

Bridge Completed: A Cantilever Bridge Over the Kentucky River



1877

High Bridge opens to rail traffic

The bridge spanned a 1,300 foot gap between the hills that flanked the river 280 feet below. The bridge was first used on April 20, 1877 and became an important link between the Northern States and the South.

At the time of its construction it was the highest railway bridge in the world, the highest bridge on the American continent, and the first real cantilever railroad bridge in the United States.



United States Post Office

A United States Post Office was established at High Bridge in 1877 under the name of North Towers, Kentucky, in deference to the lofty stone towers. (In July of 1888 the name North Towers was dropped in favor of High Bridge.)



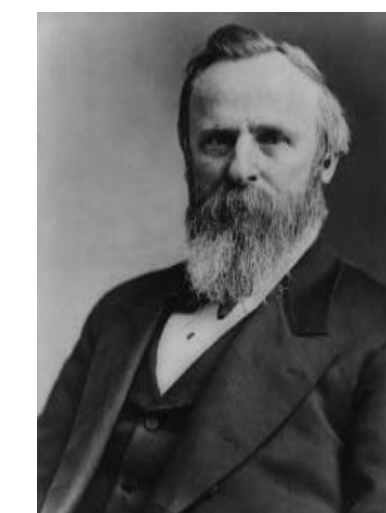
HIGH BRIDGE ON SPAN & ENDWEST BARGE.



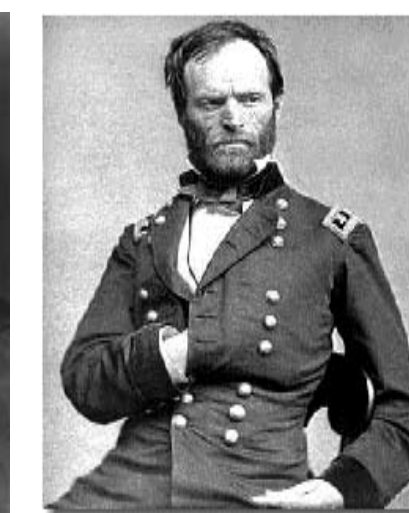
1879

Presidential Visit

In 1879 U.S. President Rutherford B. Hayes arrived in Kentucky by rail to formally dedicate High Bridge. Accompanying him was Union Army Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman.



President Hayes

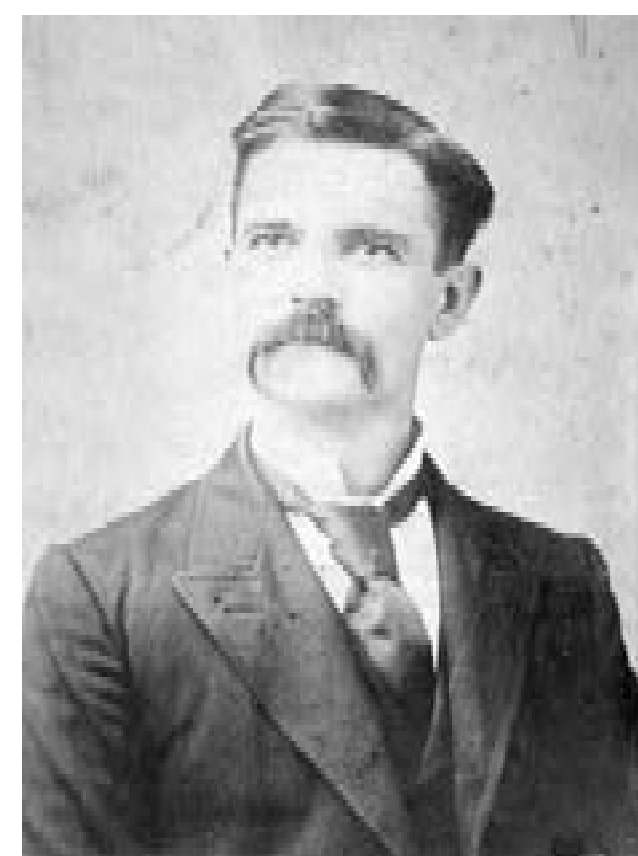


General Sherman



Tub-thumpers, Speechifiers and Revivalists

By the 1880s, the pavilion at High Bridge was attracting traveling evangelists, politicians and camp meetings.



Sam Jones
1847-1906

American evangelist

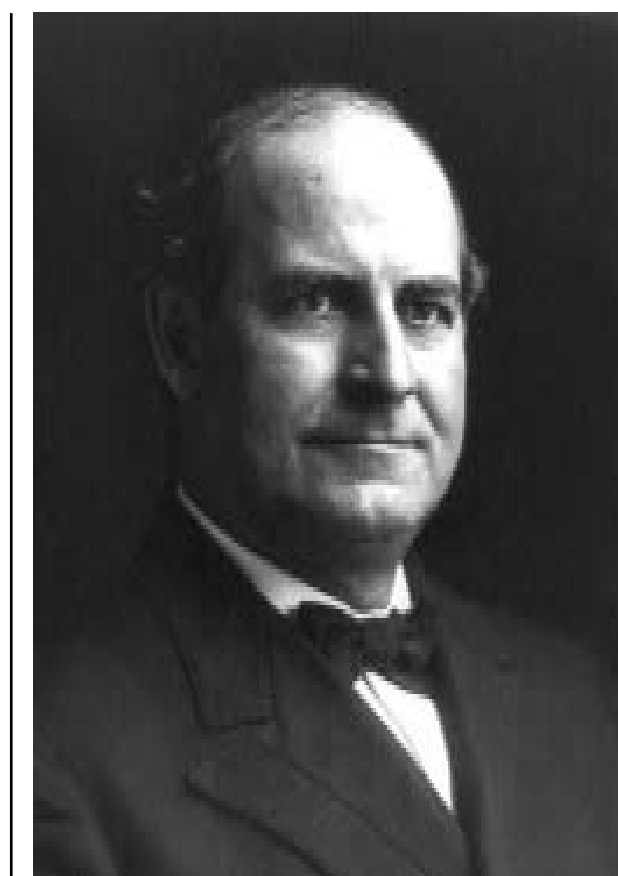
Sam Jones was a drunken ex-lawyer and ex-school teacher from Oak Bowery, Alabama who got converted at the age of 24 and went on to become one of the greatest gospel preachers of all time. At his father's deathbed, he fell on his knees and repented of his sin and trusted Christ. Wherever he preached, liquor stores closed, theaters and jails emptied, and cursing was reduced to whispers. Beginning with his first appearance in 1885, Sam Jones's appearances at High Bridge would draw thousands.



Dewitt Talmage
1832-1902

American evangelist

Thomas Dewitt Talmage was born in Gatesville, New Jersey and became a lawyer before his conversion. Upon entering the ministry, he served three Reformed churches in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, and also two Presbyterian churches in New York and Washington, D.C. After serving as a chaplain in the Union Army during the Civil War, he built a tabernacle in Brooklyn in 1870. Preaching without the aid of notes, his oratorical powers were compared to those of George Whitefield, and his poetic expression to that of Shakespeare and Milton. Nationwide, over 30,000 people received the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior during Talmage's ministry as pastor.

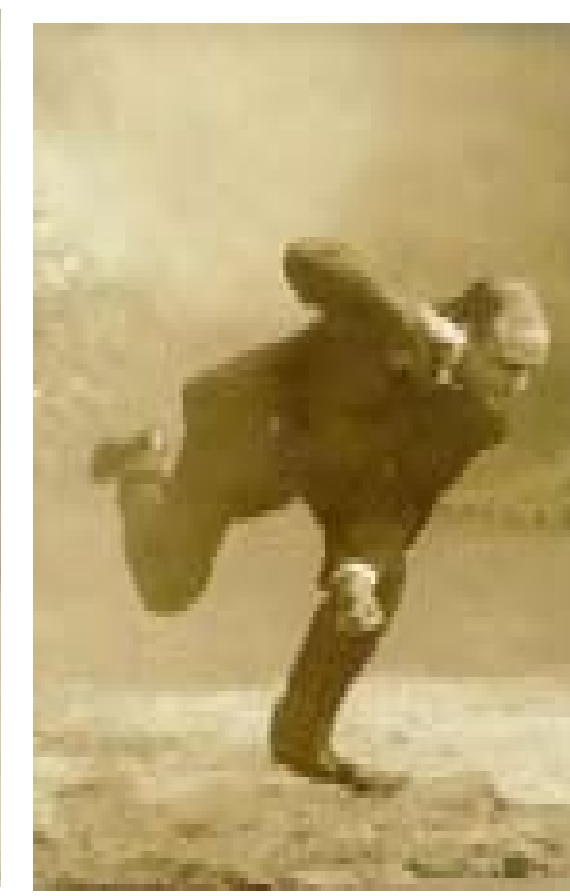


William Jennings Bryan
1860-1925

The Great Commoner

William Jennings Bryan was a Congressman from Nebraska, three-time presidential candidate (1896, 1900, and 1908), and later Secretary of State under President Woodrow Wilson. He became one of America's greatest orators as the nation came of age at the turn of the 20th century. When running for president in 1896, Bryan decided the best strategy for Democratic victory was to bring his message to the people by speaking around the country, often from the backs of railroad cars.

In 1925 Bryan faced off in the courtroom against Clarence Darrow in the famous 'Scopes Monkey Trial,' held in Dayton, Tennessee. The trial tested whether evolution could be taught in schools, and Bryan represented the views of creationists who supported a literal interpretation of the Biblical creation story. He won the case, yet died one week after the trial.



Billy Sunday
1862-1935

American Evangelist

Billy Sunday was an American evangelist born in Iowa. A professional baseball player with the Chicago White Sox and other National League teams, he was saved in 1886. An evangelist from 1896 to 1935, he made an attack on liquor the mainstay of his campaigns. During his sermons you could see him "dodge the devils boomerangs" and for a climactic finish, smash a liquor bottle with his baseball bat.

Go out into the highway and hedges and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

Luke 14:23

You have been weighed on God's scales and found wanting. --

Whiskey and beer are all right in their place, but their place is in hell.

The Camp Meetings



One of the local newspapers reported...
"a minister who makes a convert at High Bridge ought to have extra credit for it on the ledgers of Heaven."

