

KENYONVILLE COVERED BRIDGE

BY C. W. LATTIN
Orleans County historian

Until 1910-11, Orleans County had two covered bridges — one at the Bridges, and the other at Kenyonville, both in the Town of Carlton.

The first bridge at Kenyonville is said to have been a crude brush bridge made by early pioneers. The next bridge at that crossing was built in 1833 through an act passed by the state Legislature empowering Orleans County to construct a bridge of timber and plank.

In 1874, the covered bridge pictured above measuring 110 feet in length was constructed at Kenyonville to span Oak Orchard Creek. It stood on three stone piers



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directly above a 10-foot dam, which provided a mill race for water to run a grist mill and sawmill owned by Barber Kenyon.

In 1911, this covered bridge was removed after being

condemned for several years. It was doomed for its obsolescence rather than decay, as it was made of white pine and protected by a roof and matched pine sides. A portion of the struc-

ture was saved and moved to a farm near Alabama, where it functioned as a storage shed.

Aside from being a nesting spot for swallows, the old covered bridge served as a place for children to play hide and seek as well as a trysting place for young lovers. The following story about a circumstance at the Kenyonville covered bridge is in the words of Wirt B. Quale.

"It was raining this night and I guess nearly all the young fellows were out with

their pretty maids. The bridge was narrow and very dark inside and the horses and buggies came in from both ends of the bridge and packed it full, wheels locked and the whole bunch had to stay there till the break of day, the poor things! It was an awful bunch to untangle in the morning."

The charcoal drawing of this bridge, signed C.S. Axtell, was probably created in the early 20th century. It was given several years ago to the Cobblestone Society Museum in Childs by Dr. Ron Herlan.