

**A THUMB-NAIL HISTORY OF  
THE CITY OF HOUSTON,  
TEXAS, FROM ITS FOUNDING  
IN 1836 TO THE YEAR 1912**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649101733

A thumb-nail history of the city of Houston, Texas, from its founding in 1836 to the year 1912 by  
S. O. Young

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**S. O. YOUNG**

**A THUMB-NAIL HISTORY OF  
THE CITY OF HOUSTON,  
TEXAS, FROM ITS FOUNDING  
IN 1836 TO THE YEAR 1912**





GENERAL SAM HOUSTON

Patriot and Statesman. The hero of San Jacinto, in whose honor  
the City of Houston is named

A THUMB-NAIL  
HISTORY OF THE  
CITY OF  
HOUSTON  
TEXAS

FROM ITS FOUNDING IN 1836  
TO THE YEAR 1912

By DR. S. O. YOUNG, <sup>annual</sup> 1848-



HOUSTON, TEXAS : JUNE, 1912

24867

Bancroft Library

## A WORD IN ADVANCE.

In presenting this little volume to the people of Houston for their consideration, I feel that a word of explanation is due. I wrote the book to supply a badly needed "need," of course, but I wrote it more for my own pleasure than for anything else. I have made no attempt at fine writing and have given no thought to literary excellence. My sole object has been to attain accuracy, and every precaution has been taken to guard against error. Wherever possible I have consulted original documents and newspapers. Yet, in spite of this, I fear that some errors have crept in and that the readers will find many statements which they may think erroneous. I say this because there are some stories and traditions that have been repeated so often that many suppose them to be true.

If the readers derive as much pleasure from perusing these pages as I have from writing them, I shall feel content. I have enjoyed writing every line, and add "The End" with regret.

S. O. YOUNG.

Houston, June 5th, 1912.

Samuel's  
Oct 10, 1936  
#26





TO THE MEMORY OF MY MOTHER

**Mrs. Maud Jeannie Young**

WHOSE LIFE WAS LARGELY DEVOTED TO THE CAUSE  
OF EDUCATION AND TO THE CREATION OF A  
TASTE FOR LITERATURE AND THE SCIENCES  
IN THE MINDS OF THE EARLIER CITIZENS  
OF HOUSTON, THIS LITTLE VOLUME  
IS LOVINGLY DEDICATED

— THE AUTHOR



## CHAPTER ONE.

*Why Houston Was Founded—When Incorporated—First Mayor of Houston—Various Administrations—Reconstruction Days—Huge City Debt—What the Commission Is Doing Today—Full List of Houston's Mayors.*

A fact not generally known nor appreciated is that Houston is the result of a disagreement between the Allens and the Harrises. There was no serious quarrel or anything of that sort. They differed about land matters, with the result that the Allens, instead of joining the Harrises in their efforts to build up the already established town of Harrisburg, came five miles by land and about sixteen miles by water further up the bayou, and laid the foundation for the rival town, which was destined to become the greatest city in Texas and one of the greatest in the Southwest.

Now, as a matter of fact, there was no good reason for the new town. The location at Harrisburg was ideal and had many advantages, naturally, that Houston had to create artificially. There was, to begin with, sixteen miles of very crooked and hardly navigable bayou to be overcome in order to reach Houston, while the new site had absolutely nothing to compensate for this disadvantage.

However, there was an element injected into the controversy that helped the Allens wonderfully in carrying out their scheme. Santa Anna's soldiers