

Growing in Grace

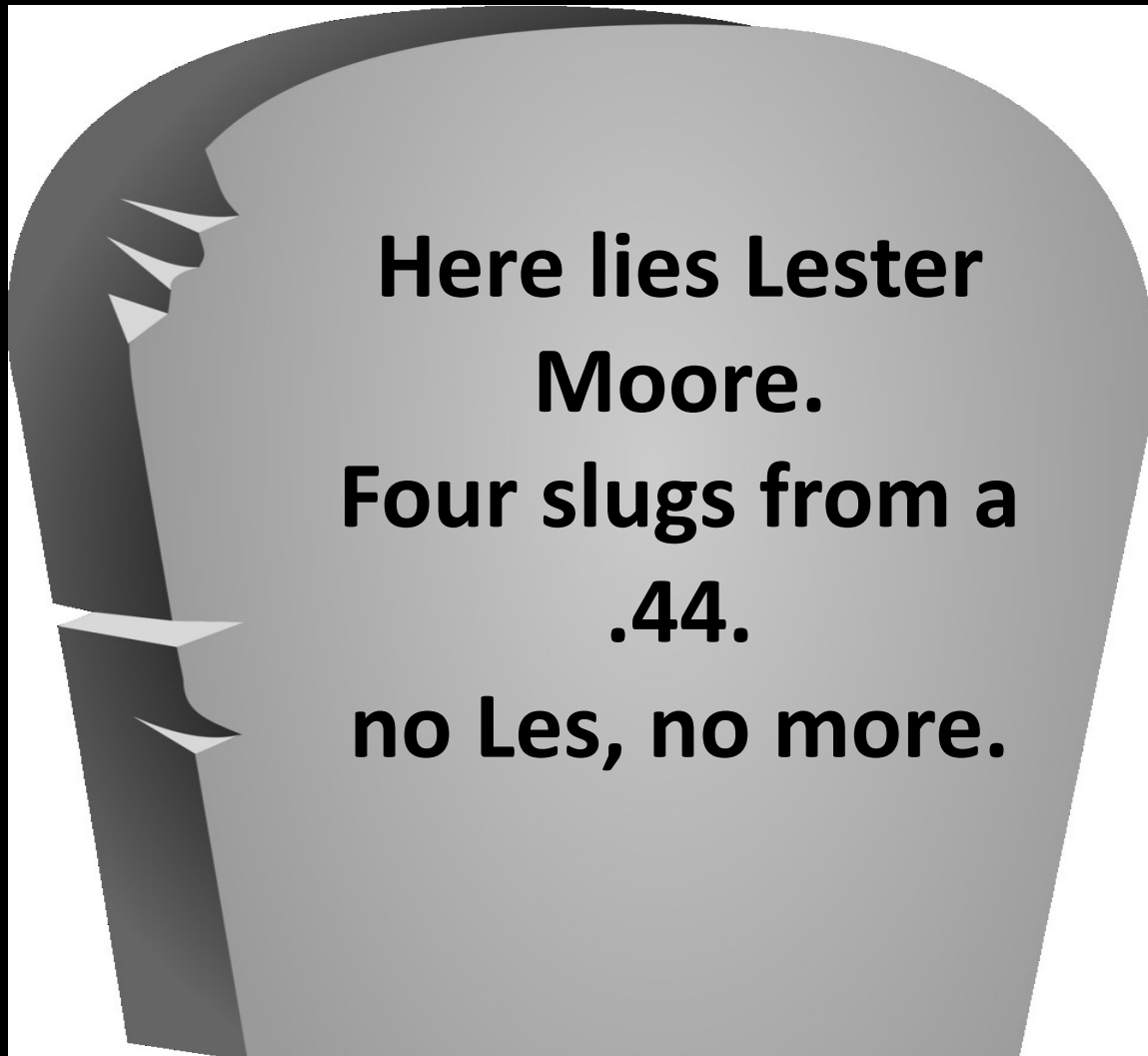
2 Peter 3:18

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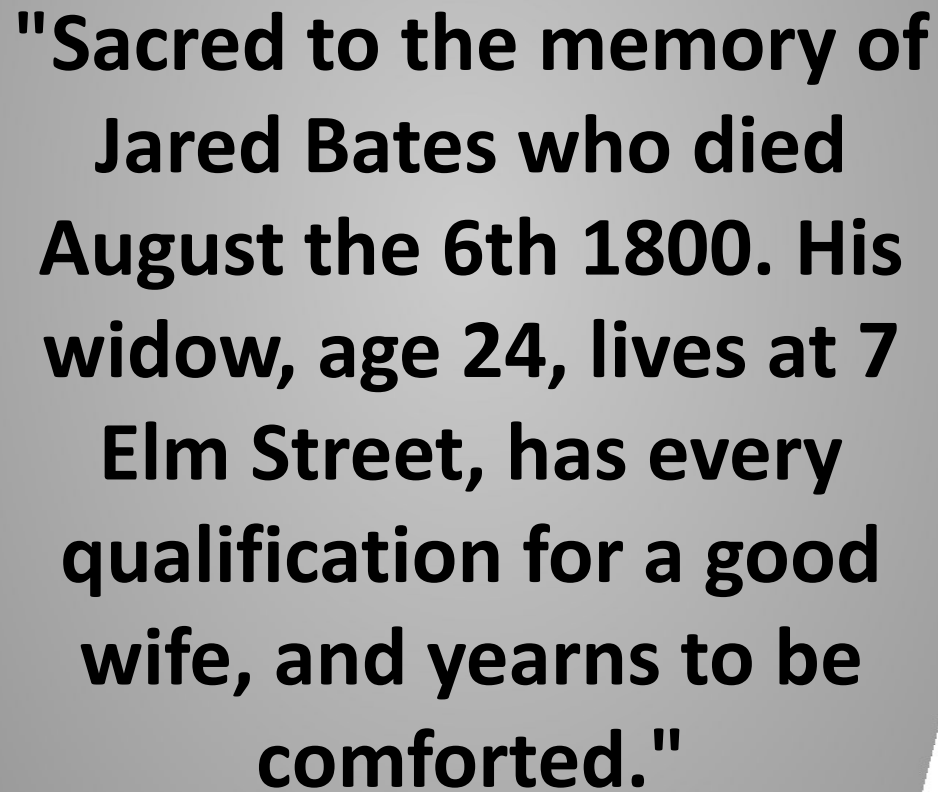
“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.”

Peter’s final recorded words

Tombstones Epitaphs

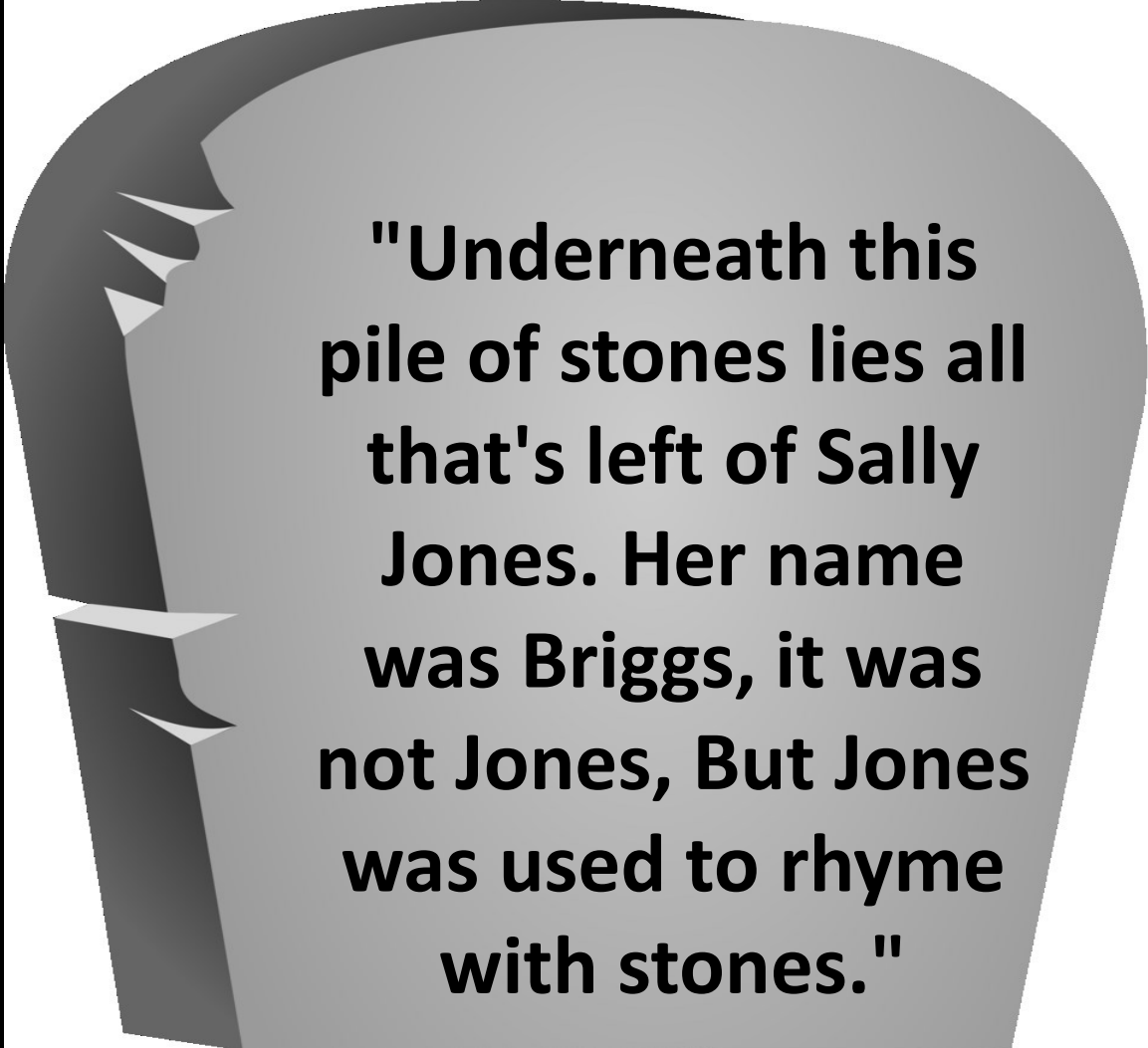


Tombstones Epitaphs



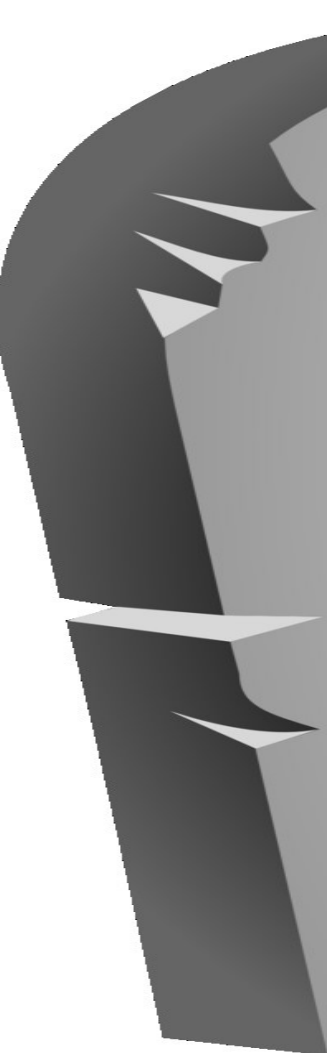
**"Sacred to the memory of
Jared Bates who died
August the 6th 1800. His
widow, age 24, lives at 7
Elm Street, has every
qualification for a good
wife, and yearns to be
comforted."**

Tombstones Epitaphs



**"Underneath this
pile of stones lies all
that's left of Sally
Jones. Her name
was Briggs, it was
not Jones, But Jones
was used to rhyme
with stones."**

Tombstones Epitaphs



"Here lies Jane Smith, wife of Thomas Smith, marble cutter. This monument was erected by her husband as a tribute to her memory and a specimen of his work. Monuments of the same style 350 dollars."

Tombstones Epitaphs



In his final words, Peter...

- Does not lash out at his critics**
- Does not defend his own honor**
- Does not make any claim of greatness**
- Expresses no fear about the future**
- Speaks a word of encouragement to all**

Christmas Wreath

- Green symbolizes grace and life.
- The circle of the wreath symbolizes eternity.
- Together they are symbols of eternal life through grace.



1. Peter the Man

- Galilee fisherman named Simon, son of Jonah
- His brother Andrew brought him to Jesus.
- “You are Cephas” or “Peter” or “Stone”
- “You are now Hearer, the Son of Jehovah’s Grace, and you shall be called and be a Rock-man.” (From Ellicott’s Commentary)

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- “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.”

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- “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.”
- “Follow Me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.”

Andrew

- **A disciple of John the Baptist.**
- **Fisher of men, apostle.**
- **His gift was in bringing people to Jesus and to remain in the background himself.**
- **He brought Peter, the boy with the loaves and fishes, and the Greeks seeking Jesus.**
- **“We have found the Messiah!”**

Peter: a man who needed much grace

- **Feelings of inferiority – always had to be the best, the strongest, the brightest.**
- **Feelings of guilt, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man.”**
- **Called to pioneer God’s work: Pentecost, Samaria, Caesarea.**
- **“Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home.” (John Newton)**

2. Peter the Learner

- “Grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord”
- *Gnosis* – “to know intimately,” “kennen,” “conocer” - a personal encounter
- To know Christ was to know grace, and to know grace was to know Christ.
- Growth required service and purpose
- “Peter do you love me? Feed My sheep.”

“The meek shall inherit the earth”

**Growing in grace and knowledge of Christ
means growing in awareness of our
inadequacies, and of His sufficiency.**