Reduced geometric drawing by Grant while a cadet at West Point. Notice the signature U.H Grant. Drawing reproduced with permission of owner.
TELNETTING TO LIBRARIES

You don't necessarily need Gopher software to get to the library catalogs. If you have telnet software and a list of libraries and their telnet addresses, you can just enter the following command:
telnet <telnet address>

For example, the command: telnet pals.msus.edu will take you to all the Minnesota State University libraries, community colleges, state agencies and many Minnesota private college libraries.

Enter the search command SU grant ulysses and you'll retrieve 218 citations for a variety of books, audiovisual and archival materials.

Care to visit Brown University in Providence, RI? Enter the following command:
telnet Library.Brown.edu
A search for Grant materials yields 192 items.

The problem with using this telnet method is that you have to know the telnet address. With a Gopher, the address is built in when you select the library name from a menu. But you can get a list of telnet participating libraries with their addresses and logon passwords that might be required from America Online (it takes a long time to download) or from any Gopher menu. It's called BBarrons' Accessing Online Bibliographic Databases and can be copied to a disk. I have a copy of this and will email it to anyone who wants it. It's also available on the World Wide Web at http://web.mit.edu:1962/tiserve.mit.edu/9000/25880.html.

Another way of searching library catalogs on the internet is via two search services know as OCLC FirstSearch and RLIN Eureka. These both search huge (millions of bibliographic records) databases and will show you what libraries own the items. You can then request an item via interlibrary loan through your library. A search on FirstSearch yields over 1800 citations of Grant materials. You must find a library that offers either or both of these search services and usually it's only major university and large public libraries that do this. Call around in your geographic area and you may find one. The library will probably charge you to use this service. The charges are based on the number of times you hit the return key. A FirstSearch search of SU Grant Ulysses yields 1800 items with only one hit on the return key. You'll have to check with the library on how to print or save the results to a disk.

Searching for periodical articles over the Internet is almost impossible because the providers of these online indexes protect them tightly and only allow patrons of paying libraries to use the services at the site of the library. However, there is one service called Carl Uncover that is available over the Internet. You can search for Grant articles and order them right from your computer. This of course is going to cost you something. Telnet to CSLCARL.ORG and you'll find the Uncover database. A quick search yields 15 Grant articles.

continued in next issue.

SUGGESTED READING

I never liked service in the army. I did not wish to go to West Point. My father had to use his authority to make me go. I never went into a battle willingly or with enthusiasm. I never want to command another army. It was only after Donelson that I began to see how important was the work that Providence devolved upon me. I did not want to be made lieutenant-general. I did not want the presidency, and have never quite forgiven myself for resigning the command of the army to accept it.

-Grant in conversation.
The year 1857 had been long and frustrating for Ulysses and Julia Grant. Crop failures, and the economic depression all contributed to a bleak year. They looked forward eagerly to a new year, new hopes, and a new family member. On February 6, 1858 a third son was born to them and was named Jesse Root Grant after his paternal grandfather.

As young Jesse grew his parents realized how different each of their children were. Fred, the oldest, steady and dependable. Ulysses Jr., quiet, gentle and considerate like his father; Nellie, feminine and charming. Young Jesse was eager, outgoing, mischievous.

The whole family spoiled little Jesse and he in turn rewarded them with hours of enjoyable entertainment. While living in Galena prior to the Civil War, young Jesse would await the return of his father from work and would challenge him at the door to a wrestling match. His father would reply "I do not feel like fighting, Jess, but I can't stand being hectored in this manner by a man of your size."

Jesse's childhood was not of the ordinary. By the time he was five years old he was a seasoned veteran of several Civil War campaigns. His father liked to have his family with him during this period, and Julia usually had young Jesse in tow. His first recollection of the war was the narrow escape of he and his mother at Holly Springs, narrowly missing capture by Confederate Earl Van Dorn's troops.

To an older boy these camping grounds would have been a thrilling adventure, but Jesse it was a way of life and he considered the whole army "Father's."

The transfer from battlefield to White House made no distinct impression on the young boy except for the fact that the residency was a more permanent one. The White House was a grand place for a young boy to live and Jesse and his friends made the most of it by exploring the vast rooms, basement and best of all the attic. There was a large yard to play in and Jesse's friends enjoyed visiting, playing ball, and forming a secret club named by them the K.F.R. club. It is doubtful if even the boys knew what the initials stood for, but President Grant named it the Kick, Fight, Run Society.

Young Jesse inherited none of his father's taciturnity and when Grant refused to make a speech in Detroit, Jesse, age 7 decided that it was his responsibility to save the day and proudly mounted a nearby chair and proclaimed to the waiting crowd, "The boy stood on the burning deck". The crowd roared their appreciation.

As Grant's second administration came to a close the President decided to take a trip around the world and Jesse accompanied his parents.

After an extended trip abroad, Jesse decided to leave his parents in Paris and depart for home alone. His brother Fred took his place for the remainder of the trip.

Upon his return he attended Columbia Law school, and on September 30, 1880 he was married to Elizabeth Chapman. They produced two children: Nellie Grant and Chapman Grant.

In 1893 Jesse moved to California with his family and like his brother Ulysses Jr. was soon involved in the
real estate business. In 1908 Jesse, the son of a Republican president, ran unsuccessfully for President of the Democratic ticket.

The marriage to Elizabeth was not successful and ended in divorce. On August 26, 1918, he married Lillian Burns Wilkins.

In 1925 Jesse decided to recall the memories of his childhood and wrote the book *In the Days of My Father, General Grant*, an insightful look into the personal life of the Grant family as no other could tell it.

The experiences that Jesse Grant enjoyed made his life full and exciting. His life ended on June 8, 1934. He is buried in San Francisco.

3. Ibid, p.16
4. Ibid, p.79

**BACK ISSUES**

Back issues of the Grant Network Newsletter are available to members at $3.00 each. There are to date six back issues available: Volume 1, numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4; and Volume 2, numbers 1 and 2. Please specify which issue/issues you would like and enclose a check payable to "Ulysses S. Grant Network." Mail to Diane Meives, W 3547 Playbird Rd., Sheboygan Falls, WI. 53085.

**CHANGE OF E-MAIL ADDRESS**

Please note that the email address for Diane Meives has been changed from USGlady@AOL.com to USGlady@excel.net
"GENERAL" MATH
by Donna Neralich

The conventional image of Ulysses S. Grant is usually that of an ordinary man of average intelligence. This may be due to Grant's extremely modest and reserved nature. Grant did however exhibit considerable skill in mathematics, proving that he possessed thinking and reasoning skills far beyond those usually attributed to him. In fact, Grant's proficiency in math almost led him to follow a completely different career than the one with which most people are familiar.

As early as 1868 biographers began pointing out that Grant excelled in his class in arithmetic while attending school in his hometown of Georgetown, Ohio.¹ Later a schoolmate, James Sanderson, confirmed Grant's aptitude for math as he recollected, "I remember that he especially liked problems in mental arithmetic. The teacher used to give us a lot of them, one after another, every other day during the term. Most of us hated them and would make all kinds of excuses to get out of the exercise, while young Grant was anxious to have the teacher fire them at him. His mind seemed exactly fitted for solving such problems on a moment's notice. While the majority of us pupils would just getting the problem settled in our minds Ulysses would shout an answer. That would make the older pupils feel ashamed that such a little fellow was smarter than they were."²

Grant, with his typical modesty however, places his early achievements in perspective when he recalls, "I never saw an algebra, or other mathematical work higher than the arithmetic, in Georgetown, until after I was appointed to West Point. I then bought a work on algebra in Cincinnati; but having no teacher it was Greek to me."³

The courses however do not sound easy at all. At age eighteen, when just beginning his second year at West Point, Ulysses wrote to his cousin describing his courses of study. "Here they are Algebra, and the first and second sections which I had the honor of being in, General Theory of Equations of any degree, French, Plane Geometry, Plane Trigonometry, Spherical Trigonometry, Descriptive Geometry, and Mensuration of surfaces and solids."⁴

The subject of mathematics had so caught Grant's fancy that he and his cousin, apparently proud of their skills, found an outlet to show off this knowledge by challenging each other to math problems via their correspondence. Obviously he not only had a talent for math, but also enjoyed it. In this same letter Ulysses goes on to say, "I will now proceed to solve the problem I sent to Simpson and yourself and also those you sent to me. The one I gave is as follows though you will not be able to understand it unless you are a good Algebrayest, and it would take five sheets to demonstrate it fully and clearly as we are obliged to do in the section room. Find upon the line which joins two lights, A and B, of different intensities, the point which is equally illuminated. The sum you gave me about the grind stone is not an Algebraic one, but it can be done very nicely by Differential which is in our next years course; I have however solved it in my own common sense way."⁵

Grant continues in the letter by drawing a diagram and listing various equations needed to solve the posed problems. Other complicated looking geometrical drawings flowed from Grant's pen during those years. (An example appears on the cover of this newsletter.) At West Point twenty-five years later one of Grant's relatives discovered in geometry class that the standard solution to a specific geometric problem was a solution that Grant himself had made.⁶

After leaving West Point, and not intending to remain in the army for very long, Grant decided to prepare himself to teach the subject of math and apply for a professorship in college. "Accordingly, soon after I was settled at Jefferson Barracks, I wrote a letter to Professor Church - Professor of Mathematics at West Point - requesting him to ask my designation as his assistant, when next a detail had to be made. Assistant professors at West Point are all officers of the army, supposed to be selected for their special fitness for the particular branch of study they are assigned to teach. The answer from Professor Church was entirely satisfactory, and no doubt I should have been detailed a year or two later but for the Mexican War coming on. Accordingly I laid out for myself a course of studies to be pursued in garrison, with regularity if not persistency. I reviewed my West Point course of mathematics during the seven months at Jefferson Barracks."⁷

Grant was with the 4th infantry at Camp Salubrity in Louisiana in May of 1844, awaiting further orders with the Mexican war in prospect. Although in his memoirs he states that at this time his "hopes of being ordered to West Point as instructor vanished," he did not completely abandon the idea of teaching math at a later time. While
he was stationed in Corpus Christi, Texas, in 1845 he still contemplated resigning from the army to teach. In October of that year he wrote a letter to his fiancée, Julia Gent, stating, “Your Pa asks what I could do out of the Army? I can tell you: I have at this time the offer of a professorship of mathematics in a tolerably well endowed college in Hillsboro, Ohio, a large and flourishing town, where my salary would probably equal or exceed my present pay.” He then goes on to say that he has until the next spring to decide. Apparently his own family would have liked him to take the professorship and he asks Julia what she thinks about it. Two years later in a letter to Julia written from Mexico on May 17 he recalls being offered the professorship but at that time says, “Now I regret that I did not go there.” He ponders that they both could have been pleasantly settled there had he accepted the position.

Several years later Grant does not speak as confidently of his math aptitude. In 1859 he wrote a letter to his father in response to a suggestion that he apply for a math professorship. He candidly writes, "As to the professorship you speak of, that was filled some time ago. And were it not, I would stand no earthly chance. The Washington University, where the vacancy was to be filled, is one of the best endowed institutions in the United States, and all the professorships are sought after by persons whose early advantages were the same as mine, but who have been engaged in teaching all their mature years."

It is interesting to ponder what might have happened if Grant had made the choice to teach math early in his life, but perhaps fate would have drawn him into the war after all. Although Grant may have had some doubts and second thoughts while in Mexico about not accepting a math professorship it is unlikely that when writing his memoirs he had any regret about his choice. The young cadet who learned to solve math problems in his own "common sense way" seems to have put that good practical sense to work in solving the problems that came his way during the war as well as during his lifetime.

1. Albert Deane Richardson, A Personal History of Ulysses S. Grant, (Hartford, Conn., 1868) p. 69.
4. Lloyd Lewis, Captain Sam Grant (Boston, 1950) p. 74.
5. USG to R. M. Griffith, July 18, 1840, Special Collections Division, United States Military Academy Library, West Point, New York.
6. Ibid.
7. Lewis, p. 80
9. According to The History of Ross and Highland Counties (Cleveland, Ohio, 1880) the college to which Grant applied may have been the Oakland Seminary. This college no longer stands, but at present there is a community college in the town of Hillsboro, Ohio.
11. Ibid., p. 63.
12. USG to Julia Dent Grant, May 17, 1847, Papers Vol. 1, p. 139.
13. Washington University, located in St. Louis, Missouri, is to this day regarded as a prestigious college.

Unpublished letter from Ulysses S. Grant to Robert McKinstry Griffith quoted with permission from Alan Aimeone, Special Collections Librarian, United States Military Academy, West Point, New York.

Special thanks to Gretchen Huffman, Director of Community Relations, Southern State Community College, Hillsboro Ohio, for contributing information about the history of Hillsboro.

?? GRANT TRIVIA QUESTION ??

After writing about three hundred pages of manuscript for his memoirs, Grant’s publishers came to him to protest the consistent omission of one important word. What was that word?

Question and answer from last issue: An English banker, Mr. Hope, was visiting General Grant’s friend and neighbor George Childs with his wife and children. The children expressed a desire to see the General. After their visit they said that they were disappointed. Why?

answer: General Grant wore no crown.
One of the goals of the Grant Network is to not only re-educate adult readers about the life of U.S. Grant, but to reach young students as well. The formation of the correct facts at an early age is critical to how future generations view American history. One young man from Missouri contacted us about a history project he was researching. Although only 10 years old, Jonathan's dedication to his project and his growing interest in General Grant prompted us to ask him to relate his experience for our readers.

INTERESTING THINGS ABOUT THE LIFE OF ULYSSES S. GRANT
by Jonathan D. Webber

My fourth grade class at Ridgeway Elementary School in Columbia, Missouri conducted a Civil War simulation involving 24 students. I was selected to play the role of General Ulysses S. Grant. We were also assigned to do a homework project about the Civil War. I chose to research the life of Grant and I learned many historical facts and interesting things. I was surprised that he used so many names and lived in so many places.

U.S. Grant was born on April 22, 1822 in Point Pleasant, Ohio and was named Hiram Ulysses Grant. When he was about one and a half years old, he and his family moved close to Georgetown, Ohio. As a boy, he was called Ulysses or Lys, for short. He helped his father Jesse Root Grant in his tannery but would rather play with his friends, ride horses, or drive passengers to nearby towns such as Ripley. The men at the village store often called him "Useless" because they claimed they couldn't pronounce his name and they said it seemed to fit him.

His name changed twice when he went to West Point. He changed it from Hiram Ulysses Grant to Ulysses H. Grant because he didn't want to be teased with initials that spelled HUG. The Congressman who appointed him to West Point made a mistake and called him Ulysses Simpson Grant. Lys could either accept that name or go home. He decided to accept the new name. The name U.S. Grant easily became "Uncle Sam" Grant and he was often called Sam. Later during the Civil War, U.S. Grant was also called "Unconditional Surrender Grant."

In addition to his home state of Ohio, Grant lived many places including St. Louis, Missouri, Galena, Illinois, and several places in New York. He also traveled to Mexico, California, and throughout the southern states.

Grant served as 18th President for two terms after being a Civil War General. One of his goals as president was to start the reconstruction of the South. Mostly because of the kind of people he appointed, many people said he was a better general than a president. He was, however, considered for a third term four years later.

I was surprised he was such a hero after serving as president. He traveled around the world and he wrote two volumes of memoirs which are still read today. He was such a hero that 12 years after his death on July 23 1885, half a million people went to the dedication of his tomb in New York City.

I was surprised there are so many books on different aspects of his life. There are books about his childhood, his family, and his military career. I was also surprised to find the U.S. Grant Network on the Internet. Its newsletter provided much information for my project.
THE ULYSSES S. GRANT HOME: STATE HISTORIC SITE - GALENA, ILLINOIS
by Steve Repp

The U.S. Grant home, built in 1859-60, was originally the residence of Alexander Jackson and his family, who lived there from 1860 through 1865. It was in 1965, when a group of thirteen citizens bought the house from Mr. Jackson. Word probably leaked out concerning the transaction as the Galena Daily Gazette of August 14, 1865, reported: "One word as to the residence of General Grant in Galena. That is strictly a private affair of some of our liberal and patriotic citizens and no contributions for it are asked or received from any source."

Little was known about the actual deal until 1904, when Grant's oldest son, Frederick D. Grant and his wife Ida, came to Galena and set forth the desires of the Grant family as follows: "This house of our father, General U.S. Grant, is presented to the city of Galena to be preserved as a memorial only, and with the understanding that it is never to be used as a convalescent home or charitable institution of any kind, but to be kept as nearly as possible as it was when General Grant resided in it." Newspaper stories then reported on the transaction as well as listing the names of the thirteen contributors.

Over the years, the Grant Home has passed through quite a number of events. When the Grant family was unable to live in the house, friends and neighbors stayed there and took care of it for them. In May of 1869, Lt. A.V. Richards was a temporary resident of the house. One day while at work at his office on Main Street, a stranger in town roaming about the East side of Galena arrived at the "Grant Mansion," as it was then called. He rang the bell but received no reply; he then broke a window and entered the house, relieving Mr. Richards of some of his personal valuables. The burglar was later seen walking down Main Street, wearing Mr. Richard's coat, and this led to his capture.

In September of 1890, the Galena Gazette reported a story concerning a group of investors from Iowa who were looking into the possibility of purchasing the Grant Home and "have it transferred on to a large lot on the bluff."

boat to be built for the purpose and then float it out to the Mississippi and down the river to the Atlantic Coast, exhibiting it at all towns and cities en route, finally bringing it up at Chicago to place it on exhibition at the World's Fair." Again the Gazette reported: "It is a pity to throw any cold water on such a clever scheme but Mrs. Grant is not inclined to sell her Galena home to anyone, and she would never consent to having the home around which cluster so many cherished associations hippodromed through the country."

The Grant Home has been the site of numerous weddings from years ago. One bridal party stood in front of the Grant chair (then) in the library, amidst numerous trophies and relics of the war, to exchange their vows.

In August of 1911, a cyclone passed through Galena and the roof of the Grant Home was torn off. The interior of the house was damaged considerably by water. In time, all of this was repaired. During the mid-1950's the house went through a major renovation. And today, 90% of the furnishings are original to when the Grant family lived there. This alone adds a unique quality to the house.

Note:
Steve and Debbie Repp have been volunteers at the Grant Home for many years. They meet people from all over the world and enjoy sharing their knowledge of the Grant house and the Grant family.
A TALL TALE
by Tanya Meires

One has only to read the letters of Ulysses Grant beginning with his trip to West Point, to recognize his love of the outdoors and his appreciation of beautiful scenery. His letters to home from Mexico are filled with descriptions of the beautiful nature surrounding him. With these thoughts in mind it is easy to understand his interest in the stories surrounding the tales surrounding the exploration of Yellowstone Park. He himself visited the area and on Mar 2, 1872 signed a law creating Yellowstone our first National Park.

Since that time many National Parks have been formed including General Grant Park, formed in 1890. General Grant Park was the result of a struggle to save the "big trees", the giant Sequoias, which are now are part of Kings Canyon National Park. General Grant Park itself was absorbed into Kings Canyon National Park in 1940.

In 1862 Joseph Thomas discovered what is called Grant Grove. Deep in the grove majestically stands the General Grant. This huge tree along with the General Sherman, stand as tributes to two great American heroes. The General Sherman tree reaches a height of 272 feet and it's diameter at the base is thirty feet and seven inches. The General Grant is even thicker at the base than the General Sherman, measuring 40 feet in diameter and reaching a height of 267 feet, just a few feet shorter. It is reported to be thirty five centuries old and is still growing.

The General Grant now serves as a shrine to America's War dead, and Congress has passed a bill making it "The Nation's Christmas Tree." Special Yuletide services are performed every year under the snow capped branches.

For more information on Kings Canyon National Park and the Grant Grove and for directions on how to reach the park contact the Superintendent, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Three Rivers, CA 93271. Phone 209-565-3341.

(sources upon request)
According to a recent bulletin issued by the Friends of Grant's Tomb, National Park Service officials have announced plans for further improvements at the site. Marble stone will be used to repave the surface leading to the monument with the object of providing a rounded surface to permit proper drainage. Electric wiring for the outside of the Monument will be installed. Additional work on the inside of the Tomb, specifically near the roof, will be done.

The city of New York owns the ground on which the Monument is located. It is part of Riverside Park. Negotiations between the City and the Park Service are on going and an agreement for the transfer of the land is expected shortly.

A General Management Plan for the General Grant Monument has been completed and issued by the Park Service. For more information regarding the plan contact National Park Service, Manhattan Sites, 26 Wall Street, New York, New York 10005.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Grant Cottage at Mt. McGregor, New York opened for the season on May 25.
Special summer events at the cottage include:

Adirondack Day, Saturday, June 15 at 1:30 p.m. - Music, Civil War poetry and storytelling.

Grant Remembrance Day, Sunday, July 21 at 1:30 p.m. - Re-enactment of the Grant family in 1885 at Mt. McGregor, and the Grant family ten years later; "Julia Grant" presentation by Kathleen Cummings.

Victorian Picnic, Sunday August 25, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Demonstrations of life in Victorian times. Bring your own picnic. Victorian dress optional.

For further information call 518-587-8277

U.S. Grant Home State Historic Site, Galena, IL.

August 17th and 18th. First annual event commemorating the donation of the Grant home from the Grant family to the city of Galena. Candlelight tour, refreshments, bands, and an encampment on the grounds.

August 23. Celebration of the wedding anniversary of Ulysses and Julia Dent Grant.