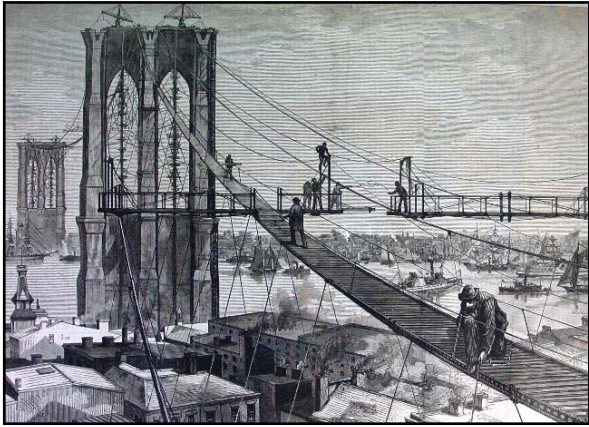


## The Brooklyn Bridge Miracle



The Brooklyn Bridge that spans the river between Manhattan and Brooklyn is an engineering miracle. In 1883, a creative engineer, John Roebling, was inspired by an idea for this spectacular bridge project. However, bridge-building experts told him to forget it; it just was not possible. Roebling convinced his son, Washington, an up-and-coming engineer, that the bridge could be built. The two of them conceived the idea of how it could be accomplished and how to overcome the obstacles. Somehow they convinced bankers to finance the project. Then, with unharnessed excitement and energy, they hired their crew and began to build their dream bridge.

The project was only a few months under way when a tragic on-site accident killed John Roebling and severely injured his son. Washington was unable to talk or walk. Everyone thought the project would have to be scrapped, since the Roeblings were the only ones who understood how the bridge could be built.

Although Washington Roebling was unable to move or talk, his mind was sharp as ever. One day as he lay in his hospital bed, an idea flashed into his mind about how to develop a communication code. All he could move was one finger, so he touched the arm of his wife with that finger. He tapped out the code to communicate to her what to tell the engineers who continued building the bridge. For 13 long years, Washington tapped out his instructions with one finger until the spectacular Brooklyn Bridge was finally completed.