

WHY IS EVERYTHING NAMED AUBURN?

The Village of Yorklyn was named Auburn before the Railroad came in 1872. And it was abandoned most reluctantly by the local residents. William E. Garrett, president of the Garrett Snuff business, offered to build the Wilmington & Western R.R. a nice brick station if they would continue to call it Auburn. The standard frame building, similar to all the others on the Line, was erected instead, and Auburn was a thing of the past (by the way, this frame station is the only one still in existence, and was moved from its original site at Yorklyn to Greenbank by Historic Red Clay Valley, Inc. in 1968).

Twenty-five years after Auburn disappeared from the maps of the area, Israel W. Marshall still liked the name enough to name his new "mansion" Auburn Heights, this today being the grounds of the MAGIC AGE OF STEAM.

Actually, the name dates back to about 1730. The first generation of Garretts to inhabit this region of the Red Clay Valley built a mill directly adjacent to the present MAGIC AGE OF STEAM, which was possibly the first mill site of the many which later characterized this valley. This mill, and the few houses which grew up around it, soon became known as "Auburn Mills". One of the tiny stations on the Auburn Valley R.R. still bears this historic name.

When T. Clarence Marshall was running his big trapshooting tournaments on Poplar Hill east of the fibre mills from 1921 through 1950, Friday's event each year during the week-long classic was labeled "The Auburn Special". This event was won by trapshooting greats from all parts of the country.

In 1960, Mr. Marshall and his son, Thomas C. Marshall, Jr., decided to name their new miniature scale-model railroad the "Auburn Valley". A larger train in the Museum, for which there is no railroad as yet, bears the name "Auburn Springs" on its tender.

In the early 1960's, home developers, planning a spacious small community between Yorklyn and Hockessin on top of the hill known in the "old days" as "Killeen", also chose the name "Auburn".

And so, possibly this brief explanation may clarify how "Auburn" has been identified with this tiny community in the beautiful Red Clay Valley for nearly 250 years.