



Gen. Thomas C. Fletcher Camp 47 NEWSLETTER

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is a fraternal organization dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of heroes who fought and worked to save the Union. Organized in 1881 and chartered by Congress in 1954, we are the legal successor to the Grand Army of the Republic.



Camp Commander Don Lillicrap

From Commander Lillicrap

I hope everyone is doing well. No business meeting this month as our last big event wound up being cancelled after all.

I'm still planning on a September meeting though. Please send along any news or agenda items to me for next month. Stay safe and let's all wish The Warren's luck on their big house move!



**7th Annual
Grant
Symposium,
July 24**

Report inside!

See page 3.



**Festus & Ruth?
See page 10**

CONTENTS

- 1 From Commander Lillicrap
- 2 The Department Commander Goes West (well, Southwest)
- 3 Grant Symposium
- 10 John Morgan
- 11 Treasurer's Report
- 12 Officers / Calendar

**The Department Commander Goes West (well, Southwest)
July 4, Republic, Missouri**

Brother Sumner Hunnewell headed down to Republic (outside of Springfield) to attend a marker ceremony.

On that hot Sunday afternoon, the Phelps Camp No. 66 participated as an honor guard for a Mary Whitney Phelps Tent No. 22 (DUVCW 1861-1865) marker dedication. The marker was placed between the gravestones of John A. and Roxanna Ray at the Lindsey Cemetery, Republic, Missouri, on August 9, 2020. The Ray's property became part of the ground on which the Battle of Wilson's Creek was fought (August 10, 1861). Their house was used as a field hospital.



RAY
 John A. Born TN
 Oct. 16, 1816
 Died
 June 22, 1875
 Roxanna Born GA
 Dec. 1, 1819
 Died
 Mar. 30, 1876
 JOHN RAY MARRIED WIDOW ROXANNA STEELE ABOUT 1849. BOTH RESIDENTS OF WILSON CREEK, MO. THEY BUILT THEIR HOME ALONG THE OLD WIRE ROAD WHERE JOHN A. UNIVERSITY SERVED AS POSTMASTER FOR 10 YEARS. THEY HAD A THRIVING 420-ACRE FARM WITH CROPS, ORCHARDS, AND LIVESTOCK.

RAY
 ON AUGUST 10, 1861, THE RAY'S CORNFIELD BECAME PART OF THE BATTLE OF WILSON'S CREEK. WHILE JOHN WATCHED FROM HIS PORCH, ROXANNA, RHODA (THE RAY'S SLAVE), THE CHILDREN, AND Hired HAND JULIUS SHORT TOOK SHELTER IN THE CELLAR. WHEN THE BATTLE ENDED, THEY EMERGED TO FIND THEIR HOME HAD BEEN CONVERTED TO A FIELD HOSPITAL. WHILE THEY ASSISTED THE WOUNDED AND DYING, THEIR CROPS AND LIVESTOCK WERE CONFISCATED. AFTERWARD, THE RAYS RESTORED THE FARM, WHERE THEY LIVED UNTIL THEIR DEATHS.
 Placed in 2020 by the Mary Whitney Phelps Tent No. 22 Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861 - 1865

7th Annual Grant Symposium

The 7th annual Grant Symposium, sponsored by the Missouri Humanities Council and the Grant Trail, was held online on July 24. Brother Greg Wolk of the St. James Camp was one of the moderators. (These are Sumner Hunnewell's notes.)

GRANT'S PRESIDENCY AND NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

The first paper was given by Andy Hahn, the Executive Director of Campbell House Museum in St. Louis. It dealt with Grant's role in Native American affairs while he was president. Robert and Virginia Campbell celebrated dinners for Grant at their house. For example, in 1872, 20 people were invited to dinner, followed by a reception of 300 people, while 5000 people greeted him outside the house as he stood on the balcony.

Hahn believes that Grant was the first "western" President, because he had first-hand knowledge of western states, having been stationed with the military on the west coast (Oregon and California) in 1852. Before Grant's presidency, natives often had their treaties broken and were forced to move further west.

Grant's Adjutant was Ely Parker (Ha-sa-ne-an-da). Parker was from the Seneca tribe (New York) and his ancestors included Cornplanter and Red Jacket. The Appomattox surrender documents were written in his hand.

During the surrender, Lee extended his hand and said to Parker "I'm glad to see one real American here." Parker replied "We are all Americans."

In his youth, Parker converted to Christianity. He was an interpreter and diplomat for his tribe in Albany and Washington, D. C. He studied law and engineering, but could not join the New York bar, since he was a citizen of the tribe and not the state of New York.

He first met Grant in Galena, Illinois, and, at the beginning of the war, he asked for officer's commission. He was told by Washington that the war was between white men. However in 1863 as Grant traveled down the Mississippi towards Vicksburg, he asked Parker to serve outside of Vicksburg as an engineer. He was given the adjutant's position and was made a Lieutenant Colonel.

During the last two years of the war, there were troubles with the natives. One of the worst cases of indiscriminate killing was in November 1864, when the calvary in Colorado attacked and killed the Cheyenne and Arapaho in what is called the Sand Creek Massacre. The Sioux in Montana, under Red Cloud in 1866, lured 81 Army soldiers away from safety and killed them all (Fetterman's Fight).



**Campbell House
Gen. Grant slept here.**

In that year, Parker played a role in Indian affairs. He focused on the natives' needs, reparation for those displaced of land, and saw the need for new treaties. In 1867, he investigated Fetterman's Fight. He believed that the government should put their focus on friendly natives. He saw that the issues around the skirmishes were shrinking native territory and actual starvation of natives. He made a suggestion to Secretary of War Stanton that an oversight committee of the Office of Indian Affairs be created to make sure that the treaties were followed. He suggested that humanitarian whites and natives would be best to serve on the committee. His ideas were not popular for the time.

During Grant's inauguration in 1869, the President spoke of the proper treatment of Indians to be one of his goals. That year Ely Parker was appointed as the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in March. The next month a Board of Indian Commissioners was created under the auspicious of the Secretary of the Interior. The committee would receive no pay but would be paid for their expenses. Some of the duties of the commission was to inspect relevant records, review goods purchased for the natives and to be on site when payment or annuities were made to the Indians. The press covered this heavily.

Robert Campbell of St. Louis was on the first Board, the only member who resided west of the Mississippi. Campbell was not a novice when dealing with native tribes and customs. In 1825, he visited the Rocky Mountains to trade and make friends with tribes. He was one of the men to erect Ft. Laramie in 1834, which was to be a trading outpost. He assisted in a treaty negotiation at Fort Laramie in 1851. Fr. Peter DeSmet was there, where tribal lands adopted of their boundaries. This was the start of the reservation system. Red Feather, Chief of the Flathead, was a 'blood brother' to Robert Campbell.

The first effort of the Committee was to remove all current Indian agents, which happened. Tasked to find suitable replacements, they suggested that Christian denominations recommend men to be Indian agents. The Committee also agreed that no more treaties were to be made with natives. Since treaties had been abused and ignored in the past, there was no need for more.

The 1869 Commissioner's first report was damning of the abuses against the native tribes. They enforced their responsibilities to distribute annuities and procured goods (food) from reputable suppliers for delivery.

In the summer of 1870, some of the earlier agreed to boundaries were disputed. Red Cloud plead his case, but it not resolved. Campbell and another commissioner visited him at Ft. Laramie, resolved the problem, and averted war. A new agency was created for Red Cloud's tribe.

In 1872, there were problems, which revolved around railroads running through Indian territories. The belief by the commission was that if this happened, it would not be easy to protect native interests. By the next year, the commissioners were frustrated. They found corruption,



Ely Parker

were stymied in Congress, and felt that Grant was not strongly behind them. The commissioners had bills unpaid and their recommendations ignored. Soon most of the original commissioners resigned.

Back to Ely Parker. He married a socialite, made a fortune and lost it. He moved to New York City and became a chief of requisitions for the New York City police for 20 years and well acquainted with Teddy Roosevelt. He was disappointed that that positive Indian policies were not enacted and adopted by the nation.

FILM AND PANEL: GRANT'S TIME IN MISSOURI

Dr. Curt Fields, who among his other accomplishments portrayed Grant at the 150th anniversary at Appomattox, was featured in a film produced by the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site (with others). It is called "Grant's Time in Missouri." It was excellent.



Dr. Curt Fields as Grant

A panel was formed to answer any questions *post-movie* about Grant in Missouri. Sometimes they seemed ill-equipped to answer questions about Grant's military exploits. Brother Wolk had to fill in quite a bit.

A panelist was asked to assess Grant at Belmont and why wasn't this brought up in the film? It was a key event in Grant's career, where he establishes himself as a battlefield general, but there was only so much time allotted for the film.

Is Grant underappreciated in relation to his tactics and logistics? He had three things going for him. Grant was a man who had been through the Mexican-American War (as Lieutenant Quartermaster), so he understood supply lines. He was an innovative tactician, not using Napoleonic tactics, but employed guerrilla warfare and the concept of total war. He was tenaciousness on the battlefield by getting the enemy on the run and completing the mission. After the War, Grant is written out of history due to the ethos of "The Lost Cause," where Lee and Southern leaders were elevated. From 1880s to the early 2000s, Grant was described as a terrible leader.

What about Grant studying the maps of the Mississippi at Ironton? Unsure if this is a story or reality.

Is the accent that Dr. Fields use accurate? Grant was born in Southern Ohio, near Cincinnati, along the border of Kentucky, so the accent would reflect that.

Did any of the U. S. Colored Troops (USCT) participate in Grant's ranks? Yes, they did at Vicksburg and along the Rivers, as there were 30,000 colored sailors overall. They were in the 25th Army Corps in the Army of Potomac and at Battle of Petersburg. He was commanding large amounts of the USCT. As an aside, many resident blacks of Missouri liberated themselves and joined in Illinois, so they are not included in Missouri's troop count.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: TWAIN AND GRANT

Cindy Lovell gave the keynote address on the intersection of the lives of Mark Twain and U. S. Grant. Lovell is the past director of the Samuel Clemens homes in both New Haven and Hannibal.

Twain and Grant met, a handshake experience of sorts in a crowd, but nothing more than a passing event. A longer event happened in 1869 upon Twain's return from the West Coast to Washington, D. C. He met a senator from Nevada, who asked him if he would like to see President Grant. Twain expected to find him in a crowd, but, no, he was at his desk and interrupted by their entrance. Twain was overwhelmed and embarrassed by the experienced, when he found himself speechless.

In November 1876 at Chicago's Palmer House, a party was planned for Grant after his world-wide trip. Twain was in the ascendancy and was invited to give the final toast at the banquet. There were 16 toasts to Grant and finally at 2 a.m., it was his turn. He talked about Grant as a baby and made a clever quote (too fast for me to catch). It was the only toast to make Grant laugh. Afterwards, they became great friends.

In 1880 Grant, son "Buck" Grant and Ferdinand Ward started an investment firm in New York City. Buck Grant was the real partner, the former president Grant more of a silent partner. Ward married well—to the daughter of the president of the Marine Bank of New York. Ward was a *wunderkind* and at one time Grant was worth three-quarters of a million dollars.



"Buck" Grant

Author William T. Howells talked to Twain and used him as a go between for a meeting with Grant. They traveled to New York to visit the president in 1881. Twain suggested a memoir and offered his help, mainly to avoid problems with publishers. Grant resisted since he had no need for money and did not want to subject himself to literary criticism.

In early 1884, rumors were that the firm of Grant & Ward was in trouble. On May 3, Ward was distraught and went to Grant, saying that the Marine Bank was in distress, needing to borrow \$150,000 for one day. Grant went to his friend Vanderbilt, who did not have a good opinion of Ward, but he agreed (since he liked Grant) to a personal loan of \$150,000. The next morning, Ward said that the Bank needed an additional \$600,000. Buck Grant brought the financial books to be reviewed by expert. The firm was a sham. Buck Grant and his lawyer, Elkins, went immediately to Ward's. His wife said he was out. They replied they would wait, which they did for five hours. Ward returned home, pooh-poohing their concerns. Elkins noted after they left that Ward was in bedroom slippers, that he was there, hiding, trying to outwait them. May 5, the Marine Bank closed its doors. Everyone was wiped out. How much did Grant know? On that

day, he and his wife took stock of everything they owned, wanting to repay his personal loan to Vanderbilt. They delivered a mountain of mementos to the Vanderbilt home. Vanderbilt was not home, but when he returned, he donated the mountain to the U. S. Government.

Grant was terrified about the lost money. The Grants might owe other people money. He decided to start on his memoirs. One month after, he noticed a pain in his throat. At this time, *The Century Magazine* wanted all of the Civil War leaders to write about their experiences, so he spent July and August working with them. In October, it was determined that he had throat cancer. *The Century Magazine* offered Grant their standard \$500 per article.

Twain heard that Grant wanted to write his autobiography. He wait straightaway to talk to him. Grant had not signed a contract, and Twain wanted to make sure Grant was not taken advantage. The terms were stunning, the standard payment was the same payment paid to *anyone* who would write for *The Century Magazine*. Twain suggested that Grant abandon the magazine plan and let Clemens publish it, even though Twain didn't expect Grant to agree. Finally, Clemens worked with *The Century Magazine* to get the most generous offer, but they backed out to let Twain publish.

In the meantime, Ward disappeared and was known as the "best hated man in the United States." He was working a Ponzi scheme and later served six years in Sing-Sing. His great-grandson and historian, Geoffrey C. Ward, wrote about the whole enterprise.

In February 1885, Grant signed a deal with Clemens and completes his work in July 1885, the month he died. But troubles don't end there. Karl Gerhardt a sculpture, who has done a bust of Twain was given the commission of producing a death mask of Grant. Gerhardt creates the death mask but does not give it to the family. Twain has to forgive Gerhardt \$17,000 owed to Twain and his wife before the mask is turned over.

Julia Grant receives a royalty of \$200,000 in 1886. Canvassers went door to door to sell copies for \$3.50 to \$12 per edition, depending on different bindings. Over 600,000 copies were sold, providing the family \$450,000 in royalties. Twain's publishing company made no money on the sale of the book.

During the panic of 1893, Twain's publishing company went under. There were only two successes in the history of the company, the Grant Memoirs and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.



Ferdinand Ward

ULYSSES S. GRANT AND SLAVERY

The final presentation was from Nick Sacco of the Ulysses S. Grant national Historic Site. Like all of the presentations, this one was well-researched.

Per the 1850 census, the Dent plantation had upwards to 30 slaves. Grant owned one slave, William Jones, who he freed in 1859. Prior to the Civil War, there is no documentary evidence on Grant's stance on slavery. The only sources we have are *post* Grant's death. They include:

- Louisa Boggs, a relative, who was interviewed 1896 in 1917. She stated that Grant was too nice to the enslaved and not cut out to be a plantation farmer.
- Mary Robinson, a former slave, who was interviewed the day after Grant died. She said that Grant would have passionate debates about slavery at the dinner table with his father-in-law. Grant's wife, Julia, was given four slaves (but in actuality owned by father). Robinson said that Grant had hoped one day to free those slaves. Since the interview took place the day after the death of the former president, was the interview crafted in to put Grant in the best light?
- Grant's own Memoirs, where he states that slavery was incompatible with American progress.

These are challenges to historians. Different authors feel he was indifferent or found slavery contemptable.

In 1854, Grant left the military to get back to home from the West Coast. He hoped to make a profit on the property up to 1859. A little-known event in Grant's life was the 1855 Richard Wells probate case. Wells was a neighbor of the Grants and Dents. Three slaves were owned the family and Grant as asked to appraise their value.

Washington, D. C., wasn't sleeping during this time. The Kansas-Nebraska act was created, manufactured by Stephen Douglas, who wanted support from Southerners for a transcontinental railroad (Douglas would benefit financially, surprise!). The act would overturn the Missouri Compromise, allowing settlers in the territories to decide to allow slavery. This led to a realignment of political parties (Whig, Democratic), which had both pro- and anti-slavery contingents. The Act leads to the creation of the Republican party (former Whig), whose platform included that westward expansion of slavery must stop. Grant was a Whig before the Civil War but never voted in a presidential election.

In 1856, Buchanan (Democrat), Frémont (Republican), and Fillmore (Know Nothing) were the candidates and Grant voted for Buchanan. The Republican party was opposed to slavery in the West but also wanted freedom for slaves without compensation. Grant felt that the Republican Party was too radical. In 1860, he could not vote for president because he did not have voting residency in Illinois, but admitted later that he would have voted for Douglas.

Grant build his cabin, "Hardscrabble," with the help of slaves and he lived there with his family for three months (1857). His father-in-law moved to St. Louis, leaving Grant to take over the



management of 850 acres as well as the slave labor. This was the same year as the Dred Scott decision.

Two years later, Grant's parents moved to Covington, Kentucky. The St. Louis family was asked to visit but Grant feared that traveling through Illinois, Julia's slaves might escape *en route*, so declined the offer. During his time of management, he hired enslaved people from other slave holders (for example, the Frances S. Sublette family).

As for the only man 'owned' by Grant, William Jones, it seems that he came from Grant's father-in-law, but whether given him or Grant bought him is unknown. In 1859, when the Grant family was going through difficult financial times, Grant signed Jones' manumission papers. Grant could have sold him for \$1500, relieving some money burdens, but he didn't. No reason is given. In the meantime, Julia Dent Grant retained her four slaves. And, in 1860, when Grant makes a go of it in St. Louis in the real estate business, the slaves travel with them. The family then tried their fortunes in Galena, Illinois, but she did not free her slaves then. They were hired out in St. Louis.

The fate of William Jones is still unknown. During the 1840s and 1850s, there were about 1500 free blacks living in St. Louis. In the 1860 city directory, a "William Jones," whose occupation was a [horse] driver was living in the city on Myrtle street (present day Arch Grounds). Whether this is the same man is unknown.

In 1861, during the Civil War Grant understood that the war was about slavery. In a letter to family in May, his biggest concern was that a slave uprising will occur. He would expect Federal troops to be deployed to the South to put down the revolt, leading to a united country. Given his suppositions, he felt the war will be short.

Frémont, Commander of the Department of Missouri, declared freedom for the slaves. Lincoln wanted the decree rescinded, but Frémont would not back down, so Lincoln removed him. Henry Halladan replaced Frémont and issued General Order No. 3, which stated that slaves going to the military must be returned.

The tipping point for Grant was the battle of Shiloh, which had 25,000 casualties. He saw that the Confederates would fight to the last man, using slaves to support the Confederate forces. Emancipation of slaves could be used as a war measure. Grant supported the Emancipation in 1863 and believed that adding blacks to the federal Army would take them from the enemy. He wrote to Congressman Washburn after Vicksburg, that he was never an abolitionist or was anti-slavery, but the only way to win was to arm blacks and end slavery. Grant stopped prisoner of war exchanges since black soldiers were not treated like soldiers in the south but were sold into slavery or killed outright. By the end of the war, one of every seven troops in the Union was a member of the USCT.

After the war, Grant believed that their wartime service gave them the right to vote. He strongly supported the 15th amendment. We would be hard pressed to find another white man that pushed civil rights so hard for his time.

Fredrick Douglas felt that Grant was a moral leader. Grant's asset that he had the ability to change from what he had learned at West Point and the Democratic Party to champion the rights of black men.

JOHN MORGAN.

John Morgan 's at your stable door;
 Where 's your mule? oh, where 's your mule?
 John Morgan 's at your stable door;
 Where 's your mule? oh, where 's your mule?
 You 'll never see that mule no more —
 He 'll ride him till his back is sore,
 And leave him at some stranger's door, —
 There 's your mule ! oh, there 's your mule !
 They 've stole that mule of mine away,
 And marked his back with C. S. A.
 He 'll come again some other day,
 There 's your mule ! oh, there 's your mule!
 The mule is back we hear his bray,
 John Morgan 's gone, and gone to stay
 The country 's safe, hooray ! hooray !!
 Here 's your mule ! oh, here 's your mule !
 For him we 've nought but words of praise,
 This relic of our war-time days,
 To him a monument we 'll raise
 There 's your mule! oh, there 's your mule.



This was taken from Song-Book of the Commandery of the State of Pennsylvania (MOLLUS, 1890).

TREASURER'S REPORT

General Thomas C. Fletcher Camp #47 Treasurer's Report for AUGUST 2020

Balance from last report (Jul 2020)	845.68
Expenditures	
Purchased Flag carrying belt (cash)	31.69
Income	
Book raffle at July Meeting	11.00
Current Balance (19 Aug 2020)	824.99
Checking Account	786.11
Cash	38.88
Checks (not yet deposited)	0.00
End Balance	824.99

Sword Raffle status: 57 chances - \$43 donations

One flag carrying belt was purchased from Carrot-Top Ind. Chris Warren has a pre-emerged McCormick camp belt. These will replace the two missing Camp belts.

—Alan R Trodus, Treasurer

New Camp Fundraiser

5 tickets for \$4.

10 tickets for \$7.

Drawing to be held after Veterans
Day parade NEXT YEAR.



YOUR CAMP OFFICERS

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CALENDAR

- 2-3 October - Central Region Association of the Allied Orders of the G. A. R. (Murphysboro, Illinois) **IN JEOPARDY**
- 10 October - Department Business Meeting (Jefferson City)
- 25 October - Sherman Day, Calvary Cemetery (St. Louis)
- 5 December - De Soto Christmas Parade

Who knows what 2021 will bring!?

Camp/Auxiliary Meetings

- 20 August
- 17 September
- 15 October
- 19 November

August birthdays

- 7th John McClure Robinson III
- 30th Dwain E. Asberry