

THE FOUNDER

THE donor of the Rice Institute was born in the old Bay State in 1816—of old Colonial stock—his grandfather was one of the Minutemen at the Battle of Lexington. He came to Houston in the Republic of Texas in 1838, bringing with him a small stock of merchandise and a heart of oak.

By self-sacrifice and an energy that knew little rest he built up a business that made him the first merchant in the city of his adoption. As he grew in financial strength he assisted in many enterprises among them being the building of transportation lines, first stage lines, and then the railroads.

He was a man of high ideals, charitable without ostentation, appreciative of the wonderful possibilities in a rapidly growing country, and always adding to his store of knowledge. He lived a useful life, fought a good fight, and dying left the fruits of his labor for the young women and young men who are to be the beneficiaries of the Rice Institute for all time.

WILLIAM M. RICE, JR.