The Ulysses S. Grant Network continues to grow and gain support from new members. Thanks to everyone who responded and commented on the spring issue of the newsletter. Please be sure to take notice of the sections describing plans for a membership directory and guidelines for submitting articles. In this issue the editors are pleased to offer a glimpse into Grant’s campers at Long Branch, New Jersey. We hope the list of battlefield sites inspires many to include some of these in their vacation plans this summer. Please continue comments as well as your ideas for future issues.
Seventeen year old Julia Dent Grant returned to White Haven, her family home outside of St. Louis, in the Spring of 1843. She had spent seven years studying at the finishing schools of the Misses Mauro, and most likely believed that she was ready to meet the demands of St. Louis society and a career as a wife. The education she received there served her well, for Julia was destined to be the wife of one of the most famous men of the nineteenth century.

When Ulysses Grant rode to White Haven that spring day in 1843, he already felt that he had a home away from home. To the family of his old roommate Fred Dent, he was already a welcome visitor. Mrs. Dent had graciously taken him under her wing, along with other young men who came to visit from nearby Jefferson Barracks. He had heard much about Julia from Fred, and from young Emma Dent and her sister Nellie. Upon meeting Julia for the first time he saw past her plain features and immediately saw her inner beauty. From that day on, there was never another lady for Ulysses Grant.

"I was just eighteen, I was very young for my age and very shy indeed," Julia wrote in her memoirs. She feared her parents would not approve of the match, and begged Ulysses not to say anything to her father about their engagement. She was torn between devotion to her parents and her love for the young lieutenant. Young Ulysses, however, once having discovered his feelings, never wavered. Springtime in St. Louis smoothed these minor ripples and sealed the affection the couple had for each other.

Julia and her shy young lieutenant shared a love for horses, and they took long rides in the beautiful countryside trying to escape the knowledge that they soon would be parted by the impending Mexican War.

This separation was the first of many for Julia to endure and in some ways perhaps the hardest. Their love endured the separation with only one visit in the four-year absence. On the lieutenant's return, the couple were married on August 22, 1848.

Julia found it difficult to leave her family's home, but to her surprise, and after some trial and error, she found her role of wife and homemaker something she could manage quite well. She was a superb hostess, and both she and Ulysses enjoyed entertaining throughout their marriage.

Much has been written about the feelings of Ulysses during the period he was away from his family while stationed on the west coast, but little thought has been given to the loneliness Julia must have felt. She had already endured a separation of four years from Ulysses during the Mexican War, and now she faced another separation from her husband at a time when she needed him most. While he was away, she gave birth to their second son, Ulysses Jr. Although she had the companionship of her family and friends during this time, the return of her husband was a relief. "How very happy this reunion was! We cared for no other happiness," she wrote.

That these separations affected Julia and Ulysses is evident by the fact that she tried to be with her husband whenever possible during the Civil War. The soldiers enjoyed having her in camp, and although the men tried to make her as comfortable as possible, camp life was not easy for any woman.

Julia's life after the war was one of excitement and glamour. She did credit to her role as First Lady, and was a popular Washington hostess. She raised her four children to be well adjusted, successful members of society; not an easy task considering their position.

Julia's role as companion and confidant to her
Adam Badeau reflected on their marriage and intimacy in later years, remembering an anecdote from the tour around the world. "When we went up from Interlachen to Grindenwald he and Mrs. Grant flirted nearly all the way. They half quarreled as to how they should sit, and wanted always to be by each other's side. Mrs. Grant once changed her seat so as to get a better view of the Wetterhorn; this placed her opposite her husband, and General Grant, who was a grandfather and nearly sixty years old, didn't like it at all. Mrs. Grant perceived this, and coquetishly refused to return till we arrived at a certain point in the valley; and the hero was uncomfortable until Grindenwald was reached, and he could sit by the side of the mother of his grown-up children."

Grant's last thoughts were of Julia and he secreted a note to her in his dressing gown to be found after his death. Even then, he longed to communicate with her.

"He, the Doric column to sustain; she, the Corinthian column to beautify. He, the oak to support, she the ivy to entwine. He, unhappy without her presence; she, desolate without his society..." were the words chosen by the Rev. Mr. Neuman, to describe their lives together during the eulogy at his funeral. The words were accurately chosen.

Julia Dent Grant lived in an age when usually the only limelight a lady lived in was reflected light from her husband. The inner glow that young lieutenant Grant saw upon first meeting Julia, manifested itself into a combined light that shone through happiness, separation, triumph, and death.

Julia died in 1902, and was laid to rest next to her soldier husband. The magnificent tomb is a
The Ulysses S. Grant Association was organized in 1962 by the Civil War Centennial Commissions of Illinois, New York, and Ohio. The main work of the organization is the assembling of Grant documents that have remained scattered for several decades in libraries, archives and private collections for several decades.

The Morris Library at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois is the headquarters for the Grant Association. John Y. Simon, the executive director of the organization is the editor of the Grant Papers which total twenty volumes to date.

The Grant Papers are well edited with extremely useful annotations. In a bibliographical essay in his book *Partners in Command*, Joseph T. Glatthaar states "*The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant* edited by John Y. Simon provides readers with a wealth of previously inaccessible correspondence from Grant." He also credits the footnotes as being nearly as valuable as the documents themselves. David L. Smiley from The Illinois Historical Journal comments on the value of these volumes saying that "General Grant is handsomely served by John Y. Simon's flawless editing and presentation, which includes lengthy explanatory commentaries that simplify the reader's understanding."

Future meetings of the Grant Association are planned for Washington, D.C. on April 26-27, 1996 and in New York City in April 1997 to commemorate the centenary of Grant's Tomb as well as the 175th anniversary of Grant's birth.

For further information about the Grant Association and its publications please refer to the brochure enclosed with this newsletter.

*[Reading the Papers of Ulysses S. Grant is one of the best ways to gain insight and learn more about Grant. The historical accuracy provided through his public and personal correspondence is unique. His orders and messages written on the battlefield clearly illustrate military affairs, while his private letters reveal a warm emotional man much in contrast to the stereotype legend. Grant's lucid writing style adds appeal and deserves commendation. His approach is direct and explicit; his articulate, laconic reports convey precise accounts. His droll sense of humor, irony, and a playfulness with words add enjoyment. The editors of the Grant Network Newsletter highly recommend these unsurpassable volumes.]*

**SUGGESTED READING**

*The Personal Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant*  
Edited, with Notes and Forward by John Y. Simon, 1975

*When Grant Went A- Courtin* by Emma Dent Casey. Manuscript is in the Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, Mo.
BY THE BEAUTIFUL SEA: SUMMERS AT LONG BRANCH, NEW JERSEY

President Ulysses S. Grant began what was to be a long tradition of Presidents who summered at Long Branch, New Jersey, one of America's first seashore resorts. It was Grant's arrival there in the summer of 1869 that elevated the town, colloquially referred to as "The Branch," to a premier resort of the day.

George W. Childs, publisher of the Philadelphia Ledger, first influenced Grant to visit Long Branch to escape the heat of Washington. Grant moved into the cottage at 991 Ocean Avenue in the summer of 1869. It was purchased for him by a group of wealthy Long Branch residents, among them, Childs, who occupied the cottage next door. For years the house was referred to as the "summer Capitol," although Grant would frequently travel back to Washington to conduct business.

The cottage, with its airy balconies and outdoor stairways, was described by a New York Tribune reporter as a "mixture of English villa and Swiss chalet." In 1870 a New York Times reporter wrote that the president has "five acres of land surrounding his place laid out in trees and greatly beautified."

Grant seemed to welcome the sea breezes and restful piazzas, and he enjoyed the company of his family and friends. On August 22, 1870 Grant wrote to Adam Badeau, then in England, that "The Summer in the United States has been intolerably warm. At Long Branch however we always have a breeze which makes the warmest weather endurable." The wonderful climate brought increasing numbers of visitors each summer. In July of 1873 Grant wrote Badeau, "The season at Long Branch has been very pleasant so far, and the number of sojourners here is larger than ever before. The place has increased vastly in the last four years in the number of private cottages." Grant himself informally referred to it as "The Branch." In a letter to his sister, Jennie Corbin, dated June 13, 1872, Grant stated "I think the best arrangement will be for you to come immediately here and all spend the time together at the Branch." In a letter to Adam Badeau on July 5, 1875 he wrote, "My family, and your friends here at the Branch, are all well." During one season Grant's mother and sister occupied a cottage in nearby Ocean Grove, a unique seaside camp meeting retreat begun by Methodists in 1869; to this day a strong sense of religious commitment remains at Ocean Grove.

Grant made frequent trips from Long Branch to visit his mother and sister there. According to his wife Julia, Grant always enjoyed his summers at Long Branch. She reminisced in her memoirs stating, "What glorious drives we enjoyed on that enchanting beach."

Although Grant himself took little part in the dazzling social life at Long Branch he took great pleasure in driving in his buckboard behind two spirited bays, eventually bringing in his own favorite team of Cincinnati and Egypt. He was also fond of attending the races at nearby Monmouth Park. He is said to have been a visitor of the Pennsylvania Club, one of the many elaborate gambling clubs that were legal at Long Branch at that time.

There are several stories describing some of
the social scenes, balls, and less formal "hops" at Long Branch. Balls and receptions were frequently held in Grant's honor. New York Times editorials and other newspapers of the day kept the public informed about Grant's awkwardness at dancing and the fact that he "cut a sorry figure" on the dance floor. One editorial noted, with tongue in cheek, a marked improvement in Grant's gracefulness at dancing. One unauthenticated anecdote relates Grant as saying, "Madam I had rather storm another fort than attempt another dance."

Glimpses and anecdotes of Grant's life at Long Branch emerge through the eyes of some who observed him while they were children. Ulysses' youngest son, Jesse related an amusing anecdote of how his father came in one day stating that he had discovered a way of securing desirable real estate cheap. When Julia questioned this, Ulysses replied, "Simply establish Jesse next door." Apparently Jesse had taken up the practice of saluting boats passing near the shore by firing a small cannon. The custom caught on so well with other neighborhood boys that one family found no escape but to sell their cottage.

Elsie Porter Mende, daughter of Grant's aide-de-camp Horace Porter, reminisced about Grant in a biography of her father. She described how she played at Long Branch with Grant's grandchildren; the Porters had a summer place about a half mile away. She recalled that they played next to the cottage in a wooded area to which Grant had given the appropriate name, "The Wilderness." She said that the General occasionally came down and enjoyed watching them play, always looking out for the little ones, making sure that they did not climb too high, or swing and seesaw too hard.

Grant's granddaughter, Julia Grant Cantacuzene wrote her autobiography titled, My Life Here and There. In a chapter called Childhood Impressions she affectionately discussed her grandfather at Long Branch. She described the cottage as having big shady balconies with hammocks, and the seashore as a paradise with the blue ocean to paddle and bathe in. She said there was one corner of the piazza which afforded the best ocean view and breeze; it was here that groups would often gather. She recalled driving in the buggy with the fast trotters, standing between her grandfather's knees which steadied her, holding the reins out in front of his hands. She described the well-furnished office in the cottage where her grandfather worked on his writing; she said it was a very attractive frame for work hours with its windows opening to a shady vine-covered balcony and a glimpse of the blue sea.

Several events of interest took place in Grant's personal life in the years that he summered at Long Branch. It was here in 1871 that he went deep sea fishing for the first time. In the summer of 1875 his daughter Nellie gave birth to a son, Grant Greville, while staying with her parents at Long Branch; unfortunately this first grandchild lived only until the next spring. Jesse's daughter, Nellie was born at Long Branch in 1881. It was while at Long Branch in the summer of 1884 that Grant had the first inclination that the lingering sore throat he had been experiencing was of a serious nature; soon after that he was diagnosed with throat cancer. It was at Long Branch that the associate editor of Century Magazine, Robert U. Johnson, met with Grant to try to persuade him to write
articles about his experiences during the Civil War; Grant consented to write several articles which he worked on in the office he set up in the summer cottage. It was also while at Long Branch that he finally took a positive interest in the idea of writing his memoirs.

Grant continued to visit Long Branch through the summer of 1884. After that time the cottage remained in private hands, but unfortunately was demolished in 1963. At this time there is not even a plaque or marker to commemorate the site where the Grants spent so many happy summers.

Sources:

Donna Neralich

Badeau, Adam. *Grant In Peace*. Hartford, Conn., 1887


Grant, Jesse R. *In the Days of My Father*. New York, 1925.


The New York Times, Friday August 8, 1873:

LONG BRANCH - August 7: President Grant returned from Washington this afternoon. Tonight he rescued a lady from being injured by a runaway team on Cedar Avenue.
SIZZLIN SUMMER VISIT

In Ulysses S. Grant's native county of Clermont, in southern Ohio just east of Cincinnati, there exists an unincorporated area known as Tobasco (the locals spell it in this non-standard way), and there is an interesting story about how this small district got its name. According to Clermont County historian Richard Crawford, General Grant traveled through the county in the autumn of 1865 while on his way from Cincinnati to visit his boyhood home in Georgetown. Crowds of people lined the General's entire route, eager to get a look at him. At about the halfway point in the trip, the traveling party made a brief rest stop, the weather being extremely hot. The crowds gathered at this point, imploring the General to step up onto a platform and say a few words. Ulysses Grant obliged his fellow Ohioans, but before he did, he begged their pardon while he removed his suit coat, saying it was necessary to do so because "it is as hot as Tabasco Sauce here today".

--Nancy Eicher

READERS QUERIES

WANTED: A copy of the book *In the Days of My Father, General Grant*, by Jesse R. Grant. Preferably in good condition. Please contact G. Edward Cooper, 14210 Decatur Dr., Magalia, CA 95954.

Is there someone willing to scan the Library of Congress films of Theodore Roosevelt through the end of 1902, for a film that possibly includes Julia Dent Grant?

Does anyone know of any photos of Julia Grant taken after General Grant's death, besides the one in the Ishbel Ross book and one taken in January 1895?

Does anyone have any information about Nellie Grant's descendants?

Address answers to all of the above to: Frank Scaturro, 36 Carole Avenue, New Hyde Park, NY 11040-1964.

BACK ISSUE POLICY

Many members have asked about obtaining back issues of the Grant Network Newsletter. Two previous issues have been published to date. Vol. 1, No. 1 and Vol. 1, No. 2 are available at $3.00 per issue. Please specify which issue/issues you would like and enclose a check payable to "Ulysses S. Grant Network." Mail to: Diane Meives W3547 Playbird Rd., Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085.
After watching the Ken Burn's series, The Civil War, I became fascinated with the Civil War, and in particular, General Ulysses S. Grant. Since I work in a public library, I decided to see what my library had to offer. At that time, 1990, we had a card catalog so it was easy to look up what ever subject I was interested in. Since then, we have disposed of the card catalog and now have a computer database. Patrons often stop by the desk and ask for the card catalog feeling totally intimidated by the computer! It is easy to use, a little practice and you would be amazed at the amount of information "out there" especially on General Grant. For the past four years or so I have made it a hobby of sorts to locate as much as possible on the General. If you are interested in reading more about Ulysses S. Grant, here are some tips:

Try a subject search using either Ulysses S. Grant OR Grant, Ulysses S. (you can try a title search but will not have as many "hits". Try the Readers Guide to Periodicals, or if your library has it, Info Trac (which lists current magazine or newspaper articles). Since General Grant was also President, any subject search on U.S. Presidents should pull up some items of interest. Of course a subject search on U.S. History- Civil War will give you many titles of books on the various battles and campaigns which will lead to chapters (and whole books!) on Grant's role during the Great Rebellion.

After finding some items, the bibliography will lead you to further sources, both books and magazine articles. The index to many periodicals will list sources under any subject. For example, National Geographic has an index. Look up the Civil War or Grant, Ulysses S. and you will find citations of articles and in which issue of National Geographic it can be found. American Heritage and Civil War Times Illustrated are other good sources. Ask a librarian for help! Once you learn how to use the tools a library has to offer, you will be amazed at what is available "out there". Finally, and most importantly, ask about interlibrary loan! I supervise the interlibrary loan department at our library. When I mention to a patron that if we do not own an item, we may be able to borrow from another system, I find the majority of patrons are not aware that this can be done!

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**GRANT TRIVIA??**

Ulysses S. Grant, 18th President of the United States, was also related to two other U.S. Presidents. Who were they? (answer in next issue)

**answer from last issues question:**

In 1862 an organization to extend aid to the Confederates was formed. Someone proposed that the organization kidnap Grant and take him south as a prisoner. The proposal was immediately vetoed. Who were the members of this organization?

**answer: His St. Louis neighbors.**
Network members Doris Walker, left, and Doris McCann stand before Grant's birthplace in Point Pleasant Ohio. Ms. Walker travelled from Fayetteville, North Carolina and Ms. McCann and her husband John came from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania for the festivities on Saturday, April 22nd. On Sunday, April 23, the U.S. Grant Homestead, where Grant spent his boyhood, was host to another day of festivities.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

One of the goals of the Grant Network is to establish communication among members. To meet this objective the editors plan to publish a membership directory later this year. Listing in the directory will be voluntary. Please notify the editors in writing by September 30, if you would like your name and address to appear in this listing. Print your name and address as you would like them to appear; add your phone number if you would like that printed as well. If you have an e-mail address you may include that also. This list will only be available to members of the Grant Network; it will be included with the winter issue of the newsletter. Your promptness in this endeavor will be appreciated.

CONTRIBUTORS GUIDELINES

The Grant Network Newsletter welcomes voluntary contributions from readers that pertain to any aspect of the life of Ulysses S. Grant, or any subsequent effort to commemorate or otherwise honor General Grant.

All contributions should include your name, address, and phone number, and/or e-mail address so we may contact you if necessary. All copies should be typed or clearly printed, and photos or artwork should be as clear as possible. Contributions by e-mail will be accepted by prior arrangement. Please credit all sources of non original material. If you would like a contribution returned, please send a stamped, self addressed envelope. Contributions may be edited for purposes of clarity or space.
GRANT'S TOMB UPDATE

According to a recent bulletin issued by George Craig for the Friends of Grant's Tomb, Island Restoration has done a good job of restoring the Tomb. The four murals are being touched up by an artist hired by the Park Service. There has been no sign of vandalism on the outside for over a year thanks to the vigilance provided by security agents around the clock.

Although progress is reported, the public should not be placated into thinking that the task is complete. There is still much to be done in the form of legislation to ensure a secure future for the site. People should continue to write letters urging their own U. S. Representative in the House to co-sponsor Congressman Jerrold Nadler's Bill, the Grant's Tomb National Monument Act. People should also write to their U. S. Senators asking them to urge New York Senators Al D'Amato and Daniel P. Moynihan to introduce the Nadler Bill in the Senate. For more information about how you can help, contact: Frank Scaturro, Grant Monument Association, 36 Carole Avenue, New Hyde Park, NY 11040-1964 and George Craig, Friends of Grant's Tomb, 83-12 St. James Street, Elmhurst, NY 11373.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Grant Cottage

Grant Cottage at Mt. McGregor, NY opens for the season on Saturday, May 27. Scheduled events include: June 24 - Music of the Civil War Period and Poetry reading; July 23 - Grant Remembers Day: A reading from the memoirs and a re-enactment of the arrival of the Grant Family at the cottage. August 26 - Victorian Day Picnic and program. For further information contact The Friends of Grant Cottage, PO Box 990, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-0897. 518-587-8277.

"Grant was an uncommon fellow- the most modest, the most disinterested, and the most honest men I ever knew, with a temper that nothing could disturb, and a judgement that was judicial in its comprehensiveness and wisdom. Not a great man, except morally, not an original or brilliant man, but sincere, thoughtful, deep, and gifted with courage that never faltered. Unaffected, unpretending hero, who no ill omens could deject and no triumph unduly exalt.

**Quote by Charles Dana, Special Commissioner attached to the War Department sent from Washington to check on Grant during the Vicksburg campaign.
Sites Directory

Summer provides an opportune time to visit Civil War Battlefields. Listed below are several Grant related sites that are run by the National Park Service. Most of the following sites contain picnic areas and are open from 9 am to 5 pm all year except Christmas and New Years Day.

Fort Donelson National Battlefield is located on U. S. Route 79 at Dover, Tennessee, 28 miles west of Clarksville. The Park contains a Visitors' Center with slide presentations and a museum. The Surrender House is open from 11 am to 4 pm. Living History exhibits are presented during the summer. For further information contact Site Superintendent, Fort Donelson National Battlefield, P.O. Box 434, Dover TN 37058

Shiloh National Military Park is located on State Route 22 in Shiloh, Tennessee, 25 miles northeast of Corinth, Mississippi. The National Park Service provides well-marked areas on the battlefield, museums, modern replicas, and slide presentations. For more information contact Site Superintendent, Shiloh National Military Park, Shiloh TN 38376

Vicksburg National Military Park is on U. S. Route 61 at Vicksburg, Mississippi. This is an extremely picturesque park with many picnic areas. For further information write to Site Superintendent, Vicksburg National Military Park and Cemetery, 3201 Clay Street, Vicksburg, MS 39180

The Wilderness Battlefield, part of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, is on State Route 3, west of Fredericksburg Virginia. Contact Site Superintendent, PO Box 679, Fredericksburg, VA 22404.

Cold Harbor Battlefield, part of the Richmond National Battlefield Park, is southeast of Richmond, Virginia on State Route 156 south of Rt. 249. Contact the Superintendent at Richmond National Battlefield Park, Richmond, VA 23200.

Petersburg National Battlefield, at Petersburg, Virginia, is 25 miles south of Richmond on I-85. For more information about this site and directions to Grant's City Point Cabin (located in Hopewell) contact the Site Superintendent, Petersburg National Battlefield, PO Box 549, Petersburg, VA 23804.

Appomattox Court House National Historic Park is on State Route 24, at Appomattox, Virginia, 92 miles west of Richmond and 18 miles east of Lynchburg. This site provides a Visitors' Center as well as a village of restored and reconstructed buildings. For more information contact the Site Superintendent at PO Box 218, Appomattox, VA 24522.

Readers may contact the editors if they have questions regarding these or any other Grant sites. For site brochures write to the above addresses.

"I never had time"
Grant's answer to an officer asking if he ever felt fear on the battlefield.
Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site
7400 Grant Road St. Louis, Missouri

On March 1, 1872, President Ulysses S. Grant signed an act to preserve a "tract of land...near the head-waters of the Yellowstone River...as a public park... for the benefit and enjoyment of the people," thus establishing the country's first National Park. It is unlikely that Grant realized his action would be the landmark of his administration, with a lasting impact not only in the United States but throughout the world. It is even more doubtful that Grant imagined that 117 years and some 350 park units later, President George Bush would sign legislation authorizing Grant's home, White Haven, as the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site.

Situated in an unincorporated portion of south St. Louis County, Missouri, the 9.65-acre site includes a two-story residence, a stone building, a barn, a chicken house, and an ice house. These resources are a tangible reminder of the man who led the army that preserved the Union, and who wrote the most important military commentary of modern times. It is important for what it can tell us of the man, his life, his family, and his character. In a life that was a roller coaster of ups and downs, two things remained constant: Grant's strength of character and his unsparing love of his wife, Julia. White Haven presents the perfect place to understand both. It is the place where he met Julia, where they fell in love, where they became engaged, where some of their children were born. It was the place to which Grant was drawn when he resigned from the army in 1854; the place he attempted, but various means, to support his family, with only limited success. While in the nation's limelight during the Civil War and his Presidency, White Haven was the place he readied for a relaxing retirement. Although unknown circumstances caused him to abandon those retirement plans, Grant retained ownership of the property until a few months before his death.

In 1796, the Spanish government in St. Louis granted a tract of land just under 800 arpents (680 acres) on the Gravois Creek in east-central Missouri to Hugh Graham. Shortly thereafter, Graham transferred the property to James Mackay in exchange for some land along the Missouri River. In 1808, Mackay sold some of the land to his brother-in-law, William Long, who built a two-story frame house on the acreage. Long sold the property to Theodore Hunt in 1818. "Colonel" Frederick Dent purchased Hunt's property three years later.

Dent occupied a house at Fourth and Cerre Streets in St. Louis, but wanted a country home to escape the city's summer heat and provide more space for his several children. Among those children were a son, Fred, who roomed with Ulysses Grant at West Point, and a daughter, Julia. When Grant was assigned to nearby Jefferson Barracks following his graduation from West Point, in 1843, he visited his former roommate's family on the Gravois Creek. There he met Julia, and his visits became quite regular. Upon learning of his company's transfer in 1844, Grant asked Julia to marry him.

The property was a focal point in Ulysses' and Julia's lives for four decades. The young couple lived at White Haven briefly following their marriage before transferring to New York and Michigan army posts.
Their first son, Frederick Dent Grant, was born there in 1850. When Grant transferred to the west coast in 1852, Julia stayed at White Haven, save for a brief trip to Grant's parents' home in Ohio where their second son, Ulysses Jr., was born. Unable to bear further separation from his family, Grant resigned from the army in 1854 and returned to White Haven. They lived in the main house for a while, then occupied Wish-ton-Wish (Julia's brother's house on the plantation). While living at Wish-ton-Wish, Grant farmed 100 acres of White Haven land given to Julia by her father; on it he built a log house known as Hardscrabble. They lived at Hardscrabble only a few months when Julia's mother died, and Colonel Dent asked them to return to the main house. The couple's third child, Nellie, was born in 1855, probably at Wish-ton-Wish; their youngest child, Jesse, was born in 1858, apparently in the main house.

The years Grant spent farming at White Haven were all difficult. An agricultural depression, a June frost, and illness among the family and the slaves forced Grant to abandon the farm in 1858. Colonel Dent and Grant sold 400 acres of the estate, including Hardscrabble, but since the father-in-law had never formally deeded the property to Ulysses or Julia, it is unlikely that Grant received an money from the sale. Grant moved into St. Louis by himself that winter, his family followed a few weeks later. For a short time, Grant formed a real estate partnership with Julia's cousin, Harry Boggs. Somehow Grant drew the unsavory task of collecting on unpaid accounts. Too familiar with hard times to be a successful bill collector, Grant left St. Louis for his father's leather goods store in Galena, Illinois, in 1860.

Although Grant never returned as a permanent resident of White Haven, during the Civil War and his Presidency he bought the property from the Dent family, and readied it for his retirement. President Grant instructed the farms caretaker to build a large horse barn and to acquire stock. When his public duty was over, he would go to Missouri and raise horses. Whether the Whiskey Ring scandal left a sour taste for St. Louis, or his desire for a third Presidential term required that he stay in the East, Grant did not retire to White Haven, but he held the property until he relinquished it in payment of a debt shortly before his death.

The National Park Service assumed management of Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site in 1990, and is currently conducting research on the history of the property, its structures, and its connections with the Dent and Grant families. When the information is sufficient, the structures will be restored, and the site opened to the public.

the site is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. To schedule a tour or for information on visiting the site at other times, call the park at 314/842-1867.

For further information contact the site's Superintendent, Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site, 7400 Grant Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63123.

Reprinted with permission of the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site
White Haven, Then and Now

- extent of Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site, 1992
- boundary of the Dent-Grant estate at its largest, circa 1825-1885