



News from White Haven

Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site educates the American people regarding the lives and legacies of Civil War General and 18th President Ulysses S. Grant, his wife, Julia Dent Grant, the enslaved African Americans and other residents of White Haven.

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

Editorial Staff

Robert Pollock

Acting Chief of Interpretation

Doug Harding

Superintendent

Tim Good

Contributors

Nick Sacco

David Newmann

Comments? Write to:
Chief of Interpretation
Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site
7400 Grant Road
St. Louis, MO 63123

Telephone
314-842-1867

E-mail
ulsg_interpretation@nps.gov



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National Park Service Celebrates 100th Birthday In 2016!



In 1872 President Ulysses S. Grant signed legislation establishing Yellowstone as the world's first National Park. It was to be "a public park or pleasuring-ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people." Yellowstone was placed under the exclusive control of the Secretary of the Interior and administered by the U. S. Army because the National Park Service had not yet been created.

Over the next forty-four years new parks, monuments, and historic sites were established as public lands, but the administration of these lands was scattered among a number of federal agencies, including the Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Forest Service, and the War Department. Seeking a way to administer these

sites more efficiently, President Woodrow Wilson signed an act creating the National Park Service on August 25, 1916.

Today the National Park Service protects, preserves, and interprets 409 sites. To commemorate our first 100 years and generate support for the future, the National Park Service has undertaken a new initiative called "Find Your Park," that aims to connect Americans to their National Parks and educate them about the diverse natural and cultural resources that the agency preserves throughout the country. "Find Your Park" also provides an opportunity for park-goers to share their experiences at these sites. To learn more and share your story, visit www.findyourpark.com.



Presidential Library At Mississippi State University

One question we are often asked by visitors to White Haven: Is there a Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library? The answer is that he does not have a library connected to the network of Presidential Libraries operated by the National Archives and Records Administration. However, the U.S. Grant Association—which owns a large collection of original and reproduced Grant materials—houses their collection at Mississippi State University under the banner of the “Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library.”

The U.S. Grant Association formed in 1962 with the intention of collecting, preserving, and publishing all of Grant’s writings and speeches. The Association chose Dr. John Y. Simon of Ohio State University to lead this project. Dr. Simon relocated to Southern Illinois University Carbondale in 1964, and for more than forty years he oversaw the publishing of thirty-one volumes of Grant’s papers while teaching history at the university. Following Dr. Simon’s 2008 death, numerous discussions emerged about the project possibly relocating again.

Dr. John Marszalek of Mississippi State University was appointed Executive Director and Managing Editor of the Grant Papers project, and the collection moved south in December 2008. Since that time the MSU staff has continued the work of processing the collection and making it accessible to students and visiting scholars. In May 2015 construction began on a 22,000 square foot addition to MSU’s Mitchell Memorial Library for the benefit of the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library. You can learn more at www.usgrantlibrary.org.

Col. Dent’s Death ‘A Clear Case Of Life Worn Out’

“Mr. Dent breathed his last at 11:45 last night. There was nothing during the day or evening to indicate his near approach to death more than there has been almost every day for the last five months,” Grant wrote from the White House on December 16, 1873. “In the evening Mrs. Grant Fred. & I were out until after 11 p. m. perfectly unconscious that his end was near. On our return we found his attending physician with him, and he – Mr. Dent – apparently in a quiet slumber. Not many minuets [sic] after he ceased to breath [sic], and life was gone without a struggle or movement of a limb or muscle. It was a clear case of life worn out purely by time; no disease or anxiety hastening dissolution.”

Over the next several days, newspapers across the country reported the passing of the President’s father-in-law. The Washington, D. C. *Evening Star* noted, “The deceased was born near Frederick, Maryland, October 6, 1786 and was therefore in his eighty-eighth year. In 1812 he emigrated to St. Louis and entered into business, where he remained until 1865, when he retired, and has lived with Mrs. Grant ever since. The deceased was an amiable, kind-hearted gentleman, and his loss will be deeply felt...Mr. Dent was much beloved



Dent grave Bellefontaine Cemetery

in St. Louis, near which city was his country place. He lived in the old-fashioned style of keeping open house for friends and neighbors.” It was also noted, “He was always a staunch democrat.”

On December 19, The Washington, D. C. *National Republican* reported, “The melancholy tribute of respect to the memory of the late Mr. Frederick F. Dent was rendered at the Executive Mansion yesterday morning...religious services were held in the Blue Room, which was draped in mourning.” The casket was then taken to the railroad depot, “whence the remains were conveyed by special car to St. Louis. President Grant accompanied the remains to their destination, of which melancholy pleasure Mrs. Grant was deprived by inability to stand the continuous journey of two days and nights.”

On December 22, the D. C. *Evening Star* reported, “The remains of Mr. Frederick Dent arrived in St. Louis Saturday morning, accompanied by the President, Gen. Babcock, Marshal Sharpe, Col. Casey, Gen. Fred. Dent, and Col. Fred D. Grant. Quite a number of old friends of the deceased and intimate acquaintances of the President received the remains at East St. Louis, and accompanied them as a guard of honor to the residence of Col. John C. Dent, a son of the deceased, where a great number of old citizens, friends and former neighbors of the Dent family had assembled. Gen. John Pope, several other military officers, and a number of freedmen, formerly slaves of the deceased, were also present. The funeral ceremonies were performed at 1 o’clock, and were very brief. The remains were then conveyed to Bellefontaine cemetery, where they will be buried beside those of Mrs. Dent. The funeral cortege was quite long. The pall-bearers were selected from among the oldest citizens and friends of the deceased.”

Julia Grant wrote in her *Memoirs* that her father had lived a happy life, “living as he did, very comfortably, and leaving a large and, I think, most worthy family to lament him.”

Spotlight on the Park: Winter Kitchen Video

For several years park visitors have been able to see and hear an imagined conversation in the year 1857 between Ulysses Grant and his father-in-law, Col. Dent, as they sit at White Haven's dining table being served by an enslaved woman. A video, dubbed the "Magic Mirror," has enabled visitors to hear Grant and Dent argue their opposing views on the all-consuming topics of the day – slavery and secession. The enslaved woman, however, is not allowed to speak.

In an effort to give a voice to the enslaved people of White Haven, and to bring them to life as the Magic Mirror does Grant and Dent, a new video has been developed that will soon be installed in the winter kitchen where enslaved men and women once labored in support of the plantation.



Local professional actors, Linda Kennedy and J. Samuel Davis, give beautiful, emotional, and compelling performances as two White Haven slaves contemplating an escape to freedom in the Fall of 1862.

Based on a script written by park staff, the video was produced by Anne Copeland Davis, Project Manager for V9 / Nine Network of Public Media, and directed by Kent Samul, with funds provided by Jefferson National Parks Association.

Julie Northrip New Chief of Interpretation

Julie Northrip has been named the new Chief of Interpretation at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site. She is expected to begin her new role February 1. Julie is coming from Jefferson National Expansion Memorial where she has been Director of Education since 2008.

Julie received her B.A. in History from St. Louis University and her M.A. in Art History from Case Western Reserve University. She began her NPS career at Fort Smith National Historic Site in 2000 after spending time as a classroom history teacher in the St. Louis area and then as an art museum director and educator in Poplar Bluff, MO, Chicago, IL, and Fort Smith, AR.

In addition to school programs, Julie has a special interest in developing and



presenting relevant programs for people who may not feel included or welcomed in parks. She has reached out to recent immigrants and people with autism, Down Syndrome, Alzheimer's and visual impairments. She has partnered with the National Alliance of Faith and Justice to develop engaging curriculum and visitor experiences. Julie lives in Ballwin with her husband, two daughters, and three dogs.

Kids' Corner: Grant Sites Mix-n-Match

There are many historic sites around the country that honor and interpret the life and deeds of Ulysses S. Grant. Some are maintained by the National Park Service, and some by various states, counties, and private organizations. Can you match Grant on the left with the correct historic site on the right?

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| A) This house was a gift given to Grant by the people of the city. | 1) Ulysses S. Grant Birthplace, Point Pleasant, OH |
| B) Grant laid siege until the rebels surrendered the city on July 4, 1863. | 2) Grant Cottage State Historic Site, Mt. McGregor, NY |
| C) Grant did not like his father's tannery, but he did love his horses. | 3) Ft. Vancouver National Historic Site, Vancouver, WA |
| D) Grant was quartermaster when stationed here away from his family. | 4) President's Park (White House), Washington, D. C. |
| E) Suffering from throat cancer, Grant finished his <i>Memoirs</i> here. | 5) U. S. Grant Home State Historic Site, Galena, IL |
| F) Grant was given the name Hiram Ulysses here on April 27, 1822. | 6) Vicksburg National Military Park, Vicksburg, MS |
| G) The Grants lived here eight years, from March, 1869 to March, 1877. | 7) General Grant National Memorial, New York, NY |
| H) Grant earned the nickname 'Unconditional Surrender' here. | 8) U.S. Grant Boyhood Home & Schoolhouse, Georgetown, OH |
| I) Grant lies beside his beloved Julia in this ornate mausoleum. | 9) Ft. Donelson National Battlefield, Dover, TN |

(Key: A-5, B-6, C-8, D-3, E-2, F-1, G-4, H-9, I-8)



Ulysses S. Grant NHS
7400 Grant Road
St. Louis, MO 63123
(314) 842-1867

Upcoming Events

- January 23 - 10 am & 1 pm - *Eleanor Roosevelt* portrayed by Susan Frontczak
- February 6 - 10 am & 1 pm - *Mark Twain* portrayed by George Frein
- February 13 - 1 pm & 3 pm - *My Dear Julia: The Romance of Ulysses and Julia* - A radio-style play reading
- March 5 - 10 am & 1 pm - *Harriet Tubman* portrayed by Kathryn Harris
- March 19 - 10 am & 1 pm - *James Madison* portrayed by Bryan Austin
- March 26 - 10 am & 1 pm - *Thomas Jefferson and John Adams* portrayed by Bill Barber and Sam Goodyear

Did you know?

On April 26, 1846 Grant wrote to Julia from Texas, “Fred. says in his letter that he hopes [ne]xt time he sees me to take me by the hand as a Brevet brother.” This was a play on words for Grant and his former West Point roommate, Fred Dent. Fred knew his sister and Grant had become engaged. In the Army, a “brevet” promotion was an honorary promotion to higher rank. Usually an officer with a brevet rank was permitted to use that title but did not receive higher

pay. In the antebellum period, graduates of West Point received the rank of brevet 2nd Lt. During the war with Mexico, brevet promotions were often conferred as recognition of meritorious performance. Brevet ranks were permanent aspects of an officer’s record, but in instances when officers were called upon to command at the brevet rank, the activation of the brevet rank was temporary. Fred and Ulysses were both given brevet promotions to 2nd Lt. upon graduation from

West Point in 1843. During the war with Mexico, they were both breveted twice, but it was Fred who first received a brevet to 1st Lt., on August 20, 1847 for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battles of Contreras and Churubusco. Ulysses received his brevet to 1st Lt. on September 8, 1847 for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battle of Molina del Rey. Both received brevet promotions to Captain before the war with Mexico was over.