Dear Members,

It seems only a few days ago that we had our annual meeting in Chattanooga, where we had the largest gathering of USGA members anyone can remember. A good time and learning experience was had by all.

Our next meeting will take place in Richmond, Virginia and nearby Pamplin Park, the best Civil War site and museum still in private hands. Since the area played such an important role in Grant’s victory over Robert E. Lee, we expect this meeting to be another outstanding one. The date is set: Friday-Sunday, May 6-8, 2016. Our headquarters will be the Omni Hotel in downtown Richmond. A shuttle will run from the Airport to the hotel and back, and USGA will provide busses for getting around all the sites.

The first week in December, we will put all the information about this meeting on our website: www.usgrantlibrary.org. I urge you at that time to reserve a room at the hotel, under our special rate, and also make your reservation for the meeting. These arrangements can be done electronically or you can mail your meeting reservation with a check to us. Each attendee is responsible for his/her own lodging.

In our last newsletter, President Frank Williams and I explained our financial situation and asked for donations to USGA. I am happy to report that one of our members made a substantial donation, $50,000. We also received donations of varying sizes from a number of our members. In this newsletter, editor Meg Henderson has included a page on the various ways our members or others are able to make donations to USGA. As you think about and make year-end donations, I hope you will include USGA among these gifts.

We continue to have a finance committee, led by our Vice President for Development, Jim Bultema, working toward more donations from individuals and corporations. At our May annual meeting, both at the Board of Directors meeting and our membership meeting, we will present more thoughts about how we might move forward. The MSU Libraries now has someone, Asya Cooley from the MSU Foundation, working on its behalf and on ours too. Asya will attend our annual meeting and give us ideas about how we might proceed in our fundraising. You will enjoy meeting her.

USGA has partnered with Illinois state organizations to support the repair of the Grant monument in Washington. The Architect of the Capitol promised us action, and it is taking place. No word yet about a rededication ceremony, but we will keep you informed.

Similarly, when USGA moved to MSU, the MSU President Mark Keenum promised us action, and it is taking place. No word yet about a rededication ceremony, but we will keep you informed.

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I know you will enjoy this newsletter. Meg Henderson has done her usual outstanding job. I want to thank her and all of those who volunteered articles. Keep ’em coming.

John F. Marszalek
Announcements

“The President’s Face” - Through April 30, 2016. This special exhibit of photographs and portraits are on display at the U.S. Grant Presidential Library, featuring rarely seen views of presidents Lincoln, Grant, and Garfield from the Ulke Family Collection.

Social Studies Teachers Institute—February 20, 2016. U.S. Grant Presidential Library and Mississippi State University staff and faculty are partnering with the Mississippi Museum of Art in Jackson, MS to host a workshop for middle school teachers on teaching the Civil War in the classroom. CEU credits will be available. Information will be available in early 2016 on the MMA’s website: http://msmuseumart.org/

Annual USGA Meeting—May 6-8, 2016 in Pamplin Park and Richmond, Virginia. Details to follow soon on the Grant Presidential Library website.

New Membership Structure—A reminder that as of September 1, 2015, joining members have more options for membership. They may choose a lifetime membership for $500, an annual membership for $100/year, or a student membership for $25/year if they are actively enrolled in a K-12 school or university. To learn more about becoming a member, visit http://www.usgrantlibrary.org/usga/membership.asp. If you are already a member, tell your friends about the benefits of joining USGA!

USGA President Frank Williams is also chair of the Lincoln Forum, which meets yearly in Gettysburg. Congratulations to Frank on the 20th anniversary of the organization which he and fellow USGA board member Harold Holzer founded.

Congratulations, Dr. Fields!—USGA member and historical interpreter Dr. E.C. (Curt) Fields was, after a national search, selected as the official U.S. Grant Interpreter for the U.S. Grant Homestead Association. He will be in Georgetown, Ohio for a holiday home tour December 6 and more programs in the Spring of 2016.
Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library hosts Voting Rights Symposium at Mississippi State University

By Meg Henderson

September 23-25, the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library hosted the Fifteenth Amendment and Voting Rights Act Symposium at Mississippi State University. The symposium brought together some of the leading scholars in the field of voting rights history in the United States and individuals who had fought for equal voting rights during the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s.

The 15th Amendment, ratified during Ulysses S. Grant’s administration, became part of the Constitution in 1870 and stated that voting rights should not be denied a citizen based on color or former condition of slavery. Grant called the ratification of this amendment “the most important event that has occurred, since the nation came to life.” Lyndon Johnson said the Voting Rights Act (1965) was “a triumph of freedom as huge as any victory that has ever been won on any battlefield.”

The symposium began with a reception Wednesday evening in MSU’s Colvard Student Union and was followed by a dinner in the Union’s Foster Ballroom. Dr. Doug Egerton of LeMoyne College spoke about the background to the 15th Amendment and the changes brought about by that legislation during the Reconstruction years.

Thursday and Friday throughout the day, panel sessions and discussions took place in the MSU Shackouls Honors College at Griffis Hall. The first panel session featured Mississippi Chief Justice William Waller, retired Mississippi Supreme Court Justice Fred Banks, and Rhode Island Chief Justice (ret) Frank J. Williams. The panel was moderated by former Mississippi Governor William Winter. Other panel sessions featured scholars from across the country, former Civil Rights activists, and staff from National Park Service sites. Together, the sessions provided not only information but also personal insight into the history of voting rights and its relevance today.

Dr. Michael Fauntroy concluded the symposium at a reception and dinner held at the Hunter Henry Center. Fauntroy discussed the Voting Rights Act and its impact in the following decades on voting issues today.

The symposium was sponsored by the Ulysses S. Grant Association, Mississippi State University Libraries, Office of the President, Office of the Provost, Shackouls Honors College, College of Arts and Sciences, African American Studies Program, Political Science Department, Office of Public Affairs, Mississippi State University; Mississippi Department of Archives and History, University Press of Mississippi, and the National Park Service (Shiloh and Vicksburg National Military Parks).

Top to bottom, left to right: Barbara Combs; Michael Fauntroy; Ryan Semmes, John Elliff, Gerald Sterns & Gordon Martin; JoJo Dodds; Frank Williams & Randall McMillen; K.C. Morrison; Stacy Allen, Stephen West & Dorothy Pratt; Doug Egerton. Photos courtesy of MSU Libraries.
“The President’s Face” Exhibit Brings Long-Hidden Views of Grant to the Public

By Meg Henderson

This fall, Mississippi State University Libraries held a ribbon cutting and reception for the opening of a new exhibit at the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library, “The President’s Face.” This exhibition focuses on the evolution of portraits of the President from the time of Lincoln through the time of Garfield, in particular, looking at how photography changed the appearance of formal portraits.

Photography provided a method to capture a likeness with additional spontaneity and veracity, and allowed a way to present a truthful image even after the person had died. Painted portraits were valued to convey nuanced meaning when painting the President’s face, however, to summon the power of the Office, and the essence of the person beyond physical appearance.

Enthusiastic about photography, Abraham Lincoln repeatedly sat for portraits with Alexander Gardner. Painter Henry Ulke acquired photographs of Lincoln directly from Gardner to paint the deceased President’s portrait for an 1869 competition. Although he never completed that painting, the portrait pose in Gardner’s photographs directly informed Ulke’s 1875 portrait of President Grant. Ulke photographed and painted Grant, emphasizing the dignified appearance of the new President with subtle reference to the past, closely examining the man, and the change from General to President. The portrait on display in this exhibit is the artist’s personal copy of the official Ulysses S. Grant portrait that hangs in the White House to this day.

Ulke Family Collection materials are exhibited for the first time since their discovery after the death of the painter’s granddaughter in 2009. The additional portrait of Grant from the Small Collection, and materials from the Bulterma-Williams Collection, in addition to the family photographs of Grant on loan from a New York Private Collection, complement these loans, providing exceptional opportunity to view material that remains in private collections today.

The opening reception, held on September 22 began with a program in the John Grisham Room, including an introduction of Olga Weiss and Mimi Peters, owners of the collection, and descendants of Henry Ulke. The ribbon cutting took place outside of the Grant Presidential Library’s exhibit room, and a reception followed. Ulke Collection curator Lisa Banner and Interim Head of the MSU Art Department Angie Bourgeois were instrumental in making the exhibit possible.

John Marszalek, executive director and managing editor of the U.S. Grant Library and U.S. Grant Association, said exhibits like “The President’s Face” provide a unique educational experience to MSU students, faculty and staff and to library visitors.

"We think this exhibit is exciting," Marszalek said. "It's an important collection because it talks about a very important man from this era (late 1800s) that the average person on the street may not know about."

A video of the history and artistic technique behind Henry Ulke’s portrait can be viewed on the Grant Library’s website: usgrantlibrary.org.
Letter Rediscovered in Grant Archives
By Meg Henderson

Last month, a letter from Mrs. Mary Louise Littleton written to Ulysses S. Grant III was discovered, while editors were researching for their work on Grant's Memoirs. The letter was folded up and tucked into a book in the Grant Library: General Longstreet's *From Manassas to Appomattox*. The letter, written by Mrs. Littleton August 10, 1913, relays her 1899 interview with General Longstreet regarding U.S. Grant. Ulysses S. Grant III gave the letter to the Grant Association in 1965, when he donated many books.

The transcription of the letter reads as follows:

Fort Sam Houston
San Antonio Texas
Aug. 10th 1913.

Lieutenant Ulysses S. Grant—III

Fort Sam Houston,

My Dear Mr. Grant;

Enclosed I send you notes from the conversation of Gen. James Longstreet, taken April 24th 1899 while I was on a visit to him & Mrs. Longstreet at their country home near Gainsville [sic] Georgia. I committed his remarks concerning your illustrious grandfather to writing, because I thought at the time & still think his opinion not only a just & beautiful tribute to one of our greatest military heroes {2} but also of historical value.

Very sincerely yrs,

Mary Louise Littleton.

“The fame of Grant is of the kind that endures. Time will reveal more distinctly the strong, simple, Massive grandeur of his character & career. The 20th century will nationalize more & more its heterogeneous civilization & will also nationalize its heroes & Grant will hold a place with Washington in the hearts of his country men. His Military genius was of the highest order. He is of the class & kind of Julius Caesar & Napoleon Bonaparte, superior to them in that his military achievements were actuated by (3) the purest patriotism. The victorious leader of a mighty army, he was guilty of none of the excesses of Napoleon; “Let us have peace” were words of sincerity spoken by one who accomplished mighty deeds without ostentation, content with having done his duty. My friendship for Grant began at West Point & continued unbroken even by the civil war to the day of his death. At West Point he concealed under an excessive modesty those qualities which later led to eminence in peace & War. Personally Grant was a warm hearted, loveable friend, a magnanimous opponent. More than any man of the century he embodied in his character the genius of the American people; Loyalty (4) to the Constitution, tireless activity, executive power & swiftness & a profound respect for American citizenship.
(From page 5) His greatness was marked by a modesty of mind & manner that never forsook him, a modesty so noticeable as to win for him the appellation [sic] of “The Silent Man of destiny”. His life taken as a whole was rounded & complete. Victorious as a soldier, eminent as a statesman, hon,or,ed [sic] as a private citizen with the salutations of the world, happy in his domestic relations, he closed his long & brilliant career as the historian of the era he so largely shaped.

The discovery of Mary Louise Littleton’s letter to U.S. Grant III is a timely one, as it is read over a century after it was written. Scholars have recently begun to rethink the negative image of Ulysses S. Grant as a president and are more fully understanding him as “heroic,” as Longstreet said. This is especially the case now that they can access the full holdings of the Ulysses S. Grant Collection at the Presidential Library. Longstreet was incorrect in his 1913 prediction that in the 20th century, “Grant will hold a place with Washington in the hearts of his countrymen.” However, Grant is gradually working his way back into the hearts of Americans in the twenty-first century. As we at the Grant Library are planning our new exhibit hall, we aim to show visitors a complete and honest portrait of General and President Grant so that, they too, may dispel some of the myths they’ve heard and better understand this “Silent Man of destiny.”

Ulysses S. Grant Information Center Website

By Marie Kelsey

This website, created by Dr. Marie Kelsey (author of Ulysses S. Grant: A Bibliography), contains voluminous and varied material on Grant. All aspects of his life are covered, including his Civil War accomplishments, his presidential administrations (with a number of articles debunking his low ratings), his family and the allegations about his drinking habits.

There are many links to 19th century newspaper articles and illustrations about Grant and his family. For all you travelers, there is a link to a fifteen-page list of Grant-related sites and markers, both domestic and international, created by Marie Kelsey and Frank Scaturro.

Twelve tabs label the various content areas within the site. A tab for researchers presents a guide to types of historical research resources, background information on Dr. John Y. Simon and the Ulysses S. Grant Association, and a feature on current Executive Director of the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library and Managing Editor of the Ulysses S. Grant Papers project, Dr. John F. Marszalek.

The educational needs of the K-12 audience are addressed in the Students tab, with appropriate resources cited and links provided on that page. Quotes by and about Grant and a section on his characteristics, traits and quirks round out the scope of the website.

The software used to create this comprehensive finding tool for “All Things Grant” is called LibGuides, a program used by hundreds of libraries to deliver research assistance in a succinct and compact format. This LibGuide on U.S. Grant is hosted by The College of St. Scholastica Library in Duluth, Minnesota.

You can find the Ulysses S. Grant Information Center on Facebook also. “Likes” are always appreciated!

The information center can be accessed at http://libguides.css.edu/usgrant/home
2015 John Y. Simon Day Continues Simon’s Legacy of Grant Scholarship

By John F. Marszalek

John Y. Simon, first and long-time executive director of the Ulysses S. Grant Association, was until his death in July 2008, a pioneer documentary editor and a leader in the field of Civil War history. At the time of his demise, he had written many journal articles, book reviews, and monographs on a number of Civil War topics, particularly, of course, on Ulysses S. Grant. He was universally recognized as the world’s leading expert on the victorious Civil War general and United States president. He and a host of assistant editors had completed the publication of thirty volumes of The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant and had Volume thirty-one practically ready for the publisher when he died. This volume and the cumulative Volume 32 were completed by the USGA staff at Mississippi State University. Upon Simon’s death, the USGA quickly named its highest award in his name, and it has been presented yearly to individuals who have contributed to the expansion of knowledge about General/President Grant.

Simultaneously, the Ulysses S. Grant Historic Site (White Haven in St. Louis) began the lecture series every October. Beginning with lectures by USGA President Frank J. Williams and Executive Director John F. Marszalek, the prestigious series has highlighted leading historians. The John Y. Simon Lecture is always a special event in the world of Ulysses S. Grant scholarship. Representing Simon well, the series draws to it not only elite scholars but also USGA members and the general public. Since Simon was a favorite speaker at Civil War round tables and other public events, the general audience at the Simon Lecture is something that he would appreciate a great deal.

Friday evening before the Saturday morning lecture, the National Park Service Historic Site, led by superintendent Tim Good, hosted an informal dinner for the speaker and invited guests. Until they retired from the National Park Service and went to work for the Eisenhower and Hoover Presidential Libraries, NPS historians Pam SanFilippo and Karen Maxville played major roles.

Always occurring in October, this year’s John Y. Simon Day took place on October 10. USGA member Dr. Ron White was the keynote speaker, delivering his presentation, “Voter Suppression: President Grant Battles the Ku Klux Klan” in the packed auditorium. White, who earned his Ph.D. in Religion and History from Princeton University, is a Fellow at the Huntington Library, a Senior Fellow of the Trinity Forum, and has taught at Colorado College, Whitworth University, UCLA, Princeton Theological Seminary, and he served as Dean at San Francisco Theological Seminary. He is the author of eight books, including the New York Times bestseller: A Lincoln: A Biography and is currently working on a comprehensive biography of Ulysses S. Grant, due for publication by Random House in 2016.

Before and after Dr. White’s lecture, which included an excellent question and answer session, NPS professionals toured visitors through the excellent museum and the White Haven home.

That same day, Simon’s widow, Harriet Furst Simon, held a lunch where family and friends of “John Y.” and Ron White gathered together to celebrate Simon and discuss the place of U.S. Grant in American historiography. Superintendent Good, in making introductions throughout the event, emphasized how much White Haven owes to the support and activity of Simon and pointed out that Harriet Simon donated his books to the facility and how important these sources are to Grant historians and visitors.

The Ulysses S. Grant Association is pleased to see the memory of its long-time executive director John Y. Simon honored in this significant way. We encourage our members, particularly those in the St. Louis area, to attend each year.
DC Church’s Touching Tribute to U.S. Grant
By Linda Davenport

Methodism had become the largest Protestant denomination in America by the mid-19th century, and a small group of Washington Methodists envisioned a house of worship for Methodists throughout the nation. They laid the cornerstone for Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church at 41/2 and C Streets, NW in 1854, but the Civil War interrupted; it was only in February 1869 that the building was dedicated. The date was planned to coincide with the inauguration of President Ulysses S. Grant the following week. It would become the “national church of United Methodism,” and 2,000 attended the dedication, including President-elect Grant and Mrs. Grant, together with their children and Mrs. Grant’s father, Speaker and Mrs. Colfax, Chief Justice Chase, and Senator and Mrs. Sprague.

A month later, the Grants, the Colfaxes and the Chief Justice Chase became members of the church, and President Grant was named one of nine Trustees. The senior pastor was Dr. John Philip Newman, who would minister to the former President Grant during his final illness and death at McGregor Cottage, perhaps even baptizing him.

As the most numerous Protestant denomination, the Methodists played a large role in the Union army. On March 18, 1864, President Lincoln wrote that the “Methodist Episcopal Church . . . is by its greater numbers the most important of all. It is no fault in others that the Methodist Church sends more soldiers to the field, more nurses to the hospitals and more prayers to heaven than any. God bless the Methodist Church.” Lincoln paid $100 to become a member of the Methodist Missionary Society, according to historical records of Metropolitan Memorial.

Grant was not known to be religious, but he regularly attended Metropolitan Memorial during his presidency. His wife, Julia Dent Grant, was an active member of the church, allowing her name to be used on an appeal letter that raised $8,000 to retire the church’s debt. Her name is listed on the dedication of the spire and chimes erected in 1871. In 1874, the pastor of Metropolitan Memorial, Dr. Otis Tiffany, officiated at the White House wedding of the Grants’ daughter, Nellie.

During his presidency, the Grants spent their summers at the seaside community of Long Branch, NJ, as a guest of his friend George W. Childs. According to Childs, as set forth in his published Recollections, there was not a day that passed while the Grants were at Long Branch that Grant did not visit Childs or Childs visit Grant. Childs commissioned several portraits of Grant and was one of his pallbearers. Importantly for Metropolitan Memorial, it was Childs who commissioned the plaque that hangs in the sanctuary. It reads: “IN MEMORY OF the VIRTUES and VALOR of Ulysses S. Grant General of the ARMY and PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES, Born 27 April 1822, Died 23 July 1885 – His friend George W. Childs erects this Tablet as a token of affection, while the whole country does honor to his career and character.”

Metropolitan Memorial UMC has relocated to 3401 Nebraska Ave NW in upper northwest Washington, DC. The Grant plaque is displayed in the new sanctuary. In addition to the Grant Plaque, you will find plaques honoring John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, President McKinley and Justice Harry Blackmun, among others, in the sanctuary.
USGA Members Tour Grant Hall, Site of Lincoln Assassination Trial

By Eileen Bradner

Fort McNair in Washington, D.C. held a rare public open house on Saturday, November 7, 2015, to show off the newly restored Ulysses S. Grant Hall, also known as “Building 20,” site of the trial of the Lincoln Assassination conspirators. USGA members Linda Davenport and Eileen Bradner joined over 400 others in climbing the stairs to the third floor of Grant Hall to view the courtroom. It is a small rectangular room with a long, narrow table where the eight members of the military tribunal sat with the prosecutors, a witness stand, a separate raised platform with a bench behind a wooden railing where the male conspirators sat with a guard seated between each of them, and a separate table for the female defendant Mary Surratt.

An Army historian was on hand during the open house to answer questions. In two adjoining rooms, artifacts were on display from the 2010 movie, “The Conspirator.”

Visitors learned that the use of a military tribunal was very controversial in 1865. It was chosen because the assassination occurred during a time of war. Lincoln was Commander in Chief and Seward was a top federal officer. Some major differences between a military tribunal and a civilian court are that in a military tribunal, a unanimous verdict was not required. Of 9 votes on the tribunal, 2/3 or 6 votes for conviction meant death, 5 votes meant conviction, and only 4 votes meant acquittal. A military tribunal also meant no appeal to a court – only to the President.

General Grant was called as a witness in the trial in May but we did not learn more about this. The proceedings began in secret and General Grant complained to Secretary Stanton about this and as a result they were opened to the public on day 3. Eight defendants were tried. Four were found guilty and hanged on July 7, 1865 in the yard outside -- Lewis Powell, David Herold, George Atzerodt, and the first woman hanged by the federal government, Mary Surratt. They were immediately buried in graves dug nearby but later disinterred and buried elsewhere. Others such as Dr. Mudd were sent to prison. A tennis court sits on the site of the gallows today.

Grant Hall was adjacent to the Washington Penitentiary, a prison that operated before the war but the prisoners were moved elsewhere during the war so they would not be so close to the guns kept in the Washington Arsenal. It was thought to be very secure after the assassination so the Lincoln conspirators were housed there by themselves before and during their trial. Separate stairwells were built for the prosecutors and tribunal so that they would not come into contact with the prisoners.

Over the years, Grant Hall was threatened with demolition several times. Today, it is arguably the most historic site still standing in southwest Washington, D.C. It was very exciting to see the room where the historic trial took place and feel the tension that must have existed in that close, crowded room in May and June, 1865.

The next open house will take place the first Saturday in February, 2016. Definitely worth a visit!

Photos courtesy of Eileen Bradner.
Hardscrabble: The House that Grant Built
By John Samson

2016 will mark the 160th anniversary of the building of Hardscrabble, also known as Grant’s Cabin. In the spring of 1856, ex-U.S. Army Captain Ulysses S. Grant began construction of a humble structure in St. Louis, Missouri which he intended to serve as the permanent residence for his family.

The construction took place on the approximately 100 acres in St. Louis County given to Grant’s wife, Julia, as a wedding present from her father, Colonel Frederick Dent. After resigning from the army in 1854, the Grants had lived in two houses located on Colonel Dent’s property. The decision to build his own house stemmed from a desire to live closer to the fields he was farming and a possible urge to create some space from his father-in-law.

Grant accumulated the building materials and personally performed the construction of the walls, roof, foundation, and floors. Neighbors then gathered to assist in the raising of the walls and placement of the roof.

In September 1856, Grant, his wife, and their three children (a fourth child would later be born on the property) moved into the house. Grant named it Hardscrabble, possibly a satiric response to the high-sounding name White Haven, Julia’s nearby childhood home, which today is maintained as the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site.

Hardscrabble consisted of dual two-story log cabins attached with an enclosed dog trot. A sitting room and dining room occupied each side of the first floor. The second floor contained two bedrooms.

Grant was always proud of his house, having built it with his own hands. Visitors to the house described it as being warm and cozy. Julia, however, never cared for it, thinking it crude and homely and a considerable step down from her beloved White Haven.

The Grants’ residency at Hardscrabble lasted only four months. Julia’s mother, Ellen Dent, died on January 14, 1857, and Colonel Dent requested that Grant and his family move in with him at White Haven, which they did. The Grants never lived in Hardscrabble again.

The house was sold in August 1859. Grant bought the property back after the Civil War and leased it to various tenants through the years. The property was mortgaged to William Vanderbilt in 1884 to cover the latter’s $150,000 loan to Grant given in an unsuccessful attempt to keep the firm of Grant and Ward afloat.

In subsequent years, Hardscrabble was owned by an ex-Confederate army captain, a real estate developer, a coffee company executive, and finally by St. Louis beer baron Adolphus Busch. During each ownership, the cabin was dismantled and moved to different locations in the St. Louis area, including the site of the 1904 World’s Fair. Its final destination was the Busch family estate where it currently sits, approximately one mile from its original location.

Late in his life, Grant stated that his St. Louis years were happy ones despite the struggles he encountered trying to make a living as a farmer. This included his short time living in Hardscrabble. It was the house which he built with his own hands for his wife and children. For Grant, that was always a formula for happiness.
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 (QCDs) 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 terminates, the remaining assets will be directed towards the U.S. Grant Association.
Interested in giving to USGA?

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

- U.S. Grant Presidential Library Construction Update
- USGA Annual Meeting in Richmond, May 6-8, 2016
- Publication Updates: “World of Ulysses S. Grant” and Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant

Happy Holidays from the Ulysses S. Grant Association to our Members and Friends.