

*GENEALOGICAL NOTES—1.*

AMERICAN  
ANCESTRY  
OF  
U. S. GRANT.  
BY

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First published in the *REPUBLICAN*, Maryville,  
Nodaway County, Missouri,  
August 13, 1885.

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*PRIVATELY PRINTED.*

1885.



## Ancestry of Gen. Grant.

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At this solemn and impressive time, when everything relating to our dead hero is so eagerly read and carefully treasured by untold millions of mourners, I have thought it wise to contribute a short and all to incomplete account of his American ancestry, the more readily, because to my knowledge no account so full as the following has appeared in any shape. I acknowledge many sins of omission, necessary under the circumstances, but trust no sins of commission will be found.

Any one who has had his attention directed to the various lives of General Grant that were written both during the war and since, must have noticed the peculiarly unsatisfactory information given as to his origin and family descent. Some writers start off with the statement that he was of Scotch origin, but trace his ancestral record no farther back than his father, Jesse. Another writer makes the Scotch reference more distinct by telling us that two Scotch brothers came over, one of whom settled in New Jersey and the other somewhere else, but that Gen. Grant descended from the New Jersey settler. Another biography states that the early ancestors of General Grant settled in Connecticut. This latter statement is correct, but no particulars are given, and I propose to supply, in some short manner, this defect.

General Grant's chief pride was

the fact that his family was distinctively American. In truth, this fact will be referred to by future generations in ever-growing admiration, that "he was the noblest American of them all." I esteem it a privilege that I am able to present a few sentences from the opening chapter of General Grant's "Personal Memoirs," that not only show his strong American feelings, but aptly illustrate his plain, vigorous and taking style of composition.

"My family is American, and has been for generations, in all its branches, direct and collateral.

"Mathew Grant, the founder of the branch in America, of which I am a descendant, reached Dorchester, Massachusetts, in May, 1630. In 1635 he moved to what is now Windsor, Connecticut, and was the surveyor for that colony for more than forty years. He was also, for many years of the time, town clerk. He was a married man when he ar-

rived at Dorchester, but his children were all born in this country. His oldest son, Samuel, took lands on the east side of the Connecticut river, opposite Windsor, which have been held and occupied by descendants of his to this day.

"I am of the eighth generation from Mathew Grant."

1. MATHEW<sup>1</sup> GRANT and wife (name unknown) came over with the Warham & Maverick company in 1630, in the good ship *Mary and John*, and settled first at Dorchester, Mass. He was a freeman there in 1631. In 1635, the major part of the company, carrying the church organization with them, removed to Connecticut and founded the town of Windsor. In the Connecticut state archives is a volume of MSS. relating to private controversies. On page 138, in a matter concerning lands in dispute between Joseph Loomis, Sr., and Joseph Loomis,

Jr., April 21, 1675, Mathew Grant testifies:

“And if any question my upright-ness and legal acting about our town affairs, that I have been employed in a measuring of land and getting out of lots to men which has been done by me from our first beginning here come next September is 40 yere. I never got out land to any man until I knew he had a grant to it from the the townsmen, and town's approbation, or about recording after the book was turned to me, which is near twenty-three years since. I can say with a clear conscience I have been careful to do nothing upon one man's desire.”

As appears from the above, Mathew Grant was surveyor from the first settlement of Windsor. He was town clerk for many years and kept the church records still longer. On these latter he often added notes, explanatory or in correction, which have considerable value to the inves-

tigator of the present day. He was the compiler of the *Old Church Record* so often quoted, which in the absence of the earliest records of the town of Windsor (1635-50) assumes a value which can scarcely be estimated. In short, he was a pious, hard working, conscientious Christian man, and a model town clerk, of whom this notice is but too meager for his merits. By his first wife he had children

- i Josiah<sup>2</sup> born in Dorchester, Mass.
- 2 ii Samuel<sup>2</sup>, born in Dorchester, Mass.  
November 12, 1631.
- iii Tahan<sup>2</sup>, born in Dorchester, Mass.,  
February 3, 1633,
- iv John<sup>2</sup>, born in Windsor, Conn., Apri,  
30, 1642.

As is the case in all other matter of personal detail, in regard to her, the date of the death of Mathew Grant's first wife is unknown, but it must have occurred not long after the birth of John, as we find that Mathew Grant married



Susannah Rockwell in Windsor,  
Conn., May 29, 1645. By her he  
had one child

Priscilla<sup>2</sup>, married Michael Humphrey,

Susannah died November 1665-6;  
Mathew survived her until December  
26, 1681.

2 SAMUEL<sup>2</sup> GRANT, (*Mathew*<sup>1</sup>),  
was born in Dorchester, Mass., No-  
vember 12, 1631, and went as a little  
child to Windsor, Conn., where he  
married Mary Porter, who was born  
in 1630, on May 27, 1658. They  
settled on the little eminence in rear  
of East Windsor Theological Insti-  
tute, which Mathew, the father,  
speaks of in 1675-6, in the *Old  
Church Record*, as being the only  
place in the Meadow which was not  
covered with water in the great  
floods of 1638-9. This part of Wind-  
sor was afterwards known as East  
Windsor, and by a more recent divis-

*may, by first wife.*

ion is now South Windsor. Samuel Grant and Mary his wife had nine children, six sons and three daughters, of whom the oldest was

3 i Samuel<sup>3</sup>, born at East Windsor, Conn., April 20, 1659

3 SAMUEL<sup>3</sup> GRANT, (*Samuel*<sup>2</sup>, *Mathew*<sup>1</sup>,) was born at East Windsor, Conn., April 20, 1659, and married, first, Hannah Filley, December 6, 1683. They had only one child

i Hannah<sup>4</sup>, married her cousin John Gaylord, son of William Gaylord and Anna Porter.

Hannah Filley Grant died April 18, 1686, and Samuel Grant married, second, Grace Minor, known as the "Widow Bertha," April 11, 1688. They had seven children, (some say eight) of whom the second was

4 ii Noah<sup>4</sup>, born October 16, 1693.

The house in which Samuel Grant and his wife Grace lived, and where Noah Grant, the direct ancestor of

General Grant was born, is still standing, although it has been since largely added to. It is now occupied by Major Frederick W. Grant, a descendant of Ebenezer Grant, who was the youngest brother of Noah Grant, and the youngest child of Samuel and Grace Grant. Major Grant is now 87 years old.

4 NOAH<sup>4</sup> GRANT, (*Samuel*<sup>3</sup> *Samuel*<sup>2</sup>, *Mathew*<sup>1</sup>,) was born at East Windsor, Conn., October 16, 1693, and married Martha Huntington of Norwich, Conn., June 12, 1717. They had children

- 5 i Noah<sup>5</sup>, born about 1718.
- ii Adeniram<sup>5</sup>, born --
- iii Solomon<sup>5</sup>, unmarried, was killed in battle, September 25, 1766.
- iv Martha<sup>5</sup>, married first Nathan Maher killed at Crown Point, 1755. She married, second, a man by the name of Price.

Noah<sup>4</sup> Grant died at Tolland, Conn., October 16, 1727, and his

widow Martha became the second wife of Captain Peter Buell of Coventry, Conn., by whom she had five children, Peter, Benjamin, Abigail, Ruth and Elias Buell. This daughter Abigail married her cousin's son, Dr. Joshua Porter, from whom descended General Peter Buell Porter, late of Niagara Falls, and others. Captain Peter Buell had four sisters who married Porters. It will be seen that the Grant, Porter and Buell families frequently intermarried from the earliest down to a very late period.

5 NOAH<sup>5</sup> GRANT, (*Noah<sup>4</sup>, Samuel<sup>3</sup>, Samuel<sup>2</sup>, Mathew<sup>1</sup>,*) was born about 1718 and married Susan Delano about 1743. They had children

- 6 i Noah<sup>6</sup>, born July 4, 1744.
- ii Peter<sup>6</sup>, unmarried, lost at sea
- iii Solomon<sup>6</sup>.
- iv Susannah<sup>6</sup>.

On September 20, 1756, Captain Noah<sup>5</sup> Grant and Lieutenant Solomon<sup>5</sup> Grant were killed in battle.

6 NOAH<sup>6</sup> GRANT, (*Noah<sup>5</sup>, Noah<sup>4</sup>, Samuel<sup>3</sup>, Samuel<sup>2</sup>, Mathew<sup>1</sup>,*) was born July 4, 1744, probably at Tolland, Conn. About 1777, he married, first, widow Anna Richardson, daughter of Abel Buell, born August 17, 1738 by whom he had children

- i Solomon<sup>7</sup>.
- ii Peter<sup>7</sup>, drowned January 10, 1829, leaving a large family.

About 1790, Anna Richardson (Buell) Grant died, and Noah<sup>6</sup> Grant took his youngest boy, 8 or 10 years old, and moved to western Pennsylvania. Here he married, second, Rachel Kelly, March 4, 1792. They had children

- i Susan<sup>7</sup>, born December 7, 1792.
- 7 ii Jesse Root<sup>7</sup>, born January 23, 1794.
- iii Margaret<sup>7</sup>, born October 23, 1795.
- iv Noah<sup>7</sup>, born November, 1797, died January 10, 1821.
- v John<sup>7</sup>, born June 2, 1799, died January 23, 1832.
- vi Roswell<sup>7</sup>, born January 10, 1802.
- vii Rachel<sup>7</sup>, born September 10, 1803.

7 JESSE ROOT<sup>7</sup> GRANT, (*Noah<sup>6</sup>, Noah<sup>5</sup>, Noah<sup>4</sup>, Samuel<sup>3</sup>, Samuel<sup>2</sup>, Mathew<sup>1</sup>,*) was born in Western Pennsylvania, January 23, 1794, and removed to Southern Ohio in June, 1820, settling in Clermont County. In June, 1821, he married Hannah Simpson, late from near Philadelphia. They had children

- s i Ulysses Simpson<sup>8</sup>, born April 27, 1822.
- ii Samuel Simpson<sup>8</sup>, born September 23, 1825, died September 13, 1861
- iii Cluny<sup>8</sup>, born December 11, 1828, died March 7, 1865.
- iv Virginia<sup>8</sup>, born February 20, 1832.
- v Orvil L.<sup>8</sup> born May 15, 1835.
- vi Mary F.<sup>8</sup> born July 30, 1839.

It has been generally supposed that General Grant was named Hiram Ulysses, and that by some mistake his name was sent to the military authorities when he entered West Point, as Ulysses S., which change had been afterwards acquiesced in. But this is not correct, as the following extract from a letter written in 1865

by Jesse R. Grant to Richard A. Wheeler of Stonington, Conn., will show.

“As is usually the case with the first, there was a good deal of anxiety about selecting a name for the child. It was finally settled that the half a dozen names selected by the family should be all put in a hat, and the first drawn should be the name. Ulysses was drawn, and his mother’s maiden name (Simpson) adopted for the middle name.”

The letter from which the above extract is taken is now in the possession of Hon. Charles J. Hoadley, State Librarian of Connecticut.

8 ULYSSES SIMPSON<sup>8</sup> GRANT (*Jesse Root*<sup>7</sup>, *Noah*<sup>6</sup>, *Noah*<sup>5</sup>, *Noah*<sup>4</sup>, *Samuel*<sup>3</sup>, *Samuel*<sup>2</sup>, *Mathew*<sup>1</sup>)

Born at Mount Pleasant, Ohio, April 27, 1822.

Entered West Point Military Academy 1839.

Graduated and entered the army 1843.

Commissioned full Lieutenant Sept. 30, 1845.

Promoted to First Lieutenant Sept. 8, 1847.

Married to Miss Julia T. Dent 1848.

Promoted to Captain Aug. 5, 1853.

Resigned July 31, 1854.  
 Reported for duty to Governor Yates, April  
 19, 1861.  
 Made Colonel 21st Regt. Ill. Vol, June 17, 1861.  
 Commissioned Brigadier General Vol. Aug. 7,  
 1861.  
 Battle of Belmont Nov. 8, 1861.  
 Captured Fort Henry Feb. 6, 1862.  
 Captured Fort Donelson Feb. 16, 1862.  
 Battle of Shiloh April 6-7, 1862.  
 Vicksburg captured July 4, 1863.  
 Promoted to Major-General, Regular Army,  
 July, 1863  
 Battle of Chattanooga Nov. 24-25, 1863.  
 Made Lieutenant General March 9, 1864.  
 Moved on Richmond May 3, 1864.  
 Battle of the Wilderness May 5, 6 and 7, 1864.  
 Battle of Spotsylvania Court House May 8 to  
 12, 1864.  
 Cold Harbor June 1, 1864.  
 Petersburg—first attack, June 17, 1864.  
 Petersburg—second assault, July 30, 1864.  
 Hatcher's Run March 29, 1865.  
 Five Forks April 1, 1865.  
 Petersburg captured April 2, 1865.  
 Richmond captured April 3, 1865.  
 Lee surrendered April 9, 1865.  
 Commissioned General July 25, 1866.  
 Made Secretary of War Aug. 12, 1867.  
 Nominated for President at Chicago, May 21,  
 1868.  
 Renominated at Philadelphia June 5, 1872.  
 Retired from the Presidential office March 5,  
 1877.



Began his foreign tour May 17, 1877.  
Returned via San Francisco Sept. 20, 1879.  
Received in Chicago Nov. 12, 1879.  
Made tour in Mexico 1880  
Second tour in Mexico 1881.  
Located in New York 1882.  
Placed on the retired list March 3, 1885.  
Died at 8:08 o'clock Thursday, July 25, 1885.  
aged 63 years, 2 months, 26 days.

