



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P. O. BOX 5028, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

---

FEBRUARY 1972

Vol. 15 No. 6

---

\_\_\_\_\_ 124th Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1972

SPEAKER: MR. LEIGH TANGER

SUBJECT: "MULES TO MISSILES"

PLACE: THE HERMIT CLUB, DODGE COURT

PRELIMINARIES: 6 PM DINNER 7PM

---

LEIGH G. TANGER

It's been too long, but we finally got one of our own to speak before his fellow experts. You can't think a fellow member more qualified to speak on the subject than Leigh Tanger. Leigh joined us officially in 1969, but had been to meetings prior as a guest. He had even joined us on a fieldtrip as a guest. As an inveterate field-tripper myself may I say that Leigh is a welcome addition to any fieldtrip, guest or as a member. However, I was pointing out that no one in our group is more qualified than Leigh to talk about his subject. Here's what I mean:

Dog Tag: Leigh G. Tanger 32026735  
60 Park Ave. Rochester, N.Y.  
M Type "A" P

Inducted: Jan 1940

Discharged: Oct 1945

First nine months Troop D, 16th Quartermaster Squadron,  
First Cavalry Division, Ft. Bliss, Texas.

Winner: American Defense Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal  
Expert Rifle, Pistol and Carbine.

Troop D 16th Quartermaster Squadron was a mule pack outfit, long associated with cavalry operations in the West, campaigns in the Philippines, Cuba, Canal Zone, First World War, Pershing Punitive Expedition, etc. Troops A, B, and C were motorized before 1940. Two platoons of Troop D were in service but not up to strength at this time. Two more platoons were authorized and eventually mounted and equipped before the Division departed for Australia.

NOW LEAD ME TO THOSE "%%&'()\* MULES.....

## CLEVELAND CWRT BULLETIN BOARD

### DUES

THEY WERE DUE BY FEBRUARY 1st. If you sent your dues in already, except our heartfelt thanks. If you haven't -- then what the hell are you waiting on -- the dues for regular members is \$15.00, out of town members is \$5.00 and junior members is \$5.00. Please send them in-- we can sure use the money. If you wish a subscription to the Civil War Quarterly, please add an additional \$6.50.

### SPRING FIELDTRIP

The Round Table will be off on another co-ed spring fieldtrip sometime in May. Most probably in late May and on a Saturday. The exact date will be announced at the February meeting and in the March, April and May newsletters. We will be using the CTS Executive Coach which limits the passengers to 28. This year space will be sold in advance and on a first come first served basis. Exact cost figures are yet to be calculated but somewhere in the neighborhood of \$25-30.00 per couple. Aren't you even curious as to where we are going? Come to the February meeting and find out. I'll give you a hint. He had seven sons.

### FALL FIELDTRIP

### NOTHING TO REPORT

\*\*\*\*\*

### BOOK SALE

There has been a rising tide of member (more than one but less than five) who wish to know when our next book sale will be held. I'm willing if you are. The books have to come from your libraries. Being as our membership is the best read in the poorhouse a limit of no more than \$3.00 per book will be imposed. Those books you wish to sell for \$3.00 or less please contact me (Guy Di Carlo for benefit of the rookie members) so I can fill you in on the details. If you're not sure what price to charge --just ask --I do instant appraisals on the phone. Clue--The Catton books generally go for \$2 and most biographies from \$2 to \$3.00. Actually the book sale is more like "swap & shop."

### GENERAL SHERMAN'S GIRL FRIEND?

The District of Columbia's CWRT has appealed for assistance in a Civil War mystery. Editor William P. (Bill) Jones, 319 Van Buren St., Falls Church, Virginia 22046.

The December newsletter quoted a letter from Dr. Lawrance S. Thompson, Professor of Classics at the University of Kentucky, to the Washington Post concerning a diary of memoirs of a "camp-follower" friend of General Sherman which allegedly was being suppressed by the Defense Department. Dr. Thompson's letter previously had been published in the Kentucky and Hagerstown CWRT newsletters. Now at least one other newsletter has picked it up and said that Thompson had confirmation from a "reliable source" that the diary exists. This can snowball.

Our January speaker, James Blount of Hamilton, Ohio, has been an Army officer on active duty, and twice has served on the Army General Staff. He believes that it is ludicrous to suppose that at this late date those in authority in the Army or Defense Department would care one way or another about Sherman's moral reputation. Some of them would be amused and perhaps even admire him for his virility and human weakness.

The Army's Office of Military History told Jim that long ago all Civil War records were turned over to the National Archives. The latter agency assured Jim that since 1953, when the Baker-Turner papers were declassified and made public, no Civil War documents have remained classified. Neither agency consulted had heard of the alledged diary or memoirs. Anyone wishing to obtain the facts directly should write to the following address:

Old Military Records Division  
National Archives & Record Service  
Washington, D. C. 20408

THE COURIER  
OF  
THE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE OF CLEVELAND, OHIO

FOUNDED FEBRUARY 19, 1957

PRESIDENT  
VICE PRESIDENT  
SECRETARY  
TREASURER

BERNARD DREWS  
ARTHUR JORDAN  
GUY DI CARLO JR.  
NOLAN HEIDLEBAUGH

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 1971: EARL HOOVER  
CLEVELAND LANE  
1972: THOMAS GRETTER  
LEIGH TANGER

---

GUY DI CARLO JR., EDITOR, P.O. BOX 5028, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

---

The most troublesome men, are those overrighteous people who see no motive in other people's actions but evil motives, who believe all public life is corrupt, and nothing is well done unless they do it themselves.

U. S. GRANT

This month's newsletter is devoted to the Ulysses S. Grant Association and its director, Mr. John Y. Simon, for their efforts in bringing a noble work to all serious students of American History. To date the Association has published three volumes entitled THE PAPERS OF ULYSSES S. GRANT. Volume 1 was published in 1967 and covers the first thirty-nine years of Grant's career (1837-1861). Volume 2 covers the important first months from April to September, 1861 of the Civil War. Volume 3 was published in 1970 covers from October 1, 1861 to January 7, 1862. These volumes are available for purchase at \$15 a piece from the Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale, Illinois 62901.

In addition the Association puts out a beautifully written quarterly newsletter. From time to time articles from that newsletter will appear in this newsletter. This quarterly newsletter of the Association is available to members of the Cleveland CWRT at no cost to any member requesting same. The address: THE ULYSSES S. GRANT ASSOC., Morris Library, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois, 62901. Be sure to mention you are a round table member. Also I hasten to add another thought, that John and his associates are always searching for materials written by Grant or addressed to him. If you know of any please contact John, he would be most appreciative.

To gain a better idea of the struggle to accomplish such a monumental task as the Grant Papers, I am quoting a review article by Haskell Monroe, that appeared in the JOURNAL OF THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Winter issue of 1968.

THE GRANT PAPERS

by

Haskell Monroe, Texas A&M University  
Editor, The Papers of Jefferson Davis

A comparatively unknown group of advisors is coordinating the most significant historical scholarship in progress today. This group, the National Historical Publications Commission, headquartered in the National Archives building in Washington, assists and encourages documentary projects which are under way at almost forty university campuses and historical societies. Out of these projects will come comprehensive editions of the works of great American leaders, providing students of United States history with an unequalled body of reliable primary materials. Many new insights countless hitherto unknown details, and some impressive new interpretations have come

from the documentary works published thus far. One of the many volumes which demonstrate both the importance and the quality of these documentary efforts is the first volume of THE PAPERS OF ULYSSES S. GRANT. Careful study of this work reveals the impact such books will have on historical scholarship for many generations to come.

Much of the impetus behind this scholarship comes from the National Historical Publications Commission, created in 1934. In 1964 both the authority and funding of the commission were increased, and its members made plans to assume a more decisive role in documentary scholarship. About that time the United States Civil War Centennial Commission, headed by Allan Nevins, was in the midst of its work to commemorate that tragic conflict. Among the goals of that commission was the publication of volumes which would better enable future generations to understand the sectional struggle. Out of that desire came the decision to support and encourage the preparation of definitive editions of papers relating to Ulysses S. Grant and Jefferson Davis. But even before the Civil War Commission endorsed the work on Grant, that project already enjoyed the backing of state Civil War centennial commissions representing Ohio, Illinois, and New York, the three states which could claim the General as a resident. On May 3, 1962, the late Robert S. Harper, then secretary of the Ohio Civil War Commission, had hosted a meeting of representatives from the three states, plus Nevins and E. B. Long, the well-known Civil War researcher. A number of spokesmen, particularly Long, vigorously and articulately urged the commissioners to give immediate attention to the Grant project. The group responded to these exhortations with a unanimous agreement to sponsor and endorse the collecting, editing, and publishing of the collected works of Grant. The three state commissions proceeded to create the Ulysses S. Grant Association, with an Illinois charter as a not-for-profit corporation. At a subsequent meeting the group selected corporate officers and an editorial board.

Beginning the work with a modest sum from the three states which initiated the project, the Grant association selected John Y. Simon of the history faculty at Ohio State University to edit the projected series. Simon, a native of Illinois, began work on September 1, 1962, in offices made available at Columbus, Ohio, by the Ohio Historical Society. The cooperation and support of members of the Grant family, especially the late Ulysses S. Grant III, and his sister Julia Cantacuzene, made Simon's task of locating Grant materials much easier: they not only made a vast treasure of hitherto unused private family papers available to the association but also assisted in obtaining permission for the editorial staff to make use of other Grant manuscripts previously unavailable to scholars.

As enthusiasm for the Civil War centennial began to wane, funds for the Grant project became more difficult to obtain. At about the same time the Ohio State Library and the Ohio Historical Society became embroiled in a teapot tempest over a collection of immodest private letters relating to Warren G. Harding. The two problems in the Buckeye State -- inadequate funding and the indiscretions of Harding -- resulted in the migration of the Grant project to Illinois. In the midst of this frustrating period, Delyte W. Morris, president of Southern Illinois University, learned of the plight of the Grant project. He and the history faculty of SIU joined in a generous invitation to the Grant association to move to Carbondale, and Simon began work in new editorial quarters on the campus in the Morris Library. At the same time, Southern Illinois University Press agreed to publish the volumes in the projected Grant series. Much credit for the solution of these problems of finance and housing should be given to Ralph G. Newman, the Chicago bibliophile and president of the Grant association whose political tact and skill helped to steer the project off the reefs of financial insecurity and Harding family emotions.

The first volume of GRANT PAPERS, published in 1967, is a tribute to the dreams of many persons who contributed manuscripts, money, influence, and good will to the project. It covers the first thirty-nine years of Grant's career; by the time of the last item in the volume -- December, 1860 -- the former army captain had joined his father's firm in Galena, Illinois, and was beginning to know the territory of western Illinois, southern Wisconsin, and western Iowa, as a traveling salesman of leather goods and real estate.

Throughout the years of preparation of this volume, the National Historical Publications Commission gave Simon and his staff the benefit of its resources. These included the assistance of a cooperative and efficient office force, which helped to locate, arrange, and duplicate Grant materials in the National Archives. Handy B. Fan, the commission's tireless researcher, located many scattered Grant letters in the

Library of Congress which would have eluded a less patient searcher. The NHPC also granted sorely needed funds to help sustain the Grant work through some of the project's times of financial need. Through all of the Grant association's existence, Oliver W. Holmes, the executive director of the National Historical Publications Commission, encouraged, cajoled, and counseled the editor -- as he does for so many of the NHPC's documentary efforts -- and he helped immeasurably in the production of this fine volume.

This salmon-colored publication contains thirty-nine pages of prefatory material and 458 pages of published documents and an index. A succinct foreword by Newman and prefaces by Bruce Catton and Nevins, plus a lengthy list of acknowledgments, carry the reader into Simon's brief introduction of the work at hand. Here, the editor has sketched the history of Grant's personal papers. Central in this narrative is the importance of Grant manuscripts in the Library of Congress and the National Archives. At this point the role of the NHPC is apparent once more, for it helped to make this vast body of letters and documents available to Simon.

Quantitatively, the materials in this volume are impressive. Two hundred and twenty-one items are printed in full in the body of the book. Of this number, all but twenty relate to Grant's fifteen years of military service which began at West Point in 1839 and ended with his resignation from the army in 1854. Only about twenty percent of these materials have been printed prior to their appearance in this volume. Thus the student now may learn a great deal more about this unusual man -- particularly about his army career, which legend long has pictured as a period of drunken failure. Of course, the truth is nothing of the sort -- and is far more interesting than the myths. Only eight documents relate to his days at West Point, where he graduated in 1843, twenty-first in a class of thirty-nine. Within a year of his formal acceptance of a commission as brevet second lieutenant in July, 1843, he began to write to Julia Dent. The volume contains 109 of his letters to her, the first dated June 4, 1844, and the last December 21, 1860; they were married on August 22, 1848. This group of communications seems to reveal the true character of the leader who learned first to overcome frustration and later to lead the Union to victory in the awesome sectional struggle.

Grant poured out his heart to Julia regularly, even when she failed to reply to his letters, as she often did. Grant's letters record his abiding, constant yearning for her, his patience, and his ability to prevent difficulty from overcoming his good intentions. Few believers in the myth of the hard-crusted Civil War general will fail to be surprised when they read letters to his fiancée which closed with such lines as the following: "The letters I get from you I keep with me generally about a week so that I can read them over and over again when ever I am by myself -- then I put them in my chest"; "I felt as unhappy Dear Julia after leaving you as I did happy upon seeing you first. The whole way, I done nothing but think of you, and of how happy I should be at our next meeting." Few attempts to describe the depth of a man's love for his intended can surpass the letter of November 7, 1846, from "Monteray." In that note Grant began by telling Julia, "I got one of the sweetest letters from you a few days ago that I have had for a long time and the least I can do in return is to write you at least three pages in return; even if I have nothing more to write than that I love you, and how very much." He concluded, "When you wrote kiss on your letter I kissed before I knew whether you had kissed it or not, and frequently after."

These letters also reflect Grant's enduring concern for his young son Frederick Dent Grant, born in 1850. Soon after that date, every letter home reflected his affection for the "little dog," as Grant sometimes called the boy. "Kiss dear little Fred, evry night for his pa." "Don't gorget to write soon and often tell me all about yourself and Fred. Tell me what new words Fred, learns to say." After Ulysses was born, Grant wrote, "Kiss our little boys for me. Talk to them a great deel about their pa."

The war with Mexico confronted this young officer with the realities of combat for the first time. On a few occasions he noted his sympathy for the poor Mexicans, who seemed to have few opportunities for life's pleasures. Yet it must be admitted that Grant sometimes expressed an Anglo-American's attitude of superiority toward the Latins (the Grant gamily has required the deletion of "unfavorable reactions to the Mexican people"). But after his first exposure in battle against the Mexicans, Grant revealed that the experience was not as he had anticipated. "There is no great sport in having bullets flying about one in evry direction but I find they have less horror," he assured Julia, "when among them than when in anticipation." A few days later, as if

to reassure his waiting fiancée, the Lieutenant begged, "Do not feel alarmed about me my Dear Julia for there is not half the horrors in war that you imagine." Finally, in June, 1846, he described the battles the Americans had won along the Rio Grande. This narrative is a fine account of men in battle, and Grant probably spoke for many of his comrades when he concluded, "You want to know what my feelings were on the field of battle! I do not know that I felt any peculiar sensation. War seems much less horrible to persons engaged in it than to those who read of the battles." In the same fashion, fighting men from every age would echo his yearnings just after the capture of Monterey. "I am getting very tired of this war, and particularly impatient of being separated from one I love so much, but I think before I see another birthday I shall see Julia, and if she says so, be able to call her my own."

The Mexican War awakened the emotions of Ulysses Grant to the tragedies of life -- a fellow officer with his jaw shot away, the sadness of the defeated populace south of the Rio Grande, and the agonizing loneliness of combat in a distant land. Late in 1846 the officer who, as congressman, had appointed Grant to West Point died from combat wounds. To the widow, Grant wrote a model note of succinct and poignant sadness. "He died as a soldier dies, without fear and without a murmur. His regret was that, if death must come, it should not come to him on the field of battle. He was mindful to the last of all of those at home who would most suffer. He died within the sound of battle, and that was a pleasure to him as a brave soldier." After having described the deceased hero, Grant was able to contain his own sadness in a brief sentence, "Personally, his death is a loss to me which no words can express." Such experiences soon purged this man of any of the exhilaration for combat which he had carried to the battlefield. Finally, after joining the triumphal march into Mexico City and noting the agonizing duration of the absence from loved ones at home, he concluded: "So you see it is not so easy to get out of the wars as it is to get into them."

In his travels as an officer, Grant was a keen observer of the lands and the people he visited. The capital of Mexico seemed especially attractive to him. "Mexico is one of the most beautiful cities in the world and being the capital no wonder that the Mexicans should have fought desperately to save it....No country was ever so blessed by nature." This same interest in the terrain often led him to study the agricultural possibilities of the areas he visited. In California and Oregon he ventured into farming to bolster his officer's salary, but these efforts usually led to dismal economic failures. In each instance he was hoping to earn additional income to enable him to bring his family to live on the post with him. When these labors failed, generally because of the unpredictability of nature or Grant's willingness to make loans to his comrades, there was every reason for him to become dejected. But he never permitted himself this luxury. Instead, he remained steadfastly determined to achieve success -- success which would include enough of the material benefits of life to provide a respectable and pleasant life for his family. This determination finally caused him to resign from the army in 1854. By the time of the climactic presidential election in the fall of 1860, he had moved to Galena, Illinois. Perhaps the search for financial security for his family was the primary cause for his efforts again to secure a military commission the following year -- a decision which altered his own and his nation's destiny.

The reader who studies the materials on the pages of this volume will become impressed with the sensitivity of Grant as he endured loneliness, financial reverses, and the rigidity of the military seniority system. His letters illustrate his scrupulous concern for the public funds in his custody, his attention to the routine of duties as regimental quartermaster (although he complained that these duties might keep him in camp while his messmates were in battle), and his sympathy for persons less fortunate than himself. Nowhere did he express this last attribute more clearly than in a letter from "Tacabaya" early in 1848. After telling Julia of the geographical beauty of the region, he continued: "I pity poor Mexico. With a soil and climate scarcely equaled in the world she has more poor and starving subjects who are willing and able to work than any country in the world. The rich keep down the poor with a hardness of heart that is incredible."

A wide diversity of institutions and individuals permitted the duplication of items in their collections for this volume. In addition to the 221 documents printed in full, 483 others are abstracted in the "Calendar" section. That the overwhelming majority of these materials is in the National Archives or the Library of Congress is one more indication of the importance of the National Historical Publications Commission in a publication of this sort. Twenty-nine repositories and eight private collec-



tors are represented by items in this work. In addition, the volume contains thirty documents for which no manuscript version is known to exist but which were printed in full in earlier works. Unique items in these pages are reproductions of eight artistic works by Grant: two oil paintings, two watercolors, and four drawings. Just as the personal letters convey the impression of a sensitive, gentle man, these products of his third and second class years at West Point demonstrate his more than modest ability with brush and pencil.

The layout and design of the volume are commendable. Explanatory notes have been placed at the end of each document. These notes are concise but lucid, and convey the information needed by the reader. The Calendar of less important materials appears at the end and is perhaps less useful than it might have been if these materials had been interspersed in the body of the work. But the editor has done a splendid job in selecting what to print in full and what to abstract. The director of each documentary project faces the difficulty of what to do with peripheral matter, and Simon seems to have made an auspicious beginning in his handling of this problem.

The Grant family has given him one handicap, however, for they have required some deletions from the family letters -- a decision they should reconsider for the sake of a more complete understanding of the man and his times.

Reviewers of this volume have found much to praise and little to criticize, but the most frequent of the criticisms concerns these family-imposed deletions. The most outspoken negative comment about THE GRANT PAPERS reflected upon the wisdom of an edition of Grant's works in the first place. This critic had no doubt of the quality of the craftsmanship. "It will probably be a superior structure in workmanship, if not in mass. This is admittedly prophecy, but it is based on the reputation of the distinguished literary engineers in charge of the job. It is beyond belief that the firm of Simon, Newman, Catton & Nevins would turn out anything less than a work of high quality and this initial offering justifies the assumption." Yet he wondered if the "motivation of the project is a feeling that if other dead Pharaohs are to be encased in monumental literary structures, Grant, too, is entitled to his pyramid." Agreeing that this volume and those to follow would greatly assist researchers, he even admitted that the edition "may discourage the propagation of some myths, but this seems rather meager a reward for an effort so prodigious." Finally, he wondered if the series would not result in proving that Grant was like the Roman emperor Galba, "He fought well, he died well, and he ruled badly."

The evaluation in the most prestigious American historical journal praised "this impressive volume" but asserted that the materials therein would not significantly alter previous evaluation of Grant, although they would amplify understanding of those years. In conclusion, the reviewer stated that historians would use the materials in this volume and "welcome them as indispensable to the full Grant story, ...approve the intelligent editing, ...profit from the two prefaces by Bruce Catton and Nevins, ...appreciate the handsome illustrations and format, and ...say 'well begun' to all concerned with this fine project."

Another scholar concurred in this evaluation and phrased a terse but appropriate summary of the importance of Grant's antebellum years. "His genuine warmth of heart, modesty, and imperturbability remained constant; and a resolute, self-reliant character was molded in these formative years...In short, he learned first to master himself." This reviewer praised the editing of the documents and recorded his wish for the future of the project: "In sum, a satisfying start has been made in this eagerly awaited project, and it is to be hoped that succeeding volumes will adhere to the high standards set in the initial one." Other historical journals have contained similar comments. One thought the work "ably edited and annotated," and added, "The series will add immeasurably to our understanding of the eighteenth President of the United States. A West Coast publication contained a summary which asserted that this "most delightful first volume" constituted "a marked contribution" which was a "concrete outgrowth of the Civil War Centennial." According to this reviewer, the importance of the volume was primarily due to the fact that the documents had been printed in their pristine form, where "Grant's questionable spelling ability adds to the charm of this collection." Other commentators added similar evaluations after studying the volume.

The significance of the project has been demonstrated by the general interest aroused by this first volume. Although one writer likened Grant to Galba, others have been more sympathetic. Even in Great Britain, reviews have been highly favorable. One librarian thought that the project was essential because of the role it would play in

affording a clearer understanding of the nineteenth century. "This collection, when complete, will be definitive, and will help to assure General Grant his proper place in history as an extraordinary man who had his share of human failings, but had an inner strength." Another non-historian saw significance in what the series would show about human nature, as exemplified in such an individual as Grant. "He dispensed with rhetoric, ordered his thoughts in a clear array, and expressed them to the point ...speaking for himself ...(as) a man of quick feelings and perceptions, very much alive to what went on about him." Thus, with those insights into human nature combined with the quality of the editing, this reviewer asserted, "This is an enterprise of archival importance, of course, but if the first book is any indication of what is to come, it will have a most lively interest."

A brief resume of the book in the American Quarterly offered what maybe the best evaluation among all of the reviews. The reviewer noted the quality of the editing, the "indispensable notes," and then explained how the letters made Ulysses S. Grant a thoroughly understandable figure. "Many of the letters presage the spare clarity characteristic of Grant's MEMOIRS. Although the traditional image of a shy and reticent man finds support here, these early papers also reveal a more significant strain of loneliness and compassion, not unlike that found in Lincoln."

All of these reviewers expressed their personal interest in the works still to come from the Grant project. They will not have to wait long, for Simon and his staff have been able to deliver copy for the second volume to the publisher. This tome will cover less than a year, but it is an epochal year for both Grant and the Union. By the last weeks of 1861, recognition of his ability had led to his rapid rise amid the almost chaotic efforts to subdue the seceding states of the South.

The fact that the time lapse between the first and second volumes of this admirable series will be comparatively short is much to the credit of Simon and his associates. With limited personnel and funding, they have diligently pursued their goal and have done their task well. Everyone who works in the middle period of our nation's history from this time forward will be grateful for the quality of their work. The confidence of the NHPC in this documentary venture has been amply justified. There is no reason to doubt that this long labor will be completed in the fine manner in which it has been started.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### COLONEL GRANT OF THE ILLINOIS VOLUNTEERS

by

John Y. Simon

(Taken from ILLINOIS CIVIL WAR SKETCHES)

"After news of the firing on Fort Sumter reached Galena, Illinois, in April, 1861, townspeople began to take a new look at the former officer who stood behind the counter of the Jesse R. Grant leather store. Ulysses S. Grant held a clerkship in the store owned by his father, in which Grant, along with his younger brothers Simpson and Orvil, sold finished leather products and bought hides for tanning elsewhere. He was paid the modest sum of \$600 yearly, with an agreement with his father for an eventual partnership. The Grants lived modestly in a rented house atop a bluff, but there was a servant to help Julia, and the four children were never aware of financial problems.

Grant had come to Galena about a year earlier after six years in the St. Louis area where ill health and poor farm prices had ruined his Hard-scrabble farm venture, and a series of city jobs had not worked out. Now Galenians looked beyond that to ex-Captain Grant's fifteen years in the army, his West Point education, and his service in the Mexican War. Men with professional military experience were rare, and Captain Grant could give important service, if willing to fight.

The war clarified Grant's uncertain politics. Influenced both by an antislavery father and a militantly proslavery father-in-law, he had voted in the 1856 presidential election for the Democrat James Buchanan largely because of personal objections to the Republican candidate John C. Fremont. Although he had not lived in Illinois long enough to be a qualified voter in the presidential election of 1860, his neighbors believed him to be a Democrat. Any doubts about Grant's determination to fight would have faded had Galenians seen Grant's letter to his father-in-law. "I know it is hard for men to apparently work with the Republican Party," he wrote, "but now all



party distinctions should be lost sight of and every true patriot be for maintaining the integrity of the glorious old STARS AND STRIPES, the Constitution and the Union. ...I tell you there is no mistaking the feelings of the people. ...In all this I can but see the doom of slavery." In a letter to his own father, a staunchly antislavery resident of Kentucky, Grant said: "My advice would be to leave where you are if you are not safe with the views you entertain." He repeated his patriotic sentiments: "Whatever may have been my political opinions before I have but one sentiment now. That is we have a Government, and laws and a flag and they must all be sustained. There are but two parties now, Traitors & Patriots and I want hereafter to be ranked with the latter."

After the first war rally in Galena, Grant declared his intention to join the army. He was taken under the wing of the powerful local Republican congressman, Elihu B. Washburne, who arranged for Grant to preside over the rally held in response to President Abraham Lincoln's call for troops and watched Grant drill the Jo Daviess Guards on the front lawn of his mansion. Grant declined to stand for captain of the guards, but pledged continued aid to the company while giving assurances that he would volunteer if war came. While drilling, clothing, and equipping the Galena volunteers, Grant became better known to the local Republican leaders, who gave him letters of introduction to Governor Richard Yates.

When Grant arrived in Springfield with recommendations from important Republican leaders of Jo Daviess County, he encountered competition for command from a host of soldiers and politicians with similar backing. Ill-will between Grant's patron Washburne, and Governor Yates made his position more difficult. Grant's West Point education and Regular Army service gave him the viewpoint of a military professional. He knew that there were certain proper procedures for raising, training, and leading an army. But this was a people's war, led by civilians; in those early days many up-and-coming politicians angled for command; nobody had forgotten the hero of New Orleans or Old Tippecanoe.

Grant marched the Jo Daviess Guards through Springfield to Camp Yates on the edge of town. There they were mustered in by Captain John Pope, an old acquaintance of Grant's, and the son of one of the most influential men in Illinois. Expecting to be a general himself, Pope offered to help Grant gain a commission. "I declined," Grant said later, "to receive endorsement for permission to fight for my country." Grant's position was commendable, but he soon had reason to doubt its practicality. In a room in Springfield which he shared with Augustus Chetlain, captain of the Jo Daviess Guards, Grant waited for a call that was slow in coming: "I find that all those places are wanted by politicians who are up to log-rolling."

When Congressman Washburne himself had taken Grant to see Yates, the governor did not find Grant impressive and said he had nothing available. Just what happened next cannot be discovered because of conflicting accounts. Certainly if all those who later claimed to have seen something remarkable in Grant at first meeting had actually done so, Grant would have been commissioned immediately. As it was, Yates finally called on the state's adjutant general Colonel T.S. Mather, and asked if he had a job for Grant. Mather said that he had nothing except a two-dollar-a-day clerkship that involved copying orders and drawing red lines on blank sheets of paper, nothing fit for a West Pointer. Grant said he would take it anyway, and Yates made him a member of his staff.

Grant was discouraged as he performed his paltry duties, but increasingly the governor's associates were learning that Grant gave sound advice on military procedure. He was actually filling the role of aide to the governor. When many more men volunteered after Sumter than Lincoln had called for, Illinois organized ten additional regiments of one-month volunteers to stand by in case of need. These were the troops of uncertain status about which Yates needed Grant's advice. Yates thought of Grant when he needed a mustering officer and commander to replace Captain Pope at Camp Yates. As mustering officer, Grant was called "Colonel," though he wore civilian clothes; perhaps the most favorable aspect was the raise to \$4.20 per day and the chance to deal with soldiers rather than papers.

Grant sent subordinates to muster in some of the new regiments, but went himself to Belleville in southern Illinois. He did this in order to visit St. Louis, where Nathaniel Lyon and Frank Blair were in the midst of an exciting struggle to save the city from secession sympathizers. Grant thought he might find a command in St. Louis through old friends, but he was disappointed.

Back in Illinois, he mustered in the Seventh District Regiment at Mattoon. There, Colonel Simon S. Goode of Decatur, wearing three revolvers and a bowie knife, boasted of his exploits in Nicaragua and had a handy store of quotations from Napoleon, but his men discovered that he had little deeper knowledge of army procedure or warfare. Quiet Colonel Grant was a refreshing change, and the troops named their camp for him.

By May 22, the mustering was complete. Grant returned to Galena, where he wrote to Adjutant General Lorenzo Thomas in Washington: "I would say that in view of my present age, and length of service, I feel myself competent to command a Regiment if the President in his judgement should see fit to entrust one to me." Back in Springfield, waiting for the reply which would never come, Grant had nothing to do. He thought of General George B. McClellan, whom he had known in Mexico and at Fort Vancouver, Washington, and who now commanded the Ohio Volunteers. Ostensibly visiting his father in Covington, Kentucky, Grant visited McClellan's busy office in Cincinnati, Ohio, looking for a staff appointment. He left after spending the better part of two days in McClellan's headquarters without seeing the general. Visiting old friends in his boyhood home of Georgetown, Ohio, Grant spoke of the possibility of supplying bread to the Ohio Volunteers. But this was to be a last resort, and on his way back to Springfield he stopped at Terre Haute, Indiana, to see an old friend, Joseph Reynolds, now a brigadier general of Indiana Volunteers, who greeted him warmly but had no commission for him. Grant had steadfastly refused endorsements and help from powerful politicians; he was available if needed for command. Grant's thoughts as he returned to Springfield were painful; four states and the federal government had declined his services.

However, in the interim, a telegram had arrived addressed to Grant at Covington. His father forwarded it to Indiana too late. It was not until Grant reached Springfield that he learned that Governor Yates had finally offered him a commission. The officers of the Seventh District Regiment had told Yates of chaos in their ranks; the thirty-day volunteers would not re-enlist under the preposterous Colonel Goode. The men had rioted because of their food, burned the guardhouse, and caroused through town. "There wasn't a chicken within four miles of us," boasted a sergeant. Yates ordered the regiment to Springfield and provided as a new commander the former mustering officer. Although Grant was now offered a commission by Ohio as well, he chose Illinois.

The farm boys who had enlisted with a combination of patriotism and high spirits were willing to fight but not to drill, and discipline was odious. To date they had exercised their belligerency on their own officers, and their well-intentioned but unprepared Colonel Goode had been driven into premature retirement. Grant had no experience with volunteer troops; still his men would have to meet regular requirements of training before they met the enemy. Bringing them to standard discipline would take time and patience. Grant's first formal order to his men announced that he would require the support of the officers, and added that he had "hopes" for the support of the enlisted men. Indeed, "hopes" were as far as Grant could stretch his expectation. The slouchy new colonel, unimpressively dressed in civilian clothes, arrived by horsecar, and struck the farm boys as a natural target for their high spirits; one boy crept behind him and knocked off his hat. However, they soon learned that Grant meant business. He told them that official power would be fairly administered, but some who ignored it were strung up by their thumbs.

The colonel showed that he had moral strength. One rough private, nicknamed "Mexico," was sent by Grant to the guardhouse as drunk and disorderly. He threatened Grant, saying that for every spare minute there he would have an ounce of Grant's blood. Grant calmly ordered him gagged. Later, Colonel Grant, by himself, released "Mexico," without difficulty. "Mexico" was later caught concealing liquor and was discharged before the regiment left the state. Nonetheless, he had rendered good service to his regiment. Now the boys no longer wanted to test Grant, but this did not solve all discipline problems. Although they wanted to be good soldiers, the boys did not see why they should not sneak out of camp at night in search of liquor and adventure. Indeed, Grant noted "with regret," that one night some of the men on guard had crept away and as a result had to be put into confinement. Grant taught his men so well that in time the camp guards were abolished.

Only eleven days after Grant took command, his men had a big decision to make. Their one-month enlistments would soon be up. The 1,250 volunteers originally enrolled in the Seventh District Regiment had already dwindled to half that number; the rest would now go home unless they signed on for three years -- something none had

originally anticipated. This time, they would be expected to fight. On the day of decision, Grant had help from two Illinois Democratic congressmen, John A. McClernand and John A. Logan. McClernand, representing Lincoln's home district, would later serve under Grant and become one of his principal headaches. Logan, from southern Illinois, was a prized speaker because of his pre-war politics had been so pro-southern that there had been fears that he might join the Confederate Army. Logan would also fight under Grant, and unlike McClernand, would earn Grant's respect. Both Congressmen made conventional speeches in a patriotic vein, but Logan then shifted to ridicule in depicting the triumphal return of a volunteer forced to confess that he had gone no farther sought than Mattoon. As a result of the speeches, 603 men, virtually all who remained in camp, volunteered for three years. Proud and excited, they called on their colonel for a speech. Grant responded with five words: "Men, go to your quarters."

The Seventh District Regiment became the 21st Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment. The regiment was ordered to Quincy, Illinois, preparatory to moving into Missouri, where there was real war. Grant surprised Yates by saying that his regiment would march the hundred miles to Quincy. Most commanders imposed further on the state's already overburdened railroads. Grant's decision, however, was based on the need for training; marching through their home state, the troops would acquire familiarity with life in the field.

The first afternoon's march of some eight miles brought the regiment to camp at Riddle Hill, where Grant wrote his first field orders on a freakishly horizontal low walnut branch. Then the next day the regiment came upon a Fourth of July celebration at Island Grove, the home of a wealthy Republican farmer, Captain James N. Brown. Invited to bring his men for dinner, Grant declined because he knew that there would not beenough food for all. Men who had not eaten a good meal for over a month were not happy. But all in all, the march did much good. True, Colonel Grant did have to rebuke some officers who left the ranks in Jacksonville, and, on another occasion, an inspection of canteens revealed many filled with something stronger than water; but the march moved the regiment considerably closer to the colonel's concept of discipline.

When Grant reached Naples, on the Illinois River, orders were changed; he would now wait for a steamboat to proceed to St. Louis. When the steamboat stuck on a sandbar above Naples, there was another change, and the regiment eventually reached Quincy by rail after all. There Grant sent home his oldest son, Frederick, aged eleven, who had been with his father on the march. Grant was surprised and amused, after the boy had gone, to learn that Mrs. Grant had no objection to her son's going with his father to war; after all, she said, Alexander the Great was no older when he accompanied Philip of Macedon.

Ordered to relieve an Illinois regiment reported surrounded west of Palmyra, Mo., Grant felt nothing like Philip of Macedon; his army experience had never included the responsibility of independent command. Before he could cross the Mississippi River, however, the men of the supposedly besieged regiment began to straggle into Quincy. As Grant relaxed, he began to realize that the doubts he had of his own ability might be justified, but that the enemy was no better prepared. Speed, daring and attention to details might turn the tide in this war; at least Colonel Grant would try.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### YELLOW GLOVES & CUCUMBERS

by

Lester L. Swift

(as taken from Porter's)

CAMPAIGNING WITH GRANT

On May 4th, 1864, the Union Army crossed the Rapidan. It was the beginning of the final campaign of the Civil War and it was also General Grant's first appearance before the Army of the Potomac.

Those on Grant's staff who had known him during the Vicksburg Campaign were surprised to see that he wore a pair of yellowish tan cloth gloves. This was certainly something new. In the West he had become famous for his carelessness in regard to his personal appearance. The finer points of military dress never seemed to bother him and the only gloves he had ever worn were rough leather riding gauntlets.

All of that day Grant watched his troops crossing the river. He was seated on a stump and passed the time by whittling--that typical American pastime--and smoked innumerable cigars. The next day the terrible Battle of the Wilderness started. Except when giving orders or inspecting the positions held by Federal troops, his penknife was in use constantly and the yellow gloves were worn all day.

Sometime he would walk slowly up and down, but most of the day he sat on a stump or on the ground, with his back leaning against a tree, whittling constantly. He would pick up one small twif after another, and sometimes holding the small end away from him he would rapidly shave it down to a point. At other times he would turn the point toward him and work on it as if sharpening a lead pencil; then he would girdle it, cut it in two, throw it away and begin on another.

At the break of dawn on May sixth Grant breakfasted on black coffee and a sliced cucumber with vinegar poured over it. After finishing this strange conglomeration he called for cigars. Stuffing two dozen in his pocket he returned to the knoll he had used the day before. This was the last day the yellow cloth gloves were in evidence. By nightfall they were worn out and full of holes.

There is a mystery about these gloves. Perhaps his wife bought them for him and ordered him to wear them. Or it is possible that the General was awed by what he had heard about the correctness of dress among the officers in the Army of the Potomac.

Those are both logical and therefore acceptable solutions. But in this age of orange juice and cereal it is utterly impossible for us to find an explanation for cucumbers, vinegar and black coffee for breakfast.

\* \* \* \* \*

AN INTERRUPTED SHAVE  
from  
CAMPAIGNING WITH GRANT  
Horace Porter

(Early in March, 1865, Senator Washburne, a friend of Lincoln's from Illinois, arrived at Grant's army headquarters in Virginia.)

Mr. Washburne was assigned quarters in camp next to General Grant. The next day was Sunday. The congressman was the first one up, and when he went to shave he found there was no looking-glass in his quarters; so he stepped across to the general's office in his shirt-sleeves, and finding a glass there, proceeded to lather his face and prepare for the delicate operation of removing his beard. Just as he had taken hold of his nose with his thumb and forefinger, which he had converted into a sort of clothes-pin for the occasion, and had scraped a wide swath down his right cheek with the razor, the front door of the hut was suddenly burst open, and a young woman rushed in, fell on her knees at his feet, and cried: "save him! oh, save him! He's my husband." The distinguished member of Congress was so startled by the sudden apparition that it was with difficulty that he avoided disfiguring his face with a large gash. He turned to the intruder, and said: "What's all this about your husband? Come, get up, get up! I don't understand you." "Oh, general, for God's sake, do save my husband!" continued the woman. "Why, my good woman, I'm not General Grant," the congressman insisted. "Yes, you are; they told me this was your room. Oh, save him, general; they're to shoot him this very day for desertion if you don't stop them." Mr. Washburne now began to take in the situation and led the woman to a seat, and tried to comfort her, while she began to tell how her young husband had been led, through his fondness for her, to desert in order to go home and see her, and how he had been captured and court-martialed, and was to be executed that day. By this time the general was up, and hearing the excited conversation, dressed hurriedly, and stepped upon the scene. The spectacle presented partook decidedly of the serio-comic. The dignified member of Congress was standing in his shirt-sleeves in front of the pleading woman, his face covered with lather, except the swath down his right cheek; the razor uplifted in his hand, and the tears were starting out of his eyes as his sympathies began to be worked upon. The woman was screaming and gesticulating frantically, and was almost hysterical with grief. . . The general now took a hand in the matter, convinced the woman that he was the commanding general, assured her that he would take steps at once to have her husband reprieved and pardoned, and sent her away rejoicing. His interposition saved the man's life just in the nick of time. He cracked many a joke with Mr. Washburne afterward about the figure he cut on the morning of the occurrence.