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# John R. Dover Jr. Dies Thursday DOVER, Of Pneumonia In Duke Hospital JOHN R., Jr.

J. R. Dover Jr., 71, prominent textile industrialist, civic and religious leader and benefactor, died shortly after noon yesterday in Duke Hospital, Durham, where he had been receiving treatment for leukemia, although death was attributed to double pneumonia which developed on Wednesday. He had been seriously ill for several weeks prior to his death and had suffered with leukemia for the past year.

He was a son of the late Ella Toms Dover and J. R. Dover, Sr., founder of Ella Mill in Shelby in 1907 which preceded Dover Mill in 1924 and has since grown to embrace six industrial plants in this area: Dover, Ora, Esther Mills in Shelby, Dover Yarn Mill in Buffalo community, Dora Mill and Dora Knitting Mill in Cherryville.

J. R. Dover Jr. had followed in the footsteps of his late father in the textile industry and at the time of his death was chairman of the board of the Dover Textile Group, having served as president of the chain until last year. His reputation as a textile industrialist was known nationwide.

## EDUCATION

Educated at Shelby High School and Boiling Springs, he studied further at Berea College and New Bedford Textile School. He was a member and deacon of Dover Baptist Church, past president of Shelby Rotary Club, member of the Shrine and Blue Lodge, member of the Elks Lodge, Cleveland Country Club and North Lake Country Club.

Former chairman of the board of trustees of Gardner-Webb College, he was a continuous contributor to the local college and on May 27, 1961, was named Gardner-Webb Alumnus



John R. Dover Jr.

of the Year and alumni presented him the traditional engraved bowl with this honor. The award was given for his service in three fields: Christian service, contributions to industry, and outstanding contribution to Gardner-Webb.

He was also cited in 1959 by the college for his contributions in the field of education. Dover Memorial Library on the G-W campus carries the family name, symbolic of the Dovers long and continuous interest in the school.

## FOUNDATION

With other members of his family he helped establish and served as president of the Dover Foundation which has allowed many local students to further their education through a scholarship program administered by the Foundation. This program was founded to aid children of employees of the Dover Textile Group.

He was awarded the Shelby

Lions Citizenship award in 1945 and served as director of First National Bank.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Elaine Hamrick Dover; a son, J. R. Dover III; a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Vincent; five grandchildren; two brothers, Charles I. Dover of Shelby and Toms Dover of Mt. Dora, Fla.; six sisters, Mrs. Frank Chamberlain, Mrs. Frank Love, Mrs. R. G. Laney, Mrs. F. D. Quinn and Mrs. Charles P. Roberts, all of Shelby, and Mrs. John Fox of Ridgewood, N. J.

Funeral plans were incomplete at press time yesterday but will be handled by Palmer-McPhaul Funeral Home.

## John R. Dover

Cleveland County and the larger textile community North Carolina was shocked yesterday by the untimely death of one of this area's industrial giants, John R. Dover. Though his life had been ebbing away for over a year and the onslaught of a fatal disease, Dover's death, like that of any leading citizen of a community, leaves its people saddened with the thought that another outstanding life has passed from the scene.

Dover was a giant of a man in Cleveland, following in the footsteps of a hard-working father who founded textile group that literally became the backbone of a community. All in the textile industry admired the progress and growth that established the Dover Textile Group as Cleveland's leading industry. Jack Dover made many contributions to—and sacrifices for—that industry. "They're good people to work for," has been echoed thousands of times around Cleveland County.

First and foremost, Dover was a dedicated Christian gentleman. Deacon and leader in his church, he established a shining example that others could — and did — follow.

His interests were many, but none was greater, perhaps, than that in education. Following in the footsteps of other outstanding benefactors in the County, Dover saw the need for a better educated citizenry in Cleveland and took steps to see that end accomplished.

His contributions were in money, but they went beyond that. Most important they included his leadership. "Gardner-Webb has lost a great friend," its leaders say. Truly, he was a friend to Gardner-Webb, whose Dover Memorial Library stands symbolic of the family's long and continuous interest in the school.

These were the areas of his life: Christian leadership and service; industrial and economic leadership; and a devotion to education.

Jack Dover is dead, but the life he lived will endure many generations, reflected in the contributions he made to his fellow man while of the living.