I do hope that you will read this newsletter from cover to cover and that you will be inspired to submit to our editor, Meg Henderson, an article or even a brief insight into the life and history of Ulysses S. Grant and his family and descendants. In this issue, I want to catch everyone up on the progress of our forthcoming Presidential Library facility. For our last USGA annual meeting, MSU Libraries Dean Frances Coleman and a member of our board of directors, sent along colorful brochures, in order to give all our members an idea of what the finished product will look like.

Since before the beginning of the Fall semester in August 2015, West Brothers Construction Company using the wonderful plans our architect Skip Wyatt of the Jackson Mississippi firm of Foil/Wyatt Architects created, has been making good progress on the new fourth floor of the Mitchell Memorial Library. There was a slight delay in beginning construction because the bids came in over budget. However, MSU President Mark Keenum and his administration quickly made up the difference, and construction began.

As of today, March 1, 2016, all the steel beams that will support the floor have been attached to the already existing building, and a roof has been placed atop the steel work. At present, the construction workers are adding material to enclose the floor completely. As those of you who have watched a building being built, the most interesting part of the work is that of the crane and its operator. The crane will complete its work within a few months, and then work will begin on the enclosed space. To watch this master of the crane work is an inspiration.

At the same time as construction has been advancing on the building’s shell, a committee consisting of Dean Coleman, several library faculty and staff, Justice Frank Williams and Executive Director John Marszalek has been meeting, for over a year, with Terrence Healy of the firm of Healy Koehler Designs of Washington, D.C. The finished product will include a spectacular entrance way, a museum gift shop, galleries, reading room, visitor orientation room, climate-controlled stack area, large preparation work room, offices for staff, and staff conference room. The Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library will be a state-of-the-art facility, which will make both MSU and USGA proud.

(Continued on page 2)
At the last meeting the committee had with the construction company, the superintendent said that work was progressing ahead of schedule, and he hopes the building shell will be completed by January-February, 2017. As anyone who has been involved in the construction of a major facility like this one, completion dates can never be guaranteed. However, watching the pace of the work provides confidence that this job will be done on time.

The completion of the interior is even more difficult to estimate than is the exterior. However, Terrence Healy and the committee have been meeting regularly, and plans are near completion.

In total, then, USGA members can look forward, in anticipation and confidence, to the completion of the new facility which will take USGA to yet another level of achievement.

If anyone has any questions about this project or anything else we are doing at USGA, please feel free to call on me at any time.

Sincerely,

John Marszalek
Progress on the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library Facility at Mississippi State University

Top to bottom, left to right: Groundbreaking ceremony, Fall 2015; Street view, Fall 2015; Roof view, Fall 2015; Side view, Fall 2015; Street view, Winter 2016; Side view, Winter 2016. Image credit: Mississippi State University Libraries.
**Events and Announcements**

**14th Annual Marszalek Lecture**  
March 23, 2:30 p.m. in the John Grisham Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, Mississippi State University, author and USGA member Edwina Campbell will be speaking about her recently published book on Ulysses S. Grant’s Post-presidential Diplomacy. For more information on the lecture series, visit: [http://library.msstate.edu/Marszalek/](http://library.msstate.edu/Marszalek/)

**Annual USGA Meeting**  
May 6-8 in Pamplin Park and Richmond, Virginia. The weekend’s highlights include a visit to Pamplin Historical Park and a trip to the Civil War Museum. Speakers will be Pamplin Park Executive Director Will Greene, author Ron White, and author and Editorial Board member William C. (Jack) Davis. Meeting registration, link to hotel reservations, and details on the weekend’s agenda are available on our website: [http://www.usgrantlibrary.org/usga/annualmeeting.asp](http://www.usgrantlibrary.org/usga/annualmeeting.asp)

**“The President’s Face”**  
On display at the U.S. Grant Presidential Library through April 30, this special exhibit of photographs and portraits features rarely seen views of presidents Lincoln, Grant, and Garfield, on loan through the Ulke Family Collection.

**Ohio Bar Association Conference**  
Frank Williams and John Marszalek will be joining other speakers at the Ohio Bar Association, Columbus, Ohio, on April 25-27.

**Shiloh Civil War Education Association**  
John Marszalek will be speaking at the Shiloh Civil War Education Association event April 28-30.

**Congratulations, Dr. Fields!**  
The Civil War Round Table of Dallas, TX recently awarded USGA member Dr. E.C. (Curt) Fields the 2015 Grady McWhiney Award of Merit “for significant contributions to the scholarship and preservation of Civil War history.” Way to go, General Grant!
Grant Library Staff Updates

Executive Director John Marszalek continues to travel around the country giving talks on the Civil War. This month, he traveled to Fort Donelson to speak on Ulysses S. Grant and his superiors at the battle which took place there and to Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee to publicly comment on the opening of the Martin Van Buren Papers project directed by his former graduate student, Mark Cheathem. Last month, he presented at the New York Historical Society on “Grant's March Through the Carolinas.” He also spoke at the Sarasota Civil War Round Table and the Civil War Education Association in Sarasota, Florida. Check C-SPAN 3 for recordings of many of his presentations.

Assistant Editor David Nolen has been spreading the word about the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library through his recent presentations. Along with his fellow Assistant Editor at the Grant Library, Louis Gallo; Amanda Gagel from the Mark Twain Papers at UC-Berkeley; and Ulysses S. Grant Association President Frank Williams, David presented in the panel “‘A great, unique, and unapproachable literary masterpiece’: Ulysses S. Grant, His Personal Memoirs, and Samuel L. Clemens” at the Joint Conference of the Society for Textual Scholarship and the Association for Documentary Editing in Lincoln, Nebraska. He presented “‘My family is American, and has been for generations’: Ulysses S. Grant and Genealogy.” at the Second Annual E.O. Templeton, Jr., History and Genealogy Fair, Starkville, Mississippi. And he presented at the Society of Mississippi Archivists Biennial Conference in Long Beach, Mississippi, “‘I would like to see truthful history written’: Historical Memory in Grant's Memoirs.” David continues his work editing the Grant memoirs with John Marszalek and Louis Gallo.

While Assistant Editor Louis Gallo is fairly new to the field of documentary editing, he has worked on a number of fascinating editorial projects in addition to his current project on Grant’s memoirs. Dispatches From Grant interviewed Louis for this issue about a side editorial project he is working on, and in the interview, he also opened up about the projects he assisted with before coming to the Grant Library. Also, Louis recently published a book chapter, “Ida McKinley: A Life of Contrasts,” in A Companion to First Ladies, edited by Katherine A.S. Sibley and published by Wiley-Blackwell. The book is forthcoming this year.

Archivist Ryan Semmes works closely with Grant Library staff although his position is officially in Mississippi State University Libraries’ Congressional and Political Research Center (CPRC). Ryan’s archival experience is invaluable to the work we do at the Grant Library. He is also working on his doctorate in the History department at Mississippi State University. His dissertation will analyze the role of Ulysses S. Grant’s foreign policy.

Assistant to the Executive Director (and newsletter editor) Meg Henderson is working on a Master of Management in Library and Information Science through the University of Southern California’s online Library Science program. Meg plans to graduate in August. In addition to her many tasks for the Grant Association, Meg’s "school work" keeps her extremely busy. She also plans to do an internship this summer as part of her program.

Amanda Carlock, although not formally working for USGA, is invaluable in all the ways she helps our Grant operation. She is busy organizing papers in the Congressional and Political Research Center which is housed with Grant.

Kate Salter Gregory is also an employee of the CPRC, but she also helps USGA in a variety of ways.
U.S. Grant Library Co-Hosts Teachers’ Workshop with Mississippi Museum of Art
By Meg Henderson

On Saturday, February 20, the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library staff traveled to the Mississippi Museum of Art in Jackson to co-host the second annual institute for history and social studies teachers, “Teaching History in Mississippi: The 2016 Teaching Institute.” The day-long workshop featured sessions on using technology in the classroom and taking advantage of online and physical resources for teaching history in Mississippi, as well as discussions on incorporating local resources, like Mississippi historical sites and museums, into the curriculum. In addition to the presentations, the workshop allowed time for educators to ask questions of the presenters and collaborate with and learn from peers.

Thirty-eight teachers attended the workshop, which began with a welcome from Dr. John Marszalek, Executive Director of the Ulysses S. Grant Association’s Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library at Mississippi State University. This was followed by an overview of historical sites around the state of Mississippi that offer educational programs for teachers and their students. Will Wilson, Vicksburg National Military Park, Jim Woodrick, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Dorian Pridgen, Mississippi Museum of Art discussed how teachers could use these sites as resources for teaching their history courses. David Nolen, Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library, showed the teachers how to search for and find tools and sources online to support their instruction. After a working lunch, Assistant Editor Louis Gallo presented the teachers with documentary and artifact sources available at the Grant Library, which teachers could use to enhance the history materials in their classrooms. The workshop concluded with a discussion panel, where all presenters, joined by Ryan Semmes, coordinator of the Mitchell Memorial Library’s Congressional and Political Research Center, took questions from participants.

Overall, the teachers who attended the workshop found it useful and were excited to take what they learned back to the classroom. One teacher commented, “My co-workers keep asking me for primary source options, and this will be a great help.” Another teacher said, “I enjoyed [learning about] all of the lesser known monuments in the state. I appreciated the recognition of African-American soldiers.” A majority of the teachers expressed their desire to come back next year.

“We at the Grant Presidential Library were pleased to see the enthusiasm of the teachers during the entire program,” said Dr. Marszalek. “We always look forward to the opportunity to interact with our state’s marvelous teachers.”
Staff Spotlight: Louis Gallo
By Meg Henderson

Dispatches from Grant interviewed the newest staff member at the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library, Assistant Editor Louis Gallo. Louis came to the Grant Library on a one-year position in the summer of 2014 and has been a permanent staff member since summer 2015. Many of our readers know about Louis’s work on the Grant Association’s latest editorial project, editing the Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant. However, most do not know about a fascinating side project he has taken on recently, editing a collection of letters from a former communications officer in WWII.

DFG: Could you tell us about how you came across this project?

LG: When I first started working here [at the Grant Library], I lived in faculty housing, and one of my neighbors, Dr. David Buys, told me about this collection of letters he got from his grandparents, Luther and Fannie Rhodes. Dr. Buys was looking for someone to transcribe his letters so he could give them to his family, and they’d have a better understanding of his grandparents’ relationship. He asked me if I was willing to edit them, and I said yes.

DFG: Could you tell us a bit about the collection?

LG: During WWII, Rhodes installed communications lines in Burma, China, and Italy. The Rhodes lived in Mississippi, so while Luther was away at war, they corresponded with each other. The collection of 100 letters spans from 1941-1949. It’s mostly correspondence, some postcards, and it’s mainly personal stuff, nothing too serious. You can tell it’s a young couple in love, they were just married, and you could tell she was missing her husband.

Basically, he [Dr. Buys] wants to know what his grandfather was doing during the war and where he is. You kind of lose context with his letters, which mention certain battalions and certain areas and places. For instance, which camp he’s at, where he’s training, where he’s stationed abroad, or which battalion or regiment he’s in. He wants me to contextualize his [grandfather’s] duties as a communications expert. He’s looking for context more than anything, of where Private Rhodes was during the war.

I’m a military historian, but I actually find her [Fannie’s] correspondence more interesting because you get to see life for a woman at home during WWII. She’s by herself, and she has to live by herself. She’s talking about things that most people might find boring: the movies that she’s seeing, the music playing on the radio, the food she’s eating. There’s one song with the line “Tonight I’m thinking about my blue eyes” by the Carter Family. She writes in one letter that she heard the song on the radio and said it made her think about him. This is a white family in MS, so their standard of life is a little easier; she has plenty to live off of and doesn’t ever miss a meal. It’s interesting that she talks so much about food because many of the diaries from the Bataan Death March museum included recipes.

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It’s interesting. It was a tough time, even for Middle Americans, because they had to ration. She certainly wasn’t living the high life.

DFG: Could you describe how you went about editing the collection, for readers who might not be familiar with the editorial process?

LG: I used the basic documentary editing process: I processed the letters and put them in order, giving them an accession number, and put them in acid-free files and boxes. Then I created an inventory list of each letter: from whom, to whom, date, where they were located, and a brief description. I also digitized the letters to make them more accessible and made photocopies of each one and put them in binders. That’s where I am now. If he [Dr. Buys] wants me to do full out transcriptions and annotations, it may take a while longer to complete. Once the project is complete, I’d like to him to donate the letters to Mississippi State University Libraries Special Collections. They’re [the Rhodes] from the area, it’s relevant, and I think it would be a great addition.

DFG: What professional experiences do you feel prepared you for this project?

LG: It’s interesting to me because I’ve never really worked with WWII letters, but I have worked with WWII history and scholarship. I worked at the Bataan Death March museum in Wellsburg, WV, which deals with the Philippines and WWII and how the American prisoners of war were treated. It’s infamous, that march. So I’m somewhat familiar with WWII history, but this is the first time I’m really digging into personal correspondence from a soldier of that time.

I’ve never had a personal side project like this, but a lot of my professional documentary editing experience prepared me for this. The most influential project I worked on was the Sutliff Family Papers at the Sutliff Family Museum in Warren, Ohio. This was a prominent abolitionist family who lived in Ohio in the 1800s. Their letters were buried in a drawer for about 130 years; no one knew about them. Someone at the museum opened up a drawer in a big chest, and there they were – about 1000 letters. There are some historically significant letters that no one knew about and no scholar had ever looked at. My job as the first research assistant was to digitize the collection, and I also transcribed some letters. After that, I briefly worked on the Frederick Douglass Papers as a research assistant. I got to annotate letters from Douglass in 1863, when he was traveling around New York trying to recruit black soldiers. That’s when I started working at the McKinley Museum. I was the assistant curator of their collections, but I got the chance to transcribe postcards from McKinley’s presidency. While I was working there, I got the chance to come here and work at the Grant Library.

All of those experiences contribute to the work I’m doing on the WWII letters; the knowledge I gained was invaluable, and I tried to retain as much as I could because I knew this was the profession I wanted to be in. The project keeps me busy, along with my work on the Memoirs.

A letter from Private Luther Rhodes to his wife, Fannie, June 6, 1944 (D-Day)
USGA Executive Director John Marszalek and his wife, Jeanne, have been strong supporters of MSU Libraries. Fourteen years ago, the Marszaleks approached Frances Coleman, Dean of Mississippi State University Libraries, with the idea of creating fund to donate history-related materials to the library's collection each year. Dean Coleman suggested that in addition to the purchased materials, the library should bring in a speaker each year and work with the history department, where graduate students could apply to present their work as well. The John F. and Jeanne A. Marszalek Library Fund & Lecture Series made its debut in the spring of 2003, and 2016 will be the 14th annual lecture.

This year's event will be held at MSU Wednesday, March 23 at 2:30 p.m. in Mitchell Memorial Library's John Grisham Room. The lecture is free and open to the public.

The 2016 Marszalek Lecture speaker is author and USGA member Dr. Edwina S. Campbell. Dr. Campbell is a former U.S. Foreign Service officer who worked on several presidential visits and summit meetings during her years with the Department of State. After leaving the diplomatic service, she taught American foreign policy at the University of Virginia, was a professor of grand strategy at National Defense University, and retired in 2014 as a professor of national security studies at Air University. Since 1985 she has been a frequent practitioner of public diplomacy for the U.S. Information Agency and the Department of State. Campbell’s numerous publications include Germany’s Past and Europe’s Future: The Challenges of West German Foreign Policy and The Relevance of American Power: The Anglo-American Past and the Euro-Atlantic Future. Dr. Campbell will be speaking on her forthcoming book, Citizen of a Wider Commonwealth: Ulysses S. Grant’s Postpresidential Diplomacy, published by Southern Illinois University Press. The hardback edition will be available for purchase April 21 and is currently available for pre-order at Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

Ryan Lawrence, a senior at MSU, will present his paper entitled “Mutual Misunderstandings: A Study on Ida Honoré Grant’s Austrian Experience.” The 2016 Marszalek Lecture Series student essay winner’s work centers on the transnational interactions and cultural interpretations between Ida Grant and the Austrian aristocracy during Fred Grant’s appointment as minister to Austria from 1889 until 1893. The collection of Ida Honoré Grant’s letters, donated to the Grant Library by Ulysses Dietz, were invaluable to the completion of this paper.

For more information on MSU Libraries, the Marszalek Lecture Series, and the upcoming lecture, please visit http://library.msstate.edu/Marszalek.

Dr. Edwina S. Campbell
How can you make a gift to the U.S. Grant Presidential Library?

1. **Cash**: You can deduct cash gifts up to 50% of adjusted gross income. On a $10,000 cash gift in a 28% tax bracket, you can save $2,800 in taxes. You can also make a multiple-year cash pledge, deducting cash pledged over a period of years.

2. **Bequest through Will**: It is very simple to give of your estate. You can make a gift bequest—after others have been provided for—of a dollar amount, specific property, a percentage of the estate, or the remainder to the Ulysses S. Grant Association.

3. **Outright Gift of Real Estate**: One of the most overlooked gift forms is of real estate. A gift of land, a house, or vacation home is a perfect gift. You will impact generations—and receive a tax deduction for the full fair market value, as well as avoiding all capital gain taxes.

4. **Retirement Accounts**: Retirement Account Funds (IRAs) beyond the comfortable support of yourself or your loved ones may be given (such as life insurance proceeds) to the Ulysses S. Grant Association by proper beneficiary designation. Those 70 1/2 and older can make qualified charitable distributions (QCBs) from your IRAs (limited to $100,000 per year); these donations are not included in individual income or allowed as a charitable deduction. Subject to annual review by Congress.

5. **Personal Property (Collections, Royalty Rights, etc.)**: Gifts of personal property are always welcome, including collections, royalty, and mineral rights. Charitable tax deductions are available in the year of the gift.

6. **Appreciated Stock**: Appreciated stock (held more than one year) makes an excellent gift. Avoid all capital gain taxes, receive a tax deduction, and deduct up to 30% of your adjusted gross income.

7. **Bonds, Mutual Funds**: Bonds and mutual funds are similar to cash in their tax treatment. State Municipal, and U.S. Government Bonds are welcome.

8. **Gift of Life Insurance**: It is easy to make a significant gift by naming the Ulysses S. Grant Association beneficiary to receive all, or a portion, of the proceeds of an existing life insurance policy. You will receive a tax deduction for the cash surrender value, thus reducing your tax liability in the year of the gift.

9. **Real Estate with Life Tenancy**: Receive a substantial income tax deduction by giving (deeding) your home or farm to the Ulysses S. Grant Association now. You can continue to live there, maintain the property as usual, and even receive any income it generates. At your death, the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library will convert your property into cash to support the goals of its organization.

10. **In-Kind Gifts**: Gifts of goods or services are welcomed by the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library with prior approval by the Executive Director.

11. **Charitable Gift Annuities**: These gifts provide the Ulysses S. Grant Association with lifetime income. They do not require a large donation. In exchange for an irrevocable gift of cash, stock, bonds or, in some cases, other assets, a donor will receive fixed income payments for life (or two lives) as well as a charitable income tax deduction in the year of the gift. When the annuity...
Giving to USGA

Donations help the U. S. Grant Association to fulfill its mission to "conduct research into the life and era of Ulysses S. Grant, to edit and publish his writings, to preserve our collection of his writings and artifacts, and to share our materials with researchers and the public for educational purposes."

Direct donations to USGA may be made on our website: http://www.usgrantlibrary.org/usga/donate.asp.

Or, if you would like to schedule a personal consultation on various options of how you can make an impactful philanthropic investment in the U.S. Grant Association, please contact Asya Cooley, Director of Development at 662-722-2758 or acooley@foundation.msstate.edu.

We thank you for your support!

Send us your news!

Do you have any news, such as an event, publication, or book review, related to Ulysses S. Grant or the Civil War? If you’d like to share your news in an upcoming issue of the USGA newsletter, please email with a photograph, if available, to mhenderson@library.msstate.edu.

In Our Next Issue...

Highlights from USGA Annual Meeting in Richmond, May 6-8, 2016

Publication Updates: “World of Ulysses S. Grant” and Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant