



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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New address? Going green?

Update us on your new address or subscribe to [News from White Haven](#) by e-mail by e-mailing 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.

Scouting Out Some History



Above left, the park's American Girls program for Girl Scouts will feature the lives of fictional girls Addy (left) and Kirsten (right) as compared to Julia Dent as a girl (middle). At right, ULSG volunteer Bob Champlain (middle) performs a Junior Ranger badge ceremony for some Tiger Cubs.

The word is out—Ulysses S. Grant NHS offers programs that allow Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of all ages to complete requirements for scout badges and earn the Ulysses S. Grant NHS Junior Ranger badge.

Tiger, Bear and Wolf Cub Scouts can participate in activities designed just for their ages by former scout leader and park ranger John Deutch. By watching the introductory film, touring the house, visiting the museum and completing activities related to them, scouts learn about the similarities and differences between themselves and the people who lived at White Haven in the 19th century.

Young Girl Scouts can enjoy the same program, and we are offering a new program for girls ages eight to twelve based on the American Girl dolls Kirsten and Addy, and on our own creation, a Julia Dent doll. Two sessions will be offered each day on April 3, 10, and 17, and reservations are required. The program, designed by volunteer Ann Shipley for her Girl Scout Gold Award, will be open to Girl Scout troops on these dates. We hope to expand the program in the future.

All scout groups earn the Junior Ranger badge after completing the program. To reserve a program, call the site at 314-842-3298 x224.

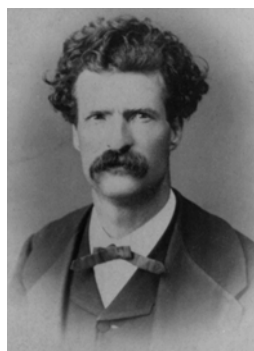
Grant and Twain: Friends and Writers

On February 27, 1886, Samuel L. Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, wrote a \$200,000 royalty check payable to Julia Dent Grant. The story of how Twain came to write that check speaks to the friendship between two of America's most famous individuals.

Grant first met Twain when he was president and Twain had published his best seller, The Innocents Abroad. After the initial introductions, Clemens, at a loss for words, recalled asking Grant, "I seem to be a little embarrassed. Are you?" Their mutual respect soon developed into friendship.

In 1881 Twain suggested that Grant should write his memoirs, but Grant believed no one would be interested. Four years later, after facing

financial ruin, Grant wrote four articles for Century Publishing Company. Century encouraged Grant to



Mark Twain

write his memoirs and he seriously considered their offer. Clemens learned of this and went to see Grant in November 1884, wanting to publish the book himself. Initially Grant refused, thinking he owed his book to Century since they had asked him first.

Twain reminded Grant of his 1881 suggestion, and proposed royalty terms much better than Century's offer. He allowed Grant to choose between 20

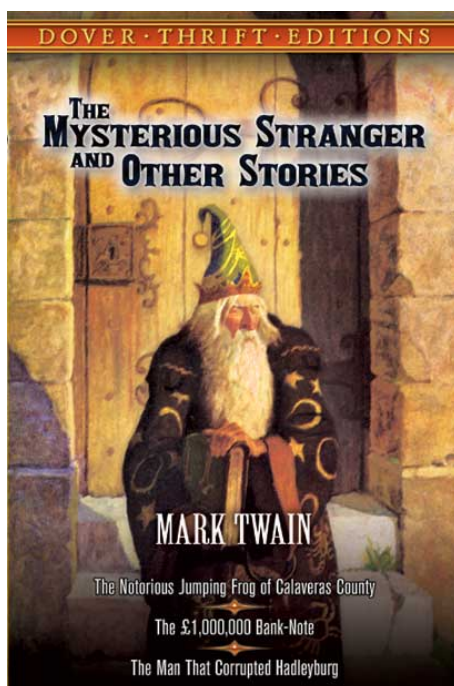
percent of the sales, or 70 percent of the profits. Grant eventually chose the latter, thinking that if the book was unprofitable, the publisher wouldn't lose money by having to pay Grant on sales vs. profits.

During the months Grant wrote, he faced the added burden of being diagnosed with terminal throat cancer. Twain visited him regularly, anxious about the physical and mental strain Grant placed on himself to honor his pledge to finish the book. The Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant weren't published until after Grant's death, but he died knowing his wife would receive proceeds far above his initial expectations, thanks to his friend and publisher, Samuel Clemens.

ReadMOre with The Mysterious Stranger in 2010

ReadMOre, the Missouri Humanities Council's program to support reading, is celebrating Mark Twain in 2010, the centennial of the famous author's death. The following short stories by Twain are the focus for the ReadMOre events: "The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County"; "The £1,000,000 Bank-Note"; "The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg"; and "The Mysterious Stranger."

Ulysses S. Grant NHS is participating by highlighting



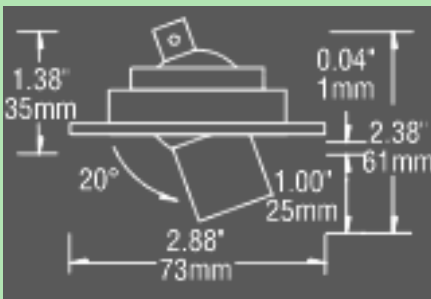
the literary connection and friendship between Mark Twain and Ulysses S. Grant. We are planning a book discussion of The Mysterious Stranger and Other Stories for February 28 at 1 p.m. The site carries the book for \$2.50. In addition, Dr. George Frein, a living history presenter, will appear at the park as Mark Twain in mid-April thanks to funding by the Missouri Humanities Council. The programs are free, but reservations are suggested, as there is limited seating. Call 314-842-3298 x245 to sign up.

“Spotlight” on the Park... Literally!

Out with the old pedestal lamps and in with the new fiber optic lights in the main house and stone building. The exhibit text panels in the historic house and summer kitchen are now easier to read on cloudy grey days and in the late winter afternoons.



Fiber optic lights like this one now light historic White Haven.



These lights, designed and manufactured by Lucifer Lighting, are unobtrusive.

The pedestal lamps that lit White Haven for the past ten years were intended to be a temporary fix, but questions arose as to how best to light exhibit panels without impacting historic structures and visitor experience.

The maintenance crew installed fiber optic lighting delivered through small cables between floorboards, making only one-inch holes in the ceilings. In addition to being unobtrusive, the lighting is eco-friendly, using minimal electricity.

Meet the Staff: Keo Chanthamalin

December 31, 2009, marked Maintenance Worker Keo Chanthamalin’s last day with the Park Service. Keo has been at the site less than a year, accepting a temporary position in maintenance while waiting to start his 12-week long Army Officer Candidate School. Military service is not new to Keo. He was in the Air Force as a pharmacy technician for eight years before resigning to help his wife open her own restaurant. The restaurant, BBC Asian



Keo Chanthamalin Café and Bar in St. Louis’s Central West End, is now in its second year and is doing fine. Keo is looking forward to returning to the military and perhaps teaching at some point in the future. We wish him good luck and thank him for his service to our country.

Kids’ Corner: Putting Words in Their Mouths

Can you finish the sentences from books by Mark Twain and by Ulysses S. Grant? Read each sentence carefully, then choose the word from the word bank you think completes each sentence best. Use each word only once.

- 1) “The English never play any game for _____. If they can’t make something or lose something — they don’t care which — they won’t _____.” Mark Twain, “The £1,000,000 Bank Note”
- 2) “Maybe you understand _____ and maybe you don’t understand ‘em; maybe you’ve had experience and maybe you ain’t only an amateur, as it were. Anyways, I’ve got *my* opinion, and I’ll risk forty _____ that he can outjump any frog in Calaveras County.” Mark Twain, “The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County”
- 3) “It occurred to me at once that [the Confederate general] had been as much _____ of me as I had been of him. This was a view of the question I had never taken before, but was one I never forgot afterwards. . . . I never forgot that he had as much reason to fear my _____ as I did his.” Ulysses S. Grant, The Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant
- 4) “_____ produce many stories of fiction, some of which are told until they are believed to be _____.” Ulysses S. Grant, The Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant

| Word Bank | | | |
|-----------|--------|---------|-------|
| amusement | forces | dollars | frogs |
| wars | play | afraid | true |

(1) amusement; play (2) frogs; dollars (3) afraid; forces (4) wars; true



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Upcoming Events

- February 13-15: President's Day program, "Generals to Presidents," at Ulysses S. Grant NHS.
- February 28: Book discussion of The Mysterious Stranger and Other Stories at Ulysses S. Grant NHS as part of the ReadMOre program.
- April 3, April 10 and April 17: Girl Scouts American Girls program at Ulysses S. Grant NHS.
- April 24: Junior Ranger Day at Ulysses S. Grant NHS and other NPS sites across the country.

Did you know?

"What ought to be done to the man who invented the celebrating of anniversaries? Mere killing would be too light. Anniversaries are very well up to a certain point..." Mark Twain always seemed to have a quip for every occasion, and apparently anniversaries were no different. His 1896 view on anniversaries makes one wonder what he would think of Mark Twain 2010, the

year-long celebration planned to commemorate the 175th anniversary of his birth and the 100th anniversary of his death. Film festivals, living history, clambakes and more will take place across the country to celebrate Twain's life and legacy in the places where he lived and worked. From his birthplace in Florida, MO, his boyhood home in Hannibal, MO, his home in Hartford, CT, and his burial

place in Elmira, NY, you can join in the celebration all year long.

New commemorative events for this year are planned all the time. You can find more information on the celebration's Web site at www.marktwain2010.org, or contact the Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum in Hannibal, MO, at 573-221-9010.