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# Bethinking of <sup>8/11/80</sup> Old Orleans

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## TWO BRIDGES COVERED BRIDGE

The old covered bridge at Two Bridges was built in 1848 with Mr. Dalphon Simpson as engineer in charge of construction. Built strong and sturdy, it served the community for over sixty years when it was torn down in 1910 and replaced by the present iron bridge.

Thirty-five years or so after it was built a Spring thaw suddenly came after a severe winter. At the time some of the music-loving men of the community had formed a Glee Club. One rainy March evening they met at Rev. Foster Brown's to practice. The weather had turned warm that day and the ice and snow was melting steadily. The men enjoyed singing and paid little attention to the increasing downpour of rain until coming out of the house near midnight, they heard crashing and grinding sounds at the bridge. They hurried down the hill to find the bridge quivering from the impact of tons of ice which had broken up and were pushing upward under the swift current. The east end of the bridge had already been lifted from its piles and moved several feet to the north. Quickly the men cut poles and attacked the ice, trying to pry loose some of the blocks and diverting them downstream. They worked most of the night under hazardous conditions and by morning had freed the ice jam.

A meeting of the Town Board was called the next day to decide what the next step would be. The members were about to condemn the bridge when Mr. John Simpson, younger brother of Dalphon Simpson, suggested the bridge be saved. He was given 48 hours to seek an alternative. He immediately contacted Mr. Dates, a barn mover from Yates, to appraise the situation. After his inspection, Mr. Dates determined the bridge could be salvaged and that he could raise it to avoid a repetition of the accident. His work was carried out and the old covered bridge continued to be used for another thirty years.

Many of the facts contained in this article were sought out in 1948 by the late Helen Allen. Watch next week as our story continues about the new bridge (1937) at The Bridges.