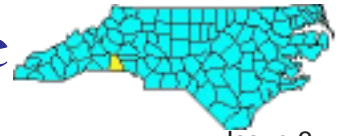




News from the Blue Ridge



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Claire & Lorin Cranford

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Family Events:

The most memorable event of February was the weather. I'm still trying to adjust to the different pattern in western NC over against that of north central Texas. In Texas one could count on a huge cold front the last week of January during the Fat Stock Show in Ft. Worth. Often this brought snow or more likely freezing rain and shear ice. Then by the end of February one could expect much warmer



weather. I typically counted on Spring Break from the seminary in early March to begin work in the yard and flower beds.

But Boiling Springs is different. Both January and February are possible snow months. Actually snow can fall into April. This year GWU has already had two times when classes were canceled due to the weather -- something we've not experienced before in the six plus years that I've been teaching here. The six plus inches that fell at the end of February was very pretty. Claire and I had a delightful time going around town and the GWU campus taking pictures of the snow. Some of them are posted in the Photos section of Cranfordville.com. She was able to make good use of the special wide angle lens on her Sony digital camera.



I continue enjoying enormously the teaching of Dr. White's Sunday School class at FBC, Shelby. This is a great class of men who love the Lord and have tons of fun with one another. Each Sunday I produce about a six to nine page Bible study handout on the scripture passage for the class members. These are posted under the Bible Studies section of Cranfordville.com in the Adobe pdf format, for those who may want to check them out. Gradually, I'm accumulating a large number of the Bible studies on texts in both the OT and the NT. These men are providing me the opportunity to do technical study and then express it in simple terms that can be understood by everyone - hopefully.



Academics:

Recently I came across a most fascinating article in the February 2004 issue of the NC edition of *The Historical News* about Cleveland County, where we live (see the yellow dot in the map of NC above), and its Revolutionary War history. In a multipart segment, I want to share this with you. This article is an adaptation of the book, *Contributions of Cleveland County Citizens to the American Revelation*, by W. Wyatt Washburn.

When the southeastern part of the United States became actively involved in the American Revolution in the latter part of 1779 and during the years 1780 and '81, residents of Cleveland County became seriously involved in the fight for freedom. Nearly 100 men from this sparsely settled area entered the war in one capacity or another and fought in such battles as Ramseur's Hill, Kings Mountain, Cowpens and a number of skirmishes.

Only one actual battle was fought in what is now Cleveland County as a part of the Revolution. This was known as the "Battle of Graham's Fort."

Graham's Fort was the home of Col. William Graham and the walls were thick, tough logs and the doors were massive and heavy. One morning in the spring of 1780 twenty three Tories appeared at the Graham home and demanded his surrender with all his property, including a dozen slaves. The family was to be taken prisoner. Graham fought back and was holding off the Tories very well. However, one bold Tory named Burke managed to get near the house and poke his long barreled gun through a hole in the wall. He was about to fire upon Col. Graham's nephew, William Twitty, when Twitty's younger sister, Susan, saw the threat and pushed William out of the way. The bullet spent itself harmlessly in the opposite wall.

Before Burke could get away, one of Graham's men shot and killed him after which the impetuous young Susan Twitty opened the door, ran out into the yard and snatched Burke's gun, ammunition and powder and brought it back into the house.

The onlooking Tories were so surprised at this sudden turn of events, they mounted their horses and rode away. Next month we will look at another interesting aspect. Claire and I are privileged to live in the midst of a lot of American history that reaches back to the beginnings of the European settlement of North America.

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😊 *Claire's Musings:*

March, 2004

On Clay's ninth birthday, February 14, he had a party at a skating rink. Of course, Lorin and I went to join in the fun. I haven't gone roller-skating or ice skating for many years and looked forward to watching the kids. Well, when I got there I knew I had to try it just one more time. I had an absolute blast roller-skating; never mind the fact that I am getting a little old for that sort of thing. Clay and Taylor both had a great time. Clay is really growing up.



Three extra special guys in my life are Lorin, Brian, and Clay. Brian is such a good and loving father and has reason to be proud of Clay and Taylor. One night recently Lorin and I went out to eat and took the kids with us. When it came time to order, big brother Clay checked with Taylor on what she

wanted and helped her decide. Then he proceeded to order her meal for her. Lorin and I were impressed and so was a coach at GWU sitting nearby who saw what was happening. He commented on how grown up Clay was, which made us even more proud.



I have missed the special people at the church where Lorin preached for a couple of months, so it was good to get to spend some time with them recently. Some in the church go two or three times a year to a ham supper at a community center somewhat near Boiling Springs. We joined them for a fun time.

We missed two days of school the last part of February because of heavy snow. It was the fourth largest snowfall in the recorded history of North Carolina. It was beautiful and Lorin and I had a great time driving around the Gardner-Webb campus taking pictures. We got some absolutely beautiful pictures. See under Photos at Cranfordville.com.



✌️ *Lorin's Musings:*

With this issue we begin studying the [distinctive types](#) of paraenesis (moral admonition) found especially in the letters of the New Testament. The first of these is called vice/virtue lists. An exceedingly helpful detailed study of this is J.D. Charles, "Vice and Virtue Lists," *Dictionary of New Testament Backgrounds* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000), 1252-1257. Some additional bibliography is listed there as well. My discussion will seek to summarize and supplement this article.

The ancient Greco-Roman world, especially in the Socratic era and later in [Stoic philosophy](#), often catalogued its ethical values into lists of negative and positive traits and actions. The purposes of these lists varied. Virtue (ἀρετή) lists are often found on tomb inscriptions of heroic figures as well as in speeches praising such individuals. Several moral philosophers, such as Seneca whose life paralleled that of the apostle Paul, often satirized contemporary society by stressing its vices, or contemporary religious practices that indulged in immorality. In the epideictic speech form these ethical lists sought to instill either praise or shame on the listener or reader. Such lists assume basic standards of acceptable or unacceptable behavior that should characterize daily living.

Beginning in the late Homeric era, philosophers began schematizing virtue lists. Later, [Socrates](#) and then [Plato](#), fol-

lowing the Pythagorean love of the number four as symbolic of life's completeness, set forth the four cardinal virtues: ἀνδρεία (courage), φρόνησις/σοφία (wisdom), σωφροσύνη (prudence), and δικαιοσύνη (justice). But other philosophers had different structures and approaches. Xenophon wrote ethical themes related to orderliness in the home, healthy relationships, treatment of slaves, and political and military obligations. Aristotle structured behavioral standards into ethical, political and social virtues on the one hand, and intellectual virtues on the other.

But it was the Stoic philosophers who established the early ethical catalogues of vices and virtues. [Zeno](#) (340-265 B.C.), who founded [Stoicism](#), first set forth these lists. Later Stoic philosophers expanded and modified these extensively, especially [Chrysippus](#) (280-210 B.C.). For Stoicism, virtue (ἀρετή) and knowledge (ἐπιστήμη) were interchangeable, and reflects the four cardinal virtues as Charles shows: "justice is knowledge of what is due or right; temperance is knowledge of what to choose or not to choose; prudence is knowledge of what to do or not do in a given situation; and courage is knowledge of what should and should not be feared." These four basic virtues will result in multiple sub-sets of virtues. [Livius Andronicus](#) (284-204 B.C.) developed a massive listing of vices and virtues. For example, there were 27 kinds of just 'lusts' (ἐπιθυμιά), in contrast to Plato's total of 147 vices. And this was just one sub-set of vices for Andronicus.