

THE HONOR ROLL

G. G. Rupert

Greenberry G. Rupert was born in Mendon, Ohio, on May 12, 1847. Originally a Methodist, he became a Seventh-day Adventist and served thirty years as a minister of that denomination. He also spent several years as a missionary in South America.

Later Rupert became a leader of the Independent Church of God (Seventh Day), a group of ministers and laymen who did not unite with the Church of God (Seventh Day) headquarters in Stanberry, Missouri. In April, 1915, he began publishing his magazine *The Remnant of Israel*. In this magazine, as well as in several books, Rupert set forth his teachings.

Rupert preached all over this country, baptized converts, and established churches. For several years, he had a fair-sized following. A liberal-minded man, he continued having friendly relations with the Stanberry group, but remained a firm believer in an independent church; that is, a church made up of only those whom God called into His church. Rupert died on July 17, 1922.

His work was carried on by a daughter, Lucille Rupert Smith; John S. Stanford, a Rupert associate; and I. C. Sultz, a very early convert to Rupert's teaching. Today, although his Independent Church of God has ceased to function, remnants of Rupert's work remain. One example is the group called the Remnant of Israel, headquartered in the state of Washington.

Converted from Sunday-keeping, Rupert was a strong advocate of the Sabbath, although it was not the main thrust of his teaching. He greatly emphasized the law of God, which includes the Sabbath, but carried it to its ultimate conclusion. That is, he stood for all of the Law. Rupert taught the holy days and made a strong presentation of them to the Stanberry organization.

His once-famous Law of God chart listed the Ten Commandments, the statutes, the law of the clean and unclean, and the holy days. Rupert rejected the pagan holidays, taught tithing and healing, taught the mortality of man, and a host of other doctrines

familiar to those who belong to most Sabbathkeeping churches.

Rupert predicted that Asiatics would finally destroy the United States. It is interesting to note that in 1917 Rupert said that Japan—at that time an ally of this country—would one day become a threat to us.

Rupert published a good deal of literature, including books on prophetic themes, some valuable pamphlets on the Sabbath, and his magazine, at his own Union Publishing Company in Britton, Oklahoma, now a part of Oklahoma City. His other primary emphasis seems to have been church government and organization. His successor, I. C. Sultz, was also a strong writer on prophecy. He predicted the outbreak of World War III would occur in 1980. Although remaining independent until his death in 1971, Sultz was a strong supporter of Herbert W. Armstrong in the early years of the latter's ministry.

G. G. Rupert is largely forgotten today, as are many other capable writers on the subject of the Sabbath. These brief biographies are properly headed "HONOR ROLL," because these men are deserving of honor. They should be known by all Sabbathkeepers as a part of the history of the struggle to uphold God's true day of rest and worship.

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