

The Grinnell Herald

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ROBERT M. HAINES.

R. M. Haines was born near Salem, O., Dec. 29, 1838, and died at Grinnell, Iowa, Dec. 22, 1902, lacking one week of being 64 years of age. In 1857 he came to Iowa, locating at Iowa Falls, where he engaged in the profession of teaching for which he had a natural aptitude. Three years later he visited a sister at Le Grand whence he came to Grinnell in the winter of 1860, and entered the academy of Iowa College. By his own efforts he worked his way through Academy and college, graduating with high honors in 1865, with the first class the college sent out after its removal from Davenport to Grinnell.

After graduation he accepted the principalship of an academy at Troy, Davis county, where the lady who was afterward to become his wife, a graduate also of the class of '65, was his assistant. In 1867 he was chosen to a position in the Academy of Iowa College which he filled two years. August 19, 1867, he he was united in marriage with Miss Joanna Harris, who survives him. He had expected to make teaching his life work, but conditions arose in 1869 which caused him to sever his connection with the college, and in the fall he entered the law department of the State University. Before the year was over he was called home to assume the principalship of the Grinnell schools. In 1870 he formed a law partnership with a Mr. Kline. In June, 1871, the law partnership of Haines & Lyman was formed which continued without interruption for 31½ years, until the death of Mr. Haines.

Though admitted to the bar, Mr. Haines had not received a degree from the State University, and in the spring of 1874 he returned to Iowa City and concluded the law course, receiving his L. L. B. with the class graduating that year.

The firm of Haines & Lyman at once took high rank and was soon easily at the head of the Poweshiek bar, and soon became one of the best known in central Iowa.

In 1879 Mr. Haines was elected to the Iowa senate and served in the sessions of '80 and '82 with high distinction. He was easily one of the best speakers in his party in Iowa and entered into the fall campaigns in those years with a force and a clearness that commanded the enthusiasm of his political friends, and forced the respect of the members of the opposing party. He would willingly have served his district a second term in the senate, but Poweshiek was at that time, coupled with Tama. The latter county claimed the senator and having the larger republican vote in the convention, secured the nomination of Senator Poyneer. Mr. Haines at once took the stump in his support, and though Tama went against Mr. Poyneer in the election, Poweshiek, largely through the personal efforts of Mr. Haines, gave so large a majority as to carry Mr. Poyneer triumphantly through.

In those days Mr. Haines was a powerful political speaker, entered actively into many a local campaign. Probably no one man has ever spoken oftener in Poweshiek county for the republican

party than Mr. Haines did in those years, and certainly no one spoke with better effect. In the memorable local campaign of 1879 he supported A. J. Wood of Brooklyn for the legislature, and went into every precinct, making speeches that rallied the republicans to his standard and were a most potent force in securing his election.

His grasp of public questions was remarkable, and those who enjoyed the pleasure of hearing him in the latter seventies know that Iowa never produced a more thorough student of finance nor an abler exponent of the sound money problem.

In debate Mr. Haines was like General Grant in war. He simply hammered the enemy, advancing time and again with such an onslaught of figures, and facts, so forcibly, clearly and convincingly presented, that resistance became almost impossible. Had he been a politician instead of a man of a high sense of honor with a self respect that kept him faced always toward right and duty he might have occupied positions high in his party. But to him there was but one path to follow. That was after the truth as he saw it, and no allurements political, social or financial could lead him from it.

In his profession Mr. Haines ranked high. He was honest, conscientious, and thoroughly in earnest. During the past few years he had been an active member of the State Bar Association, and at the time of his death he was its president.