

THREE GIFTS TO THE RICE INSTITUTE

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THE GRAHAM BAKER STUDENTSHIP

IN a letter addressed to the Trustees of the Rice Institute in June, 1918, Captain and Mrs. James A. Baker, of Houston, expressed their desire to found at the new university a scholarship in memory of their eldest son, the late Frank Graham Baker, and their readiness to place in the hands of the Trustees adequate funds for the permanent endowment of such scholarship. The generous gift of Captain and Mrs. Baker, the first of its kind in the history of the new institution, the Trustees of the Institute have gratefully accepted.

This memorial scholarship will be known as the Graham Baker Studentship. It will be awarded annually, and the holder of the scholarship will be known as the Graham Baker Student for the year. The studentship will be awarded for high standing in scholarship, and the annual stipend thereof will be three hundred and sixty dollars. The candidates must be students of the Rice Institute, and the competition will be open both to young men and to young women. The award will be announced at the commencement convocation in June.

Through the Graham Baker Studentship the campus life of the new institution is still further linked up with the very beginnings of the Rice foundation. Before there was any Rice campus, the young man whose name this scholarship

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bears died while a student in school preparing for one of the older universities. His grandfather, James A. Baker, had been the Founder's legal adviser. His father, James A. Baker, Jr., has been chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Rice Institute from the date of its incorporation. The young man was preparing for a career in the profession of his fathers. Reared under the traditions of his Kentucky and Texas forebears, in a Christian home whose humanitarian influences have radiated through all the channels of the social, intellectual, and spiritual life of the city and commonwealth, this young son of the South was consistently proving worthy of his rich heritage. In the full flush of health and youthful ambition he was suddenly stricken and cut down. The great hope¹ that went out with his passing is not to remain unfulfilled. The torch that dropped from his hand is to be caught up, relighted, carried in full flame, and passed on from generation to generation in the hands of the Graham Baker Students of Rice. And the imagination takes fire of inspiration from that flaming line of lights, far as eye can see, that shall keep living the memory of the lad long, long after the hands shall have become dust that now rear these structures of stone and spirit. Throughout the same long stretch of years, the students who strive for the torch, and their comrades who applaud them in the striving, will not only hold the donors in grateful remembrance but also perpetuate in college tradition the affectionate regard in which Captain and Mrs. Baker have always been held by all members of the college.

¹ The lad in his youth,
Philip his father laid here,
His great hope, Nicoteles.

—*From the Greek Anthology.*