



# 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 NHS. It is also available online by visiting [www.nps.gov/ulsg/](http://www.nps.gov/ulsg/).

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## New address? Going green?

Update us on your new address or subscribe to [News from White Haven](#) online by e-mailing [ulsg\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:ulsg_interpretation@nps.gov) or calling the park at 314-842-3298 x245.

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

## Great Volunteers Make a Great Park



Ulysses S. Grant NHS volunteers work on a variety of projects behind the scenes, as represented in these displays from the volunteer recognition dinner. Volunteers are involved with, clockwise from top left: library projects such as book cleaning and plating; curatorial and collections projects such as object research and donations; and interpretive projects such as sewing and temporary exhibits.

Ever since Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site was just an idea in the imaginations of some committed visionaries, the operation of the park has depended heavily on its volunteers. From those who first preserved this property to those who helped with the restoration of the historic buildings and grounds to the men and women today who work tirelessly to keep daily operations going, Ulysses S. Grant NHS would not be the park it is without the hard work and dedication of its many volunteers. The park

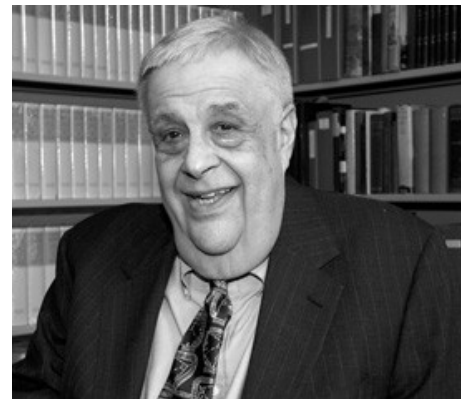
recognized its volunteers with a special dinner on September 10, and at that dinner, the park's volunteer corps were applauded for the hard work they and their colleagues do. Park volunteers staff the information desk and give tours, but they do many other things as well. They also work on maintenance crews, assist with library acquisition projects, develop special exhibits, research new collections objects and more. To get more information about volunteer opportunities, please call 314-842-3298 x225.

# Grant's Legacy Examined at Annual Lecture

Join Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site for the second annual Ulysses S. Grant Lecture and John Y. Simon Day at 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 9. Dr. Joan Waugh, Professor of History at the University of California at Los Angeles, will be the guest lecturer. Dr. Waugh is the author of Ulysses S. Grant, American Hero, American Myth, and her talk will address the same themes as her book: our changing view of this important figure in American history.

There was a time when Ulysses S. Grant was considered one in a triumvirate of American heroes, on par with George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. After the passing of the Civil War generation, however, Grant's reputation plunged. Characterizations of Grant as a drunk in his personal life, a butcher as a general, and particularly as a naïve, politically inept, or even corrupt president became the standard interpretation of his life. To be sure, these labels had been applied to him by his opponents while he lived, but they gained widespread currency in the early twentieth century. Presidential ranking polls consistently placed Grant near the bottom.

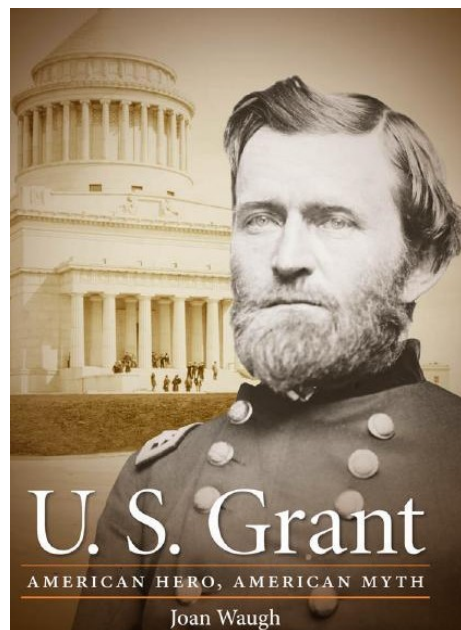
In recent decades, however, scholars have taken a fresh look at Grant, and his reputation has been revived, at least in the academic



Joan Waugh (above left) joins Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site for the annual John Y. Simon Day and Ulysses S. Grant Lecture. This annual event is in honor of the late Dr. John Y. Simon (above right), longtime editor of the Ulysses S. Grant Papers and Executive Director of the Ulysses S. Grant Association. In addition to Dr. Waugh's discussion on her book, U.S. Grant: American Hero, American Myth (right), the day's events will include the Grand Opening of the Dr. John Y. Simon Book Collection in the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site Library. Dr. Waugh will also be signing copies of her book following the lecture.

community. The most recent C-SPAN presidential poll ranked Grant at a very respectable 23<sup>rd</sup> out of 43 presidents assessed.

Joan Waugh, in her book, U.S. Grant: American Hero, American Myth, examines the reasons for the fluctuating interpretations of Grant through the years. Her book, though partly biography, is actually a study of memory, a look at how and why Grant's reputation fell and has risen again. She gives us a particularly detailed study of Grant's funeral and the



building of his massive mausoleum in New York, popularly known as Grant's Tomb but designated by the National Park Service as General Grant National Memorial. She uses the tomb as a metaphor for the historic memory of Grant. It once was the most visited tourist attraction in New York, then fell into disrepair and neglect, and has more recently undergone multi-million dollar renovations.

To make reservations for this event, please call 314-842-3298 x224.



## Spotlight on the Park: Changing Landscape

This summer has seen changes to the park's landscape. Two trees came out this summer: a large sugar maple from the front yard of the main house in July, and a towering magnolia right behind the main house in August.



A team from Ray's Tree Service removes the trunk of a sugar maple from the front yard of the main house (above) and prepares to grind out a magnolia stump behind the house (below).



The sugar maple was removed due to safety issues, as part of it had died and posed a potential hazard. The magnolia came out to make way for the fall project of rebuilding of an historic overhang off the back of the house, the last element needed to bring the house back to its 1875 appearance.

## Meet the Staff: Night Walk into the Past



August 6, 7 and 8 saw the 15th Annual Night Walk into the Past at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site. This year's living history event brought audiences back into the year 1860, and discussed the challenges facing St. Louisans in the months before the election of Abraham Lincoln as president. The cast was comprised of park staff, volunteers and area living history performers. In the front row, left to right: Sue Pollock, Katie Bava, Carole Shelton, Anne Williams, Abbi Telander. In the back row, left to right: Robert Pollock, Christopher Anibal, John Samson, Robert Champlin, Randy Harnish, David Newmann, Nick Sacco.

## Kids' Corner: Rank and Insignia

U. S. Grant gained fame and became a hero during the American Civil War by leading the Union troops to victory, which led to the preservation of the Union. Called by duty and honor to serve the Union cause, he eventually gained the command of a regiment of Illinois soldiers in 1861. During the war, he rose to the highest rank available in the Army, and by his service became the 18<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. Your task here is to match the promotions Grant received during the Civil War to the appropriate insignia (symbol) for that rank.



Colonel

Brigadier General

Major General

Lieutenant General

General of the Army

Answers: Colonel: Eagle; Brigadier General: 1 star; Major General: 2 stars; Lieutenant General: 3 stars; General of the Army: 4 stars



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## Upcoming Events

- October 9: Annual Ulysses S. Grant Lecture featuring Joan Waugh, author of [U.S. Grant: American Hero, American Myth](#), at Ulysses S. Grant NHS. Reservations can be made by calling 314-842-3298 x224. Tickets are \$10, and each ticket will be good for \$10 off a purchase of \$10 or more at the Ulysses S. Grant NHS gift shop on the day of the event.
- November 10: Naturalization ceremony at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site.

## Did you know?

In the fall of 1860, the country held its collective breath as the campaign waged on to determine who would be the country's 16th president. Four men ran in that year: John Bell, John C. Breckinridge, Stephen Douglas and Abraham Lincoln. They represented four parties formed from the fragments of the Democrats and the Whigs. Bell, a former Whig, ran for the

Constitutional Union party, whose membership was interested solely in preserving the union. Breckinridge represented the Southern Democrats, a faction of the Democrats that had splintered off from the mainline due to their belief that slavery should extend to all the territories. Douglas was the candidate for the Democrats, representing an idea called "popular sovereignty" that gave

territories power to determine its laws on slavery. Lincoln was nominated for the Republicans, who opposed the spread of slavery without coming out in favor of abolition.

Despite all of these choices, U.S. Grant was not eligible to vote in 1860, as he had just moved to Illinois in May and did not meet the residency requirements to vote.