

## John Alden Dix

John Alden Dix was born 12/25/1860 in Glens Falls and died on 4/9/1928 in Harbor Hospital, Manhattan, New York at the age of 67 with burial in Albany Rural Cemetery. Mr. Dix graduated from the Glens Falls Academy in 1879, attended Cornell University and received an honorary degree of LL. D from Hamilton College in June of 1912. His mother was Laura (Stevens) Dix and father James Lawton Dix. On 4/24 1889 John married Ellen Gertrude Alden Thomson. The family home, listed on the State and National historic properties registry, still stands at the corner of Ridge Street and Lawton Avenue in Glens Falls. Many streets in that area of the City were named for members of the Dix family.

John Alden Dix began his working career at the Dix Foundry machine shop and the Dix and Reynolds black marble business in Glens Falls followed by work at the Thomson lumbering business in Thomson, NY. After marrying Lemon Thomson's daughter, he became a partner in the company and the name was changed to the Thomson & Dix firm. After Mr. Thomson's death Dix purchased the lumber company. Until 1906 when he became involved in politics and was a successful business owner, property owner and banker. John A. Dix was a Democrat and lost the post of Lieutenant-Governor in 1906 but became the chairman of the Democratic State Committee in 1910. He was nominated for governor in the fall of 1910 and was elected to a two-year term. Being a business man Dix took the approach of running the State in many of the same ways that he would a business. In the two years of his governorship New York went from having a deficit of \$1,500,000 in the treasury to a surplus of \$4,000,000. He established the State Fire Marshal's office, improved the insurance laws, promoted agricultural education in schools and nominated his friend from Glens Falls, James Holden to serve as State Historian. After his Governorship, Dix was not able to recover his personal losses in business and died with very little money in his bank account.