Welcome all Ulysses S. Grant supporters and members of the Grant Network. Although most of us have been in contact over the past year it is our hope that this quarterly newsletter, beginning with this premier issue, will provide a more precise record of shared resources, ideas and information in keeping with our primary goal of learning more about Grant the man and promoting his image. Our current issue includes a few anecdotes and stories relevant to winter and the holidays. We hope the contents of this issue are both informative and entertaining, and that readers will submit comments, suggestions and contributions for future issues.
GRANT NETWORK PROFILE

In each issue we will profile one of our Grant friends. If you would like your profile included, please send a short note about yourself and your Grant interest, favorite Grant books, anecdotes, etc. to Diane or Donna. This issue is focusing on Steve and Debbie Repp who submitted the following.

My name is Steve Repp, my wife's name is Debbie and we have one son, whose name is Grant (after General Grant, of course). We first started reading about the Civil War in 1978. The more we read on the subject, the more we found out that wherever General Grant's army was located, things happened. Our interest began to shift to his own personal life. We have continued that research to the present. We moved to Galena in 1979. Some of our favorite books on USG are, Campaigning With Grant, by Horace Porter; Grant Moves South and Grant Takes Command by Bruce Catton. We felt that General Grant's life in Galena needed a fresh look, so we worked on our book titled Ulysses S. Grant, The Galena Years. My wife Debbie has volunteered at the Grant Home State Historic Site since the early 1980's. I have volunteered at the site also. We both work hard to promote a good image of U.S. Grant. Sometimes that is hard to do. Myths and legends don't go away easily.

One of our favorite stories about U.S. Grant is found in the recollections of Genl. John C. Smith of Galena, 1904. General Smith remembered that General Grant possessed a quiet humor. "Visiting a gentleman's estate when in Great Britain (while on the World Tour), he was invited out on the links to witness a game of golf. Induced to enter the game and being given a club by the caddy, the General looked earnestly at the ball, then

at his club, and having measured the distance carefully made a strike, his club going six inches above the ball. Disappointed at this failure, a more careful estimate was made of length of club and distance to ball, another swing was made, the club striking the ground one foot before reaching the ball. Without change of countenance, the General made several other efforts to hit the ball, but without success. Returning the club to the caddy, General Grant remarked to the gentleman beside him, "I have always understood the game of golf was good outdoor exercise and especially for the arms. I fail, however, to see what use there is for a ball in the game."

Anyone wishing to contact Steve and Debbie Repp can reach them at the following address:

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POLITICAL ITEM:
THE GALENA DAILY GAZETTE
AUGUST 6, 1891

A writer in the Philadelphia press says; General Grant, so far as I can recall, was the only President who dared to make a pun in a message or other state paper. He wrote that "agriculture was the ground work of our national prosperity."
Horace Porter, in his book *Campaigning With Grant*, describes the changes that took place at City Point when it was decided that the winter months would be spent there. "The tents, which were much worn, had become very uncomfortable as the cold weather set in; and they were removed, and log huts were erected in their stead. Each hut contained space enough for bunks for two officers, and had a small door in front, a window on each side, and an open fireplace at the rear end. General Grant's hut was as plain as the others, and was constructed with a sitting-room in front, and a small apartment used as a bedroom in the rear, with a communicating door between them. An iron camp-bed, an iron wash-stand, a couple of pine tables, and a few common wooden chairs constituted the furniture. The floor was entirely bare. There were many comments in the newspapers about this time upon the preparations for winter quarters. One comic paper had a picture of the general's hut, with smoke curling out of the chimney, and under it the words; 'Grant fought it out on this line, though it took him all summer, and has now sent for his stove.' Papers inimical to the cause gave the establishment of winter quarters as a proof that the oldest inhabitant would not be likely to live long enough to see Grant enter Richmond. Some of the jocose remarks referring to this subject displayed no little wit, and many of them were a source of considerable amusement to the general and those about him."
An artist's idea of how the interior of Grant's cabin at City Point might have looked in Dec. 1864. Drawing from Grant's Cabin, Petersburg National Battlefield. Donald Pfanz 1989. Contributed by Chris Kuechler.
CHRISTMAS AT CITY POINT

In Campaigning With Grant, Horace Porter tells us that Grant's youngest son, Fred went to City Point in December of 1864 to spend the Christmas holidays with his father. Soon after Fred arrived he got the notion to go duck shooting, and Grant, although he never liked hunting, readily consented in order to see the young boy enjoy the Christmas Holidays. The general's servant, Bill, accompanied young Fred, but they didn't get very far in their boat, when naval pickets arrested them as rebel spies. Fred's assertion that he was the son of the general-in-chief was at first considered absurd, but after a while he convinced his captors of his identity and was allowed to return to headquarters. Porter says that Grant was greatly amused by the account of Fred's adventure, teased him good-naturedly, and told him how fortunate it was that he had not been hanged at the yard-arm as an enemy of the republic, and his body consigned to the waters of the Potomac. (Horace Porter, campaigning with Grant pp365-366)

CHRISTMAS 1857

This pawn ticket for Grant's gold hunting watch was reproduced in The U.S. Grant Album by Lawrence Frost courtesy of the Illinois State Historical Society. Grant may have wanted extra cash to buy some Christmas gifts or possibly a layette for his soon to be born fourth child.

NEWS ITEM:
THE GALENA DAILY GAZETTE
OCTOBER 12, 1886

An English periodical, reviewing General Grant's Memoirs, says that "Grant was the son of a farmer, who gave him a much better education than he had himself received;" that "the Civil War obliged Grant to become a soldier, in which capacity he served for fourteen years, when he again took to farming, which he had to relinquish on account of ill health: "that he then became successively real estate agent, clerk in a store, Senator, and President." It is evident that this English reviewer is well posted in regard to General Grant's life and it is strange that he makes no mention of the facts that General Grant drove stage for seven years between Galena and Chicago and afterward drove a butchers cart for two years in Dubuque and at the breaking out of the war was pilot of a steamboat on Fever River. He does not even mention the fact that on General Grant's retirement from the Presidency he was made Minister Prenipotentiary from the United States to New Jersey. It is a little strange that an intelligent English magazine reviewer should have made no mention of these facts in reviewing the life of the Old Commander.
GRANT'S TOMB IN THE NEWS

Grant's Tomb has been the topic of many unsettling news reports over the past several months. The fact is that the Tomb is in need of some serious repairs and twenty-four hour security guards, however readers have been subjected to headlines, quips and speculation alleging that the Tomb may lose its tenants or be moved entirely to another location.

The latest news story stated that members of the Grant family have threatened to move the bodies of Ulysses Grant and his wife, Julia, to another location unless the neglected site receives a multi-million dollar renovation. In April the family actually filed a lawsuit aimed at forcing the federal government to restore the monument. *The New York Times* recently reported that Ulysses Grant Dietz, great-great grandson of Grant, said the family would consider moving the bodies to the United States Military Academy at West Point if the Park Service has not accomplished something significant by 1997, the hundredth anniversary of the Tomb's dedication. In 1885 Grant had mentioned West Point as a favored burial site, except for the fact that his wife could not be buried beside him there. *The Times* also quoted Mr. Dietz as saying, "What we really want is for the Tomb to once again become an appropriate site for the final resting place of a President and his wife."

Although reports in the news have ranged from over-simplified to exaggerated, the fact that the public is now discussing and reflecting on the situation is advantageous; the fact that the National Park Service and the federal government are being pressured is imperative.

RECENT ACTIONS INVOLVING GRANT'S TOMB

On May 11, 1994, Jerrold Nadler, Congressional Representative from the district where Grant's Tomb is located, introduced a bill which calls for restoration of the Tomb and proposals to educate present and future generations on the life and contributions of Ulysses S. Grant. The bill recognizes Grant as a national hero worthy of such tribute, and authorizes appropriation of funds necessary to carry out the restoration and establish an interpretive visitors center to maintain the historical significance of the memorial. The bill is now in the House Natural Resources Committee with no action projected on it as yet. For a copy of Nadler's Bill (HR-4393) call the office of your local congressman; urge your congressional representatives to support this bill.

George Craig from Elmhurst, New York who heads a group called "Friends of Grant's Tomb," has recently released some informative bulletins stating that the Tomb is now open seven days a week instead of five, and that a security service is now providing protection from 4 p.m. to 8 a.m.; a new contract for security is due to be signed in December which, it is hoped, will call for 24 surveillance in the near future. Craig's latest bulletin reports that the Park Service announced that it has awarded a contract to the Island Restoration Company of Brooklyn, N.Y. on its bid of $375,000 to restore the General Grant National Memorial. This calls for the repair of the roof and dome, flashing and drain improvements, repair of the wooden platform inside the dome, replacement of the air circulation unit, and repair and treating of approximately 50,000 square feet of masonry with a new anti-graffiti solution. The Park Service has also requested an increase of $450,000 in the
WINTER TRAVEL

In December of 1863 while investigating supply routes for the Army of the Ohio, Grant gives us this report of the road conditions: "It was an intensely cold winter, the thermometer being down as low as zero every morning for more than a week while I was at Knoxville and on my way from there to Lexington, Kentucky, the first point where I could reach rail to carry me back to my headquarters at Nashville. The road over Cumberland Gap, and back of it, was strewn with debris of broken wagons and dead animals, much as I had found it on my first trip to Chattanooga over Warden's Ridge. The road had been cut up to as great a depth as clay could be by mules and wagons, and in that condition frozen; so that the ride of six days from Strawberry Plains to Lexington over these holes and knobs in the road was a very cheerless one, and very disagreeable." (Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant, Vol. I, pp101-102)

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS 1839

It was during a Christmas vacation that sixteen year old Ulysses was told by his father, Jesse that he would be attending West Point. Grant gives us this account: "In the winter of 1838-39 I was attending school at Ripley, only ten miles distant from Georgetown, but spent the Christmas holidays at home. During this vacation my father received a letter from the Honorable Thomas Morris, then United States Senator from Ohio. When he read it he said to me, 'Ulysses, I believe you are going to receive the appointment.' 'What appointment?' I enquired. 'To West Point; I have applied for it. 'But I won't go,' I said. He said he thought I would, and I thought so too if he did." (Personal Memoirs Vol. I, p32)