

About Charles Gates Dawes

Dawes was one of the most important public figures of the day – a distinguished lawyer, banker, general, diplomat, author, composer and the 30th vice president of the United States from 1925 to 1929. He was a key figure in the nomination of William McKinley for President (1894), Comptroller of the Currency (1898-1901), United States Army General during World War I, and the chairman of the general purchasing board for the American Expeditionary Forces. For his work on rehabilitation of German finances to stabilize its economy following World War I (the Dawes Plan), he was a co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize (1925). After leaving the office of Vice President in 1929, President Herbert Hoover appointed Dawes as the Ambassador to the United Kingdom. Dawes led the Reconstruction Finance Corporation in 1932, which organized a government response to the Great Depression. He resigned from that position to return to banking in Chicago, and to assist his brother, Rufus Dawes, President of the 1933 Chicago World's Fair to ensure the financial success of that historic event.

Dawes' family arrived in America on the Mayflower in 1620. His grandfather rode with Paul Revere in 1775 to warn American colonists of the advancing British army at the outbreak of the American Revolution. And, his father commanded the 6th Wisconsin Regiment of the Iron Brigade from 1863 to 1864 during the American Civil War.

Among the many other interesting facts about Dawes is that he was a self-taught pianist and a composer. In 1911 he composed Melody in A Major which became a well-known piano and violin song in 1912, and then a No. 1 single in 1958 when lyrics were added to become "It's All in the Game." It has subsequently been recorded by such artists as Nat King Cole, Van Morrison, and Elton John.

Dawes was married for over 60 years and had four children. He resided at 225 Greenwood Ave. in Evanston, Illinois from 1909 until his death in 1951. The family home was donated by Dawes for use as the Evanston Historical Society and is a National Historic Landmark.