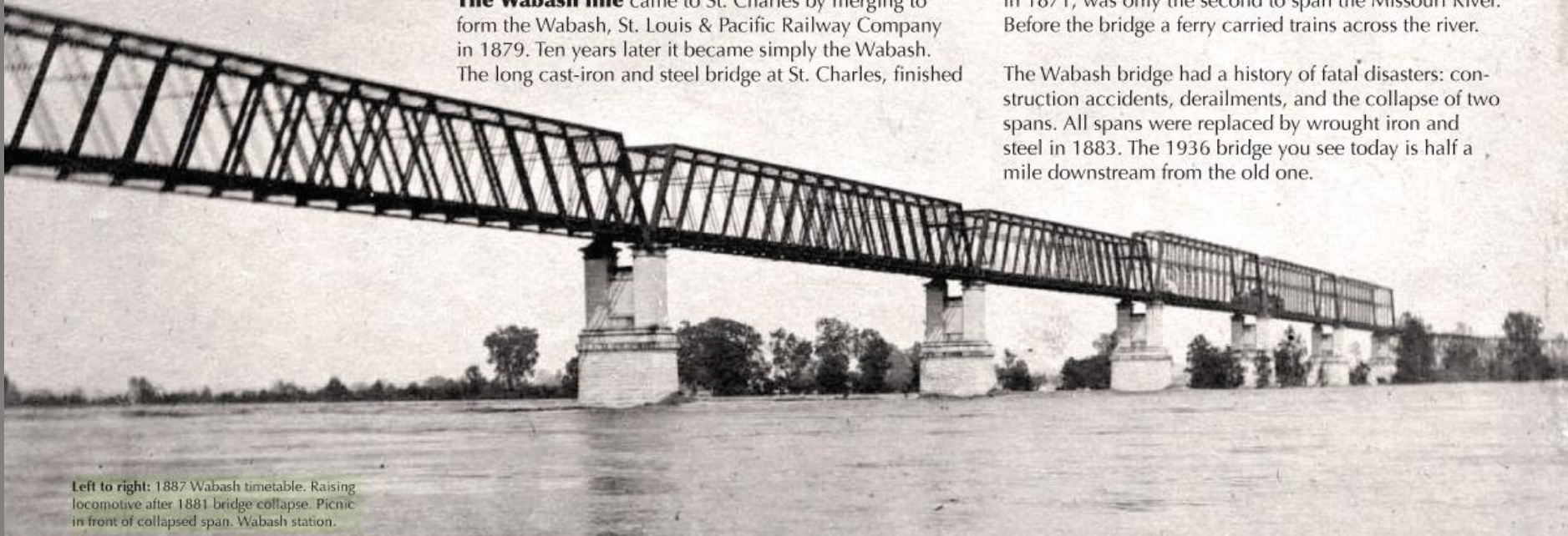


Wabash Railroad

The Wabash line came to St. Charles by merging to form the Wabash, St. Louis & Pacific Railway Company in 1879. Ten years later it became simply the Wabash. The long cast-iron and steel bridge at St. Charles, finished

in 1871, was only the second to span the Missouri River. Before the bridge a ferry carried trains across the river.

The Wabash bridge had a history of fatal disasters: construction accidents, derailments, and the collapse of two spans. All spans were replaced by wrought iron and steel in 1883. The 1936 bridge you see today is half a mile downstream from the old one.



Left to right: 1887 Wabash timetable. Raising locomotive after 1881 bridge collapse. Picnic in front of collapsed span. Wabash station.

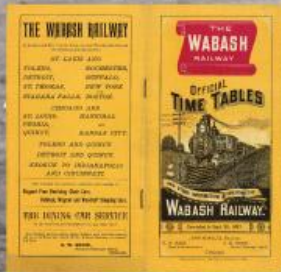


Image credits: Wabash Railroad Historical Society (1), St. Charles County Historical Society (2,3, background), Frenchtown Heritage Museum and Research Center (4).

