

RESUME  
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**Arnold M Graton is the only Master Covered Bridgewright in the country that has built 14 new Covered Bridges and restored more than 60.**

*Please read below to learn about some of our most recent projects:*

**The William Henry Stevens Covered Bridge**

***Highlands, NC formerly the Bagley Bridge of Warner, NH***

The Town of Warner, NH had decided to destroy the Bagley Covered Bridge in 1966 due to the “terribly sick” state of the bridge:

Milton and Arnold M. Graton paid the Town of Warner \$1.00 for the Bagley Covered Bridge. The bridge trusses were hauled off the Warner River in December of 1966 by Arnold. The bridge was dismantled, numbered and stored in a shed at the shop of Arnold M. Graton Associates, Inc. Milton and Arnold had hoped that they could preserve and restore the bridge for future generations and this has come to fruition. After 42 years, the Bagley Covered Bridge has being restored by Arnold M. Graton, Master Bridge Wright to its original configuration in accordance with the Town lattice design of Ithiel Town originally patented in North Carolina. This Covered Bridge was purchased for The Bascom, A Center For The Visual Arts.

The William Henry Stevens Covered Bridge is one lane, 14 feet wide and is 87 feet 6 inches long. In April of 2007 the original lattice members were taken out of storage and the bridge was laid out at Arnold's shop in Ashland, New Hampshire. In February of 2008, the timbers were loaded on his tractor trailer headed for their new home in Highlands, North Carolina.

Arnold M. Graton follows and respects the ways of the original builders of these unique structures. The type of wood, design and unique characteristics of this bridge will be restored as closely as possible to the earliest design. He has "dressed", using his planes and lathe, each of the 1100 treenails which fasten the bridge. A treenail nicknamed trunnel is a 2" wooden peg. There is no metal holding the bridge together. Each chord end was hand cut with a two man timber saw for the closest fit. Each lattice truss weighs approximately 6 tons and was raised slowly on April 30 using gin poles rigged with cable and blocks. Three people stationed at a pole, raised the bridge up by coiling the cables. Arnold, in his many bridge restorations, has never raised both sides of a bridge simultaneously. He has always raised one side at a time. The two lattice sides of this Covered Bridge were raised as one successfully with no troubles. Considering the weight of the bridge and the methods used this first is quite an accomplishment. Memorial Day

weekend 2008 marks the date that the William Henry Stevens Covered Bridge crossed the creek being pulled with oxen and a capstan.

### **Johnson Creek Covered Bridge**

#### ***Mount Oilvet, KY***

Three year restoration completed in April 2009 - Winner of the Restoration of the Year by Governor of Kentucky.

Restoration included upper and lower chords and shear blocks, splicing the braces and counterbraces of 90% of the lattice, new flooring, siding and roof. First design build completed for the State of Kentucky.

### **Cabin Creek Covered Bridge**

#### ***Lewis County, KY***

Stabilization of bridge due to flooding which had washed out the lower bents of causing the bridge to list into the stream.

### **Durgin Covered Bridge**

#### ***Sandwich, NH***

Repairs made to rare Paddleford truss completed July 2009. Work included replacement of vertical and the brace after a car accident.

### **Covered Bridge Experience:**

Consisting of 50 years of covered bridge rehabilitation and construction including 36 years working with father, Milton S. Graton. Together they built 11 covered bridges and repaired and/or restored more than 40 in the United States using traditional materials and methods. Authenticity is one my primary goals. (See covered bridge list - attached.)

Recent projects include the 36' long, Heritage, New Hampshire Covered Bridge which is located at Glen, New Hampshire. This authentically constructed covered bridge was built in New Hampshire, then transported to the Smithsonian Folk Life Festival in Washington D.C. It was on display from June 23, 1999 through July 4, 1999. We then moved it to Glen, New Hampshire. Another project, Corbin Covered Bridge, Newport, New Hampshire, a replication of the 102'-5" long timber bridge which had been lost to fire. I completed the new Town lattice bridge for Newport in January 1995. The Knight's Ferry Covered Bridge in Knight's Ferry in California was a complete restoration of a 365', four span Howe truss covered bridge. An Additional phase included the dry stonewall restoration, which was rebuilt from photographs of the original and using original stone. Included in the restoration was rebuilding the abutment wing wall; dry packing the abutments and piers and tuning the bridge following an earthquake. Knights Ferry Covered Bridge was completed in July 1995, this project was selected for and received the Award of Merit from the Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army Engineering District, Sacramento, California. We also restored the 81 foot span Bunker Hill Covered Bridge in Claremont, North Carolina for the Catawba County Historical Association, in Newton, North Carolina. The task was to match the original bridge builders' work for quality, grade and species of wood. This was completed in March 1994. Catawba County Historical Association also contracted me to remove the outer shell of the oldest home located in Catawba County preserving the interior walls of the principle room. We moved the interior room consisting of the walls and ceiling then reassembled the room in the old Catawba Historical Museum. The room has lavishly painted walls depicting intricate plaster designs and woodwork.

### **Other Experience:**

Other projects include, the restoration of the Exeter Street Theater roof trusses in Boston, Massachusetts in conjunction with Payton Construction Co. repairing and rebuilding the 80' clear span queen post roof trusses. Also included in this project was shoring, jacking and epoxy work. A fire in the five story structure required the repair. The Murray's Mill job entailed cleaning and painting a 28' diameter steel water wheel. Fabricating and installing a penstock liner using epoxy to seal the new and old; chipping and cleaning the old concrete dam and patching the concrete to match the old. We restored the 64' span roof trusses, damaged by termites, at St. Helena's Episcopal Church, Beaufort, South Carolina in 1998. We also completed another phase of the restoration of the church which required extensive straightening of both the North and the South walls. The walls were pulled in by as much as 4" in some areas.

Drylaid two stone arch bridges Town of Stockbridge, Stockbridge/Curtisville, Massachusetts and Bemis Farm Tamworth, New Hampshire and was the advisor on stone arch bridges in Boston and Milton, Massachusetts, Hillsboro, New Hampshire and Woodstock, Vermont.

Drylaid stone abutments and piers (restored/rebuilt) at Sheffield, Massachusetts, Knights Ferry, California, Salem, New York, Claremont, North Carolina, Newport, New Hampshire and Upson County Thomaston, Georgia.

Sill repair and replacement: Replaced approximately 160' of 10"x12" sills under the Mizpah United Methodist Church, Olar, South Carolina. Damaged by termite infestation. Repaired/reframed the remaining sills and nearly all of the studs. Repaired approximately 30' of 10"x12" sills and replaced about 90' under the Schafe Harbor House, Center Harbor, New Hampshire. The damage was caused by decay. The 1801 Burnside Plantation House located in Williamsboro, North Carolina had such severe termite damage that the replacement of approximately 50' of 10 1/2"x11" sills was required.

Round Barns: Shelburne Museum, Shelburne, Vermont, which was moved from Barnett, Vermont on the east to Shelburne Museum on the west. We restored and assisted in the design to convert the barn into a museum from a milk cow barn. This project included rigging and directing the flying of the 20' diameter silo across the state using an Air Crane. The Round Barn Farm at Waitsfield, Vermont involved the restoration of an 80' diameter dodecagon dairy barn including building a cast-in-place reinforced concrete lap pool under the silos, through the barn to the green room.

Golf Courses: Constructed tees, greens, lakes and swails in Orlando and Tampa, Florida for Designer, Ossie Jones. In Thornton, New Hampshire I worked with Designer/Owner, Bob Keating, to complete 9 additional holes from "scratch".

Moving brick and stone buildings; shoring and realigning a three story brick building; brick and stone repointing; roofing: shingles and standing seam; Epoxy fill; concrete and steel; and heavy wood trusses.

### **History of Company Ownership:**

I worked with, my Father, Milton S. Graton, doing 'site work' until the mid 1950's, when I became a full partner (Graton Associates). In 1958, my father and I made the natural move to Covered Bridges. This is the time when "Flood Control" was starting up in Northern New England and Covered Bridges were in the path. When a Covered Bridge gets to be about 100 to 150 years of age, the years of neglect start to take their toll. When asked to relocate one of these historic structures, my Father and I often had to give the bridge a little additional support before the move could take place. In 1958, my Father and I, as partners built our first Covered Bridge in Campton, NH, then our next was Woodstock, VT in 1968.

My Father and I worked together until well past his retirement and I continued on with new Covered Bridges and the restorations beyond my Father's death at 85 years of age.

I purchased my fathers, interest in the business years before his death, and I became the sole proprietor of Arnold M. Graton Associates. We have now built 11 new Covered Bridges, restored 40 Covered Bridges and 2 Iron Truss Bridges.