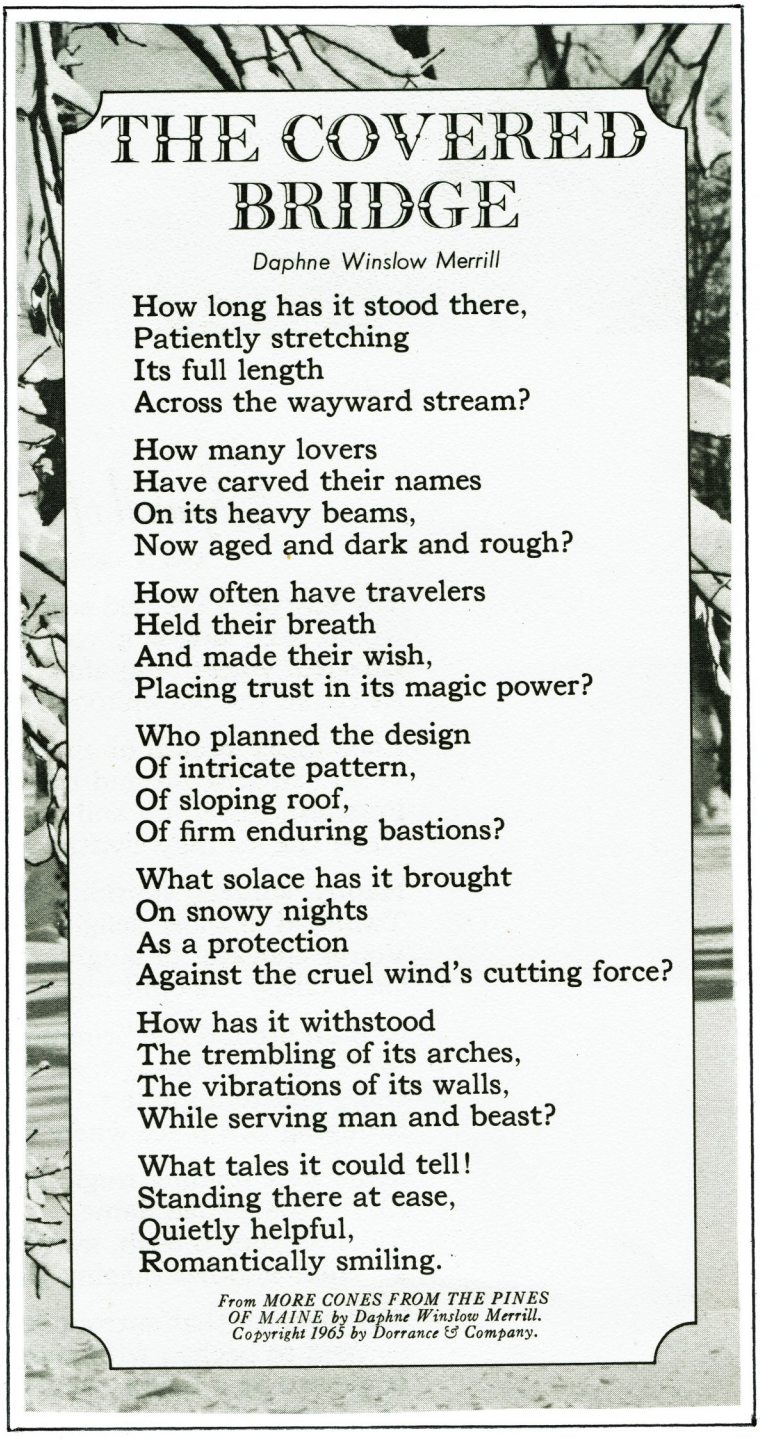
COVERED BRIDGES of Canada + U.S.A.

Covered Bridges, aka 'Kissing' or 'Wishing' bridges, were built to protect the wooden deck from the weather. A covered bridge could last up to 80 years, but uncovered, it might last 10 years.

I have visited covered bridges in Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick.



THE COVERED BRIDGE

Daphne Winslow Merrill

How long has it stood there,
Patiently stretching
Its full length
Across the wayward stream?

How many lovers
Have carved their names
On its heavy beams,
Now aged and dark and rough?

How often have travelers
Held their breath
And made their wish,
Placing trust in its magic power?

Who planned the design
Of intricate pattern,
Of sloping roof,
Of firm enduring bastions?

What solace has it brought
On snowy nights
As a protection
Against the cruel wind's cutting force?

How has it withstood
The trembling of its arches,
The vibrations of its walls,
While serving man and beast?

What tales it could tell!
Standing there at ease,
Quietly helpful,
Romantically smiling.

From MORE CONES FROM THE PINES OF MAINE by Daphne Winslow Merrill. Copyright 1965 by Dorrance & Company.

Of the 1000s of covered bridges built in Canada & the U.S. since 1800, fewer than 1000 remain, having become victims of progress, age, weather, floods, arson, vandalism and careless drivers.

I have seen covered bridges in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maryland and Delaware.

"Covered Bridging" has become an interesting and enjoyable hobby. Several states and 2 provinces have Covered Bridge Societies to promote the enjoyment and preservation of these fast disappearing historic structures.