



The Signal Flag

BRANDYWINE VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Campaign # 21

Skirmish # 9

May 2008

From the Rear Ranks:

The Wilderness

Looked at tactically, the battle of the Wilderness was a draw. Grant may even have lost. Yet in a strategic sense, it was an important victory.

Within fort-eight hours after crossing the Rapidan, Grant had forced Lee on the defensive. His decision to move south was the final turning point of the war. Sherman called it the Supreme moment in Grant's life: "Undismayed, with a full comprehension of the importance of the work in which he was engaged, feeling as keen a sympathy for his dead and wounded as anyone, and without stopping to count his numbers, he gave his orders calmly, specifically, and absolutely – "Forward to Spotsylvania."

Grant took a more modest view. Speaking to his staff, he said, "All things are relative. While we were engaged in the Wilderness, I could not help thinking of the first fight I ever saw – the battle of Palo Alto. As I looked at the long line of battle, consisting of three thousand men, I felt that General Taylor had such fearful responsibility resting upon him and I wondered how he had the nerve to assume it. And when, after the fight,

[the casualties were reported, and the losses ascertained to be nearly sixty....the engagement assumed a magnitude in my eyes which was positively startling....Now, such an affair would scarcely be deemed important enough to report."

Excerpted from Grant, by Dr. Jean Edward Smith

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Liddy, President

Brandywine Civil War Round Table



~ Officers ~

President: Mike Liddy
Vice President: John Walls
Secretary: Ted Pawlik
Treasurer: Dave Walter

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Preservation: John Walls, Bob Sprague
Nominating / Speakers Committee:
Vince Carosella, John Whiteside
Speakers: Roger Arthur, Joe Lehman
Trips: Susan Mahoney
Credentials: Bill Sitman
Greeter: Loretta Thomas
Publicity: Harriett Mueller
Historians: Bill Sitman
Social Dir: Flo Williams

~Members at Large ~

David Hoffritz, James Lawler

~ Official Sutler ~

Bob Sprague: Books / Periodicals
610-644-0353

~ Annual Membership ~

Individual \$25.00; Family \$40.00; Student \$15.00
(Full time student up to age 23)

? Questions ? Contact:

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Unsolicited articles from our members are welcome.
Please contact Lynne!

* Our meetings are handicap accessible *



What is the BVCWRT all about???

We were founded in 1987. According to our by-laws, "the purpose of the Brandywine Valley Civil War Round Table shall be to provide a congenial medium through which persons having a common interest in the events of the American Civil War - its causes and effects, engagements, personages, units, armaments and other things pertaining thereto - may satisfy their interest and broaden individual knowledge through discussion, lectures, field trips and the exchange of books, paper and other data. The purposed is also to consider the preservation and protection of the battlefields, sites, landmarks, relics and collection of the period."

In plain English, we are an organization of diverse people brought together by our common interest in the American Civil War. This interest can range from the casual to the obsessive. We intend to tailor our activities and presentations to appeal to all our members, novice or expert.

Welcome New Members & Reenlistments

The Round Table welcomes our new members since our last meeting. Please welcome them and share your Civil War enthusiasm.

New Members:





Brandywine Valley Civil War Round Table
Come to our next meeting
7 May 2008

Speaker: Jean H. Baker, Professor of History, PH. D.
Topic: "Mary Todd Lincoln"
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: West Chester Borough Hall, Gay Street

Dr. Baker is a Professor of History at Goucher College in Towson, Maryland. Dr. Baker has written numerous books, articles and essays. Her latest book *Sisters: The Lives of America's Suffragists* was released in 2005. Dr. Baker is currently working on her next book about birth control activist, Margaret Sanger. Professor Baker has also recently written an introduction to C.A. Tripp's *Intimate Lincoln*. Two other books of interest are; "Civil War and Reconstruction" 2001 co-author with David Donald and Michael Holt and James Buchanan 2004.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE 1972 - 76 Assistant Professor of History, Goucher College, 1976 - 81 Associate Professor of History, Goucher College, 1981- present Professor of History, Goucher College

EDUCATION 1961 B.A. Goucher College, magna cum laude, 1965 M.A. Johns Hopkins University, 1971 Ph.D. Johns Hopkins University

From Publishers Weekly

A revisionist's view of the maligned Mary Todd Lincoln, usually portrayed as a shrew of doubtful sanity, is offered by Goucher College history professor Baker (Affairs of Party, etc.) in this richly documented and sympathetic study. Mary, an orphaned, well-educated, but socially unpopular, Lexington, Ky., aristocrat, was vulnerable to the suit of the outwardly uncouth Lincoln. During their Springfield years she bore him four sons and, despite their opposite natures, appears to have provided a comfortable home life and support for his political ambitions. As first lady, she was much criticized for her alleged extravagances on clothes, entertaining and redecoration of the shabby White House. A dedicated spiritualist, Mary made mourning for her dead husband and two sons a permanent condition, causing some to conclude that excessive grief had deranged her mind. Several months of her last tormented years were spent in an asylum to which her son Robert had her committed, unjustly, according to the author, followed by four years of voluntary exile abroad, from which she returned shortly before her death in 1882 in Springfield. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. -

Editor's Note

This will be the last newsletter for the 2008 Campaign. It has been a pleasure again this year publishing our Newsletter. I do hope that it was to your liking and that I provided interesting information..

On behalf of the Round Table I wish all of you a very Happy Summer. We all look forward to the great speakers that our Speaker Committee is now putting together for the 2008-2009 Campaign.

**Minutes of the April 2, 2008 Meeting
BVCWRT
Submitted by Ted Pawlik**

The President's Report/Announcements (Mike Liddy)

- Due to a conflict, Jean Baker was not able to attend the April meeting. She has agreed to speak at the May meeting. Roger Arthur, the scheduled speaker for May, will make his presentation in April instead.
- Dates to remember: **May 13, 2008** – Annual Banquet to be held at the Elks Lodge in West Chester. The guest speaker will be Jean Edward Smith. He is the John Marshall Professor of Political Science at Marshall University and has written a book on Grant: **Deadline to sign up for the banquet is April 30, 2008.**
- The BVCWRT has been named the Roundtable of the Year by the Civil War Preservation Trust and will be so recognized at a banquet to be held in Springfield, MO.

Treasurer's Report (Dave Walter)

- Financial Report: Balance as of 03/04/08 = \$3688.21. Total Receipts for March = \$542.00. This included a \$300.00 contribution. Expenditures for March = \$296.01 Net Revenue for the month = \$245.99. Balance as of 04/01/08 = \$3934.20.
- 21 tickets for the banquet have been sold to date. Anyone interested in the banquet can reply directly to Dave Walter by mail. A form for the banquet, with Dave's address, can be found in the Signal Flag on the BVCWRT web site. **The deadline is April 30, 2008.**

Preservation Committee (Bob Sprague)

- The Preservation Committee recommended donations be made to the following Priority 1, Class A Battlefields as cited by the Civil War Preservation Trust:
 - o Antietam (Sharpsburg, MD) - \$500.00
 - o Cedar Creek, VA - \$500.00
 - o Cold Harbor, VA - \$500.00
 - o Perryville, KY - \$500.00
- The motion was seconded and approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.
- In response to the newspaper article about the efforts to restore the monument to the 97th Pennsylvania Volunteers in West Chester, a representative of that effort will speak to the membership at the beginning of the May meeting.

Other Announcements and Items of Interest

John Whiteside, of the Nominating Committee, solicited nominations for officers for the 2008/2009 campaign. There is also a need to replace Harriett Mueller on the Executive Board as the Publicity Chairperson. Anyone interested can contact either John or Vince Carosella.

Susan Mahoney confirmed the field trip to the Wilderness on May 17, 2008. The trip will begin at 9 AM at the Chancellorsville Park Headquarters. Following the tour will be a dinner for those interested in attending. Matt Wyckoff will be the tour guide and assisting him will be an archeologist from Montpelier. Members are to make their own reservations for a motel. The charge for the tour guide is \$300.00. That charge, plus a tip, will be divided by the number attending. It was recommended that a donation be made to Montpelier preservation.

Speaker for the evening: Roger Arthur - The Importance of John Brown

Letter to CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST

April 4, 2008

Mr. David N. Duncan
Director of Membership and Development
1331 H Street, NW
Suite 1001
Washington, DC 20005

Dear David:

Please find enclosed a check in the sum of \$2,000.00 donated by the Brandywine Valley Civil War Round Table of West Chester, PA to be applied to the following Priority I, Class A Battlefields as cited in the CWPT 2008 Report on Endangered Civil War Battlefields:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1) Antietam, or Sharpsburg, MD | = \$500.00 | 3) Cold Harbor, VA | = \$500.00 |
| 2) Cedar Creek, VA | = \$500.00 | 4) Perryville, KY | = \$500.00 |

The membership wishes all of you success in your ongoing efforts on behalf of Civil War preservation. As noted in your February 5, 2008 letter, "I'm sure you agree 25,000 acres is a huge accomplishment...." We do agree!

I remain your most obedient servant,

Robert Sprague, Chair of the Preservation Committee, Brandywine Valley Civil War Round Table

Letter Received from Civil War Preservation Trust

Monday, April 07, 2008

Dear Bob,

I am in receipt of yours of the 4th instant, and I thank you and the Brandywine Valley CWRT for your most recent gift of \$2,000. As you requested, this gift will be split four ways to support projects at Antietam (where we are fighting to stop a cell phone tower), Cedar Creek (where we are fighting a zoning battle to restrict the mining of the battlefield), Cold Harbor (where we hope to purchase land sometime soon) and Perryville (likewise). A more formal acknowledgement of your gift will be forthcoming. I just wanted to let you know the gift arrived safe and sound.

We will miss you in Springfield, but look forward to seeing you soon. Please pass along my best wishes to all there, and my deepest thanks to all for such a generous gift. You ladies and gentlemen are extraordinary!

David N. Duncan, Director of Membership and Development, Civil War Preservation Trust

Banquet Speaker: Jean Edward Smith, May 13 - Topic US Grant

Our Banquet speaker this year will be Jean Edward Smith, who interestingly carries a dual citizenship from American and Canadian. He lives in Huntington, West Virginia where he is a Professor of Political Science at Marshall University. His Degrees are A.B. Magna cum laude, Princeton University, PhD Department of Public Law and Government, Columbia University and D.Litt(h.c) Marshall University. Before Marshall, Dr. Smith taught for thirty years at the University of Toronto, He has written three outstanding biographies in the recent years: *John Marshall: Definer of a Nation*, *Grant* and *FDR*. His *Grant* was a finalist for the Pulitzer when it was published in 2001. This year we have been privileged to learn about the two leading Generals of the War, Lee by Elizabeth Pryor and now Grant by Dr. Smith. This is just a Brief Highlight of our speaker's Curriculum Vitae. It was 8 pages Wow!!

Employment

1999 – Present John Marshall Professor of Political Science, Marshall University.
1998 – 1999 Visiting Scholar, Department of History, Princeton University. Adjunct
 Professor of Political Science, Columbia University.
1965 – 1998 Professor of Political Science, University of Toronto.

Military Service

Second Lieutenant to Captain, Field Artillery, United States Army, 287th Field
Artillery Battalion, Dachau, Germany; Sixth Infantry Regiment, Berlin, Germany;
Assistant G-1, U.S. Artillery and Missile Center, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL WORK

Publications – Books:

FDR (New York: Random House, 2007), 858 pp.

Grant (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2001), 781 pp. Pulitzer Prize Finalist, *New York Times*
Notable Book, American Library Association Notable Book, *Publishers Weekly* Book of the Year

John Marshall: Definer of a Nation (New York: Henry Holt, 1996), 739 pp. *New York Times*
Notable Book

Articles in Books

“Franklin Delano Roosevelt,” in Roger K. Newman (ed.), *Yale Biographical Dictionary of
American Law* (forthcoming, spring, 2008).

“Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant,” in Harold Holzer

John Y. Simon, and Dawn Vogel (eds.), *Lincoln Revisited* (New York: Fordham University Press,
2007).

Lecture Courses

- Politics and Government of the United States
- American Constitutional Law
- Government and Politics of Western Europe

Seminars

- The Constitutional and American Foreign Policy
- American Judicial History
- The Marshall Court
- U.S. Grant: General and President

FIRST TIME LINCOLN & GRANT MEET

Elihu B. Washburne, the member of Congress from the Galena district in Illinois, General Grant's old home, soon introduced a bill creating the grade of lieutenant-general, and it was passed by both houses of Congress, with the implied understanding that General Grant was to fill the position. The highest grade in the army theretofore created during the war had been that of major-general. The act became a law on February 26, 1864, and the nomination of General Grant was sent to the Senate by Mr. Lincoln on the 1st of March, and confirmed on the 2nd. On the 3rd the general was ordered to Washington. I had set to work upon my duties in the Ordnance Bureau, and in the mean time had received several very kind messages from the general regarding the chances of my returning to the field.

On the evening of **March 8, 1864** the President and Mrs. Lincoln gave a public reception at the White House, which I attended. The President stood in the usual reception-room, known as the "Blue Room," with several cabinet officers near him, and shook hands cordially with everybody, as the vast procession of men and women passed in front of him. He was in evening dress, and wore a turned-down collar a size too large. The necktie was rather broad and awkwardly tied. He was more of a Hercules than an Adonis. His height of six feet four inches enabled him to look over the heads of most of his visitors. His form was ungainly, and the movements of his long, angular arms and legs bordered at times upon the grotesque. His eyes were gray and disproportionally small. His face wore a general expression of sadness, the deep lines indicating the sense of responsibility which weighed upon him; but at times his features lighted up with a broad smile, and there was a merry twinkle in his eyes as he greeted an old acquaintance and exchanged a few words with him in a tone of familiarity. He had sprung from the common people to become one of the most uncommon of men. Mrs. Lincoln occupied a position on his right. For a time she stood on a line with him and took part in the reception, but afterward stepped back and conversed with some of the wives of the cabinet officers and other personal acquaintances who were in the room.

At about half-past nine o'clock a sudden commotion near the entrance to the room attracted general attention, and, upon looking in that direction, I was surprised to see General Grant walking along modestly with the rest of the crowd toward Mr. Lincoln. He had arrived from the West that evening, and had come to the White House to pay his respects to the President. He had been in Washington but once before, when he visited it for a day soon after he had left West Point. Although these two historical characters had never met before, Mr. Lincoln recognized the general at once from the pictures he had seen of him. With a face radiant with delight, he advanced rapidly two or three steps toward his distinguished visitor, and cried out: "Why, here is General Grant! Well, this is a great pleasure, I assure you," at the same time seizing him by the hand, and shaking it for several minutes with a vigor which showed the extreme cordiality of the welcome.

The scene now presented was deeply impressive. Standing face to face for the first time were the two illustrious men whose names will always be inseparably associated in connection with the war of the rebellion. Grant's right hand grasped the lapel of his coat; his head was bent slightly forward, and his eyes upturned toward Lincoln's face. The President, who was eight inches taller, looked down with beaming countenance upon his guest. Although their appearance, their training, and their characteristics were in striking contrast, yet the two men had many traits in common, and there were numerous points of resemblance in their remarkable careers. Each was of humble origin, and had been compelled to learn the first lessons of life in the severe school of adversity. Each had risen from the people, possessed an abiding confidence in them, and always retained a deep hold upon their affections. Each might have said to those who were inclined to sneer at his plain origin what a marshal of France, who had risen from the ranks to a dukedom, said to the hereditary nobles who attempted to snub him in Vienna: "I am an ancestor; you are only descendants." In a great crisis of their country's history both had entered the public service from the State. Both were conspicuous for the possession of that most uncommon of all virtues, common sense. Both despised the arts of the demagogue, and shrank from posing for effect, or indulging in mock heroics. Even when their characteristics differed, they only served to supplement each other, and to add a still greater strength to the cause for which they strove. With hearts too great for rivalry, with souls untouched by jealousy, they lived to teach the world that it is time to abandon the path of ambition when it becomes so narrow that two cannot walk it abreast.

The statesman and the soldier conversed for a few minutes, and then the President presented his distinguished guest to Mr. Seward. The Secretary of State was very demonstrative in his welcome, and after exchanging a few words, led the general to where Mrs. Lincoln was standing, and presented him to her. Mrs. Lincoln expressed much surprise and pleasure at the meeting, and she and the general chatted together very pleasantly for some minutes. The visitors had by this time become so curious to catch a sight of the general that their eagerness knew no bounds, and they became altogether unmanageable. Mr. Seward's consummate knowledge of the wiles of diplomacy now came to the rescue and saved the situation. He succeeded in struggling through the crowd with the general until they reached the large East Room, where the people could circulate more freely. This, however, was only a temporary relief. The people by this time had worked themselves up to a state of uncontrollable excitement. The vast throng surged and swayed and crowded until alarm was felt for the safety of the ladies. Cries now arose of "Grant! Grant! Grant!" Then came cheer after cheer. Seward, after some persuasion, induced the general to stand upon a sofa, thinking the visitors would be satisfied with a view of him, and retire; but as soon as they caught sight of him their shouts were renewed, and a rush was made to shake his hand. The President sent word that he and the Secretary of War would await the general's return in one of the small drawing-rooms, but it was fully an hour before he was able to make his way there, and then only with the aid of several officers and ushers.

Grant Receives His Commission as Lieutenant General

The next day, March 9th, 1864, the general went to the White House, by invitation of Mr. Lincoln, for the purpose of receiving his commission from the hands of the President.

While in Washington General Grant had been so much an object of curiosity, and had been so continually surrounded by admiring crowds when he appeared in the streets, and even in his hotel, that it had become very irksome to him. With his simplicity and total lack of personal vanity, he did not seem able to understand why he should attract so much attention. The President had given him a cordial invitation to dine that evening at the White House, but he begged to be excused for the reason that he would lose a whole day, which he could not afford at that critical period. "Besides," he added, "I have become very tired of this show business."

On the 12th the official order was issued placing General Grant in command of all the armies of the United States.

Lincoln Visits Grant for the First Time

On Tuesday, June 21, 1864 a white river-steamer arrived at the wharf, bringing President Lincoln, who had embraced this opportunity to visit for the first time the armies under General Grant's immediate command. As the boat neared the shore, the general and several of us who were with him at the time walked down to the wharf, in order that the general-in-chief might meet his distinguished visitor and extend a greeting to him as soon as the boat made the landing. As our party stopped aboard, the President came down from the upper deck, where he had been standing, to the after-gangway, and reaching out his long, angular arm, he wrung General Grant's hand vigorously, and held it in his for some time, while he uttered in rapid words his congratulations and expressions of appreciation of the great task which had been accomplished since he and the general had parted in Washington. The group then went into the after-cabin. General Grant said: "I hope you are very well, Mr. President." "Yes, I am in very good health," Mr. Lincoln replied; "but I don't feel very comfortable after my trip last night on the bay. It was rough, and I was considerably shaken up. My stomach has not yet entirely recovered from the effects." An officer of the party now saw that an opportunity had arisen to make this scene the supreme moment of his life, in giving him a chance to soothe the digestive organs of the Chief Magistrate of the nation. He said: "Try a glass of champagne, Mr. President. That is always a certain cure for seasickness." Mr. Lincoln looked at him for a moment, his face lighting up with a smile, and then remarked: "No, my friend; I have seen too many fellows seasick ashore from drinking that very stuff." This was a knockdown for the officer, and in the laugh at his expense Mr. Lincoln and the general both joined heartily.

After a while General Grant said: "Mr. President, let us ride on and see the colored troops, who behaved so handsomely in Smith's attack on the works in front of Petersburg last week." "Oh yes," replied Mr. Lincoln; "I want to take a look at those boys. I read with the greatest delight the account given in Mr. Dana's despatch to the Secretary of War of how gallantly they behaved. He said they took six out of the sixteen guns captured that day. I was opposed on nearly every side when I first favored the raising of colored regiments; but they have proved their efficiency, and I am glad they have kept pace with the white troops in the recent assaults. When we wanted every able-bodied man who could be spared to go to the front, and my opposers kept objecting to the negroes, I used to tell them that at such times it was just as well to be a little color-blind.

The camp of the colored troops of the Eighteenth Corps was soon reached, and a scene now occurred which defies description. They beheld for the first time the liberator of their race – the man who by the stroke of his pen had struck the shackles from the limbs of their fellow-bondmen and proclaimed liberty to the enslaved. Always impressionable, the enthusiasm of the blacks now knew no limits. They cheered, laughed, cried, sang hymns of praise, and shouted in their negro dialect, "God bless Massa Linkum!" "De Lord save Fader Abraham!" "De day ob jubilee am come, shuah." They crowded about him and fondled his horse; some of them kissed his hands, while others ran off crying in triumph to their comrades that they had touched his clothes. The President rode with bared head; the tears had started to his eyes, and his voice was so broken by emotion that he could scarcely articulate the words of thanks and congratulation which he tried to speak to the humble and devoted men through whose ranks he rode. The scene was affecting in the extreme, and no one could have witnessed it unmoved. (from: www.granthomepage.com)

Ulysses S. Grant Chronology

- **April 27, 1822**, Hiram Ulysses Grant is born in Point Pleasant, Ohio to Hannah and Jesse Grant.
- **1828-1835**, He attends subscription schools in Georgetown, Ohio and works on the family farm. He loves horses but hates the tan yard.

- **May, 1839**, Departs Ohio for the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. His name is registered as Ulysses S. Grant, a name he will continue to use for the rest of his life. Grant spends the next four years at this school on the Hudson as a Cadet.
- **June-August**, 1841, Spends his furlough with his family in Bethel, Ohio. Grant later wrote, "Those ten weeks were shorter than one week at West Point."
- **July 1, 1843**, (his diploma is dated June 23rd) Grant graduates from West Point and is commissioned a brevet second Lieutenant. He is assigned to the Fourth Infantry in St. Louis, Jefferson Barracks. He meets Julia, his future wife, in February, 1844.
- **1846-1848**, Grant fights in the Mexican War as a Quartermaster.
- **1848-1852**, Following his honeymoon, Grant is assigned to Sackets Harbor, New York and Detroit, Michigan. Though blissfully happy in his private life, he is bored with the tedium of the peacetime army. He enjoys playing cards, accompanying Julia to dances and racing his mare, Cicotte.
- **1852-1854**, He is sent to Humboldt Bay, California , in July, 1852. The next two years are ones of lonesome reflection for the Captain, who desperately misses his family. Being separated from Julia wreaks havoc on his psyche.
- **August, 1854**, He returns to Missouri after resigning his commission.
- **1854-1858**, He works a 60-acre farm near St. Louis. He builds a home, sells cordwood and faces a bleak financial future.
- **1858-1859**, Enters the Real Estate business with Julia's cousin. He proves incapable of collecting rents and is frequently late to work. Grant was never cut out to be a business man.
- **May, 1860**, He moves to Galena, Illinois and accepts a clerkship at his father's leather store at \$800 a year. He lives in a comfortable, snug house on a hill, fronting a cemetery.
- **June 17, 1861**, Appointed a Colonel of the 21st Illinois Infantry.
- **August 9, 1861**, Commission signed by President Lincoln making Grant a Brigadier General of Volunteers dated retroactively to May 17, 1861. August 5th Congress approved Lincoln's request of July 31, 1861 to make Grant a Brigadier General.
- **November 17, 1861**, The Battle of Belmont, Grant's first engagement as General. Union forces raid the Confederate camp, but fall back when they counterattack. Grant's horse is shot from under him in the fight. Belmont is frequently described as a "fighting retreat" by Union forces, who gain much-needed experience under fire.
- **February 16, 1862**, Grant takes Fort Donelson, Tennessee, the first Union victory of strategic importance in the war. He becomes nationally famous with his dispatch, "No terms except immediate and unconditional surrender. I propose to move immediately upon your works." The jealous General Henry Halleck schemes behind Grant's back and spreads malicious and false rumors that Grant has "resumed his former bad habits."
- **February, 17th, 1862**, Grant receives his two star rank of Major General of Volunteers
- **April 6-7, 1862**, The Battle of Shiloh. Though Grant and Sherman deny until their deaths that they were surprised here, the evidence is persuasive that they were. Grant's iron will and stubbornness resist disaster and the Union holds the field on the second day.
- **February, 1863-April, 1863**, Unsuccessful moves around Vicksburg, Mississippi.

- **May 12- May 17, 1863**, Grant implements his grand strategy in taking Vicksburg by moving between two wings of the enemy and routing them both. In five days, he fights and defeats the enemy at Jackson, Champion Hill and Big Black River. His baggage consists of a toothbrush and comb.
- **May 19-May 22, 1863**, Grant attempts two frontal assaults upon Vicksburg, but both are repelled. The Union forces settle down to a siege.
- **July 4, 1863**, Surrender of Vicksburg - Grant's tour de force as a General, one of greatest military campaigns in history.
- **Summer, 1863**, Following a fall from a fractious horse in New Orleans, Grant spends the summer with his family in a house near Vicksburg. His leg is so badly swollen that he is bedridden for weeks and uses crutches until October.
- **October 22, 1863**, Takes command at Chattanooga, Tennessee.
- **November 22-25, 1863**, The Battle of Chattanooga, which culminates in Union victories at Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, the Confederates are forced to retreat into Tennessee.
- **March 9, 1864**, Grant receives his commission as Lieutenant General from Lincoln and on March 12, he is appointed General in Chief of all U.S. armies.
- **May 5-7, 1864**, The Battle of the Wilderness. The two titans of the war, Grant and Lee, finally face each other. The result is a draw, with Union forces losing two times as many men as Lee.
- **May 7-10, 1864**, Spottsylvania campaign. Grant is once again thwarted by Lee and the results of the battle are inconclusive. On May 11, Grant writes another of his famous dispatches, "I propose to fight it out on this line if it takes all summer."
- **May 31-June 3, 1864**, The Battle of Cold Harbor. In the main frontal assault on June 3, Grant loses 7,000 men in an hour. Lee loses 1,500. This was Grant's searing blunder as a General, and one which he freely admitted. Rebel losses during the campaign were 32,000, while the Federals lose 50,000. But Grant can obtain replacements and Lee cannot.
- **April 9, 1865**, Lee surrenders to Grant in the McLean House, Appomattox, Virginia. This is Grant's great hour, showcasing his delicacy and decency. When Union soldiers get too rambunctious, he quiets them. "The war is over," he said, "the Rebels are again our countrymen, and the best sign of rejoicing is to abstain from all demonstrations in the field."
- **July 25, 1866**, Congress establishes a new rank of "General" for Grant making him the first four star General in U. S. history.
- **Fall, 1866**, Grant refuses to be sent to Mexico by President Andrew Johnson, a wily and jealous man who wanted the popular General out of the way. These two fellows never hitched - very dissimilar.
- **May 21, 1868**, Nominated as a candidate for President by the Republican National Convention in Chicago. Grant does no campaigning and lolls about his Galena, Illinois home.
- **March 4, 1869 - March 4, 1877**, *President of the United States of America for two terms.*
- **May, 1877-September, 1879**, The Grant's make an around the world tour, and he is besieged by crowds throughout the journey. There is no itinerary and Grant enjoys himself immensely. He said, "I feel like a boy out of school." Jesse accompanies his parents for some of the trip, and his place is then taken by Fred. Grant routinely

plows through 15 course dinners, but actually loses weight on the trip - he returns to San Francisco weighing 159 pounds. His favorite countries on the trip were Japan and Switzerland.

- **June 2-8, 1880**, After two difficult terms in the White House, Grant has had enough and does not secure the Republican nomination for the Presidency. It is difficult to know whether he actually coveted the Presidency again, though Julia certainly wanted to return to the White House. His friends and sons were convinced he didn't care and the evidence shows they were correct. Garfield eventually secures the nomination and the Presidency, and Grant claims he possesses "the backbone of an angleworm."
- **December 24, 1883**, Grant suffers a serious injury to his hip while slipping on the pavement outside his home. While handing a cab driver a 20 dollar bill, he falls heavily on his side. He is bedridden for weeks and walks with crutches or a cane for the rest of his life.
- **May, 1884**, The brokerage firm of Grant and Ward fails on Wall Street, losing the General and his family's fortune. Grant had been a silent partner in the firm with his son and Ferdinand Ward, the scoundrel who robbed the company and was eventually jailed. Days before the bankruptcy, Ward begs Grant for a loan of \$150,000 to save the Marine bank. The General then asked William Vanderbilt to make him a personal loan, and he eventually repaid the millionaire with his war trophies and uniforms. These priceless bits of American are now in the Smithsonian, though only a fraction are displayed. The Grant and Ward failure plunges Grant into a prolonged depression.
- **September, 1884**, Grant's illness of the throat is diagnosed by doctors as cancer. In the Fall, he begins work on his Memoirs.
- **January-March, 1885**, The cancer spreads and completely debilitates the General. He is only able to have liquid foods in small portions. The pain is almost unendurable, but he valiantly writes on in an effort to provide for his family after his death.
- **June 16, 1885**, Moves with his family to Mt. McGregor, New York. The doctors advise the move because of the cooler climate. Grant is down to 120 pounds and is so weak he sometimes falls from his chair, but gallantly hides his suffering from his family.
- **July 19, 1885**, He finishes his Memoirs and lays down his pencil for the last time.
- **July 23, 1885**, At 8:06 in the morning, Grant dies, surrounded by his family and physicians. Fred stops the mantle clock and then fondly returns to the bedside to stroke his father's forehead a last time. Grant's Memoirs, a timeless classic, sells over 300,000 copies, becomes the bestselling book in U. S. history, and earns Julia a staggering \$500,000. Even today in the 21st century, Grant's work is still considered the most well-written memoirs by a U. S. President. (*From www.granthomepage.com*)

Grant the Equestrian

General Grant loved horses and was probably the greatest Equestrian in US history. He was a fearless rider with phenomenal endurance and speed.

CSA General James Longstreet

Grant at West Point: "In horsemanship, however, he was noted as the most proficient in the Academy. In fact, rider and horse held together like the fabled centaur..."

Frederick Grant, son of General Grant

"My father was the best horseman in the army, he rode splendidly and always on magnificent and fiery horses when possible to obtain one. He preferred to ride the most unmanageable mount, the largest and the most powerful one. Oftentimes I saw him ride a beast that none had approached. This is another instance of his physical strength."

When the Civil War broke out, my father, General Grant, was appointed colonel of the Twenty-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry and on joining the regiment purchased a horse in Galena, Illinois. This horse, though a strong animal, proved to be unfitted for the service and, when my father was taking his regiment from Springfield, Illinois, to Missouri, he encamped on the Illinois River for several days. During the time they were there a farmer brought in a horse called "Jack." This animal was a cream-colored horse, with black eyes, mane and tail of silver white, his hair gradually becoming darker toward his feet. He was a noble animal, high spirited, very intelligent and an excellent horse in every way. He was a stallion and of considerable value. My father used him until after the battle of Chattanooga (November, 1863), as an extra horse and for parades and ceremonial occasions. At the time of the Sanitary Fair in Chicago (1863 or '64), General Grant gave him to the fair, where he was raffled off, bringing \$4,000 to the Sanitary Commission.

Soon after my father was made a brigadier-general, (August 8, 1861), he purchased a pony for me and also another horse for field service for himself. At the battle of Belmont (November 7, 1861), his horse was killed under him and he took my pony. The pony was quite small and my father, feeling that the commanding general on the field should have a larger mount, turned the pony over to one of his aides-de-camp. (Captain Hyllier) and mounted the captain's horse. The pony was lost in the battle.

The next horse that my father purchased for field service was a roan called "Fox," a very powerful and spirited animal and of great endurance. This horse he rode during the siege and battles around Fort Donelson and also at Shiloh.

At the battle of Shiloh the Confederates left on the field a rawboned horse, very ugly and apparently good for nothing. As a joke, the officer who found this animal on the field, sent it with his compliments, to Colonel Lagow, one of my father's aides-de-camp, who always kept a very excellent mount and was a man of means. The other officers of the staff "jollied" the colonel about this gift. When my father saw him, he told the colonel that the animal was a thoroughbred and a valuable mount and that if he, Lagow, did not wish to keep the horse he would be glad to have him. Because of his appearance he was named "Kangaroo," and after a short period of rest and feeding and care he turned out to be a magnificent animal and was used by my father during the Vicksburg campaign.

In this campaign, General Grant had two other horses, both of them very handsome, one of which he gave away and the other he used until late in the war. During the campaign and siege of Vicksburg, a cavalry raid or scouting party arrived at Joe Davis' plantation (the brother of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy) and there captured a black pony which was brought to the rear of the city and presented to me. The animal was worn out when it reached headquarters but was a very easy riding horse and I used him once or twice. With care he began to pick up and soon carried himself in fine shape.

At that time my father was suffering with a carbuncle and his horse being restless caused him a great deal of pain. It was necessary for General Grant to visit the lines frequently and one day he took this pony for that purpose. The gait of the pony was so delightful that he directed that he be turned over to the quartermaster as a captured horse and a board of officers be convened to appraise the animal. This was done and my father purchased the animal and kept him until he died, which was long after the Civil War. This pony was known as "Jeff Davis."

After the battle of Chattanooga, General Grant went to St. Louis, where I was at the time, critically ill from dysentery contracted during the siege of Vicksburg. During the time of his visit to the city he received a letter from a gentleman who signed his name "S.S. Grant," the initials being the same as those of a brother of my father's, who had died in the summer of 1861. S.S. Grant wrote to the effect that he was very desirous of seeing General Grant but that he was ill and confined to his room at the Lindell Hotel and begged him to call, as he had something important to say which my father might be gratified to hear.

The name excited my father's curiosity and he called at the hotel to meet the gentleman who told him that he had, he thought, the finest horse in the world, and knowing General Grant's great liking for horses he had concluded, inasmuch as he would never be able to ride again, that he would like to give his horse to him; that he desired that the horse should have a good home and tender care and that the only condition that he would make in parting with him would be that the person receiving him would see that he was never ill-treated and should never fall into the hands of a person that would ill-treat him. This promise was given and General Grant accepted the horse and called him "Cincinnati." This was his battle charger until the end of the war and was kept by him until the horse died at Admiral Ammen's farm in Maryland, in 1878.

About this time (January, 1864) some people in Illinois found a horse in the southern part of that State, which they thought was remarkably beautiful. They purchased him and sent him as a present to my father. This horse was known as "Egypt" as he was raised, or at least came from southern Illinois, a district known in the State as Egypt, as the northern part was known as Canaan.

"Cincinnati" was the son of "Lexington," the fastest four-mile thoroughbred in the United States, time 7:19 3/4 minutes. "Cincinnati" nearly equaled the speed of his half-brother, "Kentucky," and Grant was offered \$10,000 in gold or its equivalent for him, but refused. He was seventeen hands high, and in the estimation of Grant was the finest horse that he had ever seen. Grant rarely permitted anyone to mount the horse --two exceptions were Admiral Daniel Ammen and Lincoln. Ammen saved Grant's life from drowning while a school-boy. Grant says: "Lincoln spent the latter days of his life with me. He came to City Point in the last month of the war and was with me all the time. He was a fine horseman and rode my horse 'Cincinnati' every day."

William Conant Church

"Grant was more noticeable for his horse racing. The town was full of lively fellows and there were many horses whose owners considered them to be fast; and Grant had that pony from Dave Cicotte. He was in the forefront of any racing that was going on. On Saturdays the whole town seemed to get out on Fort Avenue and every man who had a horse took part. Grant had that little black mare and it was a horse of tremendous speed. He was the best horseman I ever saw. He could fly on a horse, faster than a slicked bullet."

Mary Robinson, slave owned by Fred Dent

"In fact, he had two horses called Bill and Tom which he prized so highly that he would never allow anyone but himself to drive them. I may say he was very fond of all kinds of domestic animals. One of his pets was a large dog called Leo. I, being the cook of the household, often found it necessary to go out and catch chickens for dinner. Leo always helped me. All I would have to do would be to point out the chicken I wanted to Leo and he would grab it for me..."

Grant was always fond of fast horses. He was mounted on his race horse, Nellie, a very fleet-footed animal when he performed his daring ride to the camp of Gen. Taylor during the Mexican war. I have heard him describe the wonderful speed this horse exhibited when he made that perilous trip of two and a half miles exposed to showers of bullets from the rifles of the enemy. He appeared to look upon Nellie's conduct as more courageous than his own..."

Ole Peter Hansen Balling

"I arrived at City Point, Virginia, where General Grant received me very cordially. He had me sit down before his tent and said, "Well, then, you want to see my horses, as you are going to paint us on horseback." And he directed an orderly to bring them up. General Grant said: "That little black pony is my pet, and we call him Jeff Davis, as he was brought to me from the Davis estate in Mississippi when we fought around Vicksburg; that one is Cincinnati, a very fine trotter; and that one, Egypt, is a good saddle horse. Now, which do you want?" I said, "For my purpose, I should like like Egypt." Grant answered, "Well, then, we will take a ride out on the road tomorrow." I was given a tent and an orderly and introduced to General Rawlins (Grant's chief of staff). At the table General Grant placed me opposite him, probably anticipating my desire to look at him as much as possible."

Corporal M. Harrison Strong

“He was a great horseman and sat his horse as if he were part of the horse, all one figure. There was never a movement of any description that was not masterful and graceful. No one ever saw him disturbed in any way, that is, jolted or taken unaware on horseback, whether he was going fast or slow. He was a born horseman. He had a natural love for animals of all kinds and he was of kindly instincts, without being demonstrative at all, except to his family. He never abused an animal, never.”

General Horace Porter

“General Grant was a great rider, simply splendid. He could ride 40 or 50 miles and come in perfectly fresh and tire out younger men. He was much attached to a little horse named Jeff Davis because he was secured on Jeff Davis's plantation. General Grant was the only man I ever saw, except one, who could go through a battle without flinching. He never lacked in courage, never dodged. He wouldn't as much wink when bullets went whizzing by. He had iron nerves. He was never hurt by a bullet, despite his exposure...”

GRANT THE FAMILY MAN



General Grant was an extraordinarily responsible and devoted father and husband. He was extremely loving and kind towards his wife and children and was always considered a hero in the eyes of his family. Perhaps General Grant was the most ethical and moral family man and U. S. President that we ever had. The recollection that his wife, children and grandchildren had of him was of the highest caliber.

Ulysses and Julia Grant had four children:

- [Frederick Dent Grant](#), 1850-1912
- [Ulysses S. Grant, Jr.](#), 1852-1929
- [Ellen Wrenshall \(Nellie\) Grant](#), 1855-1922
- [Jesse Root Grant](#), 1858-1934



Grant was an uncommonly devoted parent and expressed his affection for his children in his letters and in his actions. In an era when most fathers physically manhandled their children, he was lenient to a fault. He particularly spoiled his two youngest children, Nellie and Jesse, and they were his special favorites. Horace Porter, one of Grant's staff officers, recalled, "the children often romped with him and he joined in their frolics as if they were all playmates together. The younger ones would hang around his neck while he was writing, make a terrible mess of the papers, and turn everything in his tent into a toy."

The General's wife, Julia, had no illusions about who was the true disciplinarian in the family. She recalled, "The General had no idea of the government of the children. He would have allowed them to do pretty much as they pleased (hunt, fish, swim, etc.) provided it did not interfere with any duty, but his word was law always. Whenever they were inclined to disobey or question my authority, I would ask the General to speak to them. He would, smiling at me, and say to them, 'Come, come Fred, or Nell, you must not quarrel with Mama. She knows what is best for you and you must always obey her.'"

Not surprisingly, the Grant children had various personalities and Grant related to them differently. Fred spent his life in the role of Grant's eldest son, and was diplomatic and concerned with how others judged him. Academically, he struggled at West Point, amassing an embarrassing collection of demerits and it took him five years to graduate. Grant immediately placed Fred on General Sherman's staff, but the hero of Atlanta was a reluctant party to the move. He confided to General Ord, "As to playing courtier by taking Fred Grant on my staff, I won't - I took him to Europe and got no thanks for it. Fred is good enough, but there are other officers on my own staff of more merit and claim on my personal kindness."

Buck, the Grant's second son, was dreamy and quiet, and preferred to remain in the background. During the Civil War, he frequently stayed behind with his grandparents when his siblings visited camp, and was reticent and shy for the remainder of his life. Of all the children, he spent the least actual time with Grant, though they remained close. When he grew older, he strongly resembled his namesake father, particularly when he grew a beard. Buck was the only one of Grant's children to succeed in business and spent his later years maintaining and operating the opulent U.S. Grant Hotel in San Diego, California. The hotel still flourishes today.

Nellie, Grant's only daughter was his favorite and he lavished her with attention and tenderness. She was a fun-loving adolescent and loved parties, dances and the attention of young men. Grant never found fault with her and he spoiled her so conspicuously that it became an item of gossip in Washington. He bitterly opposed her 1874 marriage to Algernon Sartoris, an Englishman of limited maturity and a conspicuous, grating vanity. Nellie was only 18 and Grant didn't like her living abroad and away from

the family. After her marriage ceremony in the White House, servants searched in vain for the General. They finally found him in Nellie's bedroom, sobbing without restraint into her pillow. His surviving letters to her are droll and affectionate. He never failed to inquire about the son-in-law he had opposed, though it seems convention, and not genuine solicitude, was behind the questions. He urged her frequently to return to the United States and raise her children as American citizens. Nellie divorced Algie after her father's death and lived with her children in her mother's house in Washington, D.C.



Jesse, the Grant's youngest child, was the family comedian and was an original child. Grant adored his personality, which was very different from his own, and he enjoyed bantering and teasing him. They wrestled together on the floor and Jesse was partial to playing "horsie" while riding on Grant's back. Jesse spent much of his childhood in camp with his father, though he later admitted he was too young to recall much detail. He wrote a book of reminiscences in 1925 (largely ghostwritten) entitled, *In The Days Of My Father, General Grant*. Considering Jesse's intimacy with his father, the book is disappointing in content. Jesse grew up to be an irreverent adult who actually ran for President on the Democratic ticket in 1908 (needless to say, his candidacy was lightly regarded). It is said by intimates of the family that Jesse was Julia's favorite child.



Unfortunately, Nellie Grant did not speak publicly about her father in later years and there are few, if any, interviews conducted with her. However, the General's sons did speak and write about him to a variety of sources and left behind a rich tapestry in describing their father's habits, personality and private feelings. Click on the links above to read what Grants sons said about their father.

From www.granthompage.com



Scheduled Speakers for 2007 - 2008:

- Sep 05, 2007:** Dan Cashin - "Ben Butler"
Oct 03, 2007: Ed Bonekemper - "McClellan: The Failed General"
Nov 07, 2007: Dave Kohler - "Whatever Happened to our Favorite Civil War Heroes"
Dec 05, 2007: Elizabeth Brown Pryor - "Reading the Man: A Portrait of Robert E. Lee Through His Private Letters", plus our Christmas Social
Jan 02, 2008: Dennis Kelly - Topic is to be announced
Feb 06, 2008: Chip Crowe - "General George Thomas"
Mar 05, 2008: BVCWRT Members - "Show and Tell", plus our Spring Social
Apr 02, 2008: Jean Baker - "Mary Todd Lincoln"
May 07, 2008: Roger Arthur - "The Importance of John Brown"
May 13, 2008: (Annual Banquet): Jean Edward Smith - "U. S. Grant"

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Dave Walter, Treasurer, 937 Thorne Drive, West Chester, PA 19382