

“River Towns Along the Susquehanna River” is a special photography exhibit from the collection of Julian A. Campbell. The exhibit features 58 photographs of the following towns along the Susquehanna River: Great Bend, Hallstead, Nichols (NY), Ulster, Wyalusing, Laceyville, Skinners Eddy, Meshoppen and Mehoopany.

Julian A. Campbell was born in Pennsylvania in 1889. He became interested in photography as a teenager. About 1908 his family moved to Binghamton, New York. In 1911 he purchased his first car, a new Model T Torpedo Roadster. Intending to get into the picture postcard business, he also bought an expensive German camera, which used 5 x 7 inch glass plate negatives.

Julian soon began traveling throughout southern New York and northern Pennsylvania (Endless Mountains), taking photographs to be transposed onto postcards. From July 1911 to early 1915, Julian took about 1,500 photographs. The inscription on each plate had to be hand-etched backwards so that it could be read properly when printed.

After residing in Canada from 1915 to 1917, Julian returned to Binghamton in 1917. After a tour in the Army during World War I, he returned to Binghamton and worked repairing Ford Model T's. In 1922 he bought a small farm at Langdon. He was married in 1926. During the Depression, he worked as a mechanic and as a farmer. From the early 1950's until 1970, he was the Justice of the Peace for Kirkwood, New York. He passed on in August 1973 and is buried in the Kirkwood Village Cemetery.

The exhibit of Campbell's photography can be viewed at the Sayre Museum in the historic LVRR Passenger Station on South Lehigh Avenue in Sayre. Visit the Sayre Historical Society's website, <http://www.sayrehistoricalsociety.org/>.