

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

## Frank "Doc" Kelker

Doc Kelker, originally from Woodsville, Florida, moved to Dover in the 1920's with his family, including twin brother, Spider. Racial tensions were high in the south during this time making it hard for the African-American family. The promise of a safer environment and work in the Reeves Manufacturing Company brought the Kelker family to Dover.

Doc Kelker excelled in athletics during his time at Dover High School, becoming a star in three major sports. Kelker was a part of a football team with a 30-1, three year record, and batted an average of .521 with the baseball team. Kelker was also part of the Dover High School team that won the 1933 State Championship.

After high school, Doc attended Case Western University and played on five All-American teams.

Upon graduation, Doc took a job as the Director of the Cedar Addison Branch of the YMCA in Cleveland. Doc used his athletic ability to train and inspire others and grew a reputation as a community leader.

During the Race Riots of 1966 in Cleveland, many buildings were burned and destroyed. Buildings around the YMCA had windows broken and other damage, but Doc's YMCA was left untouched. Many attribute this to Doc's role as a community leader and mentor.

Doc Kelker is still considered by many one of the greatest athletes from Dover High School.