

THE CHARGER

February, 2000

376 Meeting

Vol.21 #6



Ulysses S. Grant was born April 27, 1822, in a two-room frame house at Point Pleasant, Ohio, near Cincinnati. His father, Jesse Root Grant, was foreman in a tannery and a farmer. His mother, Hannah Simpson Grant, was a pious, hard-working frontier woman. When Ulysses was a year old, the family moved a few miles east to Georgetown. There his father bought a farm, built a house, and set up a tannery of his own. Five more children

were born--two boys and three girls.

Lyss, as he was called, loved horses and early learned to manage them. When he was seven or eight years old he could drive a team and began hauling all the wood used in the house and shops. "When about eleven," he says in his 'Personal Memoirs', "I was strong enough to hold a plow. From that age until seventeen I did all the work done with horses; such as breaking up the land, furrowing, plowing corn and potatoes, bringing in the crops when harvested, hauling all the wood, besides tending two or three horses, a cow or two, and sawing wood for the stoves." Three months each winter he went to a one-room schoolhouse.

When Lyss was 17, his father obtained for him an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. The congressman who made the appointment did not know Ulysses' full name; so he left out Hiram and added the mother's name, Simpson, after Ulysses. The initials U.S. suggested Uncle Sam to Ulysses' classmates and they gave him the nickname "Sam." Ulysses was pleased with his new name because he disliked his old initials--H.U.G.

Cadet Grant did not care for military life and never expected to stay in the army. He was good in mathematics and hoped some-time to teach it. In other subjects he was about average. He was, however, the finest horseman at the academy. Quiet and shy, he made few friends.

Tonight's Speaker:

Norton London

Norton "Norty" London was President of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable in 1995.

Norty has long been our expert on Ulysses S. Grant. Tonight he will tackle Grant from The Wilderness to Cold Harbor. Where Grant with brut force and enormous casualties fought Robert E. Lee to a draw in the Spring of 1864.

Date: February 9, 2000

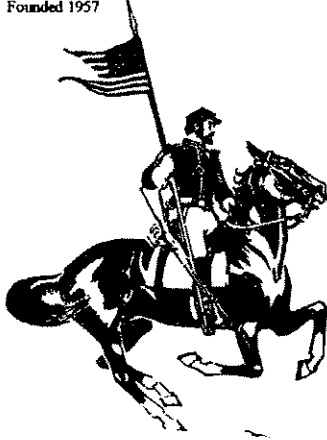
Place: The Hermit Club

Time: Drinks 6 PM

Dinner 7 PM

**Reservations: Please Call
JAC Communications
at (216) 861-5588**

Founded 1957



The Cleveland Civil War Round Table PO Box 1590 Cleveland, Ohio 44118

About the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable

The 127 men and women of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable reflect the ethnic, racial, and religious diversity of Greater Cleveland. Members range in age from 16 to 93 years old. The common bond is the belief that the American Civil War was the *defining* event in United States history.

Dinner meetings are normally held on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May. The Roundtable meets at a historic private club in the Playhouse Square area of downtown Cleveland.
Dinner is \$20.00. Club dues are \$40.00 per year.

PAST CLEVELAND C.W.R.T. PRESIDENTS

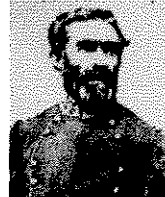
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|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1999 Dick Crews | 1977 James Chapman |
| 1998 John Moore | 1976 Milton Holmes |
| 1997 Dan Zeiser | 1975 Thomas Gretter |
| 1996 John Sutula | 1974 Nolan Heidelbaugh |
| 1995 Norton London | 1973 Arthur Jordan |
| 1994 Robert E. Battisti | 1972 Bernard Drews |
| 1993 Kevin Callahan | 1971 Kenneth Callahan |
| 1992 Bob Baucher | 1970 Frank Schuhle |
| 1991 Joe Tirpak | 1969 Donald Heckaman |
| 1990 Ken Callahan Jr. | 1968 Frank Moran |
| 1989 Neil Glaser | 1967 William Schlesinger |
| 1988 Martin Graham | 1966 Donald Hamill |
| 1987 George Vourlojianis | 1965 Lester L. Swift |
| 1986 Tim Beatty | 1964 Guy DiCarlo, Jr. |
| 1985 Brian Kowell | 1963 Paul Guenther |
| 1984 Neil Evans | 1962 Edward Downer |
| 1983 William Victory | 1961 Charles Clarke |
| 1982 John Harkness | 1960 Howard Preston |
| 1981 Thomas Geschke | 1959 John Cullen, Jr |
| 1980 Charles Spiegle | 1958 George Farr, Jr. |
| 1979 William Bates | 1957 Kenneth Grant |
| 1978 Richard McCrae | |

February 9, 2000



Ulysses S. Grant
From The Wilderness to Cold Harbor
NORTON LONDON

March 8, 2000



Braxton Bragg
Was he really that bad?
DAVE SMITH

April 12, 2000



**THE SONS
OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN**
DAVE WOOD

MAY 10, 2000



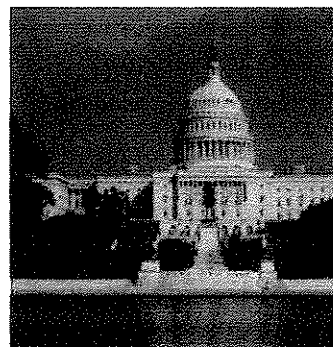
PATRICK CLEBURNE
CRAIG SYMONDS

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

President: Bob Boyda
Vice President: William Vodrey
Secretary: Bill McGrath
Treasurer: Bill Doty

Executive Committee:

Lou Braman
Dick Crews
John Moore
Ty Somersfield
Dale Thomas
Dan Zeiser



2000 Field Trip

Washington, D.C.

September 28, - Oct 1, 2000

GRANT AT WEST POINT

Military Schooling: Grant attended the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York, from 1839-1843.

Class rank: 21 out of 39.

Date of Graduation: July 1, 1843.



PERSONAL NOTES ON GRANT

What does the "S" in his name stand for? The "S" in Grant's name stands for nothing. "Simpson" was never his middle name.

Was Grant a drunkard? No, Grant was not an alcoholic. He drank too much as a young man when separated from his family, but learned to control this. Later in life, he drank almost nothing.

"Do I have a signed copy of Grant's Memoirs?" No, you do not. The signature at the front of Grant's Memoirs is a facsimile signature. He signed no copies of the book.

GRANT AS PRESIDENT

When did he serve as President? Grant was President from 1869-1877.

What Party? Grant was a Republican.

Who was his opponent in 1868? Horatio Seymour of Indiana.

Who was his opponent in 1872? Horace Greeley of New York.

What were the electoral and popular votes? In 1868, Grant won 214 electoral votes and 3,012,833 votes. In 1872, Grant won 286 electoral votes and 3,597,132 votes.

GRANT'S DEATH

When did Grant Die? Grant died on July 23, 1885.

What did he die of? He died of throat cancer.

How did he spend his last months? Grant spent the last year of his life writing a book, *The Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant*.

The book was a huge success and made his widow a wealthy woman.



The National Park Service

Ulysses S. Grant

National Historic Site

Established as a unit of the National Park Service in 1990, the park commemorates the life, military career, and Presidency of Ulysses S. Grant, as well as his wife Julia Dent Grant. The site, also known as White Haven, consists of 9.65 acres holding five historic structures (main house, stone building, barn, chicken house, and ice house).



Ulysses S. Grant



Julia Dent Grant

VISITATION:

19,000 annually; highest in summer months, lowest in the winter.

visitors to this page since 11/22/99.

LOCATION:

St. Louis, MO

ADDRESS:

Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site
7400 Grant Road
St. Louis, MO 63123-1801

TELEPHONE:

(314)842-3298

OPERATING HOURS, SEASONS:

Daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed Thanksgiving Day, December 25, and January 1.

Daughter of Frederick and Ellen Wrenshall Dent, Julia had grown up on a plantation near St. Louis in a typically Southern atmosphere. In memoirs prepared late in life--unpublished until 1975--she pictured her girlhood as an idyll: "one long summer of sunshine, flowers, and smiles. . . . "She attended the Misses Mauros' boarding school in St. Louis for seven years among the daughters of other affluent parents. A social favorite in that circle, she met "Ulys" at her home, where her family welcomed him as a West Point classmate of her brother Frederick; soon she felt lonely without him, dreamed of him, and agreed to wear his West Point ring.



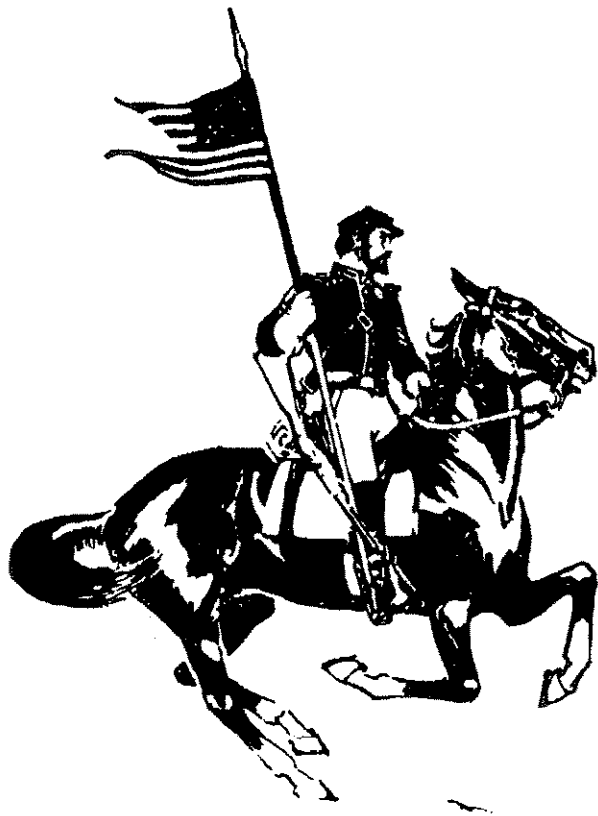
Julia Dent Grant
1826—1902

Julia and her handsome lieutenant became engaged in 1844, but the Mexican War deferred the wedding for four long years. Their marriage, often tried by adversity, met every test; they gave each other a life-long loyalty. Like other army wives, "dearest Julia" accompanied her husband to military posts, to pass uneventful days at distant garrisons. Then she returned to his parents' home in 1852 when he was ordered to the West.

Ending that separation, Grant resigned his commission two years later. Farming and business ventures at St. Louis failed, and in 1860 he took his family--four children now--back to his home in Galena, Illinois. He was working in his father's leather goods store when the Civil War called him to a soldier's duty with his state's volunteers. Throughout the war, Julia joined her husband near the scene of action whenever she could.

After so many years of hardship and stress, she rejoiced in his fame as a victorious general, and she entered the White House in 1869 to begin, in her words, "the happiest period" of her life. With Cabinet wives as her allies, she entertained extensively and lavishly. Contemporaries noted her finery, jewels and silks and laces. Upon leaving the White House in 1877, the Grants made a trip around the world that became a journey of triumphs. Julia proudly recalled details of hospitality and magnificent gifts they received.

But in 1884 Grant suffered yet another business failure and they lost all they had. To provide for his wife, Grant wrote his famous personal memoirs, racing with time and death from cancer. The means thus afforded and her widow's pension enabled her to live in comfort, surrounded by children and grandchildren, till her own death in 1902. She had attended in 1897 the dedication of Grant's monumental tomb in New York City where she was laid to rest. She had ended her own chronicle of their years together with a firm declaration: "the light of his glorious fame still reaches out to me, falls upon me, and warms me."



Cleveland Civil War Roundtable PO Box 18900 Cleveland, OH 44118

Ulysses S. Grant
From
*The Wilderness to
Cold Harbor*

**Wednesday
February 9, 2000**

