SPECIAL SUMMER EDITION

GRANT’S SUMMER WHITE HOUSE

The station at Long Branch
On April 27th at Grant's Tomb in New York City, the National Park Service held its annual celebration of General Grant's birthday. The ceremony this year included two very special events. First, on the dais this year was Julia Grant Dietz, one of the seven surviving great grandchildren of Ulysses and Julia Dent Grant. The highlight of the ceremony was the world premiere of a new musical composition by Juilliard School of Music composer Philip Rothman: Monument Fanfare and Tribute. This piece, written for band, was inspired by Grant's Tomb, and the composer used the letters of Grant's name musically to write the beginning notes of the melody. The composition was commissioned by the Grant Monument Association and performed by the United States Military Academy Band, conducted by Lt. Col. David Deitrick. Anyone who wants to hear a sample of the fanfare can visit the website of composer Philip Rothman at www.homestead.juno.com/phrothman.

The ceremony was attended by many New Yorkers and school children from the New York City area. Speakers included Congressman Charles Rangel, National Park Service Manhattan Sites Superintendent Joseph Avery, New York City Parks Commissioner Henry Stern, and Ulysses Grant Dietz, great-great grandson of General and Mrs. Grant. Also on the dais this year were Frank Scaturro, president of the Grant Monument Association and Philip Rothman, the honored composer. The Park Service presentation of a wreath from the President of the United States and an honor guard from the United States Military Academy were the finishing touches to a ceremony that greatly honored the Grants.

AN ESTIMATION OF GRANT BY THOMAS WENTWORTH HIGGINSON

Howard N. Meyer, editor and author, has recently edited a book of selected writings of the 19th century abolitionist/activist Thomas Wentworth Higginson. (The Magnificent Activist: The Writings of Thomas Wentworth Higginson, 1823-1911) One of the featured selections in the book is an essay by Higginson on Ulysses S. Grant. Higginson, a prominent critic of his time, appraises Grant's memoirs in his essay, which was originally published in the March and September issues of The Atlantic Monthly in 1886. Although Higginson is not well known today he commanded the first black unit to fight for the Union and opened the way for further black enlistment. He also was an advocate of women's rights for sixty years and lectured for suffrage. Higginson, who was born and died in Cambridge, Massachusetts, recognized the genius of Emily Dickinson; his acquaintance and correspondence with the poet led to his editing her verse for publication.

The latest flood of fiction about Ulysses S. Grant has hit the shelves in time for summer reading. But readers should be wary; sometimes historical novels can cloak themselves as non-fiction. Some of the newly published novels about Grant include *Grant Speaks* by Everett M. Ehrlich, *Grant* by Max Byrd, and *That Fateful Lightning: A Novel of Ulysses S. Grant* by Richard Parry. Serious students, researchers, and scholars of Ulysses S. Grant will find non-fiction books, such as those by Bruce Catton and Brooks Simpson, to be the best source of information and facts about Grant’s life.

The above stereograph view of the Missouri home that Grant built, Hardscrabble, is another example of erroneous information on Grant. Note that the picture is labeled “The Birthplace of Gen. Grant” which was in Ohio.
In the summer of 1869 Ulysses S. Grant began what was to be a long tradition of Presidents who summered at Long Branch, New Jersey to escape the oppressive summer heat in the days before air conditioning. Grant's arrival and subsequent residence there helped elevate the town to a principal resort of the day. George W. Childs, publisher of the Philadelphia Ledger, first influenced Grant to visit Long Branch. Later in his Recollections Childs recalled, "We lived at Long Branch on adjoining properties, on the same land, without any division, and I may say there never was a day when we were together there on which either I was not in his house or he in mine."

**HIS EXCELLENCY BATHES AGAIN**

The President took another bath early this morning with Ames, Comstock, and Porter. He sailed into the water deliberately. A big lazy wave heaved at him, but he moved valiantly on its works and squeezed his visage in the usual way after the ducking.
The designs of this residence were furnished by Mr. Chas. W. Clinton, No. 56 Wall Street, New York, and show a great deal of originality. It is a frame house filled in with concrete, the framing showing on the outer side, where it is painted a light buff color, contrasting with the gray tint of the concrete.

The house is square in plan, with piazzas on all four sides, though these are inclosed on the sides away from the sea. The high roof sloping up from the four sides, is laid with bands of cut shingles of different colors, and is surmounted by a deck in the center, surrounded by a light and ornamental iron railing. Considerable decoration has been introduced in the piazza, railings, etc., and throughout the interior, which is finished in black walnut. The ornaments introduced are of elegant design and manifest a high degree of skill.

The house is two stories and an attic, the latter lighted with dormer windows, and contains every convenience necessary to a gentleman’s residence.

From *Residences at Long Branch*, Long Branch Public Library Special Collections
The following illustrations of the floor plans of Grant’s summer cottage in Long Branch, New Jersey were adapted by Donna Neralich. They are based on sketches made by Mrs. L. Brinley of Long Branch. (Circa, 1955, Long Branch Public Library Special Collections). The floor plans, which are not drawn to scale, reflect some of the changes made to the house between 1889 and 1907. During that period the porches were altered, the outdoor staircase was enclosed, bow windows were added and a third floor was added. The front entrance was remodeled with a double set of steps and a covering over the driveway. An unusual octagonal porch was added to the southeast corner of the house. Most of the changes reflect the popular Victorian architecture of that time.
Society wants heroes, and wants them to dance; and seeing that the balls now in vogue are not of the sort the military were used to, our heroes must lead the quadrille. This, accordingly is the sort of description we read nowadays: "On the right flank the interest centered, for there stood Tecumseh, gracefully supporting Mrs. Grant, while opposite them stood the Sphinx of the Capital and Mrs. Borie, the head couples comprising Sheridan and Miss Sherman, with General Comstock and Mrs. Comstock vis-a-vis. In the second set General Porter, a very Ajax in the flight, a Sidney in the ballroom, led forth Miss Nellie Grant, whose light step and graceful carriage contrasted well with the elegant dignity of Miss Borie, the dashing movement of General Ames, and the more sober motions of Captain and Mrs. Sweeney."

This was at Long Branch the other night; and what we wish to note is the marked improvement in the dancing of such dignitaries as Generals Grant, Sherman and Sheridan.

from a New York Times editorial, July 28, 1869
President Grant and Friends at his Cottage by the Sea.

The Election of 1872 in a Nutshell

Test your knowledge of the election of 1872 with this challenging puzzle prepared by Nancy Winkler. An answer key appears below.

Each of the two major parties (1,2) split. Those who left (3) the first party (1) nominated a candidate for president (4) whom they disliked so much they threatened to withdraw the nomination. The second party (2) voted to back him, though they didn’t like him any better.

This caused a split of their own (5). These bolters nominated a man (6) who declined to run but was named on the ballot anyway. His running mate (7) had been one of two men initially favored to run for president for the splinter (3) of the first party (1), but he was lukewarm, doubting they were strong enough to win an election. On the ticket of the splinter (5) of the second party (2) he would get few votes, but it didn’t concern him because he had sailed for Europe and didn’t know he was running for office anyway.

The splinter (3) of the first party (1) also split (8), nominating a man of their own (9).

For the first time in U.S. history, a woman (10) ran for president, running on the ticket of yet another party (11). Also for the first time in U.S. history, a woman (12) was arrested for voting. But she did not vote for the woman who was running (10), whose running mate (13) was actively campaigning for the candidate (14) of what was left of the first party (1), which had split in the first place because it looked like he couldn’t win, but he did, and by an historic margin.

In the end, four candidates (6, 9, 10, 15) would get popular votes, but no electoral votes.

Four others (16, 17, 18, 19) would get electoral votes, but no popular votes. (Think it can’t happen?)

One of these was the second man (19) who had been initially favored to run for the splinter (3) of the first party (1), but had lost out. He had been nominated earlier by a different party (20) whose leaders thought he accepted when he didn’t decline, but he had his sights set on the splinter which didn’t nominate him. Their choice for his running mate (21) declined. After this disappointment, they voted to support the candidate (6) of what was left of the second party after it split (5). Remember, he too had declined to run, but that didn’t faze the two parties which nominated him.

Another man (17) who got electoral votes but no popular votes was the running mate of the man (4) who would win 43.8% of the popular votes but lose all his electoral votes.

All the states had been reconstructed; no state was barred from voting. One even submitted two popular votes (22)! Some or all of the electoral votes of three states were not counted (22, 23, 24).
UPCOMING EVENTS

GRANT COTTAGE, MT. MCGREGOR, NEW YORK
SPECIAL EVENTS, 2000

August 5 – Memorial of the 115th Anniversary of Grant's Funeral. Reenactment of parts of the funeral service held at Mt. McGregor on August 4, 1885, presented by volunteers and the Sons of Union Veterans.

August 12 and September 9, Saturday on the Porch – Special visitors, demonstrations, and Victorian activities. Call the week before for program details.

August 20 – Victorian Picnic. A varied program of exhibits, demonstrations, games and music scheduled throughout the day. Special games and toys for children. Victorian dress encouraged but optional. Bring your own picnic, and blankets or chairs for sitting on the lawn.

October 8 – Open House. Refreshments served. Fine view of fall foliage from Eastern Outlook

For further information call 518-587-8277

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ULYSSES S. GRANT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE (WHITE HAVEN)

August 4-6: A Night Walk into the Past -- 6th annual presentation of the popular living history program.

September 9: Around the World with Ulysses and Julia -- Explore fascinating places on the Grants' world tour.

For further information call 314-842-3298

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GALENA, ILLINOIS

MAIN STREET FINE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS

Saturday, August 12, 2000- 3:00 p.m.

Pursuing the General: Collecting U. S. Grant Images and Artifacts
Jack Foster, long-time Grant collector and owner of Foster Design in Downers Grove, IL, discusses and displays select items from his collection of U. S. Grant images, ranging from a Currier & Ives print to an iron Grant doorstep.