

Fort Payne church of Christ



The Weekly Moment

A Weekly Motivational Message

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Rice Haggard 1767-1819



Rice Haggard was born in Norfolk, Virginia. The year was 1769, and Virginia was but a colony under British rule. By the age of ten, the Haggards, as well as all their fellow Virginians were at war for independence. At eighteen, the war had been over for five years, and the heart of America was full of thanksgiving to God for their freedom. Influenced by the Methodist religion, he gave himself to God and

became a member of that church. Within two years he was ordained a minister, and was given several churches to minister to in a circuit, as was the custom of that day.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism in America, had appointed Thomas Coke to come to America and ordain ministers to carry out the work here. Coke ordained Francis Asbury as head of the church on December 25, 1792. At this meeting, another Methodist, James O'Kelley disagreed with the leadership of Asbury, and resigned from the church. He took a great group with him, initially calling themselves, Republican, or Free Methodists. Rice Haggard was in this group. At the meeting of O'Kelley's forces August 4, 1794, it was Rice Haggard who suggested the group take the simple biblical name, "Christian," to identify themselves.

When the Kentucky Revival of 1800 was underway, Haggard showed particular interest the success of camp meeting in the area. Whether or not he was at the Cane Ridge Revival in August, 1801 is not verified. But his knowledge of Barton W. Stone's efforts to unite on the Bible was what brought him to attend the meeting of the Springfield Presbytery in June, 1804. It was at his suggestion to the group of former Presbyterians at that meeting that the name they should take for themselves is "Christian." The suggestion was not only considered, but applied. To this day, the Christian movement of Barton W. Stone is readily recognized by historians of that

era. The following year, Haggard wrote a book entitled, "An Address to the Different Religious Societies on the Sacred import of the Christian Name," and it was published in the Herald of Gospel Liberty.

Between 1806 and 1808 he married Nancy Grimes, a widow. The two moved to Cumberland County, Kentucky in about 1812 and settle on Haggard's Branch. Rice continued to preach among the Christians in that area. In 1815 he produced a hymnal, and distributed it among the Christian churches/churches of Christ.

In about 1817, he purchased some land on Kettle's Creek in Cumberland County, and built a cabin there. He moved his family to it and there he lived until his death. Incidentally, in 1973, that cabin was purchased by Randolph Smith, a pharmacist in Burkesville. The cabin was disassembled and re-assembled next to his Burkesville home. Though privately owned today, the owners next door, are willing to allow those of interest into the home to see it.

In 1819, while on business in Ohio, Rice suffered a fatal illness and died in Champaign, Ohio. He was buried in Xenia, Ohio. The grave location has been lost, however, the Rice Family graveyard was recently located near Burkesville. The unkept cemetery rests upon a high hill, just north of town on Hwy. 61. It is there that Nancy is buried, along with their son James O'Kelly Haggard, who was a judge in the town of Burkesville. Another son, David, is also buried in the cemetery.

Think about it.

Here's hoping you'll make the "*most of your minutes*" this week.

Hope to see you at Bible Study tonight.

In Christian Love,

Bob Strickland