



When Ulysses S. Grant reached West Point in 1839, he was still a boy in stature and maturity. At seventeen he weighed 117 pounds and was five feet one inch tall. Nothing about him denoted the ferocity he would later display as a commander of the Union Armies. His hair was sandy brown; his fair skin was freckled. His hands and feet were small, and his body was not tightly muscled. James Longstreet, proud of his own massive physique, called Grant “*delicate*” and recalled that the man who became his powerful adversary in war had been too small to excel at any sport save horsemanship, which he did exceedingly well.

Twenty-five years later, Grant came to Washington D.C. soon to be promoted to Lieutenant General. He came at the behest of President Abraham Lincoln, who selected the unimpressive looking soldier to do what no other Union general had been able to do—defeat Robert E. Lee and end the Civil War, now entering its fourth year. Theodore Lyman, a young Harvard man on George Meade’s staff who was capable of sharply critical assessments, wrote: “[Grant] is rather under middle height, of a spare, strong build; light-brown hair, and short, light-brown beard. His eyes of a clear blue; forehead high; nose aquiline; jaw squarely set....His face has three expressions: deep thought; extreme determination; and great simplicity and calmness.”

On March 8, 1864, President Lincoln formally invited Grant to an evening reception at the White House. Shunning the offer of a carriage, Grant walked the two blocks from the Willard Hotel to meet with the President and guests. He arrived a bit late but meandered his way through the crowd into the East Room. Lincoln moved toward the general, and with hand extended, said: “*Why, here is General Grant! Well, this is a great pleasure.*” The two men shook hands warmly. Together these two would forge a relationship unseen by any previous president and general in American history. The North’s eventual victory had its roots in Lincoln’s decision to give Grant command over all the Union armies. Combined with Lincoln’s benevolence and trust, Grant’s strategic plan and clear direction strained the Confederate’s military, political, and economic infrastructure to the breaking point. The result was complete victory for the North and the establishment of two legends.

This month—**MONDAY, AUGUST 28**—guest speaker **Robert Vane** will explore this relationship with his program, “***How Lincoln and Grant Won the Civil War.***” Robert has a Master’s Degree in Medieval History, is a veteran of the U.S. Army, and is the incoming Secretary of the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table. Make certain you mark your calendars for this presentation.

\* \* \* \* \*

**FALL FIELD TRIP:**

- For those who haven’t paid for the Saturday Dinner and Lunch, please have your check ready at this month’s meeting. Again, you must decide from the following dinner items: Grilled Beef Sirloin (\$39), Grilled Salmon (\$39), Grilled Chicken Breast (\$37), or the Vegetarian Plate (\$35).
- The lunch consists of a sandwich of your choice (ham, turkey, or vegetarian), chips, fruit, and a drink (\$6). Have your selections and a check (made out to Jerry Maxwell or Carroll Tietz) ready. If you have any further questions, please call Jerry at 248-363-1710.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Michigan Regimental extends its thanks to last month’s speaker, **Neil Martin**, for his provocative program, “*The Myth of Little Round Top.*” Numerous questions were brought up in a lively discussion.



**QUIZ: All questions pertain to U.S. Grant.....**

1. What was Grant’s real name? And, in which West Point class did he graduate and what was his class ranking?
2. Why did Grant resign from the army in 1854? And, who did Grant marry?
3. Which publication hired Grant to write his memoirs? And, which noted writer helped Grant in publishing them?
4. Name Grant’s favorite horse. And, name any two other horses that he rode during the war.
5. Where was Grant born and where did he die?
6. What unit was his first Civil War command? And, which Illinois Congressman, later Grant’s first Secretary of State, was instrumental in gaining Grant his rank of brigadier general?
7. Where did Grant lead an ill-advised attack in his first combat in the Civil War? And, what nickname did he obtain for his attacks on Forts Henry and Donelson? [Extra Credit: What gift did he receive from an admiring public for these victories?]
8. Which 2 Democrats did he defeat in the Presidential Elections of 1868 and 1872?
9. Who was Grant’s first Vice President accused of accepting bribes in a national scandal? And, which of the following was not an infamous scandal during Grant’s administration? A) Whiskey Ring B) “Salary Grab” C) Credit Mobilier D) Teapot Dome Scandal E) “Black Friday” F) Belknap Bribery Scandal
10. Which of these is NOT true of U.S. Grant? A) once sold firewood on the streets of St. Louis B) had little use for organized religion C) once stopped for speeding and fined \$20 while President D) bragged that no one had seen him nude since he was six years old E) hated the sight of rare meat or animal blood F) once sued the famous distiller Hiram Walker while serving in Detroit G) was an accomplished artist and musician

\* \* \* \* \*

Stories from the horrid Battle of Franklin.....

Confederate Brigadier General William A. Quarles, a profane man, was swearing mightily when he took a severe wound in the left arm, the muscle of the upper arm being torn away. Again he was struck by a grazing projectile that broke a rib and left a two-inch gash in his side. Most of his men fared little better. Every staff officer with Quarles was shot, and before the fighting ended a captain was the highest-ranking officer of his brigade. Taken to Carnton, the McGavock residence, Quarles was unable to move due to his severe injuries. Aware that Franklin was being evacuated, Quarles ordered several attendants to make their escape. They dashed for an ambulance and, raising a yellow hospital flag, trotted past the oncoming ranks of Federal cavalymen without being stopped. Quarles, however, was taken prisoner but was paroled on May 25, 1865, never to forget the awful Battle of Franklin.

\* \* \* \* \*

Following the battle Sergeant Elijah Kellogg of the 74th Illinois crawled over the works to find a trophy. Smoke still hung over the ground like a blanket, remembered Kellogg, yet he couldn’t begin to describe the horror he saw in the outer ditch. Among the bodies piled on top of each other “*like cord wood*,” he found a young Confederate officer, almost hidden by the bodies of his men. He was not much older than Kellogg was, and Kellogg saw that the man had five ghastly wounds in his chest, neck, and arm. “*He had a fine saber clinched in his hand which I collected.*” Kellogg also removed a blood-soaked letter in the man’s breast pocket. Scrambling back over the parapet with his trophies, Kellogg found that it was a Memphis Novelty Works cavalry saber, and the letter was addressed to “*Dear Brother Lee from Your Loving Sister Agnes.*” Later he learned from prisoners that the officer had been from Claudius Sears’ Brigade, but he failed to determine his full name. Unable to return the sword and scabbard to the family as he once had hoped to do, Kellogg after the war loaned the historic relic to the Grand Army of the Republic post in Rockford, Illinois, where it



remained for many years. Only by the research of James C. Harris of Corinth, Mississippi, nearly 120 years later, was the sword identified as that of Captain Lee O. Paris, Company D, 4th Mississippi Infantry.

\* \* \* \* \*

Captain John K. Shellenberger of the 64th Ohio Infantry saw in the dim starlight that “*the mangled bodies of dead Rebels were piled as high as the mouth of the [artillery] embrasure.*” Crawling to the side of the ghastly heap, he found the outer ditch entirely filled with a mass of torn humanity. “*Heads, arms, and legs were sticking out in almost every conceivable manner....The air was filled with moans of the wounded; and the pleadings for water and for help of some of those who saw me were heartrending.*” So thick were the bodies that “*a wounded man lying at the bottom [of the ditch] with head and shoulders protruding, begged me for the love of Christ to pull the dead bodies off of him.*” Shellenberger soon noticed other Federals scurrying about, some gathering Confederate flags and tossing them over the parapet. The thought crossed his mind that various soldiers inside the works would get undeserved credit, and possibly medals, for their capture. By now, Shellenberger was so thoroughly sick of the sights, sounds, and foul smells that he crawled back within the Federal lines, well convinced that John Bell Hood’s army had been frightfully slaughtered.

\* \* \* \* \*

One of Hood’s Mississippi privates later wrote about what he had seen and felt as he wandered over the battlefield on the following morning:

*Many of the dead were shot to shreds. And I saw scores of [wounded] men.....who had put their thumbs into their mouths and had chewed them into shreds to keep from crying, coward-like, as they lay exposed to the merciless fire.....Franklin was the only battleground I ever saw where the faces of the majority of the dead expressed supreme fear and terror.....Their eyes were wide open and fear staring. Their very attitude as they lay prone upon the ground, with extended, earth clutching fingers, and their faces partially buried in the soil, told the tale of [the] mental agony they had endured before death released them.*

\* \* \* \* \*

**QUIZ ANSWERS:**

1. Hiram Ulysses Grant and 1843 (number 21 of 39)
2. To avoid court-martial for excessive drinking and the slave owning Julia Dent
3. *Century Magazine* and Mark Twain
4. Cincinnati and Jack, Fox, Kangaroo, or Jeff Davis
5. Point Pleasant, Ohio and Mount McGregor, New York
6. 21st Illinois Infantry and Elihu B. Washburne
7. Belmont, Missouri and “Unconditional Surrender” [Extra Credit: 11,000 cigars]
8. Horatio Seymour and Horace Greeley
9. Schuyler Colfax and D) Teapot Dome Scandal
10. G) Grant was an amateur artist but a near tone-deaf musician

Remember our meeting date: **MONDAY, AUGUST 28** for **Robert Vane’s** presentation “*How Lincoln and Grant Won the Civil War.*” Starting time is 6:30 P.M. at the Farmington Public Library (Grand River and Farmington Road). Show up early and bring a friend....

Also try our website: <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/>.