

David Haggard (1764-1844)

David Haggard was born on February 4, 1764, in Albemarle County, Virginia, to Nathaniel and Elizabeth (Gentry) Haggard. They had ten children: Henry, Martin, Elizabeth, John, Mary, James, Jane, David, Bartlett (who was a twin), and Nathaniel.

David is best known for his role as a soldier in the American Revolutionary War. At the age of 16, he joined the Virginia Militia in March 1781, serving for about six months. He was a private under different captains and colonels, including Captains Harris, Martin, and Fry, and Colonels Richardson and Matthews. Family stories say that David's twin brother, Bartlett, would secretly switch places with him, allowing David to sneak home and visit their family without anyone noticing. David was present during the Battle of Yorktown on October 14, 1781, where British General Cornwallis surrendered, marking a key victory in the war. After the surrender, David served as a guard for British prisoners until he was discharged in November 1781. His brothers, Henry and James, also served in the Virginia Militia.

After the war, David worked as a carpenter and sometimes worked on President Thomas Jefferson's home at Monticello, since he lived nearby.

David married Nancy Dawson, the daughter of Reverend Martin Dawson, a Baptist minister, in 1779. They had two sons and eight daughters: Elizabeth, Dawson, Martha, John, Sally, Melvina, Cynthia, Mahalla, and twins Louesa and Louisa. Their first child, Elizabeth, was born in Albemarle County in 1791. In 1788, David's parents and many of his siblings moved to Clark County, Kentucky, which was a wilderness at the time. David and his family followed them and settled in Kentucky between the births of their first and second children. They had all their remaining children in Kentucky.

In 1823, the Haggards moved to Trigg County, Kentucky, and in 1836, they moved to Bloomington, Illinois, where they lived at 319 South Center Street. At the time, Bloomington only had about 450 people. David lived in Bloomington for the rest of his life.

In Bloomington, David helped organize the First Baptist Church. Later in life, he applied for a military pension for his service in the Revolutionary War. However, his request was denied in 1841 because he didn't provide enough proof of serving for at least six months, which was a requirement for the pension.

David Haggard passed away on April 15, 1844, at the age of 80, and was buried at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery in Bloomington. He is the only known Revolutionary War soldier buried in Bloomington. His wife Nancy passed away sometime between 1850 and 1860. In 1913, David's name was added to the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Miller Park in Bloomington. In 1926, the Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution marked Haggard's grave.