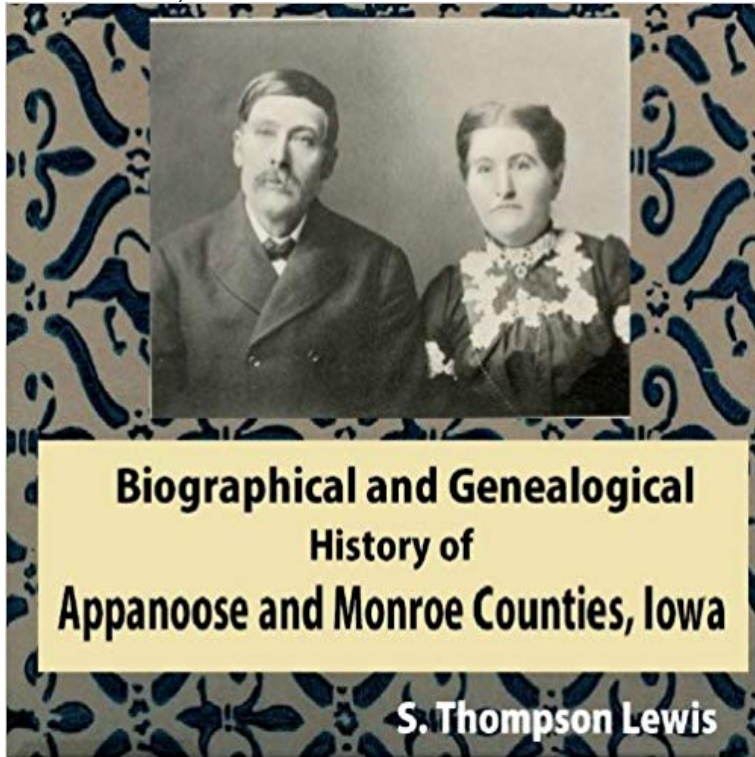


Biographical and genealogical history of Appanoose and Monroe counties, Iowa



BIOGRAPHICAL AND
GENEALOGICAL
HISTORY OF APPANOOSE AND
MONROE COUNTIES, IOWA. FRANCIS
MARION DRAKE. It is a great truth that
some must follow and some command. But
the pages of history must ever be filled
with the achievements and character of
those who command, who are able to direct
the power of the hosts and bring victory to
the cause of progress. And it is here fitting,
in a work purporting to give an account of
the lives of those who have aided in
making the state of Iowa one of the banner
states of the Union, to give a prominent
place to the life and career of ex-Governor
Drake. No fulsome tributes of praise will
be here attempted, and none are needed; his
deeds speak for themselves. As a business
man, as a soldier, as a statesman, as the
highest executive officer of his state, as the
founder of a great university, and, above
all, as the exponent of true, noble Christian
manhood, he deserves to take rank among
the leaders of men and makers of
history. Going back to the early forefathers
of the subject of this biography, we find
that the great-grandfather was James
Drake, a native of the colony of Virginia,
who afterwards settled in Swift Creek,
Nash county, North Carolina, where he
accumulated a large amount of property,
and died in the year 1790. He was the
father of Benjamin, who married Celia
Thayer and became the parent of John
Adams Drake. John Adams Drake was
born on the homestead which his
grandfather had established in North
Carolina, on October 21, 1802. He was one
of eight children, of English ancestry, and
early manifested his heritage of noble
ancestral qualities. After receiving a fair
education in the primitive school of the
time and growing up to manhood under the
care of his excellent parents, he married,
on June 12, 1826, Harriet Jane O'Neal, a
native of Franklin county, that state, and the

daughter of sturdy Irish parents; fourteen children were born of this union. In 1829 they left the Old North state and moved to Wilson county, Tennessee, and in October, 1830, became pioneer settlers of Rushville, Illinois. In this latter place he engaged in mercantile pursuits and prospered. In 1837 the family moved to Fort Madison, which was then in the territory of Wisconsin, as the territory of Iowa had not yet been organized. Here he resided nine years, and during nearly all the time held the office of justice of the peace and county probate judge. In March, 1846, he took up his residence in Davis county, Iowa, where he founded the town of Drakeville, and later engaged in agricultural pursuits; he also established a bank in Drakeville, which he conducted for several years. He was then induced by his son, the subject of this sketch, to move to Centerville and become the president of the Appanoose County State Bank, which the latter had organized there, and for the last few years of his life he held this position. His long and useful life came to an end in 1880, and five years later his wife passed away. Their wedded life covered a period of nearly fifty-four years and was one of happiness and fruitfulness. They were earnest and consistent

Biographical and Genealogical History of Appanoose and Monroe Biographical and Genealogical History of Appanoose and Monroe Counties, Iowa. Front Cover. Lewis publishing Company, 1903 - Appanoose County (Iowa)

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