

The following was taken in part from the Reeves Family Memorial newsletter published by the Dover Historical Society.

Samuel J. Reeves

Jeremiah and Jane Reeves had one son, Samuel Jeremiah, who was born September 14, 1870, in Connellsville, Pennsylvania. Samuel received a public education in the schools of Niles and Dover, Ohio. He began school in 1876 and continued with his education until eighteen years of age. At that time, he entered a career in the iron business with his father.

Samuel is attributed with attaining much of the success of the iron industry in Dover. His untimely death, in March of 1901 of typhoid was seen as a blow to the town. Samuel was a progressive thinker with unlimited capital to support his projects and was referred to as the "Coming Carnegie." He had plenty of energy, ability and perseverance to help the success of Reeves enterprises. Unfortunately, this rapid Dover growth ceased with Samuel's premature death.

Samuel started in a minor position at the Reeves Iron Company and worked to higher positions. Around 1895 he became treasurer and active manager of the company, holding that position until he arranged the sale of the company to the American Sheet and Tin Plate Companies. Samuel then organized the Reeves Manufacturing Company and served as president and manager of that company until his death. During the last years of his life, his father, Jeremiah, had turned over the day-to-day operations of the company to Samuel and only acted as a consulting manager.

Besides the manufacturing company, Samuel also organized the Dover Construction Company, which later became known as Reeves Realty Company. He served as president and treasurer of this venture, which began building and equipping the Toledo, Fostoria, and Findley Street Railway. When Samuel died, the section linking Findlay and Fostoria was nearing completion. Jeremiah Reeves completed the project after his son's death.

Samuel was also a leading member of the Dover Manufacturing Company and proposed Reeves, Reed, and Rattan Company, and had other underdeveloped projects in mind at the time of his death. It was at this time that the semi-retired Jeremiah Reeves had to once again assume control of the Reeves family enterprises.

Samuel married Belle Croxton on July 31, 1893. Together they had three children: Jane, born August 28, 1894; Helen, born December 10, 1896; and Samuel Jr, born April 10, 1899.

Samuel and his family lived on West Sixth Street in Dover. His father originally built a home there in 1890. Then in 1894 Jeremiah gave Belle some of the land, and she and Samuel built a home designed by George F. Barber, a Tennessee architect. Belle lived there for a few years after her husband's death. The original Sixth Street home built by Samuel and Belle is presently the administrative offices for the Dover City School System.

Later Belle and the children moved to a home beside Jeremiah REEVES ON East Iron Avenue. Jeremiah built this home for Belle and her three children, Samuel J. Reeves, Jr., Margaret Jane Reeves, and Helen Florence Reeves. This enabled Jeremiah and Jane to be closer their daughter-in-law and their three grandchildren.

Belle Croxton Reeves died April 23, 1945, and is buried in the Reeves Mausoleum.

The town of Dover mourned the death of Samuel Reeves in force. A great man had died, and the people of Dover stopped to reflect upon his contributions to their town, and mourned the disappearance of the potential Samuel J. Reeves carried for the future.