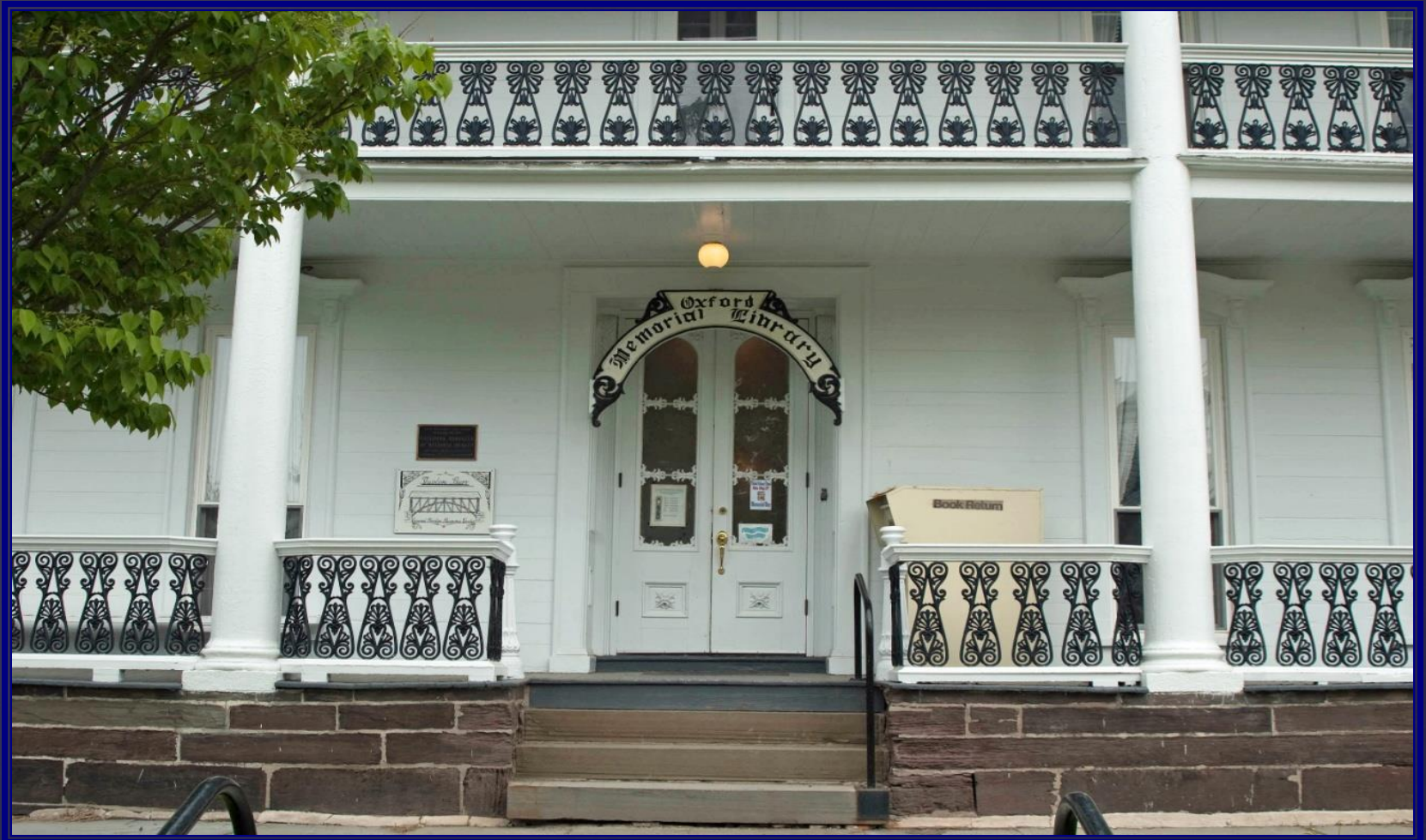
Theodore Burr, famous builder of covered bridges and inventor of the patented Burr Truss, built this Federal style house as a home for his family between 1809 and 1811 while also building the Esperance Covered Bridge across the Schoharie Creek in Esperance, NY.

This house, which is the only structure Burr built that remains in existence today, reflects the financial rewards of his reputation as a master bridge builder. This remarkable piece of architecture was listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places in 1981.

THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN  
PLACED ON THE  
NATIONAL REGISTER  
OF HISTORIC PLACES  
BY THE UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



National Register Marker



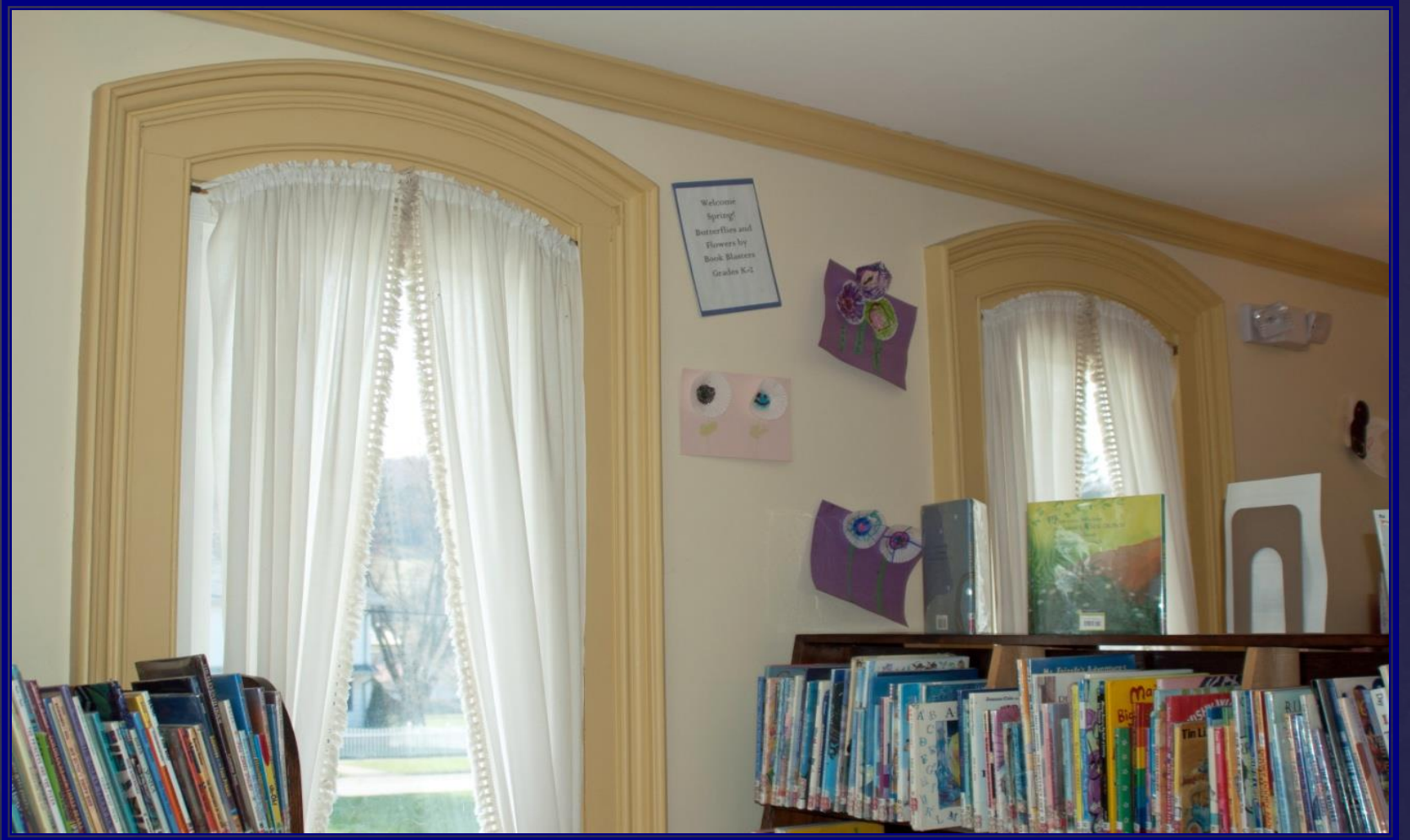
Front entrance to the Library with National Register marker on wall left of door

As you enter the Library, it pretty much looks like any typical Library. However, one of the things you might NOT notice is the number of arches over the doorways and windows. Seems that even in the building of his home, Theodore Burr had arches in mind.



Front Entrance - Lobby





Window Arches



Doorway Arches



More Arches





In addition to the arches around the Library, one of the most unique features of Burr's home is the beautiful spiral staircase. This staircase takes you up to the second floor where the Resource Center is located.



Burr's Infamous Spiral Staircase



Looking Up the Staircase





Looking Down the Staircase



Upstairs View of Staircase

The Library has adorned the upstairs hallway leading to the Center with beautiful antique furniture adding a lovely mystical charm to the house that Burr built.



Upstairs Decorated in Period Furniture



Upstairs Hallway Leading to the Center



Upstairs Hallway

Walking down the hallway to the Center, one might expect to see Mr. & Mrs. Burr sitting in these two rocking chairs, smiling and hopefully enjoying the improvements made to their former home.



Antique Rockers



The Center is dedicated to two very special individuals.

Richard T. Donovan,  
also known as Mr. Covered Bridge  
Extraordinaire,  
and Charlotte Stafford,  
former Town and Village of Oxford Historian.

Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Resource Center

In memory of Charlotte F. Stafford  
Town and Village of Oxford Historian  
and

Richard T. Donovan  
Mr. Covered Bridge Extraordinaire

When one typically thinks about covered bridge preservation, many things immediately come to mind, like truss preservation, roofing, deck replacement, wood types, and fire prevention just to name a few.

But there are actually other forms of covered bridge preservation just as important. Here are just a few examples: historical documents, newspaper clippings, photographs, slides, blue prints and covered bridge models. The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Resource Center was created just for this purpose.

Officially opening on July 2, 2011, the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Resource Center is to fans of covered bridges what Cooperstown is to baseball.

This new, completely unique research facility is available for both bridge hobbyists and serious scholars who are looking for covered bridge images (photos, post cards, or slides), or researching bridge history or hoping to view covered bridge models and other documentation on covered bridges worldwide. For covered bridge enthusiasts, just being able to sit in the house that Burr built is inspirational.

For the serious researcher, the Center has an extensive Library of over 100 covered bridge related books. Of course, we have many of the more common books by Rick Allen, Bryan Ketcham and Wayne Weber, just to name a few, but we also have a few older books by the American Society of Civil Engineers, two dating back to 1933.

Any duplicate books we receive are available for purchase with proceeds going to maintain the Center. A complete list is available on request. We are very pleased with the contents of our Library and newly published books are added on a regular basis.



# Covered Bridge Library

In addition to our Covered Bridge Library, the Center is proud to house an extensive collection of covered bridge society newsletters from every covered bridge society known to exist, both past and present. The Center also has numerous historic newspaper clippings related to covered bridges and covered bridge events.



Covered Bridge Newsletters



The National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges, as well as private individuals, have donated some wonderful, very detailed covered bridge models which are now part of our permanent collection. We hope to have a rotating display of all our models on a regular basis. What you see here are but a few examples of these models.



Covered Bridge Models

When furnishing the Center, the Library spared no expense. All the bookcases you have seen during this presentation were handcrafted by a skilled Oxford tradesman.

Both the curator's and patron's desks are made of oak and were hand crafted by local Amish craftsmen.



Curator's Desk

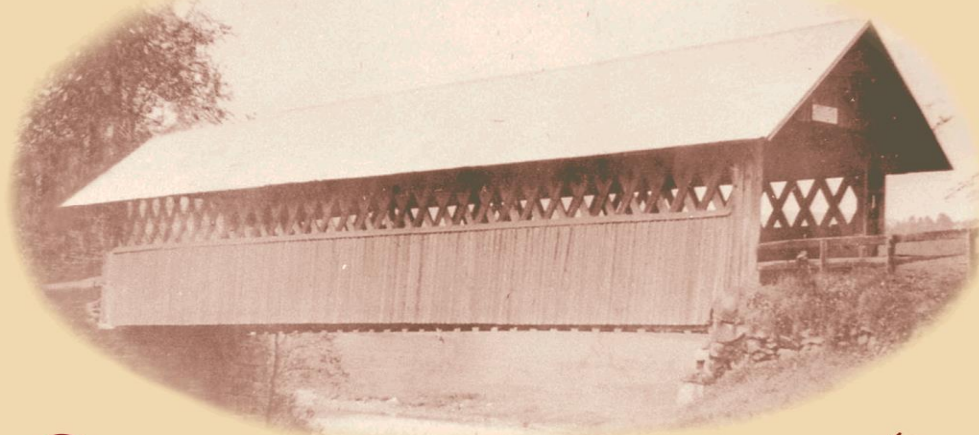


Patron's Desk

We are deeply indebted to Terry and Sarah Miller from Kent, OH for their generosity. Because of their support, we are able to provide computers, printers, and scanners necessary for the daily operation of the Center. This equipment will greatly assist the collections curator and our guests with their research endeavors. Again, we are extremely grateful for their generosity.

The Center collaborates on a regular basis with rehabilitation designers, builders, authors and other advocates by sharing information that can be found in our vast records. Resources are also shared with Covered Spans of Yesteryear via their website, [lostbridges.org](http://lostbridges.org). Many of the photographs, postcards and historical information featured on [lostbridges.org](http://lostbridges.org) are from the Center's permanent collection.

COVERED SPANS



OF YESTERYEAR

Documenting North America's  
Covered Bridges



Covered Spans of Yesteryear was founded in 2003 by Bob and Trish Kane from New York, and Bill Caswell from New Hampshire. Along the way, we have had invaluable assistance from Richard Roy and Joseph Conwill from the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges. Also, Bill Cockrell, from the Oregon Covered Bridge Society as well as numerous covered bridge enthusiasts across the country for which we are deeply indebted.

As with any Library, Historical Society or Center, such as this one, financial support is always needed. It is the goal of the Library to have the Center be totally self sustaining. In order to do that, the Center relies on the generous support of covered bridge groups and enthusiasts across the country. We welcome donations which can be designated for a specific purpose or just to maintain the day-to-day operational expenses of the Center.

For more information on ways you can  
support the Center, contact Trish Kane,  
Collections Curator at:

Trish Kane  
167 Williams Rd.  
Sherburne, NY 13460  
607-674-9656

[bobtrish68@frontiernet.net](mailto:bobtrish68@frontiernet.net)