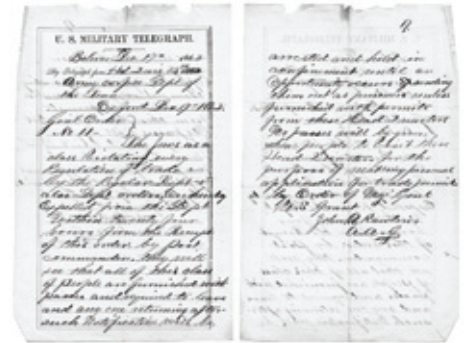


# This Month in American Jewish History

## General Order No. 11, December 17, 1862 Major General Ulysses S. Grant, Commander The Army & Department of the Tennessee

1. The Jews, as a class violating every regulation of trade established by the Treasury Department and also department orders, are hereby expelled from the Department [of the Tennessee] within twenty-four hours from the receipt of this order.
2. Post commanders will see to it that all of this class of people be furnished passes and required to leave, and any one returning after such notification will be arrested and held in confinement until an opportunity occurs of sending them out as prisoners, unless furnished with permit from headquarters.
3. No passes will be given these people to visit headquarters for the purpose of making personal application of trade permits.



### Cover letter, Transmitting General Order No. 11, December 17, 1862 General Grant to Christopher Wolcott, Assistant Secretary of War

Sir,  
I have long since believed that, in spite of all the vigilance that can be infused into Post Commanders, that the Specie regulations of the Treasury Dept. have been violated, and that mostly by Jews and other unprincipled traders. So well satisfied of this have I been at this that I instructed the Commanding Officer at Columbus [Kentucky] to refuse all permits to Jews to come south, and frequently have had them expelled from the Dept. [of the Tennessee]. But they come in with their Carpet sacks, in spite of all that can be done to prevent it. The Jews seem to be a privileged class that can travel anywhere. They will land at any wood yard or landing on the river and make their way through the country. If not permitted to buy Cotton themselves they will act as agents for someone else who will be at a Military post, with a Treasury permit to receive Cotton and pay for it in Treasury notes which the Jew will buy up at an agreed rate, paying gold.

There is but one way that I know of to reach this case. That is for Government to buy all the Cotton at a fixed rate and send it to Cairo, St Louis, or some other point to be sold. Then all traders, they are a curse to the Army, might be expelled.

*Major General Ulysses S. Grant, Commander  
The Army & Department of the Tennessee*



**Editor's Note:** During the Civil War, the Union's Department of the Tennessee included much of Tennessee, Mississippi and Kentucky. President Lincoln permitted ongoing cotton trade between North and South throughout the war, because textile mills in the North were dependent on Southern cotton, and massive amounts of textiles were needed for the war effort. The Union Army regulated and controlled the trade in what was both a civilian and war commodity. The Army's goal was to preserve the flow of raw cotton to the North, while allowing only a meager profit to Southern growers, sufficient only for survival, but insufficient to support the Confederate war effort. In 1862, General Grant was in command of the Army of the Tennessee, headquartered in Paducah, KY, which was an enormous military supply depot and a center of the cotton trade. As usual in times of war, a thriving black market burgeoned. Since trading cotton required Army-issued licenses and passes, the black market could only exist with the acquiescence and participation of army officers and enlisted men. Grant was enraged, but knowing the depth of his officers' complicity, he focused his attack on the civilians. Grant railed against traders in general and "the Jews" in particular. He issued his General Order No. 11 on December 17, 1862. Seventeen days later, on January 3, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln ordered Grant to revoke the order, after hearing the pleas of American Jewish leaders at the White House. Grant complied on January 17. Grant's order lasted a total of only 31 days, during which it seems a few Jewish families left Paducah but returned shortly thereafter. Throughout the rest of his life, Grant worked to reconcile with America's Jews, and he largely succeeded, winning the bulk of the Jewish vote in his presidential elections.

### This year, HJC will once again be participating in the Family Service League program called HIHI.

This stands for Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative. During the winter months, a different congregation in the Huntington area provide meals, basic essentials and a warm place to sleep for a group of homeless men in our community. This year, we will be hosting on December 13, 27; January 10, 24; February 7; March 1, 7 and 28. If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about this program, please contact:

Ellen Steinberg [ellen.steinberg728@gmail.com](mailto:ellen.steinberg728@gmail.com) or  
Karen Flanzenbaum [kflanzenbaumlaw@gmail.com](mailto:kflanzenbaumlaw@gmail.com)