



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact

Josh Stull, Nicholson Heritage Association
570-871-0510
josh@nicholsonheritage.org

Opening of Photo Exhibit of Construction of the Nicholson Bridge

NICHOLSON, PA – Camerawork Gallery, in collaboration with the Nicholson Heritage Association and on the occasion of the 100th year anniversary, present an open exhibit of photographs of the construction of the Nicholson Bridge from the original glass plate negatives of Julian A. Campbell.

Opening reception will be on Friday, August 7, 2015, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:15 p.m. The exhibit will be on display from August 7, 2015 until August 31, 2015. Camerawork Gallery is located downstairs in the Marquis Gallery, 515 Center Street, Scranton, PA. The Gallery is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and free to the public. More information on Camerawork Gallery available at: www.cameraworkgallery.org.

Julian A. Campbell was born in Tallmanville, Pennsylvania on June 14, 1889. While Tallmanville no longer exists, it was about 2 miles south of Shehawken, Pennsylvania. Julian became interested in photography as a teenager and began taking pictures in about 1904.

In about 1908, his family moved to Binghamton, New York. In 1911 he purchased his first car—a 1911 Ford Model T Torpedo Roadster - and he also purchased an expensive German camera which utilized 5" by 7" glass plates for negatives. The camera was purchased to be utilized in a picture postcard business. He soon began traveling through northern Pennsylvania and southern New York taking pictures of towns, buildings, scenic views, etc., to be transposed onto postcards which he hoped could be sold to various area vendors.

In about 1912, the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western (DL&W) Railroad began construction on their Clarks Summit - Hallstead Cut-off, which included construction of the Nicholson Bridge, officially known as the Tunkhannock Creek Viaduct. The construction effort of the Nicholson Bridge was captivating and he photographed the entire process from beginning to end over the three-year period, 1912-1915. In all, Julian took about 1,500 photos, all on 5" by 7" glass plates. The inscription on each plate had to be hand-etched backwards so that it would read properly when printed.

On September 11-12-13, 2015, the community of Nicholson will celebrate the centennial of the Nicholson Bridge. The DL&W started construction on this engineering marvel in 1912, with its completion, dedication, and ready for use taking place on November 6, 1915. Abraham Burton Cohen was project designer and George J. Ray was chief engineer. In 1975, the American Society of Civil Engineers designated the Nicholson Bridge as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark due to its significant contribution to the development of the United States and to the profession of civil engineering. On April 11, 1977, this construction and engineering feat was listed on the National Register of Historic Places (#77001203) due to its national architectural, engineering, and transportation significance.

There will be plenty to do in Nicholson and the area, with events for the celebration currently being planned. Information is available at www.nicholsonbridge100th.com, including a Google map showing area accommodations. The schedule is subject to change, so check back for updates, which includes events and activities as confirmed. For starters, the celebration will begin Friday night, September 11, 2015. Then, on Saturday, September 12, 2015, the official program will take place in the morning, a parade in the afternoon, and Main Street will be closed all day for entertainment, food, and History on Main Street, where area historical groups have been invited to show off their items! Finally, on Sunday, September 13, 2015, the Nicholson Women's Club will organize their annual Bridge Day, where crafts, vendors, and food will be available on Main Street.

The Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Railway Historical Society, Inc. in partnership with Norfolk Southern's 21st Century Steam program and the Steamtown National Historic Site will operate public excursions on Saturday, September 12, and Sunday, September 13, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Nicholson and Kingsley Bridges. Tickets available online at www.laurellinesspecials.org. All excursions' partners include the Nicholson Heritage Association, Fort Wayne Railroad Historical Society, Anthracite Railroads Historical Society, Erie Lackawanna Dining Car Preservation Society, Norfolk Southern Corporation, and Steamtown.

Visitors could see other area attractions or even stay longer than the planned celebrations to see the Viaduct Valley Way Scenic Byway (which runs from Tunkhannock to Lanesboro through Nicholson); Starrucca Viaduct in Lanesboro; Steamtown National Historic Site, Anthracite Heritage Museum and Iron Furnaces, and Electric City Trolley Museum, all in Scranton; and numerous other historical sites and activities to do in Northeastern Pennsylvania. See endless options at the Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau website: <http://www.endlessmountains.org/activities/5>.

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