

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

## Agnes Reeves Greer

Agnes Jane Reeves Greer was born in 1880 in Niles, Ohio, to Jeremiah and Jane Reeves. The family moved to the Dover area three years later.

Agnes was a woman ahead of her time. She chose to work in her father's bank when working women were looked down upon. Agnes also had a mind for business and enjoyed talking business and strategies with her father, who allowed her intelligence to flourish.

Agnes married Herbert Greer of West Virginia in 1908. Together, the pair developed the coal and limestone industries in the Decker's Creek Valley of West Virginia.

In 1918, the couple had their only child, Jane.

Agnes formed the Preston County Light and Power Company and with Herbert, formed Greer Steel in Morgantown, West Virginia. The steel mill proved prosperous and plants were started in Dover and Indiana. The Indiana plant provided all the steel used for General Motors.

Agnes held eighteen patents, including the Reeves Pickler which was used in steel mills nationwide.

The media became a passion and the couple founded or funded many news outlets and developed five radio stations, including our own local WJER.

Agnes was involved in countless civic organizations. She was presented to King George V and Queen Mary of the United Kingdom, and she held an audience with Pope Pius the X.

She continued to be the chairwoman, president and CEO of her many business ventures until her death at the age of 92 in 1972.