The first railroad bridge was built across the Ohio River at Steubenville in 1865. It was completed during the Civil War only after Congress addressed their obligation to mediate between railroad and river transportation on the river. In addition, the project marked the establishment of the Army Corps of Engineers’ oversight over all river crossings. Further, the Steubenville Bridge set an engineering precedent that was followed throughout the Ohio Valley and, for the first time, set a standard of full-size testing of bridge components. It also defined a new corporate framework for designing and building major stream crossings. The lecture is illustrated with nearly a hundred historic images.

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