

# Ulysses S. Grant

18th President

Born: April 27, 1822

Birthplace: Point Pleasant, OH

Died: July 23, 1885

Burial Site: New York City, NY

Spouse: Julia B. Dent

Occupation: Soldier

Political Party: Republican

Term: 1869-1877

Vice President: Schuyler Colfax,  
Henry Wilson



Ulysses Simpson Grant, a commander of the Union Army during the Civil War, became the 18th President of the United States.

He quarreled with President Andrew Johnson and became the Radical Republicans' candidate in 1868.

Grant graduated from West Point in 1843 and was sent to the Mexican border, where he distinguished himself and was twice promoted for bravery at Molino del Rey and at Chapultepec. He was stationed in Oregon and California for a time before resigning from the army.

In 1840, Ulysses Grant's father, Jesse Grant, moved to Galena, IL from Georgetown, OH and began a leather business with another man, Eli Collins. Collins and the elder Grant parted company in 1853 as friends. Jesse moved his part of the business up the street to the Nicholas Dowling Iron Store at 213 N. Main St. Grant's two brothers also moved to Galena. They persuaded Ulysses to move there, which he and his family did in 1860. He served as a collection agent, bought and sold stock, weighed hides and made out bills for the goods. The governor of Illinois appointed him to command an unruly volunteer regiment when the Civil War broke out. He easily got his regiment in fighting shape and in no time had obtained the rank of brigadier general of volunteers.

In 1863, he took Vicksburg and Chattanooga, received the thanks of Congress and promotion to lieutenant general and commander of the northern forces. During the next two years, he fought against Lee at the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor and Petersburg, took Richmond, and forced Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

Grant was re-elected in 1872 and the general's friends in the Republican party came to be known proudly as "the Old Guard." He died July 23, 1885, of throat cancer.