

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.

Samuel Reeves, Jr.

Samuel J. Reeves, Jr., youngest child of Samuel and Belle Croxton Reeves was born April 10, 1899. He was the grandson of Jeremiah Reeves, a pioneer of the steel industry, and great grandson of Christian Deardorff, the founder of Dover.

He paternal grandfather, Jeremiah Reeves, guided young Samuel in the family businesses and in life after his father died when he was just a toddler.

Samuel was a very generous man, establishing the Reeves Foundation, that has benefitted so many since the foundation's beginning in 1967...the First Moravian Church of Dover, Moravian College of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and Union Hospital, to name a few. He was instrumental in turning over the Reeves family home and its original furnishings to the Dover Historical Society, which we have enjoyed the past 40 years.

Samuel Reeves treated his employees as though they were his family.

He married the love of his life, Margaret Hostetler Wagner, a long-time employee and trust officer of the Reeves Bank, who was also trustee and President of the Reeves Foundation. Her son, Dr. William Wagner, and his family, brought them great joy.

Samuel retired from Empire-Reeves Steel Division, a Cyclops Corporation in 1967, but continued as a Director of the Cyclops Corporation until his death in 1977.

Many say he was a nice man – a nice man from a good family.