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Charles S. Fisk was born in Fiskburg, Kentucky on August 31, 1843. The son of distinguished lawyer and statesman, John F. Fisk, Charles received an excellent education and graduated as valedictorian of his class from Miami University in 1863. While at college Charles was involved with several organizations including the Miami Literary Society of which he served as president.

As a young man during the Civil War, Fisk played an important role in defending the Northern Kentucky area against Confederate attack. In the fall of 1862 approximately 12,000 Confederate troops, led by Generals Kirby Smith and Henry Heth, were making their way through central Kentucky towards the strategically important river port and manufacturing city of Cincinnati. In resistance, the city was placed under martial law and several gun emplacements and rifle pits were installed throughout the area. Volunteers came from all over to join in the effort and one such group, a group of Ohioan sharpshooters known as the "Squirrel Hunters," was organized and led by Charles Fisk. The company obtained its name while crossing the Ohio River into Kentucky on a pontoon bridge when they shot squirrels from the trees lining the Kentucky shore. Fortunately, the Confederate plan never fully developed and the volunteers returned to their everyday business.

Following in his father's footsteps, Charles developed a strong interest in law and was admitted to the Kentucky Bar in 1865. Upon receiving his license, Charles practiced in Lexington for one year and then moved north to Covington. There, he joined his father's law firm as a full partner from 1868 to 1890. From then until his retirement Charles maintained his own law office in Covington.

Fisk was also involved with many local organizations and projects of community importance. He was the first president of the Masonic Temple Association and remained a member of that institution for over fifty years. He served as secretary for the Covington and Cincinnati Bridge Company for twenty years, and also as superintendent of Sunday School for more than thirty-five years.

On October 20, 1930, Charles Fisk died at the age of eighty-seven after an illness of several weeks. He left his wife, Margaret, and two children. His funeral took place on the sixty-fourth anniversary of his wedding, and he was buried in the Fisk mausoleum at Highland Cemetery.

The Charles Fisk house, a large ornate structure, is located at 1011 Russell Street. It was built in the late 1860's.