

James Handasyd Perkins

By the death of James Handasyd Perkins on July 12 the Business Historical Society lost one of its distinguished founder-members.

Mr. Perkins was born in Milton, Massachusetts, on January 11, 1876, of a family outstanding in the history of New England business. He was graduated from Harvard College in 1898. He began in business as an industrialist, in the employ of Walter Baker & Co., chocolate manufacturers, but in a few years he entered banking as a member of the staff of the American Trust Co. in Boston. He became president of the National Commercial Bank of Albany in 1912. In 1914 he entered banking in New York City, where he came to hold executive positions in the National City Bank, the Farmers' Loan and Trust Co., and the City Bank Farmers' Trust Co.

His most notable service was in recent years. In 1933 he became chairman of the Board of the National City Bank, to which office he contributed at a critical time the weight of his reputation for prudence and integrity. He has also been a member of the Federal Advisory Council, president of the New York Clearing House Association, a member of the Executive Committee of the American Bankers' Association, a director of a score of corporations (chiefly in insurance), trustee of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, and a member of the Executive Board of the Union Pacific Railroad.

Other fields have also claimed his interest. In 1918 he was placed in complete charge of the American Red Cross in Europe, and he was made a colonel in the A. E. F. He was treasurer and trustee of the American Museum of Natural History, trustee of Smith College and Sarah Lawrence College, a member of the Board of Directors of the Philharmonic Symphony Society, and at one time an Overseer of Harvard College and a member of the Visiting Committee of the Graduate School of Business Administration.