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## The Building of a University

### The Beginning and Development of Drake University and the Men Who Made It

Two men made possible the strong and rapidly growing college that is taking advantage of the splendid opportunity for building up a great institution for higher education in Des Moines. At the time when George T. Carpenter had declared that he could carry the struggle to build up Oskaloosa College no farther, his brother-in-law, General Francis Marion Drake, big man of affairs, generous and filled with high purposes always, came to the rescue and told the hopeful and ambitious men in Des Moines that if they would bring the school here he would "get behind it" with money and business ability and would see it well started. This, in a word, and without details, is the way Drake University began.

The beginning of the school was really in Oskaloosa in September, 1861. The college was first projected by the Disciples of Christ, now best known as the Christian church, in Mt. Pleasant in June, 1855. The next yearly meeting in Marion in June, 1856 decided to locate the school in the town that offered the best inducements, and Oskaloosa, with an offer of \$30,000, won over Marion. It was not until September, 1862 that the institution was ready to open. One year before that, however, the trustees had permitted George T. and W. Joseph Carpenter to use the buildings and start a little preparatory school on their own account. They had fifty students and the start seemed encouraging. They were part of the faculty that formally opened the school a year later and had an enrollment of 167. But the undertaking proved too much for the devoted teachers who gave their time to it. After eleven years of hard work Geo. T. Carpenter withdrew and devoted himself, in 1873, to editorial work. During the interim Barton W. Johnson, Francis M. Bruner, A. F. Ross and S. P. Lucy had charge of the school. Mr. Carpenter returned to the presidency in 1877 and remained until 1881, the beginning of Drake University.

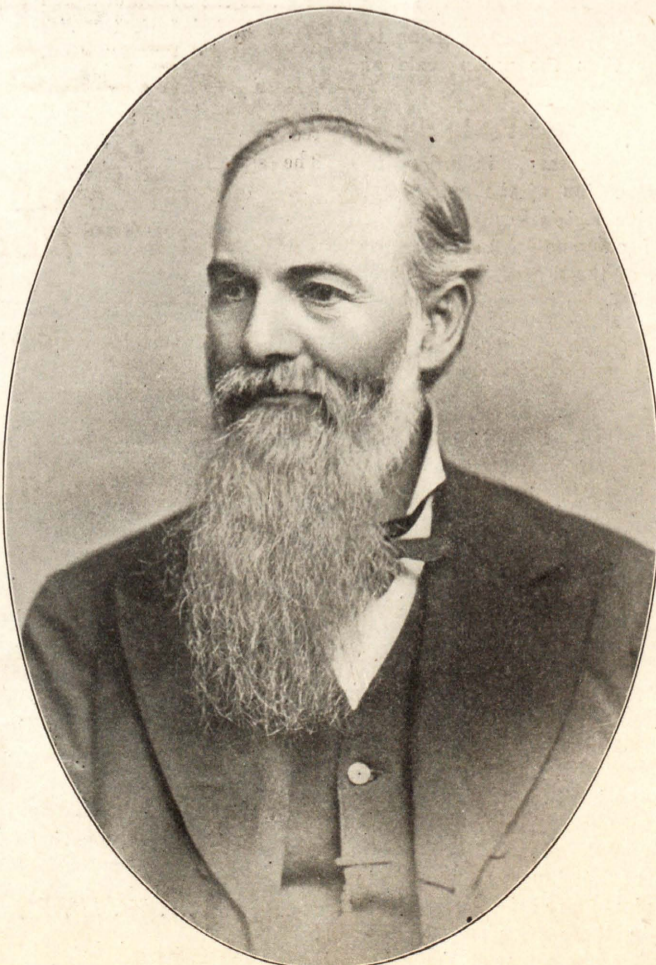
Dr. Carpenter made a brave effort to sustain the school, organizing faculties with excellent judgment and doing personally a great amount of work. But the teachers became discouraged and decided that they could not afford to make further sacrifices. The President came to the same conclusion and announced that he would not attempt to organize another faculty. Prof. Geo. H. Laughlin became President of the college in 1881, but it did not survive its difficulties and in 1890 it was abandoned.

The suggestion of removal to Des Moines was made by Elder D. R. Lucas in a conversation with Dr. Carpenter at the home of J. B. Vawter in Altoona in July, 1880, when the future of the school seemed very dark and the faculty had announced its resignation at the end of the next school year. In February, 1881, Elder Lucas wrote to General Drake explaining the situation and asking if he would help to endow the institution if it was removed to Des Moines. With characteristic promptness General Drake replied by telegraph saying: "I can and will do it. I will give you twenty thousand dollars. Go ahead." This was with the understanding that Dr. Carpenter, in whom he had every confidence, should be the head of the school. There is no doubt that General Drake was willing to put his money into the school because of his confidence in Dr. Carpenter, who was married to Gen. Drake's sister. For twelve years, until the death of Chancellor Carpenter, July 29, 1893, these two men worked together to build up the institution which, after the generous offer of Gen. Drake, was named Drake University.

The location in Des Moines was popular with the friends of the college and with the church, though Oskaloosa would not consent to it. During the summer of 1881 the present beautiful location was selected, then unsettled timber land, and the first frame building was erected. Most of the faculty came from Oskaloosa and the first term opened Sept. 20, 1881. The teachers who came from Oskaloosa were: George T. Carpenter, Bruce E. Shepperd, Lyman S. Bottenfield, William P. Macy, Milton P. Givens, Mark E. Wright and W. P. Macy. Others who



GEN. F. M. DRAKE



GEORGE T. CARPENTER  
FIRST CHANCELLOR, 1881-1893

joined the faculty here were Benjamin J. Radford, Walter H. Kent and Norman Dunshee. The departments established that first year, with a total of 80 students, were Literary, Bible, Law, Medical, Music, Art and Commercial. The Iowa College of Law was already organized and had been in existence since 1875, part of the time in Iowa City. George H. Lewis was its first Dean and Judge C. C. Cole, now Dean of the Law School, was a member of its faculty. The Medical School was fully organized the next year as the Iowa Eclectic Medical College, with Dr. E. H. Carter as Dean. The attendance the first year was 270, while now the University has over 1600.

The growth of the University has been rapid and promises to gather strength and increase its usefulness even faster with added years. The present main building was completed in 1883. The other buildings followed in this order: Science, 1890; Auditorium, 1900; Conservatory of Music, (Howard Hall) 1903; College of Medicine, 1903; College of Law, (Cole Hall) 1904; and Memorial Hall, 1906. Gen. Drake was the principal contributor to all of these buildings. The day before his last illness began he pledged \$10,000 to the Memorial building, which is to be dedicated during the anniversary and commencement season this month. This building cost \$30,000 and the other \$20,000 was given by various friends of the University, chiefly as memorials to departed friends and relatives. Mrs. A. I. Hobbs was one of these, and the assembly hall in the building is to be called Hobbs hall, in memory of Dr. A. I. Hobbs, who was head of the Bible college up to the time of his death a few years ago. The Memorial building, which is across the street south from the campus, affords lecture and recitation rooms, laboratories and offices for the Bible college, Latin, Greek and German departments, physics and astronomy. In the basement is a model kitchen and banquet room to accommodate 100 guests. It is one of the best buildings the University has.

When Chancellor Carpenter died, Barton O. Aylesworth became the actual head of the University. He had been President since 1889, as Chancellor Carpenter had devoted himself to the business end of the institution. He remained four years, resigning to become pastor of a Denver church. He later became President of the Colorado State Agricultural College at Fort Collins, where he now is. His successor was Dr. William Bayard Craig, who served the institution as Chancellor for five years and impressed himself deeply upon everyone connected with it and also made a lasting place for himself in the regard of the people of Des Moines. Business responsibilities, however, were not so much to his liking, so he resigned to give his time wholly to literary and pulpit work, becoming pastor of a large Christian church in Denver, a charge he still holds. Both these able men will be present and will speak in the anniversary meeting June 13.

General Drake gave more than money to the University that bears his name. He always attended the meetings of the board of trustees, of which he was President, and gave to the business of the institution the closest attention and the full benefit of his superior financial training and natural ability. With him were associated such men as D. R. Ewing, Geo. A. Jewett, J. B. Burton, James H. Stockham, N. E. Coffin, J. L. Sawyers, B. F. Prunty and others.

When Chancellor Craig resigned, Gen. Drake fixed upon Hill M. Bell, who was then Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Vice-Chancellor, as the most likely man for the responsibility of leadership, and he was made Acting Chancellor in 1902. The following year he was elected President of the University upon the initiative of Gen. Drake, who felt confident that now he had found the ideal man to carry on the work which he had started. The founder of the University had absolute faith in President Bell, who was his personal choice for the position that required both business ability and scholarship. The experience of the succeeding years and the unprecedented prosper-

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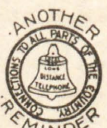
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The new serial, "Seeing France with Uncle John," by Anne Warner, author of "Susan Clegg and Her Friend Mrs. Lathrop," begins in the June Century. The story is largely told in the form of letters from a young American girl to her mother; but Uncle John is the chief actor, and, like Susan Clegg, is entirely unconscious of how funny he is.

Perhaps the most scholarly woman in society at the capital is Mrs. Henry Cabot Lodge. She took a college course in Wellesley and has taken a keen interest in Greek studies. She has never sought the laurels of authorship, but she has been an invaluable aid to her husband and his chief dependence in research and the reading of proof-sheets.

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University, have proved that he was right. President Bell has managed the finances of the institution with skill and conservatism and has developed every department to the fullest extent possible. He has made a little money go a long way. The endowment of the University is now about \$296,000, but it is likely to be considerably increased before long.

The name of Chancellor Carpenter lives again in the University in the person of his daughter, Miss Mary Adelaide Carpenter, Dean of Women, who occupies a position of much usefulness and importance in the direction of the University's affairs. She is the editor of the University Record, a monthly publication which gives publicity to University interests and often of brochures of much value.

The most important improvement in prospect for Drake is the library building, for which Andrew Carnegie, through President Bell, has pledged \$50,000 on condition that an equal amount of endowment be raised by the University. More than half the amount has already been pledged.

Since its organization Drake University has enrolled over 12,000 students, of whom 800 were in the Bible college. The College of Law has graduated over 600 and the College of Medicine 240. The College of Law has turned out many well known men, who have won success and distinction. Secretary Shaw is one of them. Among others are Howard J. Clark, N. E. Coffin, F. W. Craig, C. C. Dowell, I. M. Earle, W. A. Helsell, James A. Howe, John McLennan, W. M. McLaughlin, J. A. Nash, Geo. L. Rothrock, J. Ralph Orwig.

The Bible college has sent 32 men and women to missionary fields, 28 of them still in the work in India, China, Japan, the Philippines, Porto Rico and Jamaica.

One of the most important departments of Drake, which has brought the University into wide acquaintance all over the Middle West, is the Conservatory of Music, which has been built up by Frederick Howard, who is now completing his sixth year as Dean. It is a big, strong school that has probably the largest attendance of any music school in Iowa, is housed in a beautiful building of its own that cost \$25,000 and is turning out many professional and amateur singers and players of high rank.

To catalog the work of Drake University at the present time would require a book. Its faculty numbers 101 men and women, capable educators of the best equipment and character for their work. No sectarian lines are drawn anywhere in the work of the school or in the selection of its faculty. Almost every denomination is represented in the faculty. There is no compulsion about chapel attendance. Scholarship and moral character are the only standards. The work of the University is broad and its courses are complete. The opportunities for study that are offered in Des Moines are for many reasons superior to any other place in the state, and every year the University is growing stronger and these natural advantages are more cultivated.

Next week and the week following will be devoted to the commencement exercises of the various schools and to the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the University. The program was published last week.

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