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Letters of Ulysses S. Grant to His Father and His Youngest Sister, - is presented here in a high quality paperback edition. This popular classic work by Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson) Grant is in the English language.

But before he headed south, he pulled off his West Point ring and handed it to Julia, securing their engagement. Julia gave the departing soldier a lock of her hair in return. As soon as he was away, Grant began writing love letters to Julia Dent. She did not write as frequently as he did, causing him great despair, but when she did compose and send letters, Grant would read them over and over. Grant usually sat for photographic portraits in profile because of her eye condition. He searched the barren Mexican sands for even a single petal, but in vain. Indeed dear Julia nothing you can say sounds sweeter. She had moved to St. Louis with her younger sister, Nell, and attended school, and her social life had become far more active. Grant assumed the worst. In truth, it was Nell who had brought the young men of St. The fact of the matter is that Dent had simply dragged his family into poverty by mismanaging his farm. After the Grants were married in August , Ulysses was back in the Army. The separation was agonizing for Grant, and he resumed his drinking. The young officer was now free to return East to his wife and boys, and it was in St. Louis that he built a log cabin and attempted to live off the land with his family. Once he recovered he took a job collecting rents for a real estate firm in St. By , Grant was out of options, and he asked his father for help. He was offered a job in the family leather business, working under his two younger brothers. Grant was 38 and living a settled life with his family when Southerners fired on Fort Sumter in April His father-in-law tried to persuade him to fight for the Confederacy, without luck. This time around, he found that military life suited his temperament, and he was promoted to brigadier general. He vowed never to return to the leather store, and with renewed energy and confidence he led 15, troops into battle at Fort Donelson , Tennessee, and trapped the Confederates inside the fort. Yet the monotony between battles once again began to wear on Grant, and again he began to drink. He concluded that he was a better man and a better commander when he was around Julia, and so he sent for her. She would leave the children with relatives to travel to his encampments, at times at considerable risk, and over the course of the Civil War she would stay with him during campaigns at Memphis, Vicksburg, Nashville and Virginia. Three years after General Robert E. Julia worried that her strabismus –the condition that gave her her cross-eyed appearance–might be an embarrassment to her husband. 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. But she did take care to pose for portraits in profile, so her crossed eyes would not appear in photographs. They spent most of their savings on the trip, and when they returned to New York an investment banking firm defrauded Grant of his remaining funds, and he was forced to sell his Civil War mementos to cover debts. In , Grant learned that he had throat cancer and set about writing his memoirs. *Memoirs and Selected Letters: Personal Memoirs of U. Geoffrey Perret, Ulysses S. Longacre, General Ulysses S. Kate Havelin, Ulysses S. Grant, Lerner Publications Company, Patricia Cameron, Unconditional Surrender: The Romance of Julia and Ulysses S. Grant, BookSurge Publishing,*

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Grant, Edited by Jesse Grant Cramer This eBook is for the use of anyone anywhere at no cost and with almost no restrictions whatsoever. Letters of Ulysses S. September 15, [eBook] Language: English Character set encoding: This style is used in the text. Grant to his Father and his Youngest Sister Jesse Grant Cramer With Portraits PREFACE There has of late years been a tendency, as a result of the teachings of certain historical authorities, to minimize the influence of the leadership of the so-called Great Men, and to question the importance of their work as a factor in shaping the history of the time. The squirrel imagines that he moves the cylinder, but the outsider knows that the movement is predetermined, and that there is no change of position and no net result from the exertion. They are unwilling, and in fact they find it practically impossible, to get away from the belief that the thought of the time is directed by the great thinkers, and that the action of the community is influenced and largely shaped by the power, whether this be utilized for good or for evil, of the great men of action. In any case, men will continue to be interested in the personalities of the leaders whose names are connected with the great events of history. The citizens of each nation look back with legitimate pride upon the patriotic work of those who have helped to found the state, or to maintain its existence. Among the national leaders whose names will always hold an honorable place in American history is Ulysses S. Grant, the simple-hearted man and capable soldier, to whose patriotism, courage, persistence, and skill was so largely due the successful termination of the war between the States, the contest which assured the foundations of the Republic. We are interested not only in learning what this man did, but in coming to know, as far as may be practicable, what manner of man he was. It is all-important in a study of development of character to have placed within reach the utterances of the man himself. The publishers deem themselves fortunate, therefore, in being able to place before the fellow-citizens of General Grant who are appreciative of the great service rendered by him to the country, and who are interested also in the personality of the man, a series of letters written to members of his family or to near friends. These letters, dating back to the time of his youth, give a clear and trustworthy impression of the nature of the man and of the development of character and of force that made possible his all-valuable leadership. Grant, and it is only because of his sudden death, which has brought sorrow upon a great circle of friends and upon the community at large, that the publishers are prevented from including with the volume a letter from the General as the head of the Grant family, giving formal expression to his personal interest in the undertaking. Grant [In , at the age of twenty-one, Ulysses S. Grant was graduated from West Point with the rank of brevet second lieutenant. He was appointed to the 4th Infantry, stationed at Jefferson Barracks near St. In May, , he was ordered to the frontier of Louisiana with the army of observation, while the annexation of Texas was pending. The bill for the annexation of Texas was passed March 1, ; the war with Mexico began in April, Grant was promoted to a first-lieutenancy September, The Mexican War closed in Both this war and the Civil War he characterizes in hisMemoirsas "unholy. In speaking of this period Grant says, "I was now to commence at the age of thirty-two a new struggle for our support ". The first chapter in this new struggle was farming. The following letter was written to his youngest sister Mary, then sixteen years old, afterward Mrs. Corbin, was the second sister, Virginia. Your letter was received on last Tuesday, the only day in the week on which we get mail, and this is the earliest opportunity I have had of posting a letter. I am glad to hear that mother and Jennie intend making us a visit. I would advise them to come by the river if they prefer it. Write to me beforehand about the time you will start, and from Louisville again, what boat you will be on, direct to St. We are all very well. Julia contemplates visiting St. Charles next Saturday to spend a few days. She has never been ten miles from home, except to come to the city, since her visit to Covington. I have nothing in particular to write about. My hard work is now over for the season with a fair prospect of being remunerated in everything but the wheat. My wheat, which would have produced from four to five hundred bushels with a good winter, has yielded only seventy-five. My oats were

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good, and the corn, if not injured by frost this fall, will be the best I ever raised. My potato crop bids fair to yield fifteen hundred bushels or more. Sweet potatoes, melons and cabbages are the only other articles I am raising for market. In fact, the oats and corn I shall not sell. I see I have written a part of this letter as if I intended to direct to one, and part as if to the other of you; but you will understand it, so it makes no difference. Write to me soon and often. I had forgotten to answer that part of your letter. Tell father that I have this moment seen Mr. Ford, just from Sacketts Harbor, who informs me that while there he enquired of Mr. Bagley about my business with Camp, and learns from him that the account should be acted upon immediately. If he is stopped he may be induced to disgorge. Tell father to forward the account immediately. Grant has rented out his own farm, and taken that of his father-in-law. Written to his sister Mary. Your letter was received one week ago last Tuesday, and I would have answered it by the next mail but it so happened that there was not a sheet of paper about the house, and as Spring has now set in, I do not leave the farm except in cases of urgent necessity. My reply was long, giving a detailed account of my whole transactions with Camp, and a copy of which Father can have to peruse when he comes along this way next. Julia and her children are all well and talk of making you a visit next fall,â€”but I hardly think they will go. But if any of you, except Father, should visit us this spring, or early summer, Julia says that Fred. She says she would be afraid to let him travel with Father alone; she has an idea that he is so absent-minded that if he were to arrive in Cincinnati at night he would be just as apt as not to walk out of the cars and be gone for an hour before he would recollect that he had a child with him. I have no such fears however. Fred does not read yet, but he will, I think, in a few weeks. We have no school within a mile and a half, and that is too far to send him in the winter season. I shall commence sending him soon however. In the meantime I have no doubt but that he is learning faster at home. Little Ellen is growing very fast, and talks now quite plainly. Emma Dent is talking of visiting her relatives in Ohio and Pennsylvania Summer, and if she does, she will stop a time with you. Any talk of any of us visiting you, must not stop you from coming to see us. The whole family here are fond of planning visits, but poor in the execution of their plans. It may take two seasons yet before any of these visits are made; in the meantime, we are anxious to see all of you. For my part I do not know when I shall ever be able to leave home long enough for a visit. I may possibly be able to go on a flying visit next fall. I am anxious to make one more visit home before I get old. This Spring has opened finely for farming and I hope to do well; but I shall wait until the crops are gathered before I make any predictions. I have now three negro men, two hired by the year and one of Mr. I have however a large farm. I shall have about twenty acres of potatoes, twenty of corn, twenty-five of oats, fifty of wheat, twenty-five of meadow, some clover, Hungarian grass and other smaller products, all of which require labor before they are got into market, and the money realized upon them. You are aware, I believe, that I have rented out my place and have taken Mr. There are about two hundred acres of ploughed land on it and I shall have, in a few weeks, about two hundred and fifty acres of woods pasture fenced up besides. Only one side of it and a part of another has to be fenced to take the whole of it in, and the rails are all ready. I must close with the wish that some of you would visit us as early as possible. In your letter you ask when my note in bank becomes due. The seventeenth of April. This attack now lasted a year and was probably a factor in determining him to give up farming. To his sister Mary. Your letter was received in due time and I should have answered it immediately, but that I had mailed a letter from Julia to Jennie the morning of the receipt of yours. I thought then to wait for two or three weeks; by that time there was so much sickness in my family, and Freddy so dangerously ill, that I thought I would not write until his fate was decided. He was nearly taken from us by the bilious, then by the typhoid fever; but he is now convalescing. Some seven of the negroes have been sick. Sharp is here on a visit, and she and one of her children are sick; and Julia and I are both sick with chills and fever. Not being able to even attend to my hands, much less work myself, I am getting behindhand, so that I shall have to stay here and attend to my business. Cannot some of you come and pay us a visit? Did she receive it? I was coming to the city the day it was written to hear a political speech, and it was too late to get it in the post office, so I gave it to a young man to put in the next morning. It is for this reason I asked the question. Write to me soon. I hope you have had

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none of the sickness we have been troubled with. His father, Jesse Root Grant, had founded a leather store in Galena with the expectation of establishing his three sons in the business, and withdrawing from all connection with it himself. It is this business opportunity that is referred to here with characteristic independence, "I should prefer your offer to any one of mere salary that could be offered. I arrived at home on Tuesday evening, and, it being my "chill" day, of course felt very badly.

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Chapter 3 : Jesse Root Grant - Wikipedia

Letters of Ulysses S. Grant to His Father and His Youngest Sister gives an interesting perspective into the mind of one of the great leaders of the United States and his perspective on major historical events.

It was one of many Pilgrims of the Puritan movement that fled England to escape religious persecution. After a day journey the party arrived at Massachusetts Bay colony in Nantasket , on May 30, , and soon moved to and settled in Windsor, Connecticut. Matthew, referred to by the town folk as Honest Matthew Grant, was a highly trusted member of the community and became a surveyor and the town clerk. Noah worked in a shoe shop, earning a modest wage in Greensburg. Beginning in , from 11 to 14 years old, Jesse worked in Ohio at undesignated farms earning his keep and making little extra money. Placing great value on the merits of education he vowed that his sons would not have to endure the same disadvantage. At the Tod residence the young Grants were treated like one of the family, where they grew to love and respect George, his wife and family. Under his guidance, Jesse learned the tanning and leather goods trade. After completion of his training and honoring his commitment to Peter, he moved back to his boyhood town of Deerfield, Ohio, [12] [13] in and established his own tannery with little money, frugality and constant effort. Owen was a cattle breeder and land speculator who operated a successful tannery in Hudson, Ohio. Later in life Jesse would describe John Brown as "a man of great purity of character, of high moral and physical courage, but a fanatic and extremist in whatever he advocated. Wells, were offered work in a large tannery in Ravenna, now owned and managed by Mrs. Mary Mason, the widow of Jared Mason. She later married Wells and sold the tannery to Jesse who became the sole owner. Jesse sold and shipped much of his leather to a merchant in Point Pleasant, which would become his future home in During this time Jesse took up lodging at an inn across the street from the tannery. Unable to work and with creditors pressing he lost most of his savings. In , when he was partially recovered and able to travel short distances, he moved to Maysville and lived with relatives for several weeks. Later that year, as an experienced tanner, he moved to Point Pleasant on the Ohio River and gained the position of foreman in a new tannery owned by Thomas Page. Here he built a two-story brick house where Ulysses, still an only child, and future brothers and sisters would be raised for the next sixteen years. On the same street he set up his tannery, a half block south from his house. When his second son, Samuel Simpson, was born Jesse built one of several additions to the home, eventually doubling the size of the house. Grant Less than a year after Jesse and Hannah were married they became the parents of their first son, whose name would become Hiram Ulysses Grant. Family tradition as the Grant family observed it held that the naming of a first born son was a significant undertaking and something that was given much consideration. Members among the immediate Grant and Simpson families were all hoping for their own personal favorite names for the infant son. After mounting inquiries from friends and neighbors about the name for the boy, members of the Grant and Simpson family finally gathered at the Simpson family home to decide on a name. The prospective names were placed in a hat, a process which Hannah expressed reservation for, deeming it uncivilized. However, faced with the prospect of returning home without a name for the baby she finally consented. Grandfather Simpson, out of respect for an honored ancestor, also cast a ballot for Hiram. It is generally accepted among historians that Hannah and Jesse loved and took much pride in their children and their accomplishments. Not wanting to force his son into such labor Jesse instead gave the young Ulysses other responsibilities, driving and transporting wagon loads of bark, supplies and goods to and from the tannery. Before long he would often send his son on other business related journeys, transporting goods and people, on a regular basis. As the independent minded Ulysses became of age, however, their paternal relationship would be put through various trials. Through his political associations Jesse was referred to a former friend, Thomas Hamer , who was also a prominent lawyer and was being considered by the Democrats as a possible candidate for the Presidency, asking him to nominate Ulysses. Grant", which became the formal name and would stay with Ulysses throughout his adult life. After a brief discussion, however, Jesse was able

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to convince Ulysses to enroll in the academy. Longing to return home, and also prompted by rumors of excessive drinking, Ulysses tendered his resignation. Ellison presented the request to Secretary of War Jefferson Davis, but the request was denied. They refrained from playing cards, or dancing, and would not permit their children to dance, or swear. With no Methodist church on the Ohio frontier, they had both helped to found a Methodist church in Georgetown which began holding services in Jesse would make his home available to any such minister that came to town. Its editor was David Ammen, a close associate of abolitionist John Rankin who also resided in Ripley. After serving a four-year term Jesse moved to Covington, Kentucky, and opened another leather store on Madison Avenue. Collins and opened another leather goods store, on Main Street, in Galena, Illinois, with the hope of establishing his three sons in the business so he could retire. The store was housed in a handsome four story brick building on the wavering Main Street, whose store front was garnished with displays of fancy saddles and boots. Jesse withdrew from the business almost entirely while the store was operated by his sons Simpson Samuel and Orville. By he had bought out his partner and assumed full ownership of the entire operation. Jesse, now sixty, withdrew from the business and passed control of the enterprise over to his three sons, Simpson, Orville, and soon, Ulysses. He functioned doing routine work and tended the companies books. During the winter months he would travel to neighboring states to purchase green hides from local farmers. Jesse and his sons Simpson and Orvil, were all staunch Republicans, while Ulysses had Democrat leanings and originally favored Douglas over Lincoln. The looming war would soon diminish such differences for all. A West Point graduate, Ulysses was the only man in town with professional military training, and was elected to preside over the meeting. I want to bring my children recruits up to useful employment, and in the army the chance is poor", stressing the point that he was more concerned about the war than he was a career. Jesse followed the continuing successes of Ulysses as he advanced in rank and assumed command of major campaigns. When controversial stories appeared in newspapers about the heavy casualties suffered under Generals Prentiss and McClernand at the Battle of Shiloh under the command of Ulysses S. Grant, Jesse defended his son and responded with numerous editorials in rebuttal in various Cincinnati newspapers in such a manner as to suggest he was speaking for his son the General. Jesse also wrote a heated letter to Governor Tod of Ohio, blaming "five thousand cowards" who threw down their arms and fled, for the high casualties that occurred at the battle. In a letter to his father, Ulysses wrote, "my worst enemy could do me no more injury than you are doing". Grant had already received reports from Sherman and others of Jewish merchants who were "highly visible" among the trading which was occurring by both northern and southern interests, often without permits. Grant By the time Jesse and his two Jewish partners arrived with a request for permits to operate, they were immediately rebuffed by an angered General Grant for presuming on the Army and his patience. The incident had been indicative of the problem with cotton speculators in general who often collaborated with Union Officers, much to the frustration of General Grant. The incident proved to be an embarrassment for Grant which once again placed his father and himself on opposing sides of a serious issue. The nomination was confirmed on March 2. Jesse had arrived without his wife Hannah, who hated publicity and never came to the White House. Asked by reporters where his wife was, Jesse spoke briefly, informing all that she had been invited but declined. Before the inauguration Jesse had inquired about lodging for himself and family, where Ulysses informed him that his extra rooms had been promised to friends. Some historians suggest that Ulysses at this time was on uneasy terms with his father and made no further effort to secure lodging for Jesse and family. Jesse died June 29, , in Covington, Kentucky, shortly after President Grant began his second term.

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