PENNDOT

Historic Bridge Marketing Program

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1876  Messerall Road over Pine Creek, East Titusville, Crawford County
Wrought Iron Bridge Co., Canton OH
1869 Joseph Henszey Design Bridge at former location, Ontelaunee Creek, Lynnport, Lehigh County
1869 Joseph Henszey Design Bridge at Central Pennsylvania College
Summerdale, Cumberland County
Former Dorrington Road Bridge over Robinson Run
1888 Pratt Pony Truss, Pittsburgh Bridge Company
Wangum Falls Bridge over Middle Creek
1903 Riveted Warren Pony
Bollman Truss Bridge
Built 1871
Moved 2006 to the Great Allegheny Passage Trail

Images Courtesy of Brett Hollern
Wendell Bollman was a pioneer iron bridge builder in America. At fourteen he marched in the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad's 1828 inaugural parade, and the next year he helped lay the first track as a B&O carpenter. He first taught himself to build wooden railroad bridges, and in 1852 patented his own unique truss form for assembling iron bridges.

He formed his own company in 1858 and continued to design bridges for the B&O and other railroads. His iron bridges were eventually replaced as railroads began to use larger, heavier trains, and as steel replaced iron in bridge construction.

This rare iron bridge was built in 1871 to carry the B&O over Wills Creek east of Meyersdale, and in 1910 it was moved to carry a farm road over the B&O tracks west of Meyersdale. Slated for demolition, the bridge was rescued and moved a second time in 2006 to serve as a bridge for the trail. It is 81 feet long, 13 feet wide, weighs 30 tons, and has cast and wrought-iron members.

These iron bridges were easy to erect by unskilled laborers, since each part had numbers cast into it for easy identification, and the bridges could be fast assembled in the B&O shops. Iron diagonals radiated down from central or end towers, and everything was held together with bolts, mortise-and-tenon joints and wrought-iron pins.
Meadowview Road, SR 4038 over N. branch Bermudian Creek, York Co. ca. 1890 Pratt Pony Truss
Marsh Creek Bridge
1889 Pratt Pony Truss, King Bridge Company, Cleveland OH
Former Wawa Station Bridge, Delaware County, now at Greenbank Mill over Red Clay Creek, Wilmington, Delaware
1882 Pratt Pony Truss
Craighead Bridge, Zion Rd. over Yellow Breeches Creek, Cumberland County, 1899 Pratt Through Truss, Pittsburgh Bridge Co.
Curtis Wright Road over Towanda Creek, Bradford County, 1892 Pratt Through Truss
Nicholson Bridge over Tunkhannock Creek, Wyoming County, 1881 Lenticular Through Truss Corrugated Metal Co.
Nicholson Bridge over Tunkhannock Creek, Wyoming County, 1881 Lenticular Through Truss Corrugated Metal Co.
For more information:
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