

Who: SIR FRANCIS DRAKE

Where: England

When: Sixteenth century

Why famous: An English gentleman adventurer and a Royal Admiral, conspicuous figure in that "unofficial war against Spain" which was carried on by Royal Navy and individual merchant adventurers alike, in the days of "Good Queen Bess." He was born in Devon, whither his father, a Protestant, had gone to seek refuge during the reign of Queen Mary, who was a Roman Catholic. Young Drake's kinsman, Sir John Hawkins, took charge of his education and early apprenticed him to the master of a coasting vessel. At 22, Drake was already a captain; and not much later, having fought with gallantry under Hawkins in the Gulf of Mexico, he received his regular privateering commission.

Drake's story, when studied in all its details of dash and danger, is the perfect example of the career of one of those romantic, but half-savage pirate-explorers who sailed the Spanish Main. In those days Spain and England were contending fiercely to control the riches of the New World, and Drake did much to tip the scales in England's favor. While about his chief task of plundering Spanish shipping, by chance he played the rôle of explorer. Crossing the Isthmus of Panama, he sighted the Pacific Ocean and vowed "to sail an English ship in these seas." That he did. Elizabeth had sanctioned his expedition to the South Seas, which made him the first Englishman to pass through the Straits of Magellan. Then he skirted the coasts of Chile and Peru, finally the shores of America; all the while seeking for a passage back to the Atlantic Ocean. Continuing his way westward, Drake circumnavigated the globe in two years and 10 months, ranking as the first Englishman to accomplish this feat.

At the port of Deptford, in Devon, Drake was knighted by Queen Elizabeth on the deck of his own vessel, the Golden Hind. It was afterward that he is said to have destroyed 10,000 tons of Spanish shipping, in the Bay of Cadiz; thus, in his own words, "singeing the King of Spain's beard." In 1588, with the dreaded Armada approaching English shores, Drake was appointed vice-admiral under Lord Howard. Everyone is familiar with the story of how he insisted upon finishing his game of bowls on Plymouth Hoe, though the countless sails of the Spanish galleons were already darkening the horizon.

### One Minute Biographies



#### From a Sinner's Diary

You know, movies are always young and fair to me. I saw some awhile back "I knew him when"—Taft speechmaking in 1908. I was in Colorado then and happened to be in River Bend when his old pilot engine went thru on the Union Pacific.— And Pershing when he was after Villa.— And Coolidge when he put down the police strike. And an "Author's Series"—Robert Louis Stevenson's birthplace in Scotland, and the cottage where he wrote *Jekyll and Hyde*, and other things; where he's buried in Samoa. Some of 'em fairly make me cry; fairly make me religious. Then one is turned on like "The Shade of the Old Apple Tree" in Charlotte the other night, and I forgot my religion and am filled with wonderment, delight and amaze at how any one can lay, incubate and hatch such an infernal thing. If I could I'd crown 'em with all the money and wives and husbands or anything else they could lay tongue to.

Lynette Freemire.

ce; but Orestes, suspecting probably that his spirit in his heart, refused this offer of were certain monks who lived in the These fiery champions of the Church I poured into the city to strengthen the ch. Emboldened by their presence, Cyril