**THE LAPSTONE VIADUCT**

**(Commonly known as the Knapsack Bridge.)**

Like the Victoria Bridge, it was designed by and built under the direction of John Whitton; its purpose was to carry the original Western Railway Line across Knapsack Gully at the head of Jamison creek. The contract for the construction was let to W. Watkins in March 1863, and the work was completed in 1865.

It was constructed of sandstone quarried in the neighbourhood and, in Whitton's words, "consisted of five spans of fifty feet [15.24m]and two of twenty feet [6.09m]each, built in masonry for a single line of railway on an incline of 1 in 30". He might have added that its length was 388 feet [103m] and its height at the centre 126 feet [38.5] spanning the Knapsack Gully.

The viaduct fell into disuse in 1913 when the railway line closed on the completion of the Glenbrook Gorge Deviation and was unused for 13 years. The Glenbrook Gorge Deviation was put in place so as to avoid the use of the old Zig Zag section of the Western Railway Line. Parts of the old railway line are still open for inspection.

Extract from: Some Bridges Around Penrith, Compiled by H. Palmer N.D.H.S.