

Pieces of Iowa's Past, published by the Iowa State Capitol Tour Guides weekly during the legislative session, features historical facts about Iowa, the Capitol, and the early workings of state government. All historical publications are reproduced here with the actual spelling, punctuation, and grammar retained.

March 2, 2016

THIS WEEK:

**The First Five Governors to Serve in the
New Iowa State Capitol**

BACKGROUND:

This continuing series examines Iowa's earliest Governors.



**Iowa State Capitol
Completed in 1886**

***The New Capitol's First
Five Governors***

The Iowa State Capitol, seat of the Iowa General Assembly, is located in Iowa's capital city, Des Moines, and houses the Iowa Senate, Iowa House of Representatives, the office of the Governor, and the offices of the Attorney General, Auditor, Treasurer, and Secretary of State. The building also includes a chamber for the Iowa Supreme

Court although court now takes place in the neighboring Iowa Judicial Building.

The Capitol was constructed between 1871 and 1886, and is the only five-domed capitol in the country.

William Larrabee*

William Larrabee, Iowa's 13th Governor, served two terms from 1886 to 1890. Governor Larrabee was a member of the Iowa Senate beginning in 1868 until 1886. After serving as Governor, he became chairman of the newly created Board of Control and then appointed Commissioner representing Iowa at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis in 1904.

He was born in Connecticut in 1832 and died in 1912. He is buried near his home in Clermont, Iowa.



William Larrabee



The Iowa Building at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in 1904

Horace Boies

Horace Boies, Iowa's 14th Governor, served two terms from 1890 to 1894. Governor Boies has no Iowa legislative history but was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1857 as a Republican representing Erie County. Governor Boies changed parties and became the first Democratic governor in Iowa in nearly 40 years.

He was born in New York in 1827 and died in California in 1923. He is buried in Waterloo, Iowa.



Horace Boies

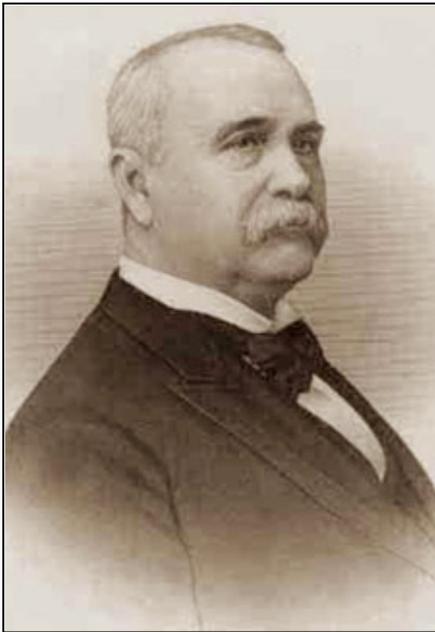


Frank Jackson

Frank Jackson

Frank Jackson served one term as Iowa's 15th Governor from 1894 to 1896. Governor Jackson has no Iowa legislative history but did serve as the Secretary of the Senate for the 19th and 20th Iowa General Assemblies and as Secretary of State from 1885 to 1891.

Governor Jackson was born in New York in 1854 and died in California in 1938. He is buried in Redlands, California.



Francis Drake

Francis Drake

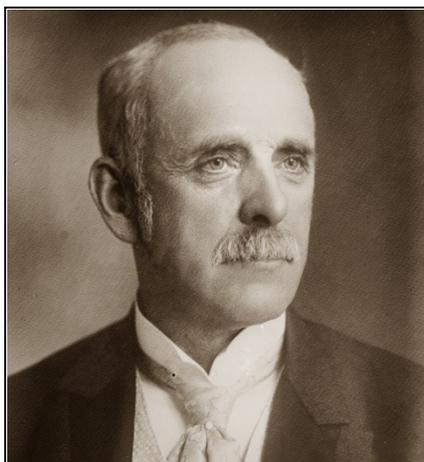
Francis Drake, Iowa's 16th Governor, served one term from 1896 to 1898. Governor Drake has no legislative history. Governor Drake was the last Civil War veteran to serve as governor.

Along with George T. Carpenter, Governor Drake founded the university that bears his name in 1881.

He was born in 1830 in Illinois and died in 1903. Drake is buried in Centerville, Iowa.



**Early picture of Drake University
Des Moines, Iowa**



Leslie Shaw

Leslie Shaw

Leslie Shaw served two terms as Iowa's 17th Governor from 1898 to 1902. Governor Shaw has no legislative history but did serve in Theodore Roosevelt's cabinet as Secretary of the Treasury following his time as Governor.

Governor Shaw was born in Vermont in 1848 and died in Washington, D.C., in 1932. He is buried in Denison, Iowa.

*For information about Governor William Larrabee's legislative years on the Iowa General Assembly website, click here:

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator/legislatorAllYears?personID=4315>