

LENNOX BRIDGE

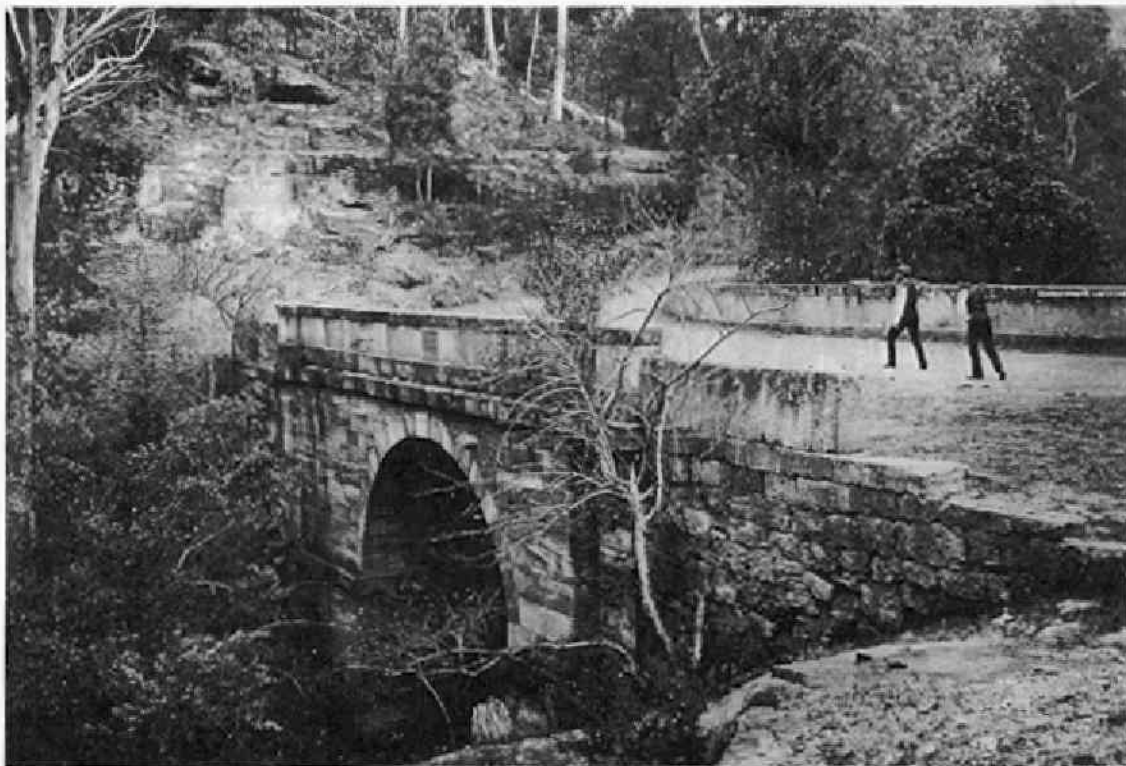
Another historic feature of the Blue Mountains area is Lennox Bridge which spans Lapstone Creek on Mitchell's Pass near Glenbrook. It is the second oldest bridge in Australia, Richmond Bridge in Tasmania having been built eight years earlier.

Surveyor-General Thomas Mitchell began construction of a deviation in the Main Western Road in 1832, the object being to avoid the steep climb up Lapstone Hill. One problem was a deep gully that had to be crossed so Mitchell set David Lennox, Superintendent of Bridges, to work with a gang of twenty men.

X *Stone for the bridge was quarried from close by and in July, 1833, the task was completed. Mitchell described it as "a somewhat experimental work which Mr Lennox has executed extremely well."*

The bridge was named Lennox Bridge and the words "David Lennox" were inscribed on the keystone of the upstream side and on the opposite side "AD 1833".

It has survived the hazards of 143 years and until 1926 it carried all traffic to the west. The single arch spans 6m., the roadway is 10m. wide at the crown of the arch and the same height above the bed of the gully.



Lennox Bridge in 1887.

Photograph by N.S.W. Government Printer

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY:

1. Visit Lennox Bridge. Turn off the Great Western Highway at a signpost as you climb Lapstone Hill. Follow the old road 1km. along Mitchell's Pass. Can you understand the building technique for such a bridge?
2. Note the engravings on both the upstream and downstream keystones.
3. Read the wording on the plaque set into a rock at the Sydney end of the bridge.