



Horace Henry Hayden

1769-1844

“Father of the Dental Profession”

Dr. Horace Hayden, a native of Windsor, Connecticut, is regarded as a pioneer in the field of dentistry and a leader in the 19th century movement to establish a formal system of dental education. During his lifetime dentistry evolved from the crude techniques of the barber-surgeon into a scientifically based, modern profession. Hayden played a prominent role in the formation of a dental college, a professional society of dental surgeons, and a journal of dental science.

- 1769 born at Haydens in the Hayden Station area of Windsor, the son of Thomas and Abigail (Parsons) Hayden and a direct descendant of William Hayden, a founder of Windsor. His father served in the Revolutionary War, returning to Windsor to resume life as a farmer, architect, and builder; Thomas is credited with building the house at 5 North Meadow Rd. Young Horace helped his mother take care of the farm at Haydens while his father was away, and she instructed him in his early schooling.
- 1783 - 1790s at age 14 left Windsor, went to sea as a cabin boy, travelled to the West Indies, and returned home after several years to learn and practice his father's building trades.
- 1795 age 26 consulted Dr. John Greenwood, George Washington's personal dentist, in New York City. Hayden was so impressed with Greenwood's skills and methods that he began the study of dentistry under Greenwood's tutelage.
- 1800 or 1801 moved to Baltimore and by 1802 had established a successful dental practice. Hayden continued to study dentistry as well as medical anatomy and surgery, subjects he believed were fundamental to treating diseases of the teeth.
- 1805 married Marie Antoinette Robinson. The couple's son Handel became a dentist, as did two of Hayden's brothers and two of his nephews.
- 1814 served as an assistant surgeon during the War of 1812 and the Siege of Baltimore.
- 1817-1818 recommended that a dental society be formed and helped establish the Maryland Academy of Sciences.
- 1821 published *Geological Essays*, the first general work on geology printed in this country. Hayden was an authority on geology, mineralogy, and other fields of natural history.
- 1839 was one of the organizing founders of the *American Journal of Dental Science*.
- 1820s and 1830s held private dental classes and lectured on dentistry to medical students.
- 1837 received honorary MD from Jefferson College of Medicine in Philadelphia, and in 1840 from the University of Maryland, only the second American dentist to be so honored.
- 1840 founder and first elected president of the American Society of Dental Surgeons. Hayden had worked tirelessly for several decades to help establish this professional society and served as its president until his death.
- 1840 co-founded the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery with Chapin Harris. Hayden was its first president and its first professor of dental surgery. The college was the first institution to award the D.D.S. degree, and is now part of the University of Maryland.
- 1844 Hayden died in Baltimore and is buried in Baltimore's Greenmount Cemetery.