

Pioneering Petroleum...

EDWIN L. DRAKE

Edwin Drake travelled to northwestern Pennsylvania to develop a Seneca Oil Company lease on the Hibbard Farm where he gained lasting fame by successfully drilling for oil in 1859.

The Drake Well in Venango County was the discovery well of the great Pennsylvania Oil Field. Commencing August 27, 1859, the Drake pumped 25 barrels of crude a day. This success led directly to drilling wells along Oil Creek, around Franklin and below Tidioute. Pennsylvania's yearly oil production in 1859 was 45 hundred barrels, 220 thousand in 1860, 5.2 million in '70, 26 million in 1880. Pennsylvania in the two decades after Drake Well produced 95 % of all North American crude.

Drake fell on hard times. In 1873, the Legislature of Pennsylvania granted Drake a pension of \$1,500 a year.

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