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The Road to the Ulysses S. Grant Presidency

★ *The 18th President* ★

★ *Certificate of Authenticity* ★



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★ *First Edition* ★

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General Ulysses S. Grant: Timeline

1822

Born April 27 as Hiram Ulysses Grant, to Hannah Simpson and Jesse R. Grant in Point Pleasant, Clermont County, Ohio

1838

Attended Presbyterian academy at Ripley, Ohio from Autumn, 1838-Spring, 1839

1845

Obtained leave for twenty day in April to see Julia in St. Louis and gain her parents' consent to their engagement
The Fourth Infantry was sent to New Orleans to await orders in July
Sailed from New Orleans to Corpus Christi
Promoted to full second lieutenant

1847

Ordered to leave General Taylor's force and join General United States won the battle of Churubusco (August 20)
Santa Anna negotiated an armistice (August 21)
Participated in the battle of Molino del Rey
Civic officials of Mexico City asked for surrender terms
Promoted to first lieutenant September 16 and to brevet

1849

Transferred to Detroit

1851

Left wife and son to the Pacific
Wife and son his parent

1843

Graduated from West Point in June
Assigned to the Fourth U. S. Infantry at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri September 30

1839

Appointed to West Point March 3 from Ohio U.S. Senator Thomas Morris

1836

Attended the school of Richeson and Rand at Maysville, Kentucky from autumn, 1836-spring 1837

1823

Family moved to Georgetown, Brown County, Ohio

1850

Birth of first child, Frederick Dent Grant May 30

1848

Occupation of Mexico ended June 12
Fourth Regiment landed at Pascagoula, Mississippi
Took leave & married Julia Dent August 22
Reported to Detroit November 17
Assigned to duty at the Madison Barracks in Sackett's Harbor, New York, on Lake Ontario

1846

Mexican declaration of war April 23
Led a charge against a group of Mexican soldiers and captured the United States troops occupied the Mexican port of Matamoros May
Detailed as regimental quartermaster

1844

Regiment ordered to Louisiana
Met Julia Dent and she agreed to marry him
Arrived at the camp of the Fourth Infantry near Natchitoches

William Scott

Captain September 13-

son to report
the coast
stayed with
in Ohio

1853

Promoted to captain August 5

1855

Move to Wish-ton-wish, another
farm on the Dent estate
Third child Ellen (Nellie) born July 4

1858

Rented out his Handscrabble farm and rented White Haven
from his father-in-law
Entered the real estate business in St. Louis

1859

Moved into a back room in St. Louis
his business partner & his family re
Family joined him in a rented cottage
Freed slave, William Jones, who had
through his wife's family
Submitted his application for the posit
Engineer of St. Louis

1852

Second child, Ulysses S. Grant Jr.
(called Buck) born July 22
Considered resigning from military

1857

Pawned his watch to buy
Christmas gifts for his family
The Panic of 1857 withered
crop prices
Fourth child, Jesse Root Grant, Jr.
born February 6

1856

Moved into own home built largely by self,
named farm 'Handscrabble'
Voted for James Buchanan for President

1854-1855

Lived with Julia's parents at
their farm, White Haven

1854

Received official appointment to captain and wrote
letter of resignation April 11
Letter of resignation accepted by Secretary of War Jefferson Davis June 2
Rejoined family

1861

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1860

Took a clerkship in a leg
owned by his father

1863

Victory at the battle of Port Gibson gave Union forces firm footing in Mississippi. Won the battle of Champion's Hill May 16. Union forces captured Jackson, Mississippi. Relieved McClelland of command for improperly issuing a congratulatory order to his troops without obtaining headquarters approval. Confederate forces at Vicksburg surrendered to Grant's Union forces. Promoted to major general. Battle of Chattanooga November 23-25. Confederates withdrew at Knoxville on December 3-4 before Grant's force arrived.

1865

Conferred with President Lincoln. Met with General Lee to discuss terms of Lee's surrender. Met with the Cabinet to discuss Lee's surrender and the future of the South. April 14. Declined Lincoln's invitation to join him at Ford's Theatre. Lincoln assassinated and Andrew Johnson was sworn in as the nation's 17th president.

1868

Resigned as
Accepted nomination
Republican
Elected President

1869

1866

Appointed general of the armies of the United States.

1867

Appointed to War Department as the Secretary of War August 12.

1864

Promoted to lieutenant general March 3. Guest of honor at a White House reception and met President Lincoln. Assigned to command all armies of the United States March 12. Made his headquarters with the Army of the Potomac. The Army of the Potomac met Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Seized the Weldon Railroad, a vital supply line for Lee's army August 18.

1862

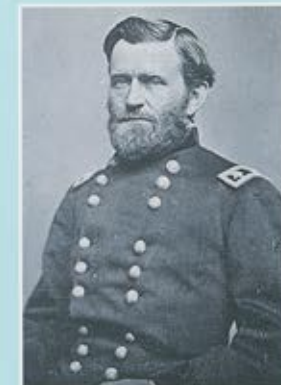
Gained promotion to major general of volunteers February 17.

Inaugurated president and Civil War began. Led over a public meeting in Galena to respond to Lincoln's call for troops. Led to Springfield to offer his services to Governor Yates. Temporary employment as clerk in the adjutant's office. Appointed mustering officer May 8 for two weeks. Accepted Governor Yates' offer of the colonelcy of Seventh District Regiment for Union forces in Civil War. Promoted to a brigadier general by President Lincoln giving him command at Iron Mountain, Missouri.

Other goods store
Galena, Illinois.



Lt. General Ulysses S. Grant standing by a tree in front of a tent, Cold Harbor, Virginia, Civil War, June 1864**



Portrait of General Ulysses S. Grant, ca. 1860-ca. 1865**



Portrait of U.S. Grant as President of the United States**



General U.S. Grant writing his memoirs, Mount McGregor, New York, June 27, 1885; LC-USZ62-7607*



Group portrait of Frederick Dent Grant, with (from left to right) unknown woman; his wife, Ida H. Grant; and his mother, Julia Dent Grant; LC-USZ62-126585*

Upon leaving office in 1877, Grant and his wife Julia sailed from Philadelphia for a two-year trip around the world, meeting with many foreign leaders and improving U.S. relations with many countries. Returning from his trip December 16, 1879, Grant hoped to gain re-election as president, breaking the two-term tradition set by George Washington. Although supported by a republican faction, the Stalwarts, another republican faction, the Half-Breeds, dominated and James A. Garfield was elected instead. With hopes of a political career terminated, Grant traveled to Mexico and became the president of Jay Gould's Mexican Southern Railroad, during which he urged a railroad link between Mexico and the United States. President Arthur appointed Grant to negotiate a commercial treaty with Mexico, yet the venture failed to gain approval. Living in New York City, Grant faced financial jeopardy, as he had given up his military pension upon accepting the presidency, and at the time there was no presidential pension, so he wrote articles on his battles for Century Magazine for compensation before signing a contract with Mark Twain to publish his memoirs in 1885. Suffering from throat cancer, Grant hoped that writing his "Memoirs" would gain proceeds that would benefit his family. That same year, Grant was placed on the list of retired generals as an act of respect and thus collected military pension while he wrote his "Memoirs." Volume I of his book was published shortly before his death with its entirety published on December 10, 1885. The book was a success and the proceeds netted his family \$450,000. Grant died at Mount McGregor, New York on July 23, 1885 from throat cancer.

General U.S. Grant served as the 18th President of the United States for two terms from March 4, 1869 to March 3, 1877.

The Presidential Election 1868



(R) Grant state victories: 214 - 73%

(D) Seymour state victories: 80 - 27%

Unreconstructed States

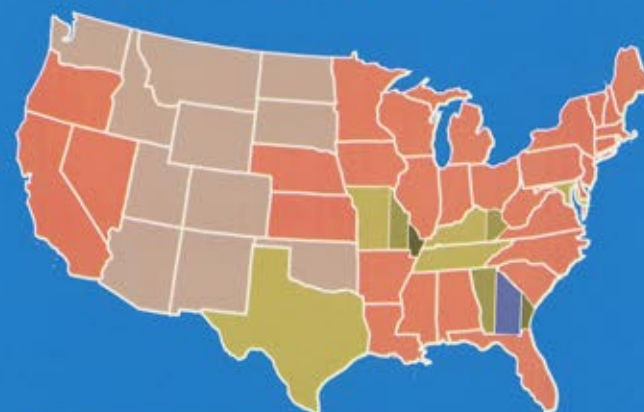
3,012,833 popular votes (53%)

2,703,249 popular votes (47%)

Territories

Electoral total: voting: 294
nonvoting: 23
Popular vote total:
5,716,082

The Presidential Election 1872



(R) Grant state victories: 286 - 81%

(D) Greeley state victories: 3 - 1%

(D) Hendricks state victories: 42 - 12%

(D) Brown state victories: 5 - 18%

(D) Jenkins state victories: 1 - 5%

(D) Davis state victories: 2 - 5%

3,597,132 popular votes (55.5%)

2,834,125 popular votes (44%)

Territories

Electoral total: voting: 352
nonvoting: 14
Popular vote total:
6,466,354

General Ulysses S. Grant: Biography



Ulysses S. Grant head and shoulders portrait, facing right; LC-USZ62-90928*



Mrs. Julia Dent Grant; LC-DIG-cwpbh-05123*



Massaponax Church, Va., "Council of War": Gen. Ulysses S. Grant examining map held by Gen. George G. Meade; LC-DIG-cwpbh-01191*



General Ulysses S. Grant and horse, ca. 1860- Ca. 1865**

"Let us have peace" –General Ulysses S. Grant

The 18th President of the United States of America, General Ulysses S. Grant was born as Hiram Ulysses Grant to Hannah Simpson and Jesse R. Grant in Point Pleasant, Ohio on April 27, 1822. His father was a tanner (processed animal hides into leather), which Grant came to detest, preferring agriculture and any work that involved horses. As a young child he had the task of hauling in all the wood used for the house and his father's tanning shop, and later from the age of 11 to 16, he not only hauled and sawed all the wood needed, he also cared for the horses and cows and was responsible for all the farming: plowing corn and potatoes, bringing in crops when harvested, and breaking up the land. From the age of 13 to 17, Grant's family paid for his education at the school of Richeson and Rand and the Presbyterian academy.¹ The first of six children, Grant spent only a year of his life in Point Pleasant, spending the rest of his childhood in Georgetown, Ohio, until the age of 17, when he reluctantly departed for West Point. Grant's father had applied for his appointment without his knowledge and upon gaining acceptance Grant was quite apprehensive, yet went obeying his father's wishes. The U.S. Senator from Ohio, who appointed Grant to West Point, recorded his name with his middle name first and had used his mother's maiden name, Simpson as his middle initial. The academy insisted upon the acceptance of Ulysses S. Grant not Hiram Ulysses Grant, thus in time Grant accepted U.S. Grant as his true name, asserting that his middle initial stood for nothing. When he graduated from West Point in 1843 he began his career in the United States Army, starting in the infantry versus the cavalry due to his low class rank—21 in a class of 39.

Grant was appointed quartermaster as brevet second lieutenant (his rank automatically established by his West Point Graduation) to a regiment south of St. Louis, Missouri with his West Point roommate, Fredrick Dent. It was through his friendship with Dent that he met his wife—Dent's

sister, Julia—in February 1844. From 1846-1848, Grant fought in the Mexican War as first lieutenant and after several acts of bravery, as brevet captain at the war's end. With the end of the Mexican War, Grant married Julia Dent after a four-year engagement on August 22, 1848. During a time when slavery became an issue at odds with the North and South, Grant's parents refused to attend their son's wedding, as they detested the Dent family's ownership of slaves; thus Julia met and visited with Grant's family during their three-month honeymoon in Ohio. The couple shared the birth of four children Frederick Dent (Fred), Ulysses S. Jr. (Buck), Ellen (Nellie), and Jesse Root Jr. After his marriage, he spent 1848-1852 in the Great Lakes region with his family, but he spent the next following six years serving in the Pacific away from his wife and children. It has been documented that this was an unhappy time for Grant, during which he had a problem with liquor, a problem he abstained from after 1865. Grant received his official commission as captain April 11, 1854, yet no longer desiring a career in the Army away from his family, he wrote his resignation from the army the same day.²

Grant was then free to return to his family and to meet his 2-year old son that was born while he was underway in the Isthmus of Panama. Leaving Ohio, Grant moved his family to Missouri to farm the land that Julia's father had given to her. After living at White Haven for nearly a year with Julia's parents, Grant moved his family to Wish-ton-wish, another farm on the Dent estate before settling into their own farm—Hardscrabble—in a home mostly built by Grant in 1856. The Grants enjoyed living at their Hardscrabble farm for a year before The Panic of 1857 withered crop prices and resulted in their need to rent out their farm and return once again to White Haven and lease from his father-in-law. The Grant's lived at White Haven temporarily, moving into a rented cottage in St. Louis three months later.

* Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division

** National Archives at College Park—Archives II

¹During this time those who attended school paid board and tuition as no tax system was set up to provide for a public education

²Sources cite that he was forced to resign due to insubordination



General Ulysses S. Grant and staff of 12**

With no success in farming, Grant entered the real estate business for a short time; and after an unsuccessful attempt to gain the position of County Engineer of St. Louis, he worked at his father's leather goods shop run by his brothers Orvil and Simpson.

Shortly thereafter, the Civil War erupted and Grant took this opportunity to resume an army career. Republican congressman Elihu B. Washburne arranged for Grant to hold a public meeting in Galena to respond to Lincoln's call for troops. After drilling the company of Jo Daviess Guards raised at the meeting, Grant traveled to offer his services to Governor Yates, where he worked as a clerk in the adjutant's office temporarily before being appointed mustering officer for two weeks. In June of 1861, Grant accepted Governor Yates' offer of colonelcy of the Seventh District Regiment in Springfield, an unruly group that no one else had been unable to train. Grant successfully drilled and led the men in several successful attacks against the Confederate guerilla bands and was promoted to brigadier general. Grant's fame during the Civil War rose quickly with his forerunning the first major union victories in 1862 at Tennessee, leading to his promotion to major general, and later lieutenant general, placing him in charge of all Northern Armies after overtaking more of the Confederacy's major installations. Grant is attributed to be largely responsible for the war's end with obtaining General Lee's surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia (the main Confederate army) on April 9, 1865. Grant met with the Cabinet on April 14, 1865 to discuss Lee's surrender and the future of the South.³ President Lincoln, proud of Grant's victory, invited he and his wife to join him at the theatre the evening of April 14, yet Grant declined preferring to spend the time with his children and unknowingly escaping assassination by John Wilkes Booth.⁴

After the war, Grant was promoted to general of the armies of the United States on July 25, 1866,

³The last land battle took place May 12-13, 1865 with Confederate general Kirby Smith surrendering his forces on June 2nd.

⁴John Wilkes Booth and his co-conspirators had planned to assassinate Grant along with President Lincoln, who was shot by Booth that evening. Andrew Jackson assumed the presidency.



Peabody Fund Committee: Governor William Aiken, Admiral David G. Farragut, Hon. Hamilton Fish, Gen. Ulysses S. Grant (3rd standing from left), Bishop McIlvane, George B. Westmore, Hon. Robert C. Winthrop**

a rank that had since been achieved only by George Washington. Entering into the political arena, he briefly served as Secretary of War under Andrew Jackson, before gaining the republican nomination for the 1868 presidential election. In Grant's closing sentence of his nomination acceptance speech he said, "Let us have peace." Deemed a war hero and a symbol of Union victory during the civil war, Grant won the election with 3,013,421 (52.7%) of the popular vote and 214 electoral votes in 1868 and gained reelection in 1872 with 3,596,745 (55.8%) of the popular vote and 286 electoral votes.

During Grant's administration as president, reconstruction was forefront, and he worked to rebuild the South and actively ensured the ratification of the 15th Amendment, giving U.S. citizens the right to vote regardless of "race, color or previous condition of servitude." During this time Grant faced resistance as terrorist organizations like the Ku Klux Klan formed to prevent social progress. Grant's administration endured corruption and financial scandals: the Whiskey Ring fraud which defrauded the federal government of over \$3 million dollars, the Credit Mobilier railroad scandal that involved his attorney general and secretary of interior, the bribes taken by his Secretary of War in exchange for the sale of Native American trading posts, the skimming of liquor taxes by his private secretary, and the scheme by Vice President Henry Wilson to overcharge on government rail-building projects. Amidst the corruption and financial scandals that plagued his presidency, the Civil Service Commission was established in 1871 to diffuse the corruption issue. Though foreign affairs were a minor aspect, as most attention was directed inward to rebuild the country into a united force. Grant did attempt, though unsuccessfully, to annex the Caribbean island of Santo Domingo. His most noted accomplishment was obtaining British reimbursement to the U.S. for the damages that the British warships had done during the Civil War.⁵

⁵The British provided British Warships to the Confederates during the war



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General Ulysses S. Grant: While in Office

1869 Signed an Act to Strengthen Public Credit • Black Friday on the New York gold exchange • Government gold sale approved • First transcontinental railroad in North America • Peace policy inaugurated • Board of Indian Commissioners created **1870** Treaty of annexation with Santo Domingo failed to gain support from Senate • 15th Amendment ratified • Federal Indian policy placed tribes on reservations with military aid when needed • Federal program to provide schools for the education of Native American Indians • Hiram Revels became first black congressman to take seat in Senate **1871** George William Curtis appointed to head first Civil Service Commission • The Treaty of Washington • New York Times began series of articles exposing the Tweed Ring **1872** Liberal Republican Convention met at Cincinnati to discuss discontent over reconstruction policies and corruption in government (termed 'Grantism') • Amnesty bill signed • Republican Convention re-nominated Grant • Credit Mobilier scandal erupted involving several politicians • Grant reelected president • Women's Suffrage Movement: Susan B. Anthony arrested for attempting to vote **1873** Grant inaugurated for second term • Panic of 1873 **1874** Bill vetoed to increase amount of legal tender currency • Bill created to limit amount of legal tender currency and to provide for currency retirement • Woman's Christian Temperance Union⁶ formed **1875** Corrupt officials and businessmen (Whisky Ring) exposed and investigated • Grant announced that he will not be a candidate for a third term • Treasury Secretary forced to resign after tax collecting scandal • Alexander Graham Bell invented first telephone **1876** Secretary of War William W. Belknap is impeached on charges of accepting bribes from Indian agents **1877** U.S. Grant administration ended March 4

Key Establishments

Civil Service Commission established • 15th Amendment ratified

General Ulysses S. Grant: Personal Trivia

Presidential Number: 18 **Years President:** 1869-1877 **Age at Inauguration:** 46 **Terms:** 2 **Political Affiliation:** Republican **State Represented:** Illinois **Marriage:** January 1, 1772 **First Lady:** Julia Dent Grant **Vice President:** Schuyler Colfax (1869-1873); Henry Wilson (1873-1875) **Birthday:** April 27, 1822 **Birthplace:** Point Pleasant, Ohio **Birth Name:**

⁶ Goal of organization was to ban the sale and consumption of alcohol

Hiram Ulysses Grant **Nicknames:** Uncle Sam; "the Butcher;" also known by initials **U.S. Grant Parents:** Hannah Simpson and Jesse R. Grant **Education:** United States Military Academy, West Point **Professions:** Army Officer; Real estate business; Farmer; Civil War General; 18th President of the United States Pre-Presidential **Offices:** Secretary of War under President Andrew Jackson **Occupation after Presidency:** Political Activist; Writer **Religion:** Methodist **Hobbies:** Horseback riding; playing cards/gambling; playing pool; playing with his children; painting & drawing **Writings:** Personal Memoirs (2 vols.) **Children:** Frederick Dent (Fred); Ulysses S. Jr. (Buck); Ellen (Nellie); Jesse Root Jr. **Pets:** Faithful, a Newfoundland; horses named Jeff Davis, Julia, Jennie, Mary, Butcher Boy, Cincinnatus, Egypt and St. Louis; ponies named Reb and Billy Button; pigs; dogs a parrot; roosters **Died:** July 23, 1885

Notable Facts

First of many Civil War officers to become President **First President** elected in part by African American voters in 1872

Interesting Facts

- ❖ Artistic talent for painting and drawing
- ❖ Said that President Lincoln was "incontestably the greatest man [he] ever knew"
- ❖ His tailor was Abercrombie and Fitch
- ❖ One-eight inch shy of 5'8
- ❖ Manuscript of his Memoirs is in the Library of Congress
- ❖ Sherman and Sheridan were his favorite Federate Generals
- ❖ Congressman who appointed him to West Point confused his name, using his middle name first and his mother's maiden name (Simpson) for a middle name; Later he accepted U.S. Grant as his true name, and insisted that his middle initial stood for "nothing."
- ❖ Received nickname "Uncle Sam" at West Point for his initials; soon shortened to "Sam"
- ❖ President of the cadet literary society at West Point
- ❖ Voted for Democrat James Buchanan for president⁷
- ❖ Escaped assassination when declined Lincoln's invitation to Ford's Theater⁸
- ❖ "Let us have peace" became his Republican slogan
- ❖ Visited the Willard Hotel to escape stresses of White House
- ❖ 3 U.S. Presidents attended his funeral
- ❖ Sales of 'Memoirs' gain Grant family a total profit of \$450,000
- ❖ Grant's tomb cost an estimated \$600,000 to construct

⁷ Hoped to delay succession and possibly avoid war by averting a Republican's success

⁸ John Wilkes Booth and his co-conspirators planned to assassinate Grant along with Lincoln