Before cancer took his life, Ulysses S. Grant completed his two-volume Memoirs. Although this classic publication covers only Grant’s early life through the Civil War, later presidents have looked to it as a model for their own presidential remembrances. Most recently, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush have talked about how they read the Memoirs before beginning to write their own.

Despite its enormous significance in American letters, Grant’s Memoirs do not have a scholarly edition. The Ulysses S. Grant Association is working to remedy that inexplicable void. Ever since USGA completed the editing and publication of Volume 32 of The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant, it has centered its attention on the Memoirs. This has been a difficult and time consuming task, but USGA editors are making steady progress, and the publication of this scholarly edition will be a major event in American literary history.

Grant began the writing of this masterpiece reluctantly, only when a Wall Street charlatan, Ferdinand Ward, bankrupted him. Grant came to the conclusion that, having agreed to write some articles for Century Magazine’s “Battles and Leaders” series and enjoying the experience, he would write his life story. Thereby, he would also recoup his finances and save his family from monetary distress.

The writing was physically difficult for him. He had to compose while suffering from what came to be diagnosed as throat, mouth, and tongue cancer. At the same time, he was still recovering from a fall on slippery ice outside his New York City house. The pain from that fall had been awful, and the cancer made him even more miserable.

He pressed forward, however, resolved to complete the book before the cancer killed him. He was determined to leave his beloved wife Julia with enough money to survive his death. He lived long enough to complete his writing, but not long enough to enjoy publication.

After the two-volume set came out in late 1885, Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain) and his Charles L. Webster Company sent Julia the largest royalty check in American history up to that time, $200,000, (in today’s money that is equivalent to several million dollars).

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And, by the way, Clemens did not ghost write Grant’s *Memoirs*; he took care of the business of publication. Grant wrote the book himself with the help of son Fred, former army aide Adam Badeau, and several others.

The two volumes of the first edition contain 1216 pages and include a fold-up map of the theaters of the Civil War. The text begins with the words: “My family is American,” and it ends in the appendix with Grant’s report on July 22, 1864 to the secretary of war, his last words being. “Let them [Union troops] hope for perpetual peace and harmony with that enemy, whose manhood, however mistaken the cause, drew forth such herculean deeds of valor.” And to make sure everyone understood his feelings, he wrote in the book’s dedication, “These volumes are dedicated to the American soldier and sailor.”

USGA will produce two scholarly editions of this major work. First to come will be a hard-cover-clean-text edition, with appropriate annotations to provide the reader with necessary information to understand Grant’s insights. Following that, USGA will provide a literal transcription of the manuscript text as produced by Grant and will make it available digitally. This two-pronged approach will provide readers with two platforms: the print edition will be primarily for those interested in what Grant has to say and the digitized one for those who want to understand how the text was produced by Grant and his helpers. Having two such scholarly approaches will make the *Memoirs* readily available to the widest range of scholars and the public.

The completion dates of this most complicated task are still uncertain, but with the help of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Historical Publication and Records Commission, the MSU Libraries and Mississippi State University, and the board of directors and members of USGA, led by President Frank J. Williams, the task will be accomplished. Stay tuned for announcements in the future.
Grant in Mississippi
By John F. Marszalek

Ever since USGA came to MSU in December 2008, this has been the first question from the national media: “Just How Did USGA and Its Collection Get to the Heart of the Old Confederacy?” Visitors to the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library never fail to make the same inquiry. Scholars around the nation are amazed. Even MSU faculty, staff, and students find USGA’s presence in the Mitchell Memorial Library to be ironic. When the Executive Director and staff travel around the state and nation to make presentations, this is always an inevitable question. How did Grant get to Mississippi?

Some people know the story, but many do not. Long-time executive director and managing editor, John Y. Simon, died in July 2008. Even before that, however, because of irreconcilable differences with Southern Illinois University, USGA had decided to find a new host institution. It was not as easy as that, of course. SIU and USGA were first involved in litigation to determine the ownership of the collection. An out-of-court settlement decided that the papers did indeed belong to USGA, and the Association had the right to move them. There was a stipulation, however. Both sides were bound by a “gag order” not to discuss or make public anything about the litigation.

At this point, there had only been two presidents of USGA: Chicago bookstore proprietor and Lincoln expert Ralph Newman, and Rhode Island Chief Justice Frank J. Williams. Leadership for USGA during this difficult period fell to President Williams. Few people realize how difficult these times were for USGA and how much effort Williams put into preserving the Association and continuing its important role of publication and maintaining the historical image of one of the major Americans of all time, Ulysses S. Grant.

Williams was the perfect man for the job. He is a nationally known scholar in the history profession, he has wide judicial experience, and he has long-time administrative experience in historical organizations. Perhaps most importantly, he is a hard driving individual who will not take no for an answer. He took on the difficult question of the future of USGA at the same time he was administering all the courts in Rhode Island, presiding over the state’s supreme court, chairing the Lincoln Forum, and writing books and articles about Abraham Lincoln.

He immediately began to search for a new host institution. Then he looked at possibilities for a new executive director. The new director proved to be someone he had known for years, and, when he asked John Marszalek to take on this service, the former history professor came out of retirement to answer the call.

Then Williams, with the aid of USGA board members, had to make the monumental decision as to where USGA should go. As he likes to tell it, the result was fortuitous.

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The decision to come to MSU was the result of his “handshake over the telephone” with MSU Libraries Dean, Frances Coleman. The telephone call between Williams and Coleman was a conversation between two no-nonsense professionals. They were both prepared, and they decided quickly.

USGA left SIU in early December 2008 and arrived at MSU in two huge moving vans. It was not until late January that the formal agreement was signed. The “handshake over the telephone” served as the only bind between MSU and USGA until MSU President Mark Keenum and Executive Director Marszalek signed the written legal agreement. (Williams could not arrive in Mississippi because of bad weather.)

Because of the driving leadership of USGA President Frank Williams, the determination of Dean Frances Coleman, and the unflinching support of three MSU presidents (Vance Watson, Roy Ruby, and Mark Keenum), USGA came into the heart of the old Confederacy. Neither side has ever had any regrets, and USGA has prospered in its new home – something no one would have ever thought possible.

Left to right: Frank J. Williams, Mark E. Keenum.

**New Face at the Grant Library**

**By Meg Henderson**

In mid-August, Visiting Assistant Editor Bob Karachuk completed his one-year appointment at the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library, taking a job at the University of South Carolina to work on a digital project with the Pinckney Family Papers. While Bob is missed by everyone at the library, we welcome a new Visiting Assistant Editor, Louis Gallo.

Gallo has an undergraduate degree in History and an M.A. in American Studies with a focus in applied history, specifically documentary editing. As an undergrad, he interned at the Bataan Death March Museum, where his first documentary editing experience involved digitizing newsletters and transcribing diaries of prisoners of war. He also interned at the Sutliff Family Papers as a graduate student and subcontracted with the Frederick Douglass Papers.

Additionally, Gallo has museum experience, volunteering at the Meadowcroft Rock Shelter Museum and Hancock County Museum and, more recently, working at the McKinley Birthplace Museum.

Gallo’s enthusiasm for documentary editing and presidential history make him an ideal fit for the position. “I saw the opportunity to work at the Grant Papers as a chance to work on something of such great significance, and I could not pass it up. I associate Grant with his *Memoirs*, and I am excited to be helping edit them,” he said. USGPL is fortunate to have Gallo’s documentary editing expertise contributing to its work on the *Memoirs*. 
A Ball, a Beard, and a Bulldog
By Meg Henderson

Bulldog football has generated excitement about MSU not only here in Starkville, but also across the country. The football team's unprecedented rise to #1 in the AP and Coaches' polls earlier in the season has only strengthened the national spotlight on Mississippi State University. Following linebacker Richie Brown's three interceptions during the Texas A&M game earlier this season, Brown's beard became an overnight sensation, getting its own Twitter account and generating buzz over his likeness to Ulysses S. Grant.

Last month, the SEC Network visited the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library at MSU to film Brown standing next to the notable Grant portrait painted by James Reid Lambden in 1868 and on loan from Jim Small of Las Vegas. Brown enjoyed the unexpected comparison to Grant, who was, in his own time, often likened to a bulldog both as a general and as president.

During the Civil War, President Lincoln had said, "I hope to have God on my side, but I must have Kentucky." His statement also could have been made about the Mississippi State Bulldogs as they played Kentucky in October.

Patrick Teegarden, Director of Policy and Legislation at Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and member of the Ulysses S. Grant Association, sent an email to Grant Presidential Library Executive Director John Marszalek, wishing the Bulldogs well as they traveled to Kentucky to defend their #1 ranking.

Teegarden wrote: "Abraham Lincoln said it, and famous 'bulldog' Ulysses S. Grant made sure it became a reality. But this afternoon is the time for all Abraham Lincoln/U.S. Grant/Civil War historians and buffs to unite behind John Marszalek, MSU Coach Dan Mullen, and the Mississippi State Bulldogs, as they venture into Lexington, which is a little deeper into hostile KY territory than Paducah!"

Grant Association President Frank Williams responded to Teegarden, "Go Bulldawgs!"

And, as Abraham Lincoln wrote to Ulysses S. Grant in 1864, the team continued to "hold on with a bulldog grip" to beat Kentucky.

Whether it is the football team, the Grant Presidential Library, or a number of other outstanding programs at MSU, there are many reasons to say, "Go Dawgs!"

Follow us on Social Media!

Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library
@USGrantLibrary
Restoring Grant’s Detroit Home
By Meg Henderson

A home is not simply a house – a shelter, a place to store one’s belongings. It is a centerpiece of one’s life for the time lived there. It is an extension of the self and the family and is the setting for memories from a particular place and time. For a person of historical significance, a house provides a window into his or her private life; it shows a side of that person that is often overlooked in history books.

The home of Ulysses and Julia Grant in Detroit, where they lived from April 1849 to April 1851, is rich with history. Built in 1838, the two-story Greek Revival house on Fort Street was the perfect residence for the newlywed Grants. It was close to Grant’s post at the Detroit Barracks, but it also had features that he thought would be suitable for his bride, such as a kitchen garden with fruit trees and plenty of space for entertaining guests. The Grants had their first child, Frederick Dent Grant, while living in that house.

Until 1936, the house remained a private residence. That year, the Michigan Mutual Liability Company purchased and remodeled the property and opened it to the public. The house was placed on the Michigan State Register of Historic Sites in 1956. As part of Detroit’s urban renewal plans in the ’50s, the house was moved to the Michigan State Fairgrounds and has remained there to this day. While it was open to the public for a number of years, the Fairgrounds fell on hard times in the early 2000s, and the house, neglected, gradually fell into serious disrepair.

Jack Dempsey, partner at the law firm Dickinson Wright PLLC and 2007 appointee to the Michigan Historical Commission, became aware of the house’s ruinous condition in 2008, when he and other Michigan Historical Commission members were given a tour. He recognized immediately that something must be done.

“It was not treated with the right kind of respect and became essentially a dormitory for fair workers,” Dempsey said. “There was a waterbed and air conditioning units brought in, and the interior suffered.”

The Fairgrounds closed in 2009, and the Commission began working with stakeholders, making plans to move the house from its fairgrounds property to a more suitable location and then to begin restoration work. State Senator Patrick Colbeck proposed an amendment to the legislation, which set forth the plan of action to preserve the house.

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Sandra Clark, director of the Historical Center of Michigan and Commissioner Kimberly Johnson have also done a tremendous amount of work in planning, making the move feasible, and raising funds to move the house.

The work will begin in early 2015, when the house will be relocated to downtown Detroit, very near its original location. Once the move is completed, the Commission will raise additional funds for the renovation work, with the intent to restore it to its original condition for educational and tourism purposes. Dempsey hopes that adequate funding will be available to begin that work in the summer or early fall of 2015.

“The long-term goal is to restore [the house] to its 1840s appearance, if we’re able to raise all the funds to do that – including the garden and carriage house,” Dempsey said. “For an urban setting, that would be an interesting story. There’s a lot going on in Detroit now with urban farming, and the proximity of the location to the Eastern Market, one of the original farmers’ markets in Detroit, would be a very powerful story.”

A lifelong Civil War enthusiast, Dempsey is not only fascinated with the home because of its connection to General Grant. He is also excited that a piece of Civil War history is in his own backyard and wants everyone to be able to experience that history.

“As a lifelong Michigander, I think we owe it to the people of Michigan and anyone connected to this story to give Ulysses and Julia Grant’s first home the proper respect and reverence that it deserves,” Dempsey said.

### In Brief: News from USGPL

**Construction** of the new Ulysses S. Grant Library is slated to start in May 2015 and projected to be completed late 2016 or early 2017. The new library will hold two large galleries, an orientation room, reading room, processing room for new materials, and storage area for its papers and artifacts. All spaces will be museum and archival caliber for optimal display and preservation of our materials.

**Plans** are underway for restoration of the Grant Monument on the Washington Mall, following a delay due to the earthquake that damaged the Washington Monument. Stephen Ayers, Architect of the Capitol, responded to our inquiry on the monument, stating that the restoration is in the “contracting phase” and will have a more definitive timeline once the contract is awarded. Ayers wrote, “We agree that preserving this memorial is an important task and appreciate the strong support of the Ulysses S. Grant Association in restoring this national treasure.”


**USGPL and MSU** are hosting a symposium in September 2015, “The Fifteenth Amendment: From U.S. Grant to Lyndon B. Johnson’s Voting Rights Act.” Paper and panel proposals will be accepted through February 1, 2015. For more information and to register, visit [http://www.usgrantlibrary.org/newsandevents/15thamendment.asp](http://www.usgrantlibrary.org/newsandevents/15thamendment.asp).

**Meg Henderson**, staff and newsletter editor, competed in the Arizona Ironman this month. An Ironman is a triathlon with a consecutive 2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike, and marathon (26.2 mile run). Athletes are given 17 hours to complete the course. Meg finished in 13:57. USGPL is proud of you, Meg!
The Canadian Connection
By Keith Cross

Most members of the Ulysses S Grant Association and readers of “Dispatches from Grant” will have some awareness of the eastern Canadian cities of Halifax, Montreal, and Toronto, cities that played a significant role in the American Civil War – from outfitting and repairing CSA warships to being “home bases” for significant CSA spying and espionage activities against the Union later in the war. Members might even have heard of the town of Guelph in Southwestern Ontario, home to the foundry of Adam Robertson and Son, which had been supplying munitions to the CSA (Canadian Governor General Charles Monck had the business seized until its owners signed a bond to cease and desist this activity).

However, I would guess that very few of our members have heard of that beautiful little lakeside resort town of Cobourg, situated on the north shore of Lake Ontario, about 60 miles east of Toronto and 60 miles north of Rochester, NY. By the late 1880s and early 1900s, wealthy American industrialists, high ranking US federal and state government officials, actors and musicians, and others had built enormous summer homes in Cobourg to take advantage of the clean air, moderate summer temperatures, and fine beaches. By the 1890s, Cobourg would become a fashionable resort town. Cobourg’s population in 1902 was about 4300. Other Cobourg residents included many former officers of the USA and CSA armies, including Orlando M. Poe, Chief Engineer during Sherman’s “Atlanta” and “March to the Sea” campaigns. General Poe bought his home in 1894 and lived there until his untimely death in 1895. His daughter continued living in the home until her death in 1953. Mrs. Jefferson Davis (Varina) apparently summered there, and the story is that she and Julia Grant became friends, living in nearby summer homes.

This past April, Diane and I attended a dinner meeting in Lindsay, ON, where the guest speaker was Canadian author and historian John Boyko, author of Blood and Daring. In discussions after his presentation, Boyko mentioned that he had recently seen a desk (or table) in Peterborough, ON which allegedly had been owned by Ulysses S Grant. Obviously, we had to follow up on that.

The trail led very quickly to the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peterborough (CSJ), an order of Catholic women which traces its origins to France in 1650. CSJ had established themselves in Toronto by 1851 with the opening of House of Providence, a facility caring for orphans and the frail elderly. The Sisters later opened Peterborough’s second hospital in 1890, its mission to “serve all people.” By 1900, the Sisters had established the Peterborough House of Providence, which separated the care of orphans and the elderly from the 1890 hospital building. In 1909, they built St. Vincent’s Orphanage to provide a more appropriate setting specifically for the care of orphans. As the number of orphans in their care increased over the years, the Sisters eventually outgrew St. Vincent’s, and by 1922, they had established a second orphanage, for girls, in Cobourg.

In 1921, CSJ bought the property for the orphanage, located at 445 Monk Street, a beautiful, very large home (28 rooms) situated high on a hill overlooking Lake Ontario. The house included all the furniture and contents belonging to the previous owners. CSJ purchased the house from Frank Hatch Jones, who, in 1912, had married Ellen (Nellie) Wrenshall Grant Sartoris, the only daughter of Ulysses S. Grant and his wife, Julia.

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Nellie had purchased the house in August 1901 after her return from England, following the death of her first husband, Algernon Sartoris, in 1893 (they divorced earlier that year). The ownership of the property had been formally transferred by Nellie to her husband Frank Jones for “affection and one dollar” sometime around 1915.

The previous owner (Miss Allan of Allan Steamship Line) had erected a major brick addition to the original 1850s home, which she used as a stable. Early in Nellie’s ownership, this addition was converted to a ballroom and was connected to the main house by a permanent addition.

The August 23, 1902 wedding of Nellie’s daughter Vivien May Sartoris to Mr. Frederick Roosevelt Scovel is considered one of the most elaborate weddings in the history of Cobourg. Vivien was a granddaughter of Ulysses S. Grant and Julia. The wedding took place in St. Peter’s Anglican Church in Cobourg, and Julia was a guest. Julia had apparently spent the majority of the summer of 1902 with Nellie in Cobourg before becoming ill in October and returning to their home in Washington, DC, where she died on December 14, 1902, with Nellie and granddaughter Rosemary Alice Sartoris at her bedside. The July 4, 1912 wedding of Nellie Grant Sartoris to Mr. Frank H. Jones took place at 11 o’clock in Nellie’s Cobourg summer home. The Rev. Canon Sprague of St. Peter’s Anglican Church, Cobourg, officiated. Nellie was given in marriage by her son Capt. Algernon Sartoris, who had served in the U.S. Army and later as Consul to Guatemala. Mr. Frederick B. Jones was best man for his brother Frank. Guests included a brother of the bride, Ulysses S. Grant, Jr. The nuptials were a small quiet family affair due to the recent passing of another of the bride’s brothers, Major General Frederick Dent Grant, U.S. Army, on April 12, 1912.

In 1921, Frank Jones sold the property to CSJ, which then proceeded with renovations to adapt the property for its intended usage as an orphanage for girls and a residence for the Sisters. They also converted the ballroom to a chapel. But the most interesting revelation was what they discovered in the basement among the furnishings of the home, which they had also purchased.

In the dark and musty basement of 445 Monk Street, the Sisters discovered a broken, soiled, torn, and long forgotten table. It was made of solid oak, nearly six feet long and three feet wide. While it appears to be much heavier, it weighs only about 150 pounds. In its discovered state, the threads of torn material indicated that it had been originally topped by wine-red leather. Every bit of the table, with the exception of the top, was extensively carved, but large chunks of the carvings were either broken or missing.

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This table was found in a home which had been occupied for over 20 years by the only daughter of Ulysses S. Grant. Had it once been owned and used by Grant himself? It had certainly been owned by his daughter and possibly used by her mother when visiting Nellie in Cobourg. Ulysses Grant Dietz, great-great-grandson of Ulysses S. Grant, has viewed pictures and descriptions of the table and some of the other artifacts found in the Cobourg house and is noncommittal at this point as to whether they were ever in the home of Ulysses and Julia — but he was very interested in learning more about his family’s Cobourg connections.

Recognizing the possible heritage of this table, the Sisters arranged for the table to be fully restored by Webb’s Woodworking Shop. Along with the table and Nellie’s wooden box, several other valuable antique articles were found in the villa when the Sisters took occupancy. The table and several other items, including a Louis IV settee, valuable crystal glasses and decanters, and 19th century Limoges china, are now displayed in the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peterborough’s new headquarters building, Mount St Joseph in Peterborough, ON or their Villa St Joseph Retreat and Ecology Centre located at 445 Monk Street in Cobourg.

Sources: Thanks to Pauline Shea and Joe Keast of The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peterborough for information on Nellie’s summer home, CSJ history and most of the images used (except as noted). Information on Cobourg came from various town-related websites. Information on the various family events (at Nellie’s home and elsewhere) came from period editions of newspapers such as the Cobourg Daily Star, the Peterborough Examiner, the Hartford Current, the Pittsburgh Press, the Crawfordsville Review, and the New York Times.

Editor’s Note: The next issue of Dispatches From Grant will cover more of the Canadians’ role in the American Civil War.
Student Workers at the Grant Library and CPRC

By Bailey Powell

The Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library is housed alongside Mississippi State's Congressional and Political Research Center. In these two departments, there are a total of ten student workers who assist the staff daily in order to complete various tasks and keep the department running. Stated below is a summary of each student's current project.

Ryan Lawrence is a Grant Presidential Library student worker who was born in Michigan but eventually landed here in Starkville, Mississippi. He is a junior level History major. Ryan is creating a timeline of events based on the Ida Honoré Grant letter correspondence from the four years Frederick Grant and his family lived in Austria.

Ashley Lea is the newest student worker in the Grant Presidential Library. She is a Junior Political Science and Pre-Law major from Jackson, Mississippi. Ashley searches for letters and other items available on sites such as eBay that are related to General Ulysses S. Grant. These letters are both written by General Grant, as well as addressed to him.

Jessie Lewis is a freshman from Yazoo City, Mississippi, and she majors in Social Work. During her work days, she searches through old Ocean Springs newspaper publications called The Record. Within this newspaper, Jessie finds articles written by Wayne Weidie entitled “The Political Scene,” then she proceeds to convert the articles into a PDF for the use of research.

Bailey Powell, a senior English major from Birmingham, Alabama, has worked in the Grant Presidential Library since January 2014. Currently, she is creating annotations for the various people mentioned in the Ida Honoré Grant letters. These annotations will provide researchers with basic knowledge of each person mentioned in the correspondence.

Zoe Schroder, originally from Brookhaven, Mississippi, is a senior Professional Meteorology major. She has worked in the CPRC since the fall of 2013. In her most recent project, she is re-labeling and relocating the G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery collection into acid-free folders and boxes for preservation purposes. Zoe is also recreating a folder list for these documents in Archivists Toolkit (archival software) for future ease of locating the contents of this collection.

Emily Smith is a senior History major originally from Grenada, Mississippi. She works in the CPRC and is in the process of rehousing the Charles "Chip" Pickering collection. This is a closed collection which contains many pictures and primary documents related to the former congressman, such as photographs of Hurricane Katrina. Emily regularly transfers these documents from their old boxes into new acid-free folders and boxes which guarantee a non-damaging home for the aged papers.

Kristen Theriot, from Houma, Louisiana, is the department's only working graduate student. She is in the second year of her Masters in Asian and European History, and she recently began working here this fall. Kristen transcribes, collates, and edits the letters in the G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery collection as well as his documents from his deployment in Europe during World War II.

Linh Vuong has been working in the CPRC since January 2013. She is a junior Secondary Education major with a concentration in Mathematics Education. She is currently working on the John C. Stennis photo collection.

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Linh sifts through hundreds of photos, labels them, and uploads a detailed description into an Excel spreadsheet for eventual digitization. She notes that this collection is very extensive and will require many more student workers’ participation on this project in the future.

Ben Voytas, from Highland, Illinois, has worked in the CPRC since August 2012. He is a senior Political Science major. At this time, Ben is in the process of cataloguing and developing the material of the Lt. Governor Amy Tuck collection. These documents and items are categorized into a specific series for ease of research.

Blass Watson, a student worker since the fall of 2012, is from McComb, Mississippi. He is a junior Biomedical Engineering major with emphasis in Pre-Med. At this time, Blass is organizing and cataloguing the materials of the U.S. Grant Association. Appropriately, Blass is the grandson of former interim MSU president Vance Watson.

Although assigned to CPRC or to USGLP, the students work on both projects and provide significant help to each.

**Board Member Profile: Interview With Edna Greene Medford**

By Meg Henderson

Edna Greene Medford is Professor, Chair, and former director of the Department of History’s graduate and undergraduate programs at Howard University in Washington, DC. Dr. Medford’s scholarly focus is in nineteenth century African-American history. She teaches courses in the Jacksonian Era, Civil War and Reconstruction, and African-American History to 1877, and she lectures to academic and public audiences around the U.S. and internationally. She has authored, co-authored, and edited works such as *The Emancipation Proclamation: Three Views* and the two-volume series *The Price of Freedom: Slavery and the Civil War*, with fellow board members Harold Holzer and Frank Williams. Her next book, *Lincoln and Emancipation*, is scheduled for publication in May 2015.

**Dr. Medford, How did you get involved with the Grant Association, as a member and a board member?** I joined the Grant Association around 2009. I had been a member of the Lincoln Forum earlier and had met people who were also members of the Grant Association. Although I had not studied President Grant to any significant extent, I had been actively involved in Lincoln and Civil War-era studies. Doubtless, I was asked to serve on the board because of those interests.

**Tell me about some of the people you’ve met in joining the Grant Association.** Actually, long before I joined the Association, I met John Y. Simon, at the time the editor of the Grant Papers. One of my first C-SPAN programs involved a filming of a reenactment of the Lincoln-Douglas Debates. Dr. Simon was one of the featured historians on the program. I met him and Mrs. Simon at that time. I was amazed by his vast knowledge of all things involving the war, especially President Grant, and equally charmed by his sense of humor.

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Your academic background, clearly, shows your interest in the Civil War, but, specifically, what about U.S. Grant made you interested enough to join the association and serve on the board? Of course, one cannot truly appreciate the war’s challenges without understanding the pivotal role played by Grant. Here was a man who met the challenges of military leadership with confidence and a determination to succeed. I wanted to be involved in preserving the narrative of his role in the war. I have learned so much more about President Grant since joining the board and have developed an even greater appreciation of his efforts.

**What do you wish more people knew about the Grant Association?** I wish more people knew, especially, about the Presidential Library and the Grant Papers and how they are connected with the Mississippi State University Library. When I mention that connection to friends and colleagues, they are surprised. The Association and the Presidential Library would not be as successful as it is without the unstinting support of the people at MSU.

**Is there anything you would like to share about yourself with our readers?** I grew up in Charles City County, south of Richmond on the James River. It was one of the sites of the Peninsula Campaign. I think I was always destined to be a historian because that place is so rich in history. My parents were understanding enough to indulge my interest in history and supported my pursuit of it when I went to college at Hampton Institute. When I went to graduate school at the University of Illinois, I knew I wanted to study the history of slavery, Civil War, and Reconstruction. Vernon Burton, a prominent scholar of southern history, was a major influence on my early graduate years and continues to be. When I left Illinois, I enrolled in the doctoral program at the University of Maryland, where I studied under the direction of Ira Berlin.

**Is there anything else you’d like to add about yourself, or about your experience on the board?** Just that I feel privileged to work closely with fellow board members.

### The Organizations Behind USGA’s Publications

*By John Marszalek*

USGA was founded in 1962 with the purpose of collecting and publishing the writings of leading Civil War General and United States President Ulysses S. Grant. Its beginning predates the beginnings of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the National Historical Publication and Records Commission (NHPRC). In truth, however, USGA has been linked with these two federal organizations almost from its founding. It is no exaggeration to say that, without the financial support of these agencies, USGA would not have been able to publish its thirty-two volumes of *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*. Surely Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and Mississippi State University have invested vast enabling sums into USGA over the years, but the financial support of NEH and NHPRC has proven to be crucial.

NHPRC has the longer history of the two federal organizations. In 1934, Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal established the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).
While NARA was founded to be the preserver of federal records, NHPRC’s task, since it received grant-making power in 1964, has been to “preserve, publish, and encourage the use of documentary sources, created in every medium ranging from quill pen to computer, relating to the history of the United States.”

Over the years, NHPRC has provided USGA with millions of dollars in support of its publication of Grant material. Chaired by the Archivist of the United States, presently David Ferriero (who paid a personal visit to Mississippi State University in support of the arrival of the Grant material here), every branch of the Federal Government has representatives on the NHPRC Board, and it is supported by a staff of professionals. NHPRC has also long supported the activities of the Association for Documentary Editing (ADE), including sponsoring the Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents, known more familiarly as “Camp Edit.” (Three USGA staff members are graduates of Camp Edit, and others plan to attend this summer.)

A much younger organization with a broader mission is NEH. Since 1965, when it came into being, it has helped fund publication projects like USGA’s, but it has also financially supported independent book publications, television documentaries, the Library of America editions, the United States Newspaper Project, and lectures on the humanities all around the nation. NEH’s mission, in brief, includes the support of the humanities “with particular attention to reflecting our diverse heritage, traditions, and history . . . [demonstrating] the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life.”

Clearly, the work of USGA has always fit under the rubrics of both NHPRC and NEH. The role of Ulysses S. Grant in American history has been major. Grant’s ability with the pen has created documents that provide major insight into the direction of American society over the years. These documents demonstrate to scholars and the public how American society grew and developed. Not having insights into Grant would mean the loss of valuable information about American life.

Over the years since the mid-1960s, NEH and NHPRC have recognized the important role that Grant played in a crucial period of American history and have provided financial support to USGA to make such information available to American citizens and the world in general.

In recent years, there has been concern among scholars of the humanities, history, and the social sciences that the long-time support of NEH and NHPRC will not be available in the future. The budgets of both agencies have recently been cut significantly, particularly that of NHPRC. USGA greatly appreciates the continued support of these organizations as they face difficult financial decisions. We are honored that the USGA’s documentary editing projects are important in the eyes of NEH and NHPRC. USGA needs these organizations to continue its work, and America needs the material that USGA has made known since its founding in 1962.
How Can I Donate?

Donate your books and artifacts. The Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library accepts books on the subjects of U.S. Grant’s life and the Grant family, Grant’s Presidency, and the Civil War. We also accept artifacts and memorabilia on the subjects of U.S. Grant and family. For inquiries, please email mhenderson@library.msstate.edu or call 662-325-4552.

Make a financial contribution to the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library. You may contribute to the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library Fund by sending a payment directly to the Grant Library at P.O. Box 5408, Mississippi State, MS 39762.
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.

- Updating our Records -

If you have moved or changed your contact information recently, please send us your updated mailing address, phone number, and email. There are also a number of members who have outdated mailing addresses, and we are not able to get in touch with them. If you know anyone listed below, or someone who is a member and is not receiving communications from the Grant Association, please encourage him or her to call Meg Henderson at 662-325-4552 or email mhenderson@library.msstate.edu. Thank you!


In the Next Issue...

The Canadian role in the American Civil War

Further updates on the new library space

More detail on the Fifteenth Amendment Symposium

More news from USGA members