

The Earliest bridge over the Connecticut River was built at Bellows Falls ^{and Wasehole} between 1785 and 1792, and opened to travel in the latter year.

The next in order of time on the river was built at Hanover N.H. in 1796.

Its entire length was 344 feet, and its width 36 feet. The abutments were of stone 40 feet square.

There was no pier in the center; but the bridge consisted of a single arch of 236 feet span, rising at the middle point so that the roadway was about twenty feet higher there than at the ends. Passengers were thus subjected to a sharp ascent on entering and a corresponding downward pitch in leaving it.

The bridge was constructed of the largest selected white pines, hewed 18 inches square, and some of them 60 feet long.

It was patterned after the ~~two~~ arch of the Piscataqua bridge at Portsmouth N.H. and, excepting that, boasted the longest ^{single} span in New England.

The Hanover bridge remained in use until 1804, when it fell without warning, and by its own weight, though the ruin was hastened by the water undermining one of the abutments.

The architect and builder was one