

Maple Rapids Road Bridge, Maple Rapids, Michigan 1888-2013

History without a record denies a younger generation an opportunity for discovery.

This year, 2013, another historic record has disappeared.



Maple Rapids Road Bridge spanned the Maple Rapids River.

For information about the Maple Rapids Bridge visit Nathan Holth's website below:
<http://www.historicbridges.org/bridges/browser/?bridgebrowser=truss/maplerap/>



Maple Rapids, Michigan, had three iron truss bridges spanning the Maple Rapids River. In this 1908 post card picture above, students and their teacher visit the site of another iron truss bridge in the Maple Rapids area.



Books in hand, a schoolhouse key pinned to her coat, this woman from the 1908 postcard picture appears to be a teacher with her students on a field trip. What were the lessons for day? A history lesson?



In August 2013, a volunteer group assembled at the site of the Maple Rapids Road Bridge. From left to right: Jenna Richelle Lone, Nate Ellis, Jeff Seelye, Vern Mesler, Frank Hatfield, and Joe Ellis.



All that was left of the 1888 Maple Rapids Road Bridge after it was pulled from the river was a twisted, bent pile of wrought iron.



The oxygen acetylene torch was used to dismantle the bent and twisted wrought iron



Dace Koenigsnecht, left, assists Dale Franks cutting apart a top chord section.



From left to right: Jeff Seelye cuts pin connections, Nate Ellis prepares to cut with the oxygen acetylene torch. Nate L. Ellis and Joe Ellis look on.



Jenna Richelle Lone, LCC student and LCC welding lab tech, inspects a top chord section of the Maple Rapids Road Bridge for disassembly.



From left to right: Frank Hatfield, Jenna Richelle Lone, and Nate Ellis take a break from dismantling work.



Nate Ellis picks up the last sections of wrought iron with his Bob Cat.



Dennis Milledge of Ashley Salvage leaves with nine tons of scrap wrought iron.