



FORRY'S COVERED BRIDGE

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MOUNT JOY STAMP CLUB
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HISTORY OF FORRY'S COVERED BRIDGE AND ITS BUILDER

Years ago covered bridges were everywhere, but today they are fast disappearing of age and destructive forces. The Forrey bridge is close to Mount Joy and traffic still moves through the bridge.

This is one of the many bridges built by Elias McMellen, a man well known in his day for building bridges. He was born November 23, 1839. He became a carpenter's apprentice at age 14 and soon tried bridge building and before long was in business for himself. Interrupted by the Civil War, he enlisted as a private and soon rose to the rank of captain. He was wounded three times.

In 1865 he was back on the job building covered bridges. From 1865 to 1908, Mr. McMellen had built or rebuilt 47 bridges. He had during this time repaired 66 bridges in Lancaster County alone. During his life he had amassed quite a fortune. He died in 1916. The Forry bridge was built in 1869 at a cost of \$2,969.00.

We suggest you take a drive through the bridge, which is a narrow bridge, and is in good condition. The shingle roof is in good condition and the floor of heavy oak boards is still laid crosswise, and when you drive through the boards rattle and may sound like thunder. This is one of the bridges located in a scenic area of Lancaster County.