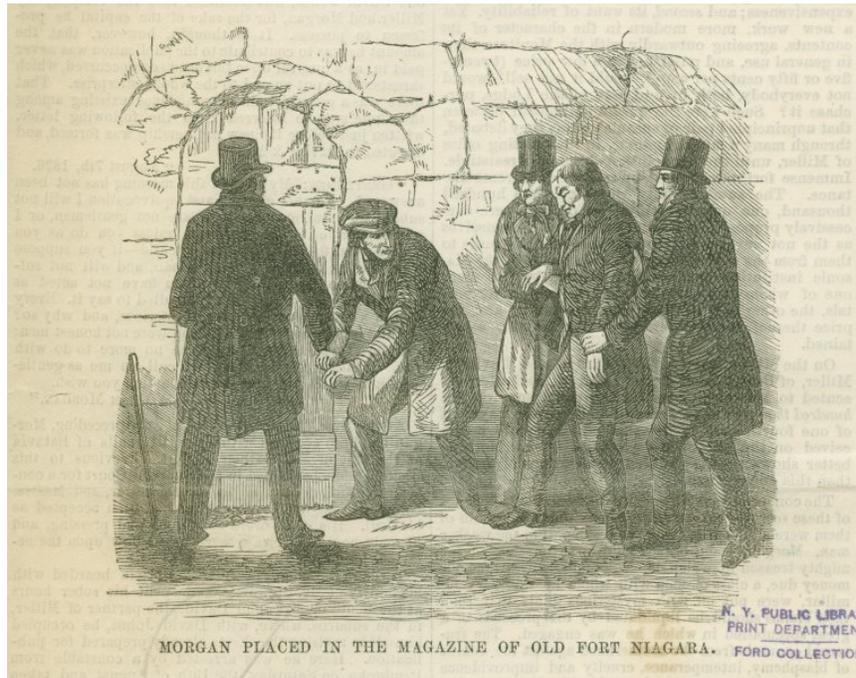




EVERETT FINANCIAL GROUP

Weekly Commentary

November 26, 2019



Masons, Morgan, And Murder

In 1826, a disgruntled Freemason in Batavia, New York, named William Morgan announced that he was going to write a book disclosing the most sacred secrets of the Freemasons. Local Masons, incensed by Morgan's actions, published advertisements denouncing him and got a friendly sheriff to arrest him for a two-dollar debt.

On the night of September 12, a group of men descended on the jail and spirited Morgan out. "Murder! Murder!" shouted the struggling Morgan as he was thrown into a waiting carriage.

The carriage went clattering into the night, and Morgan was never seen again.

The kidnapping and alleged murder of Morgan triggered a ferocious anti-Mason movement. Clergymen decried the Masons' secret oaths, claiming from the pulpit that Masons were part of an international conspiracy. Hundreds of lodges across the country closed, and the fraternal order's respected position in American society was nearly destroyed.

Out of the emotional protest emerged a new political party, the Anti-Mason Party. It was America's

first real third-party movement, and had great success in the Northeast. The Anti-Masons decided to mount a presidential campaign. They gathered in Baltimore to pick a candidate for the 1832 election. In so doing, they became the first political party to hold a national nominating convention. Other parties quickly picked up on the idea. And a new tradition in presidential politics was born.

The Anti-Masons nominated William Wirt (himself a former Mason) as their candidate for president, and presented a platform condemning Masonry for its secrecy and exclusivity. Wirt managed to win one state: Vermont. The victors in the election were two past Masonic grand masters: Andrew Jackson and Henry Clay.

Theories vary on what happened to Morgan. Some believe he was murdered, others that he was driven off to Canada, and still others that the whole thing was a publicity stunt for his book, which was published after his disappearance. The "secrets" it revealed were mostly arcane Masonic rituals. Morgan's wife later became one of the wives of Mormon prophet Joseph Smith.

Before Morgan's Kidnapping, Freemasonry had achieved a high degree of public prominence in America. George Washington and Ben Franklin were only two of numerous early American leaders who were Freemasons. But as the order grew in power and influence, people became more suspicious of it.

The Greatest Presidential Stories Never Told.

Weekly Market Commentary November 25, 2019

The Markets

Thanksgiving is in the air!

On Thursday, U.S. investors may find themselves giving thanks for the bull market.

Year-to-date, the Standard & Poor's 500 Index, Dow Jones Industrial Average, and Nasdaq Composite have all gained more than 20 percent with dividends reinvested. The MSCI World Index also is up 20 percent year-to-date.

Bond markets have rallied, too. U.S. government bond yields have dropped since January, and prices have risen. Not all asset classes have packed an oomph, but investors are feeling optimistic, reported Michael Mackenzie of the *Financial Times*.

Ben Levisohn of *Barron's* expressed some skepticism about the current level of optimism.

"If you believe the current narrative, everything is right with the world. By cutting interest rates three times, the Federal Reserve has averted a recession. And with the U.S. and China slowly making progress on a trade deal, capital spending could revive and boost the economy. And right on time, the S&P 500 index hit a new all-time high, seemingly confirming this rosy narrative...Strangely, market sentiment appears to be getting better even as the economic data appear to be getting worse."

He's not wrong. Economic data suggest U.S. and Chinese economies have begun to experience negative effects related to the two-year-old trade war. *Reuters* reported economic growth in China has slowed to a 30-year low. Growth in the United States has slowed, too.

While many remain optimistic about progress in resolving the U.S.-China trade dispute, *Barron's* Nicholas Jasinski spoke with the chief investment officer of an international wealth management firm, who commented, "Our view of U.S. and China is that it's a competition that's going to go on for a generation economically, diplomatically, militarily."

Last week, major U.S. indices finished lower on concerns about trade talk progress.

Happy Thanksgiving! We're thankful for you.

Data as of 11/22/19	1-Week	Y-T-D	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year
Standard & Poor's 500 (Domestic Stocks)	-0.3%	24.1%	18.2%	12.2%	8.5%	10.9%
Dow Jones Global ex-U.S.	-0.5	13.4	9.3	6.6	1.6	2.3
10-year Treasury Note (Yield Only)	1.8	NA	3.1	2.3	2.3	3.4
Gold (per ounce)	-0.2	14.3	19.4	6.5	4.1	2.3
Bloomberg Commodity Index	-0.5	2.6	-3.4	-2.6	-7.7	-5.3

S&P 500, Dow Jones Global ex-US, Gold, Bloomberg Commodity Index returns exclude reinvested dividends (gold does not pay a dividend)

and the three-, five-, and 10-year returns are annualized; and the 10-year Treasury Note is simply the yield at the close of the day on each of the historical time periods.

Sources: Yahoo! Finance, MarketWatch, djindexes.com, London Bullion Market Association.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Indices are unmanaged and cannot be invested into directly. N/A means not applicable.

WHY DO PRESIDENTS PARDON TURKEYS? A turkey may not be on the Great Seal of the United States, as Ben Franklin would have preferred, but the bird has a surprisingly robust history at the White House.

From the 1870s until 1913, turkeys were provided to the White House for holiday meals primarily by Rhode Island poultry producer Horace Vose. After his death, it was a free for all. The *White House Historical Association* wrote,

"By 1914, the opportunity to give a turkey to a President was open to everyone, and poultry gifts were frequently touched with patriotism, partisanship, and glee. In 1921, an American Legion post furnished bunting for the crate of a gobbler en route from Mississippi to Washington, while a Harding Girls Club in Chicago outfitted a turkey as a flying ace, complete with goggles. First Lady Grace Coolidge accepted a turkey from a Vermont Girl Scout in 1925. The turkey gifts had become established as a national symbol of good cheer."

The first time a turkey was granted clemency was in 1863. President Abraham Lincoln instructed the White House staff to spare a bird which had become a favorite of his son, reported the *Constitution Daily*.

Some say President Truman pardoned a turkey or two, but the *Truman Library* does not agree.

Records indicate it was 1963 before another President spared a turkey destined for the White House kitchen. While both President Lincoln and President John F. Kennedy showed mercy, neither officially pardoned their birds. President Ronald Reagan joked about a pardon, but the first official Presidential turkey pardon was issued by President George H.W. Bush in 1989.

So, why do Presidents pardon turkeys? We're not really sure. We know where pardoned turkeys go, though.

For many years, like Super-Bowl-winning quarterbacks, they went to amusement parks in Florida and California. The turkeys helped lead Thanksgiving Day Parades. More recently, "...the spared turkeys are sent to an enclosure at Virginia Tech called 'Gobbler's Rest'... where they get to frolic with other free turkeys," reported *The Independent*.

Weekly Focus - Think About It

You may have heard of Black Friday and Cyber Monday. There's another day you might want to know about: Giving Tuesday. The idea is pretty straightforward. On the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, shoppers take a break from their gift-buying and donate what they can to charity."

-- Bill Gates, Business magnate and philanthropist

Best Regards,



Brian Everett
Certified Financial Planner™
Certified Wealth Strategist®
Retirement Income Certified Professional®
Everett Financial Group

Complimentary Consultation For Your Referral

The highest compliment you can give us is the referral of your family and friends. Your referrals are always welcome. Refer someone to us today and give them the gift of a complimentary consultation!

Sources:

https://www.barrons.com/articles/dow-jones-industrial-average-snaps-four-week-winning-streak-51574469902?mod=hp_DAY_3 (or go to https://peakcontent.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/+Peak+Commentary/11-25-19_Barrons-The_Dows-Winning-Streak-Ended-With-a-Whimper-as-Trade-Worries-Return-Footer_1.pdf)

<https://www.ft.com/content/0d445fe2-0c60-11ea-b2d6-9bf4d1957a67> (or go to https://peakcontent.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/+Peak+Commentary/11-25-19_FinancialTimes-Investment-Outlooks-Hinge-on-Deciphering-Conflicting-Signals-Footer_2.pdf)

<https://www.cnbc.com/2019/11/18/the-bond-phenomenon-of-2019-isnt-over-yet-says-trader.html> (or go to https://peakcontent.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/+Peak+Commentary/11-25-19_Barrons-The-Bull-Market-Could-Still-End-in-2020-Here's-How-to-Prepare-Footer_3.pdf)

https://www.barrons.com/articles/prepare-for-the-end-of-the-bull-market-51574439667?mod=hp_LEAD_3

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-global-markets-themes/take-five-a-spanner-in-the-global-economic-works-idUSKBN1XW1PB>

<https://www.history.com/news/did-benjamin-franklin-propose-the-turkey-as-the-national-symbol>

<https://www.whitehousehistory.org/pardoning-the-thanksgiving-turkey>

<https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/the-real-story-behind-the-presidential-turkey-pardon>

<https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/education/trivia/did-truman-pardon-turkey>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Thanksgiving_Turkey_Presentation
<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/turkey-pardon-where-do-they-go-president-donald-trump-white-house-peas-and-carrots-a8643626.html>
<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/thanksgiving-quotes>

P.S. Please feel free to forward this commentary to family, friends, or colleagues. If you would like us to add them to the list, please reply to this e-mail with their e-mail address and we will ask for their permission to be added.

Securities offered through First Allied Securities, Inc. A Registered Broker/Dealer. Member FINRA/SIPC.
Advisory services offered through First Allied Advisory Services, Inc. A Registered Investment Adviser.
The information contained in this e-mail is privileged and confidential information that is intended for the sole use of the addressee. Access to this e-mail by anyone else is unauthorized.

- * These views are those of Carson Group Coaching, and not the presenting Representative or the Representative's Broker/Dealer, and should not be construed as investment advice.
- * This newsletter was prepared by Carson Group Coaching. Carson Group Coaching is not affiliated with the named broker/dealer.
- * Government bonds and Treasury Bills are guaranteed by the U.S. government as to the timely payment of principal and interest and, if held to maturity, offer a fixed rate of return and fixed principal value. However, the value of fund shares is not guaranteed and will fluctuate.
- * Corporate bonds are considered higher risk than government bonds but normally offer a higher yield and are subject to market, interest rate and credit risk as well as additional risks based on the quality of issuer coupon rate, price, yield, maturity, and redemption features.
- * The Standard & Poor's 500 (S&P 500) is an unmanaged group of securities considered to be representative of the stock market in general. You cannot invest directly in this index.
- * All indexes referenced are unmanaged. Unmanaged index returns do not reflect fees, expenses, or sales charges. Index performance is not indicative of the performance of any investment.
- * The Dow Jones Global ex-U.S. Index covers approximately 95% of the market capitalization of the 45 developed and emerging countries included in the Index.
- * The 10-year Treasury Note represents debt owed by the United States Treasury to the public. Since the U.S. Government is seen as a risk-free borrower, investors use the 10-year Treasury Note as a benchmark for the long-term bond market.
- * Gold represents the afternoon gold price as reported by the London Bullion Market Association. The gold price is set twice daily by the London Gold Fixing Company at 10:30 and 15:00 and is expressed in U.S. dollars per fine troy ounce.
- * The Bloomberg Commodity Index is designed to be a highly liquid and diversified benchmark for the commodity futures market. The Index is composed of futures contracts on 19 physical commodities and was launched on July 14, 1998.
- * The DJ Equity All REIT Total Return Index measures the total return performance of the equity subcategory of the Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) industry as calculated by Dow Jones.
- * Yahoo! Finance is the source for any reference to the performance of an index between two specific periods.
- * Opinions expressed are subject to change without notice and are not intended as investment advice or to predict future performance.
- * Economic forecasts set forth may not develop as predicted and there can be no guarantee that strategies promoted will be successful.
- * Past performance does not guarantee future results. Investing involves risk, including loss of principal.
- * You cannot invest directly in an index.
- * Stock investing involves risk including loss of principal.
- * Consult your financial professional before making any investment decision.
- * To unsubscribe from the "Weekly Commentary" please click here, or write us at "service@everett-financial.com".