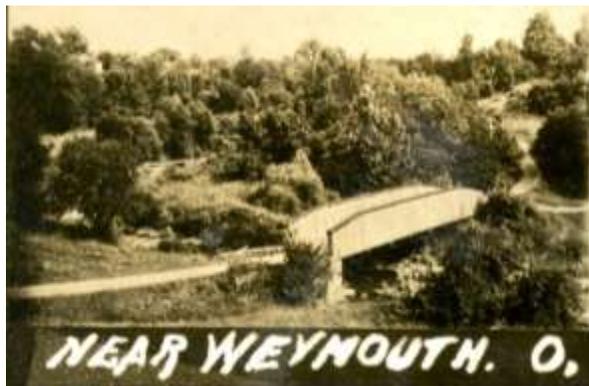


The Cook Road Bridges over the Rocky River North Branch

The earliest bridge photograph we have is the Bloomfield mill photograph, taken from a spot northwest of the bridge. This was certainly not the first bridge at this location. Note the large stone abutment supporting the bridge. The *Gazette* reported in 1881 that: “Ben Potter and team broke through the bridge on the river near the old sawmill. It had been condemned for a year, but allowed to stand.” The replacement bridge, which became known as the “old white bridge”, must have been built soon thereafter and appears in multiple photographs. That bridge was similar in design and style to the prior bridge, but didn’t have the large stone abutment.



A storm in 1913 flooded the valley and nearly took out that bridge; however, it’s time would come in 1924. In the 1913 photograph, the house at 3394 Cook Road is surrounded by water.



From 1924: “The old white bridge that stood under the hill by the old Bloomfield Mill and has withstood torrents of the Rocky River for 40 years, was swept away and can be seen on the McDowell farm ½ mile away.”

From the November 6, 1924 *Sentinel*: “Charles and Lewis Scanlon have the contract to build a swinging footbridge in Weymouth to replace the bridge destroyed by the storm.” Photographs show it under construction and completed.

From the January 15, 1925 *Sentinel*: “The swinging bridge over the river is now complete and appreciated by the children who had to go so far out of their way to go to the school.”



From the April 5, 1929 *Gazette*: “New bridge to replace the footbridge across the Rocky River just west and south of Weymouth giving access to the county road which follows along the river to the south, but to which there is no access from the north for some miles. The footbridge has cared for pedestrians but the building up of the community about Weymouth recently has caused a demand for a bridge over which automobiles and teams may make their way.” From the May 3, 1929 *Gazette*: “Weymouth bridge to be built by Flickinger-West Construction Co. of Cleveland for \$1688.25.” Maynard Flickinger lived in Medina.

Our next photographs of the bridge are dated 1969. This was likely the bridge built in 1929. One photograph, taken from northeast of the bridge, shows the Norman Miller house, built in 1928, in the background.



The last work done on the bridge was in 1970, with the beams reset. A photograph from 1989 shows the current configuration of the bridge.



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