

The following was presented by a Board Member at the Hall of Distinction Induction Ceremony of the Dover Historical Society, April 2015.

Samuel Toomey

Samuel Toomey was born in 1830 as the 11th of 23 children. Growing up in Pennsylvania, Toomey went to work at a young age to help support his large family.

Toomey became employed by a blacksmith in the Dover area upon reaching Ohio, but soon thereafter took over operations of the blacksmith shop when the owner left for the West in the Goldrush of 1849.

This didn't last long as the shop burnt down in 1850. Rather than rebuilding, Toomey left for Wilmot, Ohio and opened a Carriage Manufacturing Company. It is not really known why, but Toomey left Wilmot and returned to Dover in 1868 to open a new Carriage Manufacturing Company in Dover.

The company specialized in high wheeled buggies and grew a reputation for quality. Toomey would personally test each carriage on an oval track located on his property before he would allow it to be sent out.

The company soon ventured into racing sulkies. Toomey developed many revolutionary designs and patents on his sulkies, including a truss axle. Toomey held 9 patents involving the construction and design of sulkies, some of which are still used today.

Samuel Toomey died in 1910.