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To.....

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Floating Log Bridge over Schuylkill River Philadelphia

Thomas Swining in "Travels in America" describing his Trip from Philadelphia to Baltimore by wagon. says Apr. 14. 1796 "We were reached the Schuylkill + + + we crossed it upon a floating bridge constructed of logs of wood placed side of each other upon the surface of the water and planks nailed across them although this bridge floats when not charged or charged but lightly, the weight of our wagon depressed it several inches below the surface, the horses splashing through the water, so that a four-passenger party at the same time would have been exposed to serious inconvenience + + + The existence of a such a bridge seemed the more surprising as it completely obstructed the navigation of the river which would otherwise, it was told, admit small craft as high as Reading nearly eighty miles further up."