

# ***History of Holman's Bridge***

## **(NW of Denmark, SC)**



**Oktoberfest 2015**

**Presented by:**

**Wm. Larry Holman, P.E.**

**Vicksburg, MS**

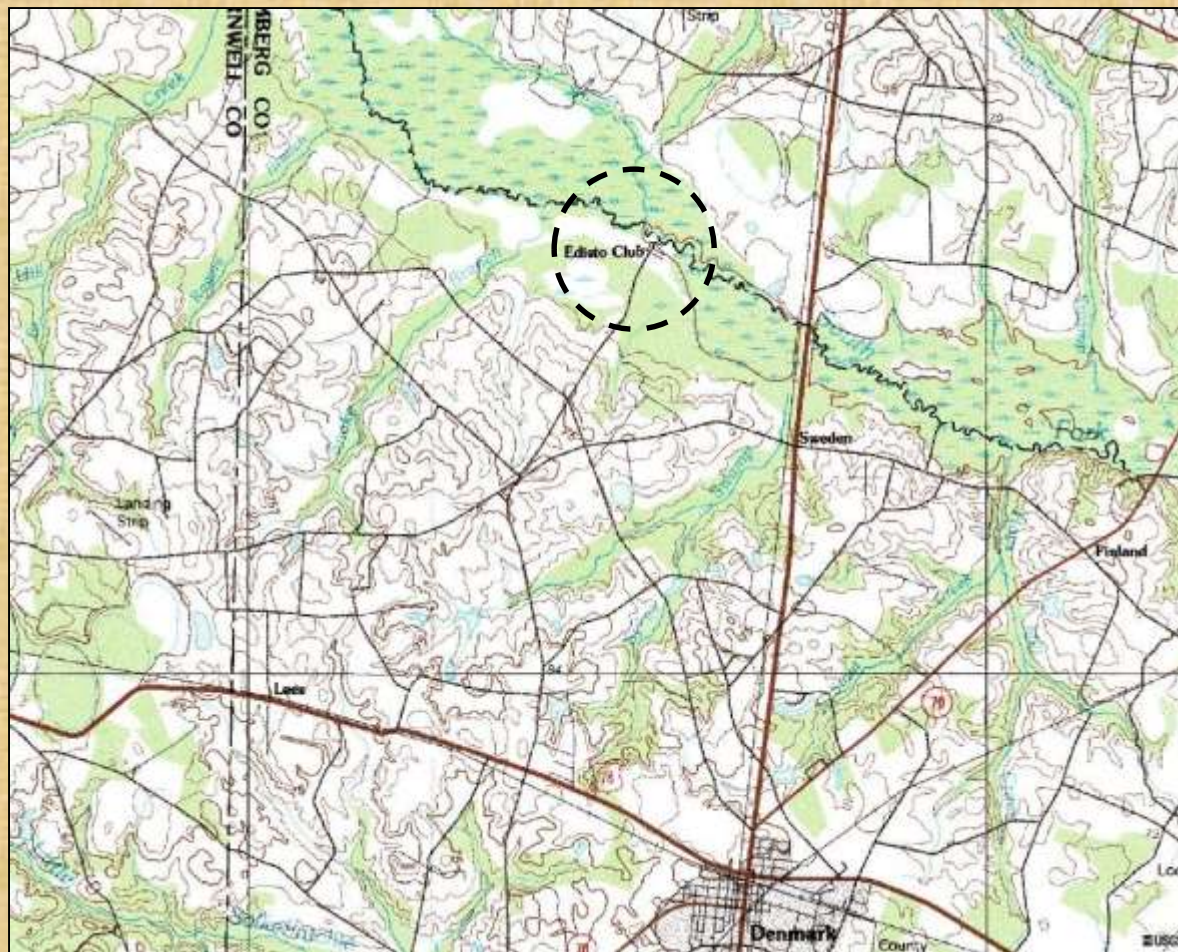
# *History of Holman's Bridge*

- Overview
- Biography of John Holman Sr.
- Holman's Bridge Timeline of Events
- Bridge Construction Style
- Historical Marker Efforts
- Historic Marker Location
- Marker Dedication

[illegible]

**Cropped portion of 1825 *Mills Atlas* map of Barnwell District.  
North arrow is the diagonal red line to the left.**

# *Holman's Bridge Location*



# ***What It Looked Like***



**Holman's Bridge in the 1920s - 1930s.**

# *Biography of John Holman Sr.*

- Son of Conrad Holman and wife Mary Ann
- Born 26 Oct 1759 in Amelia Twns, Berkeley Co. SC, near Lyon Creek/Halfway Swamp, today Calhoun Co., SC.
- One of 4 sons, along with 2 sisters
- He married twice and had 16 children. My direct ancestor was first son, John Jr.
- John's father dies when he was 13 years old. (1772)
- His direct participation in the Am. Revolution is not well documented. The family estate did support Patriot cause.
- First land grant in Barnwell Dist in 1786 for 848 acres.

# *Biography of John Holman Sr.*

- Likely moves to Winton/Barnwell District by mid 1790s
- In 1798 appointed a road commissioner to lay out a road from Ghent Branch to Odom's Ferry
- Builds and finances bridge over S. Edisto in 1801
- Member of Dean Swamp Baptist Church
- Charter member of Willow Swamp Baptist Church (1805)
- Various Holmans held church leadership positions
- Died 3 April 1821, Barnwell Dist., SC

# *Timeline of Events*

- c. 1785-1800 - First settlers in the area were Cramer, Hartzog, Holman, Reed, Sojourner, Tyler, Young, and Walker. River crossing known as Tyler's Ferry.
- circa. Summer 1801 – Holman builds bridge at low water.
- Before Nov 1801 – Holman files a claim with both Districts for construction reimbursement.
- Nov 1801 – Holman petitions General Assembly for bridge ownership.
- 19 Dec 1801 – General Assembly passed Act No. 1769 giving Holman ownership, right to charge toll for 7 years.

# *Timeline of Events (cont.)*

- c. 1808 – In undated petition No. 896, Holman petitions to renew terms for another 7 years. No legislative action found.
- 1812-14 – Holman petitions again for renewal but now for 20 years. 14 years is granted in Act No. 2057 on 21 Dec 1814. Tolls remained the same except none for persons going to church, a mill, or the blacksmith shop.
- 3 April 1821 – John Holman dies. His heirs assume responsibility for bridge ownership and upkeep.
- 1825 – “Holman’s Bridge” appears on both Barnwell and Orangebrugh Districts’ maps in Mills’ Atlas of SC, by Robert Mills. It is near “Five Points.”

## *Timeline of Events (cont.)*

- 3 Aug 1829 – Minutes of Orange Parish Board of Commissioners of Roads indicate bridge is now public responsibility.
- 1829-1863 – Numerous mentions in minutes by Orange Parish BoCoR using public funds to repair Holman's Bridge.
- 9 Feb 1865 – General Sherman's Union XV Corps skirmishes with 19<sup>th</sup> AL Reg. on south bank.
- 1865-1886 – No records found of Bridge activity during this period but was likely rebuilt soon after the war.
- Early 1900s to Present – The Sojourner family acquires land at the bridge, builds a cabin for camping then later used as bath house for swimmers. In 1909, two acres were reserved on the beach for family picnic ground. AKA: Holman's Beach

# *Bridge Replacement or Repairs*

## **Notice.**

OFFICE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, }  
ORANGEBURG, S. C., April 5, 1886. }

**N**OTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County Commissioners will let out a contract to the lowest responsible bidder, on the 30th day of April, 1886, at 12 o'clock, M., for the purpose of BUILDING A CAUSEWAY at Holman's Bridge across the South Edisto River.

Specification will be made known at above time and place.

The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. By order of the Board County Commissioners.

B. H. MOSS,

Clerk Board County Commissioners.  
April 15-2t.

**Times & Democrat**  
**April 22, 1886**

## **Notice.**

On the first Monday in February, at 11:00 o'clock, at Holman Bridge, I will let out to the lowest responsible bidder, a contract to build a bridge over the South Edisto river on the Holman Bridge Road. Right reserved to reject any and all bids.

F. J. D. FELDER, Supervisor.

Jan. 22, 1909.

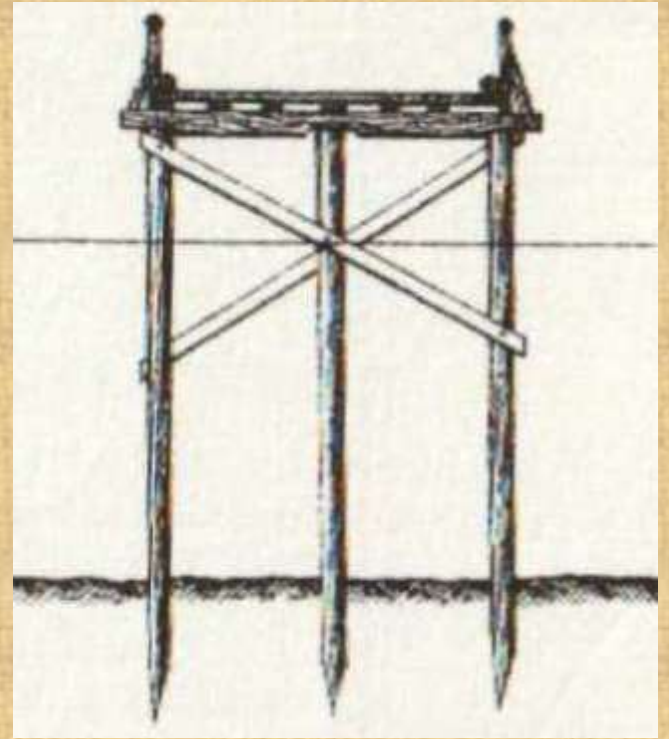
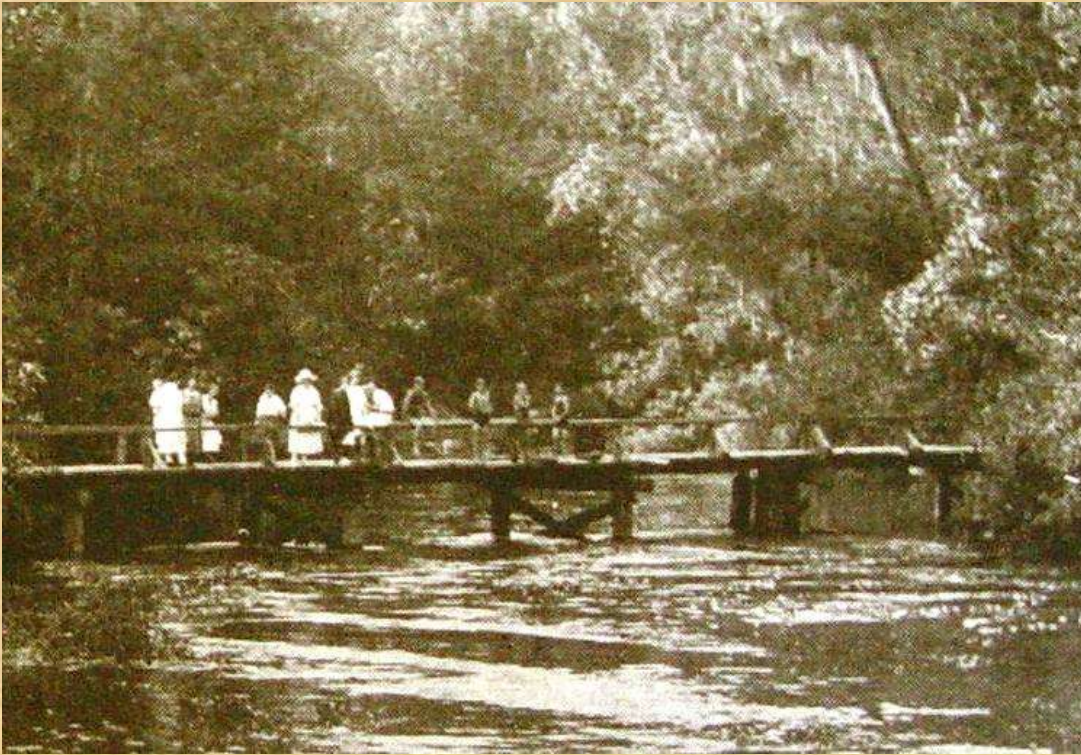
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**Times & Democrat**  
**Jan 23, 1909**

# *Bridge Construction Style*

- Last known Photos of functional Bridge in 1920s-1930s
- No longer functioning bridge in late 1930s to early 40s.
- A 1799 Reuben Kittrell petition gave specifications of similar bridge over South Edisto.
- John Holman was a road commissioner on Kittrell work.
- Kittrell specifications:
  - 12 feet wide between banisters
  - Deck planking, 2 inches thick
  - Bridge height above water to pass rafts and boats
  - Material to be of “best yellow pine”
  - To be in “good workmanship manner”
- All bridges on S. Edisto River likely built the same.

# *Bridge Construction Style*



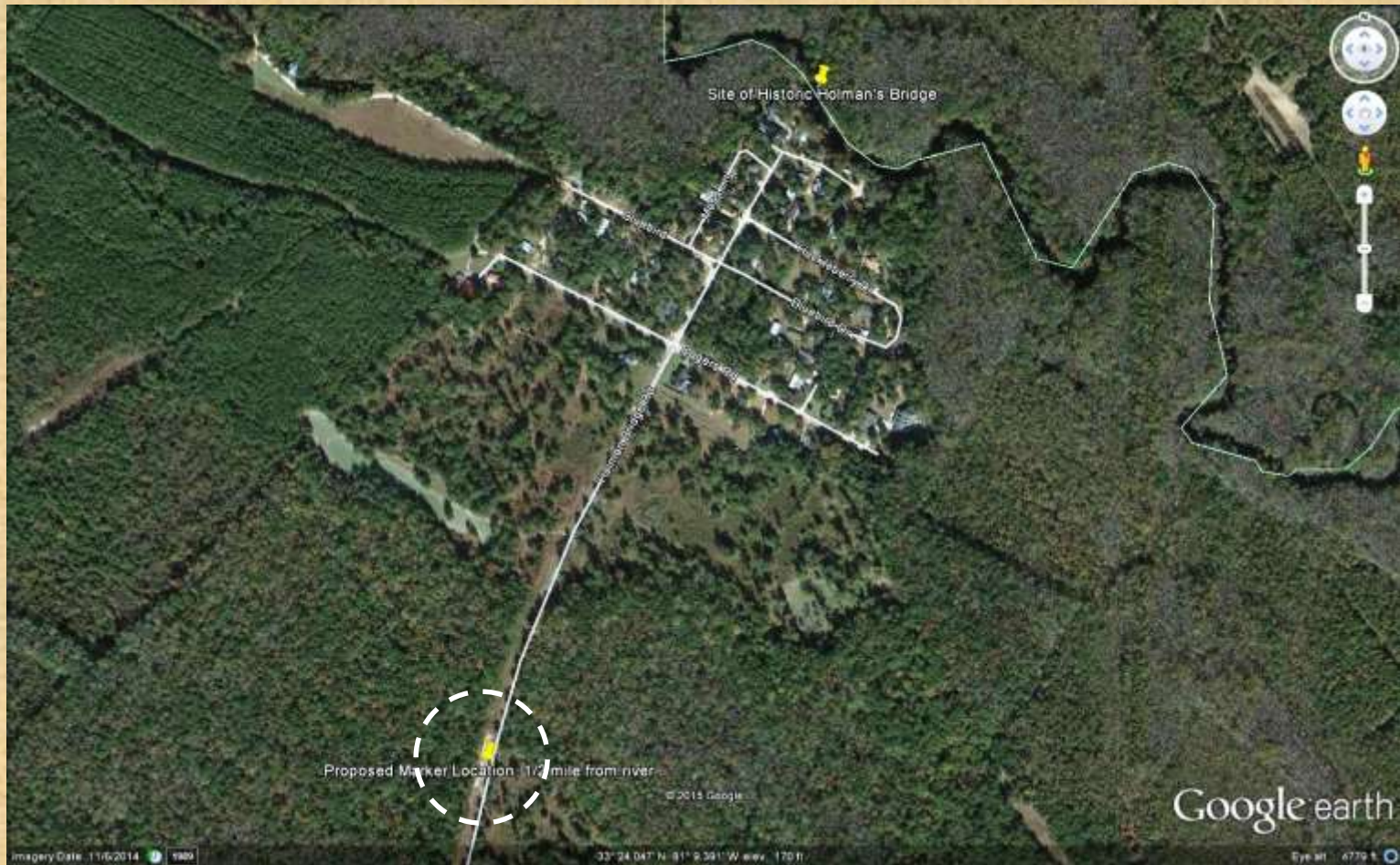
# *Historic Marker Efforts*

- 2010 trip to SC was birth of historic marker
- Interest shown by some locals and HS of Bamberg Co
- Historic petitions obtained from SCDAH
- Found a local farmer with great interest
- Project lay dormant for 3 years
- **Get Holman's Bridge marker done in 2015!**

# *Historic Marker Efforts*

- Visited Dr. Ehren Foley at SCDAH in March
- Nancy Foster of HSBC agreed to co-sponsor
- Contacted Holman's Bridge homeowners association about marker location
- Selected new location on Sandifer land
- Submitted application in 22 April 2015
- Approved by SCDAH on Aug 13, 2015
- Ordered Marker on Aug 14, 2015
- **Mission Accomplished 16 Oct 2015**

# *Historic Marker Location*



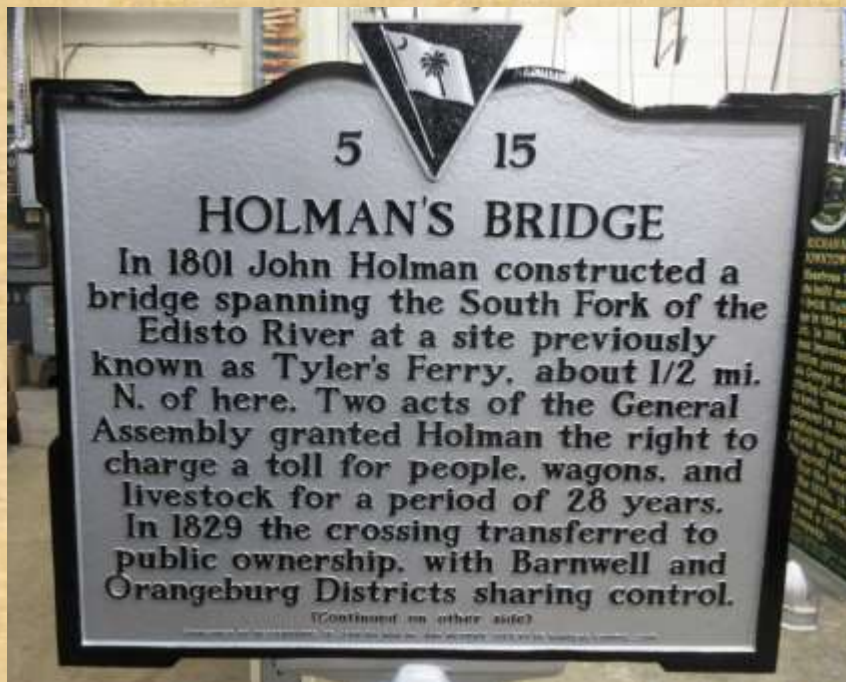
Marker Location on Holman's Bridge Road.

# *Historical Marker Location*



# *Holman's Bridge Historical Marker*

Front Side Text



Back Side Text



# *Marker Dedication – Holman Kin*



# *Marker Dedication Photos*

