

The following was presented by a Board Member at the Hall of Distinction Induction Ceremony of the Dover Historical Society, on Sunday, April 17, 2016.

Andrew Deis

Andrew Deis (AKA Deis Hill) was born December 11, 1847 and died April 19, 1942. He lived to be 94 years old. He had no children and was married twice. He was survived by a grandniece by marriage, Lois Mattson.

Andrew Deis, being a name that every Dover kid knows early in life would have left a long trail, but that is simply not the case.

In 1890 he became the C.F.O. of the Wagner Lumber Company. He was the only stock holder of the company outside the Wagner family. He was an extremely good businessman and the company did well.

He was also a very forward thinking and benevolent man. He must have been very religious and community minded. In the 1920's he began the movement to create the first YMCA, or Young Man's Christian Association, in Dover on Tuscarawas Avenue. He donated the land, the value of which we can only guess, and \$75,000 (or in today's money, \$800,000) to begin the project. It was at first known as the Dover YMCA but due to the Great Depression, it became the Tuscarawas YMCA.

One can speculate how many swim meets, basketball games, dances, ping pong games and other events have taken place there. However, we all know the experiences it has added to our lives and those of many others from our city and county. Mr. Deis's vision of a venue for young people to congregate in a good atmosphere has lived on well past his very long life. It has grown into a new facility here and a satellite building in Dennison as well. I would say he put his money where his heart was and it is still doing wonders.