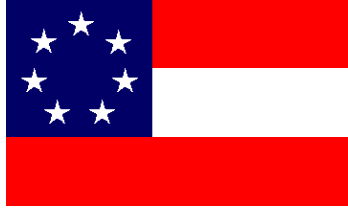
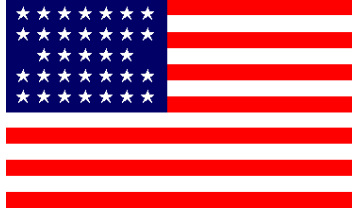


# WALTER COFFEY



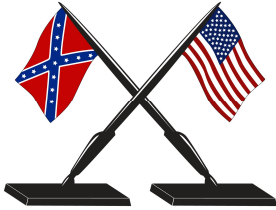
## OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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[www.WalterCoffey.com](http://www.WalterCoffey.com)

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### FROM THE AUTHOR



Greetings from the writing cave in Houston, Texas!

Last week I started the final draft of *The Confederate Trust*. It's going well so far, and if all continues going

well I hope to be done by the end of the year. I've included another chapter in this newsletter, and I'll most likely provide one more in the next newsletter. Stay tuned for more details as the book enters its stretch run!

I slacked off last month and didn't read any new books. Instead I wrote several articles for the online magazine [www.Suite101.com](http://www.Suite101.com). These are brief historical articles related to the Civil War and other periods in U.S. history. I usually average one or two articles per week, and you can subscribe to a feed for my articles by visiting my profile page at <http://www.suite101.com/profile.cfm/waltercoffey>.

September will mark the eighth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on our country. Legislation signed by President Obama in April will designate the day as "national service and remembrance day." The remembrance is

appropriate because as Americans we should never forget the tragedy that struck our nation on that terrible day. However the "national service" part doesn't sit well with me. It seems that invoking a day of service diminishes the remembrance, thus making the event seem less significant. Only time will tell if this is the administration's intent.

Also included in this newsletter is a review of the book *West from Appomattox* by Heather Cox Richardson. This book explores the Reconstruction period after the Civil War. I enjoyed this book because, like Richardson, I believe that Reconstruction significantly impacted all regions of the country, not just the defeated South. Also, unlike most historians, I don't believe that Reconstruction ended with the 1876 election. I think in many ways that it's still going on, and based on Richardson's analysis of "blue states" versus "red states" in the past few elections, it appears we are in agreement.

Thanks for subscribing and please keep visiting my site for updates; I'm planning to add new pages detailing chronological events of the Civil War, along with links to my articles at Suite 101. Until next time...

# WALTER COFFEY



## OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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### SEPTEMBER 1861: ITCHING FOR A FIGHT

As September 1861 began, people in both North and South began clamoring for more action in the hopes of deciding the conflict before winter. In Washington, the newly formed Army of the Potomac was being shaped into a polished fighting force by its new commander, George McClellan. In the South, the army in northern Virginia continued assembling while some called for an invasion of Washington.

In the North, numerous people were arrested for voicing opposition to the war. Many newspapers were also either closed down or threatened with closure for expressing

“unpatriotic” views. Meanwhile many skirmishes between Federal and Confederate forces took place throughout the month in many locations.

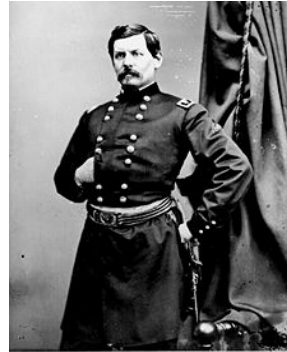
The main concern this month was Kentucky, a state that had declared neutrality but was of significant strategic importance for both sides. Stretching from the Alleghenies to the Mississippi River, Kentucky became a prized asset for both Union and Confederate causes. As both North and South maneuvered for position against each other, it was only a matter of time before they clashed over control of Kentucky.

#### Washington

Young George B. McClellan began rebuilding the new Army of the Potomac. The army was soon larger than any ever before assembled in North America. McClellan was immensely popular in the North; he was nicknamed “Little Napoleon” and hailed as the savior of the Union. Some of these accolades undoubtedly went to his head.

At the White House, President Abraham Lincoln reviewed a delicate issue raised by General John C. Fremont in Missouri in late August. Fremont had authorized freeing all slaves in Missouri belonging to Confederate sympathizers. Since the U.S. Congress had officially resolved that the war was being fought to preserve the Union and not to free slaves, Lincoln requested that Fremont “modify” his proclamation. He reasoned that the proclamation would “alarm our Southern Union friends, and turn them against us—perhaps ruin our rather fair prospect for Kentucky.”

Civil liberties were being curtailed in the name of wartime emergency. Federal authorities arrested allegedly disloyal members of the Maryland state legislature in Frederick, Maryland. These arrests were blatantly unconstitutional but they had the desired effect—Maryland would not join the Confederacy and isolate Washington. The political



- *George B. McClellan, the “Little Napoleon” hailed as the savior of the Union*

prisoners were sent to a military prison established at Fort Lafayette, New York.

#### Virginia

The Charleston *Mercury* criticized the “masterly inactivity” of the Confederate army in Virginia, which had been relatively stationary since its July victory at Manassas, even though Washington was in sight. The *Mercury* advocated an attack that would force the Federals “to defend themselves.”

Both President Jefferson Davis and the army commander, General Joseph E. Johnston, agreed that the army was not well enough equipped to launch an offensive against the Federals. However the men agreed on little else as they argued over reinforcements, supplies, strategy, and overall policy in Virginia.

#### Western Virginia

Skirmishing between Federals and Confederates continued throughout the month at places such as Blue Creek, Burlington, Hawk’s Nest and Worthington. Federals under General William Rosecrans won a minor victory at Carnifax Ferry, which enabled the Union to seize control of western Virginia. Meanwhile to the north, General Robert E. Lee was planning an assault on Cheat Mountain.

The Confederates stumbled through rugged terrain and bad weather at Cheat Mountain. Orders were bungled and the element of surprise was lost, and it was soon clear that Lee’s attack failed miserably. By September 15, the Confederates had lost western Virginia. Lee was bitterly criticized for this campaign and his reputation tarnished for the time being.

# WALTER COFFEY



## OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### Missouri

General Fremont's unauthorized "emancipation proclamation" brought protests in the South, as many believed that the true purpose of the Northern aggression—freeing the slaves—was revealed. Meanwhile intense skirmishing led to a siege of Lexington.

Confederates and pro-secession state militia lay siege to Lexington in northwest Missouri; the Federals camped there were vastly outnumbered. After several days of hard fighting, the Federals surrendered on September 20. Fremont, headquartered in St. Louis, was accused of dereliction of duty for failing to send adequate reinforcements. Fremont responded by closing the *Evening News* in St. Louis and arresting the editor for criticizing him.

The victory at Lexington did little to help the Confederate cause in Missouri. The rebel forces ultimately disbanded and returned to their farms and villages while the number of Federals in the state steadily increased.

### Kentucky

This state became significant this month. Kentucky's neutrality ended on September 3 when Confederates occupied Columbus on the Mississippi River. Their commander, General Leonidas Polk, worried that if they did not move into Kentucky, Federals would seize key positions on the Mississippi. By the end of the month, the Confederates had created a thin defensive line from the Atlantic Ocean to

Kansas and the frontier.

To counteract the Confederates, Federal forces under Brigadier General Ulysses S. Grant occupied Paducah, blocking the Southern attempt to seize this strategic town at the mouth of the Tennessee River. This bloodless victory was the first for Grant.

### Other Operations

To consolidate operations in the Western Theater, the Confederate government appointed General Albert Sidney Johnston supreme commander of all forces in Kentucky, Tennessee, and all states west of the Mississippi. Johnston was considered by many in both North and South as one of the top soldiers in America.

On September 16, Federal forces captured Ship Island, Mississippi, near the mouth of the Mississippi River. This was not considered significant at the time, but it would be used as a base for future operations on the Gulf Coast, including a future attack on New Orleans.

### By Month's End

The Confederates were strengthening in Kentucky and fighting hard in Missouri. The Federals were equipping their massive Army of the Potomac, moving forces into Kentucky, and struggling with stubborn commanders. September closed quietly, but it was apparent that it would not remain quiet much longer.

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## U.S. HISTORY: THE ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001



- *The World Trade Center burning on September 11, 2001*

On the morning of September 11, 2001, 19 terrorists affiliated with the al-Qaeda terrorist organization hijacked four passenger jet airliners en route to California from Logan International, Dulles International and Newark airports. The hijackers intentionally crashed two of them into the two World Trade Center buildings in New York City. The third plane, American Airlines Flight 77, was intentionally crashed into the Pentagon in Washington, and the fourth plane, United

Airlines Flight 93, was diverted and crashed in a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania after passengers and flight crew members attempted to retake control. Its ultimate target was the U.S. Capitol.

### The World Trade Center

American Airlines Flight 11 was flown into the North Tower and United Airlines Flight 175 was flown into the South Tower of the World Trade Center. Three buildings in the World Trade Center Complex collapsed due to structural failure. The South Tower (WTC 2) fell at approximately 9:59 AM after burning 56 minutes in a fire caused by the impact of the airplane. The North Tower (WTC 1) fell at approximately 10:28 AM after burning 102 minutes. When the North Tower collapsed, debris heavily damaged the nearby 7 World Trade Center (WTC 7) building. WTC 7 collapsed at 5:20 PM. At least 200

# WALTER COFFEY



## OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

people jumped to their deaths from the burning towers and 411 emergency workers died while attempting to rescue people.

### The Result

Excluding hijackers, 2,974 people died as an immediate result of the attacks, with another 24 missing and presumed dead. Among the dead were nationals from over 90 different countries; 246 died on the four flights (from which there were no survivors), 2,603 died in New York City in the towers and on the ground, and 125 died at the Pentagon. All fatalities were civilian except for 55 military personnel in the Pentagon. At least one death was ruled to have resulted from exposure to dust from the World Trade Center's collapse.

### The Aftermath

These attacks had an overwhelming impact on Americans and the rest of the world. All non-emergency civilian aircraft in the U.S. was grounded for the first time in history, as widespread confusion was caused among air traffic controllers. All international civilian air traffic was banned from coming into the U.S. for three days. Police officers and rescue workers throughout the U.S. took leaves of absences to help the recovery effort in New York, and blood donations

surged.

Economically the U.S. and world markets were devastated. During the week of September 11, U.S. stocks lost \$1.4 trillion in value. Stock exchanges were closed for nearly a week as airline and insurance industries suffered the greatest financial losses. Air travel fell by 20 percent following the attacks. In New York City over the next three months, about 430,000 jobs and \$2.8 billion in wages were lost as billions of dollars in office space was damaged or destroyed. In response the U.S. government provided \$11.2 billion in immediate assistance to New York.

It was later learned that the attacks were perpetrated by the al-Qaeda terrorist organization led by Osama bin Laden. Muslim organizations throughout the U.S. quickly condemned the attacks, and many Islamic organizations sponsored blood drives and provided medical help, food and shelter to victims. Media and governments around the world offered support and assistance to the U.S. In the U.S., numerous candlelight vigils were held and memorials were built around the world to honor the memories of those lost in the attacks, as Americans vowed to "never forget."

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## BOOK REVIEW:

### *WEST FROM APPOMATTOX* by Heather Cox Richardson

The 50 years following the Civil War are often perceived as a boring period of faceless presidents and bland issues such as tariffs and civil service reform. However in *West from Appomattox*, historian Heather Cox Richardson argues that these years were fundamental in reshaping America into what it is today. The era featured deep divides among Americans over issues like taxes, size of government, and the influence of special interests. These issues still separate "red states" from "blue states."

The Reconstruction Era involved a recasting of the relationship between the people and their federal government. It was in this era, Richardson argues, that the fundamental issues dividing us today—between those who want to preserve liberty by limiting government and those who want to expand regulation by growing government—took shape in a newly consolidated nation that had been reunited by a terrible war.

In contrast to most books about Reconstruction that focus primarily on the South, Richardson explores not only the

South but also the North and West, arguing that all three regions were fundamentally transformed during the era. Richardson tells her story through notable people of the time, each one representing different interests. These include Wade Hampton (the "White Southerner"), Jane Addams (the "Northern Feminist"), and Quannah Parker (the "American Indian").

However the true protagonists of the story are the people Richardson calls "mainstream" Americans. These people wanted everyone to get along without government help, relying instead on personal responsibility, work ethic, and thriftiness to rise or fall on their own. They worried about anyone who tried using the federal government to advance their own agendas, including labor unions, Southern blacks, Southern whites, Indians, populists, and feminists. The sensibilities of the mainstream voters of this time closely resemble many Americans today.

Because Richardson views Reconstruction as fundamental in shaping contemporary America, she

# WALTER COFFEY



## OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

makes this era not only engaging but relevant. Thus this book would be appealing not just to those interested in the Civil War or 19th century history, but anyone interested in the roots of present-day American politics.

Reviews courtesy of *Publisher's Weekly* and *The Washington Post*

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### ***THE CONFEDERATE TRUST* by Walter Coffey** **CHAPTER III**

The Acolytes and Carver were about to start another hand when O'Rourke entered the room. Kicking a screaming rat and wiping his hands on his dirty apron, he pointed to Carver. "Someone from Washington's here to see you."

Carver felt the glare of all the suspicious eyes in the room and felt like a chicken being stalked by wolves. With a smile he said, "Uh, I'm sure this is some misunderstanding. If you gentlemen would excuse me..."

One of the men growled as Carver walked by. When an Acolyte objected to Carver leaving the room, O'Bannon pounded the table and said, "He said he's a man of honor. If he proves otherwise we'll deal with it then. Let's stop talkin' and get to playin' before I get sore."

Everybody knew to shut up and play.

Outside the room, O'Rourke stopped Carver as he headed for the saloon. "He ain't in there," O'Rourke told him. He pointed up. "He's up on the roof."

"What the hell's he doing up there?"

"Find out for yourself."

Climbing to that roof brought bad memories for Carver, but his curiosity trumped his reluctance. Who was here to see him? Whoever it was, he surely must not have been briefed on the depravity of the neighborhood, otherwise he wouldn't have taken the assignment. When Carver reached the roof he saw the visitor being given a rooftop tour of the Five Points by two Acolytes. Over the roof's edge. By his ankles.

Carver didn't recognize the man, but he was hard to see his face while he was hanging upside-down. He screamed for his life, but he dared not thrash or else the Acolytes might have lost their grip. Two other Acolytes stood nearby, smoking and laughing at the spectacle. One of them offered a wager as to how long they could hold the man in mid-air before their arms got tired and they finally let go. An Acolyte spotted Carver coming out of the rooftop doorway and alerted the

others.

"Say, this man here says he's lookin' for you," one of the thugs hollered. "From Washington."

"So I've heard," Carver said. He saw the panicked look in the visitor's eyes as he gave a pleading look at Carver to save him. "All right boys, bring him back in. I'll take care of this from here if you don't mind."

The Acolytes, knowing Carver's relationship with their leader, grudgingly brought the man back onto solid ground and dropped him on the tar-stained rooftop. Then they left him alone to talk to Carver. The man scrambled to his feet and tried wiping the filth from his ruined suit. He was a plain looking young man whom Carver had never seen before.

"I didn't come here to sustain this abuse," he protested in a high voice. "Why anyone would live in this Godforsaken place is beyond me!"

"Of that I agree," Carver answered. "Let's go inside, closer to the ground floor."

As they walked, the little man said, "I was sent here by Colonel Eastwick to bring you back to Washington with me."

Carver nodded. He should have known that his superior at the Bureau would be sending for him. After all, Carver had sworn an oath to serve the Union and the colonel would surely hold him to it. "You were brave to come in here for me," Carver told the man. "Now allow me to offer advice—go back to the station immediately. I have to resolve some things here, but I will meet you there and we can take the evening train back to Washington."

"But Captain, I was instructed not to let you to leave my sight once I found you."

Carver led the messenger into O'Rourke's saloon, where

# WALTER COFFEY



## OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

a half dozen Acolytes were drinking and waiting for another crack at the pretentious man in the new clothes. "I would strongly suggest that you take my advice. I will be there directly."

After seeing the angry faces, the messenger agreed to let Carver lead him out a back door. As he watched the young man racing out of the Five Points, Carver knew it was vital to heed the colonel's order. After all, it wasn't the first time that Colonel Hiram Eastwick had tried to pull Carver from the slums of New York.

Carver and Eastwick went way back to the Mexican War, when Eastwick was a major in command of irregulars and Carver was one of his raw recruits. After the war Carver returned to New York to become a policeman and Eastwick convinced him to come to Washington and become a detective. Now he was sending a messenger to bring Carver back again, but this time it wasn't a request. It was an order from a superior and Carver knew there could be no more procrastination with liquor or cards. He had to obey.

Dodging the back room so the Acolytes playing cards wouldn't see him, Carver hurried up to his dingy room on the second floor and collected his canvas bag. When he turned to leave, Seamus O'Bannon's massive frame blocked the doorway. A fierce scowl filled his face.

"So yer leavin' after all, are ya?" O'Bannon asked. His arms were folded over his barrel chest and the doorway looked abnormally small behind him. "Don't suspect you'll fare no better elsewhere. Might as well keep yer lot here among us."

Carver shook his head, which intensified the headache he'd sustained from the whiskey he'd drunk the night before. "Got a duty to uphold," Carver said firmly. "I might've stayed a bit longer but my colonel's recalled me back to the capital."

O'Bannon shifted his weight to his left foot. In that subtle movement, his coat opened slightly and Carver glimpsed the gleaming silver-handled pistol in his shirtwaist. O'Bannon motioned as if he was about to spit on the floor and said, "Ah, ain't no colonel can tell you what to do. Yer better off here than in that den of thieves down there. You can bust a head as good as the rest of 'em."

"Those days are over," Carver said. "There's a war on and I

pledged to do my duty, and I'm a man of my word."

"You and yer honor," O'Bannon's nose wrinkled as if he smelled a rotting corpse. "How repugnant."

"I'm obliged to your hospitality as always." Carver tossed O'Bannon a small bag that jingled with gold coins. "For your effort." Carver rubbed the back of his dirty neck. The pain of his hangover paled in comparison to the guilt he felt for breaking his pledge of temperance to Cecilia and Angelique. All the more reason to leave the Five Points.

"You ought to come along," Carver told O'Bannon. "We could use a man like you against them rebels."

O'Bannon heaved a hearty laugh that told Carver he was out of his mind. "Yeah, and leprechauns would fly out of my arse sooner than I would lift a finger to save this wretched country."

"Suit yourself. Sometimes I think the same. Except that I made the pledge, and as such I got to uphold it."

"Pledging to a government. Bah!" O'Bannon stuck out his tongue as if gagging on bad food. "When they get the last drop of blood out of ya, they'll cast ya into the street. At least 'round here we don't lie about what you'll get. Oh well, you always were a self-righteous bastard."

"My curse," Carver said as he cinched his canvas bag. He extended his hand but O'Bannon didn't take it.

"I don't shake hands with no law officers," he said as he left the room. From the corridor Carver heard O'Bannon's fading voice say, "But yer welcome back when the government spits you out for good."

Carver smiled. "I may just take you up on that."

He left O'Rourke's out the back door without saying farewell to anybody. The Acolytes of Hell had no use for goodbyes. J.B. Carver knew that as long as soldiers were dying in the field, he was obliged to return to Washington City and uphold his duty. But it wasn't all duty and honor on Carver's part; the prime motivation for his return was another chance to see the lovely face of Lucille Winters.