



News from White Haven

Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site, dedicated to Civil War General and 18th President Ulysses S. Grant and his wife, Julia Dent Grant, is located in south St. Louis County, Missouri.

News from White Haven is a quarterly publication of Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site. It is also available online by visiting www.nps.gov/ulsg/.

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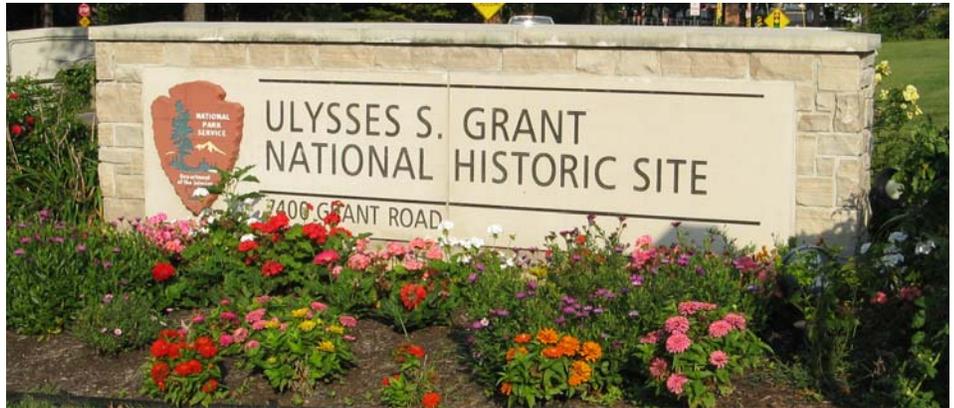
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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Celebrating the Park's Emerald Anniversary



The new sign outside the entrance to Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site is just one of many changes at the site over the past 20 years. Join us to celebrate our 20th anniversary on October 3.

In 20 years, Ulysses S. Grant went from a lieutenant stationed in Michigan in 1849 to being inaugurated President of the United States in 1869. While the changes at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site over the past 20 years have not been as dramatic, they have been significant.

When the National Park Service was charged on October 2, 1989 with administering the site "to preserve and interpret...a key property associated with the life of General and later President Ulysses S. Grant and the life of First Lady Julia Dent Grant," the work of the NPS employees, volunteers, and partners was just beginning.

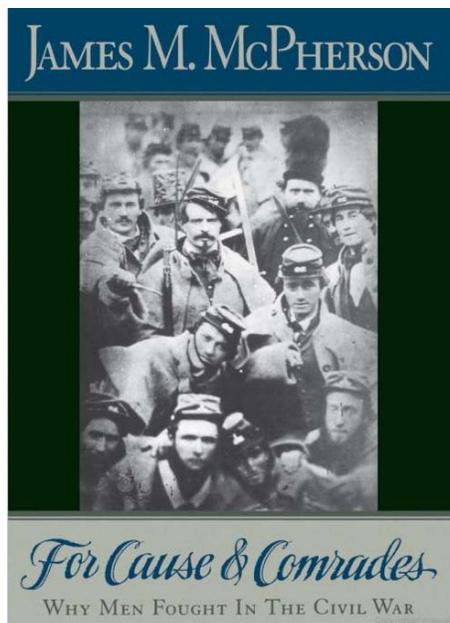
Architectural, historical, and archeological investigations were conducted in order to prepare a General Management Plan that would determine how to accomplish the park's goals. Restoration of the historic structures to their 1875 appearance allows us to interpret the Grants' long association with the property. A new Visitor Center in 2005 and completion of all exhibits in 2007 culminated years of work by many individuals.

On Saturday, October 3, we will celebrate the past 20 years with a look at how the site has developed, and a glimpse of what we see in our future. Please join us between 10 and 2 for programs and activities.

The Common Soldier and Causes of the Civil War

In our last issue we briefly discussed some of the prominent early works on the causes of the Civil War. It is important to remember, however, that causes are not necessarily the same as the reasons soldiers fought.

What motivated the average young volunteer soldier to pick up a gun, march hundreds of miles, bravely face death, and kill others? Was it politics, ideology, peer pressure, honor, a hankering for adventure, the desire to protect home and hearth, or some combination of these factors? Numerous historians have explored this question, relying on soldiers' letters and diaries to examine the issue from several perspectives. Not



surprisingly, most have concluded that the reasons soldiers fought were as varied as the individuals who were fighting. Here are a few suggested readings, listed by date published:

- Wiley, Bell I. The Life of Johnny Reb: The Common Soldier of the Confederacy, 1943
- Wiley, Bell I. The Life of Billy Yank: The Common Soldier of the Union, 1952
- Linderman, Gerald. Embattled Courage: The Experience of Combat in the American Civil War, 1989
- McPherson, James. For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War, 1998
- Frank, Joseph A. With Ballot and Bayonet: The Political Socialization of American Civil War Soldiers, 1998
- Manning, Chandra. What This Cruel War Was Over: Soldiers, Slavery and the Civil War, 2007

Grant's Rating Rises on Presidential Leadership Poll

Americans seem to love polls and surveys. Whether it is the latest hot political topic or the weekly ranking of our favorite college football team, we like to know how our opinions rank with those of other Americans.

Recently C-SPAN sought the opinions of 65 historians when they conducted their second Historians Presidential Leadership Survey, a poll designed to rank ten leadership characteristics of the 42 former U. S. Presidents.

C-SPAN kept the same criteria they used for their 2000 survey

and asked the historians to evaluate such attributes as international relations, relations with Congress, crisis leadership and equal justice for all.

In the 2009 survey, Ulysses S. Grant moved up ten positions in the overall ranking, rising from 33 to 23. The closest upward change of any other president was six positions. Grant showed improvement in all ten categories and made significant gains in those categories mentioned above, ranking ninth in pursuit of equal justice for all and jumping 12 positions to 21st in

international relations.

Grant's presidency (1869-1877) coincided with the political and social upheaval known as Reconstruction, requiring him to face a wide variety of leadership challenges. Perhaps changing views of this part of our past help to explain the improvement in Grant's ranking, as historians acknowledge his leadership abilities in, and commitment to, pursuing justice at home and abroad.

The complete survey can be found at C-SPAN.org.

Spotlight on the Park: Traveling Exhibit

Freedom — it's a principle, an ideal, a goal. Even within an era, people's definitions of freedom vary from one person to the next. Freedom: A History of US is a new traveling exhibit that comes to Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site from The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in New York City.



An anti-Whig broadside from Boston denounces the Fugitive Slave Law in 1850. Documents like this are featured in the exhibit and help illuminate Americans' debates over freedom.

The exhibit examines the words of men and women involved in the fight for freedom and gives insight into the struggles of the Revolution, the fight for Abolition, the Civil War and Emancipation. This exhibit, sponsored in part by GE, traces what it calls "the epic story of a revolutionary idea." It will be on display at the Ulysses S. Grant NHS visitor center classroom daily through October 14, 2009.

Preview the exhibit with the virtual tour online at www.gilderlehrman.org/collection/freedom/freedom.html

A word from the Chief of Interpretation

Greetings from the Chief of Interpretation's desk.

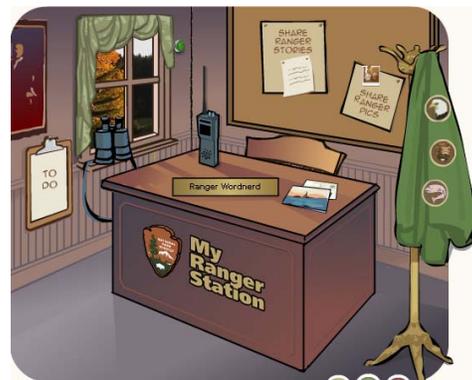
My name is Arlene Jackson and I am very excited to join the staff here at Ulysses S. Grant NHS. I spent the last 21 years at Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (the Gateway Arch and Old Courthouse) in downtown St. Louis as both a ranger and frontline supervisor. Over the years I have visited Ulysses S. Grant NHS from time to time, watching it change from when



Jackson the property was acquired by the Park Service to its current historic appearance. What a great, amazing transformation. I look forward to putting what I learned in my previous position and what I am currently learning to use in continuing the preservation and interpretation of Ulysses and Julia Grant's place they called home.

Kids' Corner: Calling All NPS WebRangers!

Greetings from the WebRangers Ranger Station! It's been great to see so many of you joining us online to explore parks. If you haven't visited us yet, we'd love to add you to the almost 90,000 WebRangers around the world. You can go online to www.nps.gov/webrangers and do over 50 activities of all kinds about parks across the country — all from your computer. The activities let you deliver a message to Paul Revere, help baby turtles find the ocean, or fight fires in a national park. You can also contribute to the WebRanger community by answering the Question of the Week, by adding your stories of adventures in our national parks, and by uploading



photos from your vacations. You can use your photos to tell other WebRangers about your experiences in the parks and share the things you've learned. Being a WebRanger is a great way to learn and explore — and to help you decide which park you want to visit next!



A note for grown-ups: The National Park Service is committed to fostering a safe Web environment for children. Please visit www.webrangers.us/parents.cfm to read more about the policies and goals of the WebRanger program.



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Upcoming Events

- Sept. 15-Oct. 14: Freedom: A History of US, a traveling exhibit from The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in New York City, will be on display in the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site visitor center.
- Sept. 26: National Public Lands Day. Celebrate with us at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site or volunteer at a park near you! See www.nps.gov/ulsg/ and www.publiclandsday.org/ for more information.
- Sept. 27: Premiere of The National Parks: America's Best Idea, the latest documentary by Ken Burns, on PBS. Check www.pbs.org/ for your local listings.
- Oct. 3: Celebration of the 20th anniversary of the legislation officially establishing Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site. (The official anniversary is October 2.) Join us this day for special talks on the restoration of the historic home and the development of the new museum.
- Oct. 10: John Y. Simon Day at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site. Join us in celebrating the life of the man who was the editor of the Grant papers for over 40 years. This day will feature speeches by Frank Williams, president of the board of the Ulysses S. Grant Association and retired Chief Justice of the State of Rhode Island, and by John F. Marszalek, editor of the Ulysses S. Grant Papers.
- Nov. 26: Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.
- Dec. 25: Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site will be closed for the Christmas holiday.