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American Minute with Bill Federer

Ulysses S. Grant: Union General & 18th President
"Hold fast to the Bible as the sheet anchor of your liberties"

Hiram Ulysses Grant was born APRIL 27, 1822, to a **Methodist family** in Ohio.

He did not like the initials **H.U.G.**, so he rearranged them to **U.H.G.**

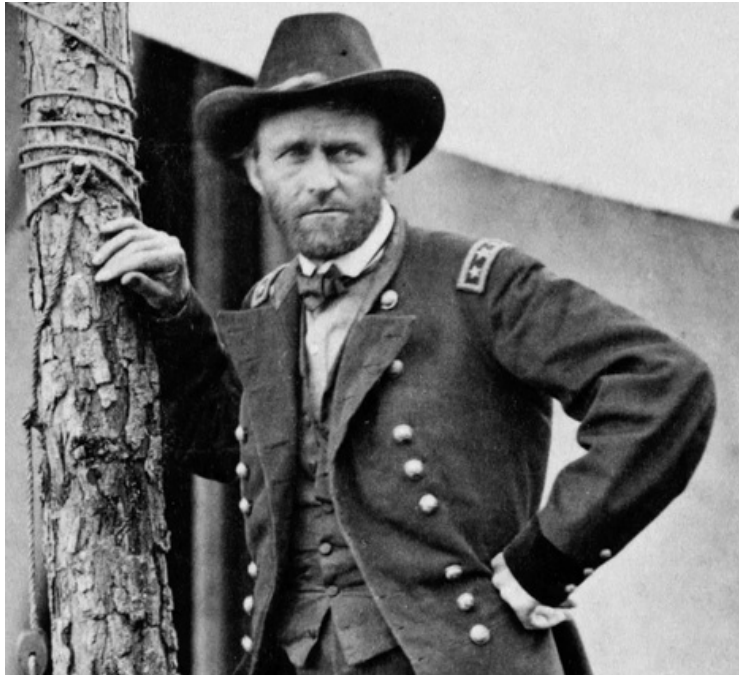
When he was nominated at age 17 for a position at

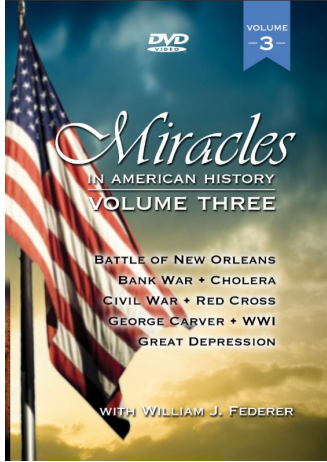
West Point, Congressman **Thomas Hamer** mistakenly wrote the "H" as an "S," thinking it stood for **Grant's** mother's maiden name, **Simpson**.

With the name, **U.S. Grant**, he attended **West Point** where he excelled in horsemanship, setting an **equestrian high-jump record** that lasted for nearly 25 years ... [continue reading American Minute here ...](#)

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After graduation in 1843, **Grant** was stationed at **Jefferson Barracks** on the banks of the **Mississippi River**, just south of **St. Louis, Missouri**.

While visiting the family of a West Point classmate, **he fell in love** with the classmate's sister, **Julia Dent**, and they **secretly engaged**.

Julia had **crossed eyes**, which a doctor later offered to correct, but **Grant** refused, saying:

“Did I not see you and fall in love with you with these same eyes?”

I like them just as they are, and now, remember, you are not to interfere with them. They are mine, and let me tell you, **Mrs. Grant**, you had better not make any experiments, as I might not like you half so well with any other eyes.”

Robert E. Lee graduated from **West Point** 14 years before Grant.

Prior to the era of railroads, **rivers were the only means of transporting large amounts of grain and goods**.

The **Mississippi's changing currents** left **deposits of sediment**, **silting up St. Louis' access** to the river.

In 1837, **Lee** had been stationed in **St. Louis** where he **supervised the Army Corps of Engineers** in making

the **Mississippi River** navigable.

In 1846, both **Robert E. Lee** and **Ulysses S. Grant** were sent to fight in the **Mexican-American War**.

They were a part of **General Winfield Scott's** march from the coastal city of **Vera Cruz** inland to **Mexico City**.

When the **Mexican-American War** ended in 1848, **Grant** was stationed in **Detroit**.

Following that, he was stationed in **Sackets Harbor, New York**.

In 1849, the **California Gold Rush** began.

Captain Grant and the **4th Infantry** were ordered to go to **San Francisco, California**, in 1852,

To get there, they had to travel across the **Isthmus of Panama** during rainy season.

Soaking wet marching through the tropical jungles, a **cholera epidemic broke out** which killed 150 of the 400 traveling.

Grant organized a **field hospital** and personally cared for the ill, writing:

"Meanwhile the **cholera** had broken out, and men were dying every hour ...

I permitted the company ... to proceed ... and I was left alone with the sick and the soldiers who had families.

... I was about a week at Cruces before transportation began to come in.

About one-third of the people with me died, either at Cruces or on the way to Panama.

... We finally reached Panama. The steamer, however, could not proceed until the **cholera** abated, and the regiment was ... delayed six weeks.

About **one-seventh of those who left New York harbor with the 4th infantry on the 5th of July, now lie buried on the Isthmus of Panama.**"

Grant later described the ordeal:

"The **horrors of the road in the rainy season are beyond description.**"

After arriving in **California**, **Grant** was ordered further north to **Fort Vancouver** in the Oregon Territory, and then to the distant **Fort Humboldt** in northwest California.

The senior officer there accused **Grant** of intemperance in drinking, and **pressured him to resign** in 1854.

Returning to his wife, **Julia**, in Missouri, **Grant** unsuccessfully **attempted farming**.

He **struggled financially**, pursuing various business endeavors, including **gathering driftwood** from the Mississippi River bank and **chopping it up to sell as firewood**.

Grant had inherited a slave from his wife's father, a 35-year-old man named William Jones.

Though in dire financial straits, **Grant freed his slave** in 1859, rather than sell him for badly needed money.

When the **Civil War** began, **Grant** responded to the call and **volunteered**.

He wrote in 1878:

"As soon as **slavery** fired upon the flag it was felt, we all

felt ... that **slavery must be destroyed.**

We felt that **it was a stain to the Union that men should be bought and sold like cattle."**

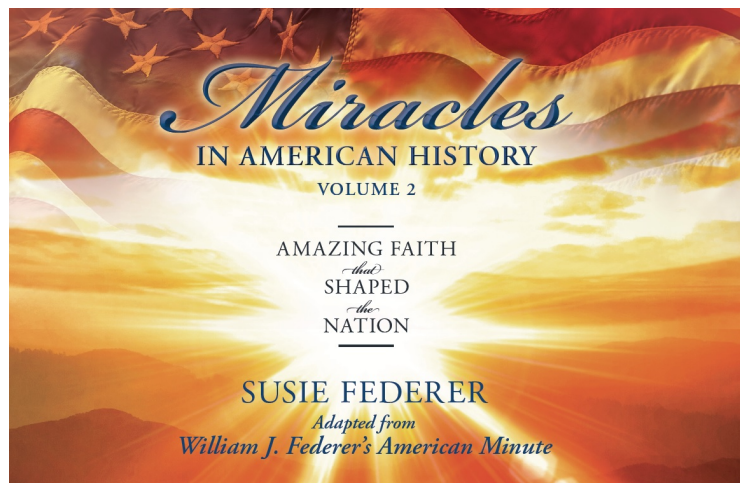
Grant was quickly promoted to **brigadier general.**

In February of 1862, he captured **Fort Henry** and **Fort Donelson.**

When the **Confederate commander** asked for terms of surrender, **Grant offered no terms,** but instead demanded **unconditional surrender.**

This resulted in his nickname, "**Unconditional Surrender**" **Grant.**

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Grant won the **Battle of Shiloh**, April 6-7, 1862, which was the costliest battle to that date, with 23,000 casualties.

Afterwards, **Pennsylvania politician Alexander McClure** attempted to persuade **Lincoln** to remove **Grant**, writing:

"**Lincoln** remained silent for what seemed a very long time. He then gathered himself up in his chair and said in a tone of earnestness that I shall never forget: '**I can't spare this man; he fights.**'"

Grant won the **Battle of luka**, September 19, 1862, and

defended **Corinth, Mississippi**.

He captured **Mississippi's Port Gibson**, won the **Battle of Raymond**, captured **Mississippi's State Capital of Jackson**, and won the **Battle of Champion Hill**.

After a **seven week siege**, which included **digging a canal along the Mississippi River**, **Grant** captured **Vicksburg**, July 4, 1863.

This gave **the Union control of the Mississippi**.

It also geographically split the Confederacy.

The **loss of Vicksburg** was devastating to the South, especially since it occurred just **one day after the Confederates were defeat at Gettysburg**.

After capturing **Missionary Ridge** and **Lookout Mountain** in November of 1863, **Grant** was promoted by **Lincoln** to **Lieutenant General** commanding all the **Union Armies**.

With the **South having limited manpower**, and the **North having a continual flow of immigrants to draft**, the contest became a **war of attrition**.

Immense casualties followed the **Overland Campaign** in May and June of 1864:

- **Battle of the Wilderness**, 28,669 casualties;
- **Spotsylvania Court House**, 31,086 casualties;
- **Battle of North Anna**, 5,538 casualties; and
- **Battle of Cold Harbor**, 18,025 casualties.

A nine month siege began at **Petersburg, Virginia**, pinning down **Lee's forces**, thus allowing **Union forces** to **decimate the Shenandoah Valley**, destroying Confederate supply-lines.

On September 2, 1864, **Atlanta** surrendered to **Union General Sherman**.

This was followed by Sherman's "**March to the Sea,**" culminating at **Savannah**, which brought **unimaginable devastation to the Confederate heartland.**

Burning plantations, homes, and destroying the South's infrastructure, **Sherman's scorched-earth tactics** is considered the first modern-day instance of **total warfare.**

Sherman's men even tore up train track rails, heated them till red hot, then twisted them around trees as "**Sherman's neckties.**"

This made it impossible for the South to repair their railroads.

Later in life, **Sherman** addressed a crowd of 10,000 in Columbus, Ohio, April 11, 1880:

"There is many a boy here today who looks on war as all glory, but, boys, **it is all hell.**"

After retiring in 1884, a movement began to recruit him to run for President.

Sherman replied:

"If nominated, I will not run; if elected, I will not serve."

In March of 1865, **U.S. Grant** captured **Petersburg and Richmond.**

Shortly after, **Confederate General Robert E. Lee** surrendered at the **Appomattox Court House** on April 9, 1865.

Lee gave his sword to **Grant**, who gave it back. **Grant** then stated:

"The war is over. The Rebels are again our countrymen."

Five days later, April 14, 1865, **Abraham and Mary Lincoln** invited **Ulysses and Julia Grant** to accompany them to **Ford's theater**.

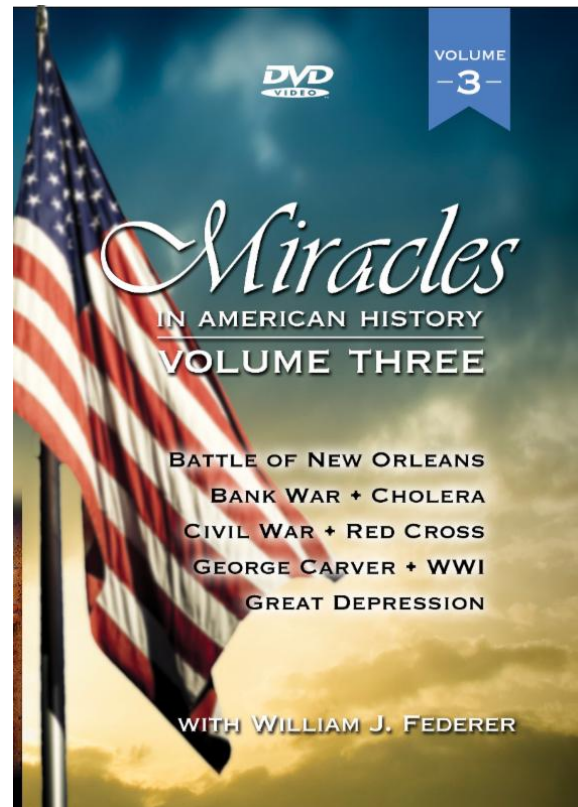
The **Grants** declined, having made plans to travel to Philadelphia.

That night, **Lincoln** was shot by **John Wilkes Booth**.

At **Lincoln's** funeral, **Grant** wept, saying of **Lincoln**:

"He was incontestably the greatest man I have ever known."

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Ulysses S. Grant was commissioned JULY 25, 1866, as **General of the Army**, the **first ever to hold that rank** and wear the four silver star insignia.

He **enforced civil rights for recently freed slaves**, using the **Reconstruction Acts**, which were passed over President Johnson's veto.

Popularity from Civil War victories resulted in **Grant** being chosen as the **Republican candidate** for **President** in 1868.

Grant was elected the **18th U.S. President**.

He was **the youngest U.S. President to that date**, only 46 years old.

He was considered a **radical Republican** as he worked with the leading Republicans, **Representative Thaddeus Stevens** and **Senator Charles Sumner**, to **end the Democrat policies of racial discrimination** in the South.

Grant signed the **Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871**, **outlawing Democrat-affiliated vigilante terrorist groups** which lynched blacks.

He supported the **15th Amendment** guaranteeing **freed slaves the right to vote**, which **passed in Congress** over a **97 percent Democrat opposition**.

In 1885, **Grant** wrote:

"Four millions of human beings held as chattels have been liberated; the ballot has been given to them."

Grant stated in his **Second Inaugural Address**, March 4, 1873:

"Under **Providence** I have been called a second time to act as Executive over this great nation ...

The effects of the late civil strife have been to **free the slave and make him a citizen**.

Yet he is not possessed of the **civil rights** which citizenship should carry with it. This is wrong, and should be corrected. **To this correction I stand committed."**

Grant protested **slavery in Cuba**, stating December 1, 1873:

"Slaveholders of Havana ... are vainly striving to stay

the march of ideas which has terminated slavery in Christendom, **Cuba only excepted.**"

Grant defended **natural marriage** as being **one man and one woman**, stating December 4, 1871:

"In Utah there still remains a **remnant of barbarism**, repugnant to civilization ...

Neither polygamy nor any other **violation** of existing statutes **will be permitted.**"

Grant and his cabinet attended one of **evangelist D.L. Moody's revival meetings** on January 19, 1876.

Grant ended the **Democrat policy of Indian removal**.

He appointed the **first Native American** to serve as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, **Ely S. Parker of the Seneca Tribe**.

Grant continued his Second Inaugural:

"My efforts ... will be directed ... by a humane course, to bring the **aborigines of the country** under the benign influences of **education and civilization** ...

Wars of extermination, engaged in by people pursuing commerce and all industrial pursuits ... **are demoralizing and wicked ...**"

Grant continued:

"Our superiority of strength and advantages of civilization should make us **lenient toward the Indian**.

The wrong inflicted upon him should be taken into account and the balance placed to his credit ...

If the effort is made in good faith, we will stand better before the civilized nations of the earth and in our own consciences for having made it."

Grant's "Quaker Policy" removed entrepreneurs from being Indian agents and replaced them with **missionaries**, stating in his First Annual Message, December 6, 1869:

"The Society of Friends (Quakers) ... succeeded in living in peace with the Indians in the early settlement of Pennsylvania ...

These considerations induced me to give the **management of a few reservations of Indians to them."**

President Grant stated in his 2nd Annual Message, December 5, 1870:

"Such **religious denominations** as had heretofore established **missionaries among the Indians ...** are allowed to name their own agents ...

and are expected to watch over them and aid them as **missionaries**, to Christianize and civilize the **Indians**, and to train him in the arts of peace."

President Ulysses S. Grant addressed Congress, January 1, 1871:

"It would seem highly desirable that the civilized **Indians** of the country should be encouraged in establishing for themselves forms of Territorial government compatible with the Constitution of the United States ...

and it is highly desirable that **they become self-sustaining, self-relying, Christianized, and civilized."**

President Grant stated in his 3rd Annual Message, December 4, 1871:

"Through the exertions of the **various societies of Christians** to whom has been entrusted the execution of the policy ...

many tribes of **Indians** have been induced to settle upon reservations, to cultivate the soil, to perform productive labor of various kinds, and to partially accept civilization ...

... They are being cared for in such a way, it is hoped, as to induce those still pursuing their old habits of life to embrace the only opportunity which is left them to avoid extermination.

I recommend liberal appropriations to carry out the **Indian peace policy**, not only because **it is humane and Christian-like ... but because it is right.**"

During the **Siege of Vicksburg**, December 17, 1862, **Grant** issued his notorious **General Order 11, expelling all Jews from** his military district of **Tennessee, Mississippi, and Kentucky**, under the pretense of prohibiting illicit trade of Southern cotton.

When **Lincoln** was made aware of the order, he immediately **cancelled it**.

In an effort to make amends, **Grant**, as President, **appointed** an estimated **50 Jews to high government offices**, more than any previous President.

Positions included:

- consuls;
- district attorneys;
- deputy postmasters;
- recorder of deeds; and
- territorial governor of Washington State, being the **first Jew** to hold a governor's seat.

On June 9, 1876, **Grant** and members of his Cabinet attended the dedication of the **Adas Israel Congregation** -- Washington, D.C.'s oldest synagogue.

It was the **first time a U.S. President** attended a **synagogue service**.

Grant was the **first President to openly condemn the persecution of Jews**, specifically the **anti-Jewish pogroms in Romania**,

He sent a **Jewish consul-general from America to Bucharest**, and wrote May 14, 1872:

"I transmit ... correspondence between the Department of State and the consul of the United States at **Bucharest** relative to **the persecution and oppression of the Israelites** in the Principality of **Romania**."

He wrote to the House of Representatives, May 22, 1872, that he would:

"... join the **Italian Government** in a **protest** against the **intolerant and cruel treatment of the Jews in Romania**."

Grant worked to **stabilize the nation's currency** by having it **backed by gold**, as **during the Civil War** the **Federal Government printed excessive amounts of paper money** with no backing except "faith" in the Federal Government.

He explained, March 4, 1869, how it seemed God provided gold in the Rocky Mountains to back the currency and pay down the national debt:

"Every dollar of Government indebtedness should be **paid in gold ...**

It looks as though **Providence** had bestowed upon us a **strong box in the precious metals locked up in the sterile mountains of the far West**, and which we are now forging the **key to unlock**, to meet the very contingency that is now upon us."

This period of American history was called the "**Gilded Age**" by **Mark Twain**, who as a friend of **Grant's**.

Americans saw:

- **Immigrants arriving from Europe in record numbers;**
- **Railroads** crossing the nation, with the **First Transcontinental Railroad** officially completed **May 10, 1869;**
- **Steam ships crossing the oceans;**
- **Industry and manufacturing expanded;**
- **Iron and steel production rising dramatically;**
- **Western resources of lumber, gold and silver;**
- **Oil Industry saved the whale.**

The **drilling of oil wells** replaced the need for **whale blubber oil**, thus **saving whales** from being hunted to extinction.

On June 26, 1876, **President Grant** proclaimed a **Day of Thanksgiving to commemorate America's 100th anniversary:**

"The founders of the Government, at its birth and in its feebleness, invoked the blessings and the protection of a **Divine Providence ...**

The thirteen colonies ... have expanded into a nation of strength and numbers ... for which **fervent prayers** were then offered.

... It seems fitting that on the occurrence of the **hundredth anniversary of our existence as a nation** a grateful acknowledgment should be made to **Almighty God** for the **protection** and the **bounties** which **He** has

vouchsafed to our beloved country.

I therefore **invite** the good people of the United States ... to mark its recurrence by some **public religious and devout thanksgiving to Almighty God**

for the **blessings** which have been bestowed upon us as **a nation** during **the century** of our existence, **and humbly to invoke a continuance of His favor and of His protection."**

Though derogatorily referred to as "**Robber Barons,**" industrialist leaders helped the average American **acquire more goods at cheaper prices**, thus creating the **greatest and fastest rise in their "standard of living"** of any people in **world history**.

Industrialists included:

- **John Jacob Astor** (real estate, fur);
- **Andrew Carnegie** (steel);
- **James Fisk** (finance);
- **Henry Flagler** (railroads, oil);
- **Jay Gould** (railroads);
- **Edward Harriman** (railroads);
- **Andrew Mellon** (finance, oil);
- **J.P. Morgan** (finance, industrial);
- **John D. Rockefeller** (oil);
- **Charles M. Schwab** (steel); and
- **Cornelius Vanderbilt** (water transport, railroads).

With the **amassing of great wealth** also came **big**

business globalist monopolies which attempted to **eliminate competition** and **buy political favors**.

Unfortunately, **Grant's** military training of trusting subordinates left him ill-prepared for **political intrigues**, **hidden motives** and **greed** of **career Washington politicians** and **lobbyists**.

As a result, several in **his Administration** were involved in granting government **favors**, **monopolies**, "pork" and **crony-capitalism kickbacks** in exchange for **votes**, **bribes** and **insider deals**.

In contrast to **many politicians** who **go into office poor** and **retire rich**, **Grant did not personally profit** from his time in public office.

Shortly after serving as President, **Grant** went on a **world tour**.

Toward the end of his travels, he began to show signs of **being ill**.

He had developing **throat cancer** from his habit of **cigar smoking**.

Naively trusting investors, **Grant went bankrupt**, though **he insisted on repaying his debts**.

Grant was faced with the prospect of dying and leaving his wife, Julia, **destitute**.

Mark Twain encouraged him to write his ***Memoirs of the Civil War*** which **provided an income for his wife after his death**.

Encouraged by the outpouring of support from across the country, **Grant**, who was a **Methodist**, wrote in 1884:

"I believe in the **Holy Scriptures**, and whoso lives by them will be benefited thereby.

Men may differ as to the interpretation, which is human, but **the Scriptures are man's best guide** ...

I did not go riding yesterday, although invited and permitted by my physicians, because **it was the Lord's day**, and because I felt that if a relapse should set in, **the people who are praying for me** would feel that I was not helping their faith by riding out on Sunday ...

Yes, I know, and **I feel very grateful to the Christian people of the land for their prayers in my behalf.** There is no sect or religion, as shown in the **Old or New Testament**, to which this does not apply."

Just days after delivering his final manuscript to the printer, **Ulysses S. Grant** died, July 23, 1885.

Nine years before he died, **Grant** gave his views on education to the Editor of ***The Sunday School Times*** in Philadelphia, June 6, 1876:

"Your favor of yesterday asking a message from me to the **children and the youth of the United States**, to accompany your Centennial number, is this morning received.

My advice to Sunday schools, no matter what their denomination, is:

Hold fast to the Bible as the **sheet anchor of your liberties**; write its precepts in your hearts, and practice them in your lives....

To the influence of this Book are we indebted **for all the progress made in true civilization**, and to this must we look as **our guide in the future.**

'**Righteousness exalteth a nation**; but sin is a reproach to any people.' Yours respectfully, **U.S. Grant.**"

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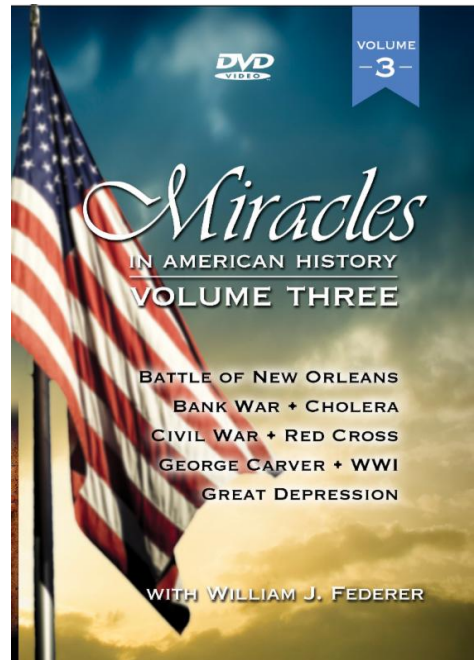
18th President "Hold fast to the Bible as the sheet anchor of your liberties"

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