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**“THE AMERICAN SPHINX: U.S. GRANT”
A TALK BY OUR OWN JOSH MADDEN
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2021 AT 7:30 P.M.
SHELTER HOUSE, FRED FULLER PARK, KENT**

The Kent Civil War Society will host “The American Sphinx: US Grant” on Tuesday, November 9th at 7:30PM. The discussion will focus on Grant’s life prior to and after the Civil War. From Ohio to the White House, we will review a man with roots leading through Portage County to the push for the 15th Amendment.

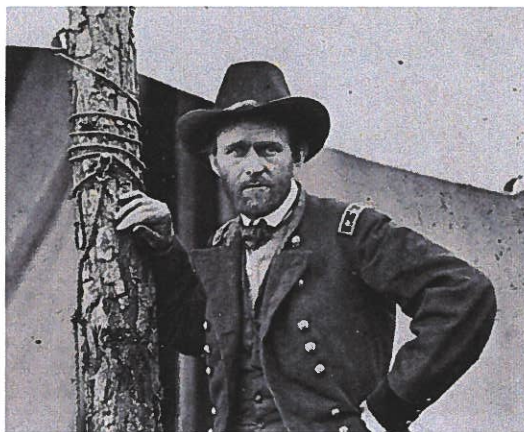
During his time, Grant was considered to be one of the three great Americans alongside Washington and Lincoln. Yet in the 20th century he was largely overshadowed by the foe he vanquished at Appomattox. The man that is wrongly derided as a “butcher”, and spent his presidency seeking peace, is a story of growth, unprecedented achievement and staggering failures.

Josh Madden will be the presenter for the evening. A lifelong resident of Ravenna, he holds a B.S.S. in History and Political Science from Ohio University and an M.B.A. from Malone University. He is a Civil War enthusiast, with a specific interest in the life and career of US Grant.

As always, for those interested and able, the before-meeting dinner at Little City Grill in Kent begins circa 5:30 p.m.



Photo of Grant by Matthew Brady



Ulysses S. Grant was born Hiram Ulysses Grant on April 27, 1822, in Point Pleasant, Ohio. To his friends, however, he was known simply as "Sam." Grant's fame as a general during the American Civil War and his two terms as eighteenth U.S. President is well known to most Americans. Yet Grant was also a talented artist. Surviving paintings from his time as a cadet at the United States Military Academy (West Point) from 1839 to 1843 attest to his drawing skills. While drawing and painting were favorite hobbies for Grant during his time at West Point, it was also essential that graduating cadets were proficient in these skills for their future Army careers.

According to The Centennial of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, cadet Ulysses S. Grant studied drawing during his third class (sophomore) and second class (junior) years. During his second class year the drawing focused on landscape and copying other drawings, while during his third class he studied topographical and anatomical drawing. Army engineers defined topography as the "arrangement of the natural and artificial physical features of an area." These could include natural elements such as mountains, rivers, lakes, forests, or cultural elements such as Native American villages and old roads. As the U.S. military presence expanded westward in the decades before the Civil War, new topographical maps had to be drawn. It was important for officers such as Grant to be able to sketch accurate maps of the surrounding landscape and to include notable features on these maps. During times of peace, topographical maps helped engineers locate and construct new roads, railroads, and fortifications. Equally important, army officers worked to locate and sketch water sources in their maps. During wartime, these drawings became important for sketching enemy force deployments and fortifications accurately.



Painting of Native Americans by U. S. Grant