

**PLYMOUTH COUNTY COMMISSION RECORDS 1875  
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**SKIM MILK BRIDGE**

**Crossing Between Bridgewater and West Bridgewater  
Roadway Discontinued in 1875**

The Skim Milk Bridge spans the Town River where what is now “old Maple Street” crosses the river. It is north of the townline between Bridgewater and West Bridgewater. In early colonial times, old Maple Street and Skim Milk Bridge were likely a major conduit for trade and transportation to the Taunton Seaport. During this time, the Taunton Seaport was a launching point for products from local farms sent all around the world.

The Skim Milk Bridge is a “dry stone constructed bridge”. It was built without mortar or concrete. It is not known exactly how or when the bridge was constructed. It is possible that the largest stones were transported to the site by oxen pulled sleds during the winter.

The bridge received its name when fine white silt or clay particles in the river bottom became suspended during the construction of the bridge, turning the water the color of “skimmed milk”.

Old Maple Street, along with Skim Milk Bridge, was discontinued as a public way in 1875 by the Plymouth County Commission when a new roadway was constructed and bridge (now Scotland Street) was constructed. Skim Milk Bridge can be reached by an easily accessible Haseotes-Mass Wildlife Trail, from Scotland Street. A small parking area is available on Scotland Street. This trail is part of the Bay Circuit Trail and the Nunckatesset Greenway.

Compliments of Register of Deeds John R. Buckley, Jr. and  
Joan Pierce, Land Agent  
Mass Department of Fish and Game

From the “Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Notable Land Records Collection”