



Straight Talk

By Muriel Sluyter

New Judges, Hopefully Good Ones

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Greetings, Gentle Reader,

We may have good news. Judge Roberts looks good, and now we have a Judge Alito who may, also, be good. It's our turn. As I read American history, not the PC type, the real thing, I am constantly astonished at how far we have moved from the America envisioned by our forefathers. They wanted liberty, and they knew the price would be high.

One woman "outfitted" five sons and thirteen grandsons for the Revolutionary War. That means she provided them with all they needed to serve, including clothing, shoes, weapons, etc. That doesn't mean she got a job, earned the money and bought them expensive outfits. She made all the clothes. She probably paid the cobbler for their boots with money she made selling eggs or milk or some such. The weapons would have been purchased, and either she or her husband would have had to earn the necessary money for them. When all was prepared, she well knew she might never see several of them again.

In order for us to understand the total lack of self-determination in the world of old England, of which America was a part, let's look at the Isle of Harris, off the Scottish coast. It will help us to understand why our forefathers were so determined to fight for freedom.

The people of that island, most of whom had lived there for generations, were thrown off land they had farmed for many long years, from time to time. Why? Because the Isle had been sold or lost or whatever. The following is a snapshot of the life the powerless led in old England by the year 1820, written by Donald MacDonald: "I myself was born in Rodel. I saw my mother with her youngest child taken out of the house in a blanket, and laid down at the side of a dyke, and the place pulled down. My mother was in child-bed at the time. The child was only born the previous night, and my father asked MacLeod, who was the proprietor at the time, whether he would not allow them to remain in the house for a few days, but permission was not given, only he came to the dykeside where she lay and asked what this was, and when he was told, he asked him to lift her up and remove her to an empty barn, and it was there that she was put. It was MacLeod himself that took the place and kept it for two years, and

afterward he gave it to Stewart. The proprietor has it now."

In another instance, Norman MacLeod, born on the Isle of Harris in the early 1700s, kidnaped a "ship-load" of men and women from the Isles of Skye and Harris to sell as slaves in America. The men of the area found out, raided the ship and released the captives. It is said there were other such kidnappings that succeeded. Slavery, after all, was legal throughout the world at that time, and black slaves were only a small part of the "merchandise" sold around the world.

Does that give us a better picture of the life of the earliest English emigrants, who then became America's earliest immigrants? They had no rights, no power, especially if they were of the lower classes. It is no wonder they left merry old England in droves, settling on almost every continent around the world.

It also helps us understand why Americans were willing to fight to keep the level of autonomy they had enjoyed until sometime in the mid 1800s. They weren't just about to roll over and play dead for the English army, nor for King George III. They looked on themselves as free men, who had every intention of remaining so, though they knew the fight for their freedom would be fierce and unrelenting.

They paid the price for our freedom, now let us hope a new generation of Supreme Court judges will help us regain much of that freedom they bought with their blood. Too much of our liberty has been lost in the past 70 or so years, because of decisions made in that court. If George Bush will give us an edge in that particular battle, he will have given us the primary thing for which we hired him.

Now, the only thing we can continue to root for is the retirement of Judges Stevens and Ginsburg, and the sooner the better.

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