

No. 1, Sept. Sessions, 1905

COMMONWEALTH

versus

Public Bridge
Across Susquehanna
River at Lumber
City

Bridge

charge

X

WILLIAM I. SWOOP,
DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

Clearfield County, ss:

At a Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace of the county of Clearfield, Pennsylvania, held at Clearfield, in and for said county on the

9 day of May, A. D.

1905, before Judge of said Court, upon a petition of sundry inhabitants of the Boro Lumber City in said

County, setting forth that a Bridge is much wanted over the Susquehanna River at the place where the public highway leading from Lumber City to Ferguson and Ansonville crosses the said river. That the Bridge located there at the present time is old, worn out and dangerous to travel and that the said Bridge at the present time is a County bridge. That the erection of a new Bridge would be burdensome upon the inhabitants of the said Borough and Township of Ferguson

and therefore praying the Court to appoint proper persons to view and lay out the same according to law, and report to next term of Court

whereupon the Court upon due consideration had of the premises, do order and appoint

C. B. Alexander, John Y. Cofferty and Jacob Snoke

who after being respectively sworn or affirmed to perform their duties impartially and to the best of their judgment, are to view the place proposed for the said bridge, and if they or any of them, view the same, and any of the actual viewers agree that there is occasion for such a bridge, and that the erecting of the said bridge would require more expense than it would be reasonable the said townships should bear, they are to make report accordingly;

and a map or plot thereof to be made, which shall accompany said report; the report aforesaid to be made to the next term of the Court of Quarter Sessions to be held for the said county of Clearfield.

BY THE COURT.

Roll B. Thompson
CLERK.

RELEASE OF DAMAGES.

Know All Men by These Presents, That we, the undersigned owners of lands upon which the bridge is located by the viewers, under the annexed order, passes for and in consideration of the sum of **ONE DOLLAR** to us respectively paid by the at and before the ensealing and delivery hereof, have remised, released and forever quit-claimed; and do hereby remise, release and forever quit-claim to the said all damages that may arise to us respectively by reason of the location or building of said bridge, so that neither we nor any of us, nor any person claiming under us, can or may hereafter ask, sue for, demand, have or receive any damages for injuries arising or growing out of the location or building of said bridge.

Witness our hands and seals this day of
A. D. 189

Seal

Seal

Seal

Seal

ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGES.

The following persons, having refused to release the damages to which they respectively may be entitled by reason of the location and building of said bridge in the annexed return described, we, the undersigned viewers, under oath in pursuance of our duty, under the Act of Assembly, do assess their damages and make report thereof as follows:

To the sum of

To the sum of

To the sum of

Witness our hands this day of A. D. 189

Bridge Viewers' Notice.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned Viewers, appointed by the Court of Quarter Sessions of Clearfield county, Pennsylvania, to view a Bridge at *the place where the public highway from Lumber City to Kenvil & Cressville crosses the Susquehanna River at Lumber City*

in *Lumber City Boro.* Township, in the county aforesaid, will meet at said place on *Thursday*, the *13* day of *July*, A. D. 190*5*, at *9* o'clock M., to attend to the duty assigned them, of which time and place aforesaid all parties interested will please take notice.

C. B. Alexander

John J. Pafferty

Jacob Brack

Viewers.

July 6th., 190*5*.

This specimen to be reported to the
Service accepted

W. R. McLean
Sherman Smith

Supervisor Ferguson & Co.

R. F. Garrison Street Commissioner
Lumber City Barr.

Bridge Viewers' Notice.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned Viewers, appointed by the Court of Quarter Sessions of Clearfield county, Pennsylvania, to view a Bridge at The place where the public highway leading from Lumber City to Renovo and Ansonville crosses the Susquehanna River, at Lumber City

and Ferguson's
in Lumber City ~~Box~~, **Township**, in the county aforesaid, will meet at said place on Thursday, the 13th day of July, A. D. 1905, at 9 o'clock A. M., to attend to the duty assigned them, of which time and place aforesaid all parties interested will please take notice.

C. B. Alexander
John Y. Rafferty
Jacob Snock

Viewers.

July 16th, 1905.

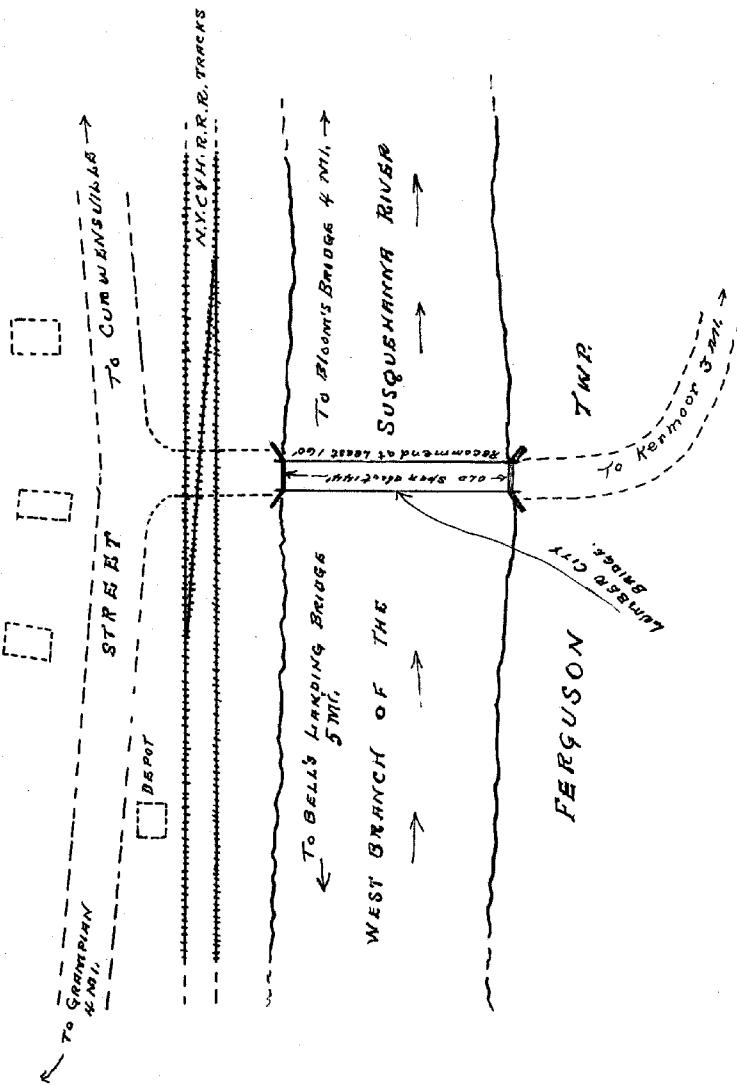
service accepted

July 6, 1905

Alberta
Rock Co. Minn.

NUMBER CITY BOARD.

APPROXIMATE NORTH



PLOT'

Showing location of Bridge over
Susquehanna River at Lumber City, Cld. Co. Pa.

Scale $1\text{ in.} = 100 \text{ ft.}$ View of July 13, 1905

Viewers { C. B. Alexander,
James Y. Rafferty,
Jacob Spokane

TO THE HONORABLE ALLISON O. SMITH, PRESIDENT JUDGE OF THE
COURT OF QUARTER SESSIONS OF CLEARFIELD COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.

We the undersigned Viewers appointed by the within order of a Court to view for the rebuilding of the bridge therein mentioned, respectfully report that we gave good and lawful notice of said view and met agreeable thereto and having been severally affirmed proceeded to view present bridge and location and receive testimony,

We have found that the old wooden bridge at this point is becomming unfit for travel. The centre of the bridge sags about two feet below its proper level, and the wooden frame work at some places shows signs of decay. However the woodenwork of the bridge might stand for sometime were it not for the abutments which seem to be giving away and are now much in need of repair or rebuilding.

Your Viewers would therefore respectfully recommend that a new iron bridge of not less than 160 feet span be placed at this point to be built 22 feet above low water and with a roadway of 16 feet. The bridge to be placed on suitable abutments.

As we believe the construction of this bridge would be greater in cost than is reasonable that the Ditzens of Lumber City Boro. or of Ferguson Twp. should bear, we would recommend that the County bear the expense.

A draft showing the location of this bridge is herewith attached.

WITNESS our hands this 15th day of July A.D. 1905.

VIEWERS.

C.B. Alexander

John F. Rafferty

J. T. Snock

NOTE.—Viewers will carefully note the number of days employed, and set in the amount out at the foot of their return. Reviewers cannot interfere with damages assessed by the original viewers, except so far as the location may be changed by the reviewers.
N. B.—If the viewers believe the parties are not entitled to damages, taking into consideration the advantages as well as the disadvantages of the bridge, they will report so that effect.

No. 1 Dept. 1905
in
Public Bridge
Lumber City Bros. ^{Days 3}
Chapman Jeff. ^{Days 1}
E. B. Alexander ^{Days 2}
Miles 15 ^{\$1.50}

AMOUNT.
Days 3
Miles 15
\$1.50

Days 1
Miles 5
\$2.75

Days 1
Miles 15
\$2.50

ORDER TO VIEW:
April 9th 1906 Report of viewers
confirmed & we kindly give me
the approval of same by the Board
of viewers—The ¹³ suggestions in this
order filed.
Almon B. Smith
Attala Co.

FILED	JUL 15 1905
Filed	ROLL B. THOMPSON
	CLERK

Fees \$1.25, paid by

Hagerty
Attorney.

11

In Re { NO. 1, SEPTEMBER TERM, 1900.
Public Bridge at Laisher City, {

And now the 10th day of April, 1906, be it
resolved that the County Commissioners of Clearfield County
concur in the view that the proposed bridge at Lumber City is
necessary and too expensive for Lumber City Borough or Ferguson
Township to bear the cost thereof, and said bridge is accepted as
a County bridge.

Be it further resolved that a copy hereof be made and filed in the Quarter Sessions in the appropriate place.

A. B. Hamilton
E. P. Rowles
B. F. Wilhelm

No. 1 Sept. 2d, 1905

~~H. F. Foot~~
Bridge -

W. H. Foot
W. H. Foot

In the Matter of a new public) In the Court of Quarter Sessions
bridge over the Susquehanna) of Clearfield County.
River between Lumber City) No. 1 September Sessions, 1905.
Borough and Ferguson Township))
at Lumber City.)

The viewers appointed in the above stated bridge case having reported in favor of a new bridge, on the ground that the old one was unsafe, and the said bridge report having been placed before the Grand Jury at February Sessions 1906, and the said Grand Jury having approved the said report of viewers and recommended that a new bridge be erected at Lumber City to replace the old one, the whole matter is now before the Court for approval or disapproval of the report of the viewers in said case.

The bridge to be replaced is an old wooden structure, built many years ago, and we have no doubt whatever that a new structure is greatly needed. We, therefore, unhesitatingly approve the report of the viewers and the recommendation of the Grand Jury. In doing so, however, we feel it our duty to suggest to the Board of Commissioners that the situation at this point should be brought to the attention of the New York Central Railroad Company, and if possible an overhead bridge secured by contribution from the Railroad Company. We are familiar with the situation at this point and believe that if the bridge were moved two or three hundred feet east from its present location, a bridge could be built over the railroad and with the additional length of span would not be prohibitive. Of course, in such case the Railroad Company should bear the additional expense, but the matter should be taken up with the Railroad Com-

pany to see whether they were disposed to do away with the grade crossing at this point and have estimates made of the expense incident thereto. I make this simply as a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners for their action.

Again, as another recommendation to the Commissioners, I would suggest that they look into the matter of changing the character of the County bridges erected throughout the County. The present class of bridges erected are a constant course of expense, both for painting and for plank. A new and different class of bridge is now being erected in our large cities, one which permits the floor or driveway to be constructed of cement and does not have such an excessive quantity of iron exposed to the weather which requires constant painting. We do not know that such bridges require any additional expense and recommend that hereafter ~~all~~ all bridges, whether river bridges or bridges over small streams in the County, be hereafter built with a view of doing away with the necessity of wooden plank, if it is possible to do so.

We also desire to call attention of the Board of Commissioners in this connection to the recent Act of the recalled Legislature requiring public lettings of bridges. This, in our judgment, is very proper legislation, but in order to be thoroughly effectual very careful and detailed specifications for all future bridges should be drawn by a competent engineer who thoroughly knows his business in this line, so that each and ever competitive bidder knows just what he is bidding upon. There has been in the past a great deal of deception practiced upon Boards of County Commissioners by bridge people and a great deal of scandal connected with the subject of bridge lettings. This should be wholly unnecessary where Commissioners do their duty by first getting proper specifications for the bridge

upon which

wanted and then requiring ~~upon~~ a competitive bidding, any and all bids should be refused by the Board where it is well known ~~or when there is any evidence of collusion bidding~~ that the price is excessive. Bridge iron is simply structural iron, not different in cost of manufacture from ordinary structural iron used in buildings, and is in fact ~~sold~~ by the manufacturers to the so called bridge companies by weight, that is, by the pound or ton, and people who know their business should not be defrauded or scandalized by paying excessive amounts. In approving this bridge therefore, we simply desire to be put on record as making the above recommendations for further investigation by the Board of Commissioners and not in any spirit of criticism for what has been done in the past.

We have before us a favorable report of viewers and approval by Grand Juries, of two other public bridge reports, one over the Susquehanna at Curry Run and the other over the Susquehanna in Bell Township at Sunderlands. For the present we will withhold action upon these two river bridges, as we do not think the finances of the County will warrant the building of more than one river bridge this year, at any rate we think it best to give both of these bridges further consideration before approval or disapproval.

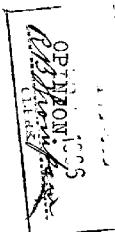
By the Court,

Alison P. Smith

P. J.

No. 1 September Sessions, 1905.

In the matter of a new Public
Bridge over the Susquehanna
River between Lumber City
Borough and Ferguson Township
at Lumber City.



To the Honorable, the Judge of the Court of Quarter Sessions of Clearfield County.

The petition of the undersigned inhabitants of the Borough of Lumber City and the township of Ferguson, in the said County respectfully sheweth that a bridge is much wanted over the Susquehanna River at the place where the public highway, leading from Lumber City to Kerrmoor and Ansonville, crosses the said river. That the bridge located there at the present time is old, worn out and dangerous to travel and that the said bridge at the present time is a County bridge. That the erection of a new bridge would be to burdensome upon the inhabitants of the said Borough and township.

Your petitioners therefore pray your Honorable Court to appoint proper persons to view the premises and make report upon the necessity of the County building a bridge at the above mentioned point and they will ever pray,

Jas. J. Hile.
E. J. Young.
J. A. Kiffel
Glyde Read
Andrew Murphy
C. E. Owens
J. W. Vaughan
Edward Kirk
Ed. McCracken
F. L. Hile
D. B. Hile
Jno. Ferguson
Wm. Schmitt
E. E. Hile

J. R. Cupple
J. P. Hallinan
J. E. Jordan
J. A. Garrison
J. C. Caldwell
G. A. Hile
J. D. Murphy
L. V. Caldwell
J. J. Starling
Eli Hile
Jno. Rush
H. A. Woodside
Wm. Hoadshell
R. Kirk

J. S. Farns
C. W. Caldwell
H. C. Heppen
Orrin McDivitt.
Frank Heppen
J. J. Murphy.
J. L. Borsari
J. H. Moore
John Moore
Lewis Melracken
Millie T. M.
C. S. Schabb
W. A. Melracken
Geo. O. Thustin
Perry Hile
J. M. Fury
D. W. D. Haas
J. P. Read
L. Bernie Straw
G. E. Shaffer
E. E. Owens
R. L. Summers
A. L. Mcfee
Graham Shaffer

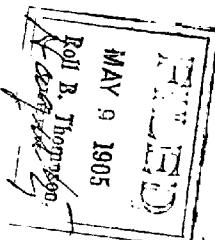
G. B. Straw
R. L. W. Melracken
William Straw
H. E. Tubb
Martin Michaels
R. G. Moore
G. H. Hill
Wilson M. O'Clare
J. S. Liver
G. P. Shaffer
J. L. Spencer
Chas. G. Gearhart
Byrd G. Wisner
David Heppen
J. D. Farwell
Wiley H. Woodley

1 Sept. 9, 1905

Public Bridge at Sandusky
city.

New May 9th 1905 Public
Presented to the public
G. B. Thompson of Olmsted
Mass. & C. C. Campbell
John G. Thompson of from
him am hereby appointed
to view and examine
and make report at
September 1st, 1905.

On the 9th
John G. Thompson
O. J.



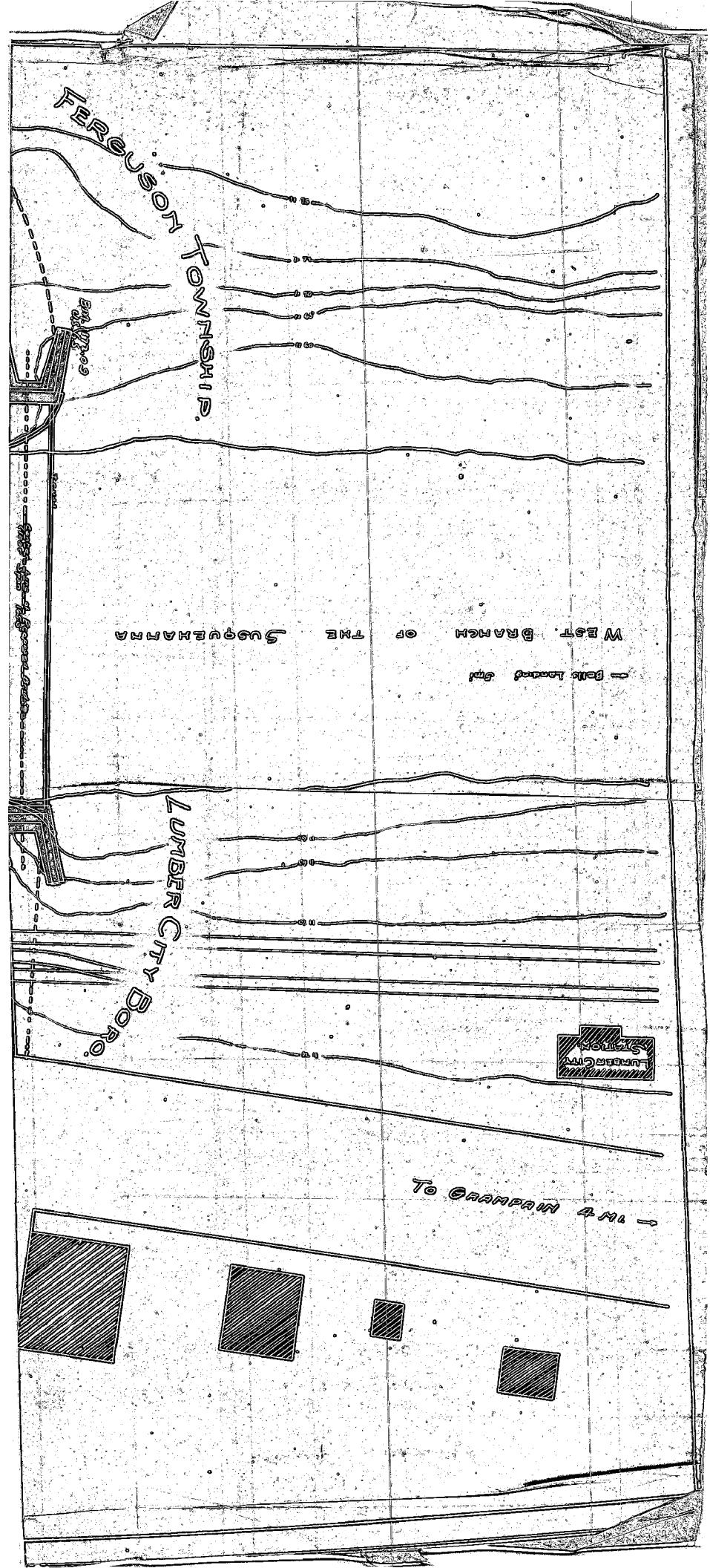
MAY 9
1905

John G. Thompson

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$$\begin{array}{r} 11 \\ 11 \\ \hline 11 \end{array}$$

And now July 7th 1906, the
Wethers Vines report for action
and concurrence, and we find
that the new Bridge is a
County Bridge, that the same
is unsafe, and that a new
Bridge is needed at the place
where the present Bridge stands.
We therefore recommend that the
County Commissioners proceed to
replace the present wooden structure
with a new iron bridge.
We further recommend that the County
Commissioners soon to present budget
with same is replaced on account
of the danger to the traveling public.

Isaac Dugay
Foreman



COMMISSIONERS OF CLEARFIELD COUNTY
LOCATION PLAN FOR
HIGHWAY BRIDGE OVER SUSQUEHANNA RIVER

LUMBER CITY.

Scale 1:10,000

Commissioners
S.R. McMurtry
G.R. Rowles
B.P. Whipple
A.K. Stover Chair

Commissioners
J. L. L. Jr.
E. Williams
E. G. Dill

→ To CUMBERLAND

