Letter from the Executive Director

As we move into the summer months here in Mississippi, we are noting the rise in temperature and humidity. Commencement has been accomplished, and Summer School is just beginning.

Here in the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library, we are watching the construction of the 4th floor which will be our future home. This new floor is almost completely enclosed. We expect to see the “shell” completed by January 2017, and the interior fabrication of the galleries, reading room, storage areas, and so forth to be done by the end of 2017. Work will not be completed in time for the planned May 2017 annual meeting, so mark your calendar for our April 28-30, 2017 annual meeting to be held in Washington.

At our 2016 annual meeting in Richmond/Pamplin Park, Virginia, the USGA Board of Directors held a retreat to map the future of our organization. We then discussed the results of this retreat at our members’ meeting. We have established a three year financial plan to ensure the future of our organization which includes the aid and support of the Mississippi State University Foundation, in the person of Asya Cooley. We are moving forward on a multi-pronged front: raising money to pay for our present needs and to build up our endowment, through the Foundation, to ensure our future. MSU and the MSU Libraries continue their steady financial support, but USGA now must provide the funds itself to make up for the loss of NEH and NHPRC funding. A major concern is the salary of the executive director. We also need funds to expand our activities as a Presidential Library. Please look at the information inside this newsletter, and see how you can be of help and support.

At this time, our staff, augmented by summer student help, is working to complete the first fully annotated scholarly edition of the Grant Memoirs. We are under contract with Harvard University Press to provide a completed manuscript by the fall of this year. We are confident we will meet this deadline. This publication will, once again, put USGA on the literary map.

We also continue to welcome researchers. We are particularly excited when these knowledgeable individuals praise our Grant letters, but also praise our vertical file, our artifacts, our over 10,000 volume book collection, and, most of all, the quality of our staff. In the last three years alone, we have also had visitors from 47 of the 50 states and nations around the globe. Once our new floor is completed, the number of visitors will become even greater.

(Continued on next page)
From July 1st into December 2016, Meg Henderson, our valued team member, will be on leave so that she can accompany her husband during his sabbatical in forestry economics at the University of California, Berkeley. She will also hold an internship at Berkeley to complete her masters degree in library science at the University of Southern California. We will all miss Meg a great deal, but we look forward to her return. While away, on unpaid leave, Meg has offered to continue working for us at a distance. At the same time, Board member and MSU Libraries Dean Frances Coleman will provide us with an “intermittent worker” who will take Meg’s place during her absence.

Please see this newsletter as your own. Consider submitting an article on some aspect of the life and times of U.S. Grant. Continue to support USGA with donations of artifacts and funds. Send us your suggestions for betterment. Do come see us any time.

Sincerely,

John Marszalek

NEW USGA BOARD MEMBER

The USGA Board of Directors voted at the 2016 annual meeting to add Mim Sellgren to the Board. She will be a wonderful addition. Welcome to the Board, Mim!

The Ulysses S. Grant Association has promoted historical scholarship on Grant and the Civil War since 1962.
As in years past, the Ulysses S. Grant Association has gathered in locations around the country related to U.S. Grant’s life. This year, a record 70 USGA members traveled to Richmond, Virginia for a weekend of sightseeing, learning, and fellowship. The meeting was held at the Omni Richmond Hotel in downtown Richmond, just a few blocks from the courthouse and other historic sites and monuments in the heart of the Confederate capitol.

The meeting opened Friday evening with a reception at the Omni followed by dinner and speaker Ron White, who gave a talk on his forthcoming book American Ulysses: New Reflections on an Old Hero. Saturday morning, the group boarded busses for Pamplin Historical Park, a full-experience museum near Petersburg, Virginia and built on the Civil War battlefield where Union troops ended the Petersburg Campaign in early April 1865. Park director A. Wilson (Will) Greene guided the group through the National Museum of the Civil War soldier, which provided a comprehensive historical and multisensory experience of the war. The group was treated to a rifle demonstration outdoors before continuing the tour of the park and battlefield.

Returning to Richmond Saturday afternoon, the group visited the Historic Tredegar Museum downtown. Saturday evening’s events concluded with dinner at Capital Ale House and a presentation from Will Greene, who picked up from the morning’s tour with further detail on the history of the Petersburg Campaign. Sunday morning, members met for a presentation from author William C. (Jack) Davis, who provided fascinating insights into the personality of U.S. Grant from his 2015 book Crucible of Command: Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee, the War They Fought, the Peace they Forged.

Our speakers, USGA leaders and staff, and, of course, attending Grant Association members made for an exceptional weekend, and we thank all attending members for their support of this important annual event. We encourage those who attended this year as well as those who were unable to attend to join us next year. We were hoping to meet in Starkville in 2017, but the new facility will not be ready, as we had thought. The 2017 meeting will take place in Washington, D.C., April 28-30. The 2018 meeting will take place in the then newly completed Grant Presidential Library.
In the last newsletter, we included pictures and text about the construction which is building a 4th floor on top of the Mitchell Memorial library which will become the new headquarters of the USGA and the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library.

All is going well. John Marszalek remains on the construction committee and regularly updates USGA President Frank Williams on its progress. Marszalek, Dean Frances Coleman and Stephen Cunetto, the chair of the committee, regularly meet with Jerry Smith, the supervisor of construction for the contractor, West Brothers. To give you an idea of the dedication that is going into this construction: Jerry Smith experienced chest pains one day, he was taken to a cardiologist, who inserted a stent, Jerry was back on the job in a couple of days, none the worse for wear.

The "shell" of the new floor and the interior infrastructure is scheduled to be completed by December 2016. There are three other bids that have just been posted for: the interior galleries' fabrication, the four life-size U.S. Grant statues, and the interactive computers, programs, and the orientation film. These bids are due in by mid-June, and this complicated work is to be completed by September 2017.

We will continue to keep everyone informed either in the newsletter or by email. We here in our temporary quarters are excited about the future, as is the entire MSU campus. It will indeed be a great day when we are in our new home.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact John Marszalek at 662-325-4552 or jmarszalek@library.msstate.edu.
USGA TO LEAD NATIONAL GRANT BICENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE
By John Marszalek

The Ulysses S. Grant Association officially is taking the lead in planning the national bicentennial birthday celebration for President Ulysses S. Grant.

A 2015 U.S. Senate resolution officially designated the Ulysses S. Grant Association, located at MSU, as the lead organizer for the 2022 celebration. Michael Devine, former director of the Harry S Truman Library and long-time member of the Grant Association board of directors, led the effort to gain the Bicentennial designation. “Senator Roy Blunt of Missouri introduced the resolution and then organized the bipartisan support the resolution received,” he said.

In addition to Senator Blunt, other senators from both parties who co-sponsored the resolution citing the Grant Association were Senators McCaskill of Missouri, Cochran and Wicker of Mississippi, Gillibrand and Schumer of New York, Brown and Portman of Ohio, and Durban and Kirk of Illinois.

Grant Association Executive Director John F. Marszalek said the yearlong celebration will involve organizations nationwide that have a continuing interest in Grant. Beyond the MSU campus, he is envisioning events at such other locations as Grant’s Ohio homestead, his tomb in New York City, various Civil War battlefields—including those in Mississippi—where he fought, and the New York mountain cottage where he died July 23, 1885.

“This will be a national phenomenon; it will be a great opportunity for Americans to take a fresh look at Grant and his accomplishments,” said Grant Association and Grant Presidential Library president and retired Rhode Island chief justice Frank J. Williams.

Grant was the first “modern president,” Williams said. As he explained, the bicentennial events would honor Grant with a significant 21st century tribute and, simultaneously, enable interested Americans and others to gain greater insights into the Civil War and Reconstruction—two especially significant periods in U.S. history.

In 2012, the Grant Association established the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library at MSU as home for the military and national leader’s memorabilia and copies of all his papers. In 2017, the construction of the new home for the Presidential Library will be completed. The intent of the new Grant Presidential Library at MSU and the bicentennial year designation is to celebrate a leading historical figure and continue to spread his fame throughout the nation.

For more information on the Grant Presidential Library, visit usgrantlibrary.org.

Marszalek may be reached at 662-325-4552 or jmarszalek@library.msstate.edu; Williams at 401-222-3290 or alincoln@courts.ri.gov and Devine at 816-350-2739 or mikej_devine@hotmail.com.
The world of U.S. Grant scholarship is thriving today, and this year has seen some exceptional publications from authors and historians in our Grant Association community. The following books either have been released earlier in 2016 or will be released later in the year.

**American Ulysses: A Life of Ulysses S. Grant** by Ronald C. White.

Available for pre-order now at Amazon and for sale October 4, 2016 from Random House, hardcover $35.00. 880 pp. White is a fellow at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California and is the author of A. Lincoln: A Biography (2009), a New York Times, Washington Post, and Los Angeles Times bestseller. His forthcoming biography of Grant is a major new interpretation of Ulysses S. Grant and uses sources from the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library, many for the first time. White’s book is sure to have a profound impact on the scholarship of U.S. Grant.

**Citizen of a Wider Commonwealth: Ulysses S. Grant’s Postpresidential Diplomacy** by Edwina S. Campbell.

Southern Illinois University Press, hardcover $34.50. 280 pp. A former U.S. Foreign Service officer and professor of American foreign policy, Dr. Campbell spoke at the Marszalek Lecture in March at Mississippi State University, where she presented highlights from her latest book and signed copies. Her book, the second in USGA’s “World of Ulysses S. Grant” series, sheds light on an important but little written about period of Grant’s post-presidential years and the beginnings of American diplomacy.

**Lincoln’s Generals’ Wives: Four Women Who Influenced the Civil War - for Better and for Worse** by Candice Shy Hooper.

Kent State University Press, hardcover $39.95. 440 pp. Hooper’s book delves into the influential lives of Jessie Frémont, Nelly McClellan, Ellen Sherman, and Julia Grant, the wives of Abraham Lincoln’s top generals. They were their husbands’ closest confidantes and had a profound impact on the generals’ ambitions and actions.

**Ulysses S. Grant, A Bibliography 2016 Update** by Marie Kelsey.

Marie Kelsey updated her comprehensive 2005 bibliography of Ulysses S. Grant resources. The updated bibliography can be accessed from the U.S. Grant Library Links page, [http://www.usgrantlibrary.org/files/docs/2016BibliographyUpdate.pdf](http://www.usgrantlibrary.org/files/docs/2016BibliographyUpdate.pdf), or at the Ulysses S. Grant Information Center’s website, where the original bibliography is also available for purchase, [http://libguides.css.edu/usgrant/home](http://libguides.css.edu/usgrant/home).

**No Perfect Heroes: Photographing Grant** by Charles H. Traub.

Foreword by Ulysses Grant Dietz. Interlocutor Press, iBook $11.99. 138 pages, 102 photographs. Traub’s photographs of major Grant sites, homesteads, and memorials throughout the United States capture and encompass Grant’s legacy and immeasurable role in saving the Union. This iBook is a synergism of art, history, image, sound and interactivity offering a sensory experience into a remarkable man’s story.
Ed. Note: Based on feedback from USGA members, we have decided to include, as a regular feature, some part of the first Newsletter of the Association. Primarily the work of the first executive director, John Y. Simon, this newsletter provides insight into the USGA. Below is the very first issue of this important piece of Grant Association history.

The Ulysses S. Grant Association Newsletter, I, 1 (Oct., 1963).

INTRODUCTORY *** Our newsletter is designed to provide news of the Grant Association, Grant studies, and activities of Grant interest. Contents will include items which turn up in the search for material for the Grant Association edition of the writings of Grant. A running bibliography of recently published Grant items will begin in a subsequent issue. Success is dependent upon finding interested readers and contributors, and we welcome additional names for the mailing list as well as suggestions regarding contents.

LINCOLN SPEAKS OF GRANT *** Robert J. Breckinridge, a Presbyterian minister of Lexington, Kentucky, was a bulwark of the Union in Kentucky during the Civil War. Two of his sons fought for the Confederacy, but though his family was divided, his sentiments were not. The veteran Kentucky emancipationist would allow nothing to obstruct a vigorous prosecution of the war for the Union. Lincoln knew the Breckinridge family through his wife, who had lived in Lexington, and valued the support of Breckinridge, who had done much to prevent the secession of Kentucky. [pg. 2] Breckinridge went to Baltimore in June, 1864, as a member of the Kentucky delegation to the National Union convention, and was appointed temporary chairman. Later he went to Washington with the delegation chosen to inform Lincoln officially of renomination. It was during this visit, not long after the news of the battles at Cold Harbor reached Lincoln, that they discussed Grant.

The Edward D. Mansfield papers, recently acquired by the Ohio Historical Society, include a letter written by Breckinridge on May 11, 1868, ten days before the Republican convention nominated Grant for President, in response to Mansfield's request for an estimate of Grant. Mansfield, a vigorous Cincinnati Republican who wrote for the Cincinnati Gazette, Railroad Record, and New York Times, also wrote a campaign biography of Grant, but made no use of the letter which follows.

"In the summer of 1864--immediately after the National Convention at which Mr. Lincoln was nominated the second time; I asked him, one day, in a private conversation, what precisely, was his idea of that greatness, on the part of Grant, as a commander--which seemed to have impressed him, so very deeply. After a moment's hesitation, he said: 'Nothing could persuade this man, that he was whipped--till he was actually whipped: he could never be made to believe, even under a complete surprise, that fifty men were five hundred: he had as much sense and as complete possessession [sic] of his faculties, when suddenly waked up under attack, as when he plans & leads the attack; in the very crisis of the greatest battle, his senses, his faculties, his knowledge--are as much under his full & instant power of use, as under any other circumstances. And then Mr. Lincoln illustrated, by various great & striking circumstance--these great qualities of Grant--which mustered into professional language--explains so large a part of the grand career he has run--and so large a part of our hopes, for the career still, as I trust, before him. [pg. 3]"Great executive talents, are the rarest of all--and are the most fruitful & the most important of all--in high stations. Good men, in high station--good I mean, even after the standard of nature simply--are not too common. For my own part, and upon both grounds, and using the greatest moderation of speech--it seems to me, that the making of Genl Grant President of the U. S. would be an act full of wisdom; on the part of the American people."
STUDENT UPDATE: BAILEY POWELL
By Meg Henderson

Former Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library student worker and writer for Dispatches from Grant graduated last August from Mississippi State University with her Bachelors of Arts in English, and since then, she has had the exciting opportunity to work for the Southeastern Conference (SEC), based in her hometown of Birmingham, Alabama. Dispatches from Grant recently caught up with Bailey to see how her first full-time job was going.

DFG: Bailey, how did you land the job at the SEC?

BP: I moved home, and a friend’s mom called and told me about a job as a temp receptionist at the SEC. I started working in October, and before Christmas they offered me my current position as Administrative Assistant for the Commissioner’s Office. I write letters on behalf of the Commissioner and I am also the Legends Program Coordinator for basketball. For this program, each institution nominates one of their former players as a Legend, and I coordinate their travel and meet them before their presentations at the tournament. I also help with special projects, and have my hand in a lot of small things around here.

DFG: Were there skills that you acquired at the Grant Library that helped prepare you for your job?

BP: Definitely! Transcribing [Grant family letters] and research requires detail, and that helps me every day. At work, I need to know who’s doing what and who’s going where, what championships are coming up, and also keep up with individual achievements of Student-Athletes. All of these elements move continuously, so being detail oriented helps keep things organized. I had to do a lot of research at the Grant Library, and I have to do a lot of research here to make sure that details in the letters are accurate. Also, all of the face to face interaction with people helped prepare me for the up-close and personal aspect of my job.

Working for the SEC requires effective communication to everyone from University Presidents to the general fan base. I am usually pretty reserved, so interacting with researchers and patrons at the Grant Library allowed me to open up and feel comfortable in different situations.

DFG: What have been some of the most memorable moments at your job so far?

BP: Traveling and seeing the events come together has been most rewarding. When the staff is working here, we are usually separated, but once I get to the tournaments, I see how everyone’s parts come together.

(Continued on next page)
Recently, I’ve gone to Atlanta for the SEC Football Championship, Jacksonville for Women’s Basketball, and Athens, Georgia for Equestrian. I was able to use some of my equestrian knowledge, having ridden horses since age 9, to help out at the championship – I explained certain terms in the horse world that most people do not know, and why things were run the way they were.

**DFG:** What have been some challenges you’ve faced at your new job?

**BP:** One of the biggest challenges is that I’ve never worked in sports before. I worked in the Grant Library for three years, so the environment is totally different. There was a big learning curve, in learning about each sport, operations with each sport, and lots of names and locations. I needed to learn about the other athletic conferences too. I’m learning, but it’s coming gradually.

**DFG:** Is there anything else you’ve learned on the job that you’d like to pass on to readers?

**BP:** In a job search, you have to persevere. You are going to get a lot of no's, but you will feel right at home when you find the perfect “yes!”

**DFG:** That’s true. Anything worth doing takes perseverance. I’m glad that you’ve found a rewarding job and that your years at the Grant Library prepared you well. Come back and visit us any time!

The Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library, through Mississippi State University Libraries, employs undergraduate students from Mississippi State University to help library staff with our numerous projects, from transcribing letters and research to giving tours to visitors. We benefit from their assistance, and they benefit from the professional experience. Our student workers play an important part in the work that goes on at the Grant Library.

**USGA Surveys**

After the annual meeting in Richmond, we sent an electronic survey out to all of our members, asking for feedback on the meeting, if they attended, and other services USGA provides to its members, including this newsletter, our website and digital collections, and interactions—in person or virtual—with USGA staff.

We received 70 responses, and we thank those of you who took the time to fill out the survey and provide feedback. Your responses help us gauge our strengths and weaknesses in organizing the annual meetings and in the services to USGA members year-round. Your suggestions and ideas will help us improve in these areas and plan for the future of the Grant Association and Presidential Library.

We plan to send out a survey to all of our members annually, after the Grant Association meeting. It is open to all members, not just the ones attending meetings. Please also know that this annual survey is not your only opportunity to provide feedback or share your thoughts. You are always welcome to email or call us!
U.S. Grant Timeline 1876

In the Spring of 1876, 140 years ago...

March 2: Secretary of War William W Belknap resigned to avoid impeachment over alleged payments from post traders. March 3. Displacing Babcock, Ulysses S. Grant appointed Ulysses S. Grant, Jr., as his private secretary, "some one whom he could absolutely trust to open letters."

April 14: Ulysses S. Grant unveiled the Freedmen's Memorial Monument to Abraham Lincoln in Washington, D.C.

April 18: Ulysses S. Grant vetoed a bill to reduce the president's salary from $50,000 to $25,000.

May 25: Ulysses S. Grant urged Americans to prepare local histories as part of Centennial observances.

June 7: Ulysses S. Grant's granddaughter Julia Grant was born at the White House.

USG Trivia

The Ulysses S. Grant Memorial in Washington, DC is undergoing renovations to restore the monument to its original grandeur. It is set to be completed this summer.

Can you answer the following questions about the Memorial?

1. When was the Memorial completed, and how long did it take the sculptor, Henry Shrady, to complete it?

2. The Grant Memorial is featured prominently in the introduction to a popular current Netflix television show. What is the name of this show?

The first person to respond correctly to the questions above will receive a copy of the latest book in USGA's "World of Grant" series, Citizen of a Wider Commonwealth by Edwina S. Campbell.

Email mhenderson@library.msstate.edu.

Grant Memorial c. 1915. Image credit: Library of Congress

USG and family in Washington, DC. Image credit: Bultema-Williams Collection, Grant Presidential Library
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 terminates, the remaining assets will be directed towards the U.S. Grant Association.
GIVING TO USGA

Donations help the U. S. Grant Association to fulfill its mission. The USGA is a private not for profit corporation that encourages and supports research, publication, education and public programming related to the life and times of Ulysses S. Grant. The USGA maintains the nation’s major collection of U.S. Grant papers, photos, and artifacts, housed at the USG Library at the Mitchell Memorial Library at MSU, and supports the advancement and development of the U.S. Grant Presidential Library on the MSU campus.

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.

USGA staff wish our members safe and happy travels this summer!

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.