



News from the Blue Ridge



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Claire & Lorin Cranford
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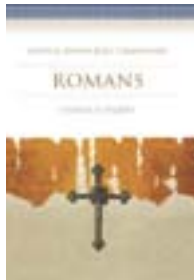


Family Events:

April has been consumed by finishing up the spring semester at GWU for me. I can't remember a time when I have been more tired and anxious for the end of a semester. The classes have gone well and have been enjoyable. But the responsibilities have been exhausting. I'm looking forward to a break through the summer.

One of the most delightful activities of the month was the [annual Greek Party](#) that Claire and I host each year for the students in my GWU Greek classes. We had over two dozen students over at the end of April for a cookout and time of fellowship together. The students seemed to have a good time and fellowshiped some two to three hours. Of course, having tons of food available didn't encourage early departures. We enjoy doing this each year because some of the choicest students at GWU come through the biblical Greek studies.

Another exciting development came with the invitation from the Baptist publishing house named [Smyth & Helwys](#) to write a major commentary on Paul's Letter to the Colossians as a part of their [Biblical Com-](#)



mentary series. This is a multi-volume commentary on the Bible that is in process of publication. Only two volumes on the NT have appeared thus far: [Romans](#) by Charles Talbert and [Revelation](#) by Mitchell Reddish. The volume on Hebrews by Edgar McKnight is due out this summer. Although a lot of time and work is involved, this will be one enjoyable project.

In addition the board of directors for the [Review and Expositor Theological Journal](#) have asked me to serve as the Issue Editor for the forthcoming volume on Hebrews next spring. So this will take up some time in securing writers etc. in order to have this issue ready for release about this time next year. The journal is jointly sponsored by a number of Baptist universities and divinity schools, including GWU, and releases four issues yearly related to topics in theological studies.

I continue with the health challenges. I've had to go back on to the Glucophage medication for the diabetes as well as Crestor for high cholesterol. Hopefully, these medications will get some of the problems under control. Just being free of a lot of stress this summer should help as well.



A quarterly Baptist theological journal

Academics:

We continue our exploration of Cleveland County's involvement in the Revolutionary War with this third excerpt from 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). 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 Revolution*, by W. Wyatt Washburn.

Not all the residents of this area were revolutionaries and not all fought with the Patriot army. A number of men were loyal to the king and fought with Loyalists troops under the direction of British and Loyalists leaders. Two such men included Col. Ambrose Mills and Capt. Aaron Biggerstaff. Biggerstaff lost his life when he was hanged as a traitor after the battle of Kings Mountain on a spur of the Kings Mountain range, and the Battle of Cowpens just across the line in upper South Carolina, in what is now Cherokee County. These battles were all fought in late 1780 and early 1781 and contributed to the generally victorious push of the Patriots who later hounded Gen. Cornwallis out of North Carolina into Virginia and to his final doom and surrender at Yorktown and the end of the American Revolution.

Perhaps the most spectacular episode which involved resident of this area was the preliminaries leading up to the Battle of Kings Mountain. Col. Edward Lacy met with a group of citizens from this general area and marched them from Belmont to Lincolnton, then westward to a place called Flint Hill and from there southwest to join the over-the-mountain-men from western North Carolina and Tennessee; from thence to Green River and afterwards hot on the heels of Maj. Patrick Ferguson to Kings Mountain where a significant turning point in the American Revolution was obtained.

More Cleveland County people were involved in the Battle of Cowpens in the upper edge of South Carolina than probably in any other event in the Revolutionary War. In this battle Gen. Daniel Morgan and some trained continental regulars took a large number of local citizens and made soldiers out of them and by a stroke of genius out-maneuvered, outfoxed and out-generaled the British famed commander, Banastre Tarleton, who was driven from the field in flight and almost lost his life in the process. Most of his army of a thousand men were either killed or captured at Cowpens.

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For all kinds of info about us as well as a PDF copy and an expanded HTML version of this newsletter, check out our homepage [Cranfordville](http://cranfordville.com) at <http://cranfordville.com>

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☺ Claire's Musings:

May, 2004

Lorin had his [end-of-the-school-year hamburger cookout](#) for his Greek students and as usual it was a lot of fun. I am always impressed with how nice and polite the students are and they are so appreciative of everything. It gives me the encouragement that I need.

"[Photos by Claire](#)" is starting to take off. Lorin has been great about helping me with the computer part and he has even made me business cards. I told him that he does as much work as I do (my part is the most fun) and his name



Photos by
Claire

should be on the logo, also. Taking pictures has become more fun and more time consuming. Right now I am concentrating on taking pictures of the most beautiful scenery anyone could ask for right here in North Carolina and very close to where we live. I already have some wonderful autumn and winter pictures and at this particular time I am taking pictures of wildflowers while they are in full bloom. That is keeping me pretty busy. Most of the wildflower pictures are taken off of Highway 74 between

Gastonia and Rutherfordton. That is where I travel the most and when I am driving by and see how beautiful the flowers are I get my camera the next day and go again to get the good shots. Before it seemed that life was whizzing by and there was not enough time to "stop and smell the roses" – well that has changed now.



I hope to start selling some framed pictures in the future, after I graduate in August. I am enjoying giving them away for gifts in framed sets. The first week I started framing the pictures I gave away 4 sets for a wedding shower, a PHD graduate, etc. This is fantastic. Now I say, "When I grow up and retire I want to be a photographer!" I can't wait until I retire!!! I love sharing pictures, whether of people (especially family) and beautiful scenery. It seems to make people so happy. Those smiles make all the work very worthwhile.



☺ Lorin's Musings:

In continuing to probe the ancient lists of vices and virtues, we need to look next at the Jewish world at the beginning of the Christian era. Again, we follow very closely the article "Vice and Virtues" by J.D. Charles in the [Dictionary of New Testament Background](#).

The Old Testament doesn't contain any formal listing of vices and virtues after the pattern found in ancient Greco-Roman philosophy, especially in [Stoicism](#). This is not to say that certain human behaviors weren't condemned as wrong. The [holiness code](#) of the [Pentateuch](#) contains much discussion of proper and improper behavior for the covenant people of Israel. But beginning with the Jewish literature after the era of the OT, one finds vice/virtue lists that reflect the pattern and influence of Greco-Roman philosophy through [Hellenism](#).

The Jewish philosopher [Philo](#), who tried to combine the religion of the Jews with [Hellenistic](#) philosophy, reflects a curious blending of the two traditions. He adopted the traditional Stoic view of four cardinal passions -- lust, sorrow, greed, and fear (*Praem. Poen.* 419; *Exsecr.* 150-160) -- and anchored the four cardinal virtues -- courage, wisdom, prudence, and justice -- (*Leg. All.* 1:19-56; 2:23-24) symbolically to the four headwaters of the river flowing

through the Garden of Eden in [Gen. 2:8-14](#). For Philo, Torah obedience was key to producing virtue, while unbelief in God leads to ethical ruin. He illustrates how one segment of ancient Judaism came to grips with the surrounding, dominating culture.

Another example of ancient Hellenized Jewish thinking is the [Wisdom of Solomon](#), written a century before the beginning of Christianity. The four Stoic virtues -- courage, wisdom, prudence, and justice -- are adopted as having come from God (8:4, 7). Idol worship is ignorance and is countered only by the wisdom of God (14:22). 14:25-26 contains a lengthy list of the sins of those ignorant of God's wisdom and in the writer's view reflects the depths of depravity that typifies Gentiles.

A third stream of ancient Jewish religious tradition, the [Qumran](#) community of the [Essene](#) movement, was less influenced by [Hellenism](#) than many other segments of ancient Judaism. Instead, the ethical standards are grounded in the Jewish dualism of the righteous and the unrighteous, that is, of light and darkness. This 'two paths' concept has its beginnings in the Old Testament, beginning with [Psalm 1](#). The Dead Sea Scroll [Rule of the Community](#) contains listings of both proper and improper conduct for the members of the Qumran community.

These Jewish traditions will help lay the foundation for what we encounter in the New Testament.