The Grant Network, now officially beginning its second year, presents The Spring issue of the Network Newsletter with the hope that members can enjoy reading it during a break from gardening rather than shoveling snow. This issue features a variety of topics related to Ulysses S. Grant as well as another installment on tips about how to access information about Grant on the Internet. A brochure which describes Grant Cottage at Mt. McGregor is enclosed. The editors are pleased that so many readers have offered suggestions and comments about topics for future newsletters.
NELLIE GRANT SARTORIS JONES
by Diane Meives

Immediately after the Battle of Cold Harbor and before the troops were again marching, Ulysses Grant wrote a touching letter to his only daughter, eight year old Nellie. This was typical of the man, for his family was a centering point for him, a calm in the middle of the storm, and Nellie was a special favorite. In his letter he did not shield his young daughter from the facts of the war, yet he took keen interest in the activities of her everyday life. He comments on her role of The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe,(see photo below) and talks about getting her a buggy to work their pony with. ¹

When Nellie was almost seventeen she was escorted to Europe for the summer by Secretary of the Navy, Adolph E. Borie and his wife. On the return trip she met and fell in love with Algernon Sartoris, a young Englishman from a prominent family. President and Mrs. Grant did not approve of the match and even the parents of the young man were not optimistic. Young Sartoris was not a responsible suitor for Nellie. It took the couple eighteen months to break the President down and give his permission for the marriage which took place on May 21, 1874.

The wedding was the most spectacular the nineteenth century had ever seen. The White House was decorated with thousands of blossoms. Fresh flowers were everywhere. Nellie wore a $5,000 wedding gown of white satin and her five bridesmaids wore identical white corded silk. As the President walked Nellie down the aisle he had tears in his eyes. After the newlyweds left on their honeymoon the President was found in Nellie's room sobbing uncontrollably. ²

Nellie and her new husband left for their new home in England amid rumors that the marriage would not last long. Surprisingly it did last for several years.

During their marriage Nellie and Algernon produced four children three of whom lived to adulthood. Their first son, Grant Greville did not survive one year. Their other children were Algernon Edward, Vivien May and Rosemary Alice.

Nellie brought her children home to America to visit their grandparents and she was with her father during his last illness and stayed with him during his last days. Her face was one of the last he saw.

After her divorce from Sartoris Nellie returned to the United States permanently and lived with her mother until the latter's death in 1902.

Nellie was born to Ulysses and Julia on the Fourth of July in 1855 at Wish Ton Wish near her mother's home of White Haven. Her father wished to call her after her mother, Julia, but she was named Ellen to honor Julia's mother Ellen Dent. Her friends and family called her Nellie. Julia Grant writes in her Memoirs. "She was her father's favorite, who always called her 'my little daughter". ²

The position and fame of her father did not spoil Nellie, and she soon became a favorite of society and loved parties and dances. She was usually escorted by her brother Jesse who called himself her "squire of dames". ³

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In 1912 she married Frank Hatch Jones, first Assistant Postmaster under President Cleveland. The couple made their home in Chicago. A few years after her marriage to Jones, she suffered a stroke and was an invalid for the rest of her life. She died in Chicago in 1922 and is buried in the Jones family plot in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois near the tomb of Abraham Lincoln.

Family photo on right of Nellie Grant shortly before her marriage

1. Grant Takes Command, Bruce Catton, 1968, p.270
3. In the Days of My Father, General Grant, Jesse R. Grant 1925, p.157
4. White House Brides, Marie Smith and Louise Durbin, 1966

POSTAL NEWS: A SPECIAL CANCELLATION

This year Donna Neralich, co-editor of the Grant Network Newsletter, has designed a special cancellation based on one of her original drawings to commemorate the celebration of Grant's birthday at Point Pleasant, Ohio. Copies of the cancellation are available and requests should be made as soon as possible. The cancellation will be issued for 30 days only, beginning on April 27, the date of the birthday celebration. Those who would like to receive one should send a self-addressed stamped postcard or envelope to: Moscow Post Office, Grant's Birthplace Station, Moscow, Ohio 45153. For further information contact Lynn Miller at the Moscow P.O. at 513-553-3223.

CHANGE OF E-MAIL ADDRESS

Please make a note of the new e-mail address of co-editor Donna Neralich. Contact her at grantnet2@aol.com
GRANT COTTAGE AT MOUNT MCGREGOR

by Donna Neralich

It is a sad yet poignant story. Much has been written about Ulysses S. Grant's final battle, his struggle against throat cancer, which took place at a summer cottage near Saratoga Springs in the Adirondack Mountains in New York. Grant, along with his wife Julia, their children and grandchildren, left the heat of New York City in June of 1885 for the cool mountain air of Mount McGregor. It was here that Grant diligently raced to complete his memoirs in order to provide for his family before his approaching death.

An interesting perspective on Grant's days at Mt. McGregor is found in the book, General Grant's Last Stand by Horace Green, nephew of Dr. John Hancock Douglas, one of Grant's attending physicians at the cottage. Because it was painful for Grant to speak in those final days, he communicated with his physician through a series of handwritten notes. Horace Green uses these notes throughout his book to weave the story of the writing of Grant's Memoirs. Another noteworthy account of Grant's days at Mt. McGregor can be found in a small book called The Captain Departs by Thomas Pitkin. This book includes extensive endnotes and bibliographical notes which suggest even further sources for study. A full account of Grant's final fifteen months can be found in a biography called Many Are the Hearts by Richard Goldhurst. Additional descriptions of this time in Grant's life are recollected in the book My Life Here and There, the autobiography of Julia Cantacuzene, granddaughter of Grant, and in Mark Twain's (Samuel Clemens) autobiography. All of these books, published in this century, can be found in local libraries or through interlibrary loan.

Although there is a wealth of excellent written material about this site, the best way to learn more about it is to experience it firsthand by visiting the site, now known as Grant Cottage. Visitors are frequently astonished to find that the place is a veritable time capsule; it remains exactly the same today as the day Grant died there on July 23, 1885. (See illustrations below.) Besides viewing the rooms in the cottage, visitors can also walk to the nearby lookout to observe the exact same view which Grant enjoyed while he was there. Sadly however, this was one of the few pleasures that he was able to experience at that time.

Unfortunately, today the Cottage faces some financial difficulties in order to remain open. Support and publicity are needed. Please refer to the enclosed brochure for further information and background about the site as well as how you can help support the efforts of the Friends of Grant Cottage.

Grant Cottage is open Wednesday through Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, and on weekends from Labor Day to Columbus Day. For further information about special events or how to reach the cottage contact the Friends of Grant Cottage, PO Box 990, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-0897 or call 518-587-8277.
THE COTTAGE.

This cottage was built by Duncan MacGregor many years ago. It was purchased by the late Joseph W. Drexel, of New York, in the early summer of 1885. It is now cared for by the Grand Army of the Republic of the Department of New York, having been given to the Grand Army by Mr. Drexel. It was furnished as the visitor now sees it, by Mr. Drexel's orders, for the accommodation of General Grant and his family. General Grant arrived here June 16th, 1885.

THE RECEPTION ROOM.

On entering the Cottage from the front, or eastern door, the visitor finds himself in the Reception Room. It was here that General Grant died. The bed he occupied the last hours of his life, and on which he died, his favorite chair in the opposite corner, the clock on the mantel, stopped by Col. Fred Grant at the moment of his father's death, are among the chief objects of interest in this room. The furniture is the same, and in substantially the same position, as at the time of the General's death. He died at 8:00 a.m., July 23rd, 1885.

THE DINING ROOM.

With the exception of the table service, a portion of which was removed, the furniture of this room is the same as at the time of General Grant's occupancy of the cottage.

THE "SICK ROOM."

Passing from the Reception Room the visitor enters General Grant's private room; or, what is usually known as the "Sick Room." Among the objects of chief interest in this room are the two chairs in which General Grant passed the greater portion of his time, the fans used by him, his candle and lamp, the shears with which he trimmed his hair, and the tambour from which he drank. In the large case to the right is a portion of his wardrobe, also the medical appliances used by him and his physicians. In the smaller case are his pencil and pad, two messages to friends and the pen with which he did his last writing.

It is quite well known that, owing to the nature of the illness from which he suffered, General Grant was unable to lie down for several months before his death. He slept in the two chairs in this room, sitting in one and resting his feet in the other. On the evening of July 23rd, 1885, he was taken to the bed in the adjoining room, where he died the following morning.

THE FLORAL PIECES.

In the room adjoining the "Sick Room" are the Floral Pieces. These tributes were the offerings of friends. The large piece—"Gates Ajar"—was presented by Mr. and Mrs. Leland Stanford, of California; the pillow, by the Grand Army Post to which General Grant belonged; the small cross, with heart and anchor attached, by Mrs. Ams Bissel, of Denver, Colorado.

This room was used by General Grant's secretary as an office.

The Custodian will gladly give any additional information you may desire.
GRANT AT CHATTANOOGA
by Maureen O'Brien

September of 1863 was a time of trial for Abraham Lincoln. Elated by the Union's victory at Vicksburg and Port Hudson, dejected by the inability of the Federal forces in the East to capitalize on the success at Gettysburg, the president was then subjected to the apparent victory at Stone's River only to have it followed by the defeat at Chickamauga. The Federal retreat into Chattanooga, Tennessee worried the president. He knew that site was an important "jumping off" place for armies of invasion. Mr. Lincoln was determined that the Union must have this vital piece of territory and he knew just the general to get it for him.

U.S. Grant was not at his best in September, 1863. His horse had shied at a locomotive and had fallen on him causing an injury which kept Grant in bed for weeks. He was still recovering when he received a notice from the Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton, that his field of command was being enlarged to include the Chattanooga theatre and that Grant was expected to get there as soon as possible and save that army from starvation and defeat by the besieging Rebel army.

In a feat of grit and determination, General Grant, who was still unable to mount his horse from the ground, travelled over some of the worst ground ever seen, in weather none too pleasant, and arrived at headquarters in Chattanooga according to one pithy account, "tired, wet and well." Grant would have a lot to do to get the command into shape. He had, in fact already accomplished one important action by replacing General William Rosecrans with General George Thomas.

Much, perhaps too much, has been made of the cold relationship that existed between Grant and Thomas. Were they friends? No, certainly not. Did Grant harbor resentment toward Thomas for being placed over him after Shiloh? Perhaps. Was Thomas a patrician unhappy about having a social unequal as his new commander? Possibly. Horace Porter who had been with General Thomas and therefore had no reason to favor Grant over his commander saw no dislike between the men. James Wilson, of Grant's camp, was resentful of perceived slights received by his commander. Knowing Wilson's nature, it is easy to believe it was he who disliked Thomas, not Grant.

In any event, after Grant's arrival, things began happening. Grant surveyed the area, approved plans to open a supply line and notified his trusted subordinate, General William Sherman to march his troops toward Chattanooga. General Grant was ambitious, he hoped to raise the siege in early November but General Thomas cautioned that the men and horses were not quite up to fighting speed. Grant would have to wait for the end of the month.

The battle of Chattanooga, the capture of Lookout Point, the rush up Missionary Ridge, the headlong retreat of the Rebel army is a well known chapter of Civil War history. U.S. Grant would receive many accolades for this victory; indeed, it was one of the deciding factors in President Lincoln's decision to make him commander-in-chief of the armies. Too little attention, however, has been paid to the neatness of the victory. In the space of three months, General Grant had to:

- assume authority for an enlarged theatre of battle;
- assess and replace a popular commanding general with another;
- rush from a sickbed over terrible roads to reach his command area;
- evaluate the current situation and formulate new battle plans;
- carry out those plans to a successful conclusion. It took the force of genius and willpower to complete this effort. U.S. Grant was up to the challenge.

September, 1863 was an apprehensive time for President Lincoln but many of his worries were over before Christmas came. Grant had arrived.

2. Catton, Bruce. Grant Takes Command pp22-28
3. Ibid. pp.29-30
4. Porter, Horace. Campaigning With Grant p.2
6. Porter, Horace. Campaigning With Grant p.4-16

cont.
A NARROW SCAPE

Thomas's picket-lines were so near Bragg's that the opposing soldiers talked familiarly, and at one point were only separated by the narrow bed of Chattanooga Creek. One morning, as Grant sat upon his horse on the bank, a party of Confederates in blue came down on the other side to draw water. Supposing them to be his own men, the general asked, "What corps do you belong to?"

"Longstreet's" - "What are you doing in those coats, then?" - "Oh, all our corps wear blue coats." The fact had escaped his memory, but having the good fortune not to be recognized, he rode away.
- Richard's Life of Grant

Corrections: In the Winter issue, Vol 2 #1, the picture of Ulysses S. Grant Jr. and his brother Jesse on page 3 should have been credited to Steve Repp.

We would also like to correct an error in naming John Grant Griffiths as the great great grandson of Ulysses and Julia Grant on page 9 under honorary advisors. It should read a great great grandson. There are many living descendents of the Grant's today.

One way Illinois celebrates General Grant's birthday
A NAME IN QUESTION

by Donna Neralich

Ulysses S. Grant. Is it by some great coincidence that this future president of the United States bore the initials "USG"? What does the "S" stand for? Is his first name really Hiram? Was his nickname "Sam"? Many people seem curious and puzzled by Grant's name and several questions regarding it invariably emerge whenever a discussion of the General ensues.

The fact is that the first child of Jesse and Hannah Grant, born on April 27, 1822, spent the first month of his life without any name at all. When the family members finally gathered to decide upon a name, both Hiram, which Grandfather Simpson thought a handsome name, and Ulysses, for the Trojan War hero, were among those suggested. A bit of confusion surrounds the event, as it is based on different word of mouth anecdotes. One version says that the name "Ulysses" received more votes than "Hiram"; another says that the name "Ulysses" was picked in a drawing. In later years when Jesse Grant wrote accounts of the naming he simply stated that the family council had selected "Hiram Ulysses," most likely to please Grandfather Simpson. But Jesse's own preference being "Ulysses," he proceeded to refer to the baby as "My Ulysses."

According to one of Grant's boyhood friends, Jimmy Sanderson, Grant preferred to be called Hiram and wrote the name "Hiram U. Grant" all over the flyleaves of his books. However when it came time to leave for West Point, Grant, who most likely perceived the initials H.U.G. on his trunk as a possible source of ridicule, rearranged them to read U.H.G. Once he arrived at West Point Grant found out that he was not the only one who had changed his name. When he officially registered he was told that there was no appointment for Ulysses Hiram Grant, but for a Ulysses S. Grant. The error apparently had occurred when his Congressman, unaware of Grant's given name, appointed him as Ulysses S. Grant, mistaking the mother's maiden name, Simpson, for boy's middle name. The prospective cadet soon discovered he had to accept the new name or forfeit the appointment. Records show however, that Grant continued to sign his name U. H. Grant in personal correspondence while he was at West Point.

During his years at West Point Grant was given yet another name. When the cadets' names were posted on a barracks bulletin board and "Ulysses S." was abbreviated to "U.S.", the witty young cadets came up with "United States Grant" and "Uncle Sam Grant" as nicknames. In time he became known to the cadets as "Sam," a nickname that followed him through the Civil War.

After graduation Grant officially adopted Ulysses S. Grant. It is interesting to note however that he never referred to himself or signed his name as Ulysses Simpson Grant. In fact, there are several instances where Grant playfully muses about the name.

In one of his early letters to Julia, several years before their marriage Grant wrote, "Find some name beginning with 'S' for me Julia. You know I have an 'S' in my name and don't know what it stands for." Nine years later, in March of 1853, while stationed at Columbia Barracks in Washington Territory he wrote to Julia about his infant son, Ulysses inquiring, "What does the 'S' stand for in Ulyss's name? In mine you know it does not stand for anything!" The familiar topic arose once more when Elihu Washburne, Congressman from Illinois, apparently inquired about the obscure middle initial in June of 1864. Grant replied, "In answer to your letter of a few days ago asking what the 'S' stands for in my name I can only state nothing." He then went on to describe how this situation originated with his appointment to West Point stating, "I tried on entering West Point to correct this mistake but failing, after I received my Diploma and Commission, with the 'S' inserted, adopted it and have so signed my name ever since." It is interesting to note however, that many people, to include some authors and historians, still refer to our eighteenth President as Ulysses Simpson Grant.

In addition to his nickname, Sam, he was also known by many other names, some complimentary, others not. Some of the nicknames originated in his youth, others during the Civil War. It has been suggested by some authors that in his youth he was nicknamed "Lyss." He was also tagged "Useless Grant" by schoolmates. Although many of Grant's critics choose to attribute this to his character, it is well to note that Grant's Great Great Grandson, Ulysses Grant Dietz, has stated that "Useless" is simply a natural corruption of the name Ulysses, to which he himself and his grandfather, Ulysses S. Grant III, were subject as well. After Grant's victory at Fort Donelson his initials came to stand for "Unconditional Surrender" Grant. During the Civil War those who were critical referred to him as "Grant the Butcher."

Some of the most creative nicknames for Ulysses S. Grant originated with his wife Julia. In her Memoirs she repeatedly refers to him as Ulys, which is how she signed most of his letters to her. She had some other pet names for him as well, to include Victor, Dude and Dodo. In her memoirs, referring specifically to his character, Julia calls him "my knight, my Lancelot" and "my Admirable
Today another question arises about the name. How did Ulysses and members of his family pronounce his first name? Although some say that it was pronounced "Ulissis," Clara Frances Ruestow, great granddaughter of Ulysses recently said, "In our family we have always said "Ulysses" with the accent on the 2nd syllable. This includes my father and grandmother who must have known how U.S.G. liked it".  

There is no better name for this distinguished American than the one borrowed from the hero of classic Greek mythology. However, whether Ulysses, Hiram, Lyss, or Sam, he remains a person of admirable virtue and extraordinary accomplishment.

1. Lloyd Lewis, Captain Sam Grant, Boston, (1950.) p.17
2. Ibid., p.36
3. Ibid., p.58
4. Ibid., p.62
6. Ibid., p.298
7. The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant, Volume 11

**WHITE HAVEN UPDATE**

The Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site announces that Chris Eckard is the new Chief of Interpretation. Eckard replaces Carolyn Buckner who vacated the position in November. Mr. Eckard comes to the Grant NHS from Cape Hatteras National Seashore in North Carolina, where he served as the park historian. Renovation work continues on White Haven including interior work on the house and 2,600 linear feet of new fencing for the grounds.
GRANT ON THE INTERNET
by Marie Kelsey

continued from last issue.

TELNET

Telnet is a remote log in program and your basic access to the Internet. It allows you to log onto a remote host and gain access to whatever is there, as long as the files aren't password controlled. You can telnet to actual documents, library catalogs, searchable databases and FTP sites, to name a few. There will be more about these telnet protocols in the rest of this article.

FTP

FTP stands for File Transfer Protocol and there are at least 1500 FTP sites on the Internet. A program called Archie allows you to find out what is available at the FTP sites. You log on to an Archie server via telnet (Archie addresses are available in many Internet guidebooks) and enter the following commands: set search regex prog grant ulysses

Unfortunately, you get 0 hits, so try instead: prog civil war

You then get a variety of addresses that show FTP sites with files that have something to do with the words civil and war. So your results could include information on the civil war in Somalia as well as on the American Civil War.

You still cannot see exactly what the documents contain. You now need to go to the FTP site using the address you retrieved and using FTP software, download the files to a disk and then use a word processing program to view them.

Gopher

As you have probably figured out, using Archie and FTP is cumbersome, full of exacting commands and convoluted pathways. There is an easier way. You need a Gopher. No, not the little rodent that burrows through the earth, but the Internet equivalent of this animal. It's called a Gopher because it will "go-fer" your files. The gopher also happens to be the mascot at the University of Minnesota where this program was developed.

You'll need telnet and a Gopher address (available in basic Internet guidebooks). Once you're at a Gopher site, you'll get a menu and one of the choices will say something like: Search Titles in Gopherspace. Choose that menu item and you'll be given a box to enter your search words.

Entering Ulysses Grant yields nothing, but entering Civil War yields hundreds of results in the form of files, FAQs (frequently asked questions), reading lists, information on college course work in the area of the Civil War and more. Unlike FTP where you have to retrieve the files through another software program, with Gopher you just choose the item you want and wait for it to appear on your screen.

Using Gopher, you can also gain access to library computer based catalogs and this yields a goldmine of bibliographic citations on Grant. Instead of driving around the country visiting major university and large public libraries you can log into their catalogs right from your home. On the main Gopher menu you'll find a choice called Libraries. Select that choice and then watch for a choice something like this: Library Card Catalogs via Telnet. Then follow through on that until you get to libraries in North America, then libraries by state. Try Illinois and then select Illinet, a consortium of 800 libraries. That yields 244 hits (bibliographic citations) when the results were more intriguing than the usual books. There was a citation for a slide of an Indian with a Ulysses S. Grant medal and a document of 185 leaves titled Study of the Relationship Between General Ulysses S. Grant and various Illinois Newspapers Covering The Period March, 1864 to November 1868.

For those of you subscribing to America Online, the Gopher situation is mysterious. You can get to a Gopher menu by choosing Internet Connection from the main menu and then click on the Gopher icon. After you have navigated through the hierarchy of choices and get to the libraries, you find are you blocked from entering any of the library catalogs. I don't know why this happens and believe you should all call AOL and ask them for an explanation. It is also possible to access a gopher menu via the World Wide Web on AOL, but even when I did that, I was blocked from using the library catalogs. If you are working at a college or university, more than likely they can provide you with either Gopher software or a connection to the World Wide Web which will connect you to Gopher sites and if your experience is like mine, you will have no problem accessing the library catalogs.

continued in next issue.
WHAT'S NEW?

A new book, From Battlefield to Bottom Line, written by Bill Holton, offers practical advice to today's leaders based on Grant's values, actions and leadership. This unique book which points out Grant's relevance today, is an inspiring indication that the General is a person worth emulating.

The American Heritage Picture History of the Civil War is now available on CD-ROM. The two volume CD set, complete with video and audio components, is sold as American Heritage: The Civil War. Author and historian Thomas Fleming recently reviewed the product in the New York Times Book Review stating that although it has its ups and downs, it becomes a "vivid blend of sight and sound, intellect and emotion." Of special note is the fact that he says it contains some "hefty excerpts" from Grant's and Sherman's memoirs.

For those who want more of the General's work than just excerpts in a format other than text, be sure to look for Grant's memoirs on audio cassette, a worthwhile traveling companion on long car trips this coming summer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Several special events commemorating the 174th anniversary of Grant's birth will take place this April.

The National Park Service will conduct a wreath laying ceremony at Grant's Tomb on Saturday April 27th. The Sons of Union Veterans will hold their annual ceremony at the Tomb on Sunday April 28th. Call the Park Rangers at the Tomb at 212-666-1640 for further information.

Grant's Birthplace in Point Pleasant, Ohio will present ceremonies on Saturday, April 27th. Call 513-553-4911 for more information.

Grant's Boyhood home in Georgetown, Ohio will hold its annual birthday celebration this year on Sunday, April 28th. Call 513-378-4222 for details.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN AFFECT GRANT SITES

Federal budget problems have resulted in periodic shutdowns of National Park Sites over the past few months. This condition has temporarily affected several Grant sites, to include Grant's Tomb in New York City and White Haven in St. Louis. Although the Tomb was not open to the public during these shutdowns, the 24 hour security at the site remained in effect and there were no reports of vandalism. Anyone planning to visit a National Park Site or Battlefield should call in advance to confirm that the site is open.