

ULYSSES S GRANT

Born April 27 1822 Hiram Ulysses Grant Died July 23 1885 aged 63

18th President of United States 1869 - 1877 Worked with Radical Republicans During Reconstruction to protect African Americans : created the Justice Department : promoted to Lieutenant – General in 1864 : Led the Union Army in winning the American Civil War in 1865. Thereafter served as Commanding General.

Early military career. Went to West Point aged 17 submitted incorrect name i.e. Cadet U. S. Grant so nicknamed Sam because initials US stood for Uncle Sam He was a very good horseman. He married in 1848 and had 4 children.

Distinguished himself in the Mexican/ American war in 1846. Post war, tried several unsuccessful business ventures including farming on father-in-laws farm.

In 1858 he acquired a slave from father -in-law. He was not an abolitionist but couldn't force slave to work!

Civil War

April 12 1861 Confederate troops attacked Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina

April 18 turned down a Captain's position as Commander of newly formed militia company hoping for more senior rank.

June 14 promoted to Colonel in charge of unruly 21st Illinois Volunteer Infantry some got good order & discipline!

August 5 promoted to Brigadier General of Volunteers

Sept 2 arrived Cairo Illinois. Planned campaign down Mississippi & up Tennessee & Cumberland Rivers

Battle of Belmont Nov 7 1861 and on to Forts Henry & Donelson 1862. Sometimes he won, sometimes he had to retreat. Accused of 'neglect & inefficiency'

Promoted to Major General of Volunteers - Northern Press treated him as a Hero, called him 'Unconditional Surrender Grant'

Shiloh 1862 lots of indecision Grant wanted to attack told to wait 23,746 casualties Grant sacked then reinstated. Grant ordered former slaves to be included in Union Army.

Vicksburg Campaign 1862-1863 Grant thought Jews involved in trafficking cotton funding Confederate army so ordered Jews to be expelled from his Union Army. Vicksburg under siege for 7 weeks eventually taken by Grant giving control of Mississippi River area & splitting the Confederacy.

Chattanooga 1863

Grant promoted to Major General REGULAR ARMY

Promoted again to Lieutenant General in command of all Union Armies. Worked well with President Lincoln.

Overland Campaign

Series of brutal battles fought in Virginia for 7 weeks May/June 1864

Other leaders' efforts failed & May 4 Grant left to fight Lee 3-day battle; estimated casualties

17666 Union 11125 Confederate

Grant wouldn't retreat so flanked Lee's army & another 13-day battle followed. Grant attempted to break through & one of the bloodiest assaults of the war took place (known as Bloody Angle)

Cold Harbour

A vital road hub which Grant believed he could break Lee's lines and bring quick end to the rebellion. Grant waited for more men to arrive while Lee reinforced his troops. Huge numbers died on both sides which heightened anti-war sentiment in the North and Grant later said 'he regretted the last assault on Cold Harbour was ever made'

Siege of Petersburg (1864 – 1865)

Virginia's central railroad hub. Grant agreed to blow up part of enemy trenches with tons of gunpowder. Massive explosion killing entire Confederate Regiment. Poorly led Union Troops rushed into crater & picked off by Confederates. Grant admitted mining tactic had been a 'stupendous failure' Grant met Lincoln & testified to his General's incompetence. Lee allowed to stay at Petersburg while Grant and Sherman marched on Savannah & captured it defeating Confederates at Nashville.

By March 1865 Grant had severely weakened Lee's strength & thousands of Lee's troops deserted due to hunger & strains of trench warfare.

March 28 1865 Grant, Sherman, Porter & Lincoln held a conference to discuss surrender of Confederate armies & Reconstruction of the South.

Appomattox campaign (1865) and Victory

April 2 Grant ordered assault on Lee's entrenched forces. Union troops took Petersburg & Richmond. Grant was communicating with Lee about meeting to surrender at Appomattox Station

April 9 Grant & Lee met at Appomattox Court House. Grant said each officer & man could return to their homes and not be disturbed by US authority if they observe their parole and laws in force where they live. Grant also allowed them to keep their horses.

Grant ordered his troops to stop celebrating saying 'war is over; the rebels are our countrymen again'

April 14 1865 Grant attended cabinet meeting in Washington. Lincoln invited him & wife Julia to the theatre. Grant declined & planned to go to Philadelphia. Lincoln was assassinated. Grant ordered back for funeral & stood alone & wept openly. He later said Lincoln was the greatest man he had ever known.

July 21 1866 Congress promoted Grant to new rank General of the Army of the United States.

Grant became 18th President 1869 – 1877

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