



Next are several views of the canal and rail- road tracks and river from the early 1900s in Washington Crossing and Titusville, shared through the kindness of Steven Cohen. Since he focuses on real image cards, some of these images are very rare, and more often have

people and action in the scene. These include the Washington Crossing railroad station (fig 4) and canal bridge, the Washington Cross- ing railroad telegraph office building, (fig 5) a canoe on the Delaware,(fig 6) and the canal bridge opened in Titusville.(fig 7)

fig 4



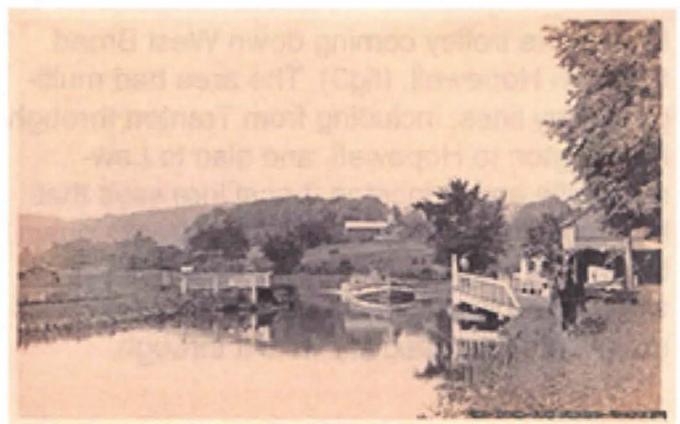
fig 5



fig 6



fig 7



The "P.R.R. Station & Canal Bridge" (fig 8) card was selected by Bob Meszaros for the postcard honoring Carol Meszaros created jointly by the WC4 and the Hopewell Valley Historical Society. The card has been distributed to members, and is available for free at local libraries, post offices, and stores.

The local fire departments were common subjects for postcards. The image of the first Hopewell Fire Department motorized truck (fig 9) at Broad and Greenwood streets was used on multiple cards. However, the image was cropped differently, so it is always useful to look at apparently duplicate cards to see if more of the image is available, especially the buildings behind the bank building on the right.

fig 8



fig 10



Another Steven Cohen card of Titusville shows a streetscape in 1909, with the dirt street and fencing along the side. (fig 10) This shows the kinds of facilities used for storing horses and wagons.

The final slideshow image is one of the familiar images of Hopewell that resulted from the press frenzy after the Lindbergh baby was kidnapped in 1932. The press set up shop here in Gerhart's Hotel (now the Hopewell Valley Bistro and Inn), with the installation of dozens of telephone wires and a branch telegraph station, plus radio broadcasters and these movie cameras. (fig 11)

fig 9



fig 11



Some general comments on postcards for local history:

- Postmarks and writing are helpful - to help push back the date of the image, and to read any commentary on it.

- Multiple copies of the same card are helpful - Some cards have a higher-quality image, or show more of the image, or provide older postmarks.

- Newer images are still interesting - Commenters on a recent History Project post on Facebook had a great time helping to date a series of Pennington postcards in the 1960s to 1990s, including this one of Main Street.(fig 12) Some of the identification was based on the buildings and stores, but most of it came from recognizing the models and production dates of the cars in the scenes.

- Other ephemera besides postcards also can be useful. This advertising placard found by Steven Cohen shows the Hopewell Station in 1881, with boxcars of materials being unloaded into horse-drawn wagons for R. Savage's store in Mount Rose. (fig 13 & 14) This is not only important because it actually shows activity at the station (not just building and tracks), but it is a decade earlier than any other known image of the station - only five years after it was built!

Thanks to the Washington Crossing Card Collectors Club for helping to treasure and preserve important and sometimes unique images of our past. The WC4 helped kick-start the History Project's image collection a few years ago, and Bob and Carol Meszaros and then Steven Cohen were particularly generous in offering to share their collections on the site.

And thanks especially to Dick and Hope Sudlow, who thought to save and now share an amazing variety of materials, postcards and much more, and who have been an ongoing oracle of information and identifications of unknown images.

fig 12



fig 13

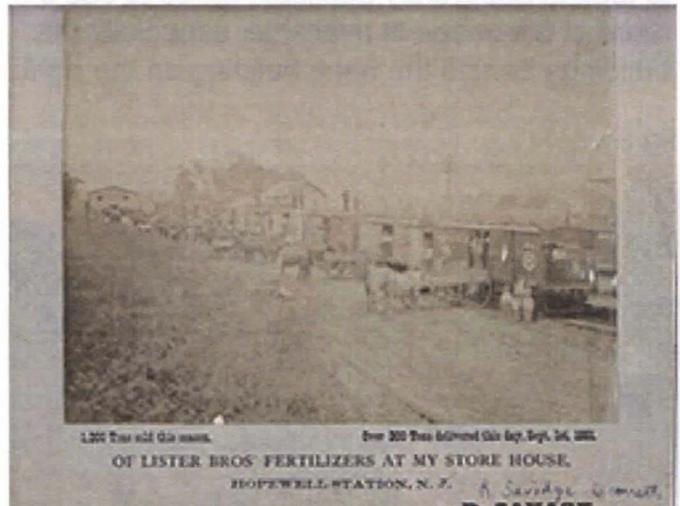


fig 14

