

Charles John Alfred Ericson

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CHARLES JOHN ALFRED ERICSON was born in the Province of Kalmar, Sweden, March 8, 1840; he died at Boone, Iowa, August 7, 1910. He emigrated with his family to America in 1852, settling near Moline, Illinois. In 1859 he removed to Mineral Ridge in Boone county, Iowa, where he opened a store and engaged in live stock dealing. He purchased the mercantile business of Jackson Orr in Boone in 1870, assisted in the organization of the First National Bank of Boone in 1872, becoming its vice-president, and after closing out his mercantile interests, its cashier. The bank was re-organized as the City Bank in 1878, Mr. Ericson later becoming its president. He was elected as representative to the Fourteenth General Assembly in 1871, serving one term. He was elected to the Iowa Senate in 1895 and re-elected from time to time, his service being in the Twenty-sixth, Twenty-sixth Extra, Twenty-seventh, Thirtieth, Thirty-first, Thirty-second and Thirty-second Extra sessions. To his credit may fairly be placed the statute whereby corporations are taxed. He secured the passage of a bill reducing the interest on State warrants from six to five per cent. He was the champion of the measure for an appropriation for the Iowa State Historical, Memorial and Art Building, taking perhaps more than any other of the many zealous legislators from the enthusiasm of his neighbor and constituent, the founder of the Historical Department, Charles Aldrich. He donated to the city of Boone, the Ericson Memorial Library and was a benefactor of Augustana College, a Swedish Theological Seminary at Rock Island, Illinois, and other philanthropies. He had just completed a tour of the world when he became ill and survived but a few days. An autobiographical sketch was published in the Annals, Vol. VIII, No. 1, 1907, and a more detailed biographical article will later be published.

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