

Speaker of the Thirty-Sixth Congress." *Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society* 2 (1872): 207-20.

Weart, Jacob. "Speaker William Pennington." *New Jersey Law Journal* 20 (July-August 1897): 230-39.

Sister Serafina D'Alessio



DANIEL HAINES (January 6, 1801-January 26, 1877), the last governor elected by the legislature, was born in New York City. His ancestors had left England in 1637 to settle in Salem, Massachusetts. Later they moved to Southold, Long Island, then left this homestead to join the first settlers of Elizabethtown. While living there, Haines's grandfather, Stephen Haines, played a distinguished role in the American Revolution. One of his sons, Elias, was the future governor's father.

Elias Haines was a well-known and successful New York City merchant. He married Mary Ogden, who was the daughter of Robert Ogden III and the niece of Governor Aaron Ogden. The couple had four daughters and three sons. It was their first child who would become New Jersey's chief executive.

The young Haines's early education took place at a private school in New York under the celebrated instructor Edmund D. Barry. After completing his preparatory education at the academy in Elizabethtown, he was graduated from the College of New Jersey (later Princeton University) in 1820. Haines then entered the law office of his uncle, Thomas C. Ryerson, in Newton, Sussex County. In 1823, after three years of study, he was admitted to the bar, and he began to practice law in Hamburg, Sussex County.

During the election of 1824, Sussex County was strongly pro-Jackson. A Federalist who became an ardent supporter of

Andrew Jackson, Haines began his political life by securing Jackson all the votes cast in the small township of Vernon, in which he resided. For the rest of his political career, he continued to work within the Democratic party.

After fifteen years of private law practice, Haines was elected to the legislative council in 1839 by a large majority. He immediately became involved in the political controversy known as the "Broad Seal War." A dispute over the results of the 1838 congressional election had triggered this intensely bitter, partisan contest. In the legislative session of 1839-40, the Whigs introduced a series of resolutions to denounce the action of the House of Representatives, which had failed to support their candidates. Amzi Armstrong of Essex County and Jacob W. Miller of Morris County were the principal Whig advocates of these motions in the council. In the debates that followed, Haines led the opposition, which questioned the legislature's right and fitness to pass the Whig resolutions. Though he failed to prevent their passage, Haines debated with an ability and tact that contributed to his emergence as a political leader and, ultimately, to his election as the state's chief executive.

The Democratic caucus nominated Haines for governor on October 27, 1843, and since the Democrats had just regained control of the joint meeting after six years in the minority, Haines's election was assured. His major achievement during the first of his two terms in office was the adoption of a new state constitution in 1844. Besides being instrumental in bringing about the convention called to frame it, Haines convinced his contemporaries that the state's original fundamental law had "provisions which are at least inexpedient if not wholly incompatible with the spirit of the present age." The anachronistic unity of the offices of governor and chancellor and the chief executive's election by the legislature instead of the people became two of his chief concerns. Moreover, Haines pleaded successfully for a bipartisan convention,

believing the constitution to be "a measure which is too momentous to be made the subject of party difference."

Educational reform and the creation of an efficient militia system received Haines's attention also. He told the legislature that the revision of the common school law was "one of [its] most important duties." Under the permissive sections of the 1838 law, local authorities could easily avoid both the responsibility of reporting on the condition of their schools and the obligation to visit and examine them. To insure that local government supervise educational matters properly, Haines suggested that the council and assembly "inquire into the expediency of appointing a general superintendent" of schools. Only a year later, Theodore F. King became the first state superintendent of schools.

The militia system was another area of concern for Haines, and in his second annual message he announced that it "seems to have fallen in great disrepute." Insufficient reports from the brigade officers prevented the state from furnishing the national government the militia statistics it needed before it could issue arms and equipment. Consequently, the state sustained an annual loss of military supplies. In addition, Haines complained that the state's troops were poorly disciplined, and that "the ordinary militia musters . . . are generally admitted to retard rather than to promote improvement; and to be a tax upon the time and service of the citizen without any corresponding benefit."

Under a special provision of the new constitution, Haines continued in office until the inauguration of his successor, Charles C. Stratton, on January 21, 1845. The last governor under the old constitution, Haines might have been the first under the new had he not peremptorily declined the nomination. However, only a few years later, on September 22, 1847, the Democratic State Convention nominated him for governor on the first ballot. In November, he defeated his Whig opponent William Wright, a former mayor of

Newark and a congressman. The Whigs' triumph in the legislative race made his victory all the more impressive.

On January 18, 1848, Haines became New Jersey's chief executive a second time. His term under the new constitution was three years instead of one. During this tenure, he continued his crusade for educational reform, telling the legislature that the cause of education should be its major priority since "not many more than one half of the children in the state receive instruction in the schools [and] . . . a very large proportion must be growing up in ignorance." To improve the quality of instruction in New Jersey, Haines suggested that the state create a normal school to furnish competent teachers, introduce free public education, and increase the money raised to support schools at the state and local levels.

Besides being committed to education, Haines was deeply interested in the welfare of prisoners, and he became an active agent to improve their condition. He was particularly concerned about the "want of suitable arrangements" in county prisons. Because of the lack of means to separate the prisoners, "the hardened villain and the juvenile delinquent" often occupied the same cell. The prisons also lacked any facilities that would allow the inmates to spend time usefully engaged in labor. Such conditions, Haines believed, made the county prisons "schools for vice, whose youngest pupils may become the ripest scholars and most finished rogues." To correct the situation, he urged the establishment of workshops in the county prisons, the creation of separate cells for the older and younger prisoners, and even the construction of a state reform school for juvenile offenders.

At the end of his term, on January 21, 1851, Haines resumed his law practice in Hamburg and worked on a number of important cases. In one involving the Goodyear Rubber Company's right to vulcanize India rubber, he worked with Daniel Webster. In 1852, Governor George F. Fort, his successor, nominated Haines associate justice of the state su-

preme court, and he took his seat on the bench in November after the senate's confirmation. He was reappointed in 1859, and in 1866, when David A. Depue replaced him after his second seven-year term, he retired. Commenting on Haines's years as the associate justice responsible for the difficult Newark circuit, his friend Lucius Q. C. Elmer said, "few judges were ever freer from the influence of passion or prejudice."

In 1860, Haines supported the candidacy of Stephen A. Douglas because he feared "that the election of Lincoln as a sectional candidate might precipitate war." After Lincoln's election, he continued to oppose every measure that might produce hostilities, but once Fort Sumter had been attacked, he actively supported the Union cause. During the war, he assisted by helping to raise troops for the Northern army. Still, in 1864, he voted for George B. McClellan instead of Lincoln because he felt that "the measures of the administration tend to protract the war." Four years later, he supported Horatio Seymour rather than Ulysses S. Grant because he was "steadily opposed to most of the measures of reconstruction adopted by the Republican party."

The former governor's involvement in public life was quite extensive. He was a trustee of many public institutions. In the Presbyterian Church, he was a ruling elder, a president of the Sussex County Bible Society, and a member of the committee that brought about the reunion of the church after the Civil War.

His special interest in prison reform led

the legislature to appoint him in 1868 to study prison systems in New Jersey and other states. In 1870, Governor Theodore F. Randolph named him delegate to the National Congress on Penitentiary and Reformatory Discipline at Cincinnati. The congress named him to a committee to organize a national reform association and to prepare for the International Convention of Prison Discipline and Reform that met in London in 1872. He was a delegate to that meeting, and he served during the same year as the vice-president of the National Prison Association of the United States.

Ann Maria Austin of Warwick, New York, was the first of Haines's two wives. They were married on June 28, 1827, and had three daughters and two sons. One of the sons, Thomas Ryerson Haines, died at the battle of Harrisonburg in Virginia during the Civil War. Ann Maria died on December 8, 1844, and Haines married Mary Townsend of Newark on July 6, 1865. On January 26, 1877, he died at his home in Hamburg.

Alumni Biographical Collection, Seeley G. Mudd Library, Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.

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