

DRAKE, WILLIAM AUGUSTUS, SR.

Birth

March 3, 1826 in New York

Death

March 23, 1904 at his home

Cause of Death

Cemetery Lot

Buried on Lot 19

Lot was purchased by W. A. Drake on September 17, 1892

Father

Jedediah Drake

Mother

Matilda Oakley

Marriage

William A. Drake to Roxanna Andrews on Feb. 25, 1849 in Broome Co., N. Y.

Census

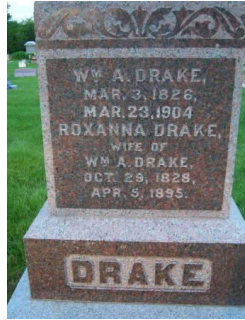
1830 – Goshen Twp., Orange Co., NY; page 280

Drake, Jedediah	2 males under 5
	1 male between 5 and 10
	1 male between 40 and 50
	1 female under 5
	1 female between 40 and 50
	1 female between 60 and 70

1840 –

1850 – Town of Union; Broome Co., NY; Page 448; roll 478; October 14, 1850
Dwelling 3320; Family 3447

Drake, William A.	24	farmer	NY
Rosa	21		NY
Andrews, Malissa	16		NY



1860 – Allen Twp., Polk Co., IA; Page 120; June 25, 1860
 Dwelling 934; Family 868

Drake, William	34	farm labor	NY
Ann	30		NY
William	07		NY
Georgeanna	04		NY
Albert	01		IA

1870 – Bloomfield Twp., Polk Co., IA; Page 105A; August 24, 1870
 Dwelling 161; Family 158

Drake, W. A.	45	farmer	NY
R.	41		NY
Wm.	17		NY
Georgia	14		NY
Albert	11		IA
John	09		IA
Ella	05		IA
Hellen	02		IA

1880 – Bloomfield Twp., Polk Co., IA; ED167; Page 448B; July 12, 1880
 Dwelling 192; Family 192

Drake, William A.	56	farmer	NY	NY	NY
Roxanna	51		NY	NY	NY
Georgia	23		NY	NY	NY
Albert	21		IA	NY	NY
John	19		IA	NY	NY
Ella	16		IA	NY	NY
Helen	12		IA	NY	NY
Ida	15	niece	OH	NY	NY
Truman, George	23	laborer	OH	OH	OH

1885 – Bloomfield Twp., Polk Co., IA; Page 100
 Dwelling 121; Family 124

Drake, William A.	59	farmer	NY
Roxanna	56		NY
John	23		Polk Co., IA
Ella	20		Polk Co., IA
Hellen	16		Polk Co., IA

1895 – Bloomfield Twp., Polk Co., IA; Page 74
 Dwelling 50; Family 54

Drake, Wm. A.	69	farmer	NY
Roxanna	66		NY
Deets, Hellen	26		Polk Co., IA
Herbert	05		Warren Co., IA

McCowen, Wm. 23 laborer Marion Co., IA

1900 – Bloomfield Twp., Polk Co., IA; ED61; Page 11; June 15, 1900
Dwelling 152; Family 153

Drake, W. A.	75	Wd farmer	NY	NY	NY
		Born March 1828			
Deets, Hellen	32	Wd 2 children; 1 living	IA	NY	NY
		Daughter – Born April 1868			
Deets, Herbert	10	grandson – Born July 1889	IA	IA	IA
Pelt, Bert	24	laborer - Born July 1875	IA	IN	PA

Misc.

[The Indianola Advocate, Thursday, March 24, 1904, Page 6]

Cumming News Items: William Drake is very ill with little hope of recovery.

[The Indianola Advocate, Thursday, March 31, 1904, Page 2]

Cumming News Items: Mr. W. Drake died at his home, March 23, and his remains were interred the Friday following in the family plot at Orilla, Rev. Thornbrue officiating.

Death's

[The Des Moines Daily News, Thursday, March 24, 1904, Page 1, Column 6]

Drake – William A., at his home near Orilla. Funeral will be held from the residence Friday at 1 p.m.

History of Polk Co., Iowa – 1890

Portrait and Biographical Album; Page 286

William A. Drake has for a third of a century been connected with the agricultural interests of the county, and is now engaged in general farming and stock-raising on section 34, Bloomfield Township. He is a native of the Empire State, his birth having occurred in Orange County March 3, 1826. On the paternal side the family is of Holland origin, and on the maternal of Scotch descent. Jedediah Drake, his father, was a native of New York and died in Broome County, N. Y. He wedded Matilda Oakley, a native of the same State and they became the parents of seven children: John, a resident of Long Island; Elizabeth, who is living in Orange County, N. Y.; Jonas, of Crawford County, Wis.; William, of this sketch; Thomas, (deceased); Sarah, wife of Horatio Gibbs, of Broome County, N. Y., and Hannah, wife of George Didrick, residing in Broome County. The father of this family served his country as a soldier in the War of 1812 during which he was taken prisoner in Canada but was afterward recaptured by

the American forces and brought back to this country. His death occurred in 1863 and his wife died in 1884.

From the tender age of eight years our subject, William Drake, has made his own way in the world. He left his parents when a lad and went to make his home with an uncle, with whom he remained five years, during which time he received a limited education but was reared to habits of industry, enterprise and good management, which have been of much benefit to him in after life. When a lad of thirteen years he began working as a farm hand for \$7 per month, which position he retained three years, when he engaged in jobbing until his marriage, which was celebrated February 25, 1849, Miss Roxanna Andrews becoming his wife. The young couple began their domestic life upon a rented farm in Broome County, N. Y., and in connection with the cultivation of that land Mr. Drake engaged in the dairy business until 1857, when he determined to try his fortune in the West. He chose Polk County, Iowa, as the scene of his future operations and, accompanied by his family, made his way by rail to Iowa City, completing the journey by stage to Ft. Des Moines, where he spent four years engaged in various occupations. At the expiration of that time he rented land and once more resumed farming, which he carried on until 1866, when he purchased eighty acres of land on section 34, Bloomfield Township. Since that time he has extended its boundaries until one hundred and twenty acres pay tribute to his care and cultivation. He erected a house upon his land, and after seeing that his family was comfortably situated devoted his entire energies to his business interests. Although he is now numbered among the prosperous farmers of the community, this result was not attained without much labor. He has always been an industrious and energetic man and has gradually worked his way upward step by step.

Unlike many who have been blessed with prosperity, Mr. Drake has always taken a deep interest in the welfare of the county and has given liberally to the support of those enterprises which were calculated for its advancement. All social, moral and educational interests have found in him a warm friend, and of the cause of temperance he is a staunch advocate, considering no labor too great which will promote temperance sentiment among the people. He cast his first Presidential vote for James Birney, the Abolition candidate, and next for Martin Van Buren, the nominee of the same party. In the meantime a new party was being formed, the Republican, and John C. Fremont was its first candidate for the office of Chief Magistrate of this Nation. Since that time Mr. Drake has never failed to cast his ballot in its support. His residence in this county covers a period of thirty-three years, and with the advance of time still others are added to his list of friends who hold him in high regard for his sterling worth, strict integrity and usefulness as a citizen. His wife is equally beloved and is a most estimable lady. Her influence is felt for good in the community and she holds a high position in the social world where true worth is taken as a standard.

The union of this worthy couple has been blessed with seven children, but Charles O., the first-born, is now deceased. William is a resident of Ft. Collins, Colo.; Georgie Ann is the wife of George Freedman, a merchant of Grimes, Iowa; Albert is a resident of Polk County; John is also engaged in merchandising in Polk County; Edla is at home, and Helen is the wife of William Deets, a resident farmer of Warren County, Iowa. Mrs. Drake, the mother of these children, is a daughter of Philo and Roxanna (Meecham) Andrews, the former a native of Connecticut, the latter of New York. By trade Mr. Andrews was a blacksmith and followed that occupation until old age, accompanied by the usual failing health, forced him to lay aside all business cares., He continued his residence in Chenango County until his death, which occurred in 1863. His excellent wife, surviving him eight years, died in 1871. Both were members of the Old School

Presbyterian Church and were greatly respected by those who knew them. The following is the record of their living children: Betsy is the wife of Stephen Bly, of SteubenCounty, N. Y.; Mary is the widow of Gideon Bursley, of Essex County, Del.; Philo makes his home in ChenangoCounty, N. Y.: Roxanna, wife of our subject, is the next younger; Martha is the wife of Volney Roe, of Cortland County, N. Y.; Melissa is the wife of Chauncey Manning, also of Cortland County, and Emily is the wife of John H. Day of the same county. Five members of the family are now deceased.

Misc.

Estate and Will

File #5133

Filing Date: March 26, 1904

I, William A. Drake, being of sound mind, in good health and sixty four years of age, do hereby make and sign this my last will and testament at Des Moines, Iowa, this 23rd day of September, 1890.

First, After the payment of my debts I hereby bequeath and device to my wife, Roxana Drake, all my property, real and personal, and of every kind and description, for and during her life; and I direct that all the rents and profits of my real estate shall be the absolute property of my said wife to use and dispose of as she may see fit, and to be accountable to no one for the same. I intend that my said wife may, and I hereby authorize her to sell or otherwise dispose of, as absolute owner, any and all personal property I may leave at the time of my death; but if any of said personal property should remain undisposed of at her death, the same shall be divided among my children the same as the real estate.

Second. After the death of my wife, all my real estate, and all my personal property not sold or disposed of by my wife, I hereby bequeath and devise to my children, W. A. Drake, Jr., Albert H. Drake, John H. Drake, Georgia Ann Freeman, Helen Deets, and Edla McCann, to be divided and paid as follows:

Said property shall be sold by my executor as provided by law, a sale thereof before my wife's death being expressly forbidden, and the proceeds divided equally among my said children, share and share alike, except as hereinafter provided as to my daughter Elda McCann.

Third. I direct my executor not to pay to said Elda McCann her share, but to invest the same safely for her use, and to pay her the interest realized thereon yearly during her life; and if at her death she shall leave a child or children surviving her, then the principal shall be paid to or divided among her said child or children; but if she leave no child surviving her, her share shall then be divided equally among my other children above named or their heirs.

Fourth. I hereby appoint my sons W. A. Drake, Jr., and Albert H. Drake my executors of this my last will, or the survivor of them; and I hereby revoke and cancel all previous wills made by me.

William A. Drake

Signed by the said William A. Drake in the presence of the undersigned witnesses, who also signed as witnesses at his request, in the presence of the said Drake and in the presence of each other, this 23rd day of September, 1890

William Connor

LeOra Clarke

Opened read and set for probate April 23, 1904

His funeral was from Henry Shank Brothers Undertakers, 517 Mulberry Street, Des Moines, Iowa. The casket cost, \$115.00, 2 carriages, \$12.00, slate vault, \$30.00, color ties, \$.35 for a total of \$157.33.

Doctors made calls to the home for \$4.00 and Publisher fee in the Register and Leader were \$4.00. The cost of a marker and cutting on monument was \$25.00. A complete probate can be seen at the Court House in Des Moines, Polk Co., Iowa.