



# **PORTAGEVILLE ARCH RAILROAD BRIDGE**

***Livingston County, New York, USA***



After the wooden Portage Bridge structure was completely destroyed by fire in May of 1875, the Erie Railroad Company built the iron Portage Bridge (Portage Viaduct) in the summer of 1875 to replace the lost construction. The iron bridge, running directly through Letchworth State Park at the upper falls, provided a line for rail traffic across the Genesee Valley River.

Though still in operation, the Portage Bridge posed restrictions with the weights and speed of cargo, limiting rail traffic and production in the area. In 2011, a plan was announced to replace the 141-year-old structure with a new bridge capable of allowing the rail traffic of today to pass over it, while also supporting the Southern Tier economy of New York.

In the fall of 2015, preparations began for the construction of the Portageville Arch Railroad Bridge. The new 900-foot, single-track bridge will feature an arched design, and will be located about 75 miles south of the current iron truss bridge that spans the Genesee River Gorge. Fasteners Direct was commissioned to supply bolts for the new bridge project, set to complete in 2018.