

NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

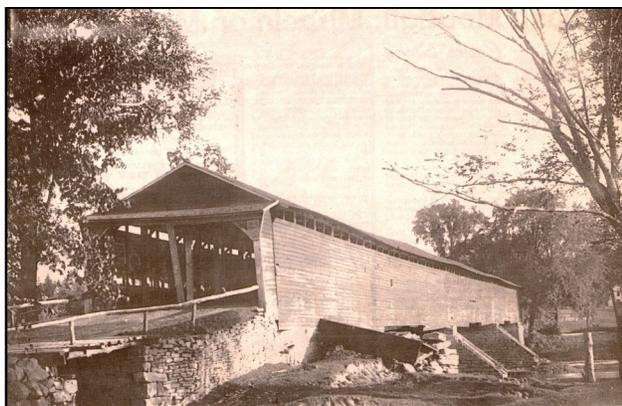
Issue 31
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Editor
Gail M Cramer



BRIDGES OF NORTHVILLE AND THE TOWN OF NORTHAMPTON

Prior to the first bridge(s) the Sacandaga River had to be forded to accommodate transportation to other communities and farm lands. The first bridge in the town of Northampton was in the hamlet of Fish House (then named, Northampton). The inhabitants of Fish House petitioned the legislature for funds to build a bridge. They were given \$5,000. and \$500. was added by subscription from the local people. The bridge was a huge 2 lane covered bridge designed by Daniel Stewart.

THE FIRST BRIDGE Was at (Northampton) Fish House 1818



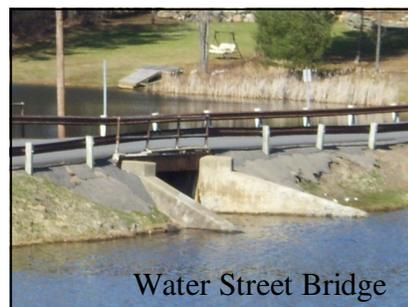
SYMPATHY, MEMORIES AND OUR THOUGHTS

to Dan Mead over the loss of his dear sister Wilma. Many of us remember her for her athletic abilities especially soft-ball. We also remember her as that cute little girl who was the basketball cheerleader's mascot. Sorry Dan, for your loss.

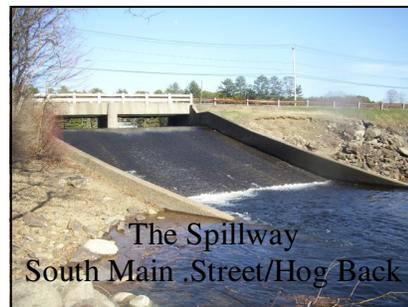
From all of us at NNHS



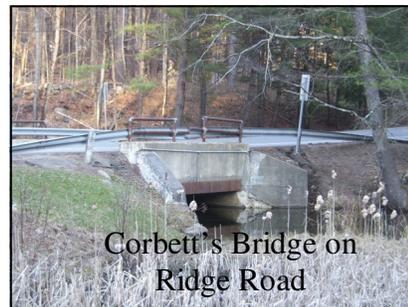
Mechanic Street Bridge
over Hunter Creek which led to pastures for the cattle in the village.



Water Street Bridge



The Spillway
South Main Street/Hog Back



Corbett's Bridge on
Ridge Road

Just a reminder: If you find any errors about information I put in this paper , please let me know. I try to research the material and report it as best I can with the information I find.

NNHS MUSEUM
School House Museum will open this year from Mid- June through August. More information on special dates and tours will be forth coming.

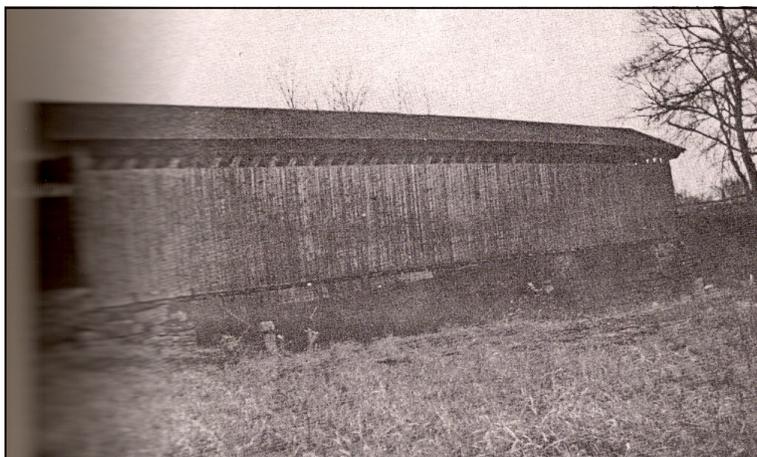
OSBORN'S BRIDGE

1840



The hamlet of Osborn's Bridge was a small settlement that attracted a number of families because of its fertile land. It was located between Fish House and Northville. Calvin Osborn and Abram Denton were among the first settlers there. They each wanted to name the settlement after their family name. Apparently Osborn won out but there was another settlement on the other side of the bridge that was named Denton's Corner. When the Conklinville Dam was built and the Sacandaga Reservoir flooded the valley, the hamlet of Osborn's Bridge was totally inundated as was Denton's Corner. When the water is low old tree stumps, cellar foundations, and stone walls can be seen as well some bricks and other remnants left behind.

VLAIE COVERED BRIDGE



The second Vlaie bridge built at the cost of \$883.87

This area was often called the Sacandaga Vlaie. Sir William Johnson built his Summer House near the mouth of the Vlaie Creek where he entertained many of his friends who took advantage of the great fishing there.

The Vlaie Bridge was built in 1835, it burned in 1883. It was replaced that same year. It was still in use up until the flooding of the valley when it was torn down, probably burned.



HOG BACK BRIDGE

AKA SOUTH MAIN STREET BRIDGE

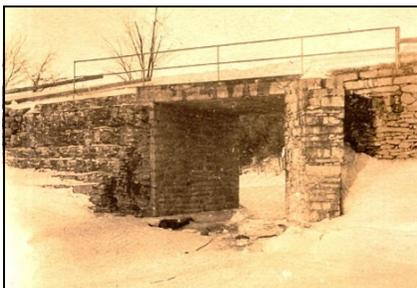
In 1788 Samuel Olmstead made his way north up the Sacandaga River and finding the area a suitable place to bring his family, he built the first dwelling place on the west side of the river. He forded the river (Spier's Ford) over to the area we now call the village of Northville near the high school's soccer field.

In 1794 beginning at the old fording place, a road was laid out easterly and crossed at what is now Main Street, about where the Methodist Church stands today. It originally was named Grove Street and was later changed to Washington Street. The same year, (1794) a road was laid out on the hill east of the village which is now Ridge Road.

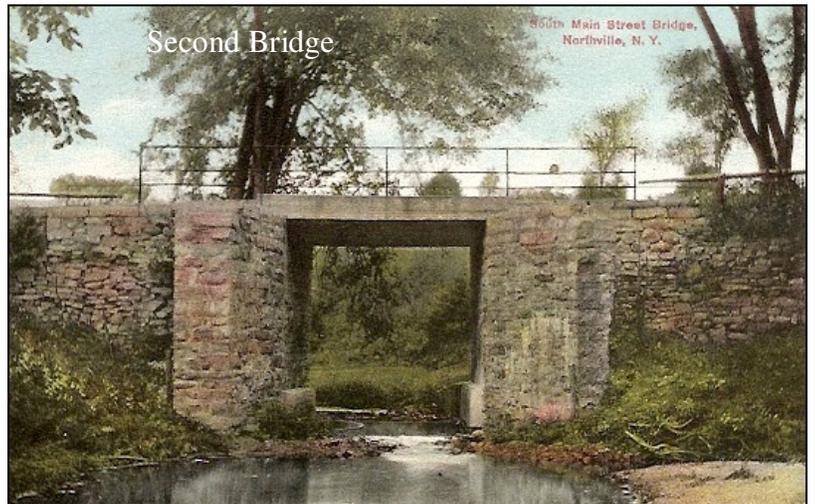
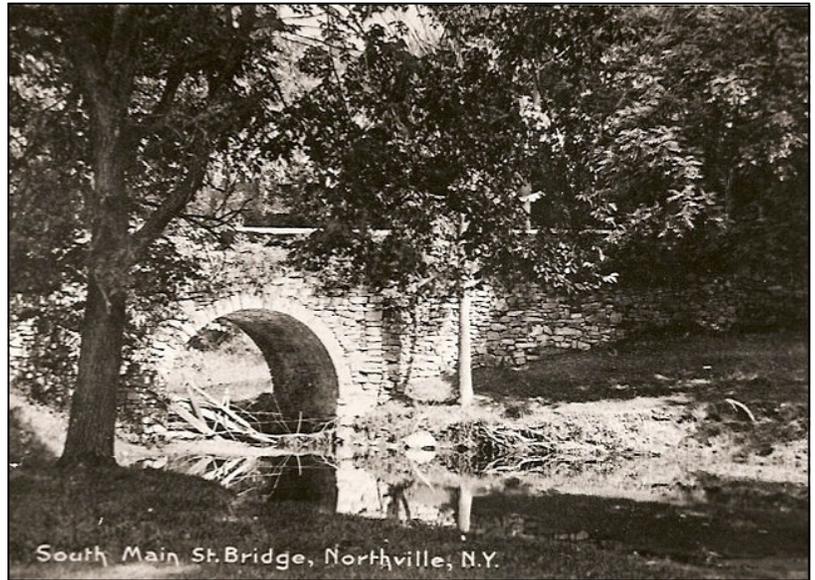
In 1797 another road was surveyed and laid out running north and south and paralleled the 1794 road, which is our present Main Street

Hunter's Creek divided the area south of main street from access to the village other than to ford the creek. A stone arched bridge was built to accommodate horse and buggies. I haven't found the year it was built but records show that it gave way in 1859. Another bridge at the same place was built the same year. This area was and still is called "Hog Back".

When the Sacandaga Reservoir (Great Sacandaga Lake) was formed, Hunter's Creek was dammed up with a bridge or spillway which is there today. It regulates the flow of Hunter's Creek/Little Lake into the Sacandaga Lake. An article about the spillway, written by Peter Betz our County Historian, was in our local paper just recently. (see picture on first page)



The second Hog Back Bridge in winter



4 NORTHVILLE BRIDGES

Leading into the village at Bridge Street

One of the first attempts to gain daily contact with the outside world was the Chase and Jackson Stage Coach to Gloversville. This vehicle had to cross the river at Spiers Ford. Forging the stream/river was easy in the summer, difficult to impossible the remainder of the year. To make possible a daily contact the year around, the Northville covered bridge was built in 1860. (Info from Carlton Nellis articles)

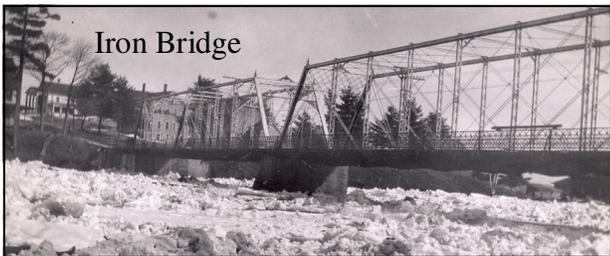
Each of our local historians over the years have been unsuccessful in locating a picture of this first bridge, which was a wooden lattice covered bridge. "The History of Fulton County" written in 1892 by Washington Frothingham, states that the bridge cost \$2,500 to build. In March of 1882 it was carried away with it's piers and abutments by high water and ice.

This past year when some items were donated to our historical archives such as pictures, advertisements, etc I realized that one of the papers was an account labeled "A List of Expenditures for the River Bridge at Northville". Upon reading it over, checking names of contractors, and building materials used, it had to be a wooden lattice covered bridge. I had several people look it over and came to the same conclusion. The dates of the people mentioned were the ages that they would have been working on such a project.

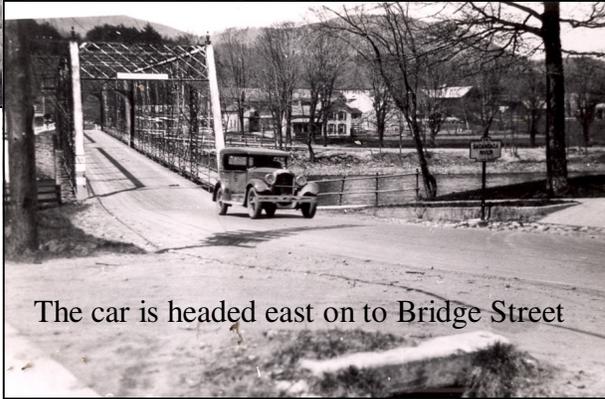
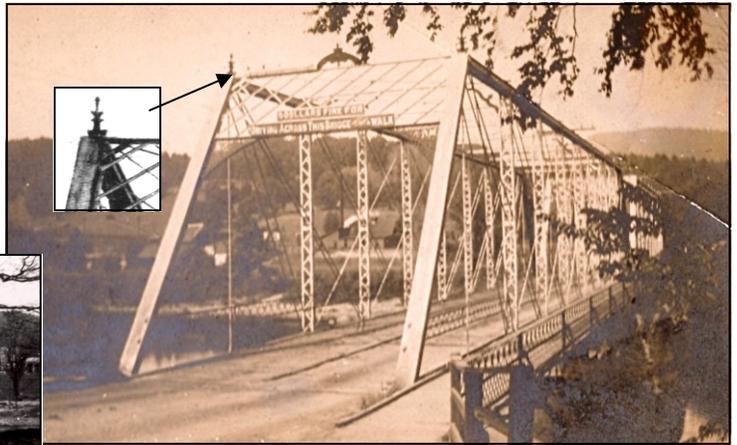
It's almost for certain this has to be the 1860 wooden bridge..now let's hope someone finds a picture of it hidden somewhere in their grandparent's attic.

A List of Expenditures for River Bridge at Northville.	
Paid for Plank to McComber, and removing same to location of Bridge,	\$883 28
For 6,000 M. Pins to Coleman & Foote,	72 00
J. H. Van Arnam 114 1-2 days work with team drawing stone, (20s.)	286 50
S. W. Buel for 12,375 feet of plank for Bridge floor, beams and scantling, for Bracer,	160 00
L. Hubbel for boards-for roof,	18 60
Squire Lawton planks for stringers and pier,	30 00
Charles Foote 3,204 feet timber (running measure),	52 00
David Ressegue for timber for pier,	30 00
Charles Porter and R. Sweet timber,	9 00
134 bunches shingles, (8s.)	134 00
Abram Houseman 96 days work (14s.)	168 00
John Houseman 122 3-4 days (16s.)	248 00
John Ressegue superintending bridge and work,	150 00
James S. Dunham 70 days (8s.)	70 00
George Lyon 61 days (8s.)	61 05
Charles Ferguson 6 1-2 days 12s., 8 1-2 days 8s.,	18 20
Reuben Washburn 66 days (8s.)	66 00
David Latcher jun. 19 days,	20 00
Paul Groff 85 days (8s.)	85 00
William Potter two days (8s.)	2 00
Wallace Scribner 112 days (10s.)	140 00
John Scribner 33 days stone work (17s.), 33 days framing (17s.), 4 days do. (8s.)	94 75
Boarding, Quamby, \$10. Work with team, \$10.	20 00
John M. Ressegue 25 1-2 days (8s.)	25 50
J. Barker & Son, nails and spikes,	\$24 50
Hemlock boards,	4 30
For labor on Bridge not included in the above bills,	37 59
Levi Sweet labor,	5 00
S. H. Underwood drawing timber and stone,	53 75
Sanders Williams quarrying stone,	38 00
Calvin Green stone work,	60 00
Lorenzo Mason,	5 00
Lan Arnam and Van Dyke blacksmith bill,	25 00
Joseph C. Brooker quarry stone,	5 00
M. King timber \$5 00 : B. Blower \$5 00,	10 00
David Ressegue work with team,	20 00
C. H. Brownell drawing plank,	10 00
Quamby stone work \$45 ; John Burgess, \$28,	73 00
Franklin Scribner,	10 00
Hiram Ressegue 16 days work on pier (8s.),	16 00
	\$3,238 42
Received of Commissioner of Highways of Town,	\$500 00
By the Commissioner for County,	500 00
On Subscription,	1,326 00
Collectable on Subscription,	148 00
	\$2,374 00
NOT PROVIDED FOR.	
John Houseman,	\$210 90
John Ressegue,	72 19
Abram Houseman,	145 50
J. F. Van Arnam,	92 29
John A. Scribner,	42 50
James S. Dunham,	30 00
Charles Ferguson,	18 28
John M. Ressegue,	25 50
Wallace Scribner,	70 00
J. Barker & Son (bal. paid on labor)	180 51
Charles Foote,	22 00
Squire Lawton,	30 00
Hiram J. Ressegue,	16 00
	\$955 64
deduct available subscription,	\$148 00
	\$807 64

NORTHVILLE BRIDGES CONTINUED

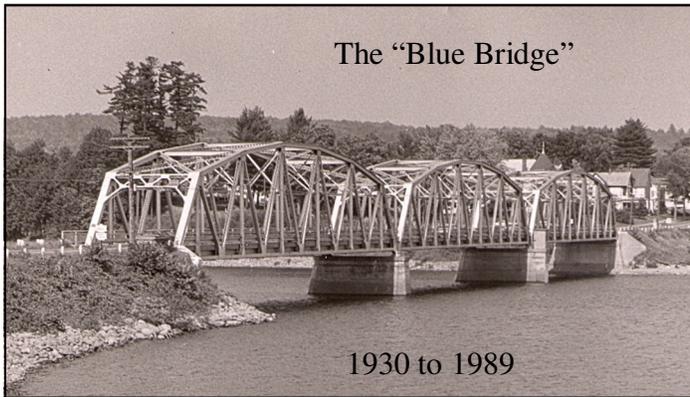


Iron Bridge



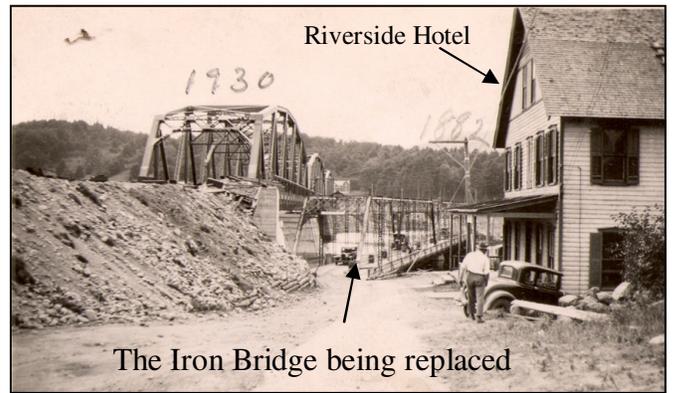
The car is headed east on to Bridge Street

The Iron Bridge was built the summer of 1882 the same year that the wooden lattice bridge was destroyed. The cost to build was \$11,100. One of the adornments on the corners of this bridge is on display in our museum.



The "Blue Bridge"

1930 to 1989



Riverside Hotel

The Iron Bridge being replaced

In 1930 a contract was awarded to Herman Snyder and Son for the construction of a steel truss bridge over the Sacandaga Reservoir consisting of three spans of 180 feet each. This bridge had a walkway on the north side that many of us remember riding bikes, walking and some even jumped off the railing. I don't remember what year they painted it blue but from then on it was always affectionately called "The Blue Bridge"

The Blue Bridge began to show its wear as many cars, buses, and heavy log trucks traveled over it for over 50 years. It was repaired over and over again until it became unsafe and probably too costly to keep repairing it. In 1989 a new bridge was built on the south side of the Blue Bridge. A huge celebration took place the day it was officially opened to local travel. There were

speeches, the Northville Band played and marched across both bridges. A 1930 car was driven across the old bridge.

Oh no, I've run out of space and I have so much more I want to share about the bridges I have more pictures and stories. I will be making a poster about the bridges for the museum, so you'll see them there.



The old Blue Bridge was torn down after the new bridge was opened



New Bridge today..it opened in 1989