

## Harry Stockton (Jack) Ream III

Harry Stockton (Jack) Ream III was born May 27, 1930 in Dover, Ohio. His father was Harry Stockton Ream Jr, the Superintendent of Shenango Penn Mold in Dover and his grandfather was Harry Stockton Ream Sr, the office manager of the Dover Blast Furnace Company. When Jack was born, his mother made the comment, "I don't care what you name him, I'm calling him Jack".

Jack was the oldest of four children, his three younger sisters were Barbara, Jean and Judy. He was a 1948 graduate of Dover High School and after graduation attended Villanova College in Philadelphia, PA through the Navy ROTC program. He transferred to Cornell University in Ithica, New York and from there went to The Ohio State University where in 1954 he graduated at the top of his class with a degree in Metallurgic Engineering, equipped to work in the steel industry. Upon graduation, he was commissioned an Ensign in the United States Navy and went to serve in the Pacific on an aircraft carrier. He served two years active duty while in the Navy.

In 1955, while still in the service, he met and later married Ann Holzworth in San Francisco California. Ann was the daughter of a Navy Admiral. Their family included six children, Deborah, Lucy, Randy, Lynn, Carolyn and Andrew. Tragically, in the 1960's, his youngest daughter, Carolyn who was 2 years old at the time, passed away from injuries she suffered in a fire at their home. Jack later married Patricia and they were together for over 40 years. He became a stepfather to three more children, Steven, Kevin and Amy. Jack's son, Randy passed away in 2019. He currently has 19 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Jack began his career as a research engineer at the International Nickle Company in New Jersey. While working at this plant, he received a call from Mr. Kennedy who was the manager at the Reeves Steel Mill in Dover. Jack returned to this area to work as the plant superintendent of the Reeves Dover mill. While he was in Dover, he began a company called Ream and Haager Laboratories. It tested coal, clay and agricultural products. The company was later sold to a local business, and they are still in operation today. Jack was eventually sent to the Reeves Mill in Cambridge, Ohio as plant manager where he remained for 10 years until the company closed. While in Cambridge, he developed his own computer business, Cambridge Software.

In 2000, Jack had a very profound religious experience; what he described as a "life-changing" event. As a member of the Episcopal Church in New Philadelphia in the 1950's, he returned to this area and that same parish to begin to

work on his calling. He felt that God had called upon him to begin a “Homeless Shelter”. Unsure how to proceed, he enlisted the help of another interested person, and they began a journey which led to the current location of the local homeless shelter. They started by contacting all of the other churches in the county and asked if they would be interested in getting involved with this project. Many other organizations were recruited as well to assist with this huge undertaking. He encountered a litany of excuses such as: “We don’t have much money and projects like that cost a lot”; or “Most of my church members aren’t really interested and don’t have the time to devote to these kinds of social problems.” It took 2 years of planning, raising funds and finding a location for the shelter. The question was posed as to whether there was even a need for a homeless shelter in the area. When the building first opened, it was immediately filled, along with a long waiting list of clients (single men, women and children)!

Jack was aware of the hunger problem that also plagued our area. So in 2008, as God spoke to him once again, he decided that we should have one central location for people to acquire the food that they needed to survive; instead of the many small food pantries that were being run by different churches. The Tuscarawas County Council for Church and Community (or T-4-C) got the churches together and began the local food pantry in Dover, run by volunteers from our area. Each week, through the generosity of local individuals and organizations, two truckloads of food are delivered and then distributed to families in need. Currently, the Dover-Phila Food Pantry purchases close to 30,000 pounds of food each week and serves over 600 families at a cost of less than \$1.20 per person. At one time, our area food pantry was the largest operating in the country.

Mr. Ream has not only been instrumental in establishing these two extremely worthwhile philanthropic organizations, he has also authored a book, detailing his journey through the difficult struggles he encountered. “When God Acts” is an enlightening true story of one man’s journey to accomplish things he felt he was led to do.

Ironically, when Jack lived in Dover, he resided at 404 Iron Avenue, which just happens to be the home that Jeremiah E. Reeves built for his daughter, Lillian!

It is my pleasure to welcome Harry Stockton (Jack) Ream III into the 2023 Dover Historical Society’s “Hall of Distinction”.