

## District 13-E Covered Bridge Pins – A Little History/A Little Info!

Ohio Lions District 13-E has 11 covered bridge pins as of August 2011. The following is a little information on the series.

This pin series was started by Lion Dick Palsgrove of the Piqua Lions Club. Lion Dick and his wife, Lion Cynthia, traveled the area photographing covered bridges throughout the district. Sadly, Lion Dick passed away in January 2001 and did not get to see the project through to completion and did not get to see some of the newer bridges in Union County. Plus, some of the bridges have been painted since Lion Dick took the first photos.

The pins are as follows:

Pin #1 (2001-2002) – Eldean Covered Bridge in Miami County. Located just off County Road 25-A near the intersection with County Road 33. This bridge crossed the Great Miami River and no longer carries vehicle traffic but does allow pedestrians to cross. The bridge was originally built in 1860 and was reconditioned in 1980.

Pin # 2 (2002-2003) – Pottersburg Covered Bridge (sometimes called Upper Darby Bridge) in Union County. Located on Inskeep-Cratty Road, this bridge was relocated from North Lewisburg Road to the North Lewisburg Multi-Use Trail on Inskeep-Cratty Road in 2006 and was renovated to preserve its 1930s appearance. As of 2011, the bridge is painted red. This bridge is one of four bridges remaining in Union County that were built by “The Bridge Builder of Union County, Reuben L. Partridge”.

Pin #3 (2003-2004) – Fletcher Covered Bridge in Miami County. Located one block north of U.S. Rt. 36 in Fletcher. The bridge crosses the Gustin Ditch in Fletcher, near the Fletcher Cemetery. This bridge was built with labor and material donations as part of the Fletcher community’s 1998 Sesquicentennial Celebration.

Pin #4 (2004-2005) – Spain Creek Covered Bridge in Union County. Located on Inskeep-Cratty Road, just off State Route 245. This bridge crosses Spain Creek, was built in the 1870s and was renovated in 1989. This bridge is one of the four remaining bridges that were built by Reuben L. Partridge.

Pin #5 (2005-2006) – Culbertson Covered Bridge (sometimes called Treacle Creek or Winget Road Covered Bridge) in Union County. Located on Winget Road, just off Homer Road. This bridge originally was located on U.S. Rt. 36 near the lost village of Howe and is currently located near the lost village of Homer. This bridge is one of the four remaining bridges that were built by Reuben L. Partridge.

Pin #6 (2006-2007) – Bickham Covered Bridge in Logan County. Located on County Road 38, just east of Indian Lake. This bridge crosses the south fork of the Great Miami River. Originally built in 1877, this bridge was reconditioned in 1959 and again in 2002.

## District 13-E Covered Bridge Pins (con't)

Pin #7 (2007-2008) – Bigelow Covered Bridge (sometimes called Axe Handle Road Bridge or the Little Darby Covered Bridge) in Union County. Located on Axe Handle Road just off State Route 161. This bridge was built in 1873 and renovated in 1990. The bridge was named to honor the Bigelow family, a pioneer family to the area in the early 1800s. This bridge is one of four remaining bridges in Union County that were built by Reuben L. Partridge. As of 2011, the bridge is painted red.

Pin #8 (2008-2009) – Sidney Tawawa Park Covered Bridge in Shelby County. This bridge is formally known as the Ross Covered Bridge. All funds for the bridge were donated by William Ross, Jr., who served on the Sidney Recreation Commission for 14 years. He requested that only his last name be used on the bridge and that a plaque be installed listing the names of all involved in its development and construction. Located in Tawawa Park on State Route 47 on the east side of Sidney. This bridge was built in 1971 and closely resembles many of the bridges that were built by “The Bridge Builder of Union County, Reuben L. Partridge”.

Pin #9 (2009-2010) – McColly Covered Bridge in Logan County. Located on County Road 13 in Washington Township. This bridge crosses the Great Miami River about 5 miles south of its source at Indian Lake. The bridge was built in 1876, restored in 1943 and 1958 and closed in 1993. In November 2000, the bridge was reopened.

Pin #10 (2010-2011) – North Lewisburg Road Covered Bridge in Union County. Located on North Lewisburg Road just off Inskeep-Cratty Road. This bridge was built in 2006 to replace the Pottersburg Bridge that was replaced (see information on Pin #2). This bridge crosses the Big Darby Creek and supports two lanes of traffic.

Pin #11 (2011-2012) – Buck Run Covered Bridge in Union County. Located on Buck Run Road just off Middlesburg-Plain City Road. This bridge was built in 2006. The bridge crosses the Big Darby Creek and supports two lanes of traffic.

Pin #12 (2012-2013) – Mill Creek Covered Bridge in Union County. Located on Thompson Road near Mill Road, this is the newest bridge in the county, built in 2010. This bridge is in the southeastern portion of the county, near Ostrander.

My thanks to the Union County Convention and Visitors Bureau for providing a copy of the map of the “Union County Covered Bridge Festival” route. It made finding the bridges throughout Union County a little easier on a beautiful Sunday afternoon drive that PDG Barney and I took.

If you have time for a “Sunday drive”, be sure to check out all these sites. They are definitely a part of Ohio history that you shouldn’t miss. (It also looks like most of the Union County bridges have lights so you can take a tour after dark, too!)

1<sup>st</sup> VDG Darlene Roll (pin chair, photographer and information gatherer for this article) – July 29, 2012