

A petition for liberty to build a bridge over Merrimack river, at Deer Island was presented to the Legislature of Mass. June 1. 1791. Notwithstanding the continued opposition of the surrounding towns, the charter was granted in 1792. The bridge was begun in April of that year, and, in seven months, Nov. 26. 1792, was opened to the public. Deer Island was purchased by the Bridge Co.; a road was laid out across it and a hotel was erected upon it - which is now the residence of the late Hon Richard S Stoddard. The bridge as stated by Cushing; "consisted, ~~of~~ in fact, of two bridges resting on Deer Island in the midst of the river." "It was" says Coffin "one thousand and thirty-feet long, thirty-four feet wide. Its height