

Grant-Successful Failure



BIRTHPLACE OF GEN. GRANT



CAPT. U. S. GRANT III



GEN. GRANT

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

APRIL 27 of this year marks the one hundred fifth anniversary of the birth of a remarkable American. He is remarkable in the sense that his life story is the paradox of a failure who succeeded, not once, but many times.

Grant's career was one of the most dramatic in our history," he says. "At the age of thirty-eight he was an obscure and beaten man, sitting silently around the stove in a country store. His opportunities were all apparently behind him. He had left the army under the charge of drunkenness and had found himself unable to make a living in business. Who would have dreamed, at the beginning of the Civil war, that this seedy, discouraged failure was to become the great leader of the Union armies and to be President for two terms?"

It is because Grant's career was a dramatic one and because his life story has in it so many dramatic elements that he is such an interesting figure. There is the "farm boy who became President" element and, despite the failures in his career, it has, in its general outlines, all the elements of the "success story" of which Americans seem to be particularly fond. As a military genius it is doubtful if he was the equal of half a dozen other generals in the Union and Confederate armies. But Grant, the soldier, was a picturesque character and it is easy to understand how the picture of this stocky, dark, taciturn man, chewing upon the inevitable cigar, would appeal to the imagination of a people so soon to become wedded to a gospel of efficiency and a tradition—intended, albeit, by the movies—of a "strong, silent man" as an ideal.

Then there is the matter of epigrammatic utterance. We Americans are fond of laconic speech, of our "great sayings by great men," catch-words, slogans and the like. So why should we not remember the man who said "Let us have peace!" and whose brief "unconditional surrender" message to the general of an opposing army could by an identity of initials make it easy to read "U. S. Grant" as "Ulysses Simpson Grant" or "Unconditional Surrender Grant" or "United States Grant." One other element is the fact that the manner of his becoming President followed historic tradition so closely. The tradition was established when the new Republic made the victorious George Washington its first President. The tradition was perpetuated after the war of 1812 in the gift of the Presidency to Andrew Jackson, hero of the Battle of New Orleans, and a little later to William Henry Harrison, the "Old Tippecanoe" hero of another battle in that conflict. Zachary Taylor, the "Old Rough and Ready" of Mexican war fame, was similarly rewarded by his country. So why should not the victorious general of the war between the states be elevated to the Presidency as soon as the opportunity offered? That question was answered in 1869 when General Grant became President Grant.

Grant, the President, is rather a dim, vague figure in our minds. It is Grant, the soldier, who is remembered, and for 300 years those two words have been synonymous. Ulysses Simpson Grant, was eighth in descent from Matthew Grant, who came to Massachusetts in 1630 and was surveyor of Connecticut for more than forty years. Although there is no direct evidence of the fact, it is not unlikely that Matthew Grant had a part in the Indian wars in New England and thus established the line of military Grants. At any rate the soldier strain cropped out early for Noah Grant, Ulysses' great-grandfather, and Solomon Grant, his great-granduncle, held British commissions during the Seven Years or French and Indian war (1756-1763) and both were killed in the same campaign. Noah Grant, his grandfather, joined a Connecticut company in the Continental army and served throughout the Revolution from Bunker Hill to Yorktown.

Whether or not a Grant of this line served in the War of 1812 is not recorded, but Ulysses S. Grant, who served in the Mexican war and the Civil war, his son, Gen. Frederick Dent Grant, who served in the Indian campaigns, in the Spanish-American war, and in the Philippines, and his grandson, Capt. Ulysses Grant III, who served in the World war, were true to their soldier her-

itage and carried on the tradition of military service by successive generations of Grants.

After the Revolution Noah Grant emigrated to Pennsylvania and in 1760 he continued westward to Ohio. General Grant has recorded in his memoirs that "Noah Grant was not thrifty in the way of laying up stores on earth" and financial reverses as well as the death of his wife in 1805 broke up the family. Jesse Grant, the father of the future President, was given a home by Judge Tod of Ohio and he remained with Tod until he was old enough to learn a trade and strike out for himself.

At Ravenna, Ohio, Jesse Grant established a tannery and later moved to Point Pleasant, Clermont county, Ohio. There, on April 22, 1822, a son was born and given the name of Hiram Ulysses. Grant was appointed to West Point in 1839 and it was at that time that "Hiram Ulysses" became "Ulysses Simpson." In the course of making the appointment, Congressman Hamer of Ohio was obliged to give the full name of his protégé. Knowing that the boy's name was Ulysses and his mother's maiden name was Simpson, at a venture he wrote it down "Ulysses Simpson Grant." And so it remained through the remainder of Grant's life. While his career at the military academy cannot be called a failure, at least it was far from a success. The fact that his classmates distorted "Ulysses" into "Useless" has some significance. Except for his superior horsemanship, and proficiency in mathematics, he was never squarely at either end of the class, front nor rear. Mediocrity is perhaps the most fitting characterization of Grant, the West Pointer. His class standing was so low that he served his fourth year as a private and at the age of twenty-one he was graduated with a ranking of 21 in a class of 50.

His interest in horses, both as a boy in Ohio and as a cadet at West Point, had crystallized into a desire to obtain a commission in the cavalry upon graduation. Instead he was appointed a second lieutenant in the Fourth infantry. If this was not Grant's first "failure," it was at least his first frustration, which is so nearly the same thing. He was ordered to Jefferson barracks in Missouri and while there his dissatisfaction with army life became so pronounced that he determined to resign and seek a professorship in mathematics in some college. He applied for an appointment as assistant professor of mathematics at West Point, but again he was frustrated. There was no such position open then. Before one occurred, the Mexican war broke out and Grant was a soldier on active instead of academic service. And this young lieutenant, "fed up" on garrison life and seeking an escape, was the man who a few years later was to become commander of the greatest army ever assembled on American soil and the first American officer to be given the rank of general after that grade was created by act of congress!

During the Mexican war Grant was promoted to first lieutenant for gallantry at the battle of Molino del Rey and brevetted captain for his conduct at Chapultepec. In 1853 he was commissioned a captain, but by this time he was convinced that he could not support his family on a captain's pay.

So in 1854, much to the consternation of his family and his friends, he resigned from the army. In the words of one biographer:

The next seven years of Grant's life were anything but rosy and satisfactory. Having a wife and child to support, it was necessary to get to work as quickly as possible after quitting the army. His father-in-law helped him out by putting him on a small farm he owned in Missouri. Here Grant plowed and harrowed, fed and carried his horses; built, with his own hands, a log house for his family; cut down trees, and converted them into cordwood, and then hauled it to the nearest village where he tramped around the town hunting up customers, who usually purchased on credit—which proved eternal. Upon these wood-

hauling trips, the man who later became the greatest military figure of the world, and President of the United States, was dressed in a very shabby old felt hat, a patched blouse coat, and pants shoved in the tops of the boots that had seen much wear. Not being able to make a living at farming and wood cutting, Grant next tried his hand in an endeavor to sell real estate and collect rents in St. Louis. This venture was no more successful than the previous one. From St. Louis he moved to Galena, Ill., where he became a clerk in a leather and hardware store owned by his father.

Thus a failure as a farmer and a business man was added to his record.

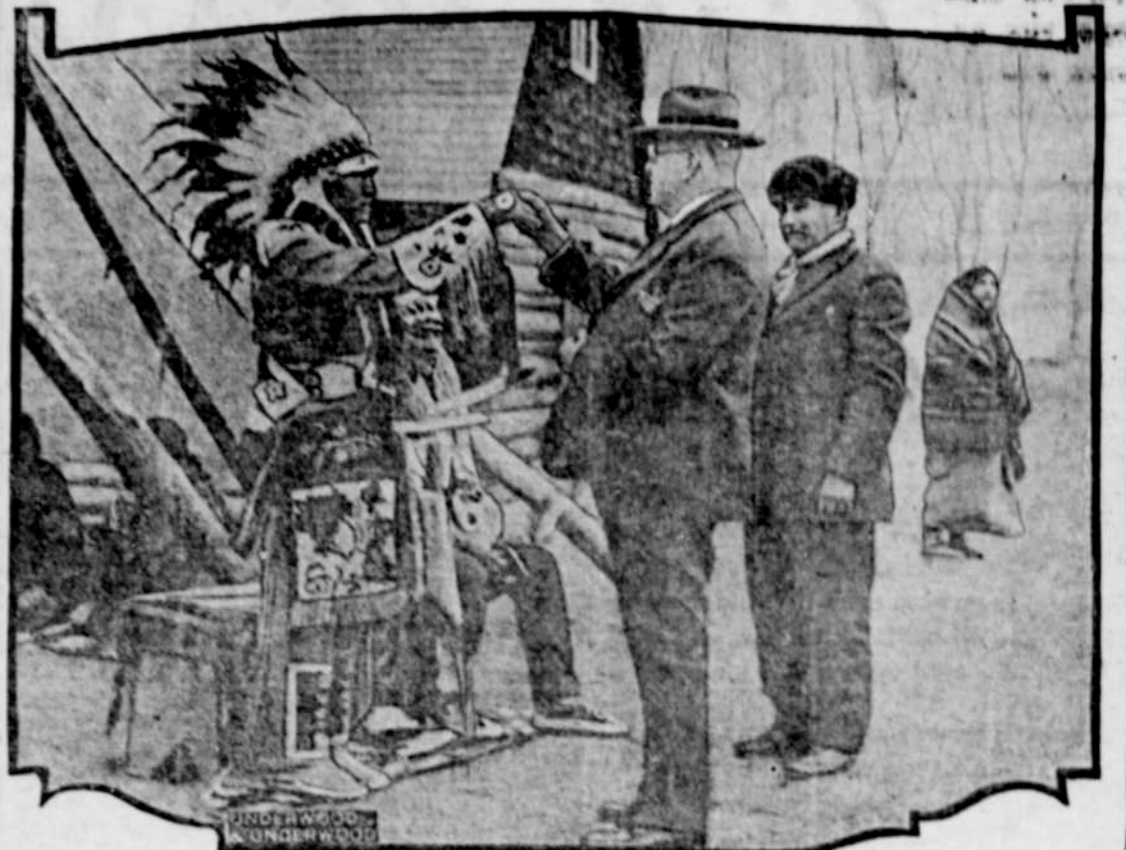
The opening guns of the Civil war brought him out of his obscurity, but again he seemed destined to failure. He offered his services to the government, but, despite his West Point training and his Mexican war record, no one in authority paid much attention to him. Finally Governor Yates of Illinois offered him the colonelcy of the Twenty-first regiment of Illinois infantry, and on June 15, 1861, he assumed command of that regiment. From then on his rise was rapid until the end came at Appomattox, and, as the successful general in one of the greatest conflicts the world has ever known, he reached one of his greatest triumphs.

If Grant, the soldier, was a great success, Grant, the politician, was equally a great failure. His two terms as President proved that. Although there was much that was commendable in his record as the Chief Executive, in the memory of most Americans this is overshadowed by the scandals, resulting from misplaced confidence in his friends, which marred his eight years in the White House. But through it all Grant, the man, emerged with reputation unscathed. From this failure he went to the second great triumph of his life—his trip around the world during which he was honored by other nations as few men before or since have been honored.

He returned to this country in 1880 to find his name proposed as a candidate for the Republican nomination for President and he was not an unwilling candidate. During the exciting days of the Republican convention the greatness of Grant, the man, and the weakness of Grant, the politician, flashed forth again. There was a deadlock with neither Grant, Blaine, Sherman nor Garfield able to muster enough votes to get the nomination. Then the Sherman supporters proposed to throw their strength to Grant if he would agree to make Sherman a member of his cabinet. This was Grant's reply, "It was my intention, if nominated and elected, to appoint John Sherman secretary of the treasury. Now you may be certain that I shall not. Not to be President of the United States would I consent that a bargain should be made." So James A. Garfield became the nominee and President.

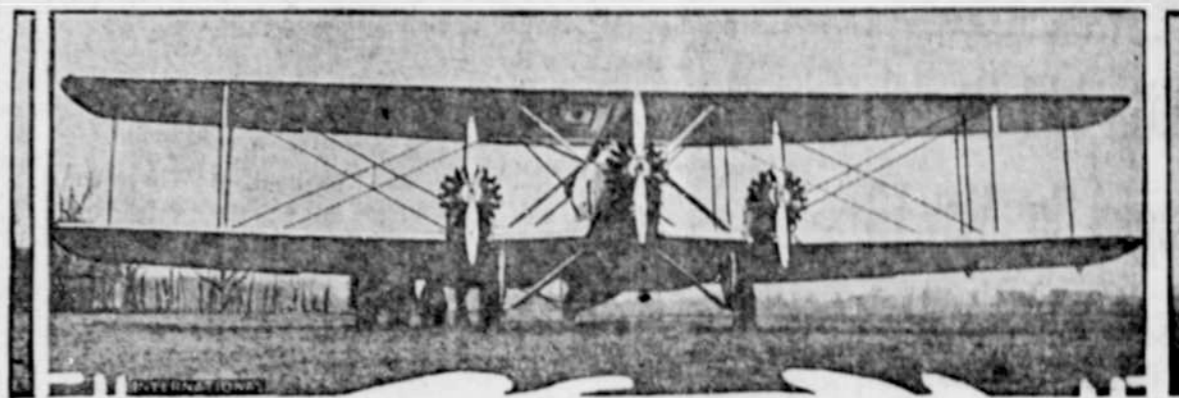
He was destined to know one more failure and one more triumph before the end of his career. He became a partner in a business firm which failed and he was left almost penniless. The country came to his rescue and congress, by a special enactment in 1884, placed him on the retired list of the army, as general with full pay—a position he had resigned to become President. Urged thereto by enterprising editors, he set about the task of writing his memoirs, the sale of which he hoped would take care of his family. With the shadow of death hovering over him he persisted in his work and finished it a few days before the end came. He died July 23, 1885. The magnificent tomb in Riverside park, New York city, is more than the last resting place of Ulysses Simpson Grant, general and President. It is a national shrine, symbolical of American genius for succeeding through failure.

Shoshones Make Unique Peace Treaty With Whites



A historic friendship of three generations' duration between the Shoshone Indians and the whites was further cemented by a remarkable ceremonial held recently on the Shoshone reservation at Fort Hall, Idaho, when Chief Tendoy III completed a unique treaty of peace between the Shoshone nation and President Carl R. Gray of the Union Pacific railway. The illustration shows Chief Tendoy and A. C. Hincley, representing Mr. Gray, at the conclusion of the ceremony.

"American Legion" Plane for Atlantic Flight



The first official flight of the three Wright-engined Keystone "Pathfinder" plane was made recently at Bristol, Pa., by Lieut. Com. Noel Davis. The plane, known as the "American Legion," is the one in which Commander Davis will attempt a nonstop flight this spring from New York to Paris for the Raymond Orteig prize of \$25,000. It is a biplane, destined for commercial use.

Tamed Pelicans Are Her Pets



Here are Miss Gladys Geelan and her two tamed pelicans at the beach at Venice, Calif. The birds follow Miss Geelan everywhere, even riding in the back seat of her automobile.

V. F. W.'S FLAG LADY



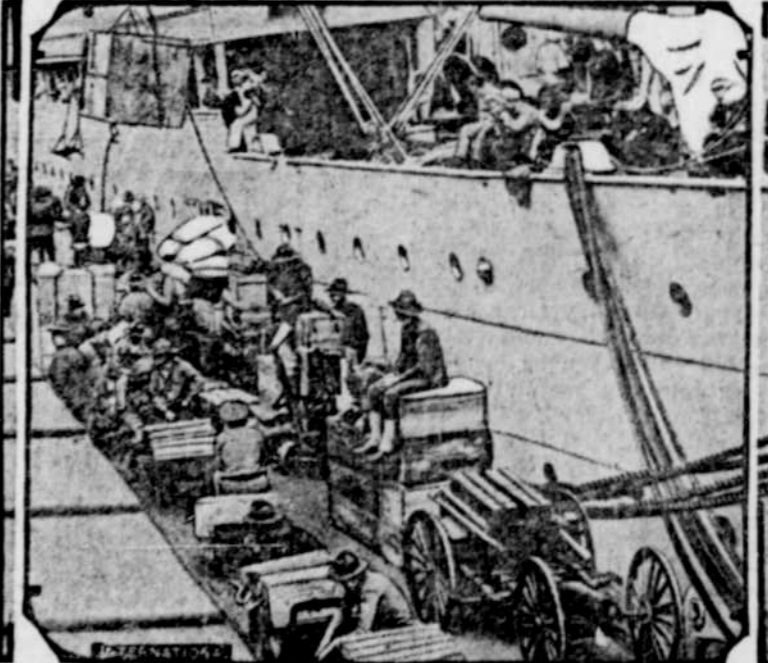
Mrs. Charles Augustine Robinson of New York, national flag lady of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, will present the set of flags that will mark the complete restoration of the frigate Constitution, famous in history as "Old Ironsides." Inspired by a patriotic devotion to the national emblem and the ideals of liberty for which it stands, she has devoted the recent years of her life to the creation of a wider love and respect for the Stars and Stripes. She has made scores of beautiful flags with her own hands.

WAS WITH PERSHING



William B. Prosser, Omaha mailman who was a cadet at West Point with General Pershing, Pershing was a senior when Prosser's class were Generals Duncan and Moore. Prosser left the academy in his second year to be a policeman. Then he got the mail route. He admits he's sorry he took the step.

Sixth Regiment of Marines on Its Way



View at the docks of San Pedro, the Los Angeles port, as the Sixth regiment of marines was being loaded on the steamer with its munitions and accoutrements for the trip to Shanghai, China.

FROM THE FOUR QUARTERS

Canada celebrates her diamond jubilee as a nation this year. The English thrush can sing for sixteen hours at a stretch, according to a British naturalist.

At least 1,400 stamps were issued in all parts of the world last year. Bees sometimes become intoxicated in autumn from feeding on overripe plums.

The coronation spoon in the Tower of London is believed to be the oldest silver spoon in existence. Profits of the Canadian National railways during the year 1926 established a new record of \$41,451,628.

There are about two gallons of blood in the body of the average man or woman. The early Romans at first had only one name, later three, called praenomen, nomen and cognomen.

Where Theory Fails
A good picture will never be produced by theories. They generally serve to disguise a poverty of means of expression. In any case they are only put together after the achievement.—Renouir.

The Miserable Male
A lecture was recently given on "How the Worm Conducts its Courtship." Any married woman could talk at length on a subject like that.—Kansas Farmer.

Great Future in Sight for Texas

More than one-fourth of the cotton raised in the United States comes from Texas; and with the coming of the electrically-driven cotton mill, it is freely predicted that Texas will one day lead the world in textile manufacture. Industry, however, is not doing away with the ranches. Sheep-raising, in fact, mainly due to the new industrial advantages, has increased 50 per cent in the past ten

years. Some idea of the prosperity in Texas may be gathered from the statement that \$23,000,000 was spent in the state last year in the construction of new hotels. But it is not in mere money that the new Texas can be measured. The change can best be expressed in terms of motion. Texas is being electrified. Every Texan is experiencing new power. Sons of cotton farmers are becoming textile en-

gineers, and sheep-herders are becoming experts in the woolen industry. Texas is on the way. It is going somewhere and having a grand time as it goes. It is the cowboy spirit expressing itself in oil and electricity and a new order of human life.—Forbes Magazine.

In Ancient Holy Land

A well-known American, Mr. William T. Ellis, has been following the Journeys of the Israelites through the

wilderness, in an automobile. His car throbbed at the foot of Sinai and replenished its radiator from the waters of the valley of Ain Gubdat, which he believes to have been the ancient Kadesh-Barnes. The streams that fertilize this lovely valley gush in from springs from a great rock, and it is at least possible that they are those waters of Meribah which first sprang into life under the touch of Moses' rod.—Youth's Companion.

There are 150 kinds of bats.