

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

## L.H. Alexander

Lawrence H. Alexander was born April 10, 1890 in Jackson, Ohio. Beginning at the age of 10, he began piano lessons and quickly showed an aptitude for music. After high school, he attended the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. He graduated from Oberlin in 1913 and would later go on to do graduate work at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

After graduation, Alexander's first job was in Sullivan, Indiana. He remained in Indiana for three years before accepting a position at Dover's Roosevelt High School. At the time he began work in the fall of 1916, he was the school systems only music teacher. In his very first year at Dover, Alexander started the school's first orchestra, and in his second year he created the marching band.

Under Alexander's guidance, the band grew quickly and in 1933 they competed in the National Band Contest at Evanston, Illinois. After their performance, the marching band was crowned Class B National Champion. Upon return to Dover, the band was honored with a parade and L.H. was given the key to the city.

Among his many other accomplishments, L.H. Alexander composed both Dover's Ama Mater and the school's fight song. After a 42-year career in education, L.H. Alexander retired in 1958. He would remain in the community throughout his long retirement. He died in 1998.