Grant Cottage
State Historic Site

STUDENT RESOURCE BOOKLET
Introduction

The State of New York owns the site known as Grant Cottage on Mt. McGregor in Wilton, NY, and it is run by The Friends of Ulysses S. Grant Cottage. The Cottage is located on the grounds of The Mount McGregor Correctional Facility. This residence became the final home to Ulysses S. Grant, Civil War General and 18th President of The United States. When Grant was dying of throat cancer, his doctors hoped to make his final months as comfortable as possible, and suggested a move away from the heat of New York City. Joseph Drexel, who owned the cottage offered it to the Grants; the family accepted and arrived on June 16, 1885. Here Grant struggled with the effects of the advancing cancer in a race with death. He fought to complete his memoirs in order to provide for his family’s financial security. Although he won the battle to complete his memoirs, he lost the fight against cancer a short time later.

Opening five years after his death, Grant Cottage is a very special site from an historical perspective. It is rare to have an historic house preserved essentially unchanged from the time its residents left, with its contents still intact, and to have extensive documentation of the house and its contents as they were then. Grant’s fame resulted in a wealth of photographs of the cottage and its contents during and after his stay, and since Grant’s death in the summer of 1885, aside from some basic conservation measures necessary to preserve the cottage and its contents, the exterior and the rooms on view are virtually as they were when Grant died. When you visit, you may feel that you have entered a time machine that permits you to visit a site in 1885, and view it just as it was then.
GRANT COTTAGE
RESOURCE UNIT ONE

MOUNT MCGREGOR

From "Mt McGregor, the Popular Summer Sanitarium, Forty Minutes from Saratoga Springs" (Buffalo, 1884)
The original resort building complex on Mt. McGregor was known as Mountain House, or the Mt. McGregor Hotel, and opened in 1878, offering visitors panoramic views of the Hudson River valley, along with good food and modest accommodations. By 1885, when the Grant Family arrived at Mt. McGregor, the newer, larger resort hotel known as the Hotel Balmoral had been in business almost a year.

The promoters of the hotel hoped to capitalize on the mountain's proximity to Saratoga Springs, which already had a long tradition as a summer resort. Toward this outcome, W.J. Arkell and his associates formed the Saratoga and Mt. McGregor Improvement Company which purchased Duncan McGregor's hotel and the property for $50,000. (The Mountain House had been built on the top of the mountain by the property's owner, Duncan McGregor, but the building that was part of that resort and is now commonly called Grant Cottage was moved a short distance down the mountain to its present site when the property was sold.)

Construction of the Hotel Balmoral began in 1882. This project was completed and the hotel opened in the summer of 1884, offering a narrow gauge railroad to transport visitors directly from Saratoga Springs up the steep slope of the mountain, as well as accommodations for 300, a restaurant, numerous porches and balconies, and state-of-the-art plumbing with water supplied by an artesian well.
In addition, both the rooms and the piazzas were lighted, the rooms with gas light, and the piazzas with “the Edison System,” or electric lights. Visitors to this resort could enjoy its views from rustic benches provided by the management, or enjoy boating on one of the three small lakes nearby with the hotel’s fleet of cedar boats.

There was also a gallery housing paintings by popular American artists, including Albert Bierstadt and Thomas Moran. This gallery was located in a Queen Anne style building which was the headquarters for the Mt. McGregor Art Association.

In April of 1885, Joseph Drexel, a partner in the New York banking firm of Drexel, Morgan, and Company, purchased the building which had been part of the original Mountain House, and offered this residence to the Grant Family. His invitation to the Grants may have been at the suggestion of one of the partners in the Hotel Balmoral resort, W. J. Arkell, who was a business associate of Drexel’s. Arkell believed that the summer of 1885 would probably be Grant’s last and “...if he should die there, [on Mt. McGregor] it might make the place a national shrine—and incidentally, a success.” As one of Grant’s biographers wrote, “Shoddy exploitation followed Grant right to the grave.” The 11-room Drexel Cottage was hastily redecorated in preparation for the Grants’ arrival, and in early June, the family began their journey in the comfort of William H. Vanderbilt’s private railroad car. Accompanying General Grant were his wife Julia, their daughter Nellie, their oldest son Fred with his wife, daughter and son; their second son Ulysses, Jr., and their youngest son, Jesse with his wife and daughter. Also accompanying Grant and his family were Grant’s doctor, nurse, valet, a stenographer, and Julia’s maid.

In Saratoga Springs the party transferred to the narrow gauge railroad and traveled up the mountain, escorted by members of the press. The family arrived at the cottage, where the first floor provided a large reception room, complete with writing table for the General, and bedrooms for Julia, General Grant, and his valet. This arrangement was not acceptable to the Grants, and while they were there, Julia, along with the other family members, slept in rooms on the second floor. Meals were eaten up the hill at the Hotel Balmoral, or brought from the hotel down to the cottage, since Drexel Cottage had no kitchen of its own.
If the Grants had been an ordinary vacationing family, they probably would have partaken of a variety of walks to enjoy the views and take advantage of the mountain air, enjoyed long luncheons and dinners in the hotel’s elegant restaurant, and socialized with the other tourists on the lighted piazza in the evening. Instead, because of their fame and General Grant’s illness, Grant became the tourist attraction of the summer. "Every afternoon long lines [of tourists] would walk past the cottage. Now and then Grant, sitting on the porch writing or reading the newspapers, would look up and nod or wave his hand."

General Grant on the porch of Grant Cottage: from The American Civil War Book and Grant Album, 1894.
Almost from the moment the General arrived, the cottage had become a shrine, so it was no surprise when the *New York Times* reported, on the very day of his death, "It has been proposed that the cottage should be deeded to the Government,...that a fence should be put around it, and that it be preserved about as the Grant family leave it." Although the house never became a national monument, Drexel, the owner, offered it to the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) in trust for the American people. Oliver P. Clarke, a member of the GAR moved in as caretaker. When the Hotel Balmoral burned down in 1897, W.R. Arkell felt that it probably didn't matter, since the General's death had not brought increased popularity to the resort as he had originally hoped, but rather had "...killed it absolutely. After his death, as people came to the mountain, the moment they stepped off the train they took off their hats and walked around on tiptoes I never could find."

The cottage is now owned by the State of New York, and operated for the State by the Friends of Ulysses S. Grant Cottage. Unlike the majority of historic houses, the furnishings had been well documented during and after the Grants' stay, and were never removed from the building, so the house has been maintained about as it was in 1885 through a succession of caretakers, while the surrounding property underwent several changes. In 1912, the Hotel Balmoral site was purchased by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, which built a sanitarium for its employees suffering from tuberculosis. In 1945 this structure was sold to New York State which renamed it the Mount McGregor State Veterans' Rest Camp to be used by veterans returning from World War II as a place to recuperate. After that it went on to become a state mental hospital and the Wilton Developmental Center, and since 1976 has been used as the medium-security Mt. McGregor correctional institution.

*View from the Eastern Outlook of Mt. McGregor. Taken from an old postcard.*
Mt. McGregor Unit Questions

1. What were three other names used for the structure now known as Grant Cottage?

2. Why did tourists vacation at a place like Mt. McGregor? If you had to write a newspaper ad for Mt. McGregor when the Hotel Balmoral opened in 1884, how would you write it to make people want to come there? If the Hotel Balmoral were still located on top of Mt. McGregor now, how would you write the ad to make people want to vacation there now?

3. With all the facilities offered by the Hotel Balmoral, why did General Grant and his family stay at Drexel Cottage instead?

4. What changes happened when Grant and his family moved to Mt. McGregor? What happens now when a famous person goes to live in a small town? (Your teacher or librarian may be able to help you find the names of some small towns where this has happened—you might want to start with Kennebunkport, ME.)

5. Pretend you live in 1885; your parents have announced that you are going to vacation at the Hotel Balmoral. Keeping in mind the location, the activities offered, and so on, what kind of clothes would you pack? How would you get from your house to the resort?

6. You are vacationing at the Hotel Balmoral and want to send your best friend a postcard with just 2 or 3 sentences describing the most important features of the hotel, the area around it, or what you are doing. What would you write?
Hiram Ulysses Grant was born April 27th, 1822 in Point Pleasant, Ohio, five miles east of Cincinnati. He was the first child of Jesse and Hannah Grant and remained nameless for nearly six weeks until his family convened and put their choices on slips of paper to be drawn from a hat. Known as ‘Lyss to his family, his quiet nature and dislike of hunting and sports made him the target of many jokes from schoolmates and neighbors. In fact, his only childhood skill seems to have been as a horseman. After Grant spent two unsuccessful years in boarding school, Jesse Grant wrote to his Congressman requesting an appointment for his son to the United States Military Academy at West Point. A vacancy existed and the appointment was provided, so in 1839 Hiram Ulysses Grant entered West Point at the age of seventeen. Upon his arrival, when Grant found his name listed as Ulysses Simpson Grant, he accepted the mistake without protest, and from that time on he was known as U. S. Grant. Four years later he graduated 21st in a class of 39. His first assignment took him to St. Louis, home of his West Point roommate, Frederick Dent. In St. Louis he met Julia Dent, Frederick’s sister and daughter of a gentleman farmer. After a four-year, partly long-distance courtship, the two were married. His marriage to Julia was long and happy, but the same is not true of Grant’s professional life. He served in the Mexican War at the Isthmus of Panama and at several other posts. Grant, far away from his family, and stationed at posts with little real work to do, developed a drinking problem and ultimately resigned from the army. A series of unsuccessful attempts at farming and business followed as Grant struggled to support a family of five.
In the spring of 1861 Grant was working in his brother’s leather goods store as a salesman and bookkeeper. By June of 1861, following the bombardment of Fort Sumter and the beginning of the Civil War, Colonel Ulysses S. Grant was leading the twenty-first Illinois Regiment into Missouri, and by a year later he was commanding troops at Shiloh and Vicksburg. By the spring of 1863 he had been promoted to Major General, a rank that eventually was raised to General-in-Chief. In his command of the United States Army, he stayed on at the close of the war to administer the Reconstruction Acts. He was elected President in 1868 and served two terms, the second spoiled by resignation and scandal.

On leaving the presidency, the Grants left for an extended tour of the world where they were entertained royally and presented with numerous gifts and souvenirs. Returning to the United States in 1879, Grant hoped he might run for the presidency again, but was disappointed almost immediately when he lost the Republican Party’s nomination to James Garfield.

The last phase of his life, like his young adulthood was marked by a string of financial problems and personal problems.
misfortunes. A $250,000 fund collected by his admirers allowed the Grants to purchase a town house in New York City and a country home in New Jersey. Unfortunately, when the investment firm of Grant and Ward (in which Ulysses Grant was a partner) failed, he lost all the money he had invested in the firm. Grant himself was completely blameless in the failure which resulted from the fraud and mismanagement of other partners, but because of their dishonesty, Ulysses Grant found himself entering his sixties nearly poverty-stricken. In order to provide for his family he reluctantly agreed to write his memoirs, a task which was hampered by the continuing decline of his health.

In 1884, he was diagnosed as having cancer of the throat. The cancer was well advanced and medical technology had not developed enough to offer any real treatment or hope for a cure. His doctors did their best to see that Grant remained as comfortable as possible for the remaining months of his life. In spite of his lack of success in business after the presidency, he remained an absolute hero for many people in the United States and around the world. As a result, once his illness became known, Grant and his family were harassed by both the press and the public. Stationing reporters outside his town house, newspapers badgered the public with headlines such as “Sinking Into The Grave,” and “General Grant’s Friends Give Up Hope.” Despite his declining health, and because he was more concerned than ever for providing his family with the means to survive financially, Grant worked on his memoirs almost daily, while his friend and publisher Mark Twain readied his presses to publish the enormous work:

Grant at work on his Memoirs on the porch of Drexel (Grant) Cottage, July 1885. From The Captain Departs by Thomas M. Pitkin, S. IL university Press, 1973.

By late spring of 1885, the draft of Grant’s Personal Memoirs was nearly complete and the family was invited to spend the summer at the Drexel Cottage on Mount McGregor, near Saratoga Springs. Grant’s doctor, John Douglas, wrote, “That is just the place I have been looking for. There is little heat there, it is on the heights, it is free from vapors, and above all it is among the pines, and the pure air is especially grateful to patients suffering as General Grant is suffering.” The family arrived in Saratoga Springs in William H. Vanderbilt’s private railway car, then transferred to the narrow gage railroad which carried them up the mountain. Almost from the moment Grant arrived at Mt. McGregor, he was besieged by visitors. Some were famous, like writer Mark Twain, and some were unknown, like Civil War veterans who came to see him one last time. Grant finished the preface to his memoirs, which had been the last part remaining to complete, on July 1, 1885, and just three weeks later, on July 23 he died, plunging the country into mourning.
Ulysses S. Grant Unit Questions

1. Once Grant’s illness became public, reporters were constantly writing about Grant and his illness. Does this same thing happen today to famous people? Give an example. Pretend you are a reporter on the evening news and write a headline and a brief report that would give the public the facts about General Grant’s condition during the news. If you were a reporter for the National Enquirer, would the headline and report be the same? Write another headline and brief story that might appear in this publication.

2. How many former U.S. Presidents are alive today? What benefits do they receive when they retire? What did U.S. Grant receive?

3. Grant’s memoirs concentrated on his Civil War years, and not his years as President. Why do you think that this was so?

4. Imagine that you are one of General Grant’s grandchildren. Write a paragraph about what it is like to be with him at Drexel Cottage on Mt. McGregor. What activities do you do? What are your feelings?
GRANT COTTAGE
RESOURCE UNIT THREE

GRANT and LATE
NINETEENTH CENTURY
MEDICINE

Patent medicine ad from Sears Catalogue, 1900
GRANT AND LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY MEDICINE
If Ulysses Grant developed throat cancer today, there is a good chance he might have been cured. Medical science has made enormous progress in the last 100 years, including the prevention, treatment and cure of many types of cancer. Grant's disease was not noticed until it was in an advanced stage, since regular check-ups were not routine as they are now for many people. In addition, Grant smoked cigars for most of his adult life, which may well have caused or contributed to the development of his throat cancer. If he lived in this day and age, the dangers of smoking would be apparent in a wealth of anti-smoking advertising and information, and because he was a person of power and reasonable wealth, he probably would have had regular check ups instead of waiting until he felt really ill to go to the doctor.

In some ways, the way Ulysses S. Grant was treated once his illness was discovered was typical for anyone living in the nineteenth century, but in other ways it was quite different because of his status as an American Civil War hero and former president. Like most nineteenth century Americans, Grant was primarily cared for at home. Even though the diagnosis of throat cancer came from two of the country's throat specialists and in a large city with excellent medical facilities, he did not check into an appropriate hospital or care facility as might happen today. Hospitals were considered dangerous and used primarily for the poor. They were places where a sick patient went to die, rather than a place to be cured as they are now. In the nineteenth century women generally provided care at home for minor health problems without the services of a doctor. Serious illness usually meant a doctor's visit, but often the follow-up care was carried out at home in the way prescribed by the doctor. In Grant's case, in addition to the initial diagnosis and decision on care, doctors visited him at home almost daily, and he had a full-time nurse as well as family members and a personal valet to provide his care.

Knowledge of the causes of illness was limited, and the primary role of doctors and other care-givers was to ease the suffering of their patients by treating the symptoms of an illness rather than the cause. Poor nutrition and sanitation also contributed to disease. Little was understood about the need for vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients, nor was today's great variety of fresh fruits and vegetables available in the nineteenth century. Contaminated water supplies and lack of sanitary plumbing facilities added to health dangers and sometimes led to epidemics.

For the average person who was treated at home by family members, herbs provided the basis for many home remedies, treating the symptoms rather than offering a cure. This is similar to the way we might go to the pharmacy nowadays and buy an over-the-counter medication for a minor illness, such as a cold or a headache. Another whole category of medications were the patent medicines widely available during the nineteenth century. These were non-prescription medicines which often contained little more than water, coloring, flavoring, or alcohol. They promised relief from a wide variety of symptoms, and sometimes promised cures for everything from skin diseases to cancer, and so they found many gullible individuals among the public. The passage of
the Pure Food and Drug Act in 1906 provided for the testing of these medicines to assure that ineffective or dangerous over-the-counter medications could not be marketed.

In General Grant's case, because of the advanced stage of the cancer when Grant was diagnosed, his doctors knew there would be no cure, but they did have access to more effective medications to ease Grant's suffering, including cocaine, a stimulant derived from the coca plant, morphine, a depressant manufactured from poppy plants, and brandy, another depressant, and did not need to rely on herbs and other "folk" medications. In general, nineteenth century physicians were less concerned (or less aware of) the long-term effects of drugs like cocaine and morphine than they were with relieving a patient's pain.
Nineteenth Century Medicine Questions

1. Ulysses S. Grant smoked cigars most of his life. He finally quit smoking in November of 1884. Use a health book from the school library to find out answers to the following questions:
   What health problems are caused by smoking cigars?
   Could General Grant have prevented himself from developing cancer?

2. Have your teacher, a parent, or a librarian help you find a book of old-time herbal remedies. Many of these cures did not work at all, but some of them may have helped. Choose one of the remedies you find and figure out why people might have come up with that particular treatment, and whether or not it would have worked. Why did doctors not use these remedies for Grant?

3. What are some of the drugs that doctors used to relieve Grant’s suffering? Are these drugs used by doctors today? Why or why not?

4. Are patent medicines still sold today? If yes, give an example.
GRANT COTTAGE
RESOURCE UNIT FOUR

GRANT and LATE
NINETEENTH CENTURY
MOURNING CUSTOMS

Grant lying in state at Drexel Cottage. Courtesy of the New York State Department of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation.
NINETEENTH CENTURY MOURNING CUSTOMS

"There was no expiring sigh. Life passed away so quietly, so peacefully, that to be sure it had terminated, we waited a minute. Then looking at my watch, I found it was precisely eight." With these words, Dr. John Douglas described the death of Ulysses S. Grant on July 23, 1885. The nation was plunged into mourning; memorial services were held across the country, the Hotel Balmoral was besieged with telegraph messages, and carloads of flowers arrived at Drexel Cottage. Although the country reacts in a similar fashion when a national figure dies now, the rituals of mourning and bereavement surrounding the death of General Grant were simply the customary nineteenth century expressions of grief which had been carried to the extreme because of his status as a war hero. In fact, one historian has written, "In a century that relished the spectacle of dying there was, in America at least, no deathwatch the equal of Grant's."

In many ways the attitudes of that time about dying and death were quite different from those of today. In the nineteenth century, since the average sick person was taken care of at home by family members, death often occurred at home in the midst of the family. Because medical care was not at today's levels, and the causes and cures of diseases were poorly understood, death occurred with some regularity in ordinary families, to people of many ages. In the United States these days, death often takes place in a hospital or nursing home away from friends or family, and because of greatly improved health care, it is often associated with extreme old age, not an event which occurs with any frequency for most of us.

For typical late nineteenth century Americans, mourning continued for an extended period of time, and
followed certain fairly rigid patterns. These days public expressions of grief are limited to the days surrounding the funeral, and once the person is buried, the living are urged to put their grief behind them and get on with their lives.

As was typical, for his time, the General died "at home" (although the Drexel Cottage was never really home for the Grant Family) in the midst of family members. The clock was stopped at the time of his death, (which the clock itself indicates was at 8:08, in contrast to Dr. John Douglas who indicated in the quotation above that it was precisely 8:00) and his body remained in the parlor of the cottage covered with an American flag and a wreath of oak leaves which had been gathered by Grant's granddaughter Julia and Dr. Douglas' two daughters. The General's body was placed in an ice coffin until it could be embalmed later that day by two

New York City undertakers. After the embalming, the body was apparently returned to the ice coffin until the permanent coffin arrived.

Like many other widows of her time, Julia Dent Grant followed the Victorian practice of remaining at the cottage in seclusion during the days immediately following her husband's death. For her, and for the other family members, custom demanded that they dress "in mourning," which meant wearing all black clothing, combined with black hats and veils. The mourning period could last up to two years, with gray or lavender clothing replacing the black toward the end of that time. Other domestic indicators of mourning for prominent families such as the Grants included elaborate floral displays like the ones still on display at Grant Cottage, stationery and calling cards with black borders, and black ribbons and drapery on the front door, windows, and areas inside the house.

Because Ulysses S. Grant was a national figure, his body was displayed for an extended period of time to allow mourners to view the body, until his funeral service was held on August 4th. Following this, the body was transported to Albany, where the General lay in state in the Capitol building. From Albany, the funeral train proceeded to New York City where the coffin was displayed in City Hall. More than 250,000 people filed past to pay their respects.

2 Nineteenth Century Mourning
After much discussion it was decided to bury General Grant in Riverside Park in New York City. The body was temporarily entombed in a brick crypt until the General Grant National Memorial, commonly known as Grant’s Tomb, was completed. The completion of the memorial took nearly twelve years, due to some early difficulty raising money and a number of construction delays. When completed (at a cost of $500,000), the structure contained two trophy rooms as well as murals illustrating Grant’s military and civilian life.
Nineteenth Century Mourning Customs Questions

1. Look up the word symbol in a dictionary. What is the definition? In General Grant’s time, what were some of the symbols showing that a family was in mourning?

2. See if you can find out which other United States Presidents have tombs like the Grant Memorial. Your school librarian may be able to help you with this. Find out what other kinds of buildings or places commemorate our Presidents.

3. President Grant is also memorialized on some of our currency. Which bill has Grant’s picture? What other Presidents are pictured on our money?

4. If President Grant died today, what would the ceremonies be like? What impact would television coverage have on these observances?

5. Find out how much it costs to have a funeral for an average person these days. What happens when a family cannot afford the cost?

6. Visit a local cemetery (be sure to get permission if it is not open to the public) and see what kinds of symbols were used on tombstones in times past, and which are used now. Make a drawing of one or more of the symbols you find, and write down any interesting epitaphs you find.
Artesian Well - A well in which water rises under pressure from deep underground.

Hotel Balmoral - A resort hotel built by the Saratoga and Mt. McGregor Improvement Company between 1882 and 1884.

Bereavement - The loss felt at the death of a loved one.

Brandy - An alcoholic beverage made from wine or fermented fruit; a depressant used as a pain-killer for General Grant.

Civil War - A war between regions or factions within a single country; the United States Civil War took place between 1861 and 1865.

Cocaine - A narcotic drug extracted from the South American coca plant; a stimulant used as a pain-killer for General Grant.

Crypt - A chamber or vault below ground, especially one used for burial.

Epidemic - A disease affecting a large number of people in a single geographic area.

Funeral - Ceremonies held in conjunction with the burial of the dead.

Grand Army of the Republic - An organization of Union Army Civil War veterans.

Mark Twain - Pseudonym or "pen name" of author and humorist Samuel Clemens, friend of U.S. Grant, and publisher of his memoirs.

Memoirs - An account of the personal experiences of the author.

Memorial - Some object such as a monument, or event such as a holiday, designed or established to serve as a remembrance of a person or an event.

Morphine - A depressant medication, produced from opium; used as a pain-killer for General Grant.

Narrow Gauge Railroad - A railroad track where the distance between the rails is less than 56-1/2"; the standard gage distance.

Patent Medicine - A trademarked medicine sold over-the-counter; without a prescription.
Promoter - Someone who attempts to sell, advertise, or secure financial support for a venture.

Resort - A place frequented by people for relaxation or recreation.

Ritual - An established form for conducting behavior.

Sanitarium - A hospital for long-term treatment of chronic illness like tuberculosis.

Shrine - A place sanctified by its association with a revered person or object.

Tomb - A room or chamber for burial of the dead; a monument commemorating the dead.

Tuberculosis - A contagious disease, often chronic, affecting lungs and other body tissues; once common in the United States, now rare. Also called consumption in older references.

Undertaker - A funeral director.

Valet - A male servant who takes care of his employer's clothes and helps him dress.
CHRONOLOGY: ULYSSES GRANT'S LIFETIME
Below is a chronology of events of importance nationally and locally which happened during Ulysses S. Grant's Lifetime (1822-1885). For the use of the class, it may be helpful to place these events on a time line, and add significant events of importance to the students' own community. Students may also wish to make a time line of their own lives, including events of local and national meaning.
1822--General Grant is born, April 27, Point Pleasant, Ohio; named Hiram Ulysses Grant
1822--English High School, the United States' first public high school opens in Boston.
1823--Dr. John Clark arrives in Saratoga Springs and begins to sell bottled spring water.
1824--RPI founded in Troy, NY.
1832--Schenectady-Saratoga Railroad, second oldest railroad in the U.S. begins operation.
1839--Hiram Ulysses Grant enters the United States Military Academy at West Point, and through clerical error acquires the name Ulysses Simpson Grant, which he retains.
1841--Saratoga County Agricultural Society formed.
1843--U.S. Grant graduates from West Point, 21st in a class of 39.
1843--Grant meets Julia Dent
1845-48--Grant serves in Mexican War
1848--Grant marries Julia Dent
1850--Frederick Dent Grant born
1852--Ulysses S. Grant, Jr. born
1854--Grant is forced to resign from army.
1855--Nellie Grant born
1858--Jesse Grant born
1860--Abraham Lincoln elected President
1861--Civil War begins
1861--Soldiers recruited and trained at Camp Schuyler, Saratoga Springs
1862--Grant gains national attention by capturing Fort Donnelson and leads Union Army at battle of Shiloh
1863--Lincoln issues Emancipation Proclamation freeing the slaves
1863--Grant captures Vicksburg, and is promoted to major general
1863--Saratoga Race Track founded
1864--Grant meets Lincoln for the first time; begins Wilderness campaign to defeat General Lee
1864--Saratoga Race Track built
1865--Lee surrenders to Grant at Appomattox; Lincoln is assassinated
1866--Hudson River Pulp and Paper founded at Corinth
1867--Saratoga Club House gambling casino founded at Saratoga Springs
1868--Ulysses S. Grant elected 18th President of the United States
1869--Standard time invented by Charles F. Dowd of Saratoga Springs
1872--Grant re-elected to second term
1873--Nationwide depression begins
1874-78--Grant administration wracked with charges of corruption; Grant loses the republican nomination to Rutherford B. Hayes
1877--Centennial celebration of the Battle of Saratoga
1878--Duncan McGregor's Mountain House opens to tourists on Mt. McGregor
1877-79--Grant travels with Julia around the world
1880--Grant decides to run for President; Republicans nominate James A. Garfield instead
1881--Grant accepts position as president of Mexican Southern Railroad; company goes bankrupt two years later
1884--Grant loses life savings in son's failed Wall Street brokerage firm
1884--First hospital specifically for the treatment of cancer is founded
1884--U. S. Grant diagnosed with throat cancer
1884--Hotel Balmoral opens to tourists
1885--Grant dies of throat cancer July 23, at Drexel House on Mt. McGregor
WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Locate the following words related to General Grant:
(Words may be found up and down, left to right, or diagonally)

Shrine  Hotel  Saratoga
President  Twain  Tomb
Resort  Mourning  Funeral
Civil War  Mount McGregor  General Grant

GRHPRESIDENTUSWQKSAT
DEXCMCWOERVBMLBWARD
CXNITBVAGSRJKKLEUTRYM
LKGEMTNJNYIILWVTMAEB
LHTBMOUNTMCGREGORWU
YOWQWAUTGBCWIONUTFJ
CRAVDWLIMSCYTRQEROPL
IUIMBBPGBJULIAYUNGJK
HINCTYGRESORTGVIAKF
OUYFDUTRJAPPYTFSFNLQO
TFWHMLQAZCNPKMFAGLPV
EOFUNERALLVTVICILWAR
LSHRINEMPYREWQAASDDFG
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books about Grant

McFeely, William. *Grant: A Biography*. W.W. Norton & Co. NY, 1981. Excellent biography which deals with Grant's personality as well as the events in his life. Last two chapters provide a contrast to the Pitkin book listed below.


Books about teaching local history: All of the following contain a wealth of ideas for active ways to teach and learn local history.


Another book with creative and interesting project ideas for elementary classrooms.

*Cobblestone, the History Magazine for Young People* is also a valuable resource. The January 1990 issue focuses on the question, "What is History?" which may help set the stage for field trips to historic sites or buildings, and each issue contains a section called "Digging Deeper," where the editors recommend books and films for further reading.