Celebrating Yorklyn: Then & Now

On the Railroad: Tackling the Trestle

Driver’s Ed, Stanley Style

Yorklyn Day: No Boundaries (Mark Your Calendar!)
This year we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Marshall Steam Team. Depending on your perspective, that makes us either a young or an old organization. Whichever way you see us, that 20 years has been marked by many landmark events that have defined the present organization.

Tom Marshall, our founder, held the first gathering of the Steam Team in February of 1997. In September of that same year, the Steam Team took the entire collection of steam cars to the nearby Hagley Car Show. In 1998 drivers from the Steam Team participated with three steamers at the Waterloo, Ontario, steam car tour. From that initial group of 28 individuals, the organization has grown to nearly 400 family and individual memberships with, perhaps, 75 of them volunteering regularly. FAHP became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in October 2004.

Our first part-time director was hired in February 2006 and a full time director in January 2008. Our present director has been with us since March 2010. In that time, we have refreshed the museum displays twice, begun the annual Auburn Heights Invitational car show fundraiser and restored two cars, one professionally and another using our volunteers. Our cadre of fully qualified drivers is now at 15, with nine more in various stages of training.

One of our most impactful decisions was to add elementary education to our programming efforts. To initiate the education program we hired a freshly graduated Museum Studies student from the University of Delaware in 2012. She became our first Education Director, creating and expanding our educational offerings over the next four years and was responsible for increasing the size of our served public by nearly 50%. Our newest employee, Michelle Nowling, joined us at the beginning of April to continue moving the education program forward.

I have been a Steam Team member for only half of this journey, but I find the growth of the organization over these 20 years to be impressive. That growth is mostly due to the incredible support we receive from our volunteers and members. Thank you all for staying with us all these years.
A William Shakespeare sonnet reads, “April hath put a spirit of youth in everything.” Maybe it’s the flowers, the great horned owl chicks we spotted this week, or just my arthroscopic knee surgery — but there’s a spring in my step! Spring is my favorite season, and this year it’s the start of a lot of improvements at Auburn Heights. We also look forward to the first Yorklyn Day celebration on June 4. We are losing our seasonal park interpreter Emily Carnwath in the coming month, but she has been offered a statewide position in museum collections sure to grow her career. We welcomed Keely Wells as our new volunteer manager and will soon fill Emily’s spot. We’ve also secured three summer interns so we should be on good ground to continue to grow our programming.

In the mansion, maintenance staff completely rebuilt the sunporch ceiling and also replaced trim that had rotted from earlier water damage (now halted due to the roof repair). We’ve installed safety lighting on the outside of the rest room and carriage house and upgraded the outdoor museum lighting to LED. We continue to prepare for two weddings in June and are looking forward to the celebrations. The University of Delaware Landscape Architecture students and faculty have worked with master gardeners to design an improved flower bed for the front of the mansion that should beautify our “curb appeal.” This work is slated to begin May 5, and volunteers are welcome! Parks and the Friends have worked together on improvements to the railroad trestle and a revamp of the former lift room into a workshop.

On Benge Road, construction of the mill office interior is finally set to begin, and I can say with some degree of certainty (finally) that it should be my new quarters by fall. We are thrilled that the new regional enforcement supervisor has requested an office and have enthusiastically made space for Officer John Wales. Construction is imminent for the installation of the historic bridge (connecting the Auburn Valley to the Yorklyn Bridge trail), and this nine-month project is expected to begin in the summer. The trail linking NVF area to the Center for Creative Arts has broken ground, and at the new Oversee Farm trail, the final coat of asphalt will soon be completed. We are hoping for a soft opening in June and have already installed bluebird boxes for our current visitors.

The unsightly dairy barn ruins on Farm Lane (surrounded by the Auburn Valley Trail) were demolished this month, and plans are in the works for a new maintenance shop on the same site. This building will give us much-needed additional space and work area and hopefully free up some more space for the Friends volunteers behind the museum.

Over at NVF, work continues on creation of the new wetland, and as part of this excavation, more than 94,000 lbs. of zinc contamination has been removed. Artesian is working on plans for a water main to the site, and design planning continues for a railroad turntable to serve the Wilmington & Western Railroad as well as the outdoor amphitheater. There will be few dull moments this spring and summer! ♦

**BIL LEPP – STORYTELLER**
**Sunday, Jul. 9, 2pm**
Join us in the mansion as award-winning National Storytelling Champion Bil Lepp shares hilarious stories and outrageous tall tales. Made possible by a generous grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts. Free
Celebrating Yorklyn
Then & Now
In 1872 the Wilmington & Western Rail Road established a new stop labeled “Yorklyn” (formerly known as Auburn Mills or, more simply, Auburn) on its rail line that followed the Red Clay Creek. Where the name Yorklyn came from remains (for now) a mystery, but the advent of the railroad brought increased commerce to the region and marked the birth of Yorklyn.

The Yorklyn Post Office
Small town post offices of the early 20th century brokered in more than mail. They were the epicenter of the communities they served, often trading in local news, gossip, dry goods and even gasoline. The Yorklyn Post Office was no exception.

Until 1969, postmasters were appointed (usually as a reward for political patronage) by the President (for the largest post offices) or by the Postmaster General (for smaller entities). Those assuming the role had to post a bond and reside in the community where the post office resided. Maintaining a post office was traditionally a sideline to the postmaster’s primary occupation, often storekeeper. Appointed in June 1873 as Yorklyn’s first postmaster, William S. Moore sold dry goods, groceries and hardware to the area’s small but thriving milling community in addition to processing the area’s mail.

Like Moore, Edward H. Dennison (who became Yorklyn’s third postmaster in 1887) also operated a country store. At one time it was located near the railroad, and Dennison performed his duties as postmaster from that location. Eventually, Grover C. Gregg Sr., who would succeed him as postmaster in 1915, opened yet another store, and throughout the early 20th century, the post office would move to different locations in the fiber and snuff mills, depending on who had been appointed postmaster.

In the 1920s, Samuel S. Dennison became paymaster for National Vulcanized Fibre and occupied a tiny office in the No. 1 Mill. Since Republican administrations then occupied the White House, Dennison was appointed postmaster at Yorklyn, re-
but in 1869 a school was built in Hockessin at the junction of Valley Road and Lancaster Pike. A similar school opened the same year at Auburn on what is now Yorklyn Road. The Hockessin School was called District #29, and Auburn was District #91.

Soon eight grades were offered at each facility, with two or three teachers tackling all classes. When the railroad came through Auburn in 1872, the village and the school adopted the new name of Yorklyn. Photos from the 1880s and 1890s suggest that Yorklyn School boasted about 50 pupils.

When Israel and Lizzie Marshall moved their family to Yorklyn in 1890, their oldest children—Warren and Anna—transferred to Yorklyn School, where their younger brother, Clarence, started First Grade about 1891.

The 1869 schools at both Hockessin and Yorklyn were expanded but remained active until 1932, when new single-floor schools with basements, auditoriums and playing fields were built in each community. The 1932 Hockessin School, built on
high ground on the east side of town, served the region until the early 1970s and is now the Hockessin Baptist Church. Yorklyn School closed soon thereafter, when students from both were funneled into the new Henry B. du Pont School on Meeting House Road. The 1869 Yorklyn School is now a private residence, and the 1932 school is the home of the Center for the Creative Arts.


**Special Exhibit**

**Yorklyn: Then & Now (and Beyond)**

**Sunday, June 4**

*(part of the Yorklyn Day community festival)*

Discover more of the rich history and inventive spirit surrounding Yorklyn in a special one-day exhibit on view during Yorklyn Day! Attendees of this FREE community event *(fees apply for select activities)* will enjoy family fun for all ages. Visit YorklynDay.org for complete details. See the exhibit in the newly refurbished Garrett Snuff Mill building next to Dew Point Brewing Co. Built in 1921 as a recreational center for families in the community, the clubhouse was a joint project of the National Vulcanized Fibre Co. and the George W. Helme Company, manufacturers of snuff. It featured a single-lane bowling alley and several small rooms for activities or shops on the first floor. The second floor included a large auditorium, complete with stage, dressing rooms and a projection booth (run by our very own Tom Marshall) for the showing of silent black-and-white moving pictures.
On the Railroad

Tackling the Trestle

The moment spring arrives (and often beforehand), our Auburn Valley Railroad crew leaps into action to prepare, repair and inspect the 1/8-size track that circles the Auburn Heights property. This year, the leader of the AVRR Track Team, volunteer Bob Koury led the crew in complete replacement of all ties on the Auburn Heights trestle. No small task, the project required 256 ties, more than 2,000 screws and 110 hours to complete (Bob worked nearly 60 of those hours). Thanks to generous support from Delaware State Parks for the materials, the team finished only days before the first event of the season — the ever-popular Egg Hunts — and the newly restored trestle looked its spring best for the nearly 1,000 visitors over the holiday weekend.

Right: Bob Koury finishes the last ties.
Far right: The team also replaced the walking boards on the 90-foot trestle.

Special Evenings at the Mansion Program

Evenings at the Museum are back (with a special Evenings at the Mansion program for June). These programs provide an opportunity to explore the Marshall Steam Museum (and now the mansion) in the evening and get a behind-the-scenes look at our historic collections.

June 6: Treasures from the Attic
A special program in the mansion by Acting Interpretive Programs Manager Emily Carnwath, $5 members & non-members
Important note: Because this program will take place in the North Bedroom of the mansion and is presented by Delaware State Parks (not FAHP), there will be a small fee of $5 to all participants. Space is limited, so reservations are needed. If all seats fill, a second program will be offered on Wednesday, June 7.

Among the artifacts never before seen on tours will be Esther Marshall’s wedding shoes (left) and her collection of favorite recipes (above).

Space Is Limited
Reservations Requested
$5 for Members & Non-Members
302-239-5687
Welcome Michelle Nowling

W e are pleased to welcome Michelle Nowling as our second Education Director at the Marshall Steam Museum. Having relocated from Wilmington, North Carolina, she joined us on April 3 and was immediately tossed into the madness associated with the ever-popular Auburn Heights Egg Hunts. Little did she know that one of her first assignments would have her donning an Easter bunny costume to entertain the wee ones, but she has taken it all in stride and is busy delivering spring Outreach Programs and developing options to bring new audiences to the site.

Originally from Montana, she had never set foot in Delaware (or even driven through it) before joining our team. It took a leap of faith to make the big move, but we’re glad she did. Please wish her a warm welcome if you spot her at Auburn Heights or about town. ♦

Driver’s Ed, Stanley Style

T hanks to generous support from the Wilmington Flower Market, the littlest visitors to the Marshall Steam Museum will have a chance to turn nobs, check gauges and even inspect the boiler on their very own replica Stanley steam car. Crafted by our skilled volunteer Jeff Morrison, “Steamin’ Stan” will offer kids a taste of what it’s like for the big “kids” who drive our steamers.

The finishing touches are still being applied, but be sure to check out “Stan” on your next visit. ♦

Top: The 1908 Stanley Model EX, inspiration for “Steamin’ Stan” (shown left) as part of the Little Tikes Literacy Program. Funding provided by Wilmington Flower Market; carpentry provided by Steam Team member Jeff Morrison.
TRAIN DAY AT AUBURN HEIGHTS
Sunday, May 7
12:30 to 4:30 pm
Featuring rides on the Auburn Valley Railroad, electric trains demonstrations, special train-themed exhibits and activities, and more. First-floor Mansion Tours available too! Fun for any age — to bring out the kid in all of us.
$8/person, free for members; Mansion Tours $5

YORKLYN DAY
Sunday, June 4 (along with Steamin’ Day)
11 to 5 pm
Join the fun as we spotlight the history, heritage and spirit of Yorklyn, Delaware. Enjoy family fun for all ages, with an artisan’s market and children’s art show, live music, food to suit every palate, antique auto rides & mansion tours, plus a lively Kid Zone with activities for all ages — and so much more! See YorklynDay.org for complete details.

STEAMIN’ DAYS
First Sundays, June to November
12:30 to 4:30 pm
Offering old-fashioned fun for the whole family, with a Firing Up Demonstration, free steam-popped popcorn, entry to the Marshall Steam Museum, kids crafts, special exhibits and more.

Rides Ticket includes 4 rides in the antique autos or Auburn Valley Railroad: $11 age 13 & up, $8 age 12 & under (infants free)
Mansion Ticket includes tour of two floors of Auburn Heights mansion: $12 age 13 & up, $6 age 12 & under (infants free)
Combo Ticket covers it all, rides and mansion: $19 age 13 & up, $12 age 12 & under (infants free)

STEAMIN’ HALLOWEEN & THANKSGIVING
Sunday, Oct. 29 & Saturday, Nov. 25
12:30 to 4:30 pm
Admission same as regular Steamin’ Days

EVENINGS AT THE MUSEUM
First Tuesdays, May to November
7 pm
Join us to explore the museum behind-the-scenes. Each program will spotlight something new. Check out the line-up of topics as it develops at AuburnHeights.org.

June 6: Special program, “Treasures from the Attic,” offered by Delaware State Parks in the Marshall Mansion, with reservations needed (302-239-5687); since space is limited. If demand warrants, program will be repeated June 7. $5 for Members & Non-Members

AUBURN HEIGHTS INVITATIONAL
Sunday, September 24
12:30 to 4:30 pm
Spotlight: Racers & Speedsters
Admire this year’s magnificent line-up of historic automobiles from the classic era and enjoy train rides, mansion tours, great food, a silent auction & raffle, and so much more.
$20/adult in advance; $25 at the gate (children 16 & under $14)

OPEN HOUSE TOURS
Mansion & Museum Tours
First Fridays & Third Saturdays
April to November
Mansion tours: 1 & 3 pm
Museum tour: 2 pm
Tour the Marshall Steam Museum or Auburn Heights Mansion or both. No rides are available, but visitors will enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at the estate and its collections. Please note: Mansion tour includes steps.
Each tour is approx. 45 min.
Mansion or Museum Tour: $8/adult, $4/child 12 & under
Do both and save $2/person: $14/adult, $8/child 12 & under
Ask about tours by appointment for groups of 8 or more.
Exploring Car Horns

Why do cars need horns?
Motorists use horns to signal other people of danger or hazards on the road, much like trains blow their whistles or trolleys ring a bell when approaching a crossroads to warn people to stay off the tracks.

Have cars always had horns?
Some early cars had bells or whistles, but they quickly switched to horns so cars sounded different than trains and trolleys.

What did horns look like?
Many horns looked like horns that were being used on bicycles or musical instruments.

Can you match the car horns from our collection with similar horns and instruments?

1901 Mobile
1908 Stanley Model EX
1910 Stanley Model 71

Brass French Horn
English Bicycle Bulb Horn
Brass Trumpet
Yorklyn Day
no boundaries

Sunday, June 4
11am to 5pm
at Auburn Heights, CCArts & Yorklyn Bridge Trail

Proceeds benefit the Center for the Creative Arts, the Friends of Auburn Heights Preserve, and Delaware State Parks.

Local Artisans & Exhibitors
Train & Antique Auto Rides
Live Music & Entertainment
Food Trucks & Kids Activities
Mansion Tours & More!

FREE event
(fees for select activities)

See YorklynDay.org for details

Presented by
BLACK & VEATCH