

## Charles August Ficke

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was re-elected four times, serving ten years. In 1892 he helped organize the State Bank of Story City and became its cashier. One year later he resigned to become deputy auditor of state under C. G. McCarthy. He occupied that position six years, then practiced law in Des Moines and in 1903 was appointed chief clerk of the insurance department in the auditor of state's office under B. F. Carroll and served six years, resumed the practice of law in Des Moines and in 1911 Governor Carroll appointed him state fire marshal. Governor Clarke reappointed him and he served until 1919. Soon thereafter he went to the National Life Insurance Company of Des Moines and became counsel and manager of their loan department. In 1900 he was a presidential elector at large on the Republican ticket. He was a member of the Evangelical Lutheran church.

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CHARLES AUGUST FICKE was born at Boitzenburg, Germany, April 21, 1850, and died in Davenport, Iowa, December 10, 1931. Interment was in the Oakland mausoleum, Davenport. His parents were Christopher and Elizabeth (Praesent) Ficke. The family removed to Scott County, Iowa, in 1852, locating on land near Long Grove. Charles August attended school there, and later, a grammar school in Davenport. At the age of fifteen he became a dry goods clerk in that city and later took a course in Bryant & Stratton's Business College there. From 1870 to 1876 he was a teller in the Davenport National Bank. In 1876 he entered on a course in law in the New York Law School at Albany, and after being graduated in 1877 took a six-months visit to Europe. Late in that year he began the practice of law in Davenport, soon attained marked success, and extended his business by dealing in farm mortgages and city real estate. His early political alignment was as a Republican, but in 1882 he became a Democrat. In 1886 he was elected county attorney of Scott County and served two years. In 1890 he was elected mayor of Davenport and was re-elected in 1891. He declined further public service and centered his attention on his business and on his interest in foreign travel, and finally became a noted traveler and art collector. He made trips to Mexico in 1893, 1901 and 1903, and to Germany in 1894. In 1896 he and Mrs. Ficke, who was Miss Fanny Davison, whom he married in 1882, visited the Orient, and they made trips around the world in 1904, 1905, and 1909, going a different route each time, visiting nearly all principal countries of the world and gathering paintings, art and scientific treasures from galleries and private collections. During the World War he was an efficient leader in the Scott County Liberty Loan drives. He again made European trips in 1922 and 1928. He made large gifts to the Davenport Public Library, to the Davenport Public Museum (formerly known as the Davenport Academy of Sciences), and in 1925 gave his collection of 330 paintings thought to be worth \$500,000, to the city of Davenport which resulted in the establishment and dedication of the Davenport Municipal Art Gallery.

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