

for their longevity, her father living to be 91 years old. Religiously she was reared a Presbyterian, but now worships with the Congregationalists where her daughters, Sadie and Mary, are Sunday School teachers. Gen. John SIMPSON of Cincinnati is a brother of Mrs. ELROD, whose honorable Army record she is glad to preserve. He is a retired officer of the United States Army, having been retired since 1906. He enlisted in the 5th Ohio Cavalry. Sept. 27, 1862, and was discharged May 28, 1865.

"He was appointed second lieutenant of the 4th Artillery Aug 17, 1867, and advanced to the rank of first lieutenant of the 4th Artillery on March 28, 1873. On July 17, 1875 he was appointed captain and assistant quartermaster. On April 20, 1892, he was raised to the rank of lieutenant colonel, and assistant quartermaster general. On Feb. 2, 1901, he was raised to the rank of brigadier general and was finally retired Aug. 18, 1903.

"Gen. John SIMPSON studied at Fortress Monroe and Annapolis military schools so as to fully equip himself for active and efficient service. Being of the Grant lineage, he was naturally a successful soldier.

"Samuel ELROD, the second son of William and Sarah E. ELROD, was born in the old log house that Gen. Grant built. William, the third son, and Sadie, the youngest daughter, were born in Gen. Grant's large house on his farm west of St. Louis. The ELROD family is highly respected and has numerous friends."

The Sentinel of April 8, 1917 recorded that "Mrs. Sarah E. ELROD, 85, first cousin of Gen. U.S. GRANT, died at Centralia and was buried in Elmwood Cemetery."

Mrs. Robert (Bev) VIROBIK, who continues to live in and make significant contributions to the Centralia community, is a direct descendant of this fine lady.

Footprints Ed's Note: A not so well-known fact is that Gen. Grant operated under an assumed name for most of his life. He was born Hiram Ulysses GRANT and his mother was Hannah (SIMPSON) GRANT. When he entered West Point, someone goofed and recorded him as Ulysses Simpson GRANT. He never bothered to correct the name as the shy GRANT was always embarrassed by his real initials -HUG. He was known throughout his West Point days and to his early army days as "Sam."

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