



News from the Blue Ridge



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Claire & Lovin Cranford
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Family Events:

January turned out much more eventful than we anticipated! When the kids left after Christmas Claire and I anticipated a tame beginning of the new year. But it hasn't worked that way, at least in January.

After the pressure filled beginning of the spring semester with all its normal extra activities, the pace really picked up. First, the weekend trip to Texas on Jan. 19-21; then jury duty in Cleveland County Jan 22-23; and the arrival of Carrie and Daniel to stay with us on Jan. 29.

A weekend trip from NC to Texas is challenging to us grandparents -- especially when a cancelled flight causes a flight from NC to Chicago then to Fort Worth. We arrived early Sat. morning about 1:00 am, grabbed as much sleep as possible, then began a packed day: breakfast at 9:30 at the Paris Coffee Shop with Chris' family; the reception for Carrie and Daniel at 2:00; and Taylor's first year birthday party at 5:00. A 9:30 am Sunday departure from DFW put us on a direct flight back to Greenville SC airport where we arrived around 1:00 pm. and then we headed back home catching a bite of lunch on the way. A long Sunday afternoon nap in our own bed climaxed the hectic weekend. It



helped us recover although it really took the following week to begin feeling back to normal. For pictures of the Saturday events go to the Photo Album section of Cranfordville. They are located under Chris' Family, Carrie and Daniel, and Places.

Monday and Tuesday after the long trip to Texas became my initial experience of jury duty in NC. About 150 Cleveland County residents reported to the court house at 8:00 am Monday to begin a two day experience of waiting to be called for duty on either the NC Superior Criminal or Civil Courts. We were packed into a room designed to hold less than 100 people. Although a part of citizenship obligations for US citizens, the experience proved to be a mix between feeling patriotism and intense frustration over two largely wasted days. I have trouble sitting around doing little or nothing. Fortunately, I avoided duty on a criminal case that lasted into the following week, as well as a civil case that took two days to resolve. More than

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University Happenings:

One new development taking shape will change our internet web site significantly over the next couple of months. As of the middle of January I now own a license on a URL site named Cranfordville.com. Gradually the web materials that have been located on seven different servers scattered around North America will be consolidated onto this central web site hosted on a high speed server by Bell South. By the end of February the address for Cranfordville will change; in fact you can presently access it by merely typing in *cranfordville.com* in the command line of your web browser. The academic section of Cranfordville already is located here; the main segments will be shifted from *Shelby.net* onto this server during February. The old URL *cranfordville.cjb.net* will continue to work in as much as this address will be revised to send you to *cranfordville.com*. Also connected to this move will be the establishment of new email addresses with a shift of our internet access to the high speed cable connection provided by Roadrunner from Time Warner. We will let everyone know as these email addresses change, although an email forwarding service will be set up for several months to automatically re-direct email sent to old addresses to the new address.

All these changes regarding the internet are an attempt to update our materials to reflect the technology advances of the past few years. Small, local ISP's increasingly have difficulty providing the high speed and consistently reliable services needed and required for serious use of the internet. The prices of these better services have become much more competitive over the past year with more companies providing such services. Even in small town USA like Boiling Springs we have access to most of these services now at affordable prices. The internet is playing a growing role in our everyday life, making it possible to gain access to information and communication with others in ways impossible just a few years ago.

Another exciting development came at the end of January. I received notice from Adobe of the availability of the new eBooks Reader. After initial testing, I'm elated about the possibility of this new system. My Greek Grammar which uses the Adobe PDF file format can be brought up inside this free software and when a text is clicked on an audible 'human' voice reads the text out loud. This is done without using any wav etc. sound file embedded in the PDF file. The system reads the printed text and instantly converts it into an audible sound, based on the American Heritage Dictionary. The quality of the 'human' voice reading the text is quite high and easy to understand. The next task is to link a Greek dictionary to the system so that the Greek text can be read orally with equal clarity. This represents a giant leap forward in creating educational materials for classroom and study use.

105 Twin Lake Drive
Shelby, NC 28152-0660

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 at <http://Cranfordville.com>

Ph: 704 434-5657
Fax: 704 434-5618
e-mail: cranford@shelby.net



Claire's Musings:

The middle of January was exciting with a trip to Fort Worth, Texas, by way of Chicago. Our previous flight was cancelled so we didn't mind too much. We were so grateful to still be able to make the trip. A special party was planned for Carrie and Daniel to celebrate their elopement on December 8. At least now I can say that I have been to Chicago, even though it was only the airport. We left our house 4:00 p.m. Friday (Jan. 19) and finally arrived at Angie and Brian's house at 2:00 a.m. N.C. time, 1:00 a.m. Texas time. We would have to leave early Sunday morning, so we were prepared for a fast and exhausting weekend.

Saturday morning we met Chris and Charis and the kids for breakfast. It was good to see all of them and we had a great visit, even though too short.

That afternoon was the wedding party at a restaurant. What was originally to be a wedding party was now a wedding/moving party. Things had happened so fast recently. Daniel's company folded and they laid him off from his job in computers. Since they are young with no house or children it seemed to be the perfect time to move to the mountains. They both love the mountains along with camping, hiking, and kayaking. Even when three years ago Lorin and I needed to move for a wonderful job opportunity for him, the girls had told me not to worry about moving. They, like me, have always wanted to move away from the Ft. Worth/Dallas area and move somewhere close to mountains and a smaller city. This was the perfect opportunity for all of us and we were just fortunate to live in an area that was perfect for them. Even if we had still been in Ft. Worth they would have moved probably around this area. Daniel loves kayaking and has been to Bryson City at the Nantahala Outdoor Center about two hours away from here. It was one of his favorite kayaking spots. How lucky we are.

The party turned out to be a perfect way to get both families and friends together for a farewell. Carrie and Daniel looked so happy and they have so much to look forward to. It was perfect for us, too, to be able to see family that we don't get to see much.

Angie and Brian planned Taylor's first birthday party for while we were there; so that evening we celebrated that. Taylor is just like big brother Clay, precious. She's walking and getting faster everyday. That was a fun birthday party with more family and friends.

Sunday morning, much too bright and early, we left for the airport. At least this time, we were able to fly straight home, instead of through Chicago. We were exhausted when we finally arrived home.

Then the next wonderful thing happened so fast. Monday night, Jan. 29 Carrie and Daniel arrived here to stay in North Carolina. They spent several days checking out jobs and apartments in Charlotte, Spartanburg, and Greenville. That next weekend I was fortunate enough to be able to go with them to Bryson City to see Daniel's favorite kayaking spot. It was very impressive and a beautiful area.

We are so fortunate to have the kids here close to where we live. They are staying with us for a while until they can get settled in their jobs and know what area to move to. They have been fantastic and we will have a hard time when they are ready to move. It's great coming home from work and Carrie and Daniel are in the kitchen cooking dinner. When the time comes I think their car keys may mysteriously disappear.



Lorin's Musings:

The fourth segment of the history of Baptists in NC will cover the period from the Civil War to the 1920s. The hardships of the Civil War were enormous on Baptists. Wake Forest College closed for two years; the state paper, the *Biblical Recorder*, closed for a time; income to the state convention remained stagnant from 1860 to 1879. Yet, in spite of the poverty and difficulties the number of Baptist churches grew rapidly in the decades of 1860 to 1880 -- some 296 of them still function today. Baptists were enthusiastic about spreading a gospel witness over the state in spite of the challenges of funding and general poverty. This trait of launching into new projects even without adequate funding and a strong base of support is a continuing trait among NC Baptists. Vision and faith have proven to be sufficient foundations for many.

With the booming economy across the country in the late 1800s and early 1900s, the spirit of optimism and adventure was contagious. Although NC was considered the poorest state in the union at the beginning of the twentieth century, and poorer than in 1860, that did not stop the explosion of Baptist academies all over the state in the early decades of the new century. Operated by associations, independent boards, or individuals, some 28 Baptist schools, mostly 1st through 12th grades, sprang up between 1884 and 1921. When public school education took off in a big way in the 1920s, the need for the private schools like the Baptist academics began to significantly diminish. Four of these were strong enough to convert over to junior colleges: Mars Hill, Campbell, Wingate, and Gardner-Webb. They, along with two female schools -- Chowan and Meredith -- joined Wake Forest College to provide Baptists with a powerful presence in higher education all across the state.

When the "war to end all wars" was finally over in 1918, Baptists enjoyed the optimism of the Roaring Twenties along with everyone else. The economic trends toward centralization growing out of industrialization especially in tobacco, textiles, and furniture making provided an encouraging atmosphere for Baptists to begin taking steps toward a strong state denominational structure. With all the agencies making individual, direct appeals to each church, Baptists began seeking ways to unify the structure. In 1919 a movement to raise one million dollars for state convention causes was launched. In five years, NC Baptists contributed more than five million toward the national 75 million campaign -- more than had been given in the previous 90 years of convention work. A new day had begun.

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once I remembered earlier conversations with German lawyer friends regarding their system of using a panel of judges, rather than the jury system found only in the UK and some former British colonies. Toward the end of the exhausting second day the German system was sounding really attractive. Of course, many of my GWU students weren't disappointed that they got a walk from one day of classes because their prof was tied up in court.

Monday, Jan. 29, began a wonderful new chapter of our experience in NC. Carrie and Daniel arrived from Texas to live with us while seeking jobs and an apartment in Charlotte. They are the first of our kids to move to NC and we are elated over the possibility of having kids and grandkids living close by.

