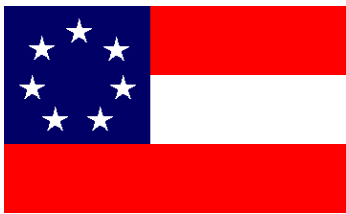
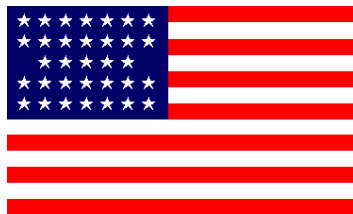


WALTER COFFEY

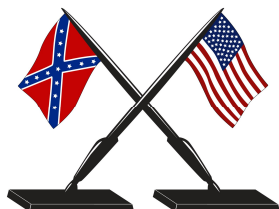


OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Volume 10
October 2009
www.WalterCoffey.com

FROM THE AUTHOR



of the year, and I've included another chapter in this newsletter.

In addition I've written more articles for the on-line magazine at www.Suite101.com. You can check these out either by clicking the links on my website or by visiting my profile page at <http://www.suite101.com/profile.cfm/waltercoffey>.

Also I'm in the process of re-vamping my website. I'm hoping to add much more content, including a Civil War timeline, links to all my articles for Suite 101 and other articles I've written for my local Tea Party organization.

Greetings from the writing cave in Houston, Texas!

I'm still moving along on my final draft of *The Confederate Trust*. It's still slated to be done by the end

While I've tried to remain relatively neutral about the history that's happening all around us, I'm growing increasingly convinced that I can no longer stay neutral.

I've never been a proponent of one political party over another, but based on what I've observed and studied, I find it difficult to support the current administration. The articles I've written should explain why.

As always, thanks for subscribing and feel free to contact me with any ideas to improve this newsletter or my website. Your feedback is always welcome! Until next time...

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...

OCTOBER 1861: ITCHING FOR A FIGHT

Throughout the month, there were calls by many in both North and South for the armies to advance. While the commanders remained cautious and continued building their forces, a Federal reconnaissance in northern Virginia turned into a fiasco at a place called Ball's Bluff.

Kentucky

The Confederates continued building their defensive line in while the Federals continued planning a Southern invasion that would have to go through Kentucky. Brigadier General William T. Sherman was given command of the Federal troops in Kentucky. His panicked demands for more troops sounded outrageous to many in the North, and soon

Sherman had worked himself so hard that he nearly had a nervous breakdown. He was eventually reassigned as many thought him crazy.

Louisiana

In the Gulf of Mexico, Federal ships were making their way to the vital Confederate ports. The most prized of these was New Orleans, the Confederacy's largest and richest city. A probe by the U.S. ships *Richmond* and *Vincennes* into the mouth of the Mississippi River was driven off by the C.S.S. *Manassas*, thus keeping New Orleans safe for the time being.

WALTER COFFEY



OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Meanwhile Louisiana Governor Thomas O. Moore prohibited shipping cotton to New Orleans. This was mainly because the city was one of the largest ports to export cotton throughout the world, and it was hoped that depriving the world of cotton would make other countries side with the Confederacy in order to resume getting the precious commodity. This plan ultimately proved to be ill-conceived as other countries soon replaced the Confederacy in cotton production.

Washington

General George McClellan was still wildly popular throughout the North, but some began wondering why he wasn't moving faster against the Confederates, especially considering that winter was approaching. McClellan had many disagreements with his superior, the aging General-in-Chief Winfield Scott, about strategy. McClellan also had disagreements with President Abraham Lincoln and his cabinet, prompting the delays.

One of McClellan's obstacles was removed by the end of the month when Scott retired from active duty. Scott cited an inability to cope with the duties of office at such an old age; he was 75. McClellan had pressed Scott to retire, believing Scott was unfit for command.

Virginia

In Richmond, people wondered aloud why the Confederate victory at Manassas wasn't being put to better use. Confederate President Jefferson Davis conferred with Generals P.G.T. Beauregard and Joseph Johnston at Centreville, where it was decided that the army in northern Virginia was not well enough equipped to invade the North. Thus it had to await an attack and conduct a defensive campaign. Davis began having trouble dealing with both Beauregard and Johnston, and these strained relations would influence future Confederate actions.

Confederate officials worked to gain much-needed foreign recognition, while officials in England and France were considering recognizing the Confederacy as a separate nation. On October 12, Confederate emissaries John Slidell and James Mason escaped the Federal blockade at Charleston, South Carolina aboard a steamer en route to France and England respectively. U.S. Secretary of State William Seward worked to capture these diplomats.



*--Brigadier General
Charles P. Stone,
imprisoned for the Federal
defeat at Ball's Bluff but
later exonerated*

On October 19, a significant engagement took place. General McClellan had ordered a major reconnaissance near Leesburg, Virginia, to be led by General Charles Stone. Confederates opposing these Federals were led by General Nathan "Shanks" Evans. Stone moved his men across the Potomac River at Ball's Bluff, a steep ridge on the south bank. They encountered Evans' men and a sharp fight ensued.

Eventually the Federals were forced to withdraw back across the river. However disaster ensued when men got trapped at the top of the bluff and the number of boats was inadequate to cover the retreat. Men were drowned and shot off the cliff; Colonel Edward Baker, close friend of President Lincoln, was among those killed. The Battle of Ball's Bluff was another murderous disaster for the Federal army.

While Baker became a martyr, General Stone was accused of friendliness with the enemy, ineptness in command and outright treason. He was imprisoned without trial, and although he was later exonerated, his career was ruined nonetheless. Interestingly, the supreme commander, George McClellan, escaped criticism.

The congressional committee that was created to investigate the Ball's Bluff disaster became one of the war's most powerful commissions—the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War.

WALTER COFFEY



OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

U.S. HISTORY: THE STOCK MARKET CRASH OF 1929



-- *The crowd gathering outside the New York Stock Exchange during the crash of October 1929*

The Stock Market Crash of October 1929 was the largest market collapse in U.S. history. This crash lasted a month and precipitated a downward economic spiral that led to bank insolvency, business collapse, home foreclosure and widespread bankruptcy. The recession that ensued soon evolved into the Great Depression.

Prelude

The decade of the 1920s was generally prosperous. By 1929, the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) was five times higher than it was in 1923. However after peaking in September 1929 at 381.17, the DJIA fell sharply for a month, leading to “Black Thursday” on October 24.

The primary reason for the boom-and-bust cycle that took place was the Federal Reserve System. In an effort to provide easy credit for business, the Fed expanded the money supply. While this expansion helped the economic boom, it also encouraged many businesses to overextend themselves.

A byproduct of the overextension was overspeculation. The access to easy credit led people to invest heavily in the stock market, as many invested borrowed money in the hopes of turning a profit that could repay the loans. The more money that was invested, borrowed or otherwise, the higher the prices rose. By August 1929, over \$8.5 billion was on loan, which was more than the entire amount of currency circulating in the U.S.

Another byproduct of overextension was overproduction, which created too much supply and not enough demand. Overproduction prompted many businesses to liquidate, which led to the bust that was sure to come.

Black Thursday, Monday and Tuesday

The first sharp drop in stock market prices occurred on Monday, October 21. Then on “Black Thursday,” October 24, stock prices plunged dramatically, reflecting a sellers’ panic. A record 12.9 million shares were traded as people who bought on margin (i.e., invested with borrowed money) frantically tried to cover their loans. Companies like RCA and Westinghouse lost nearly half their value.

Leading Wall Street bankers met to discuss how to handle the crisis. They designated New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) Vice President Richard Whitney to use the \$240 million emergency banker fund to buy blue chip stocks in an effort to restore market confidence. This tactic was similar to what steadied the market during the Panic of 1907, and it succeeded in halting the slide for the day. But more was to come.

October 28 became “Black Monday” when the DJIA lost a record 13 percent of its value as more investors sold or traded their shares. Then October 29 became “Black Tuesday,” the worst single day in NYSE history, as 16.4 million shares were dumped in a selling rush, a record held until 1968.

The DJIA fell another 12 percent as the market lost \$14 billion on “Black Tuesday” alone and \$30 billion for the week. The stock ticker did not catch up with all the transactions until about 7:45 p.m. Some stocks dropped over 35 points or as much as \$60 per share.

Prices continued dropping throughout November and the NYSE was forced to close for three days. The initial panic continued for two weeks, and by the end of November, stocks were at 1927 levels. By December 1, stocks had lost \$26 billion in value.

Aftermath

By year’s end, \$14 billion had vanished. On July 8, 1932, the DJIA reached its lowest level of the 20th century, which was 89 percent lower than its peak in September 1929. By 1933, prices were 80 percent lower than the highs of 1929.

Many historians blame the stock market crash on the excesses of capitalism by assuming that the boom-and-bust cycle is a natural part of a free market economy. However according to the Austrian economic theory, the

WALTER COFFEY



OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

boom-and-bust cycle is an unnatural occurrence in a free market economy that is caused by a central bank controlling a nationalized currency, in this case, the Federal Reserve.

In testimony before a Senate committee, 25 million people

were affected by this financial catastrophe. The future had been bright for a prosperous America, but now one of the most difficult economic crises in U.S. history had begun.

BOOK REVIEW:

***LIBERAL FASCISM* by Jonah Goldberg**

In this provocative and well-researched book, Goldberg argues that liberalism in America has more origins in early 20th-century fascist politics than conservatism. Goldberg explains how, unlike the charge by many liberals, fascism has always been a phenomenon of the left, not the right.

The author outlines how modern liberals are descended from Progressives, which were American versions of fascists that organized in Italy in the 1920s and Germany in the 1930s. It was the fascists that advocated universal health care, abortion, euthanasia, and central economic planning, all staples of modern liberalism (i.e., the Democratic Party) today.

Goldberg also shows how fascism has been wiped out of most modern American history books because of the results of World War II. Prior to the war, Goldberg shows how many Americans not only approved of fascism but hoped to implement it in American society as a new, fresh and enlightened type of governance.

Goldberg explains that while conservatives and right-wingers are routinely denounced as fascists, fascism is a traditionally left-wing ideology, and leftists project their own fascism onto their opponents in an effort to demonize them. His study of the conceptual overlap between fascism and ideas emanating from the environmental movement, Hollywood, the Democratic Party and what he calls other left-wing groups is enlightening.

Fascist party programs contained active social welfare policies that were implemented through a corporatist state, much the same way the New Deal programs were administered in the 1930s. Fascism contained elements that were in the mainstream of 20th-century politics, mainly among the Democrats and liberals. This continues today.

***THE CONFEDERATE TRUST* by Walter Coffey** **CHAPTER IV**

Lucille Winters slowly recovered from the beating she had sustained from Reginald Roth. To have stumbled upon two corpses and then been savagely pummeled into unconsciousness was a harrowing experience. The swelling and discoloration in her face had lessened, and the cut on her forehead left a minor scar. But her emotional state was still far from recovery.

The ugly business in which J.B. Carver was involved had touched Lucille in a terrible way. Roth had hurt Lucille to get to Carver, and Carver had confessed to Lucille that he felt responsible for her injuries. Although Lucille disagreed that Carver was to blame, she did have reservations about the nature of his work. Not knowing where Carver was, what he was doing, or when he would return brought Lucille haunting memories of her late husband.

Leo Winters had been killed fighting the border ruffians in

Kansas for the cause of abolishing slavery. When he left for Kansas he had left Lucille behind, promising that he would return soon. That promise was not kept. The void that Leo had left in Lucille's heart could not be healed, and Lucille feared that Carver could create a whole new void from which she may not recover.

Lucille had been visited by Carver's superior, Colonel Hiram Eastwick, who assured her that Carver was safe and his mission in New York accomplished. However the colonel could not say when Carver would return to Washington City. The notion that Carver hadn't hurried back once his work was done gave Lucille a glimmer of doubt. This glimmer prompted her to call on Charles Gilmore, the young man who had tried to win Lucille's heart.

While Lucille would not blame Carver for the pain she

WALTER COFFEY



OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

sustained, Gilmore blamed Carver freely. Only a man of bad character could have made such a terrible enemy that would pummel a woman, Gilmore believed, and Lucille shouldn't involve herself with such a low creature. Gilmore had vowed to protect Lucille from any further harm, but Lucille's heart remained with Carver. On her way to call on Gilmore at his father's store in Georgetown, Lucille resolved to explain to him that she could not feel for him the way she felt for Carver.

As much as she empathized with the young man, Lucille couldn't deceive Gilmore by pretending to enjoy making time with him. She had to be honest with him, no matter how much that honesty may hurt him. Lucille had to follow her heart, which held feelings stronger than any doubt she may have about Carver. Even though Lucille recognized the risk of losing Carver to war just as she had lost Leo three years ago, it was worth it if Carver returned to her. And even if it was at young Gilmore's expense.

When Lucille entered the dry goods store near the intersection of M Street and Wisconsin Avenue, Gilmore was dusting the wooden counter in the back corner. He dropped his duster when he saw Lucille approaching. His big smile pained Lucille because she knew his eagerness would only make the purpose of her visit more difficult.

"I'm so glad to see you Lucille," Gilmore said in a tone too happy for Lucille. She gave a controlled response.

"Hello Charles. I wanted to thank you for your care in this difficult time for me."

Gilmore's smile widened, as if Lucille's expression of gratitude was the confirmation he needed that she loved him. He bowed his head and said, "Why, it's the least I can do for such a special lady as yourself. What happened to you was a tragedy. If I had the right, I would do all I could in my power to ensure such a thing would never happen to you again."

He offered Lucille a seat on a nearby stool. Lucille declined.

"I also want to tell you something," Lucille said. She tilted her head so the brim of her wide hat prevented her from looking up into Gilmore's eyes. "Charles, I know you have expressed an interest in taking care of me, but such a thing will no longer be necessary."

Lucille looked up and saw that Gilmore's smile was slowly vanishing. A customer entered the store but Gilmore ignored him. After allowing a moment to interpret her words, Gilmore pointed to the scar on her forehead and said coldly, "I hope you're not considering returning to the man who did this to you."

"He did not do this to me," Lucille snapped. "People must be responsible for their own actions. He has a position in our military and must perform his duty, and like anyone bound to duty in this war, he is liable to make enemies. I cannot blame him for what happened to me." Gilmore tried to speak but Lucille raised a gloved hand to stop him. "I cannot deny my feelings for John," she said, "and until those feelings are proven to be in vain, I must act upon them."

Now Gilmore's smile was completely gone, replaced by an angry frown. His face purpled as he said, "That man put you in harm's way. He has no notion of how to treat a lady and keep her out of his affairs. He had no decency and could never treat you as you ought to be treated!"

"That is your opinion," Lucille said.

"He is a contemptible fool!" Gilmore yelled so loud that the waiting customer overheard him and left the store. He took a breath and calmed himself.

"Charles, I understand how you feel. But you don't understand my relations with John, nor should you because it is none of your concern. And our relations aren't even the primary issue because the war must take precedence over all. So please allow me to pursue my own course. I cherish your friendship, and I would be honored to retain you as a friend. But we can be nothing more than that."

Gilmore slouched behind the counter and leaned back against the wall as if he could no longer stand. He absorbed Lucille's words and gave her a halfhearted smile. "I don't suppose there's anything more that I can say. You must do what you must, but don't expect me to be there when he breaks your heart."

"I thank you again for all you've done, and expect nothing more. You've been more than gracious. Good day, Charles." She turned and left the store. Gilmore didn't try to stop her.

As the days wore on, Lucille waited patiently for Carver to return from New York, despite pleas from her aunt, Alice Muller, to forget about him and consider Charles Gilmore as a respectable alternative. "You must visit Charles," Alice urged Lucille. "He's been so worried for you. When I went into the store yesterday his father said he hasn't been eating and he rarely talks. You really should give him a chance; he's a dutiful young man. You mustn't pine for that other man. Lord knows if you'll ever even see him again."

WALTER COFFEY



OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

That initial glimmer of doubt that Lucille had about Carver grew as each day passed and he had not returned. She knew that Carver's mission was complete, so why wouldn't he return to her? But then Lucille reasoned that she shouldn't be so judgmental; after all, a war was being fought and Carver's primary obligation was to serve his country. But she couldn't be expected to sit and wait for him either. Lucille had needs of her own to fulfill.

Lucille signed as she peered through the lace curtains of her upstairs bedroom window. It was cold and windy outside, and Lucille was tired of hearing Aunt Alice singing Gilmore's praises from the next room. "All right," Lucille called to her aunt. "All right. I will call on Charles."

Alice yelled in a beaming voice, "Your uncle and I are so pleased to hear that!"

In her bedroom, Lucille slowly dressed herself and brushed her long, dark hair before rolling it into a bun under her wide-brimmed hat. She stepped out into the upstairs hall and heard Aunt Alice arguing with someone downstairs.

"She doesn't want it," Alice said.

"But I have orders," said a young voice. Lucille came downstairs and saw Aunt Alice and a man in an army uniform in the front doorway.

"Leave the message for me," Alice demanded.

"But ma'am, I've been ordered to deliver this to Miss Winters personally."

"I will see the gentleman, Aunt Alice," Lucille said. Alice slumped her shoulders and turned to her niece.

"Suit yourself, dear," she said and left Lucille to face the messenger.

"Miss Winters?" Lucille nodded. "From the War Department, ma'am," he said. He tipped his kepi, handed her a sealed envelope and left the house without waiting for Lucille to read the message. Lucille broke the wax seal and opened it. A brief message from Colonel Eastwick.

Previously the colonel had told Lucille that he didn't know when Carver may return. This new message informed Lucille that the colonel now knew Carver would be returning to Washington City the following day. The news melted Lucille's heart with the wonderful thought that she would soon be in John Carver's arms again. She smiled and pressed the message to her chest.

"My dear," Aunt Alice broke Lucille from her joy. "Charles is working at his father's store this afternoon. You can call on him there now."

Poor Charles! The thought of seeing Carver again made Lucille forget all about Gilmore. The young man had done nothing but remain perfectly loyal to Lucille, but she just couldn't conjure any feelings for him. To Alice's disappointment, Lucille didn't call on Charles. Instead she waited for Carver to come back to her.