The statue of Ulysses S. Grant that was presented by the Grand Army of the Republic in 1900 still stands today in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. The following excerpts are from the book *Proceedings in Congress on the Occasion of the Reception and Acceptance of the Statue of Ulysses S. Grant Presented by the Grand Army of the Republic*.

**THE UNVEILING OF THE STATUE OF GENERAL GRAN**

The statue of General Ulysses S. Grant, presented by his comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic, stands in the Rotunda of the Capitol, as befits the statue of one whose service has been for the whole nation. There it will remain with the statues of Hamilton, Jefferson, and Lincoln, which are also in the Rotunda, an example and inspiration to future generations. The hero of Appomattox stands near the western entrance, appropriately flanked by the famous paintings *The Surrender of Burgoyne* and the *Surrender of Cornwallis*.

After being set up the statue was draped with two large American flags. Thus protected by the colors of his country, the General's form had remained for some days. The unveiling took place shortly before noon on Saturday, May 19, 1900, Miss Vivian Sartoris, granddaughter of General Grant, drawing the cord.

Among those present at the ceremony were the General's window, Mrs. Julia Dent Grant; his daughter, Mrs. Nellie Grant Sartoris; his grandchildren, Miss Vivian Sartoris and Captain Algernon Sartoris; Senator Frye, President pro tempore of the Senate; Mr. Henderson, Speaker of the House of Representatives; ... members of the Grant Memorial Committee of the Grand Army of the Republic, ... [and] quite a number of Senators and Representatives and citizens.

As was appropriate, the ceremony of the unveiling was very simple. Miss Sartoris, attired in white, drew the lanyard, the flags which had enveloped the statue fell, and the statue stood revealed. For a moment there was entire silence, while all eagerly scanned the marble semblance of the General. Then as the beauty of the statue and the perfection of the likeness became appreciated, there was a burst of general applause. Mrs. Grant inspected the statue critically and smiled her approval.

The party then repaired to the Hall of the House, where the ceremonies of the acceptance began shortly after noon. The ceremonies in the Senate took place took place at 4 o'clock the same afternoon.
Through the courtesy of Speaker Henderson, Mrs. Grant and her family occupied, during the exercises in the House, the seat of the Speaker in the gallery reserved for the families of Representatives.

ADDRESSSES IN CONGRESS ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE STATUE

[Ceremonies and acceptance speeches by members of the House of Representatives and the Senate followed the unveiling. Typical of those speeches are the following passages from the speeches of Senator Carter of Montana and Senator Hawley of Connecticut.]

The sculptor could not select from the galaxy of our great men, living or dead, a subject better suited to illustrate simplicity, directness, truthfulness, bravery, and lofty courage than is found in the features, the life, and the achievements of General Grant. Unaffected as a child, incapable of telling or acting a lie, wholly without knowledge of physical fear, and possessed of courage to follow the path of duty through pitiless storms of passion and evil report, this remarkable man acquired and will ever hold the affectionate regard of his countrymen. In a special manner his name and fame will always be treasured by the members of the Grand Army of the Republic and their descendants. To the Grand Army man Grant was a comrade, an associate and a friend. His name is to his comrades in arms consecrated by the memory of common dangers, trials, and sufferings. ... As we now accept the statue of our distinguished countryman, it is surely the fervent prayer of all that Ulysses S. Grant may be recorded by the world's historians as the last commander of Federal armies during a civil war in the United States.

I had the honor to become somewhat acquainted with [Grant] after the war. It fell to my fortunate lot to be president of the convention that gave him his first nomination for the Presidency. In accordance with usage I came here to Washington, where he was residing, at the head of a delegation, to go through the formalities of announcing to him his nomination. I called on him the evening I arrived to learn when he was willing to see us and what the proceedings would be. He made me sit down. He looked in a meditative, almost absent-minded way for a while, and said: "Hawley, I did not want this. I would have escaped it if I could. ... I would be satisfied to live a private life, but I do not see how I can avoid the acceptance of this nomination." I believe he spoke sincerely. I am proud of another recollection. In writing to me the letter of acceptance he put in those famous words "Let us have peace," and no man who has followed his history during those few years with any closeness whatever doubts that it was emphatically his desire to let us have peace.
LITTLE KNOWN FACTS

In the heat of battle, when his staff officers were full of anxiety, Grant calmly smoked his cigar and never lost his composure. His nerves of steel were a wonder to all around him. He could write dispatches while shells burst around him and never flinch.

BACK ISSUES

Back issues of the Grant Network Newsletter are available for purchase. Issues available are Volume 1 number 1 through Volume 7 number 3. Cost per issue is $4.00. Send check or money order to Ulysses S. Grant Network, W 3547 Playbird Rd. Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085

VIEW OF TOMB BLOCKED

Grant's Tomb, situated high on a bluff at the northern end of Manhattan, was once visible from all directions on the island. The scene gradually changed over the years as trees and high-rise buildings began to obscure the view. Until recently one side of the Tomb still remained visible from the East Side of Manhattan, however, even that view has been blocked by the construction of a new building built by the Manhattan School of Music. The Tomb still remains visible from across the Hudson River in New Jersey.
Early in the War Grant was unknown to Americans who were busily engaged in hero worshipping Generals George B. McClellan in the North and Robert E. Lee in the South. Meanwhile, appointed as Colonel of the 21st Illinois, Grant went quietly about the business of training his regiment in the late spring of 1861. Early in August he found himself promoted to the rank of brigadier general and was sent to Cairo, Illinois where he was assigned command of Union troops in southern Illinois and southeastern Missouri. While in Cairo in October of 1861, wearing his beard much longer than usual, Grant sat for his first photograph as a Union officer. By chance, William Grant, a long bearded beef contractor wearing a Union uniform, was photographed at the same studio around the same time. The convergence of these two men at this particular moment in Cairo later led to confusion in the press over the appearance and identity of the North's most successful general, Ulysses S. Grant.

Grant's star rose fast in the early months of 1862 with the fall of both Forts Henry and Donelson. The public naturally wondered who this successful Union soldier was and what he looked like, probably imagining that he was a large man with a soldierly bearing and an imposing appearance. The editors of the illustrated newspapers of the day desperately needed a picture of the hero, so when presented with the picture of Bill the beef contractor, who conveniently had been in Cairo at the same time as Grant, used the same photographer as Grant, and even slightly resembled Grant, they readily believed this large man with a full beard and ramrod straight posture must be the general. They had no way of knowing that Grant's hairline was not the slightest bit receding, quite unlike the beef contractor's, and he was more likely to slouch than stand up straight. Harper's Weekly and Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper used both the real and the spurious image of Grant for about two years. In one of version of this image, "Grant" sports large epaulets on his shoulders; in the other he wears the insignia of the rank of major general, or two stars. The March 8, 1862 issue of Harper's Weekly proudly displayed the epaulet portrait on its cover. The portrait showing the two stars on each shoulder was sold to the public in the CDV format. Even unsuspecting soldiers in Grant's army purchased it, according to newspaper reporter Sylvanus Cadwallader. That CDV is being sold
occasionally yet today on Ebay as an authentic picture of Grant. Other odd looking portraits of Grant were painted by imaginative artists of the day, were not based particularly on any one individual and often bore only a slight resemblance to their subject. Only William Grant was unique in that he was a real person who had the honor of being mistaken for the true hero of the War.


UPCOMING EVENTS

Ulysses S. Grant NHS (White Haven)

November 3:

Grant and the Media

An intriguing exhibit of political cartoons

December 1:

The Holidays at White Haven

Children’s crafts and holiday traditions from the 19th century

Call (314) 842-3298 for reservations or for more information about these and other upcoming events.

GRANT MEMORIAL OPEN

Grant’s Tomb, along with all National Park Sites, closed for the week following the World Trade Center attack on September 11, 2001. The Tomb, which is located approximately 9 miles north of the disaster site, has now re-opened to the public. According to Steve Laise, Chief of Interpretations for the National Park Service Manhattan Sites, “The Grant Memorial park officials, along with those at other Federal properties, are taking a careful look at security arrangements to make sure visitors, staff and the facility are protected.” According to onsite Park Rangers attendance at the Tomb has not been significantly affected by the recent disaster.

The General Grant National Memorial is located at Riverside Drive at 122nd Street, New York, NY 10027 For further information call 212-666-1640.
GRANT IN THE LOBBY

Ulysses S. Grant is often credited with having coined the term “lobbyist.” The website of Willards Inter-Continental hotel in Washington, D.C. states that “President Ulysses S Grant, after a long day in the Oval Office, used to escape the pressures of the presidency with a brandy and a cigar in the Willard Lobby where many would-be power brokers approached him on individual causes. Grant called these people ‘Lobbyists’.” The History Channel has also related this anecdote, which although true, does not necessarily prove that Grant actually coined the term “lobbyist.”

Sources point to the fact that the word was likely used in that context before Grant’s administration. According to *Webster’s Dictionary* the word lobbyist (a person who attempts to influence legislature through personal contact) is derived from the fact that these individuals frequented the lobbies of the legislative houses in order to accomplish their objectives. The verb "to lobby" predates Grant’s administration by many years. The book *Facts on File: Encyclopedia of Word and Phrase Origins* by Robert Hendrickson states: “Although it is an Americanism that isn’t recorded until 1808, a lobby, a group trying to influence the government to promote its own special interests, seems to derive ultimately from the large entrance hall to the British House of Commons that was called The Lobby as early as the 17th century. In the Lobby people could talk to members of Parliament, and many tried to influence members of Parliament there.”

It is possible that Grant, with his keen sense of humor, was simply employing a play on words when he referred to the people in Willards as “lobbyists.”

GRANT IN THE LOCKER ROOM

Some advice from Ulysses S. Grant appeared in the locker room of the NY Giants football team last January. Just before a championship game in Minnesota, Giants running back, Tiki Barber displayed a large sign in the center of the Giants locker room with the following motivational message for his teammates: “The art of war is simple enough. Find out where your enemy is. Get to him as soon as you can. Strike at him as hard as you can and keep moving on.” The Giants went on to win that game.
The schoolhouse that Grant attended as a boy during the 1830s in Georgetown is open to the public and is currently being operated by the U. S. Grant Homestead Association and Brown County Historical Society. The building remained a school for the children of Georgetown until 1856 when a new brick school was built. In 1941 the Ohio Historical Society purchased the Grant Schoolhouse. At that time it was completely restored as an historic site, but closed in 1981 due to a lack of funds. In 1997 the school was renovated again and reopened in April 1997 as part of the 175th birthday celebration for U. S. Grant.
Rare Items at Grant Sites

Grant Cottage at Mount McGregor, New York and Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site (White Haven) in Saint Louis, Missouri have acquired some rare Grant items. At the Sotheby's auction of Grant family items last winter the Friends of Grant Cottage were able to successfully purchase a lot containing a cribbage board used by Grant, a small chess set, and a Chinese Ivory box, all of which may have been acquired by the Grants on their world tour. In another lot the Friends purchased 5 notes that were written in pencil by Grant during his final days at Mount McGregor when he was unable to speak because of throat cancer. These items are now being prepared for display next season at the Cottage.

The Grant NHS in Saint Louis received a group of letters in 1992 written by Julia Grant to her sister Emma Dent Casey. Most of the letters were written between 1870 and 1890, although the letters span the years from 1862 to 1901. These letters were donated to the site by the James F. Casey family, Emma’s descendants.

Grant’s Wall Street Office

Early in the 1880s when Ulysses S. Grant was elected President of the Mexican Southern Railroad, he established an office in the United Bank Building at Broadway and Wall Street. This same building housed the offices of the brokerage firm of Grant and Ward where he was a partner. The building, at 2 Wall Street in the financial district of New York City, was located approximately 4 blocks from the site presently termed “Ground Zero.”

“If I had never held command; if I had fallen; if all our generals had fallen, there were ten thousand behind us who would have done our work just as well, who would have followed the contest to the end and never surrendered the Union. What saved the Union was the coming forward of the young men of the Union. They came from their homes and fields, as they did in the time of the Revolution, giving everything to the country. To their devotion we owe the salvation of the Union. So long as our young men are animated by this spirit there will be no fear for the Union. What saved us was not generalship so much as the people”.

-Ulysses S. Grant