



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/.

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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.

Planning for the Park's Future



Volunteer David Herries conducts a 19th century schoolroom program for Girl Scouts. Interpretive programs such as this will be guided by the park's new Long Range Interpretive Plan.

The key to a successful organization is having a plan for the future. Ulysses S. Grant NHS has had several plans over the last 20 years which have guided the restoration and development of the site. As we look to the future of the site, it is time for new plans.

The Long Range Interpretive Plan (LRIP) is one component of the broader Comprehensive Interpretive Plan (CIP). All interpretive activities are based on it and coordinated by it. The plan communicates the park's significances and meanings while promoting the protection and preservation of its resources.

Over the last 8 months the interpretation division, with the staff from Pond | Ecos, a planning and design company, have been developing a new LRIP for the park.

Park interpretation staff and volunteers, teachers, historians and other stakeholders met on several occasions to review the park's mission and interpretive themes. They discussed visitor experience goals and identified issues that affect interpretation. From these discussions they made recommendations that could be turned into actionable items over the next ten years. The final document should be in place by June 2011.

Ulysses S. Grant Answers the Patriotic Call of Duty

By the time Abraham Lincoln became President on March 4, 1861, seven states had seceded from the Union. Ulysses Grant followed these events with interest from Galena, Illinois, where he had gone to work in his father's leather goods store. On April 12, 1861, Confederate artillery opened fire on Fort Sumter. President Lincoln issued a call for 75,000 volunteers to put down the rebellion. The city of Galena held a meeting on the evening of April 18, 1861. As Grant recalled in his *Memoirs*, patriotic fervor ran high.

Having only moved to Galena in 1860, Grant considered himself a “comparative stranger” in town, but he was asked to preside over the meeting due to his military experience. Speeches made that night put into words the long standing pro-Union beliefs Grant held. One speaker, lawyer John Rawlins, proclaimed: “I have been a Democrat all my life, but this is no longer a question of politics. It is simply Union or disunion, country or no country. I have favored every honorable compromise, but the day for compromise is past. Only one course is left for us. We will stand by the flag of our country and appeal to the god of battles to vindicate our flag!”

Grant quickly put his beliefs into action, and on April 21, 1861, he wrote to his father to



Ulysses and Julia Grant lived at this rented house at 121 High Street, Galena Illinois, during the year before the Civil War. Photo from the *Historic American Buildings Survey, Library of Congress*.

explain why he would be leaving the store: “We are now in the midst of trying times when evry [sic] one must be for or against his country... Having been educated for such an emergency, at the expense of the government, I feel that it has upon me superior claims, such claims as no ordinary motives of self-interest can surmount.”

Grant declined the offer to be Captain of Galena's volunteers; he felt his West Point education and his previous experience in both the wartime and peacetime army qualified him for higher command. However, he did drill the Galena troops, helped design and procure uniforms, and went to Springfield with them, where volunteers from around the state were being

mustered into service. Grant assisted with the mustering in of ten regiments authorized by the governor for State service before being appointed a Colonel of Volunteers assigned to the 21st Illinois Infantry Regiment on June 17, 1861.

For Grant, there was no question that the union had to be preserved. He put these ideals above all else, including personal desires and his family and financial responsibilities. Grant's devotion to his country – and its future as one nation – guided his entire Civil War career, from his first days of decision-making in Galena after Fort Sumter to his actions at Appomattox Court House in 1865.

Sources: *Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant* and *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*.

Spotlight on the Park: Casey Family Collection

Once again the park has been the recipient of a very generous donation from the descendants of Julia Grant's sister, Emma Dent Casey. Over the years the James F. Casey family has donated numerous possessions of Ulysses and Julia Grant and other items important to the site. Many of these artifacts are on display in the museum.



Items from the James F. Casey collection.

This latest donation includes some extraordinary items, such as a shaving mirror that Ulysses Grant used during the Civil War. We also received one of the shoulder straps from one of his uniforms. The shoulder strap has three stars, signifying the rank of lieutenant general. Abraham Lincoln brought Grant to Washington D.C. to confer this rank upon him in March 1864. No other general reached this rank during the war.

The site has started research on all of the items the Casey family recently donated and we will report our findings in future newsletters.

Planning the Park's Interpretive Themes

As reported on page 1, NPS staff, volunteers and stakeholders drafted the following interpretive themes for the park this winter. These themes give us a basis for our programs and guide our work to provide the best visitor experience possible.



- Ulysses S. Grant's experiences at White Haven confronted him with political and social values different from his own, influencing his actions and beliefs as he rose to military and political prominence.
- Ulysses S. Grant's and Julia Dent Grant's loving partnership enabled them to meet tremendous personal and political challenges, resulting in a long and successful marriage.
- During Julia Grant's childhood and her early years married to Ulysses, the White Haven estate served as the place they called home,

while providing an emotional touchstone that sustained them throughout their lives.

- Life at the White Haven estate was a microcosm of the social, political, and economic turmoil facing the nation during the antebellum, Civil War, and Reconstruction eras.
- The enslaved African American men, women, and children who lived and worked at White Haven created family and community relationships that enabled them to endure the inhumanity of slavery and the uncertainty of their lives.

Kids' Corner: Junior Ranger Day 2011

Junior Ranger Day across the park service is April 23! The activities at Ulysses S. Grant NHS will focus on



national historic trails, specifically the Santa Fe NHT, the Pony Express NHT and Lewis and Clark NHT. Kids ages 5-14 are invited to join us throughout the day for activities that focus on journaling and nature observation, map making, teamwork, learning from art... and, of course, history.



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Upcoming Events

- April 23: Junior Ranger Day across the National Park Service. Join Ulysses S. Grant NHS for special activities about historic trails throughout the day.
- April 29-May 1: “Camp Jackson: The Tipping Point,” the first of Freedom’s Gateway: St. Louis in the Civil War sesquicentennial signature events, will commemorate the 150th anniversary of Camp Jackson with a three-day reenactment at historic Jefferson Barracks County Park.
- May 19: Release of Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Dollar, 2:00 p.m. at the site. Call 314/842-1867 for more information.
- May 31-July 29: Grant’s Farm Critter Camp for kids ages 5-11 with special activities at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site. Visit <http://www.grantsfarm.com/CritterCamp.htm> for details.
- July 23: Commemoration of the 126th anniversary of Grant’s death with a ceremony and other events throughout the day.

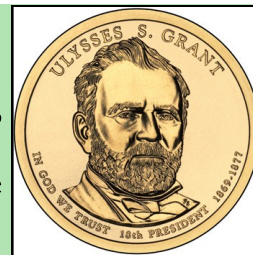
Did you know?...Don’t miss this!

On Thursday, May 19, at 2:00 p.m., Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site will host the release of the new Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Dollar from the U.S. Mint.

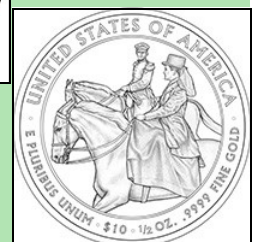
Grant signed several coinage laws during his presidency,

including that of Feb. 12, 1873, officially establishing the U.S. Mint as a bureau of the Department of the Treasury.

Grant’s first inaugural ball, on March 4, 1869, was held in the North wing of the Treasury Building.



Obverse of Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Dollar coin.



The First Lady Coin of Julia Dent Grant will also be released on May 19.