

## THE SHIRLEY BRIDGE 1903 VERSION

In March of 1903 a meeting of the Cherry Valley Township Board was called to discuss needed repairs to the bridge across the south branch of the Kishwaukee River near the site of the Shirley-Buck Mill. It was decided that a more permanent solution would be to build a new bridge.

A meeting at the bridge site was called with officials from Winnebago County and the state of Illinois. This was called on June 20, 1903 to draw up plans and specifications for a new bridge.

The new bridge was to be built in three spans. The west two spans were to be 100 feet each and the east span was to be 120 feet for a total of 320 feet long. The capacity was to be one hundred pounds per square foot, roadway 16 feet wide, and the floor to be made of 3x12 white pine planks sixteen feet long set on steel joists.

Each abutment was to be built on hardwood pilings set 2 ½ feet apart on center driven with a 1600 pound hammer with a drop of ten feet, until each blow would drive them less than ½ inch.

Three rows of pilings were to be driven around each abutment. The wings on the end abutments were to be thirty feet long on the up river side and twenty-two feet long on the down river side.

A concrete foundation six feet wide at the bottom to extend three feet below low water and one foot above the top of the pilings which were to be cut off six inches below low water level. The pilings were to be twelve inches at the bottom and eight inches at the top. The stone for the piers was to be not less than twelve inches thick or thirty inches on the face.

Committee of Supervisors: T. W. Madigan, Samuel Knighton, B. Kennedy, T. A. Healey (town clerk).

The contract was awarded to DARST and HUGHES CO. for \$8,490.00 on July 8, 1902. The work was to be completed by December 1, 1902. This bridge lasted longer than the one that replaced it.

Written by John Larson