

TRAIN SERVICE TO MANHASSET — PART TWO
Submitted by the History Center at the Manhasset Public Library
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In order to bring the Long Island Rail Road trains to Manhasset, a trestle bridge/viaduct was built over the marshlands of Manhasset Bay. To connect the viaduct with Manhasset proper, a portion of land was donated by the Travers family in the Shorehaven area near Bayview Avenue, on the condition that all trains that pass will stop at Manhasset.

A contract was made with Carnegie Steel Corporation, which subcontracted with the King Bridge Company, to build the viaduct for \$60,000. The viaduct is one of the highest railroad bridges on Long Island. It stands 181 foot high over Manhasset Valley and it is 679 foot long. As many as 480 tons of steel were used to build it. During construction, workers struck bubbling springs and had to drive 145 vertical piles into the ground with 66 inclined piles to resist thrusting. The excavation was done with steam shovels. Donkeys and horses pulled the carts through woods and swamps. Huge cranes lifted iron girders to the top where they were riveted into place.

The viaduct, which was completed in 1898, ensured train service for the Manhasset area even when its population was only around 400 people.

