



## **Life, Flight and Liberty Part VII**

**An essay by Henry Nicolle**

*Liberty Lost and Wyoming Pride for the Future*

If you choose to read what follows in this essay, please do not be offended by my several introductory comments. They are intended to initiate thought and conversation, not to provoke annoyance and laughter. Of course, please feel free to be annoyed and to laugh. It does not offend me and laughter is good for the soul. However, none of that can change the facts that I offer for your consideration.

Your responses, our conversations, and your contributions may alter the conclusions that I may draw in future essays. Please join the conversation.

At the time of our separation from Great Britain, most American colonists were content to remain subjects of King George. Only a substantial minority were dissatisfied with that status. These had come to the New World for many reasons, rejecting presumptions of contentment and satisfaction under the status-quo of Old World exploitation. They preferred to risk life and family for an unfettered opportunity to live and prosper to the best of their abilities, free of the demands of Empire and conventional wisdom.

*"If ye love wealth better than liberty, the tranquility of servitude than the animated contest of freedom - go home from us in peace." - Samuel Adams*

In many ways, their condition exists, although in different forms, even today. Debate for and against change was common, often heated and contentious, resembling the many facets of disagreement and discontent in our new millennium.

*"When we are planning for posterity, we ought to remember that virtue is not hereditary." Thomas Paine - Common Sense*

Between 1776 and 1862, America was young and our People were reasonably free. Our internal dialog remained contentious, centered upon the two great social issues of central government and slavery.

When Lincoln's conquest was complete, Americans were saddled with the unwelcome demands of the new government, unladen of the Constitution. The issue of slavery as a government sanctioned institution was properly destroyed. In its place, the new powers of centralized government supremacy created a nation whose population assumed the burdens of the former slaves. Instead of iron chains, they were bound by paper and policy, enforced by credible threats of violence, chains of steel, and worse.

Post-war reconstruction did not "restore the Union". Instead, a new government with a superficial appearance of the former was installed that demanded submission and entry by the conquered states and their People into that new "Union". They imposed that demand at the points of bayonets and gun barrels. Seven States were instantly forced to re-write their constitutions. In the immediately following years, many other states, both North and South, adopted alterations that allowed better conformance with the new concepts associated with the new central government. It may be of general interest to know that the post-war "Reconstruction Acts" remain in place, valid and enforced today.

We are free, but always on a conditional basis, just as slaves in 1860. No matter what benefits may be claimed for the governed, all governments demand as unconditional: "Do as we tell you" and "Give us your stuff."

We can do mostly "as we please and when we please", provided (as then) that we obtain the required permits and documents and acquiesce meekly to the instant demands of our Owner's overseers and enforcers. We can possess private and real property, but we cannot own any of it in fact, because what we have can be taken from us at any time and for any purpose our Owners deem in their interest.

Whether one likes it or not, the differences between chattel slavery and American debt slavery are few in practical effect. They are differentiated only by intensity and immediacy of enforcement of the Owner's claims on our Liberty and property. These are claims on our mortal existence; that means our lives, our labor, our property, our individual relationships, even our offspring.

Yes, these comments are radical and many may take them to be the ravings of a lunatic. If you were born into a society that valued the inherent Rights and Liberty of the Individual, you would not scoff. However, we are not that kind of individual, because we believe that our social and political conditions are normal. That may well be, but it is a false normalcy.

We have been indoctrinated in abnormality; we have become accustomed to the abnormal being "normal". Here in Carbon County, we have been shackled to the fatalistic presumption of inherent Boom and Bust. Being born in a moment under this concept, it is our "Normal". It is a false presumption, and we can change it.

*"If we can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people, under the pretense of taking care of them, they must become happy." - G. Washington Letter to Thomas Cooper*

The debate continues today over the benefits and problems of trading individual Liberty for the convenience and security of peonage. Any change must arise from us, the People of our community. We, the People of Wyoming, of Carbon County, and of our Communities can prosper, building our future from within to level out the inevitable peaks and valleys of economic change and political whim.

Here in the small towns and communities of Wyoming, we retain much of America's early spirit of self-determination, enterprise, and liberty which has been lost by a great portion of our nation's population. I believe that this quality should be a source of pride and a beacon lighting our path to future Liberty and Prosperity.

Join a conversation; agree, disagree, criticize, offer factual corrections, but Write! If you can write, compose thoughts, poetry, describe items of interest to you or your neighbors, please join me. We need writers and conversations if we are to guide our future. It is not formal. All I am asking is that you offer your thoughts on any subject that you choose. A dozen words, a paragraph, an essay, a poem, and observation or a book. If you are better with verbal ideas, we can find a writer to partner for transcription. Email or letters are fine. Join the conversation, Please!

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