Jasmine Watts from Arizona was here 6/27/00

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How many bridges did you visit, Jasmine, with your sharpie and your fine penmanship?

I can see you (isn’t that what you wanted?) packing into the car with the family on a dry mid-summer morning, leaving Tuscon behind you in the dust.

I bet I could trace your ink scrawling across America like I trace the curve of your ‘J’ here on this bridge with my finger.

But covered bridges are scarce, Jasmine. How did you live through Kansas? Would I find your mark on a rest-stop picnic table somewhere between Bucklin and Pratt?

Are you carved into a young pine, Jasmine, somewhere in east Texas, where years from now your pen-knife monument will tower above everyone’s heads?

Or are you only immortal here in Madison County, Iowa, on a handful of red bridges that even now see lines of visitors every day?