

**Trolley Line Descriptions of Hockessin and Yorklyn, 1903:** The *Weekly News* of September 11, 2006, touched on the trolley line that passed Auburn Heights. The official name was The West Chester, Kennett, and Wilmington Electric Railway Company, but it touched neither West Chester nor Wilmington and through these parts was known simply as the Kennett Trolley. The company actually operated trolleys from West Grove, Avondale, Kennett Square, Yorklyn, and Hockessin en route to Brandywine Springs. There was a connection at Kennett Square with the line to Unionville Junction, Lenape and West Chester, and at Brandywine Springs with the Peoples' Railway into Wilmington. Mel Schoenbeck, an active member of the Friends of Brandywine Springs, wrote a monograph in loose-leaf notebook form entitled "The Kennett Trolley in Delaware," which was of great interest. The trolley line opened in 1903 and closed for the last time in 1923.

A copy of a 1903 promotional brochure, published at the time of the line's opening, has come to light. Here is what it said about Hockessin and Yorklyn (I have abridged the full text in a few places):

*It is known that some people travel many miles at great expense and fatiguing travel to get near nature, when they could find all they were seeking not far from their own doors. At Hockessin, the rudiments of a neat country village are apparent on all sides; the country store, the village blacksmith, and the small post office all add a striking effect to the scene. Hockessin is the center of the kaolin industry, a product that closely resembles common clay, but which is a very valuable commodity. Most of the kaolin mined here is shipped to the vast potteries at Trenton, New Jersey, where it is used in the manufacture of fine chinaware. Hundreds of men are employed in this work, many of whom command excellent salaries.*

*Leaving Hockessin, the line parallels the Landenberg Branch of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, passes one of the largest kaolin mines, and soon comes upon the small but industrious village of Yorklyn, a village of interesting history. Possessing, as it does, the foundations of a thriving town, Yorklyn will undoubtedly experience vast changes within the next few years; its pleasing scenery and delightful location being bound to attract the home-seeker and the investor. The extensive mills of the American Snuff Trust are located at Yorklyn, employing hundreds of persons. The products of these mills are shipped to all parts of the world and are well-known for their excellent qualities.*

*The large paper mills of the Marshall Brothers are also located at this point, where tons and tons of seemingly worthless rags are converted into various kinds of paper. The greater portion of the rags used for this purpose are imported from Germany and other European countries. The handsome residence of the Marshalls commands a view of the surrounding territory for miles (we know this as Auburn Heights, but we can't see for miles), being situated on an exceedingly high bluff. The building is of pleasing architectural design and looms in the distance like a mighty castle of ancient fame. The culture of the mushroom is also carried on at Yorklyn on quite an extensive scale. Hundreds of pounds of these highly palatable plants are shipped annually to nearby markets.*

*Passing Yorklyn, the line passes a small but beautiful stream, shaded with massive weeping willows, affording a delightful spot for a day's outing. Soon we cross the State Line separating Delaware from Pennsylvania. On and on we travel, every inch of the way adding enchantment to the tour- beautiful woodlands, shady lanes, winding streams--in fact, everything that goes to make a perfectly delightful journey.*