

2015

Dispatches from Grant - Summer 2015 - Volume 3 Issue 3

Mississippi State University

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DISPATCHES FROM GRANT

The Newsletter of the Ulysses S. Grant Association's Ulysses S. Grant
Presidential Library at Mississippi State University • Summer 2015 •

Volume 3 • Issue 3

Dear Members,

There are concerns I want to share with you. For many years, USGA has received financial awards from the National Historical Publication of Records Commission (NHPRC) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). This year we received an NHPRC grant (July 2015 to June 2016) of only \$44,490, a drop of some \$30,000 from two years previously. NEH has NOT renewed our longstanding three year financial award (2012-2015 of \$117,986), and the present one will run out on September 30 of this year. Both federal award programs have suffered severe cuts in their budgets, and Congress does not seem interested in increasing support in the coming years. Future funding for USGA after June 30, 2016 is thus problematic at best.

As you know, President Frank Williams, Vice President Jim Bultema, and I have instituted a program of donations to try to fill the gap. We have had some success, around \$16,000 in donations but not nearly enough to cover the loss of Federal funds. When NHPRC cut our funding several years ago, the MSU Libraries supplemented the Executive Director's salary by around \$25,000 per year. USGA has also established an endowment with the MSU Foundation, putting \$35,000 of our funds into an endowment. Last year we received an anonymous donation of \$50,000, so our total endowment now stands at \$85,000 plus interest. We have also increased the fee structure for membership in USGA and added a student membership.

When I became Executive Director in 2008, I instituted a structure by which all our staff members are on "hard money." They are employees of the MSU Libraries. I put my salary on "soft money," the financial awards from the federal organizations. The Endowment of \$85,000 is set as a beginning sum to raise enough money to be able to employ the Executive Director both today and, more importantly, in the future.

USGA must find new sources of revenue. MSU has been amazingly generous to us, providing over \$200,000 per year in support of our operations. MSU, through a state of Mississippi bond, is paying for the \$7.2 million addition to the Mitchell Memorial Library for our use as the Grant Presidential Library. Through the work of President Mark Keenum, MSU is also providing over \$2 million dollars for furnishing the new addition for our use.

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Meg Henderson

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Frank, Jim, and I agree that USGA must increase our endowment dramatically, and we need to produce additional revenues of all sorts to allow us to function in the manner of a true Presidential Library. We will continue our editorial work, but our mission is expanding to reach out to a public wanting to learn more about General and President Grant. For this year alone, we need \$50,000 plus additions to our endowment. In future years, with little chance of further funds from NEH or NHPRC, our shortfall will be close to \$100,000. The salary of the Executive Director, for example, will then be around \$25,000 a year with that revenue coming from the MSU Libraries.

We need a major infusion of funds, and we need it quickly. The Executive Director and staff are looking into other possible federal, public, and private sources of revenue, but our opportunity to do so is limited because of the heavy load of responsibilities we already carry. MSU has assigned a member of the MSU Foundation staff to gather additional funds for the MSU Libraries, including USGA, and we are hopeful this will help us in the future.

However, as an organization that has set standards for many years, USGA must reach within itself for necessary new funding. We have no alternative if we wish to continue among the leaders in our field and especially with a new USGA facility on the horizon. The past achievements of USGA are something we can be proud of. However, without an executive director to provide day-to-day leadership and without funds to carry on our mission, the future will be a troubled one. Please respond to our financial needs as generously and as quickly as you can.

Send funds to USGA, c/o John F. Marszalek, Executive Director, P.O.Box 5408, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

In addition to funding, we also need to hear about your fund raising ideas and your willingness to reach out beyond our membership for further financial help.

If you have any questions or suggestions, contact me at johnmarsz@yahoo.com; Frank Williams at alincoln@courts.ri.gov, or Jim Bultema at jabultema@aol.com.

Our financial situation requires action now. The legacy of USGA and the memory of a great American, Ulysses S. Grant, requires nothing less.

Frank J. Williams, President

Jim Bultema, VP for Advancement

John F. Marszalek, Executive Director



**The Ulysses S. Grant Association
has promoted historical
scholarship on Grant and the Civil
War since 1962.**

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Recent and Upcoming Events/Notices

Fall 2015—Construction begins on the new facility for the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library at Mississippi State University's Mitchell Memorial Library. The project is projected to be completed in 18 months. To follow our progress, visit <http://lib.msstate.edu/places/construction/mml-expansion/>

September 1—USGA membership structure changes for new members: Lifetime membership increases to \$500; options for annual membership at \$100/year and NEW student memberships for \$25/year

September 1—“History of Baseball” lecture at the George W. Bush Presidential Library in Dallas, Texas. USGA President Frank Williams and Executive Director Dr. John Marszalek presented a lecture at this event.

September 22—Ulke Family exhibit “The Faces of the President” official opening and reception at MSU Libraries

September 23-25—Fifteenth Amendment/Voting Rights Act Symposium at Mississippi State University, featuring keynote speakers Dr. Douglas Egerton and Dr. Michael Fauntroy and a panel of judges, including Frank Williams, speaking about the legacy of voting rights from the Reconstruction through the present day. For information and to register, visit <http://www.usgrantlibrary.org/newsandevents/15thamendment.asp>

October 10—2015 John Y. Simon Day at the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site in St. Louis. USGA member Dr. Ronald White will be the keynote speaker presenting “Voter Suppression: President Grant Battles the Ku Klux Klan.” For more information, visit <http://www.nps.gov/ulsg/learn/news/special-events.htm>

October 17-25—Frank Williams and John Marszalek will be speaking on a sold-out Civil War riverboat cruise on the American Queen, travelling from Nashville to Chattanooga, Tennessee.

May 6-8, 2016—Annual USGA meeting in Pamplin Park and Richmond. Details to follow soon on the Grant Presidential Library website.



Staff Updates

Editors **David Nolen** and **Louis Gallo** and Executive Director **John Marszalek** attended the Joint Conference of the Society for Textual Scholarship and the Association for Documentary Editing, June 17-20 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and participated in a panel session with editors from the Mark Twain Papers at the University of California-Berkeley. The presentation focused on the relationship between U.S. Grant and Mark Twain, especially during Grant's last years as he was writing his best-selling Memoirs, which Twain's publishing company, Charles L. Webster & Co., published in 1885. USGA President Frank Williams moderated the session.

Meg Henderson attended the American Library Association's annual meeting in San Francisco, June 25-30. Meg presented a poster on the collaborative work of the Grant Association and Shiloh National Military Park which resulted in a two-day symposium in Corinth, Mississippi focusing on the Corinth contraband camp. The poster emphasized the symposium's success as a result of the strong partnership between the USGA and National Park Service staff.

John Marszalek presented a talk, sponsored by the Gettysburg Foundation, over the July 4th weekend at the Gettysburg battlefield in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Some 15 historians participated.

Aaron Crawford, who was on leave for the last two years with a fellowship position at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, has decided to remain in Dallas and not return to his position at the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library. He will be missed greatly by the Grant Library staff, and we wish him well!

Louis Gallo, Visiting Assistant Editor since August 2014, will take Dr. Crawford's position as Assistant Editor. He will continue working with Assistance Editor David Nolen on the Grant Memoirs editorial project.

Ryan Semmes, Archivist for the Grant Library, was recently promoted from Interim Internal Coordinator of the Congressional and Political Research Center at MSU Libraries to Coordinator. Congratulations, Ryan!

The Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library also welcomes back student worker **Ryan Lawrence** and graduate student interns **Larsen Plyler** and **Hannah Berman**. We also say congratulations and goodbye to Bailey Powell, who graduated with a B.A. in English from MSU this August. We wish her well in her post-undergraduate life! **Ryan Lawrence** took third place in the Arts & Humanities division of Mississippi State University's Shackouls Honors College Undergraduate Research Symposium for a presentation on his work with the Ida Honoré Grant letters.

In Memoriam: David Payne

Long-time Grant Association member David Payne passed away July 4. Those who attend the annual USGA meetings knew David well, as he was a regular at the meetings.

Born in San Francisco, David moved to Chicago, Illinois to work as a chemist for the Environmental Protection Agency, where he worked for 33 years. He was also an avid student of Civil War history and active in USGA for several years.

A service was held at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in David's hometown of Cartersville, Indiana. Harriet Simon represented USGA at the funeral, where USGA staff donated a flower arrangement, in Union Blue.

David is survived by his wife, children, and grandchildren. His USGA family will also miss him dearly.

"David was always with us at the annual meetings, and we regularly heard from him by email. His passing is a great loss to USGA," said Executive Director John Marszalek.

Grant Library receives NHPRC award for 2015-16

By Meg Henderson

The Ulysses S. Grant Association (USGA), housed at Mississippi State University, was awarded a grant of \$43,490 by the National Archives' National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) for the 2015-16 fiscal year. This outright grant continues NHPRC's financial support of the USGA's editorial project for publishing the first complete scholarly edition of Ulysses S. Grant's best-selling 1885 Memoirs.

NHPRC has sponsored USGA's editorial projects since the USGA's birth in 1965, helping fund the editing and publication of the 32-volume series *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*, which chronicle the writings of Grant and provide extensive contextual notes from the USGA documentary editors. The forthcoming edition of Grant's Memoirs will replicate the original 1885 text and will add extensive notes that provide context which was not necessary for a nineteenth-century audience but is required for today's readers.

USGA President Frank J. Williams and Executive Director John F. Marszalek both expressed gratitude for NHPRC's continued support to USGA. "We could not have achieved all we have without NHPRC," said Williams.

The mission of the Ulysses S. Grant Association is to conduct research into the life of Ulysses S. Grant and preserve the knowledge of his importance in American history. The Association, with the cooperation of the Mitchell Memorial Library, Mississippi State University, and other interested public and private entities, edits and publishes Grant's writings both in hardcover and digital format, acquires and preserves artifacts and memorabilia from his lifetime, makes this material available to scholars and the public, conducts teacher and student institutes and classes, organizes lectures and symposia, and maintains the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library as the

major world repository of information about U.S. Grant and his era.

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission is a branch of the National Archives. The primary role of the Commission is to provide opportunities for the American people to discover and use historical records that increase understanding of our democracy, history, and culture.

Together again: Grant and Twain on stage

Playwright and USGA member Elizabeth Diggs debuts her play "Grant and Twain" with a series of three readings held at the Ulysses S. Grant Historic National Site in St. Louis October 24 and 25. Digg's play, directed by Andrea Urice, was awarded the Edgerton Foundation New American Plays Award.

About the play: Ulysses Grant, hero of the Civil War, is bankrupted in a Madoff-style Ponzi scheme. His only hope to restore his honor and provide for his family is to write a book about the war. But he is a man of action, not a writer. His friend Mark Twain is determined to publish the book himself and make it "the biggest bestseller in American history." But halfway through the book, Grant is diagnosed with terminal cancer, and then discovers an enemy close to home who who wants to destroy him. For more information, contact:

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McKinstry Collection donated to Grant Library

By Meg Henderson

This summer, the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library received a collection of 50 pieces of correspondence, 37 of which were written by a Arthur McKinstry, a private in the 72nd New York State Regiment during the American Civil War. The bulk of the material spans from 1861-1862 and is addressed to various family members. McKinstry was killed at the battle of Williamsburg, Virginia in 1862; some correspondence concerns his burial at Yorktown, Virginia.

Arthur McKinstry (November 2, 1839-May 5, 1862) was born in Chicopee, Massachusetts to William McKinstry and wife Mary Theodosia Frink. Arthur had one sister, Laura Jane McKinstry. He spent his earliest years in Chicopee, living near his extended family. Arthur's father died when Arthur was five years old. Later, Arthur's mother remarried, and the family moved to Forestville, New York. Arthur's uncles, Willard and Winthrop, lived nearby in Fredonia, New York. They were the proprietors of a newspaper, *The Fredonia Censor*.

Arthur attended the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis for one year (1854-55) at the age of sixteen. In May 1861, a month and a half after the Civil War began, Arthur, being anxious to serve his country, enrolled himself in the Union Army. He was 21 years old. He served as a Private in the New York State Volunteers Company D 72d Regiment, stationed along the Potomac River near Washington, DC.

During his time of service, Arthur faithfully wrote his mother and to his aunts and cousins. He wrote other letters to his uncles, giving reports and first-hand accounts about Company D. These letters were published in *The Fredonia Censor*.

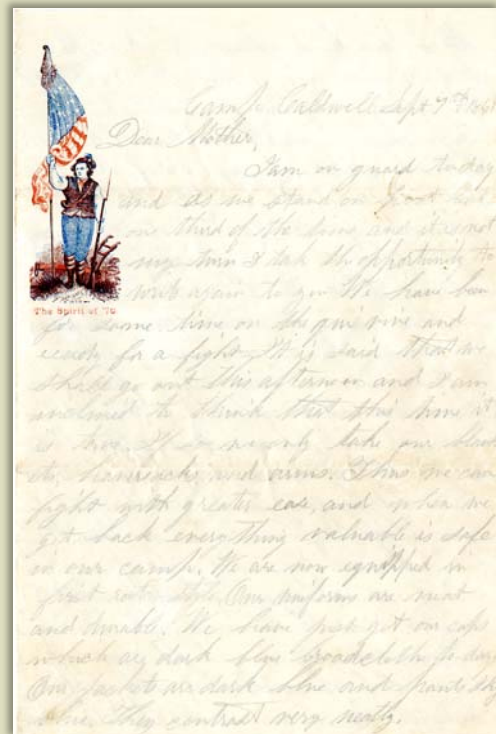
Arthur's sister and her family moved to Starkville, Mississippi in the 1880s. Frances Oakley, a

Starkville, Mississippi native and descendant of the McKinstry family, contacted the Ulysses S. Grant Library, wishing to donate her treasured family collection.

These letters are a fitting addition to the Ulysses S. Grant Collection. Like Grant's letters, they provide an authentic account of daily life in the Union Army, only from the perspective of an everyday soldier.

Grant Library Executive Director John Marszalek expressed appreciation to the family for this historically valuable donation. The McKinstry letters, he said, were "a significant addition to the Grant collections."

A reception hosted by MSU Libraries was held to honor Mrs. Oakley for her donation at Mississippi State University July 24. Family members and close friends were in attendance, as well as staff from the Grant Library and MSU Libraries. A high point of that celebration was the singing of "Happy Birthday" to Mrs. Oakley.



September 7, 1861 letter from Arthur McKinstry to his mother

Website gives Starkville Civil War Arsenal a twenty-first century upgrade

By Meg Henderson

For thirty-five years, Starkville resident Duffy Neubauer has collected civil war artifacts, mainly the weaponry of the era, which has fascinated him since childhood. Neubauer opened his museum in 2009, on April 12 4:30 a.m., and, not surprisingly, visitors were not lined up when he opened his doors. This date and time, however, are historically significant; on April 12, 1861 at 4:30 a.m., the bombing of Fort Sumter occurred, beginning the Civil War. Since 2009, visitors from 31 states and about five foreign countries have visited the Starkville Civil War Arsenal. His visitors have ranged from interested individuals to groups from the National Park Service, National Archives, Smithsonian Institute, Army Museum System, U.S. Grant Association (twice), and, once, a motorcycle club. Visitors are treated to a personal tour by Neubauer, in full Civil War dress, and learn a wealth of knowledge from this Civil War artillery expert.

When asked why he would open his private collection to the public, Neubauer replied, "For me to hoard it, no one got to see it. I look at all the equipment as, I'm the custodian of these items, and someone else will take care of it when I'm finished." Neubauer enjoys sharing his knowledge of the military aspects of the war through his collection of cannons, firearms, projectiles, other tools, and photographs. His favorite artifacts are the caissons, two-wheeled horse-drawn vehicles used to carry ammunition on the battlefield or coffins at military funerals. "To me," Neubauer said, "The most special vehicle in my collection is the caisson because Union, Confederate, white, black, and Mexican War soldiers were buried off of my caisson. Being carried in a caisson is the highest honor you can give at a military funeral service."

At the end of June 2015, Neubauer launched a website for his museum, bringing his collection to the world. The idea started when a visitor from California came to Starkville and toured the



Duffy Neubauer illustrates The role of the artificer and all his tools which supported the battery are emphasized at the Starkville Civil War Arsenal.

museum last spring. The visitor had to go home and asked if there was any information about the museum available online. Neubauer credits Brother Rogers and Gail Langston for putting the website together. It highlights photographs of featured artifacts, news, information for visitors, and his latest project, reproducing a Civil War era ambulance from original military specifications. Neubauer regularly updates this page with progress reports and photographs of the ambulance in progress. When completed, it will make the Starkville Civil War Arsenal the only museum in the world with carriages and support vehicles.

Neubauer is enthusiastic about the site, which brings his nineteenth century collection to a twenty-first century audience. "Now when I'm speaking or in public," Neubauer said, "I can tell them about the website instead of giving them a business card."

"Duffy is a great supporter of USGA, and together we give visitors to Starkville an unmatched Civil War experience," said Archivist Ryan Semmes.

The website for the Starkville Civil War Arsenal is <http://www.starkvillecivilwararsenal.com/>



Grant Tannery opens doors to visitors By Lee Schweickart

In 1823, Jesse Grant moved, with his wife Hannah and his 18-month-old son Ulysses, from Point Pleasant on the Ohio River to Georgetown, Ohio. Their new home was little more than a clearing in the woods, but it was the seat of a new county, and Jesse expected the tiny community to grow quickly. It would be a good place to start his new tannery business.

At the intersection of Water Street and Main Cross Street, he built a small, two-room, two-story brick home. Across the street, he built the brick two-story building that would be where he would maintain an office and finish turning raw hides into leather.

Jesse's tannery grew and prospered, becoming one of the most successful businesses in town, and in 1841, he and Eli Collins formed a partnership to operate a much larger tannery in Bethel, Ohio and a leather goods store in Galena, Illinois.

After Jesse sold his home and business in Georgetown, the tannery continued in operation for several years, and the property was later occupied by a manufacturer of plug tobacco and then by a sawmill.

Christian Single, a German immigrant who had operated grist mills in Midway, Kentucky and in Georgetown, bought the sawmill in 1872 and replaced it with a flour mill. In 1893, Single bought new machinery at the Chicago World's Fair and converted the old burr-mill to a modern steam-powered roller mill. At Chris Single's death, the property passed to his daughter, Julia (Single) Waters, then to her son Willard Waters, who built a one-story addition at the rear of the building in 1921. In 1944, the tract that included the mill was sold to the Brown County Farm Bureau while the Waters family kept the tannery building and continued to live there. The Farm Bureau operated the mill until 1965, when the business moved and

the mill was torn down. At this point, Bob Waters, the great grandson of Chris Single, repurchased the mill property.

Bob and Virginia Waters remodeled the tannery into a comfortable, modern home where they raised three children. After Virginia's death, Bob continued to live there until he moved to a retirement center in 2013.

The Waters family has always had a deep attachment to the property and a keen awareness of its historical significance. In 2015, they very generously elected to donate the tannery and the adjacent grounds to the Ohio History Connection to guarantee its preservation and maintenance as an integral part of the U.S. Grant boyhood home and school sites in Georgetown.

With their gift, the Waters family makes possible a unique site that will allow the public to see and experience the home, school, and work environments that were a major influence on the character and personality of Ulysses S. Grant, the man who saved the Union and was twice elected president during one of the most turbulent periods in our nation's history.

Words can't express the gratitude of the Ohio History Connection to the Waters family, so we will simply say "thank you." We invite USGA members to visit and see our continuing work.



Jesse Grant's tannery in Georgetown, Ohio

General Grant at the Reagan Presidential Library

By Edward W. Headington



I appreciated having the opportunity to again portray America's greatest soldier at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library & Learning Center this past Independence Day.

The Reagan Library is one of the crown jewels in our national system. I have been going there since it opened, and it played a part in my decision to get my degree in Political Science at USC and then my Masters in Political Management at the George Washington University. Suffice to say, it was important to me that as we began the 150th anniversary events that Ulysses S. Grant was recognized—on both Presidents' Day and, most recently, the 4th of July.

The invitation from the Reagan Library to portray President Grant was a little intimidating. The program, "Grant and the Story of America," is one I crafted with my Julia Grant, Devon Cormier. It takes the audience from Grant's early years to his rise to commanding general, White House days, and post-presidency.

Part of the excitement of bringing Grant to life is taking his actual words and sentiments and weaving them into a compelling narrative.

There were times when I could see tears welling up

in the eyes of the audience, especially that moment when Grant hears the news of Lincoln's assassination and not knowing its meaning. What is remarkable is that many people knew the basic layout of Grant's life but not the extent of his civil rights record as chief executive, his strong view on the Mexican-American War, his California Gold Rush connection, and the trials and tribulations he faced in civilian life and during his two stints in the military.

One woman, visibly moved, came up to me afterward to share her appreciation for telling the whole story of his life. While in her 40s now, she remembered doing a school report on Grant and how classmates teased her about getting stuck with the "drunkard." Another woman who was a 50-plus year educator said she learned more about the General and his role in our country's greatest trial than in five decades of textbook teaching. Perhaps the most touching was a young man named after Grant, who I invited on stage. His mother and father had come that day so he could learn more of the legacy of his namesake, and he walked away with a better understanding of the man his parents saw fit to pay homage.

The impact of the American Civil War and the Hero of Appomattox is still being felt. While each passing generation distances themselves further from Grant's era, I am proud to be a part of strengthening his historical assessment and remind people that it took a lot for America just to get this far. I am also inspired by the great work of the Ulysses S. Grant Association in preserving the legacy of this chieftain we all know and love—and I speak for many when I say we are all excited about the opening of the new Grant Presidential Library in 2017. As the General once said, let's keep the ball in motion.

Edward Headington is the founder of a 12 year-old public relations and government affairs firm in Los Angeles and embraces his inner "history nerd." Edward is also a lifetime member of the USGA and portrays Grant across the country. Reach him at General@MeetGrant.com.

Grant and Twain: an odd couple

By Tom O'Keefe

On the face of it they were a curious pair to have fallen in with one another. Twain was the younger of the two men, born in Missouri in 1835, 13 years junior to Grant, who was born in Ohio in 1822. Grant was taciturn and deliberate by nature in his actions as a General and President, and Twain was just the opposite – boisterous, opinionated, and constantly in motion. Yet both men shared a keen sense of humor and were shrewd observers of human nature: Grant from his experiences administering an army of two million soldiers and Twain from spinning out the characters that populated his books.

One man began his career as a reluctant cadet at West Point, had no intention of staying in the U.S. Army, and yet was promoted by President Abraham Lincoln to Lieutenant-General in the Army of the United States. The other man decided to skedaddle off to Nevada and California during the Civil War after having served a two-week stint as a “rebel” with a local Missouri militia unit. While Grant and Lincoln were saving the Union and ending slavery, Twain became first a journalist, then a writer and humorist, authoring books like *Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. His interests and travels ranged all over the Earth, telling and re-telling tales, on his speaking tours or in his books, from the perspective of a teenage boy, a mindset he never lost and which enlivened everything he wrote, said, and did.

Both men had a way with words – Grant was famous in military circles and with Abraham Lincoln for his terse and forceful military orders written hastily from a field tent in the heat of battle, and Twain was America's man of letters, writing from his preferred spot, the Billiard Room of his house in Hartford.

Their friendship was formalistic and halting at first,

a kind of friendship based upon mutual admiration. It grew deeper over time, though, forged towards the end of Grant's life by Twain's persistence in urging Grant to do something the General had no interest in doing: to write his Civil War Memoirs.

Preparation of the *Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant* was not a vanity project for the General, as it is for politicians and military leaders today, but a Herculean undertaking by a terminally ill man. As the year 1885 began, Grant's doctors had given him only months to live, and his financial resources were so depleted that checks he wrote to pay bills came back dishonored by the bank. His wife, Julia, had mortgaged a house she owned in her own name, and Grant had resorted to writing articles for a magazine about key battles of the Civil War for \$500 each.

Enter Mark Twain, not in his role as writer but as a friend to the Grant family, urging Grant into writing his Memoirs – something Twain had been doing long before Grant had taken ill. Twain agreed to publish the Memoirs through his own publishing house run by his nephew, Charles L. Webster and Company. He guaranteed a substantial downpayment against advances on the book, predicting that royalties would leave the Grants without financial worries once the Memoirs were published.



Plaque marking Ulysses and Julia Grant's home in Manhattan, New York, 1881-1885

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With that bargain having been made, Grant, his son Colonel Fred Grant, and a military aide, General Adam Badeau, went to work in Grant's library on the second floor of his house on East 66th Street, developing that room into the Bookworks, festooned with maps and military books of his Civil War campaigns.

The project was fraught with financial risk for Twain, and General Grant too had to deal with some unexpected problems when Grant's long time aide Adam Badeau, formerly a journalist, planted a rumor in the *New York World* newspaper that he was the ghostwriter of the Memoirs. Sick as he was, Grant had to write a letter to assure the public that he was the sole author of the Memoirs, stating as follows in his May 2, 1885 letter to his publisher: "The composition is entirely my own . . . I have not only prepared myself whatever rough notes were made, but, as above stated, have done the entire work of composition and preparing notes, and no one but myself has ever used one of those notes in any composition." After Grant died, Badeau sued Grant's estate, and eventually Julia Grant authorized a \$10,000 settlement, but as a condition of the settlement Badeau agreed "to limit his claim to that of suggestion, revision and reverification." Today, there is no dispute that Grant was the author of his Memoirs, not Badeau, and certainly not Mark Twain.

Twain himself, a tireless scribbler and reviser when it came to his own work as a writer, was in awe of his author's character and writing ability as he described in a letter to a friend after Grant's death:

"The sick room bought out the points of General Grant's character – some of them, particularly, to wit his patience. His indestructible equability of temper. . . . And his fortitude! He was under

sentence of death last Spring. He sat thinking, musing, for several days, nobody knows what about, then he pulled himself together and set out to finish that book, a colossal task for a dying man. Presently his hand gave out. . . . Then he lost his voice. But he was not quite done, however. There was no end of little plumbs and spices to be stuck in here and there. And this work he patiently continued a few lines a day, with his pad and pencil until far into July, at Mt. McGregor. One day he put his pencil aside and said he was done – there was nothing more to do." He died.

Twain was a fantastically successful author, but his unique and remarkable collaboration with General Grant was one of his proudest literary achievements. Many years later, the late novelist Gore Vidal paid Grant the highest compliment saying that "it is simply not possible to read Grant's Memoirs without realizing that the author is a man of first-rate intelligence . . . his book is a classic."

In the end, Grant managed to produce a two-volume work composed of 1,231 pages, Julia Grant eventually received nearly half a million dollars in royalties from the 300,000 sets sold, and the Memoirs are still in print. Two decades after publication, Grant was being honored in the Fifth Avenue Hotel in October 1906 and the compliment paid to Twain by one of the speakers was that Mark Twain was "the man who made death easy for General Grant . . . [doing] more than any living man to make Grant die without dread or regret."

Tom O'Keefe is a lawyer who also writes on American History. He is working on a two-man play for Broadway called "Grant and Twain: In Their Own Words." He is pleased that USGA is producing the first scholarly edition of Grant's masterpiece.

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How can you make a gift to the U.S. Grant Presidential Library?

- 1. Cash:** You can deduct cash gifts up to 50% of adjusted gross income. On a \$10,000 cash gift in a 28% tax bracket, you can save \$2,800 in taxes. You can also make a multiple-year cash pledge, deducting cash pledged over a period of years.
- 2. Bequest through Will:** It is very simple to give of your estate. You can make a gift bequest—after others have been provided for—of a dollar amount, specific property, a percentage of the estate, or the remainder to the Ulysses S. Grant Association.
- 3. Outright Gift of Real Estate:** One of the most overlooked gift forms is of real estate. A gift of land, a house, or vacation home is a perfect gift. You will impact generations—and receive a tax deduction for the full fair market value, as well as avoiding all capital gain taxes.
- 4. Retirement Accounts:** Retirement Account Funds (IRAs) beyond the comfortable support of yourself or your loved ones may be given (such as life insurance proceeds) to the Ulysses S. Grant Association by proper beneficiary designation. Those 70 1/2 and older can make qualified charitable distributions (QCBs) from your IRAs (limited to \$100,000 per year); these donations are not included in individual income or allowed as a charitable deduction. Subject to annual review by Congress.
- 5. Personal Property (Collections, Royalty Rights, etc.):** Gifts of personal property are always welcome, including collections, royalty, and mineral rights. Charitable tax deductions are available in the year of the gift.
- 6. Appreciated Stock:** Appreciated stock (held more than one year) makes an excellent gift. Avoid all capital gain taxes, receive a tax deduction, and deduct up to 30% of your adjusted gross income.
- 7. Bonds, Mutual Funds:** Bonds and mutual funds are similar to cash in their tax treatment. State Municipal, and U.S. Government Bonds are welcome.
- 8. Gift of Life Insurance:** It is easy to make a significant gift by naming the Ulysses S. Grant Association beneficiary to receive all, or a portion, of the proceeds of an existing life insurance policy. You will receive a tax deduction for the cash surrender value, thus reducing your tax liability in the year of the gift.
- 9. Real Estate with Life Tenancy:** Receive a substantial income tax deduction by giving (deeding) your home or farm to the Ulysses S. Grant Association now. You can continue to live there, maintain the property as usual, and even receive any income it generates. At your death, the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library will convert your property into cash to support the goals of its campaign.
- 10. In-Kind Gifts:** Gifts of goods or services are welcomed by the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library with prior approval by the Executive Director.
- 11. Charitable Gift Annuities:** These gifts provide the Ulysses S. Grant Association with lifetime income and does not require a large donation. In exchange for an irrevocable gift of cash, stock, bonds or, in some cases, other assets, USGA will receive fixed income payments for life (or two lives) as well as a charitable income tax deduction in the year of the gift. When the annuity terminates, the remaining assets will be directed towards the U.S. Grant Association.

Interested in giving to USGA?

Contact the Ulysses S. Grant Association at USGPresidentialLibrary@library.msstate.edu or, if you would like to schedule a personal consultation on various options of how you can make an impactful philanthropic investment in the U.S. Grant Association, please contact Asya Cooley, Director of Development at 662-722-2758 or acooley@foundation.msstate.edu.

Send us your news!

Do you have any news, such as an event, publication, or book review, related to Ulysses S. Grant or the Civil War? If you'd like to share your news in an upcoming issue of the USGA newsletter, please email with a photograph, if available, to mhenderson@library.msstate.edu.

Updating our Records

If you have moved or changed your contact information recently, please send us your updated mailing address, phone number, and email. There are also a number of members who have outdated mailing addresses, and we are not able to get in touch with them. If you know anyone listed below, or someone who is a member and is not receiving communications from the Grant Association, please encourage him or her to call Meg Henderson at 662-325-4552 or email mhenderson@library.msstate.edu. Thank you!

Maclay M. Armstrong

Raymond Headlee, M.D.

Barbara Peper

Col. John Bennet

Ken & Vicky Kopecky

Thomas B. Queen

John C. Bourdage

Albert R. Lounsbury

Robert Skimin

Williard Bunn, Jr.

Harry J. Maihafer

Robert A. Stoller, M.D.

Paul A. DeFonzo

James C. McKay

Marilyn S. Tarr

In the Next Issue...

Voting Rights Symposium at the Grant Library

U.S. Grant's Washington, DC church

The latest on USGA members and staff activities