

The following was presented by a Board Member at the Hall of Distinction Induction Ceremony of the Dover Historical Society, April 2014.

Jeremiah E. Reeves

Jeremiah Reeves rose from a humble background in rural England. He was born the 23rd of June 1845 in Montcombe, Dorset, England. When he was just a young boy, his father relocated the family to Wales where he, and eventually his three sons, went to work in the Victoria Iron Works. Jeremiah learned his trade from the ground up and over time became a skilled boiler maker and structural iron worker.

In 1867 Jeremiah immigrated to the United States where he continued his work in the steel industry. In 1869, he and Jane Rees were married in the town of Connelville, PA, just outside of Pittsburg.

Jeremiah's big break came in 1872, when he and his brothers established the Reeves Brothers Boiler Works in Niles, Ohio. This venture was successful, and in 1883 Jeremiah took advantage of this success to purchase a struggling steel rolling mill in Dover. The Reeves Iron Works would eventually grow to employ 1200 men.

In 1899, the Reeves Iron Works was sold, and in 1900 a new business venture was founded under the direction of Jeremiah and his son, Samuel. This venture, the Reeves Manufacturing Company, would grow to be the industrial backbone of Dover for nearly 100 years. In addition to the Reeves Manufacturing Company, Jeremiah was involved with numerous other ventures including real estate, banking, mining, and hospitality.

Although his main interest was business, Jeremiah Reeves was also deeply concerned with the community he chose to live in. He contributed freely to many charitable causes including donating land for Union Hospital, funding the Reeves Military Band, and numerous other endeavors.

Jeremiah Reeves died at the age of 75 in the bedroom of his grand home on East Iron Avenue.