

A foundation seeks to give away \$2.5 million in trade school scholarships. **c6**

Exploring the many monuments dedicated to George Washington. **c4**

Life & Tradition

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Oxford's Christ Church is an influential model of English academic architecture. **c8**

REFLECTIONS

A Tale of Two Cities

Though the twin cities of Dresden, Germany, and Coventry, England, suffered the ravages of war, decades on, they've become symbols of hope and healing

By Eric Lucas

At first glance, it's just a jagged chunk of old sandstone, charred by a long-ago fire. That's what it is—but this wasn't just any old fire, and the stone isn't just some old rock. It's in a rebuilt church that represents a rare and precious human achievement: reconciliation.

This is a tale of two cities crippled by the winds of war, but later bonded in peace—Dresden, Germany and Coventry, England.

The latter was severely damaged by German bombs during a raid in early World War II, November 1940. The former was destroyed toward the end of

the war in one of military history's most notorious attacks, the firebombing of Feb. 13, 1945—80 years ago this week.

Both cities were mid-sized urban areas, not notably crucial. Historians struggle to this day to explain exactly why each was targeted for such destruction.

Thousands died and entire neighborhoods disappeared.

And in both places, the raids demolished famous, beloved cathedrals.

In Coventry, after its 14th-century Gothic landmark was almost completely leveled, the parish provost came out the next morning and, using a piece of char from the firestorm, wrote on a

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half-ruined wall: "Father forgive." The inscription is there to this day (though now embellished into a brass inlay) and the cathedral ruins have been left as is, as a reminder. Open to the hazy blue sky of the North Atlantic, it's hauntingly serene.

In Dresden, the famous 1726 Frauenkirche was utterly destroyed. Reconstruction from a pile of rubble only began in 1994 after the collapse of Eastern Germany—which was supported in large part by contributions from Coventry. That's how a charred relic stone wound up in the rebuilt church, which opened in 2005.

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People find tranquility along the banks of the Elbe River in Dresden.



HOME AND HEARTH

The Joys of a Wood Stove

There's something about the warmth and light of a hearth that brings magic to a home

By Walker Larson

I live in Wisconsin, where the winter will pounce on you and tear the warmth from your back with its claws, like a great mountain lion toying with its prey. The woods wrap themselves in cloaks of snow that highlight every branch and twig etched into the icy sky, and the clear, cold, still air freezes my breath in my beard. The lakes turn to hard glass as tempera-

tures drop into the single digits or even below zero.

At such a time, one needs a fire. That may be why my wife and I made sure to buy a property with a woodstove. Of course, a stove or fireplace isn't necessary today for heating purposes, but it still has a kind of magic antidote to the drear and cold of a northern January, even when it isn't a primary heat source.

Often when we speak about a home,

When we fire up the stove, it brings the room to life and draws everyone toward it.

we put special emphasis on the hearth. "Hearth and home"—the two terms seem to fit together naturally. Why is that?

Tradition tells us that the hearth holds a special place in the home. In the days when houses were heated exclusively by fire, the hearth was the heart of the home. This source of light, heat, and socialization became the nexus of socialization. In the world's colder regions,

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