

ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY AUGUST 28



A three-day celebration of the centennial of the construction of the historic covered bridge at Philippi began on August 28, 1952

CSO: SS.8.22

Investigate the Document: (Pamphlet for the Covered Bridge Centennial celebration in Philippi, 1952, Sc82-28)

1. From what wood was the bridge constructed?
2. In what year was the bridge strengthened to hold modern traffic loads?
3. What organization sponsored the Covered Bridge Centennial?

Think Critically: What significance did the Phillip Covered Bridge have during the early parts of the Civil War? List 3 things that the Philippi Bridge has survived.

IN WEST VIRGINIA

☆

Howard Llewellyn Swisher

In West Virginia skies are blue,
The hills are green and hearts are true;
A joyous welcome waiteth you,
In West Virginia.

In West Virginia skies are bright,
The twinkling stars make glad the night;
And noble hearts uphold the right,
In West Virginia.

In West Virginia, happy beams
The sun that kisses crystal streams,
Enduring love is what it seems,
In West Virginia.

In West Virginia there is rest
For tempest-tossed and sore distressed,
Here loving hearts are ever blest,
In West Virginia.

In West Virginia man is free;
He dwells beneath his own roof-tree;
Oh, come, my love and dwell with me,
In West Virginia.

☆

IF you are interested in Civil War History
IF you like to visit unusual Historic Sites
IF you appreciate beautiful Mountain Scenery
IF you enjoy outstanding Pageants
IF you care for stimulating Addresses
IF you delight in American Folk Songs
IF you find pleasure in viewing good Exhibits
IF you thrill to the romance of the Covered
Bridge

Then Come to the

Covered Bridge Centennial

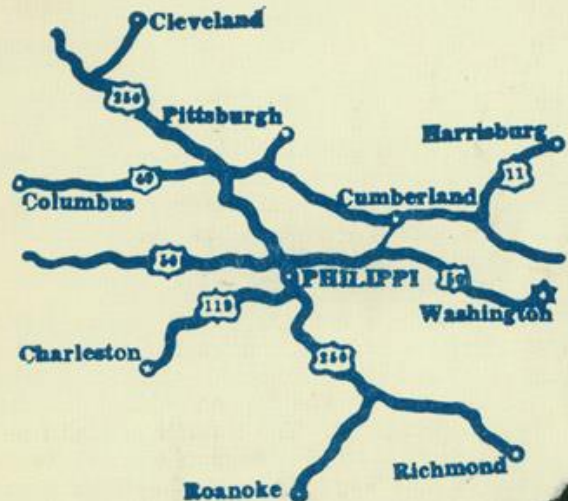
For further information, and reservations, write
Covered Bridge Centennial,
Philippi, West Virginia.



COVERED BRIDGE CENTENNIAL

August 28-30, 1952

PHILIPPI, WEST VIRGINIA



The Centennial is sponsored by the Barbour County
Historical Society, Inc.

THE OLD COVERED BRIDGE

☆

Spanning the beautiful Tygart's Valley River and a century of time, the Old Covered Bridge at Philippi is an unusual and outstanding example of the best in covered bridge architecture and design. It is unique in that it embodies unusual features originated by a local bridge builder, Lemuel Chenoweth of Beverly. Mr. Chenoweth, however, was not provincial in ability or outlook, but representative of the highest development in native engineering skill. He was awarded the contract by the Board of Public Works of Virginia through demonstration of the strength of his model by placing either end on a chair and standing on it.

The Philippi Bridge is one of the few remaining two-lane Covered Bridges in the United States. More than that, however, it is of great importance because it was the prime objective in the First Land Battle of the the War Between the States. The late Judge Ira E. Robinson referred to it as "one of the Nation's most important historic structures." Soon after its completion, its walls echoed to the tramping feet of Civil War soldiers. It served both North and South throughout that historic period in the development of our Country and the salvation of the Union. It narrowly escaped burning at the time of the Jones raid in 1863.

The Bridge is made of yellow poplar. The only metal used in the construction was in the form of bolts, but in no case do these bolts take any primary stress. Wedges and wooden pins are employed throughout. The transfer of load from one element to another is accomplished by direct bearing or notching. In 1934 the Bridge was strengthened to permit modern traffic loads, making it good for another hundred years.

CENTENNIAL PROGRAM

☆

The celebration, August 28, 29 and 30, will mark the 100th anniversary of the completion of the Philippi Covered Bridge. The citizens of Barbour County will take this opportunity, as hosts to visitors from other States, to show the historical development of this section of West Virginia and present places of interest and significance, especially as related to the period of existence of the Old Covered Bridge.

The program of the Centennial will be both educational and entertaining, and will consist of addresses, exhibits, music, tours and a pageant. Nationally known speakers will bring messages of inspiration. Exhibits will concern the Bridge itself, the First Land Battle of the Civil War, the history of Philippi and Barbour County, noted men and women Barbour County has produced, etc. On the tours the following will be seen: the detailed structure of the Bridge; scene of the First Land Battle and other Civil War points of interest in the Tygart's Valley; oldest and largest apple tree in the world; first public playground in America; oldest tree fossils in the world; interesting old homes; location of first farm extension course in the United States; an unusual collection of old West Virginia glass; old jail from which was freed the first slave following the Emancipation Proclamation; home of John Barton Payne; one of the largest concrete dams east of the Mississippi River; home of founder of Mother's Day; Mother's Day Church; old Quaker cemetery; and other equally interesting things.

Special programs will be given, including planetarium demonstrations showing the sky over Philippi as it was 100 years ago, and folk songs of West Virginia.

A Pageant depicting the entire story of The Bridge will climax each day's activities.