

Florida's Most Haunted Bridge

Bellamy Bridge Heritage Trail

Self-Guided Tour

A joint project of the Northwest Florida Water Management District, Jackson County Parks & Recycling and the Friends of Bellamy Bridge.



- A. Parking Area on County Road 162
- B. Ruins of Approach Bridge #3 (1872)
- C. Ruins of Approach Bridge #2 (1872)
- D. Historic Causeway (1872 & 1914)
- E. Bellamy Bridge (1914)
- F. Chipola River

BELLAMY BRIDGE HERITAGE TRAIL

The Bellamy Bridge Heritage Trail is a one-half mile nature trail that leads from CR-162 in Jackson County to the second oldest steel-frame bridge of its type in Florida.

Built in 1914 on the sites of earlier wooden bridges dating back to 1840, the bridge is one of the ten oldest bridges in Florida and is the focal point for one of the state's best-known ghost stories. In fact, many believe it to be "Florida's Most Haunted Bridge."

The ghost story revolves around a young woman named Elizabeth Jane Bellamy who died in Marianna on May 11, 1837. She is buried on private lands nearby and her restless spirit is said to haunt the bridge and surrounding floodplain swamp in an eternal search for her beloved husband, Dr. Samuel C. Bellamy.

It was Dr. Bellamy who built a wooden bridge at the site in 1840 and from whom the historic bridge takes its name today. The original structure was replaced several times over the years due to deterioration and flood damage. The County Commissioners of Jackson County authorized the construction of the steel-frame bridge in 1914 and it was used by motorized traffic until the 1960s.

Following a historic road first used by the Spanish in 1686, the Bellamy Bridge Heritage Trail provides beautiful views of a floodplain forest that has been restored by the Northwest Florida Water Management District. The vicinity is widely regarded as one of the most scenic spots in Northwest Florida.