



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Crews work to install the bridge over Marsh Creek in 1922 in Carlton. The bridge replaced and earlier span dating to the 1800s.

Marsh Creek bridge was a source of Carlton pride

OVERLOOKED ORLEANS: Crowds gathered for span's opening

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CARLTON — A photograph taken in the summer of 1922 shows the construction of the bridge over Marsh Creek at “The Bridges.”

Originally known as “Two Bridges,” the span over Marsh Creek predates 1861 when a committee was put in place to explore the replacement of the bridge.

On Nov. 29, 1861, Almanzor Hutchinson reported that \$800 was available to replace the bridge over Marsh Creek and upon the motion of Mr. Abell, Daniel Howe was placed in charge of overseeing the replacement. The following day, for a reason unknown in the modern era, the Board of Supervisors released Howe from his responsibilities and authorized

David Fuller to oversee the work.

The bridge faithfully served the community for nearly 44 years when the town of Carlton determined that the structure was in dire need of repairs. This 128-foot-long, 18.5-foot-wide span with a 16.5-foot-wide concrete surface was completed in August 1922. The final cost to complete the bridge totaled \$12,000, about \$2,000 under budget. The project was supervised by Carlton Highway Superintendent L. Waldo Callard, who was presented a generous gift of \$100 in gold for completion of his responsibilities. William Wigley, a resident of the town for over 40 years, offered an address and presented the gift to Callard.

The opening of the bridge was a celebrated event throughout the community. Bernard Ryan was slated to address the crowds that gathered while a parade led residents across the bridge. Local newspapers reported that a wedding was to take place on the bridge as well, all before the day's activities concluded with Carlton's baseball championship between Waterport and Kent.

The photograph, looking south, shows the incomplete deck of the new span while three men work. A gentleman sits to observe the others working. It appears as though a child has also sat down to observe the work — a man is laboring on the south side of the creek with steam equipment.