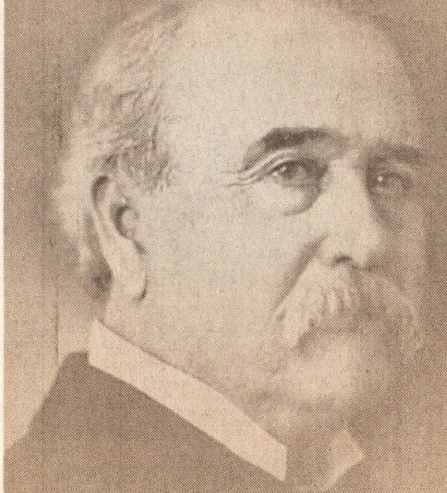


ADVENTUROUS DRAKE GIVES SCHOOL NAMESAKE, SPIRIT



Francis Marion Drake

Francis Marion Drake – the man in whose honor Drake University is named – had little more than a mid-level grade school education. The Drake family moved west from North Carolina and became early Iowa settlers, founding the town of Drakesville.

Drake, one of 14 children, achieved only the minimum of schooling that pioneers were allowed. Still, a lack of formal education hardly limited the young Drake's adventures. He drove oxen teams across Nebraska to California in both 1852 and 1854, danger-

ous trips that included violent skirmishes with the natives.

He rode a steamer to Panama in the fall of 1854 and experienced a terrible shipwreck that killed several hundred aboard. Drake managed to survive – a running theme in his life. He and a small group floated upon the wreckage to a barren coast where they were finally rescued five days after the shipwreck. Unflustered, Drake took the next steamer bound for Panama.

When the Civil War erupted in 1861, he organized a company of men from his trading and packing business

in Appanoose County, Iowa, and immediately charged to the heat of the fighting in Allenville, Mo. In a battle about a year later, Drake was shot in the hip and thigh. The Confederates took him prisoner, but after inspecting his wounds, left him for dead.

They just didn't know Drake. He survived – after six months of severe suffering – and returned to the battlefield to lead his troops while on crutches.

After the war, Drake joined with a few business partners to help build railroad lines across

Iowa and added nicely to the Drake family fortune.

Sometime early in 1881, his old friend and brother-in-law, George Carpenter, contacted him by telegram about building a university in Des Moines. Drake wired back pledging \$20,000.

Drake was always proud that the school carried his name and took keen interest in its founding and development even after he was elected governor of Iowa in 1895. By the time he died in 1903, Drake donated more than \$215,000 to the University – about \$4.5 million in today's money.