Leonard Eugene Dickson Encyclopedia Article

Leonard Eugene Dickson

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Leonard Eugene Dickson

1874-1954

Dickson was born in Independence, Iowa, in 1874. After studying at the University of Texas, he earned his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago, where he remained for the major portion of his academic career. During his tenure there, he was considered to have made the university a major center for study and research in mathematics in America. Dickson is best known for his work in group theory and linear associative algebras. In 1901, he published his now-famous book on linear groups and, over the years, followed this with 17 more books on related aspects of the same subject. When the American Association for the Advancement of Science decided to give an annual prize for the best current work in the applicable fields, Dickson was the first winner of this coveted honor. He also received honorary degrees from Princeton, Harvard, and other institutions.