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## Charles Waldo Haskins

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**CHARLES WALDO HASKINS**  
(Born January 11, 1852; died January 9, 1903)

## Charles Waldo Haskins

CHARLES WALDO HASKINS was born in Brooklyn, New York, January 11, 1852.

He received his education in the private schools and the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, from which latter institution he graduated in 1867.

While it was the desire of his parents that he should become an engineer, his liking for accounting apparently led him to the importing house of Frederick Butterfield & Company, New York City, where he remained in the accounting department for five years.

He subsequently made a tour of Europe and while there spent about two years in the schools of Paris. After returning to this country and a short period in the brokerage firm of his father, Waldo Emerson Haskins, he entered the accounting department of the North River Construction Company, then building the New York, West Shore and Buffalo Railway. Upon completion of the "West Shore," he became general bookkeeper and auditor of disbursements, in which position he remained until the road was absorbed by the "New York Central" in 1886. He then began the practice of accountancy.

During the period from 1886 to 1893, Mr. Haskins held, incident to his professional work, several important offices, namely: Secretary of the Manhattan Trust Company; Secretary of the Old Dominion Construction Company; Comptroller of the Central of Georgia Railway; Comptroller of the Ocean Steamship Company, and of the Chesapeake & Western Railroad; Receiver of the Augusta Mining and Investment Company.

In 1893, Mr. Haskins and Mr. Elijah Watt Sells were appointed experts under the Joint Session of the Fifty-third Congress, for the purpose of revising the accounting system of the United States.

In 1895, Mr. Haskins joined with Mr.

Sells in the formation of a business co-partnership under the style of Haskins & Sells, with offices at No. 2 Nassau Street, New York.

Mr. Haskins was active in securing the legislation which resulted in the passage, by the legislature of the State of New York, in 1896, of an Act to Regulate the Profession of Accountancy. He was chosen first President of the Board of State Examiners of Public Accountants and received from the state a certificate awarded to those entitled to practice as certified public accountants.

Mr. Haskins was subsequently honored by election as first President of the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants and appointment as first Dean of New York University School of Commerce, Accounts and Finance. New York University also conferred upon him the honorary degree of L.H.M. (Master of Letters).

Mr. Haskins was the author of "How to Keep Household Accounts" and "Business Education and Accountancy."

The profession of accountancy to-day owes much to Charles Waldo Haskins. The accomplishments in his professional life testify to his striking ability. Mr. Frank A. Vanderlip, in an address on the occasion of the unveiling of a memorial tablet in honor of Mr. Haskins by the New York University, said "Two features of Charles Waldo Haskins' character stand out most clearly before me as I look back on the man and his work. First, he was filled with unselfish professional zeal; second, his eyes were turned to the future, not the past."

The passing of Mr. Haskins from this life on January 9, 1903, left a void among his friends and associates which was difficult to fill. His memory lives in the hearts of those who knew him and were associated with him, as an inspiration to higher ideals and greater usefulness to the community.