



and that's... **The Gospel Truth!!** with Pat Corn

a brief message of encouragement to make your day just a little bit brighter

Having just celebrated Father's Day I am reminded of the heritage that my forefathers have given to me. Heritage is a gift that provides a person with an insight as to who and why you are. In this age of high tech forensics, the DNA testing is a large part of the identification processes. This gives the "physical" evidence of the make up of an individual but heritage gives the "spiritual" evidence of an individual.

Thanks to a book by Lois Dorsey, who is now deceased, entitled "Cornstalks and Preachers" we are given a glimpse of the Corn heritage dating back to the per-revolutionary period where Matthew and Molly Corn came from Europe to the tidewater region of Virginia. Their eldest son John Peter became a commissariat for George Washington's Revolutionary army. He was credited with having a huge impact on the survival of Washington's army at Valley Forge due to his expertise in securing food supplies for the troops.

While foraging for supplies in the mountain of Virginia he met, at the end of a shotgun, a red haired beauty named Elizabeth Parr, who rushed upon him as he was picking apples from her father's orchard. Her spit-fire nature and obvious beauty stole his heart, and he vowed to himself that when the war was over, he would return to the Virginia mountains and steal her heart as well.

Upon his discharge from the army, as a display of gratitude, Washington arranged for a land grant in the beautiful mountains of Carolina where John Peter Corn had foraged for supplies and found the beauty of the area to be breathtaking. That huge land grant is what is now Buncombe and Henderson counties in western North Carolina. The two county seats there are Asheville and Hendersonville. The southern boundary was defined by the Green River. And today, as you head down I-26 toward Spartanburg, SC, you will pass over the huge Green River gorge.

Before arriving in western Carolina, John Peter stayed true to his personal promise to return to the mountains of Virginia to win the heart of that red-haired lass who stared him down with a shot gun as he was stealing her fathers apples. He did exactly that. They were married and left to head toward his land in Carolina.

Devout in their faith, they raised their children in the knowledge of their Christian heritage in Jesus Christ. No other single family has produced more ministers of the Gospel in western North Carolina than the Corn family. To this day, you can walk through the cemetery at Ebenezer Baptist Church, located at the intersection of NC Highway 64 and I-26 in Hendersonville, NC and see one "Rev" after another. Cousins galore are also a part of that lineage that serve God to this day as ministers of the gospel and have last names other than "Corn".

In our Judeo-Christian heritage, there is a lineage that we are blessed to be a part of; the lineage of the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Grafted into that vine by the blood of Christ we are a part of the largest family on earth; the family of God. Abraham was promised by God that because of his love and faithfulness to God, his descendents would number the earth like the stars in the heavens and the sands on the shores.

Even though my personal heritage extends even further back beyond the Tidewater region of Virginia, the bloodline that has the greatest impact on my heritage is the bloodline that reaches to a cross on hill called Golgotha where blood was spilled from the veins of my brother, Jesus Christ, simply that I might have

fellowship with our heavenly Father. As an “adopted” son, by Hebrew law, I can never be written of the will or disowned. My inheritance is sealed because He.... chose.... ME!

So, when I hear the phrase....”the apple doesn’t fall far from the tree”....it has a very special meaning for me. Thank you John Peter for my personal heritage and thank you Abraham for my spiritual heritage. Now that is a Judeo-Christian heritage!

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Your comments or questions are welcome

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