
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945

Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension

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1929 August 26

Dedication of Lake Champlain Bridge

At Dedication of Lake Champlain Bridge, Crown Point, N. Y.,
August 26, 1929

The opening of this great highway bridge connecting the states of Vermont and New York is a particularly happy occasion for two reasons.

The first is that one of the great strategic points in American History finds itself again on a main artery of travel after a lapse of one hundred and fifty years. From the days of the earliest French voyagers, Crown Point was recognized as the key to the lower end of Lake Champlain. Later it was Ticonderoga that was the strategic point—in the war between the British and the French and then in the war between the Colonists and the mother country. For many generations new methods of travel left Crown Point to one side, but at last modern engineers have found that the engineers of three generations ago were right in their choice of this narrowing of the lake for the building of their works.

On both the Vermont and New York sides of this bridge, millions of Americans will in the days to come stand on historic soil.

The other and most significant reason for celebrating this day is that it marks the re-uniting of two states which in the old days were one. People are apt to forget the fact that Vermont was, until the close of the revolution, a part of the State of New York. The good people of Vermont felt that there natural lines of communication and of association lay rather with their New England neighbors to the south and east and it is worth while recording the fact that the State of New York made but little protest to the exercise of the wish of the men of Vermont in the organization of a new and separate state.

But it must be remembered also that while the people of Vermont were and are largely of New England origin, the same may rightly be said for

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a large part of the population of the State of New York also. In more than one way the existence of the long line of Lake Champlain has been a barrier to better communication between the two states in the past. The two states have much in common and this bridge, spanning the lake as it does at approximately the middle point, means far more intercourse in the days to come.

This bridge should be regarded not merely as a better means of communication for tourists and vacation seekers. It will be of practical and definite use to the neighboring population in both states. There will be the setting-up of new friendships and with that will come an interchange of thought which will be of benefit on both sides of the bridge. I venture to prophesy that within a few years people will wonder how we were able to get along without this bridge until now.

May this event mark the beginning of a reunion of the two states, not in the sense of a change of any sovereignty or any government but in the spirit of fellowship and friendship.

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at Crown Point, New York - Aug. 26, 1929

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But it must be remembered also that while the people of Vermont were and are largely of New England origin, the same may rightly be said for a large part of the population of the State of New York also. In more than one way the existence of the long line of Lake Champlain has been a barrier to better communication between the two states in the past. The two states have much in common and this bridge, spanning the lake as it does at approximately the middle point, means far more intercourse in the days to come.

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