

# HAMBURG HISTORY

*A special section contributed by Mr. Daniel Barr on behalf of the Hamburg Historical Society*

Daniel Haines was born in NYC on January 6<sup>th</sup> 1801. He was the son of Elias and Mary Ogden Haines. Elias Haines was a successful merchant and his mother Mary was the daughter of Robert Ogden III of Sparta. Daniel graduated from the College of New Jersey in 1820 and studied law under Thomas Ryerson Esq. of Hamburg. Daniel received his law degree in 1823. He began his law practice in Hamburg in a modest building on "the public road" and soon gained the trust and respect of the citizens of Hamburg.

Haines married in 1827 to Ann Maria Austin, daughter of Alanson Austin Esq. of Warwick, NY. Together they had 5 children. 2 sons, Rev. Alanson Austin Haines, a local historian and pastor of the North Church, Capt. Thomas Ryerson Haines, who gave his life in Harrisonburg, VA while fighting for the Union in the Civil War, His 3 daughters were Henrietta, Sarah, and Annie. After the death of his first wife, Daniel married a second time in 1865 to Mary Townsend.

Daniel became interested in politics early in his career. In 1824 he supported Andrew Jackson for President. He became a State Senator in 1839 & 1840. He was appointed Governor in 1843 by his party. He was elected to a second term in 1847. As Governor, he drafted a new state constitution, was a strong advocate for public education, and established the State Normal School.

In 1852, he became a State Supreme Court justice. He served in this capacity for 14 years. Gov. Haines was widely known for his judicial fairness. Later he was appointed to a commission to settle boundary disputes. He was also a strong supporter of the Union cause. Both his son and his son in law served the Union.

Privately, Gov. Haines was a very religious and pious man. While serving as a trustee of Princeton College, he was also a trustee of the North Presbyterian Church of Hardyston. While pursuing his career, he never forgot his hometown and the people here. On Sundays, he would serve as a Sunday school teacher, as well as travel to the homes of the poorer families in the mountains to teach them to read so they could read the bible. He provided the land on which the Hamburg Presbyterian Church now stands so the church could be built and the 2 churches could unite. His son Alanson was the pastor. Gov. Haines passed away peacefully on January 26<sup>th</sup> 1877 at his home in Hamburg. He is buried in the North Church cemetery along side his wife and children, including Thomas, whose body was moved from Virginia to rest in Hardyston near his family. A wreath is placed at his grave every Memorial Day.

He raised his family in the mansion that formally belonged to Joseph Sharpe. This stately home stood for almost 2 centuries and stayed in the family until the 1930's when it was sold and turned into a restaurant. The home was eventually destroyed by fire and had to be razed. Gov. Haines Plaza now occupies the site of the mansion. The Hamburg Historical Society placed a marker to commemorate this important and historical figure and home at the plaza on August 12<sup>th</sup> 2007. Please be sure to visit the marker next time you are at the plaza.

