



MINIÉ BALL GAZETTE

The Official Newsletter of the Lowcountry Civil War Round Table, Inc.

October 15, 2018

Dear LCWRT members,

This year's club fair was relatively successful. We had nine new members sign up as well as 17 renewals; quite a few persons took a tri-fold which gives pertinent information about us and contains an application. We are slightly less in our total membership, and some of this is because of a lack of renewals. It was suggested that we send emails to all members reminding them of the need for payment of dues. This, to me, would be most difficult and I urge you each to be cognizant that our fiscal year is June 1 - through May 31. Dues are typically paid and collected in August and September. For any who is delinquent, the dues can be paid when you attend a presentation.

The worst civilian disaster in the Civil War took place on Sept. 17, 1862, at the Allegheny Arsenal in Lawrenceville, Pa. Seventy-eight women and children were employed to stuff, roll and tie ammunition during the battle of Antietam. A wagon load of gunpowder exploded because of sparks from horses' iron shoes on the hard stone pavement. It is believed that the barrels used by DuPont were leaking.

We have updated our By-Laws and Policies and Procedures and now will be reviewing the criteria of our annual high school scholarship program. I will report on this in the future, but we feel this is an excellent program and provides much recognition and favorable commentary to LCWRT.

On Nov. 17, 1865, one page of the Gettysburg Address was written in Washington, D.C. However, the final line and one-half lines were written in pencil in Gettysburg, on Nov. 18. On the morning of the address - Nov. 19 - Lincoln wrote a new draft, copying the first and making a few changes; there were 239 words in the first and 269 in the second. Five words - "a" - were one-letter; 46 had two letters; 44 had three; 36 had four; 30 had five; 13 had seven, and the rest had eight or more letters. There were only 18 words of three or more syllables. There are five known copies, and they have sold commercially for a total of \$605,000; this is an average of \$2,225 per word and is the highest price ever brought by written words.

Abraham Lincoln was the first president to have a beard. On Oct. 18, 1860, an 11-year-old girl, Grace Bedell of Westfield, NY, wrote him and told him he would look better with whiskers. By Feb. 9, 1861, his beard was fully grown - he met Miss Bedell once in one of his stops. The next nine men voted in as president except William McKinley had beards.

Boston Corbett was a religious fanatic and collected \$1,653.85 for killing John Wilkes Booth. He was later sent to an insane asylum trying to wipe out the Kansas legislature with a pistol.

"It is the Lord's day, my wish is fulfilled. I have always desired to die on Sunday. Let us cross over the river and rest under the shade of the trees." Gen. Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson, on his deathbed.

Thank you for your support.

Michael Sweeney, President LCWRT

WE NEED YOU! PAY YOUR DUES . . .

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Candice Shy Hooper

**Author of Lincoln's Generals' Wives;
Four Women Who Influenced the Civil War - for Better and for Worse.**

Born on Guam to a U. S. Navy Hospital Corpsman and his intrepid Hoosier wife, Candice Shy Hooper attended more than half a dozen schools before her high school graduation. The one constant in her nomadic life were libraries from Saipan to Norfolk, Virginia, that her parents made the family's first stop in every household move.

With an undergraduate degree in journalism from the University of Illinois and a law degree from Georgetown University, it was only after a career on Capitol Hill as aide to the late Congressman Charlie Wilson ("Charlie Wilson's War") and as a lobbyist with her husband that she "discovered" her true intellectual passion. Returning to school in 2006, she earned an MA in history, with a concentration in military history, from George Washington University.

Hooper's work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *The Journal of Military History*, *The Michigan War Studies Review*, and *District Lines* (an anthology published by the renowned independent bookstore Politics & Prose). She has spoken at the Society for Military History annual conference, Film & History yearly conference, and the Southern Historical Association, and she has lectured at the U. S. Naval Academy and George Washington University.

Candice is a Member of the Board of Directors of President Lincoln's Cottage at the National Soldiers' Home in Washington, DC. She is also a member of the Ulysses S. and Julia D. Grant Historical Home Advisory Board in Detroit, Michigan. Hooper is currently president of the Johann Fust Library Foundation in Boca Grande, Florida, where she spends half the year with her husband Lindsay and her canine personal trainer, Bisbee. The rest is divided between Virginia and Wyoming.

* * *

Julia Boggs Dent Grant

Julia Boggs Dent was born January 26, 1826, in St. Louis, Missouri, the daughter of English-American parents Col. Frederick Dent and Ellen Wrenshall Dent. Julia, the fifth of seven children and the first girl, felt pampered by her brothers, but believed she remained unspoiled. Her dynamic nature was matched by the firmness of her will. Raised on the White Haven plantation approximately 12 miles from St. Louis, in a typically Southern atmosphere. She enjoyed outdoor activities: fishing, riding horses, and playing in the woods.

Her playmates included slave children; eventually, the girl she played with as a child became her slave servant. Her name was Julia, known as Jule. Jule, had been her companion and confidante her entire young life. Julia was gifted with prophetic dreams, which Jule helped

her interpret; Julia secretly taught Jule to read, while Jule became her vision-impaired mistress's eyes to the world.

Well educated, she attended Misses' Mauros' Boarding School in St. Louis for seven years with the daughters of well-to-do parents. She took a liking to literature, and during her later school years, developed a lifelong passion for reading novels. Apart from her early formal education, she also learned classic literature and poetry from readings by her mother. Her brother Louis, to whom she was closest among her four brothers, engaged her in reading and reciting the works of Shakespeare and Byron. Skilled at the piano, Julia enjoyed playing and singing traditional Scottish ballads and contemporary compositions popular in the Southern states such as those written by Stephen Foster: "Old Folks at Home," "Oh! Susanna," and "Camptown Races." She was also an expert horsewoman, especially attached to her horse Psyche, and would remain devoted to both riding and attending horse races for the rest of her life.

In her later memoirs, she painted an idyllic picture of her upbringing depicting the plantation as a place where even the slaves were content. In memoirs prepared later in life she pictured her girlhood as an idyll: "*one long summer of sunshine, flowers, and smiles.*"

"He is Pure Gold."

Julia declared as a schoolgirl that she would marry "*a soldier, a gallant, brave, dashing soldier.*"

During his education at West Point Academy, Fred Dent wrote Julia about how impressed he was with a fellow student, Ulysses S. Grant from Point Pleasant, Ohio. "*I want you to know him,*" he wrote, "*He is pure gold.*" Fred Dent had also spoken to Grant about his sister. (Grant's father, Jesse, had arranged to send him to West Point without consulting his son. When the 17-year-old named Hiram Ulysses Grant arrived at West Point in 1839, his name was changed due to a clerical error. To his friends, however, he was known simply as "Sam" an expert horseman. After a mediocre stint as a cadet, he graduated 21 out of 39 cadets in the class of 1843.)

Grant was commissioned a brevet second lieutenant in the 4th U.S. Infantry, which was stationed at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., near St. Louis. Other than the army, Grant never found his niche in life.

After returning home from boarding school in April, Julia met "Ulys" a short dumpy man but a brilliant horseman and reluctant soldier. Grant was four years older, but they were instantly attracted to each other. On another visit, he sat outside on the porch with Julia, rather than her brother. He asked her to accept and wear his class ring.

On another trip to visit Julia, they went for a buggy ride, and he made a hasty proposal of marriage that led to an engagement opposed by both sets of parents. However, the two kept the commitment hidden from Col. Dent, who was unhappy with Grant's meager pay as a soldier. Grant finally asked Dent for permission to marry Julia in 1845 and received approval, but the outbreak of the Mexican-American War delayed the wedding. He and Julia enjoyed walks and horseback rides, often dodging her siblings and slaves to be alone.

During her long separation from Grant, Julia did not deny herself the flirtations of young men who serenaded her and her sister Ellen outside of their windows. Nevertheless, she and

Grant continued an intense correspondence, Grant often writing from his tent on the battlefields. When once there was a month when she received no letter, Julia had a dream that her name appeared in a newspaper listed as the recipient of letters without a proper address – and like previous dreams related to Grant, it proved correct.

“Dearest Julia”

In late July of 1848, Grant returned from the War and suggested to Julia that they marry quickly. He had been courting Julia for four years, though much of the wooing took place through the U.S. mails, so she was eager to say “Yes.” His love letters to her survive, and they make interesting reading.

Despite her husband's objections, Julia kept her slave — Jule. Lt. Julia said her father opposed the match, saying, “*the boy is too poor,*” and she answered angrily that she was *poor* herself. The “poverty” on her part came from a slaveowner’s lack of ready cash. They married on August 22, 1848. The couple eventually had four children. In the early years of their marriage, Grant was assigned to several remote army posts, many on the West Coast, which kept him separated from his family. She was 22 when they married and remained protective and adoring of her husband, whom she addressed with several nicknames, including Dodo, Dode, Victor, and Dudy. They were faithful to one another and didn’t engage in the modern propensity of “*straying.*”

Julia was “plain,” not considered a beauty, along with having a wandering eye (strabismus), and she was aware of it early on, but it never stopped her from being personable and warmhearted. She was popular with her peers and would make friends wherever she went. Strabismus is a common anomaly, and today, it is quickly and successfully corrected in very early childhood. But in the 1830s, when Julia Dent Grant was growing up, that technology was in the far distant future. She reportedly always insisted on being photographed in the profile so her eyes wouldn’t draw so much attention.

Shortly before the First Lady was about to leave for Philadelphia to have doctors look at her eyes, she received a short note from her husband. “*Dear Julia, I don’t want to have your eyes fooled with. They are all right as they are. They look just as they did the very first time I ever saw them – the same eyes I looked into when I fell in love with you – the same eyes that looked up into mine and told me that my love was returned*” Julia unpacked her suitcase and canceled her appointment. She never had her eye repaired – or complained about it again. “No,” she told her advisers, “*I don’t want surgery of any kind. My husband likes me the way I am, and I respect him too much to make a change.*”

Their marriage, often tried by adversity, did not keep them from offering each other a lifelong loyalty. Like other army wives, “*dearest Julia*” accompanied her husband to distant military posts. His first posting was to Sackets Harbor, N.Y., where Grant learned the duty was a far cry from his adventures in Mexico. While at Sackets Harbor, he coped with the inactivity of peacetime with frequent drinking. Worried about his drinking, he joined the Sons of Temperance and became an active participant in the temperance movement. During his stay at Sackets Harbor, his involvement with the Sons of Temperance alleviated the urge to drink.

Then they returned to her parents’ home in 1852 he was ordered to Detroit, Mich., which, took him away from the moral support of the Sons of Temperance and reintroduced him to the

heavy drinking —a feature of army life. He began to confront accusations that he drank too much. One of these accusations arose when he brought charges against a local storekeeper. One night, while passing in front of the store, Grant slipped and fell on the ice and hurt his leg. He filed a civil complaint against the storekeeper. During the court case, the owner said, “*If you soldiers would keep sober, perhaps you would not fall on people’s pavement and hurt your legs.*” Grant won his complaint, but the case grabbed the attention of the military in St. Louis and fed rumors that Ulysses S. Grant was fond of the bottle.

In the spring of 1852 Grants’ regiment was ordered to Fort Vancouver, Ore. After leaving Julia and his children with his in-laws in Missouri, Grant traveled to NYC for transport to Panama via the steamship *Ohio*. The captain of the *Ohio* said that Grant was a diligent worker and would conduct his duties after he’d gone to bed. The captain remembered that Grant would visit the cabin throughout the evening to drink whiskey kept in a cabinet.

Not long after arriving at Fort Vancouver, Grant battled the boredom and loneliness that came with prolonged separation from his family. Like other officers, he turned to the bottle to help pass the time. Many men later recalled seeing him drink. Unfortunately for Grant, his small stature and frame ensured that he showed the ill effects of alcohol after a few drinks. His reputation was further tarnished because he became intoxicated in front of the wrong people, one of which was future general George B. McClellan. Becoming drunk in front of officers like McClellan, spread the question of Grant’s drinking habits to influential people within the Army. In later years, Julia would forcefully maintain that her husband did not develop an alcohol dependency while stationed in California. However, she may have crafted her words carefully to avoid an outright denial of his condition during their two-year separation, chronicling only her feelings of being “*indignant and grieved*” by statements suggesting Ulysses Grant was “*dejected, low-spirited, badly-dressed and even slovenly.*”

At Fort Humboldt, Grant’s drinking did not go unnoticed by the commander, Lt. Col. Robert Buchanan. He used his position as the post commander to make life unbearable for the captain and spread rumors that Grant was immoderate. Made miserable by Buchanan and missing his family, Grant considered resigning his commission. One night he imbibed more than usual, and when he reported for duty the next day, he appeared to be intoxicated. A furious Buchanan, put Grant on report for drunkenness while on duty, instructing him to draft a letter of resignation and keep it in a safe place. After another instance of late-night drinking, Buchanan requested that Grant sign the letter of resignation or he would be charged with drunkenness while on duty.

Facing a court-martial, Grant decided he would resign to avoid being drummed out of the service. On April 11, 1854, he sent his signed letter of resignation to the secretary of war. He’d served in the Army for 15 years, performed well, and gained valuable experience. During those 15 years, he had occasionally indulged in periods of drinking, but these mostly had been confined to social occasions or when he had little to occupy his time and was separated from his family. There is no indication that before his resignation Grant drank more than was typical for a man of the time. Unfortunately, he incautiously allowed others to see him when inebriated, and he was left with a reputation as a heavy drinker.

By 1855, the Grants farmed 80 acres of land given to Julia as a wedding gift by her father, Julia embracing the role of farmer’s wife. She considered herself “*a splendid farmer’s wife,*” raising chickens — even churning butter. Except for baking a cake once a week, she left the cooking to

the slaves. They spent the next five years in St. Louis, with Ulysses managing the rest of the White Haven estate as well. Those days were financially difficult for them, but Julia stayed supportive of her hard-working husband. For three years Grant tried to make a living from the land before giving up in 1858 following the Panic of 1857*. After the farm failure, he unsuccessfully attempted other jobs becoming a bill collector in 1858 — 59. He entered the real estate business with Julia's cousin. He proved incapable of collecting rents and was frequently late to work. Grant was never cut out to be a business man. Eventually, he returned to Galena, Ill. taking his family back to his home, where he worked in his father's leather goods store. The Grants had four healthy children: Frederick, Ulysses Jr. (called Buck), Ellen (called Nellie or Missy), and Jesse. Despite disappointments, Grant was content, reunited with Julia and busy supporting his family, with neither the time nor the inclination to drink. He led a sober life.

*The Panic of 1857 was caused by some factors: European demand for American grain crops fell at the end of the Crimean War reopening Western European markets to Russian grains. U.S. bumper crops produced a glut of agricultural goods, therefore, lower prices and fewer profits for American farmers, many in debt to Eastern merchants and bankers. The U.S. was also running a trade imbalance with foreign nations, and the excess of imports over exports meant that gold was being drained from the country. During the summer, banks raised interest rates as they desperately sought to build up their gold reserves. Much of the investment in railroads and land was speculative, based on credit, not expected to be profitable for years. These and other conditions put a tremendous strain on the American economy in 1857.

The 21st Illinois Infantry

With the outbreak of the Civil War, Grant wanting to return to military duty as an officer of the U.S. Army. He left to meet Union Gen. George McClellan in pursuit of a commission. Julia opened his mail and discovered he'd been reinstated as a colonel in the 21st Illinois Infantry. Two months later, in July 1861, President Lincoln promoted him Brigadier General of Volunteers, and in September was given command of the District of Southeast Missouri. The War changed their fortunes, as Grant's success as Union commander eventually provided Julia and the children with a better lifestyle. She served as the financial manager and agent for White Haven, leasing sections of the farm, collecting rent, and consolidating land titles. Her entire life, she still called the farm "home."

November 17, 1861, The Battle of Belmont, was Grant's first engagement as General. Union forces raid the Confederate camp but fell back when they counterattacked. Grant's horse was 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.

On February 16, 1862, Grant takes Fort Donelson, Tenn., the first Union victory of strategic importance in the war. He becomes nationally famous with his dispatch, *"No terms accept immediate and unconditional surrender. I propose to move immediately upon your works."* His 1862 triumphs in Western Tennessee earned him the nickname *"Unconditional Surrender"* and placed him before the public eye.

As Grant rose through the ranks of the Union army, the distinctions between Julia and Jule — mistress and slave strained their unlikely friendship. A devoted wife, Julia often joined her

husband at his military postings, including several trips to the front during the War, before the start of the Vicksburg campaign. Both women risked danger as they traveled to and from Gen. Grant's military headquarters.

"I spent much time by my father's side during the great civil war, especially in 1863 when he was with the Army of the Tennessee. I was allowed to accompany him in the memorable campaign against Vicksburg and spent many a night sleeping by his side in his traveling tent. Many of his characteristics I came to grow and understand during this time, and I look back with great and cherished fondness to those days." — Frederick Dent Grant

Rumors of excessive alcohol consumption plagued Grant, even following his successes at Forts Henry and Donelson, prompting Maj. Gen. Henry Halleck, to suspend him from field command. But his reputation as a man of action was cemented, despite the 20 cigars he had begun to smoke each day habitually. The jealous Gen. Henry Halleck spread malicious and false rumors that Grant has *"resumed his former bad habits."*

Sylvanus Cadwallader, a war correspondent for the *Chicago Times* and later for the *New York Herald*, was attached to Gen. Grant's headquarters from 1862 to 1865. Cadwallader recounted the most infamous tale of Grant's drinking during the war. It began on June 3 during an inspection tour to Satartia, Miss., on the Yazoo River. The siege was agonizingly slow, and Grant had been separated from Julia since April. To alleviate his boredom, he had chosen to travel up the Yazoo. During his trip, Grant encountered the steamboat *Diligence* carrying Cadwallader down the river from Satartia. Grant decided to board *Diligence*, and according to Cadwallader: *"I was not long in perceiving that Grant had been drinking heavily and that he was still keeping it up. He made several trips to the bar room of the boat in a short time, and became stupid in speech and staggering in gait. This was the first time he had shown symptoms of intoxication in my presence, and I was greatly alarmed by his condition, which was fast becoming worse."* For the next two days, Cadwallader tried to stop Grant from drinking and did his best to keep him out of trouble. By the time Grant finally arrived back at his headquarters, he had sobered up.

On April 6-7, 1862, The Battle of Shiloh took place. 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 resists disaster, and the Union holds the field on the second day.

After the Battle of Shiloh, rumors of drinking cause speculation on Grant's fitness to command. When the Confederate forces issued a surprise attack at the Battle of Shiloh which yielded devastating casualties during the first day's fighting, President Lincoln responded merely, saying, *"I cannot spare this man; he fights."*

Grant proved to be the general that Lincoln had been looking for. Historian David Coffey wrote: *"Throughout the war, Lincoln had placed his faith and the armies of the United States in the hands of dozens of men – George B. McClellan, John Pope, Ambrose Burnside, Joseph Hooker, Henry Halleck, Don Carlos Buell, and William S. Rosecrans to name but a few – all of whom he found wanting in drive and, most important, in success. Even George Meade, who commanded at Gettysburg, had ultimately disappointed. By the end of 1863, Lincoln knew of only one man who had delivered consistently the kind of performance the president needed so desperately to see – Ulysses S. Grant."*

Grant's Army — bolstered by troops under Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell — fended off Confederate advances and ultimately won the day. Maj. John Rawlins, on Grant's staff, took it

upon himself to keep Grant temperate. He went to great lengths to defend him against accusations that he had been drinking during the battle.

Julia was often present even during military strategy sessions. Once, recognizing the confidential maneuvers being discussed by her husband and Gen. John Sherman, she said, *"Perhaps you don't want me here listening to your secrets?"* Trusting her confidence, Sherman nonetheless teased, *"Do you think we can trust her, Grant?"* to which her husband quipped, *"I'm not so sure about that."* After posing a mock-serious battery of military questions, Sherman replied, *"Well, Grant, I think we can trust her."*

As the War proceeded, Grant's fame rose. The couple determined that Philadelphia would be the safest place to have a home base and ensure the children's educations; the matter of where they would live in that city was solved when wealthy members of the Philadelphia Union Club gave them a gift of a fully-furnished Chestnut Street home, worth \$30,000. It spared the general's wife the anxiety of finding and leasing a home.

The Emancipation Proclamation took effect on New Year's Day January 1, 1863. Even after that date, Jule worked for Julia, most likely as a paid servant, as Julia was with Grant in Memphis and then in Vicksburg. By the end of November 1863, Julia was with Grant in Tennessee, comforting wounded soldiers in his camp hospital. It is believed that Jule was with her in Nashville in January when Julia learned by telegram that her oldest son, Fred, was critically ill from dysentery contracted during the siege of Vicksburg. Julia and Jule and young Jesse quickly embarked on final journey together. *"At Louisville, my nurse (a girl raised at my home) left me,"* Julia later recalled. *"I suppose she feared losing her freedom if she returned to Missouri."* We know nothing of Jule's life once she left Julia, except for one tiny but satisfying fact. In her memoirs, after describing Jule's disappearance, Julia wrote, *"However, she married soon afterwards."*

Between February 1863 through April 1863, Grant's forces unsuccessful moved around Vicksburg, Miss. During May 12- May 17, 1863, Grant implemented his grand strategy in taking Vicksburg by moving between two wings of the enemy and routing them both. In five days, he fought and defeated the enemy at Jackson, Champion Hill and Big Black River. His baggage consists of a toothbrush and comb. Between May 19 and May 22, Grant attempted two frontal assaults upon Vicksburg, but both were repelled. The Union forces settle down to a siege. Again, he was separated from his family for a prolonged period, when most of his drinking took place.

By July 4, Vicksburg surrendered. This was Grant's tour de force as a General, one of greatest military campaigns in history.

Summer, 1863: Following a fall from a bad-tempered horse in New Orleans, Grant spent the summer with his family in a house near Vicksburg. His leg was so badly swollen that he was bedridden for weeks and used crutches until October.

Grant's rapid rise through military ranks, surpassing many of his compatriots, also led to the revival and circulation of stories about his "former bad habits" of heavy drinking during his desolate years of isolated assignment in California. A kernel of truth was apparently enough for those jealous of his sudden prominence to embellish tales of his alcohol consumption and its effect on him.

A political cartoon played on the rumor that Ulysses Grant drank to excess. From that point on, until her death, Julia Grant denied that her husband had ever consumed alcohol in an excessive amount. She may have stated this for the record knowing it to be true, knowing it to be a lie or was never fully informed of the extent of his drinking.

It was a tribute to Mrs. Grant's charm that she was able to maintain her loyalty to her husband during the War while avoiding an outright breach with her father who was for the Confederacy. Other Grant family members declared themselves permanently estranged from the couple because of their Union loyalty. Whenever Unionists verbally attacked the South in her presence, Julia Grant disciplined herself to remain silent.

With a strong desire to contribute to the War effort, Julia became a trusted confidant, and often offered suggestions, such as inviting President and First Lady to visit them at the front. She even asked her husband (unsuccessfully) to let her act as an emissary for proposed peace talks with the Confederates in 1864.

As commander of the Western Union Armies, operating between the Appalachians and Arkansas, Grant defeated the Confederates under Gen. Braxton Bragg at the third campaign of Chattanooga, a series of decisive battles fought between Oct. 26 and Nov. 25, 1863, which opened the way to the invasion of Georgia.

Between November 22 to 25, the Battle of Chattanooga culminated in Union victories at Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge. The Confederates were forced to retreat into Tennessee.

On March 9, 1864, Grant went to the White House, by invitation of Mr. Lincoln, to receive his commission from the hands of the President. While in Washington Gen. 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."*

Making his headquarters with the Army of the Potomac, Grant was determined to defeat Gen. Lee and his vaunted Army of Northern Virginia. After the Confederate defeat at Chattanooga, President Lincoln promoted Grant to a special army rank, General-in-chief (Lieutenant General), authorized by Congress on March 12, 1864, of all U.S. armies. Lincoln needed a general who could fight, but, even more, one who could coordinate. Previously, this rank had been awarded to two other U.S. heroes — a full rank to George Washington and a Brevet rank to Winfield Scott. President Lincoln was reluctant to award the promotion until he was sure that Grant was planning on being a candidate in the Presidential Election of 1864. Grant moved his headquarters to the East and made Maj. Gen. Sherman as Commander of the Western Armies. President Lincoln and Grant devised *"total war"* plans that struck at the heart of the Confederacy, including military, railroad, and economic infrastructures. When Grant was put in command of the Union Army, he was able to defeat Lee's Confederate army within a year

successfully coordinated the activity of all Union Armies and personally directed the successful Overland Campaign.

The Overland Campaign, also known as Grant's Overland Campaign and the Wilderness Campaign, was a series of battles fought in Virginia from May 5 and June 3, 1864. Lt. Gen. Grant, directed the Army of the Potomac, commanded by Maj. Gen. George G. Meade, and other forces against Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Grant suffered severe losses during the campaign. The rebels lost 32,000 and the Federals 50,000. It was a strategic Union victory. Grant could obtain replacements and Lee could not.

The First Meeting of the Big Four

On March 27, 1865, and the following day, President Abraham Lincoln, Gen. Grant and Gen. William T. Sherman (along with Admiral David D. Porter) held talks aboard the *River Queen* the president's steamship in City Point, Va. Grant had worked closely with Lincoln since receiving command of the Union armies and developed a firm friendship with Sherman while serving alongside him in the Western Theater. The three men — generally given credit for steering the Union to victory in the Civil War — had never before met together. Part social call and part strategy session, they discussed, what to do with the South following its inevitable surrender.

On April 9, 1865, at Appomattox Court House, Lee surrendered in the McLean House. Grant wrote out generous terms of surrender that would prevent treason trials that virtually concluded the Civil War. When Union soldiers got too rambunctious, he quieted them. "*The War is over,*" he said, "*the Rebel's area gain our countrymen, and the best sign of rejoicing is to abstain from all demonstrations in the field.*"

By April 14, 1865, five days after Grant's victory at Appomattox, he attended a cabinet meeting in D.C. Lincoln invited him and his wife to Ford's Theater to see a performance of *Our American Cousin*. The president was eager for company, and tried to persuade Gen. and Mrs. Grant to occupy seats in his box at the theater. Julia Grant refused to go; she was unwilling to subject herself to outbursts by Mary Todd Lincoln of which she had experienced. Thus, when the president needed him most, the Union's most robust field commander was not by his side that Good Friday evening when his life was taken by John Wilkes Booth. The conspiracy targeted top cabinet members, in the last effort to topple the Union. Stanton notified him of the President's death and summoned him back to Washington. Grant thought that he had been a target in the plot.

Vice President Andrew Johnson

Vice President Andrew Johnson was sworn in as President on April 15. Attending Lincoln's funeral on April 19, Grant stood alone and wept openly; he later said Lincoln was "*the greatest man I have ever known.*"

Upon Johnson's assuming the presidency, Grant told Julia he dreaded the change in administrations; he judged Johnson's viewpoint toward white southerners as one that would

"make them unwilling citizens," and feared that the Civil War would be reborn.

The partnership of Ulysses S. Grant and Abraham Lincoln saved the Union. Grant biographer Jean Edward Smith wrote: *"Lincoln and Grant deserve the nation's credit for saving the United States, eradicating slavery, and striving to provide equality for the freedman. One could not have succeeded without the other. And while Lincoln set the course, it was Grant who sailed the ship."*

The Savior of the Union?

Following the War, Ulysses S. Grant became a national hero. In 1866 he was appointed America's first four-star general at the recommendation of President Andrew Johnson, and Against his wishes, Grant was named Secretary of War over the newly reunited nation. In the fall of 1866, Grant refused to be sent to Mexico by President Johnson, a wily and jealous man who wanted the famous General out of the way. These two fellows never got along. Grant would aid Congress, led by the Radicals, in their effort to reconstruct the South. Grant often disagreed with President Andrew Johnson's conservative approach during the Reconstruction Era of the United States. He was looked on as a popular national leader who could mend the wounds of the nations and bring peace.

When the Republican Party met at their 1868 National Convention in Chicago, the delegates without opposition nominated Grant for president and Speaker of the House Schuyler Colfax, for vice president. Grant had preferred to remain in the army, but accepted the Republican nomination out of duty, believing he was the *only one* who could unify the nation.

Believing it was her husband's destiny to become President, Julia Grant never doubted that, once nominated by the Republican Party, he would win. The candidate did not openly campaign as in later generations, but delegations and individuals came to him. In 1868, running against Andrew Johnson, Ulysses S. Grant was elected 18th President of the United States.

President Ulysses S. Grant

Grant entered the White House on March 4, 1869, politically inexperienced and, at age 46, the youngest man theretofore elected president. Notably, Grant named Ely S. Parker, a Seneca Indian who had served with him as a staff officer, commissioner of Indian affairs, and Grant's wife persuaded him to appoint Hamilton Fish secretary of state. Strong-willed and forthright, Julia claimed credit for helping to convince her husband to veto the Finance Bill. She did not often involve herself in presidential decisions. However, she daringly — supported women's rights and considered Susan B. Anthony to be a friend.

When Grant took the oath of office the city of Washington was mobbed with visitors who had come to see their soldier hero assume the highest office in the land. The weather was cold, and a blizzard threatened, but the people's enthusiasm made it a memorable occasion nonetheless. As soon as the ceremony was over a salute was fired, steam whistles blew, bells pealed, bands played, and the crowd cheered. Only Andrew Johnson was absent from the scene, as the bitterness between the two men was too deep to be bridged even casually. After the ceremony, the Grants returned to the White House in the afternoon to greet their residence on I Street, a

home which Julia was reluctant to leave.

The Inaugural Ball that night was even more disorganized and confused than usual. It was held in the newly finished wing of the Treasury Building, and the company was almost choked by the plaster dust of the construction. The checking facilities failed, and only a few of the guests were able to reach the elegant supper included in the celebration. But the President and the new First Lady seemed oblivious to these difficulties and received their guests with smiling faces through all the confusion.

As First Lady, one of Mrs. Grant's first tasks was planning for some renovation and redecoration at the White House for fall. She assumed the duties of the first winter's social season with quiet authority. Thus began the years that Julia was to look back upon as "the happiest of my life."

Mrs. Grant had Cabinet wives, and other friends assist her at the weekly afternoon receptions, and the honor guard was always invited to lunch in the family dining room beforehand. At times the ladies remained at the table so long that the impatient guests in the East Room would begin to stamp their feet. Then Julia would lead her assistants to the Blue room from which all daylight had been excluded. The receiving line, headed by Mrs. Grant, greeted all the guests as they steamed past, shaking hands with them and sending them on to the State Dining Room for refreshments. Before the party ended, the President frequently joined the guests to add to their pleasure.

The parading visitors could take note of the new lace curtains and fresh crimson brocade draperies at the windows the glittering chandeliers, the gilt cornices, and the frescoed walls and ceiling.

Grant easily won reelection in 1872, defeating Horace Greeley, the editor of the *New York Tribune* by nearly 800,000 votes in the popular election capturing 286 of 366 electoral votes. Susan B. Anthony supported Grant when he ran for reelection, rather than the first woman candidate for the presidency. Even with the scandals in his second term, he retained enormous popularity and probably would have been elected to a third term in 1876 if he had chosen to run.

The day of the second inauguration in 1873 was one of the coldest on record. With the temperature hovering at 4 degrees F. above zero and a strong wind blowing, decorations and flags were ripped to shreds, and the musicians' breath froze on their instruments. The President's speech could hardly be heard in the icy gale. But the ball that night was even more uncomfortable. In the big, barn-like temporary building called the "Muslin Palace" the guests danced in their wraps. Hundreds of canaries designed to provide a triumphal chorus huddled in their cages, and some even froze to their perches. It was so cold that the food froze solid. By midnight the guests went home to thaw out.

"He didn't really want the third term, (in 1880) and finally, he determined to write a letter declining the nomination. He didn't tell mother about it until after he had gone out and mailed the letter with his own hands. She was much astounded and chagrined and wanted him to go back and get it back. She saw no harm in the third term, but father only smiled and said, 'No, the letter is in the hands of Uncle Sam.' When father was abroad (1877-79), his political friends arranged that he should try again for the third term and had gone so far in their arrangements that when he returned he felt justice in them and felt he ought to go on. The

Presidency was not a thing to be sought, neither was it a thing to refuse if the people felt he ought to have it. But when it came to him, he felt it was his duty to accept it if he could fill the place. He was also incapable of supposing his friends to be dishonest.” — Ulysses S. Grant, Jr.

The Greatest American Social Event of the 19th Century.

Bruce Catton, the noted Grant biographer, once remarked, that Ulysses S. Grant's daughter, Nellie had a "particularly secure place in his heart." She was his only daughter, and was surrounded by affection and attention. Grant was openly demonstrative with Nellie and showed her a quiet consideration that was conspicuous. His fatherly devotion to her was touching to all who observed it. He had a number of nicknames for her, including "Missy" and "Martha Rebecca." In letters he wrote to Julia, he sometimes referred to Nellie using these different pet names.

Nellie, became a national darling at the age of 18, when she was married in the White House in 1874. The public was entranced by all of the planning. One historian described her as “*probably the most attractive of all the young women who have ever lived in the White House.*” The groom, English Army officer Algernon Sartoris*, was a 23-year-old member of the English “minor gentry.”

They met on a Transatlantic voyage to England, courting in the moonlight and stealing “*away to the darkened decks for kisses,*” as Nellie’s chaperons moaned in their cabins with seasickness. Grant tried to prevent the marriage, thinking Nellie was too young to wed. He wrote a letter in July 1873 to Nellie's future father-in-law, Algernon Sartoris, Sr., trying to ascertain whether Algie had a past with women and whether he would remain in England. Grant wrote, “*An attachment seems to have sprung up between these two young people, to my astonishment because I had only looked upon my daughter as a child, with a good home which I did not think of her wishing to quit for years yet. She is my only daughter and I, therefore, feel a double interest in her welfare. I hope you will attribute any apparent bluntness to a father’s anxiety for the welfare and happiness of an only and much-loved daughter.*”

To the public, it was a romantic story. On May 21, 1874, “as the marine band played “Mendelssohn’s Wedding March,” President Grant ushered his daughter into the East Room. The room was a garden of flowers, and the dais on which Nellie stood was canopied with ferns and vines and surmounted by a wedding bell of snowballs and white roses. Rings with the couple’s initials swung at either side of the bell. The bride was radiant, wearing a white satin gown “*trimmed in rare Brussels point lace.*” The president “*looked steadfastly at the floor*” and wept. Afterward an elaborate dinner was served in the State Dining Room. The fare was as elegant as the occasion demanded, and the menus were printed on white satin with a bridal knot of ribbons. Gifts that had poured in from around the world were on view in the library. It was a fairy-tale wedding for a much-loved and only daughter.

Their new son-in-law took Nellie to a new life in England. Unfortunately, the marriage ended in divorce since Algernon was a drunk and a philanderer.

(*Algernon Sartoris was the son of renowned opera singer Adelaide Kemble — sister of

Frances Kemble. Fanny Kemble was a niece of the noted British thespians John Kemble and Sarah Siddons. In 1834, Fanny married a wealthy Georgian planter Pierce Butler who inherited several plantations on the Georgia islands. She would journey with her husband to Georgia in the winter of 1838-39 and keep a journal of her experiences. Her book *Journal of a Residence on a Georgian Plantation* was published in 1863, 14 years after her divorce, Pierce Butler lost a great deal of money gambling and speculating. To regain his wealth, he sold off his assets: 436 slaves. The auction took place in 1859 and would become known as the “*Weeping Time*.” It was the most massive sale of human beings in U.S. history. Nellie and Algernon were married in 1874, the same year that Lord Randolph Churchill married Jeanette Jerome American heiress the soon-to-be mother of Winston Churchill.)

The executive mansion was also the home of both the president’s father and his father-in-law, whose squabbling with each other was general knowledge and aroused considerable public amusement. Because the Gilded Age was at hand, Americans did not seem to mind that the Grants enjoyed ostentatious living. They redecorated the White House lavishly and entertained accordingly, with state dinners sometimes consisting of 29 courses complemented by nine French wines.

Grant’s administration was rife with scandal. The first significant impropriety dealt with speculation in the gold market by Jay Gould and James Fisk when they attempted to corner the market. They drove up the price of gold. Grant found out and had the Treasury add gold to the economy. This, resulted in the lowering of gold prices on September 24, 1869, which adversely affected all those who had bought gold. Grant signed his first law on March 18, 1869, pledging to redeem in gold the greenback currency issued during the Civil War. He appointed the first Civil Service Commission, then abandoned his support for the group when faced with congressional compromise. He was more persistent but unsuccessful when the Senate narrowly rejected a treaty of annexation with the Dominican Republic (which Grant had been persuaded would be of strategic importance to the building of a canal connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans). His negotiation of the “Treaty of Washington” provided for the settlement by an international tribunal of American claims against Great Britain arising from the wartime activities of the British-built Confederate raider *Alabama*, whose sale had violated Britain’s declared neutrality.

Another scandal that occurred was the Whiskey Ring. In 1875, it was revealed that government employees were pocketing whiskey taxes. Grant called for swift punishment but caused a further scandal when he protected his secretary, Orville Babcock, implicated in the affair.

President Grant advanced a “Peace Policy” to remove corrupt Indian agents, who supervised reservations and replaced them with Christian missionaries, whom he thought morally superior. *“In reality, the peace policy rested on the belief that Americans had the right to dispossess Native peoples of their lands, take-away freedoms, and send them to reservations where missionaries would teach them how to farm, read and write, wear Euro-American clothing, and embrace Christianity. If Indians refused to move to reservations, they would be forced off their homelands by soldiers.”*

As a shoo-in candidate for President in 1868, they were a hugely popular First Couple. The

White House, which had spent eight years of curtailed society due to the Civil War and the unpopular presidency of Andrew Johnson, was now ready to glitter in accordance with the Gilded Age. Both Grants' photographs and *cartes d'visite* were in high demand. Julia had spent decades ducking the camera. After so many years of hardship and stress, Julia rejoiced in her husband's fame as a victorious general and the First Lady to the 18th president of the United States. Unlike many of her predecessors, her husband's election to the presidency was a happy occasion, and she was a popular and well-respected hostess. She entered the White House in 1869 to begin, in her words, "*the happiest period*" of her life. With Cabinet wives as her allies, she entertained extensively and lavishly with the children attending the White House social functions. Contemporaries noted her finery, jewels and silks, and laces.

Grant's leadership style and his contributions to the office of president, included creating a White House staff, employing modern technology to promote the mobility of the presidency, and developing strong ties with congressional leaders to enhance executive influence over legislation. The Grant administration's endeavors were in a variety of areas — Reconstruction and civil rights, economic policy, the Peace Policy for Native Americans, foreign policy, and civil service reform. Grant's accomplishments include signing the act that established the first national park Yellowstone on March 1, 1872.

During Grant's two terms of office, Julia was an active participant in presidential matters. She attended Senate hearings, read through the president's mail, and met with cabinet members, senators, justices, and diplomats. She was the first wife of a president to grant an interview to members of the press.

She loved being a hostess to the nation and brought warmth and a homelike atmosphere to the White House. By her husband's fame, Julia Grant became an overnight sensation in Washington, the general public pushing their way into what she intended to be private receptions in her home. A lavish hostess, invitations to dine in Grant home were a prized commodity among the city's political elite. Indicative of this was her afternoon teas and public receptions open to everyone. Around the town, she was always considered the most prominent figure in the audience at the many lectures, concerts, sermons and theatrical productions she attended. Beyond the circle of military figures of high rank, she came to know important Republican figures in the House and Senate and also befriended many members of the diplomatic corps. Julia became a grandmother while living there. She enjoyed her time so entirely at the White House that she felt like a homeless person when they departed in 1877.

After enduring constant separation from his family during the War, Grant decided not to make Galena their primary residence but instead relocate to Washington during the Reconstruction era. They were the first presidential family to establish a regular "Summer White House," retreating to their Long Branch, N.J. beach home. It was a welcome change from the hectic social life in Washington, and the Grants' son Jesse and his mother always looked sad when it came time to leave and go back to Washington.

Around-the-World-Trip

The Grants' fame reached far beyond the U.S. After leaving the White House in March 1877. Grant and his family immediately set out on a triumphal two-year round-the-world tour, where

they met with dignitaries and cheering crowds. There was no itinerary, and Grant enjoyed himself immensely. He said, *“I feel like a boy out of school.”* Jesse accompanied his parents for some of the trip, and his place was then taken by Fred. His favorite countries on the trip were Japan and Switzerland. General Grant may perhaps be considered the first true “world leader” and was viewed by most people abroad as, *“The Hero of Freedom”* or *“The King of America.”* The feeling people had about Grant can be summed up best by the words of Lord Provost on Sep. 13, 1877 in front of 50,000 people, *“Grant had proved himself the Wellington of America . . . The great and good Lincoln struck down the poisonous tree of slavery, but Grant tore it up by the roots so that it should never live in his country to suck nutriment from its soil.”* He was the first former United States President ever to visit Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. While most 19th-century Americans would limit their travels abroad to Europe, Gen. Grant went as far as the Pyramids of Egypt and the Great Wall of China. In the Holy Land, Grant walked the Via Dolorosa; the street through which Jesus Christ carried his cross.

General and Mrs. Grant were greeted as a conquering hero. In England, he was invited by Queen Victoria to Windsor Castle. He was also well-received by English Prime Minister Disraeli. In Germany, Grant was welcomed by Otto Van Bismarck, the founder and first chancellor of the German Empire, with whom he had an instant understanding. In Belgium, he met King Leopold. In Italy, King Umberto gave him a state dinner and met with him. He had an amicable meeting with Czar Alexander II of Russia, where at the end of their session the Czar said: *“...as long as I live nothing shall be spared to continue this friendship.”* Grant met with the Emperor of Austria, Francis Joseph, at the palace of Schoenbrunn. In Athens, Greece a grand reception was offered by the King and Queen of Greece. Grant was warmly received by the Emperor of Japan and shook hands with him which was strictly forbidden. (In fact, such a thing was never before seen in the history of Japanese majesty.) He met different Maharajah’s in India, King Alfonso XII of Spain, the Emperor of Brazil, and the Prince of Wales (King Edward the VII). Americans were thrilled with the written reports from overseas. Julia Grant was at her happiest, describing the somewhat haphazard, but red-carpeted trip around the world — every minute of that two and a half years she savored to the fullest.

Even after all the success and fame, they enjoyed as the first family in the 1870s; the Grants again faced financial difficulties with failed business investments. In May 1884, the couple fell victim to a Wall Street financial scam that left them nearly penniless. The brokerage firm of Grant and Ward failed on Wall Street. 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 begged 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 is displayed. The Grant and War failure plunged Grant into a prolonged depression.

Personal Memoirs

Grant heeded the advice of Twain and agreed to write his memoirs — *The Complete Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant*. Little did Grant or Twain realize that this decision would alter not

only both their lives but the course of American literature. Little did Grant or Twain realize that this seemingly straightforward decision would profoundly alter not only both their lives but the course of American literature. Over the next fifteen months, as the two men became close friends and intimate collaborators. Over the next 15 months, the two men became close friends and intimate collaborators. Grant candidly depicted his battles against both the external Confederates and his internal Army foes.

General Grant dictated very freely and easily. He made very few changes and never hemmed and hawed. Mark Twain was shown the manuscript of the first volume during one of his dictation sessions with the General. Twain was astonished when he looked at it and said, *“There was not one literary man in one hundred who furnished as clean a copy as Grant. The General's sentences rarely had to be revised in any way, and it was only in the last few weeks that he did not express himself very well.”*

Worse, Ulysses was diagnosed with inoperable throat cancer in September 1884, putting Julia's welfare in grave doubt. The cancer spread and completely debilitated the General. He is only able to have liquid foods in small portions. The pain is almost unendurable, but he valiantly wrote on to provide for his family after his death. Racing against the spread of cancer, Grant composed a triumphant account of his life while Twain struggled to finish and publish his most celebrated novel, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Grant and Twain inspired each other to create two quintessentially American masterpieces. Twain promised Grant exceptional returns in exchange for the right to edit and publish the book — and though his finances were shaky, he was true to his word to the general and his family.

(When the Civil War broke out, Samuel Clemens spent a few weeks in the Confederate army before resigning and heading to Nevada, where his brother Orion was territorial secretary. Clemens began to write again — and adopted the pen name "Mark Twain." A term used in river navigation, "mark twain" means water that is two fathoms (or about 12 feet) deep.)

On June 16, the family moved to Mt. McGregor, New York at the recommendation of his doctors to be in a colder climate. While mortally ill and battling debts, Grant avoided magazine editors, and a constant crush of reporters, wanting to spend every moment to get the story of his life, and his Civil War victories down on paper he wrote at a furious pace, sometimes finishing 25 to 50 pages a day. With a cast of fascinating characters, including Gen. William T. Sherman, William Dean Howells, William Henry Vanderbilt, and Abraham Lincoln, Grant's took in the whole sweep of a glittering, unscrupulous age. A story of friendship and history, inspiration and desperation, genius and ruin, Grant and Twain captured a pivotal moment in the lives of two towering Americans and the age they epitomized.

He completed his memoirs in 1885 five days before his death on July 23 at their Adirondack cottage on the slope of Mt. McGregor, in Moreau, N.Y. *“As long as there is no progress, of cancer, there is hope.”*

At 8:06 a.m. on July 23, Grant died, surrounded by his family and physicians at the age of 63. Fred stopped the mantle clock and then fondly returned to the bedside to stroke his father's forehead the last time. Sheridan, Commanding General of the Army, ordered a day-long tribute to Grant at military posts, and President Grover Cleveland issued a 30-day nationwide period of mourning.

Meanwhile, Twain staked his financial and literary hopes, on imaginative boyhood adventures along the Mississippi River, filled with high adventure and unforgettable characters such as a ragged boy and a runaway slave.

“I had been comparing the memoirs with Caesar's Commentaries. I was able to say in all sincerity that the same high merits distinguished both books — clarity of statement, directness, simplicity, manifest truthfulness, fairness and justice toward friend and foe alike and avoidance of flowery speech. General Grant was just a man, just a human being, just an author. The fact remains and cannot be dislodged that General Grant's book is a great, unique and unapproachable literary masterpiece. There is no higher literature than these modest, simple Memoirs. Their style is at least flawless, and no man can improve upon it.” — Mark Twain

General Grant was an extraordinarily responsible and devoted father and husband. He was extremely loving and kind toward his wife and children and was always considered a hero in their eyes. *“He also taught purity, honesty, truthfulness and consideration of others, and in all these things his own example was better than sermons.”* — Frederick Dent Grant the oldest child. *“I distinctly remember that one of the periodicals he used to read was from the works of Charles Dickens. My father read stories aloud to us, and I have yet a vivid recollection of “Little Dorrit” and other tales. Besides the serial stories, he read Oliver Twist and many books by standard authors.”*

It is possible that General Grant was the most ethical and moral family man and U. S. President that we ever had. He loved Julia, his four children, horses, the theater, his Missouri farm, painting, travel, Mexico, and novels. An adage declares: *“Good writers are invariably good readers.”* What did Grant read? Beginning with the long list of novelists, he read at West Point, hints at a story of his imaginative depth. He was not an eloquent speaker like Lincoln nor a fiery personality like Theodore Roosevelt; his leadership was different.

The Grant's 37 years of marriage were marked by love, trust, and respect. Julia fondly recalled her husband as *“the nicest and handsomest man I ever saw.”* She told jokes to keep him entertained, and often jested with Mark Twain. The president's book published by Mark Twain was a massive hit selling more than 300,000 copies of a two-volume set. The timeless classic became the best-selling book in U.S. history and earned Julia more than \$500,000. (Even by today's standards, Grant's work is considered the most well-written memoirs by a U.S. President. One of Mark Twain's most profitable ventures was the New York publishing house he founded and the memoir of Ulysses S. Grant that he published.)

The money which his literary efforts brought to Mrs. Grant as a widow enabled her to live comfortably until her death, in 1902. She chose to live in homes in New York City and Washington, D.C. surrounded by children and grandchildren.

Julia Grant in the Gilded Age

Julia Grant was the first lady to pen her memoirs, although they remained unpublished until nearly 75 years after her death. All most one-third of Julia's memoirs are devoted to recollections of this trip, clearly a high point of her life. She noted that in foreign countries

Ulysses finally got the recognition and respect he deserved. In their post-White House years, while in England, there was an eyewitness account that claimed Grant became ill from excessive alcohol consumption in his wife's presence. Julia's denial of her husband drinking is the most dramatic example of her belief he was honest in all his interactions, a factor that ultimately proved vital to his confident success as the leader of the Union Army leading to military victory over the Confederacy.

For the last 17 years of her life, Julia worked to promote and sustain the memory of her beloved husband. She began referring to her late husband as "*the General*," and never "the President." "In the years immediately following Grant's death, before final plans were drawn to build a grand memorial for his burial spot in New York, near to where he was laid to rest in a temporary vault. Thousands of people worldwide donated a total of \$600,000 for the construction of Grant's tomb in New York City. In 1866, Congress awarded Grant his fourth star making him the first full General of the Armies. Known officially as the "General Grant National Memorial," it is America's most massive mausoleum and was dedicated on April 27, 1897, the 75th anniversary of Grant's birth. Julia attended the dedication with President William McKinley at her side. Although vanity prevented her from wearing spectacles, which would have improved her poor eyesight, she was noted for being among the first famous women to appear in public wearing sunglasses.

Her many friends and acquaintances included Jefferson Davis' wife Varina, Jane Stanford, and Theodore Roosevelt. She wrote her memoirs. Once completed, she had trouble finding an editor with whom she could agree. It was not until 1975 that they were published. Mrs. Grant especially loved being at the center of social life in New York, often appearing at theater premiers and a subscriber to the Metropolitan Opera. Julia Grant ran her home as if it were a small White House, holding receptions, welcoming heads of state visiting New York and celebrities like Oscar Wilde. In the public rooms, she displayed relics of her husband's military career and the Civil War, as well as the lavish gifts, and state gifts presented to the Grants during their world tour.

Julia died of heart and kidney complications at the age of 76 and is buried next to her husband in Grant's Tomb. Her four children outlived her, as did 12 of 13 grandchildren. She had ended her chronicle of their years together with a firm declaration: "*The light of his glorious fame still reaches out to me, falls upon me, and warms me.*"

Many of the anecdotes she relates give glimpses into a troubled period of American history. A reminiscence recounted the night that Lincoln was assassinated. With Mrs. Grant's intense dislike of Mrs. Lincoln, she turned down the invitation to the theater, insisting that they return home. It saved her husband's life: he had also been marked for assassination. Throughout her memoirs, which ends with her husband's death, Mrs. Grant strived to correct any misconceptions being circulated about him. She wanted posterity to share her pride in her husband, whom she saw as one of America's greatest heroes.

Julia Dent Grant was a typical woman of her era in some respects; extraordinary in many other ways. She had a strong character, lived within the means of the mixed fortunes of her husband, always concerned with his welfare, and loved and cared for their family, fulfilling her duties of First Lady. She captured most of her life experiences in *The Personal Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant (Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant)*.

Note: General Dwight Eisenhower admitted in 1946 that he had long thought Grant was an alcoholic but after going through WWII he had changed his mind, knowing a drunkard could never have waged and won the Civil War. General Eisenhower also stated that Grant's memoirs were the best military memoirs ever written. - cwk

Sources: www.granhomepage.com, *The Life of General Ulysses S. Grant* by Herman Dieck, *U. S. Grant and the American Military Tradition* by Bruce Catton, *Ulysses S. Grant* by John A. Carpenter, *Ulysses S. Grant The War Years* by Michael W. Simmon, *A Treasury of White House Tales*, by Webb Garrison, *The Time-Life History of the Civil War*

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2018 - 2019 Lecture Series for the LCWRT

Oct. 24	Candice Shy Cooper "Lincoln's General's Wives"
Nov. 28	Doug Bostick "Battlefield Preservation"
Jan. 23, 2019	Dr. "Bud" Robinson "Robert E. Lee & the Quest for Peace"
Feb. 27, 2019	Jack Davis "Rhett & the Fire Eaters"
Mar. 27, 2019	Dr. Larry Roland "End of Reconstruction in Beaufort-Hampton Counties"
April 24, 2019	Dr. Jim Spirek "Wrecks of Beaufort Sound"
May 22, 2019	Ron Roth "Underground Railroad"

We will meet in Magnolia Hall in Sun City every month except January 2019 when we will meet in Pinckney Hall. Meetings begin at 6:45 p.m.

* * *

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MINIÉ BALL GAZETTE

is published by

The Lowcountry Civil War Round Table, Inc.

located in the greater Hilton Head area of South Carolina.

Founded in 2000 and dedicated to Civil War history,
education and battlefield preservation.

A Not-for-Profit, Charitable Organization

As qualified under section 501 ©) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code