


CELEBRATING THE 200TH BIRTHDAY OF
U S G R A N T
GALENA'S GREATEST CITIZEN



Galena
Jo Daviess County
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**The Galena
Gazette**

SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE SECTION · APRIL 27, 2022



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Galena-Jo Daviess County

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Honoring U.S. Grant on his 200th birthday

Galena's Greatest Citizen was Transformational

Since 1936, the Galena-Jo Daviess County Historical Society and Museum has been a place of recording important dates, conducting research, preserving treasured artifacts, and storytelling. And what a story we have!



Galena and U.S. Grant History Museum director Tessa Flak

Galena-Jo Daviess County has a long, detailed history and while the people, places, and dates don't change, the way we interpret and share the information continually evolves.

Today, we look at the facts from a very different vantage point.

Take the story of Ulysses S. Grant, a man who was born to an abolitionist family in Ohio, became a West Point cadet, fought in the Mexican-American

War, became a husband and father, failed as a farmer and businessman, and then won victory

after victory in the Civil War and became the 18th President of the United States. While his presidency was infamous for corruption, Grant was resilient and straightforward.

Grant was a mediocre student who became a brilliant tactician and General of the U.S. Army. He proposed a constitutional amendment that limited religious indoctrination in public school. He believed that public school should be for all children, no matter the race, sex, religion, or place of birth; however, the Senate did not pass this legislation.

Although a superior military tactician, Grant was a naïve politician. By the end of his presidency Grant had become a forward-thinking diplomat. The Reconstruction of the South following the Civil War was transformational. His 1868 president campaign was "Let Us Have Peace."

It was his fervent hope that he could help to find a political compromise between the North and South and seek equality for all: African Americans, Native Americans, and women.

While Grant was not a successful businessman or farmer, he became a master negotiator.

His negotiations with the Kingdom of Hawaii eventually resulted in Hawaii's statehood in 1959. During his world tour he met with foreign dignitaries and was a mediator between China and Japan. Grant's strategic skills created a template for all future international mediations.

Over the years, historians have revisited and revised earlier interpretations of his tenure. History is not static; it is always changing.

Therefore, the Museum's role is to continually reevaluate the facts and provide perspective to our audience. Thus, we recognize the difficulty of putting a divided country back together.

While many critique Grant's Reconstruction of the South following the end of the Civil War, today, we begin to see Reconstruction as a foundation to securing equal rights for African Americans. Part of the Museum's job is to re-evaluate historical figures in light of present-day events and share these interpretations with our visitors.

Tessa Flak is the director of the Galena and U.S. Grant History Museum, located at 211 S. Bench Street in Galena.

Doing U.S. Grant proud



Publisher's Column P. Carter Newton

One of my historical heroes is U.S. Grant who served our country as a military man and president. He's been much derided and yet, today, his role and his person are being reinterpreted.

A modest man, he described his role in his family's leather goods shop as being a mere clerk. He was so much more.

On this occasion of the 200th anniversary of Grant's birth—April 27, 1822—our purpose here is to share the "more" of Grant's life. Our purpose isn't to write a biography and be all-inclusive.

Instead, our purpose is to share interesting aspects of his life. I think we've done just that.

For a number of years, The Galena



"Peace in Union" by Thomas Nast hangs in the Galena and U.S. Grant Museum at 211 S. Bench Street in Galena. The painting tells the story of Gen. Lee's surrender to Gen. Grant in 1865, ending the Civil War. The full image of this painting appears on page 27. How many of the people in this painting had ties to Galena? Turn to page 5 to find out!

Gazette was U.S. Grant's hometown newspaper. My heart swells that this American hero read the newspaper

where I've spent nearly 43 years of my working career.

I hope we've done Grant proud.

U.S. Grant in Galena: In his own words

by Jay Dickerson
jdickerson@galgazette.com

This early Civil War photograph was taken by Mathew Brady. When U.S. Grant left to fight in the Civil War in 1861, his home was Galena.



Ulysses S. Grant was at a crossroads.

With a young wife, and a growing family, U.S. Grant lived in St. Louis. They relied on Julia Dent Grant's family. Grant started a real estate company with Julia's cousin. But the market wasn't strong enough to support two families, and Grant lost a bid to become county engineer.

It was time to do something different with his life. It was time to set down meaningful roots.

Enter Galena.

Grant "withdrew from the partnership. . . and, in May 1860, removed to Galena, Illinois, and took a clerkship in my father's store," he wrote in his memoirs. Grant would join his brothers Samuel and Orvil in the family leather shop.

Grant would travel from community to community, collecting debts owed to and making sales for the business. "I travelled through the Northwest considerably during the winter of 1860-1. We had customers in all the little towns in south-west Wisconsin, south-east Minnesota and north-east Iowa."

Grant wrote in his memoirs about wanting to see Abraham Lincoln elected in 1860; about how he would travel from community to community, and often talk politics with other businessmen; and how states began seceding from the Union during those winter months. "During all of the trying winter of 1860-1, when the Southerners were so defiant that they would not allow within their borders the expression of a sentiment hostile to their views, it was a brave man indeed who could stand up and proclaim his loyalty to the Union."

Proclaim loyalty to the Union, U.S. Grant did indeed. After the April 12, 1861 attack on Fort Sumter, President Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers. "As soon as the news of the call for volunteers reached Galena, posters were stuck up calling for a meeting of the citizens at the court-house in the evening. Business ceased entirely; all was excitement; for a time there were no party distinctions; all were Union men, determined to avenge the insult to the national flag." U.S. Grant presided over an April 18 meeting at the courthouse, where a company was raised and officers were elected. "I declined the captaincy," Grant noted.

But it was clear: Galena soldiers were going to war, and Grant was called to lead. "I never went into our leather store after that meeting, to put up a package or to do other business." Grant took charge in Galena, dividing the soldiers into squads and running them through drills. On April 25, he traveled with the soldiers to Springfield, where the governor of Illinois found him and called him to the Adjutant-General's office.

The rest is history.

As Grant's military duties increased, so did his national profile. Julia and the family stayed in Galena for a time at their beloved rented home on South High Street, and in November joined Grant at his headquarters in Cairo. Julia and the children



Let us have Peace

The “Peace in Union” painting at the Galena & U.S. Grant History Museum features men with numerous ties to Galena.

1 **Adam Badeau** lived in Galena for a short time. He served on U.S. Grant’s staff during the Civil War and wrote a three-volume biography of Grant. Badeau assisted Grant with the research, fact checking, and editing when Grant authored his memoirs.

2 One of U.S. Grant’s closest friends, **General John A. Rawlins** is most readily observable because of his beard. Born in 1831 in East Galena, Rawlins passed the bar in 1854 and started a practice in Galena. He served on Grant’s staff throughout the war, and defended Grant against allegations of insobriety. He was appointed Secretary of War when Grant was elected President.

3 In 1857, civil engineer **General Ely Parker**, a full-blooded Seneca Indian, was dispatched to Galena to build the combination post office and customs house, as well as the marine hospital. He served as Grant’s army staff secretary, and wrote the terms of surrender. When Parker was introduced to Robert E. Lee in the parlor of the McLean House at Appomattox, Lee observed, “I am glad to see one real American here.” Parker replied, “We are all Americans.”

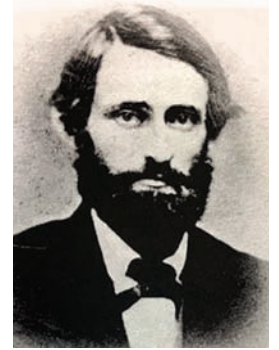
4 On Nov. 6, 1866, **Orville Babcock** married Anne Eliza Campbell in Galena. An 1861 West Point graduate, Babcock proved a loyal aide to Grant during the war, but his loyalty was offset by his involvement in corruption, deception, and scandal during Grant’s administration.

U.S. Grant’s brothers

Samuel Simpson Grant (1825-1861)

Already gravely ill when U.S. Grant moved to Galena, Samuel Simpson Grant was key in the Grant leather business success. Although younger than U.S. Grant,

Samuel was in charge of the business. U.S. Grant’s father intended on U.S. Grant taking the business over; however, Samuel “was sinking with consumption,” and the family agreed it was best not to make any major changes to the business’s structure while Samuel was ill. Samuel would never get better. “He lived until September 1861, when he succumbed to that insidious disease which always flatters its victims into the belief that they are growing better up until the close of life.”



Samuel Simpson Grant

In his memoirs, Grant admired Samuel’s business prowess and his character. “A more honorable man never transacted business.” Samuel is the only member of the Grant family buried in Galena, at Greenwood Cemetery.

Orvil Lynch Grant (1835-1881)

A young man in his mid-twenties in 1860, Orvil Lynch Grant was an assistant in the family leather shop when U.S. Grant moved to town. Orvil was left in charge of the business in April 1861. In his memoirs, Grant said very little about Orvil.

Orvil later closed the shop in Galena, and started a new business in Chicago. He lost everything in the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. That—compounded with further losses—greatly affected his mind, and when he died, Orvil had been an inmate of the New Jersey State Asylum for the Insane in Morris Plains, New Jersey. The Aug. 9, 1881 New York Times reported “the severest blow that could have befallen him was the loss of his reason, which occurred about three years ago.”



Orvil Lynch Grant

then returned to St. Louis, and later traveled with Grant as he engaged in his military duties. The Galena High Street home has recently been refurbished, and is available to rent.

At the end of the Civil War, Grant returned as a conquering hero. On Aug. 18, 1865, the citizens of Galena greeted the return of its victorious General with a grand celebration, and a “grand triumphal arch” spanned Main Street at the DeSoto House Hotel. More than 20,000 citizens are said to have joined in the celebration, which included parades, cannon salutes and a reception ball at the DeSoto House. Grant later used rooms 209 and 211 of the hotel as his presidential campaign headquarters.

Also in 1865, wealthy citizens gave Grant and his family a mansion on the east side, on Bouthillier Street. This home is now a state historic site. The Grants would return to Galena often: on April 1877, after Grant’s second term as President; on Nov. 5, 1879, at the end of their world tour; and for the final time in 1883, before moving permanently to New York.

In 1873, Grant commented that “although it is probable I will never live much time among you, but in the future be only a visitor as I am at present. . . I hope to retain my residence here. . . I expect to cast my vote here always.”



Jesse Root Grant, aged 7, stands with his father at the home in Galena in 1865. The home was a gift to the Grant family. In 1904, Jesse, along with his siblings, gave the house to the City of Galena “with the understanding that this property is to be kept as a memorial to the late General Ulysses S. Grant, and for no other purpose.” It is now a state historic site.

U.S. Grant, Our Citizen

by Mike Jones
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“Statuesque” means “attractively tall and dignified.” The Ulysses S. Grant statue that stands proudly in Galena’s Grant Park fills the bill. It is both statue and statuesque.

The inscription on the U.S. Grant statue reads, “Grant, Our Citizen.” That is also the official name of the statue. How did this majestic landmark to Civil War hero and 18th President Grant come to be? And come to be in Galena?

The Statue

Cast in bronze, the statue is ten feet high and rests on an eight-foot-high pedestal. It weighs four tons. The sculpture depicts U.S. Grant “as the simple citizen that Galena knew.” The Smithsonian notes that “the old army coat is the only indication of the military in his attire. He is represented in an easy pose with one hand carelessly thrust in the pocket of his trousers.” This is citizen-soldier Grant, age 44, the age when he returned to Galena after the war. The statue was installed May 18, 1891 and dedicated June 3, 1891.

At the dedication, public schools from all around, including Dubuque and Freeport, were closed so students and their parents could come to the ceremony. Two special trains from Chicago brought members of the G.A.R.—Grand Army of the Republic, Union veterans—and other distinguished citizens to the festivities. Thousands of people attended and businesses were closed in surrounding communities so residents could attend.

The Park

Grant Park was created and laid out specifically as a site for the Grant monument.

The Benefactor

The Grant statue was the gift of Herman Henry Kohlsaas. H.H. Kohlsaas’s family moved to Galena from Albion, Illinois. H.H.’s father, Reimer, had been an officer in the Danish army, immigrating to the U.S. and settling in Albion in 1835. Kohlsaas’s mother, Sarah, and her family emigrated to Illinois from England in 1821. (Albion is an ancient word for England. Perhaps not a coincidence?). Both parents were Abolitionists. They moved to Galena from Albion in 1854, then to Chicago

in 1865.

In Chicago, H.H. Kohlsaas owned one of the largest baking establishments in the city for 30 years. Later, he was owner and editor, at different times, of four Chicago newspapers. He was an early McKinley supporter and was a “friend, confidant and advisor” to five U.S. Presidents.

At the Grant statue’s dedication, “Little Miss Pauline Kohlsaas,” H.H.’s daughter, unveiled “Grant, Our Citizen.” Ex-Wisconsin Governor Hoard formally presented the statue to the city of Galena on behalf of donor Kohlsaas. The main address was by one of the most famous and sought-after orators of the day, Chauncey DePew.

Kohlsaas holds a special place in Galena hearts. He also commissioned the painting, “Peace in Union,” by Thomas Nast, which graces the Galena History Museum. You can view “Peace in Union,” descend a set of steps to downtown Galena, walk up the levee, cross the H.H. Kohlsaas pedestrian bridge to Grant Park and see the Grant statue.

Has Galena ever received more treasured gifts than these?

The Sculptor

“Grant, Our Citizen” was sculpted by artist Johannes Sophus Gelert. Gelert was born in Schleswig, then part of Denmark, in 1852. He was apprenticed to a wood carver when he was 14, then studied art at the Royal Academy of Copenhagen. He studied not only in Denmark, but Sweden, Germany, France and Italy.

In 1887 J.S. Gelert established his studio in Chicago, later moving his American Bronze Co. to New York. He sculpted for over 50 years and exhibited at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago (1893), the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo in 1901, the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis (1904), and the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco. He was a three-time gold medal winner.

Kohlsaas obviously selected one of the very best sculptors for this commission. (It probably didn’t hurt that Gelert also was Danish. Remember Kohlsaas’s Danish roots?)

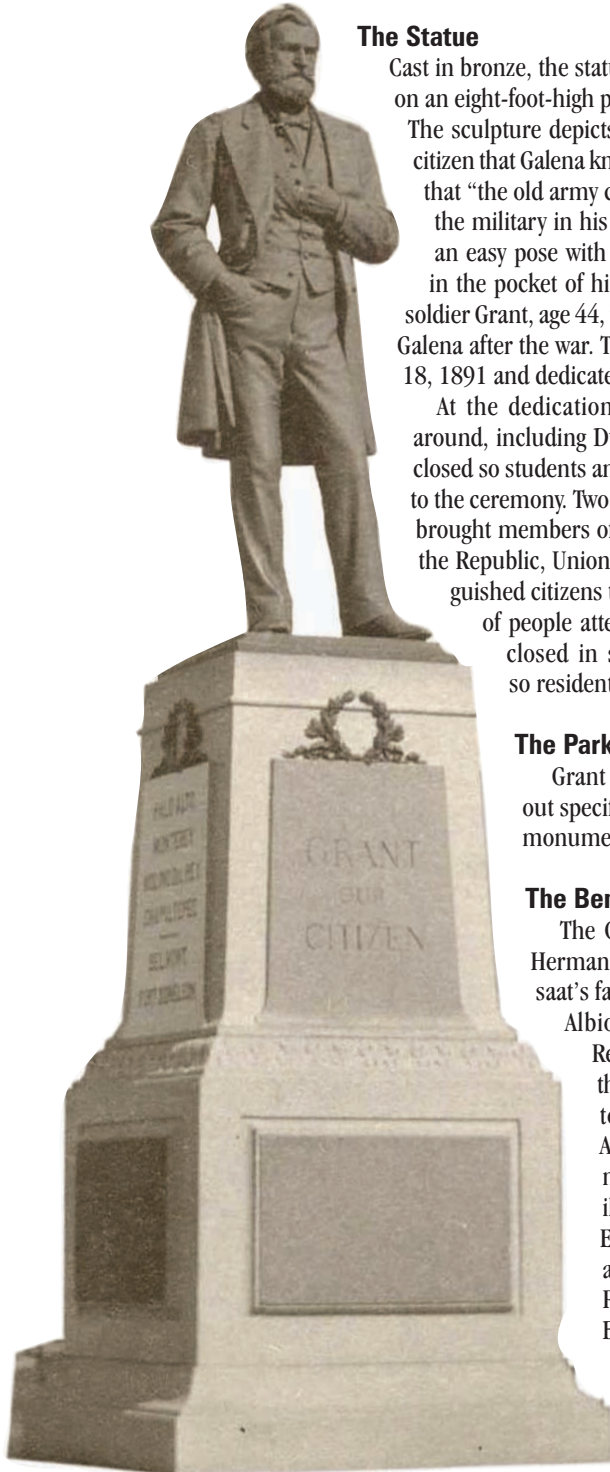
Newspaper coverage of the ceremony for “Grant, Our Citizen” was nation-wide—and beyond.

Thousands came to Galena. Hundreds of thousands more read about the statue and Galena.

Chicago was never one to miss an opportunity to get a dig in at New York. The Chicago Journal asked this question: “What is the difference between Galena and New York? Galena has a monument to General Grant; New York City does not.” The Journal declared it a “great day for Galena.”

Our beloved citizen, Ulysses S. Grant, died in 1885. A “creeping paralysis” of J.S. Gelert’s right hand emerged and he “laid away his tools and quit” sculpting later in life. He died at the Danish Home for the Aged in Brooklyn in 1922. H.H. Kohlsaas passed away unexpectedly at the home of then-Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover in 1924. Kohlsaas was in town to attend the World Series.

Kohlsaas’s and Gelert’s legacy, the U.S. Grant statue, stands tall, proud and dignified in Grant Park. Both statuesque and statue, it is a fitting tribute to Grant, Our Citizen and a legacy to all of us.



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regret it’s that
I never had an
opportunity to
try fried green
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Happy Birthday, President Grant!



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Stamps of Approval



by Mike Jones
mljones@mac.com

A commemorative postage stamp honors a person, place, event or object. Popular topics for U.S. stamps have been presidents and war heroes. Ulysses S. Grant, hero and president, has been honored—commemorated—many times.

The first U.S. postage stamps were issued in 1847. They featured Benjamin Franklin, first U.S. postmaster, and George Washington, first president.

Ulysses S. Grant died in 1885. No living figure can be the subject of a postage stamp.

The first U.S. Grant stamp was issued in 1890-93, part of a set of 12 honoring important Americans.

Several of them were Civil War notables: Grant, Lincoln, Sherman and Garfield.

Grant's picture was on the 5-cent chocolate stamp.

The next stamp featuring Grant was the 1898-99 5-cent, dark blue. This was also part of a set of important American figures.

In 1903 came the 4-cent Grant stamp, brown.

The most valuable Grant postage stamp is the 1908 4-cent Grant imperforate. A recent starting bid at auction for this rare gem was \$28,000.

The 8-cent U.S. Grant, olive green, was issued in 1927.

Two of the most popular series of stamps among U.S. collectors in which Grant is featured are the 3-cent 1937 Army and Navy issue and the 1938 Presidential Series. Civil War generals



Sherman, Grant and Sheridan are the highlighted trio on the Army and Navy stamp. In the 1938 presidential series—known as “the prexies” to philatelists—President Grant’s visage is on the 18-cent red-brown stamp.

In 1995, the U.S. Postal Service printed a multicolored set commemorating the end of the Civil War. This sheet of stamps was memorable for its clever heading: “Once Divided. Now Perforated.” Ulysses S. Grant was on the 32-cent stamp.

Of extra-special interest to Galenians is the 2015 Civil War sesquicentennial stamp. It features the Surrender at Appomattox Court House from the renowned Thomas Nast painting, “Peace

in Union,” which hangs in place of honor in the Galena and U.S. Grant History Museum on Bench Street.

Other battles commemorated in this series in which Grant commanded Union forces are Shiloh, Vicksburg, The Wilderness, Petersburg, and Five Forks.

Speaking of the Battle of Shiloh, for all its horrors, we’re left with a memorable Ulysses S. Grant quote, one we can stick on the end of this postage stamp story.

After the first bloody day of battle, when Union forces were almost pushed into the Tennessee River by the surprise Confederate attack, General William Tecumseh Sherman found General Grant, after midnight, standing under a tree. Sherman said, “Well, Grant, we’ve had the devil’s own day, haven’t we?” Grant replied, “Yes. Lick ‘em tomorrow, though.”

Little could Grant have known that there would be many postage stamps in the future commemorating the battles in which he commanded and his two terms as President. “Lick ‘em tomorrow,” he might say.



Celebrate Grant's 200th Birthday by staying in his home



This Federal style red brick home located at 121 S. High Street was originally built in 1859 by J.W. Robinson. In April of 1860, Ulysses S. Grant, his wife Julia, and their four children moved to this house in Galena. From here, Captain Grant went to war, leaving his family behind. Later, Julia would join Ulysses as he rose in rank and commanded the Union forces.



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‘About all I know of Grant
I have got from you.’

Washburne & Grant

by P. Carter Newton, publisher
cnewton@galgazette.com

For a great many years they were, one might say, connected at the hip. But, in the end, an impenetrable wall of disappointment separated them. Such took place between Elihu B. Washburne and Hiram Ulysses Grant, otherwise known as U.S. Grant.

They connected in Galena after the Grant family arrived in April 1860 and played important roles in each other's life as well as the life of their country. Each strengthened the other's career. And yet, late in life, forces beyond their control created a schism that was never breached.

They first met in the Grant family's Galena leather goods shop. Historians write about Grant's earlier failures and challenges often noting that he was a "mere clerk" in his father's leather goods shop. Evidence suggests otherwise. He played a substantial role selling merchandise around the Old Northwest Territory.

Their initial meeting didn't appear to be memorable in the mind of the politician, Washburne, Galena's representative in Congress.

That impression didn't last long.

That year, Washburne helped elect his friend Abraham Lincoln to the presidency of the United States in 1860 and was asked to greet the president-elect upon his arrival in Washington, D.C., for the inauguration. Washburne had Lincoln's ear, was a trusted confidant and helped the new president on Capitol Hill.

These were tense times. After the election, South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas seceded from the Union. Then came the fall of Fort Sumter to the Confederacy on April 13, 1861. Talk of war grew in the nation and Jo Daviess County.

That's when Grant became memorable in the mind of Washburne even if Grant, a Democrat, had not supported Lincoln. This time they met thanks to Galena attorney John Rawlins and W.R. Rowley, Jo Daviess County circuit court clerk. They believed a West Point graduate ought to travel with them to Hanover to attend a meeting on April 18, 1861 for the purpose of discussing the impending war.

Washburne, Rawlins and Rowley already believed that the time for compromise with the South had ended.

Grant knew the South would fight with all its might.

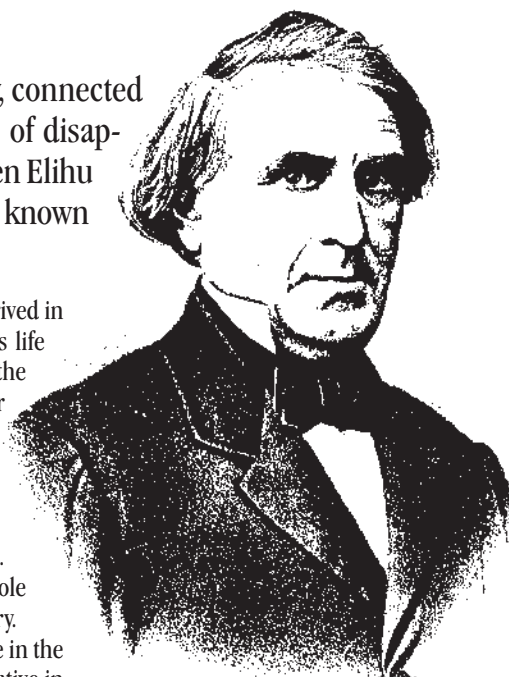
Washburne made arrangements for Grant to serve as the meeting's chairperson.

As Grant's name was put forth, someone objected noting that Grant had come from St. Louis, Mo., and that his wife had been suspected of owning slaves there. Family members on Grant's side were stout abolitionists.

Washburne defended his new friend noting, "Any man who will stir up party prejudices at such a time as this is a traitor to his country."

It was the first of many times Washburne came to Grant's defense. It was the first of many times Washburne advanced Grant's opportunities and career, making sure his protegee received promotions all the way up to Lieutenant General.

Washburne so carefully looked after Grant that in early 1864, Lincoln inquired of Washburne, "About all I know of Grant



Elihu B. Washburne (left) and U.S. Grant (above) forged a friendship that propelled both men to their destinies.

I have got from you. I have never seen him. Who else besides you knows anything about Grant?"

Grant knew the role Washburne played in his new-found military career. From Cairo on Nov. 20, 1861, Grant wrote Washburne, "The very flattering interest you have taken in my personal welfare and advancement I know of but one way of repaying. That is, to exert my utmost ability to the end that you may not be disappointed in your appreciation. I promise the country my undivided time and exertions and any faults shall be from an error in judgement, not of heart."

For this, Washburne gained access when he wanted and found himself in Appomattox for the final surrender of Gen. Robert E. Lee's troops.

Their friendship didn't end there.

Washburne assisted in Grant's run for the presidency. Grant learned of his first-term election in Washburne's Galena home. As president, Grant nominated Washburne to the secretary of state's post and then nominated him to be this nation's ambassador to France, plum as-

The last time the two saw each other was in 1870 before the convention. So complete was their split that they ignored each other in their personal memoirs.

signments.

The 1880 election proved to be the undoing of the Grant-Washburne friendship. Deep down, each wanted his party's nomination. There was an air of distrust. Although Washburne stated time after time that he supported Grant, powerful politicians also supporting Grant felt that the former congressman wasn't doing enough to help.

This helped divide the two.

Others rejected a Grant candidacy. They felt he should follow George Washington's example of rejecting a third term.

Grant increasingly wanted a third term as the Republican convention approached just as the forces against him within the party strengthened.

Both men were nominated but neither could get the needed votes from delegates to secure the nomination on the first 35 ballots. Finally, for the 36th ballot support solidified for a compromise candidate: James A. Garfield.

There is some thought that if Grant had thrown his support behind Washburne, Washburne may very well have been the candidate for president or vice president. But that didn't happen.

The last time the two saw each other was in 1880 before the convention. So complete was their split that they ignored each other in their

personal memoirs.

Washburne did try to reconcile as Grant neared the end of his life. In February 1885, Washburne traveled to New York, N.Y. Newspapers announced his arrival.

During the 10-day stay, Grant never sent a letter of invitation.

Former Galenian Augustus Chetlain recalled that Washburne "seemed ill at ease and depressed" upon returning home to Chicago. When asked if he made an effort to see Grant, Washburne noted, "No, the General knew I was in the city and if he desired to see me he could easily have notified me. He was the greater man, and it was for him to extend his hand, which I would have taken with pleasure."

It all seems so sad.

Grant died on July 23, 1885, followed by Washburne on Oct. 22, 1887. Their friendship died years earlier.

Editor's note: The main source for this story comes from the second and seventh volumes of Mark Washburne's "A Biography of Elihu Benjamin Washburne, Congressman, Secretary of State, Envoy Extraordinary." One can find the seven-volume series at the Galena Public Library. A direct descendent of Elihu B. Washburne, Mark Washburne is an associate professor in the history and political science department at County College of



U.S. Grant writes his memoirs at the end of his life. He made no mention of Elihu Washburne, the congressman from Galena who was elected in 1853. The two forged a friendship that did not last.

Morris. He is also a runner and has run every day since Dec. 31, 1989—that's over 32 years.



The Methodist Church in Galena was decorated for Grant's funeral in July 1885.

U.S. Grant, the Methodist

Ulysses S. Grant came to live and work in the family leather store in Galena in April 1860. During that time he attended what's now the Galena United Methodist Church. When the Civil War began, Grant, who was a retired West Pointer, drilled volunteers in Galena and went on to lead in battles.

Grant returned to Galena when the war was over and the entire city turned out to welcome him back. The Methodist Church was also decked out with flags and bunting to welcome and honor General Grant.

When news reached Galena of President Grant's death at Mount McGregor in 1885, the church was draped in mourning and a memorial service prepared. In front of the

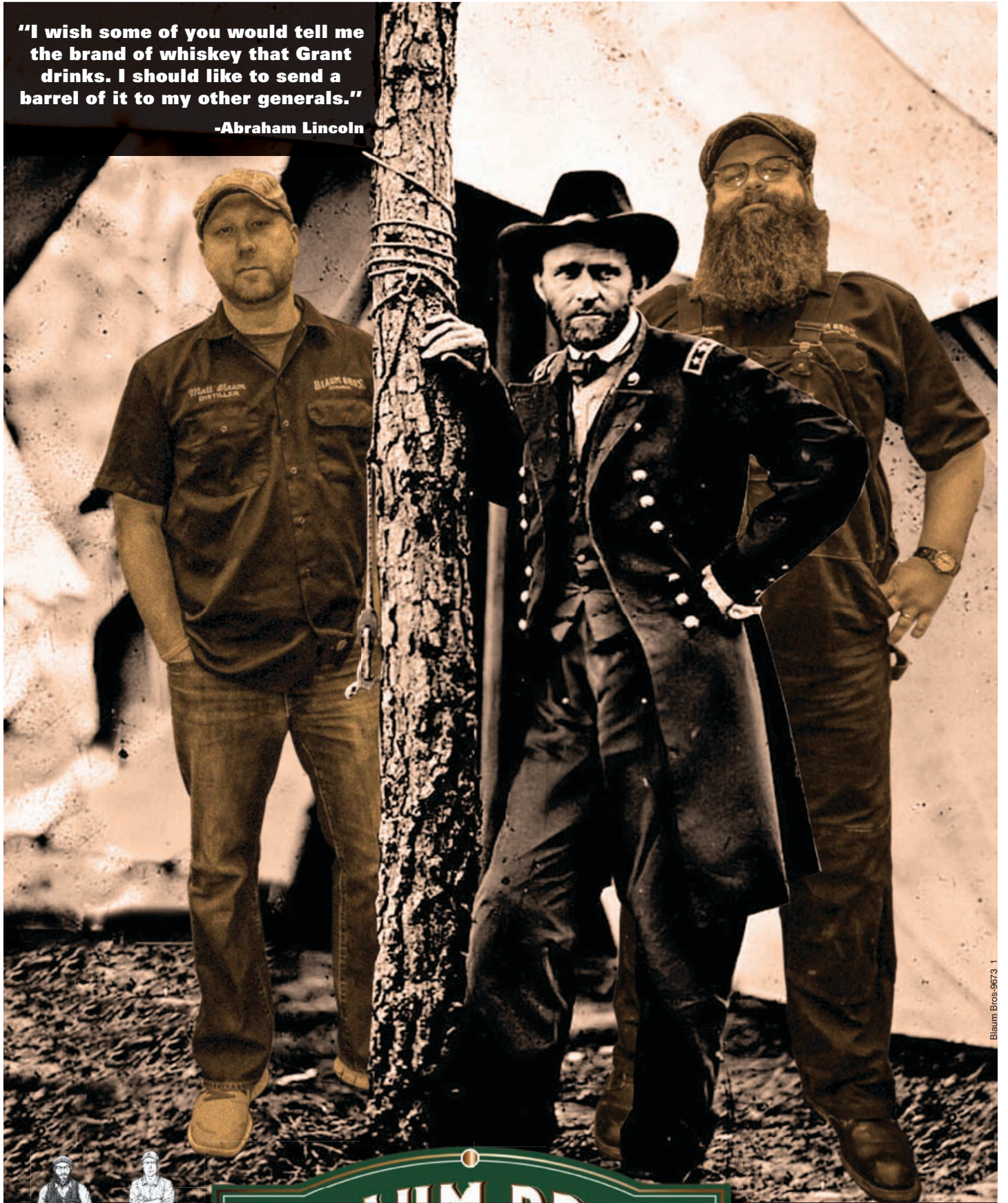
pulpit was placed a "stand of pure white flowers, with the initials U.S.G., in purple flowers."

Quoting further from Wilbur Crummer's book, "General U.S. Grant," "The pew formerly occupied by the General when here was covered with the United States flag, tastefully draped. The house was filled with his friends and neighbors, and a feeling of personal loss was felt by all. The services were simple but beautiful. Several of his personal friends spoke feelingly of the great General's life."

The pew General Grant occupied while in Galena is marked today with a flag and plaque.

"I wish some of you would tell me the brand of whiskey that Grant drinks. I should like to send a barrel of it to my other generals."

-Abraham Lincoln



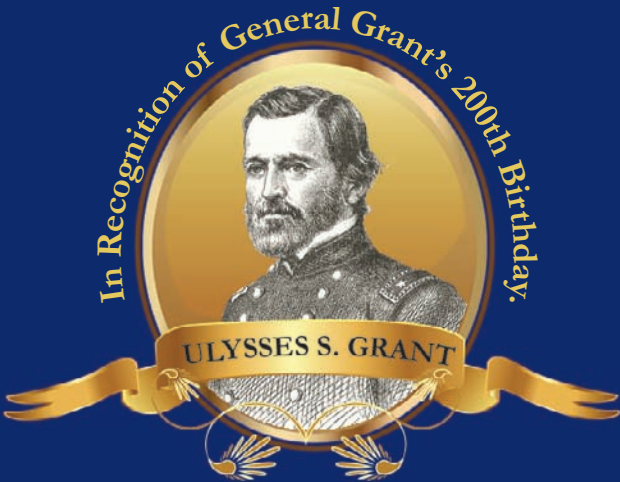
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Galena Gazette, Page 2



Happy
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Young U.S. Grant, circa 1847-48. Grant served in the Mexican-American War of 1846-48. *National Archives photo*

The Legacy of U.S. Grant & Mayor Frank Einsweiler

by Darryl Watson
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Ulysses S. Grant left Galena a tremendous legacy; one which the town has embraced and kept alive for over 150 years. From work in his father's leather goods store on Main Street to Civil War general to 18th President of the United States, Grant remains one of the most important figures in nineteenth century America. And of the many places where he resided, none has retained as much character and authenticity as Galena.

Most know some of Grant's story. His father owned a successful tannery along the banks of the Ohio River in southern Ohio. Young Grant hated the tanning process, where "green" hides were tanned to produce leather products of all kinds, from saddles to belts and shoes. But he loved horses. His father, always hard to please, took it upon himself to get his teenage son into the military academy at West Point. The only problem was that he neglected to tell his son. Still, Ulysses went anyway, and though he did not apply himself as much as he could have, he went, and succeeded in graduating 21 out of 39 graduates. He had excelled in two subjects: horsemanship and mathematics.

Upon graduation Ulysses was sent to Jefferson Barracks, outside St. Louis, and here was

introduced to the Frederick Dent family, (the family of Grant's roommate at West Point). The father was an enslaver, which Ulysses did not like, but also had an attractive young daughter who loved horses and riding in the wind. Julia and Ulysses hit it off. Thus began a love affair that lasted a lifetime. But the Mexican War of 1846-48 intervened; it was here that Grant distinguished himself under fire. Upon his return, he and Julia were married.

Life seemed good until Grant was sent to the West Coast, a lonely and seemingly desolate land where passive Native Americans lived and where voracious gold miners intruded at will. This is where Grant got his reputation for drinking. And though this period in his life would come back to haunt him, he righted himself and resigned from the army. He returned to White Haven, the name of his father-in-law's farm. He and his family struggled from 1854 to 1859, so he tried a variety of supplemental work, including bill collecting and selling firewood. Nothing worked.

Meanwhile, Grant's father, who had established a very successful leather goods store in Galena, then being managed by Grant's two younger brothers, needed extra help because the one brother, Simpson, had consumption (now called tuberculosis) and was dying. (He is buried in Galena's Greenwood Cemetery.) So Grant and



The Coatsworth building (circa 1865) is where Grant and his two brothers worked a few years earlier. The eagle marks the Coatsworth jewelry store and next door was the Grant Leather Store. *Alfred Mueller Collection*



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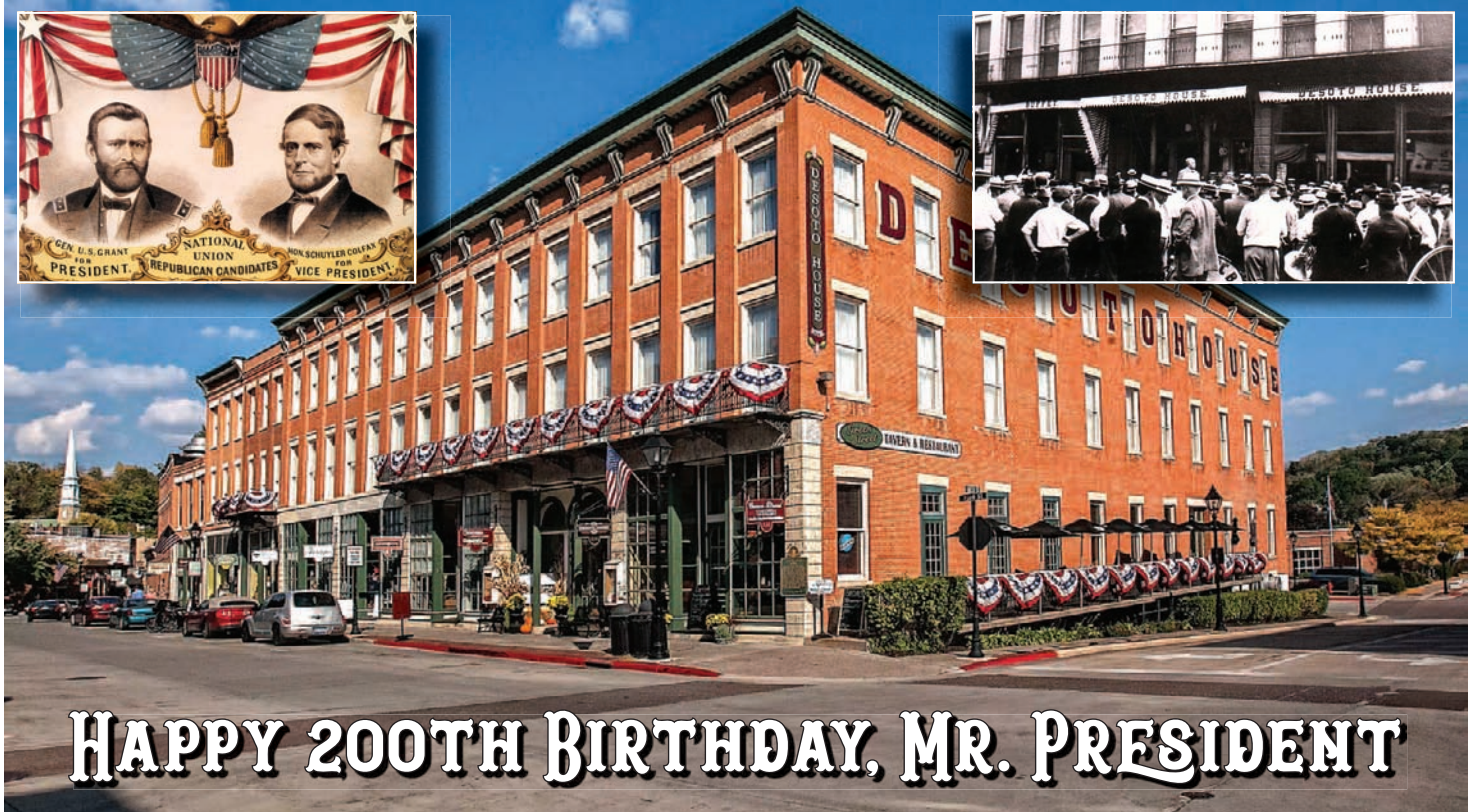
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FOLLOWING THE CIVIL WAR, GENERAL ULYSSES S. GRANT USED ROOMS 209 AND 211 OF THE DESOTO HOUSE HOTEL AS HIS PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS.



HAPPY 200TH BIRTHDAY, MR. PRESIDENT



Tens of thousands celebrated the 1865 triumphant return. *Alfred Mueller Collection*

family were sent to Galena in April of 1860 to help.

Galena had been a perfect place to establish such a business. Originally a lead mining boom town (20 years before the California gold rush), it had blossomed to become the largest steamboat town north of St. Louis. Its wholesaling and retailing business dwarfed every town in the region. A newly erected building of Milwaukee Cream City brick at 122 S. Main had just become the new home of the Grant leather goods store. Ulysses and Julia, along with their three sons and one daughter, moved into a modest but comfortable brick home at 121 S. High Street that had been built only a few years before.

Grant was not just a “clerk” at the store but an equal partner with his brothers. In fact, he was rather shy about waiting on people and much preferred his travels to towns north and west of Galena where he delivered finished leather goods while also picking up green hides which were then shipped to the tannery on the Ohio River.

Grant could be unassuming and quiet but had a dry sense of humor, manifested shortly after coming to town. On this occasion he had just returned one evening from one of these trips—in very nasty weather—and decided to drop into one of the shops for a bite to eat. Coming in a back hallway, he approached the front where he noticed

a small group of local lawyers sitting around a warm and cozy wood stove. One of them looked up and said, “Howdy stranger . . . you look like you’ve been to hell and back.” Grant quietly agreed, but when asked what it was like “down there” he wryly replied: “Well, pretty much the same as up here. . . lawyers closest to the fire.”

Only one year from Grant’s arrival Lincoln called for volunteers to keep southern states from seceding. Grant, the only West Point graduate around, trained volunteers and then left to fight what had become a civil war. He was not well-known in Galena, except to a few, one being attorney John Rawlins. It was Rawlins who later became his Chief of Staff and who was noted for swearing continuously, unlike Grant, who never did.

And he also became friends with Ely Parker, a Seneca Indian hired by the federal government to superintend the construction of the new Post Office/Custom House and the Marine Hospital. Parker had wanted to become a lawyer to help his nation in upstate New York, but was told that he could not because he was not a citizen, so he became an accomplished engineer instead. Ironically, he was never fully accepted by white society and was disowned by his own people after marrying a white woman. He became one of Grant’s personal secretaries during the war.



The U.S. Grant pre-Civil War home in the 1980s. *Darryl Watson photo*

Grant was not able to return to Galena until the war was over, and by then he was arguably the most popular man in America. In August of 1865, thousands gathered to participate in the welcome. In typical fashion, he only gave a few words of thanks, but no speech. In this case he invited a local minister to say that he would spend as much time as possible “at his home.” But his home now had a new address, because thirteen

In 1965 Galena became the second city in Illinois to establish a local historic district and preservation ordinance, complete with a design and review committee.

wealthy Republicans had purchased one as a gift on the other side of town.

Grant returned for three months in 1868, this time running for president. His campaign headquarters was located at the DeSoto House Hotel and a special telegraph line was extended to the home of U. S. Congressman Elihu Washburne where he would await the returns of the election. Washburne was a powerful figure in Washington, and more than any other, he had furthered Grant's military and political careers.

All total, Grant made nine trips to Galena following the Civil War. Each time he received a hero's welcome. His fondness for old friends was seen when he and Mrs. Grant belatedly sent a wedding gift to William Rowley's youngest daughter. Rowley was one of Grant's staff officers during the war and the gift was an elegant sterling silver berry bowl now housed in the Galena-Jo Daviess County Historical Society museum. Grant's accompanying note explained the delay:

My Dear Gen. Rowley:

... it was our intention to send a souvenir in time to be there the day of the wedding, and to send a dispatch of congratulation at the proper hour... it passed both our minds at the proper time so we concluded to send the souvenir and apologize for our neglect. ... I ask the young couple now to accept our congratulations and to excuse our seeming neglect. ... With kind regards to Mrs. Rowley and yourself from Mrs. Grant and I.

The Grant legacy in Galena remained strong throughout the nineteenth century. He died of throat cancer in 1885 and at his wife's request was buried in New York City, though Galena was a contending location. It was in 1891 that a wealthy Chicagoan, Herman Kohlsaas, who had spent his boyhood years in Galena, offered to pay for a large bronze statue of Grant to be suitably located. The end result was Grant Park, just down the hill from the Grant Home. That home was donated to the City of Galena by the family in 1904. Taken over by the state of Illinois in 1931, it remains both a memorial and strong tourist attraction to this day.

The Frank Einsweiler Era

But what of the other places Grant frequented and which are so much a part of the Grant legacy in Galena? Two key buildings in the downtown are the Coatsworth Building, home of the J. R. Grant leather store, and the DeSoto House Hotel, where the family frequently stayed on their visits to Galena. Over the years, they did not get the attention that other historically significant build-

ings had. That changed with the arrival of Frank Einsweiler and Galena's modern historic preservation movement.

Frank came from an old Galena family that had arrived before the Civil War. They were involved in mining equipment early on but later started a foundry business, which still thrives to this day. Galena's heydays were before the Civil War. Afterwards it declined and became one more stop along the railroad. There was enough business for owners to maintain their properties, but not enough to tear them down and build new. The bottom fell out during the Great Depression, and a horrific flood in February of 1937 sent water 4-5 feet deep along Main Street. It was only three years later that Frank, after managing several lumberyards in other towns, returned to Galena and bought out their failing lumberyard. He later recalled: "Put your money into something that's flat on its back—no place to go but up."

As the years went by, Frank expanded into the construction business and gained valuable experience in dealing with older buildings. At the

same time, he became chair of the city's planning commission and constantly called for tapping into outside expertise to solve some of the city's problems. He encouraged the University of Illinois to do an economic study of Galena. They did, and recommended that Galena build on its assets—history and architecture. In 1965 Galena became the second city in Illinois to establish a local historic district and preservation ordinance, complete with a design and review committee.

But things nearly derailed when a new mayor supported an Urban Renewal plan that called for tearing down two entire blocks of Main Street for parking. Included would have been the Coatsworth Building, former home of the Grant family's leather store. The building was virtually abandoned at this time, home to lots of pigeons. Frank's wife had worked in the original jewelry store (adjacent to the leather store) as a young woman and thought it should be saved. Frank agreed.

A bitter battle over the plan developed, with Frank Einsweiler and several others leading the fight against the plan and the mayor. A referendum



The front of the DeSoto House Hotel during the renovation 40 years ago.

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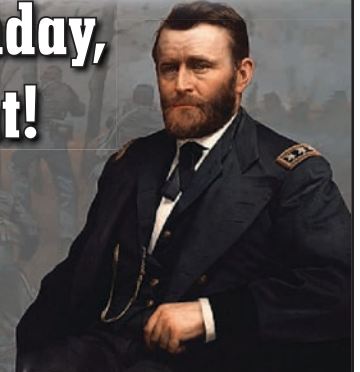
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Central Virginia Battlefields Trust has preserved 18 acres of Grant's Knoll, the location of his headquarters during the battle of the Wilderness in May 1864, as well as the location of the historic Orange Turnpike/Germana Ford Road/Plank Road intersection.

In addition, a grand total of 289.3 acres in the Wilderness, as well as 150.45 acres of the Spotsylvania battlefield, including land at Myer's Hill, a position necessary to screen Grant's movement around Lee's right on the way to the North Anna, have been preserved. Also preserved is Harris Farm, the last battle of the Spotsylvania campaign, and the first use of the converted heavy artillery units, pulled from the Washington defenses.



Overall, CVBT has preserved over 1,550 acres of historic battlefield greenspace related to the 4 battlefields of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, the Wilderness, and Spotsylvania Court House.

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showed 340 for the plan and 1361 against. The mayor resigned in disgust and in 1973 at the age of 68 Frank was elected mayor. It was the first of four terms. His attention turned to the Coatsworth building.

It was an uphill battle. He sought grant funds everywhere he could, always starting with the top of the agency. He even talked to Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago about getting money included in the state budget for restoration of the building. He and a small group had succeeded in 1971 in getting the Illinois Department of Conservation to take ownership.

And he even used some of his own money to board up and secure the structure. As mayor, he got the state to deed the property back to the same group, along with \$100,000. And then he went after the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. After four grant applications and many calls and letters to elected officials, the city was awarded a \$500,000 grant for renovation of the structure.

Celebrations were short-lived, because as a contractor was working on gutting the interior, a portion of the building collapsed. Part of Main Street had to be closed as the front façade was dismantled and then rebuilt.

Downtown merchants were furious and called for the building to be turned into a parking lot. The mayor stuck to his guns, stating later his approach



Above: Grant's statue stands in Grant Park, with church spires in the background. Right: Darryl Watson was working as Frank Einsweiler's administrative assistant when he took this photo of the mayor.



during such crises:

"Develop a real thick skin and above all have the patience of Job. It is said that a continued dripping of water will wear away hard stone. I have found that it will also wear away hard heads."

The same brick was reused in rebuilding the front facade, but it was not enough. Frank found more in Milwaukee from an old brewery that was being demolished. Slowly but surely the Coatsworth building was rebuilt, followed by the DeSoto House Hotel, which was an equally difficult journey.

But with the renovation of these two downtown anchors, the continuity and integrity of Galena's 1840s and 50s Main Street was assured. And so,

too, were two more symbols of the U. S. Grant legacy.

For those who like to learn more of these stories there are three good places to visit: The Galena Public Library's Historical Collections Room (601 S. Bench St.); the Galena & U. S. Grant Museum (211 S. Bench St.); and the U. S. Grant State Historic Sites for the Grant and Washburne homes (P.O. Box 333 or 815-777-3310).

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Bang-Up Story About Grant

by Mike Jones
mjones@mac.com

The writer and humorist H. Allen Smith told this story about Ulysses S. Grant in his book, "The Compleat Practical Joker":

"In the 1860s a man named Horace Norton, founder of Norton College, was introduced to Ulysses S. Grant, and the General handed Dr. Norton a cigar. He didn't smoke it, but cherished and preserved it as a memento of the meeting. In 1932, a Norton graduate reunion was held in Chicago and Dr. Norton's grandson, Winstead Norton, brought out the cigar, now aged seventy-five. Winstead Norton stood before the assemblage and delivered a sentimental oration. During this speech he lit the cigar and declaimed between puffs:

'And as I light this cigar with trembling hand it is not alone a tribute to him whom you call founder, but also to that Titan among statesmen who was never too exalted to be a friend, who was...'

BANG!

After seventy-five years, a Ulysses S. Grant joke paid off."

The original story was by the Associated Press. It ran in newspapers all over the country, only the headline sometimes changing. In the Spokane Chronicle of December 20, 1932, for example, under the headline "Historic Cigar Becomes Bomb," the AP story appears to the right.

So, did this really happen? Well, Snopes notes that H. Allen Smith reworked the story a bit. And, of course, Smith was a humorist. (He once wrote that he was the Smith for whom smithereens were named.) According to Snopes researcher David Mikkelson, the story is probably "fictional or staged," for several reasons he lays out on the Snopes site.

But it's still a fun bit of Grant trivia, even if it never happened. As Freud might have said, sometimes a cigar story is just a cigar story.

HISTORIC CIGAR BECOMES BOMB

CHICAGO, Dec. 20. (AP)—The cigar that General Ulysses S. Grant is supposed to have given to Horace Norton, founder of Norton college of Williams Point, was like the general's military thrusts. It had power.

For years it had been kept in the college museum, but after it was decided that the school should discontinue, the alumni concluded that nothing could be more fit and proper than to have the cigar smoked at their annual reunion.

And so it was that Winstead Norton, grandson of the college's founder, was selected to do the honors, which were appropriately done in a loop hotel.

"And when," said Norton, "I light this cigar with trembling hand, it is not alone a tribute to the spirit of him whom you call founder, but also to that titan among statesmen who was never too exalted to be a friend."

It was a touching scene as Norton lifted his cigar lighter. It was more so when he began to puff. The first puff was satisfactory, but on the second, the cigar exploded.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, U.S. GRANT



Light the candles! The Galena Fire Department is standing by...

Grant's Two Vices

by Mike Jones
mljones@mac.com

Like every President of the United States, Grant had his vices. Specifically, two. Schuyler Colfax was Grant's vice president from 1869-1873 and Henry Wilson served from 1873-1875.

In President Grant's day, vice presidents didn't have much of a role in governance. A later vice president, John Nance "Cactus Jack" Garner, famously described the office as "not worth a bucket of warm p___," (traditionally rendered as "warm spit."). Another vice president, Thomas R. Marshall, said, "Once there were two brothers: one ran away to sea; the other was elected Vice-President and nothing was ever heard from either of them again." The only constitutionally prescribed roles for vice president are to cast a tie-breaking vote in the Senate and to be first in line if the president were to die, resign, be removed, or become incapacitated.

Only in modern American history have vice presidents taken on active Executive Branch roles. So it's not unusual that we may not remember either Colfax or Wilson. But they were quite accomplished in their time. Like Grant, their lives were remarkable. Their civil rights work on behalf of Black Americans was especially notable and should be better remembered today.

Schuyler Colfax is the better known of the two today. Nine communities are named for him: Colfax, Illinois; Colfax, Iowa; and Colfax, Ind. in the Midwest. Then there's Colfax, Louisiana, North Carolina, Texas, and North Dakota. Schuyler, Neb., is the county seat of Colfax County. Colfax County, NM, also was named for him.

In Galena, many guests have been comfortably ensconced in the Colfax room at the DeSoto House Hotel. Colfax spoke at Turner Hall in January of 1877.



U.S. Grant's vice presidents were Schuyler Colfax (left), 1869-1873, and Henry Wilson (right), 1873-1875.

Who were these men who served as Grant's vice presidents? What were their accomplishments—and, yes, their vices?

Schuyler Colfax was born into a distinguished family, but one that had fallen on hard times. He was born four months after his father's death. Later, his mother remarried and the family moved to New Castle, Indiana when Schuyler was a child. He left school at age 10 to help support the family. In adulthood, he became a newspaper reporter and later, publisher.

Politically, he was a Whig. Like many northern Whigs, he became a Republican when that party was forming before the Civil War; in fact, Colfax was one of its founders. He was strongly opposed to slavery and led the effort to abolish it, his contributions leading to what would become the Thirteenth Amendment after the war ended.

He became Speaker of the House, one of the most popular ever. The United States Senate's profile of Colfax notes that he was "good-natured, kindly, cordial, and always diplomatic." His nickname was "Smiler" Colfax.

On April 14, 1865, Colfax visited President Lincoln at the White House. Lincoln invited Colfax to join him at Ford's Theater that evening. Colfax declined. He was awakened in the middle of the night with news about the assassination attempt. Colfax rushed to spend the night in the room where the President lay dying.

Colfax led the drive to establish the Freedmen's Bureau, pass the Civil Rights Bill, and support other pillars of Reconstruction.

Colfax was one of five vice presidents who hailed from Indiana. None—Pence, Quayle, Hendricks, Fairbanks, or Colfax—served more than one term.

Grant's second vice president, Henry Wilson, led an equally extraordinary life. The U.S. Senate website says his life "resembled a Dickens novel. Like Pip, David Copperfield, and Nicholas Nickleby [and Dickens himself, it could be said], he overcame a childhood of hardship and privation through the strength of his character, his ambition, and occasional assistance from others."

Henry Wilson wasn't even his birth name. He was born Jeremiah Jones Colbath in Farmington, NH. The U.S. Senate profile notes that "his shiftless and intemperate father named the child after a wealthy bachelor neighbor in vain hope of inheritance. The Colbaths lived from hand to mouth. . . . Young Jeremiah hated his name and had it legally changed to Henry Wilson when he came of age."

Childhood essentially ended for the 10-year-old when he was apprenticed to a neighboring farmer. The youngster compensated for his lack of formal education by reading everything he could lay his hands on. Some kind neighbors, seeing his interest and drive, gave him books about American and English history and biography. In adulthood, Colfax would write a book, "Life and Principles of Abraham Lincoln" and co-author another, "Our New West."

When his apprenticeship ended after a decade, he was given "six sheep and a yoke of oxen." Wilson sold them. It was the first money he had ever made.

Seeking work, he walked a hundred miles to Natick, Mass., where he learned from a shoemaker how to make shoes. Five months later, Wilson bought out his employment contract and opened his own cobbler shop. His working-class experiences informed his strong beliefs about workers' rights, as well as his subsequent political nick-

When Wilson was serving as the junior senator from Massachusetts, the senior senator from that state, Charles Sumner, was beaten savagely on the very floor of the Senate by a pro-slavery Representative from the South.

names. Later, a popular “Working Man’s banner” showcased Grant as the “Galena Tanner” with his running mate, the “Natick Shoemaker.”

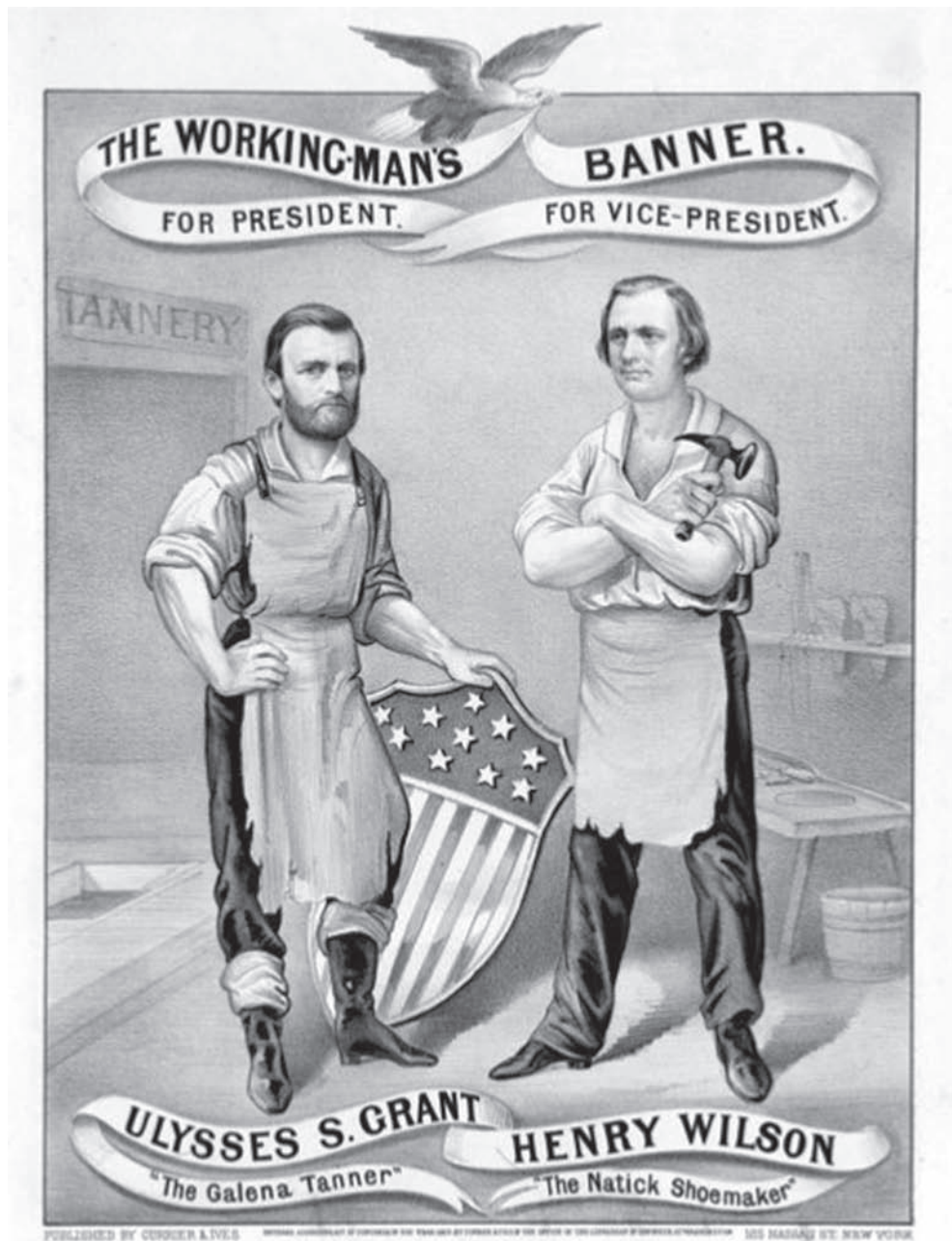
On a trip to Washington, D.C. Wilson saw enslaved African American families being exhibited and sold in the nation’s capital, families separated, most forever. He listened to debates about slavery and abolition in Congress. Wilson became an avowed abolitionist. This was a courageous position at a time when white abolitionists were few and abolitionism was scorned.

When Wilson was serving as the junior senator from Massachusetts, the senior senator from that state, Charles Sumner, was beaten savagely on the very floor of the Senate by a pro-slavery Representative from the South. This was retaliation for an anti-slavery speech given earlier by Sumner.

As a Senator, Wilson sponsored bills so Black men could serve in the armed forces. During the Civil War, Henry Wilson served superbly as Chair of the Committee on Military Affairs and also recruited and outfitted what became the 22nd Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.

In 1872, Henry Wilson was selected to be President Grant’s running mate. During his time as vice president, Wilson wrote a three-volume book, *History of the Rise and Fall of the Slave Power in America*.

Vice-Presidents Colfax and Wilson shared several personal and political characteristics. Both were born under straitened circumstances. Each went to work when he was ten. They were progressive for their time, especially when it came to civil rights and human rights issues for Black Americans. Abolitionism was a minority opinion among white Americans so their deeply-felt positions



This 1873 re-election poster by Currier and Ives promoted U.S. Grant as “The Galena Tanner” and his running mate Henry Wilson as “The Natick Shoemaker.”

took personal and political courage. Both were instrumental in forming the new Republican party.

Each man was tarnished somewhat by brief association with the American Party, the Know- Nothings. For all their unquestioned principled stands—Wilson was a workers’ rights and women’s suffrage champion, too—both men briefly flirted with the anti-Catholic, anti-immigration Know-Nothings when new political parties were forming prior to the Civil War. This seems completely foreign to both men’s beliefs and values. Ultimately, truer to character, both rejected the Know-Nothings, became founding Republicans, and supported progressive causes.

Reconstruction was one of the most progressive times in all of American history.

Both were also tainted, Colfax especially, by the Credit Mobilier scandal. He left office at the end of his term and never ran again. Grant wrote Colfax a note which said, in part, “I sympathize with you in the recent congressional investigations; that I have watched them closely, and I am satisfied now as I have ever been of your integrity, patriotism and freedom from the charges imputed as if I knew of my own knowledge your innocence.”

Wilson died in office in 1875, the fourth vice president to do so. Colfax died in 1885 in Mankato, Minn., on his way to a speaking engagement in Iowa. He and President Grant died the same year.

Schuyler Colfax is buried at City Cemetery in South Bend, Ind. Henry Wilson is interred at Old Dell Park Cemetery in Natick, Mass.

From Galena to the White House

1822 Hiram Ulysses Grant is born April 27 at Point Pleasant, Ohio, first child of Jesse Root Grant and Hannah Simpson Grant. His parents call him Ulysses.

1839 Jesse Grant asks his Congressman to nominate Ulysses to the United States Military Academy at West Point, unbeknownst to his son. The Congressman mistakenly renders his name Ulysses Simpson Grant.

In February, Grant meets Julia Boggs Dent, Fred Dent's younger sister. Grant is smitten. In May, he proposed to Julia. She doesn't accept initially, but later agrees to a secret engagement. Grant joins his regiment in Louisiana where preparations are underway regarding border disputes with Mexico over the United States' annexation of Texas. **1844**

U.S. Grant graduates, 21st out of 39 cadets. Grant is assigned to the 4th Infantry and reports to Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis. Grant visits his friend and former roommate at West Point, Frederick Dent, and his family at White Haven. **1843**

Grant serves as quartermaster in the Mexican-American War. He sees extensive combat. **1844-1846**

U.S. Grant marries Julia Dent Aug. 22 at the Dent city home in St. Louis. In October, Grant is stationed at Detroit, then Sacketts Harbor, NY. Julia is with him for both assignments. **1848**

Frederick Dent Grant is born May 30 in St. Louis. **1850**

Grant is transferred to the West Coast. Ulysses S. Grant, Jr., born July 22. Julia and the children move back to St. Louis. **1852**

The Grants move to Galena in April, renting a house at 121 South High Street. **1860**

Jesse Root Grant II is born Feb. 6 at White Haven. **1858**

The Grant family moves into a home Ulysses builds: "Hardscrabble." **1856**

Ellen Wrenshall Grant is born July 4 at St. Louis. **1855**

Ulysses S. Grant resigns from the Army to be with his family. He farms at White Haven. **1854**

Grant starts the year making \$600 a year working for the family leather shop. Grant reenters the Army in April following the Confederate attack on Ft. Sumpter. Captain U.S. Grant accepts the colonelcy of the 21st Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment in Galena on June 15. Grant is promoted to Brigadier General thanks to Illinois Congressman Elihu Washburne. **1861**



Victory at Fort Henry, Tennessee, Feb. 6, the first major Union victory of the Civil War. Victory at Fort Donelson, Tennessee, on Feb. 16, where Grant acquires the nickname "Unconditional Surrender" Grant. Grant is promoted to Major-General of Volunteers. Battle of Shiloh at Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee, April 6 and 7. Victory. Victory at the Battles of luka and Corinth in September. Campaign for Vicksburg, Mississippi, begins in September. **1862**

Grant appoints Chaplain John Eaton to implement policies to care for the freedmen and their families coming through Union lines escaping enslavement. Various plans are tried to subdue Vicksburg from January through March. Between April and June, Grant's army takes Jackson, wins the Battle of Champion's Hill and lays siege to Vicksburg. July 4: Grant accepts the unconditional surrender of Vicksburg, "the Gibraltar of the South." On Oct. 22, Grant takes command to relieve the siege of Union forces at Chattanooga, Tennessee. Wins the Battles of Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge and Chattanooga. **1863**

On April 3, Grant's forces capture Petersburg and Richmond, Virginia. Grant meets Robert E. Lee at the McLean residence at Appomattox, Virginia, and accepts the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia. Grand Review of Grant's and Sherman's armies in Washington D.C. **1865**

President Lincoln appoints Grant Lieutenant General of all Union armies. Grant is only the third Lieutenant General in U.S. History, following George Washington and Winfield Scott. Battle of the Wilderness May 5-6. Stalemate, but Grant keeps advancing on Lee's army. Battle of Cold Harbor in June. **1864**

Congress awards General Grant a fourth star, making him the first full General of the Armies. **1866**

Ulysses S. Grant accepts the nomination of the Republican Party for President. His campaign slogan is "Let Us Have Peace." His campaign headquarters is the DeSoto House Hotel. U.S. Grant becomes 18th President of the United States March 4. He is the youngest President ever elected: 46. He receives the election results in the library of Elihu B. Washburne's house in Galena. **1868**

President Grant signs the 15th Amendment on Feb. 3 giving Black males the right to vote. June 22: The President establishes the Department of Justice to ensure justice for formerly enslaved Black Americans. A month later, Grant orders Federal troops to North Carolina to suppress Ku Klux Klan terrorism against Blacks and white supporters. **1870**

Ely Parker becomes Commissioner of Indian Affairs. He is the first Native American appointed to a Cabinet position. On May 19, Grant signs legislation mandating an 8-hour workday for Federal employees. **1869**



With Ku Klux Klan terrorism spreading in South Carolina, the President suspends the writ of habeus corpus to suppress the KKK and protect Black Americans. **1871**

Grant accepts the nomination for a second term as President. He wins the Presidency with victories in 31 of the 37 states. **1872**

KKK terror continues in Louisiana. President Grant announces he will use force if necessary to protect the lives and civil rights of Black Americans. **1872**

The Grants return to the U.S. and move to New York City. **1879**

Grant's Presidency ends March 4, 1877. Ulysses and Julia Grant embark on a two-and-a-half year world tour. They meet with Queen Victoria, Pope Leo XIII, Chancellor Otto Von Bismark and Emperor Meiji, among others. **1877**

Grant orders troops and naval forces to New Orleans to suppress the Klan and restore order. **1874**

U.S. Grant is diagnosed with throat cancer. He is swindled by his son's business partner and is destitute. He begins writing his Memoirs with Mark Twain's support. **1884**

On July 18, Grant finishes his Personal Memoirs. The work is considered to be the best of all Presidential memoirs. Ulysses S. Grant dies July 23, 1885 at Mt. McGregor, New York. He is buried in a temporary tomb with plans for a permanent resting place underway. **1885**

Bronze statue of U.S. Grant, "Our Citizen," is erected in Grant Park, Galena. **1891**

Grant's post-Civil War home is given to the City of Galena by the Grant children. **1904**

Julia Dent Grant dies. She is interred next to her husband in New York City. **1902**

Grant's Tomb is dedicated April 27. It is still the largest mausoleum in North America. **1897**

The painting, "Peace in Union," by Thomas Nast is finished and signed April 9, 1895, 30 years to the day after the end of the Civil War. **1895**

Scenes of Grant in Galena

Before the war, and at the end of his Presidency

Upon arrival at Galena in April 1860, the Ulysses Grant family moved into an attractive two-story, seven-room brick home located up on the steep hill at 121 South High Street on the west side. It was located one street past the community's famous bluff overlooking the Galena River and Main Street.

The premises appear to look much as they did when the Grants lived there. A large pioneer cemetery and park area is located to the rear where the four Grant children would play.

Ulysses didn't have a horse and buggy, so he had to carefully go down the 252 steps to Main Street and to their store's location in the still-standing and restored Coatsworth building each morning. And then he had to climb them going back up at the end of each day at the store, or upon his return from a business trip. There are 37 steps to one landing, 158 steps to the second, and 57 to the third. According to wife Julia's own autobiography, he still had the energy to engage in some play and even "roughhouse" with the children. Fred, the eldest was 11. Then came Nellie and Ulysses Jr. Jesse, the youngest, was 2.

Parents Jesse and Hannah came to visit Ulysses and his family in Galena, as well as did Ulysses' three sisters. They were Clara, Mary and Virginia, more commonly known as Jennie. Ulysses and Julia attended the United Methodist Church. A plaque is attached to the pew that they used. Grant's main interest was in hearing an interesting, provocative sermon.

Grants at Galena home

The Republican National Convention, that summer of 1880, was in Chicago. The Grants were at



President Ulysses S. Grant with First Lady Julia Dent Grant and son Jesse in 1872.

their Galena home. If anyone before had set the precedent for a third term, Grant would probably have been drafted over his protests. As it was, his name was placed in nomination against his stated wishes. Grant's admirers were split. Many wanted him back in the White House while other admirers felt he had served his country long enough during its most difficult years. He deserved a restful retirement.

It was obvious Grant would have accepted the nomination if that was the overwhelming wish of the delegates. However, he would make no move or statement indicating he was seeking it. Grant

thought the nomination should go to a younger, energetic candidate.

His Galena routine, after returning from their long world-wide trip, consisted of walking downtown from his home on the east side. He would get his mail at the post office and stop at the Galena Gazette office.

There he would check the national and world news coming off the teletype. The Gazette was a daily newspaper then in a city that peaked at 15,000.

Finding out at the DeSoto House

In the early convention balloting Grant led with over 300 votes, only about 75 short of the nomination. But after a week of continued balloting the convention was deadlocked. If Grant had expressed any interest in the nomination at that point, the nomination, and undoubtedly the election would have been his for the asking.


After many ballots, none of the other nominees seemed capable of attracting a majority. Thus the convention finally compromised on James A. Garfield for president and Chester Arthur as vice president. Garfield was assassinated during his first year in office by a troubled government worker. Arthur finished the term but did not win his party's nomination for a subsequent term.


One account is that Grant got word of Garfield's nomination, and his release from a possible third term, in a telegram he picked up at the desk of the DeSoto House.


Grant went out the door reading the telegram, flipping his cigar on the street. A person passing by retrieved the cigar. It became part of the Grant display at Galena's museum.

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Thomas Nast's iconic 9' x 12' oil painting, "Peace in Union" depicts Confederate General Robert E. Lee's surrender to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. The painting was gifted to the citizens of Galena by former resident H. H. Kohlsaas in 1895. Today it can be viewed in the John and Marge Cooke Military Hall at the Galena and U.S. Grant Museum.

"Let us have peace."

This timeless plea is how General Ulysses S. Grant accepted the Republican nomination for President of the United States on May 29, 1868.

It became his presidential campaign slogan.

The Galena - Jo Daviess County Historical Society is proud to tell the stories of the men and women who came before us.

May our ancestors' stories inspire all of us to work to make our community, our nation and our world a more peaceful and just place in which to live.



Galena-Jo Daviess County
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He failed as a farmer, a business man, a real estate agent, a bill collector, and as a clerk in his brother's tannery in Galena, and then won the Civil War and became President of the United States.

#tenacity
#Galena&USGrantMuseum

Learn more about U.S. Grant and his remarkable legacy at the Galena & U.S. Grant Museum, Galena, IL
www.galenahistory.org



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