By 1839 Jesse Grant had his oldest son Ulysses securely installed in West Point and was now free to look to his younger sons to carry on the legacy of his business in the tannery. While Ulysses had made it perfectly clear to his father that he wished nothing to do with the family business; apparently no adverse remarks had come from the other two boys. Although still too young to take over the business, Orvil was probably being groomed to assist his older brother Simpson who was in poor health in the running of the tannery.

By 1859 young Orvil had moved his young family to Galena, Ill. to help his brother Simpson run the leather store their father had purchased. As the impending war approached, Ulysses, who had moved to Galena to assist in the store, conferred with Orvil who concurred that Ulysses' duty was to offer his services to the country. With the declining health and subsequent death of his brother Simpson, Orvil now took over sole management of the store.  

In 1864 E.A. Collins sold his stock to Orvil and he and Charles Perkine opened a leather store in Galena. By 1866 Orvil, an astute business man, decided to move his operation to the bustling city of Chicago and he set up a leather store on Lake St. in that city. The move proved to be a costly one for him. In 1871 the great Chicago fire broke out and wiped out his business entirely. He tried his hand in other businesses but was never as successful as he was in the leather business.

His health failing, he was admitted twice to the Asylum for the insane in Morristown, New Jersey after apparently suffering a series of strokes. He died August 4, 1881 at the age of forty six.

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3. Ibid

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??GRANT TRIVIA QUESTION??

When Grant was asked what distressed him most in his political life what was his response?

*Question and answer from last issue:*

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?

*Answer: The word "I"*
Nineteenth Century businessmen. Orvil Grant, brother of Ulysses is bottom left.

Photo courtesy Steve Repp collection
Several of us are the owners of Civil War or earlier prints and some member knew how old the images are. The following article may help date their treasurers.

The announcement in 1839 that a Frenchman by the name of Louis Daguerre had discovered a process by which he could obtain an image of a person on a silver plated piece of copper created a world wide interest. The daguerreotype was the first kind of photograph. Although quite popular, it did require a lengthy period of time for an exposure. As time passed the daguerrean artist experimented with a variety of chemicals to help speed up the process and shorten the exposure time.

Some early photographs were produced on glass (ambrotypes), thin sheets of metal (tintypes), and on paper. All of these originated during the 1850’s.

The CDV (carte de visite) or card photograph became very popular about the time of the Civil War. It was about the size of a playing card. One way to date these is an interesting tax stamp found on the back of the CDV. It was required by law from August of 1864 until September of 1866. I’ve found that the photographer’s name, sometimes a partnership, or even a change of address for the studio all help in dating these images. Also during the Civil War, the tintype was very popular. It was more durable and seemed to hold up better when sent through the mail.

During the mid-1850’s the cabinet (size) photograph became quite popular and remained so through the turn of the century. It was about the size of a postcard. The larger image allowed the photographer to pose his subject. Also a variety of backgrounds were utilized. A rustic country scene to a more formal Victorian interior was used.

Another popular photograph was the stereoviewer. When seen through the stereoscope dual image gives the appearance of depth similar to a 3 D effect.

Early photographers had a flair and style their art despite all the hardships they had to endure quality their images remain with us today.

"There is nothing I have longed for so much as a period of repose in our politics, that would make it a matter of indifference to patriotic men which party is in power. I long for that. I am accused, I see, as having a special aversion to democracy. People used to remind me that I voted for Buchanan, ad called me a renegade. The reason I voted for Buchanan was that I knew Fremont. That was the only vote I ever case. If I had ever had any political sympathies they would have been with the Whigs". Grant to John Russell Young
Although Ulysses S. Grant's contemporaries placed him in the highest echelon of great Americans along with George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, the twentieth century has seen him fade into relative obscurity. His presidency has been almost universally condemned, and he is consistently ranked second to rock bottom Warren G. Harding in polls of historians to rate the presidents.\(^1\)

Although his military reputation has declined as well, it nevertheless continues to win him a steady following. Even his staunchest admirers, however, tend to end their studies conveniently at Appomattox, and one senses a wide regret that Grant's public career extended beyond the Civil War. Taking note of this trend, John Y. Simon observes that some biographers "seem to have wished that Grant had accepted Lincoln's invitation to Ford's Theatre" on the night the president was shot—the night that John Wilkes Booth had intended to assassinate Grant along with Lincoln.\(^2\)

Strangely enough, I first became interested in Grant as president, and perhaps even more strangely, I singled him out from both his predecessors and successors in the White House. From my first in-depth looks at his life and career, I detected a sharp incongruence between the historical Grant and the Grant that has come to dominate history books. My understanding of this incongruence, however, has changed. Initially, I had no reason to believe that Grant's character made him a particularly transcendent figure in his time. I was impressed that he could have followed such an extraordinary military career with two terms as president during one of the most critical periods in U.S. history, and I saw that the nation had much to show for his efforts when he exited the White House in 1877. Only later did I begin to realize both how he adjusted to changing circumstances and how complex those circumstances were. Historians have not effectively explored these points, especially with regard to Grant as a politician, and the historiography of the Grant presidency is unfortunately not conducive to changing this trend of indifference.

Much of what has been passed down as an objective appraisal of Grant's presidency more closely resembles the partisan critiques that were produced by a relatively small group of performers during the 1870's— in many ways the intellectual ancestors of the present historical profession. Although such a minority can sometimes be a source of enlightenment, in this case, it has contributed a monolithic picture of a complex era that is about as depressing as it is inaccurate. Little consideration is given the checkered nature of Grant's eight years of the Gilded Age. Michael Les Benedict observes that Grant "dominated his era, a stronger resident than most have recognized".\(^3\)

In both the domestic and foreign realms, President Grant could claim a wide range of achievements. In the aftermath of the most serious fiscal problems the nation had ever faced, he pursued policies that stopped inflation, raised the nations credit, and reduced taxes and the national debt by over $300 million and $435 million respectively. His veto of the Inflation Act of 1874 and subsequent drive for what became the Resumption Act of 1875 shocked many who looked to Congress to cure the nation's economic ills, and the panic of 1873 came to an abrupt end when the act went into effect in 1879. The successful arbitration of the Alabama and Virginus disputes mark not only foreign policy victories for the United States, but a significant precursor to the future course of international affairs. The establishment of the principle of the international arbitration through the Treaty of Washington, would later be embodied in the Hague Tribunal, the League of Nations, the World Court, and the United Nations.\(^4\)

Grant's desire for peace was evident to me from the beginning of my research, but I did not realize how far-reaching it was until I noted the steadiness and rectitude he displayed throughout the presidential electoral crisis of 1876-77, which could have become a disaster. Also remarkable to me was Grant's "Quaker" Indian Peace Policy: on the eve of what could have become the complete genocide of the American Indian, Grant acted decisively to begin two
decades of reform that for the first time promoted the welfare of Indians as individuals and broke ground for their eventual citizenship.\(^5\)

However important these issues may seem, the traditional evaluation of Grant as president nevertheless pays far less attention to them than to the issue of corruption. Unlike other cases of presidents charged with allowing corruption, however, the "corruption" that reformers condemned during Grant's two terms, for the most part, was merely the practice of making appointments through the spoils system. As Benedict points out, scholars have tended to accept the judgment of the anti-Grant reformers that this (patronage) system was inherently corrupt, but that is a very questionable conclusion, and reformers had ulterior, political motives for making the charge.\(^6\)

*.continued in next issue*

Frank Scaturro is the President of the Grant Monument Association


**Plans for the Centennial of Grant's Tomb**

Attention Civil War reenactors, Round Tables, patriotic and military organizations: The National Park Service is planning a major event to commemorate the centennial of the dedication of Grant's Tomb, as well as the 175th anniversary of his birth on Sunday, April 27, 1997. Reenactors are invited and encouraged to join in the two-mile parade and/or ceremonies at the Tomb. For further information contact Superintendent Joseph T. Avery, National Park Service, Manhattan Sites, 26 Wall Street, New York, NY 10005.

phone: 212-825-6990, fax: 212-825-6874
UPCOMING EVENTS

U.S. Grant Home State Historic Home, Galena Ill.

Candlight tours: Fri Nov 29, Sat Nov 30, 10:00am-4:00pm. Candlight tours will continue each weekend until December 21.

ELECTION EXHIBITS ON DISPLAY

Park officials at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site in St. Louis have added two new interpretive exhibits focusing on Grant's election and presidency. "Grant as a Candidate" describes Grant's popularity, his candidacy, and the Republican Party nomination, as well as his campaign and the election results. "Issues Grant Faced" focuses on some of the many controversial issues that dotted the political landscape of the day. The exhibits, which were researched by Ranger Lisa Conard are on display at the park's Visitor Center.

NEW GRANT NETWORK WEB SITE

The Grant Network is pleased to announce the addition of a new homepage on the World Wide Web. The new page which will have a link to the Grant Network homepage is called Ulysses S. Grant- A Guide for Students and can be found at the following address.
http://www.css.edu/mkelsey/student.html

The new page is a comprehensive guide for students who are doing research on Grant and are looking for an alternative to textbooks and encyclopedias.

We would like to thank Marie Kelsey and the College of St. Scolastica in Duluth Minnesota for making this page possible.

THE MAN OF WORDS,
WHICH DO YOU THINK THE COUNTRY NEEDS?

THE MAN OF DEEDS,
"Why do men fight who were born to be brothers?" These were the words of Confederate General James Longstreet as he recalled the meeting between himself and Ulysses S. Grant at the Appomattox surrender. A friendship endured between these two generals who fought on opposite sides during the Civil War, a kinship that had begun many years before the war.  

Ulysses S. Grant and James "Pete" Longstreet met as classmates at West Point in 1839. A close friendship developed between the two despite the fact that they were very different in personality as well as in stature. The tall, robust Longstreet aspired to physical pursuits and sports, while the smaller framed Grant sought more quiet activities. Longstreet was frequently at the head of larks and games while Grant maintained a modest reserve. They did however seem alike in their determination and common sense.  

After graduating from West Point, the two young lieutenants were assigned to Jefferson Barracks near St. Louis. An important event occurred during that time which helped create a special bond between the two men. Longstreet, who was a relative of the Dents, accompanied Grant on one of his first visits to White Haven, the home of Grant's West Point roommate, Frederick Dent. This visit set the stage for the eventual meeting between Grant and his future wife, Julia Dent.  

Just before the Mexican War, Grant and Longstreet were stationed in Corpus Christi, Texas. To help pass the time as they awaited orders, the officers became involved in theater productions, especially farce and light comedy.  

While in Mexico Longstreet got to know Grant even better. He recalled that "Here, removed from all society without books or papers, we had an excellent opportunity of studying each other. I and every one else always found Grant resolute and doing his duty in a simple manner. His honor was never suspected, his friendships were true, his hatred of guile was pronounced, and his detestation of tale bearers was, I may say, resolute. The soul of honor, he could not bring himself to look upon the rascally side of human nature."  

Longstreet recalled Grant's fearlessness as a horseman in the Mexican War saying, "At the Battle of Molino del Rey I had the occasion to notice his superior courage and coolness under fire." He was "as unconcerned as if it were a hailstorm instead of a storm of bullets, so remarkable was his bravery that mention was made of it in the official report."  

In 1848 when Grant returned from the Mexican War to marry Julia Dent, Longstreet and his wife, Maria Louisa Garland, were among the guests at the wedding in St. Louis. Several years later the two met again in St. Louis, but that occasion was a chance meeting about which Longstreet later said, "Grant who, placing in the palm of my hand a five-dollar gold piece, insisted that I should take it in payment of a debt of honor over 15 years old. I peremptorily declined to take it, alleging that he was out of the service and more in need of it than I. You must take it," said he, "I cannot live with anything in my possession which is not mine." Seeing the determination in the man's face, and in order to save him mortification, I took the money, and shaking hands we parted."  

During the Civil War the two friends fought on opposite sides but never failed to respect the skill, competence and ability of the other. During the Battle of the Wilderness when Longstreet received the news that Grant would be giving personal direction to the army operating against Lee, he informed some of the other over-confident officers that he himself knew Grant very well. He stated, "I was in the corps of cadets with him at West Point for three years, I was present at his wedding, I served in the same army with him in Mexico, I have observed his methods of warfare in the West, and I believe I know him through and through; and I tell you that we cannot afford to underrate him and the army he now commands. We must make up our minds to get into line of battle and to stay there; for that man will fight us every day and
every hour till the end of this war. In order to whip him we must outmaneuver him, and husband our strength as best we can."

The war which brought brother against brother sometimes resulted in friendly relations between the pickets of the two armies. Grant described one such encounter at Chattanooga when he recalled, "At one place there was a tree which had fallen across the stream, and which was used by the soldiers of both armies in drawing water for their camps. General Longstreet's corps was stationed there at the time, and wore blue of a little different shade from our uniform. Seeing a soldier in blue on this log, I rode up to him, commenced conversing with him, and asked whose corps he belonged to. He was very polite, and, touching his hat to me, said he belonged to General Longstreet's corps. I asked him a few questions - but not with a view of gaining any particular information - all of which he answered and I rode off."

Grant held a high opinion of Longstreet stating that "He was brave, honest, intelligent, a very capable soldier, subordinate to his superiors, just and kind to his subordinates." Grant reasoned that the Confederates might have captured Chattanooga had Bragg not been deprived of Longstreet, "the ablest general of his command," who'd been sent to Knoxville along with a corps of more than twenty thousand men.

When Julia Grant found out that her husband would be foregoing Christmas with his family to return to Knoxville in pursuit of Longstreet, she said, "Now Ulysses, you know that you are not going to hurt Longstreet." Grant quickly replied, "I will if I can get him; he is in bad company." Later when Longstreet was seriously wounded by his own men during the Battle of the Wilderness, Grant correctly assessed that "His loss was a severe one to Lee."

Longstreet, as one of the commissioners appointed to arrange the terms of peace, met Grant at Appomattox with some apprehension. His once boyhood friend was now the victor. Although Longstreet was prepared to observe strict ceremony Grant immediately put him at ease. "General Grant looked up, recognized me, rose, and with his old-time cheerful greeting gave me his hand, and after passing a few remarks offered a cigar, which was gratefully received."

Of the surrender Longstreet recalled, "The first thing that General Grant said to me when we stepped aside, placing his arm in mine, was: 'Pete, (a sobriquet of mine) let us have another game of brag, to recall the old days which were so pleasant to us all. Great God! thought I to myself, how my heart swells out to such a magnanimous touch of humanity!'"

Helen D. Longstreet, the second wife of General Longstreet also mentioned Grant's "noble generosity to the conquered South." She said, "My admiration of him has been in every way strengthened by the stories General Longstreet told me of him, particularly the stories showing his generosity to his foes and his many private and official kindnesses to the widows and orphans of Confederate officers and privates."

The generals maintained their friendship and met again in Washington D. C. soon after the war. Longstreet recalled, "In 1866 I had occasion to visit Washington on business, and while there made a call of courtesy on Gen. Grant at his office. As I arose to leave he followed me out into the hallway and asked me to spend an evening with his family. I thanked him, promising compliance, and passed a most enjoyable evening. When leaving Grant again accompanied me into the hallway and said: 'general, would you like to have amnesty?' Wholly unprepared for this I replied that I would like to have it, but had no hope of getting it. He told me to write out my application and to call at his office at noon the next day, and in the meantime he would see President Johnson and Secretary of War Stanton on my behalf."

In a November, 1865 letter to President Johnson in support of Longstreet, Grant wrote, "In the late rebellion I think not one single charge was ever brought against Gen. Longstreet for persecution of prisoners of War or of persons for their political opinions. If such charges were ever made I never heard them. I have no hesitation therefore in recommending Gen. Longstreet to your Excellency for Pardon. I will
further state that my opinion of him is such that I shall feel it as a personal favor to myself if this pardon is granted." 16

Although Johnson himself refused to grant Longstreet amnesty immediately following Grant's request, it was afterwards granted during a subsequent session of Congress, Longstreet's name being added to the list being pardoned by special request of Grant. 17

When Grant became president he sent Longstreet's name for confirmation as Surveyor of the Port of New Orleans. Longstreet said that "For several weeks the nomination hung in the Senate, when I went to Grant and begged him to withdraw the nomination, as I did not want his personal friendship for me to embarrass his Administration. "Give yourself no uneasiness about that," he said, "the Senators have as many favors to ask of me as I have of them, and I will see that you are confirmed." Longstreet was confirmed and held that office until 1873. 18

When Ulysses S. Grant died in 1885 Longstreet was invited to attend the funeral in New York City. Although he accepted the invitation and was eager to attend, the state of his health at that time prevented him from making the long journey from Georgia. Longstreet was, however, present at the dedication of Grant's Tomb in New York City at which time he sent a letter to the editor of the New York Herald stating, "I love the opportunity that gives me the privilege to place a little offering by the tomb of the courageous soldier, the skillful general, the wise statesman, the biggest heart. I am here to offer profound tribute to the memory of a dead friend -- one of the dearest of my life - it would not be too much to say the dearest friend of my life."

He then continued in the letter to describe how Grant remained a true friend after the war. 19

The fact that Longstreet supported Grant, the Republican Party and reunification did not win him good will in the South. After Grant's death Longstreet endorsed and praised Grant's military genius and skills without reservation; this did however win him favor among Union veterans everywhere. He was always a welcome speaker at gatherings of Union veterans, telling them that they fought well under a hero worthy of respect. 20

In 1899, while on a tour in the West, Longstreet attended a dinner at the home of U. S. Grant, Jr. Proposing a toast, Longstreet said, "Thirty-odd years ago I first met General Grant in the Civil War at the Wilderness, and there received the wound that paralyzed my right arm. During the fiercest warfare this nation has seen, General Grant was the strongest obstacle that stood between me and my people and the consummation of the dearest hopes that they then cherished. Now, in this day of peace and union, with not a cloud upon the sky of a re-united country, in the presence of General Grant's descendants, under the roof of his namesake son, I want to drink this toast to the memory of Grant, revered alike by the brave men who fought with him and the equally brave men who fought him." 21

When Longstreet died in January of 1904 Frederick D. Grant, son of Ulysses S. Grant wrote a letter of condolence to Mrs. Longstreet in which he stated, "The dear old General was one of the earliest and most cherished friends of my father and mother. Be assured, my dear Madam, that I join you in mourning the passing of the good friend, the brilliant soldier and the noble man, General James Longstreet."

Special thanks to Maria Lagonia for providing materials for this article.

2. New York Times, p. 0; see also Lloyd Lewis, Captain Sam Grant, (Boston 1950) p. 80.
4. Lewis, p.129.
8. Longstreet quoted in Horace Porter, Campaigning With Grant, (New York, 1897) p. 47.
10. Grant, Memoirs p. 87, pp. 95-97
11. Julia and Ulysses Grant quoted in Helen D. Longstreet.
The General James Longstreet Memorial Fund

This non-profit organization is working hard to restore and correct the reputation of General Longstreet who, although celebrated in the North as a good and fair man after the war, was vilified in the South for his attempts at reunification and for his affiliation with Grant and the Republican Party. The group has established a fund for erecting a monument to General Longstreet at Gettysburg National Military Park. Plans have been proposed and approved for a life size equestrian statue which will be placed on General Lee's right flank at the Pitzer Woods Commemorative area at Gettysburg. The unveiling is scheduled for July 1998 and all donors will be invited to attend. For information about the organization, or to make a contribution, contact: The General Longstreet Memorial Fund, Robert C. Thomas, Chairman, 112 Offset Farm Road, Sanford, North Carolina 27330. Phone 919-258-6966.

BACK ISSUES

Back issues of the Grant Network Newsletter are available to members at $3.00 each. There are to date seven back issues available: Volume 1, numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4; and Volume 2, numbers 1 and 2 and 3. 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.