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Grant Monument Association

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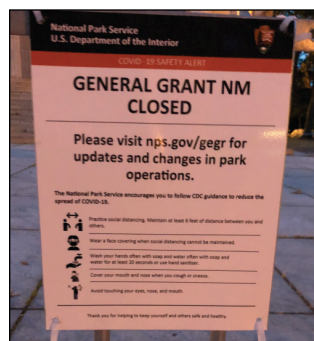
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GRANT is published by the
Grant Monument Association.

To submit a story idea, write to:
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GRANT'S TOMB CLOSES DUE TO PANDEMIC; GMA MOVES BIRTHDAY EVENT ONLINE



The COVID-19 pandemic that struck the nation in 2020 hit New York City especially hard. In compliance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines and government directives regarding social distancing, the National Park Service closed Grant's Tomb as of March 17, until further notice.

As a result, both the annual Grant birthday ceremonies and the Grant Monument Association's annual dinner were canceled. In lieu of that, the GMA held an April 27 online colloquy with General David H. Petraeus and Professor Elizabeth Samet, who would *Continued on page 2*

GRANT MONUMENT IN SAN FRANCISCO TOPPLED

On the night of June 19, U.S. Grant's monument in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park was vandalized, its base spray-painted and bust toppled over during demonstrations that included the toppling of several other statues in the park. In reaction to this act of vandalism, GMA president Frank Scaturro made the following statement:

"No one should ever confuse destruction with free speech, but something should be said about the distinctive mindlessness of targeting a monument to Ulysses S. Grant. As the principal author of Union victory during the Civil War, Grant was the principal enforcer of the Emancipation Proclamation.



twitter.com/BetsyKPIX

As president, he secured laws that enforced the recently ratified 13th and 14th Amendments and acted decisively to ensure the ratification of a 15th Amendment that would ban racial discrimination in voting. His achievements included five enforcement acts, the creation of the Justice Department, and the Civil Rights

Act of 1875, which desegregated various modes of public accommodations and transportation. Grant repeatedly employed military intervention to enforce Reconstruction and crushed the 19th-century Ku Klux Klan. Among America's top leaders, from military commanders to presidents, none has a more sweeping record on civil rights. This act of destruction amounts to outright nihilism and criminality."

The bust was sculpted by Rupert Schmid and stood in Golden Gate since 1896, one of a number of monuments to Grant across the nation that were erected during the years immediately following his death. According to NBC's Bay Area news affiliate, no arrests were made in connection with the vandalism.

San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library



Karl Monden/Mercury News



The monument in Golden Gate Park during better days (far left) and after the June 19 vandalism (left and above)

Pandemic, continued from page 1 have been the keynote speaker at the Tomb if the birthday ceremony, traditionally organized by the U.S. Military Academy and the NPS, had taken place that day. The colloquy covered aspects of Grant's life and character, with particular emphasis on his memoirs (see page 3).

The Tomb's closure also meant that no program was held at the site for the anniversary of Grant's death on July 23. On August 26, the NPS announced that the public would have access to the main plaza, subject to social distancing requirements. But the Tomb itself remains closed, along with the visitor center at the overlook pavilion across the street.



During the period of closure, there was no reported vandalism of Grant's Tomb itself, but the overlook pavilion was graffitied in June. It is unclear whether this vandalism was related to demonstrations that were taking place in New York and across the country.

While Grant's Tomb remains closed to the public, the GMA's programs continue. This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of General William T. Sherman, whose partnership with Grant was instrumental to Union victory during the Civil War. On Thursday, November 19, at 7 p.m. ET/6 p.m. CT, the GMA will host another online colloquy, this time featuring General Petraeus and John Marszalek as they discuss the relationship between Generals Grant and Sherman. Dr. Marszalek is the executive director and managing editor of the Ulysses S. Grant Association. His extensive scholarship on the Civil War includes annotated editions of the memoirs of General Grant and (forthcoming) of General Sherman. For details on how to join this colloquy online, check out grantstomb.org.

The GMA plans for the Grant birthday dinner on April 27, 2021, to feature the same speakers who had been planned for this year, General Petraeus and Ron White, a biographer of both Grant and Abraham Lincoln, as we commemorate Grant's 199th birthday.

JULIA DENT GRANT ANNIVERSARIES OBSERVED AT GRANT'S TOMB

On Saturday, December 14, 2019, the National Park Service, the Grant Monument Association, and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary honored the life of Julia Dent Grant, the former first lady and wife of Ulysses S. Grant, on the anniversary of her death in 1902. She is interred in the mausoleum next to her husband.

She was honored with a solemn wreath-laying ceremony where visitors were invited to place white roses, invoking the white roses that Julia left during her final visit to the Tomb and which were placed in the crypt for her funeral. Following the ceremony, GMA president Frank Scaturro gave a presentation in the overlook pavilion about her life and final years.

Sunday, January 26, 2020, marked the 194th anniversary of Julia Dent Grant's birth. For the occasion, GMA secretary Ed Hochman placed the GMA's wreath at Grant's Tomb, after which birthday cake provided by the GMA was served in the overlook pavilion across



NPS/Bruce Monroe



NPS/Bruce Monroe

Photos from two Julia Grant anniversaries: GMA president Frank Scaturro gives a presentation about her life on December 14 (top right). A special sign greets visitors on Julia's birthday, January 26 (bottom right).

the street. Park Service staff featured a birthday card for visitors to sign throughout the day.

The NPS posted a tribute from USG himself:

*A thousand kisses to you my love
on your special day.
Your Devoted
ULYS*

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE 15TH AMENDMENT MARKED AT GRANT'S TOMB

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

The 15th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified on February 3, 1870, in no small part due to the efforts of President Ulysses S. Grant. At 1 p.m. on Saturday, February 1, 2020, the Grant Monument Association placed a wreath at Grant's Tomb to mark the 150th anniversary of the amendment's ratification. Following that, GMA president Frank Scaturro gave a presentation in the overlook pavilion discussing the 15th Amendment, President Grant's efforts to secure its ratification and enforcement, and the years of disfranchisement that spanned the late 19th century until voting rights enforcement returned a century after Reconstruction.

After placing the wreath, Scaturro read the text of the Amendment:

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Section 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Scaturro also read an excerpt from a special message by President Grant celebrating its ratification:

"A measure which makes at once 4,000,000 people voters who were heretofore declared by the highest tribunal in the land not citizens of the United States, nor eligible to become so... is indeed a measure of grander importance than any other one act of the kind from the foundation of our free Government to the present day."

*Right, Professor Samet and
General Petraeus discuss
General Grant online on his
198th birthday.*

ONLINE PETRAEUS-SAMET GRANT BIRTHDAY COLLOQUY HIGHLIGHTS MEMOIRS

For Grant's birthday on April 27, the GMA hosted an online colloquy between General Petraeus and Professor Samet in lieu of the in-person birthday dinner that was no longer possible under conditions imposed by the pandemic (see page 1). Their discussion covered numerous aspects of Grant's life, not least among them his unlikely rise. As Petraeus read from an audience member's question, he "wasn't that high in his West Point class," had setbacks in his subsequent career, and other than during the Mexican War, there were not many "future indicators of success" in his early life. Yet in the general's view, Grant became "the only U.S. army general to demonstrate brilliance in combat consistently at the tactical, operational, and strategic levels of war, and he did literally save the Union."

Samet replied that "what distinguished him was a great capacity to grow and to learn from mistakes and to learn from failure. And not everyone is able to do that. He never had, I think, that sort of fixed certainty which in a hierarchical organization can sometimes lead to a kind of blindness. So I think he preserved that sort of flexibility and resilience." And in fact his peers "noticed his loyalty, they noticed his tenacity, they noticed a kind of fixity of purpose... that distinguished him." He also had an "instinctive knowledge of topography," and staff officers would observe how "he could take a look at a map and sort of know" almost immediately what to do, possessed of a "sort of photographic memory."

Petraeus picked up on Grant's ability to picture a battlefield "in his mind, and even more importantly, he could envision a battle playing out over time." And in this age when military commanders wrote their own orders, "he could get those orders all in the right sequence and very concisely express what it was that he needed each of those subordinate commanders to do....[T]here is something there that is just God-given, I think, that is improved with training, certainly, but was a talent that really came out... as he developed on the battlefield commanding ever-larger forces all the way up to" full strategic command.

Continued on page 5



MISSING GRANT STATUE REPLACED IN GUINEA-BISSAU

In 1870, President Grant arbitrated a dispute between Great Britain and Portugal over the island of Bolama, situated in western Africa between mainland Guinea and the Bijagós Islands, in Portugal's favor. Bolama, the island's main town, would go on to serve for over six decades as the capital of Portuguese Guinea, a colony of Portugal that would attain independence as Guinea-Bissau in 1974.

In approximately 1955, the Portuguese government put up a statue of Grant in appreciation of his role in the region's history. The statue sat in a square named for him (Praça Ulysses S. Grant). It was the creation of Portuguese sculptor Manuel Pereira da Silva, and it survived long after independence, even as other statues dating back to the colonial period came down. The design of the statue was distinctive: It depicted Grant standing in the civilian dress of a president, unlike any other statue of Grant in any public square in the United States. Bolama also has a primary school named for Grant.

But in August 2007, the statue disappeared and was found cut into about a dozen pieces by vandals. The pieces were traced by the judicial police to a scrap yard and recovered, but the head was missing. It was reported at the time that the police hoped to find the head and put the statue back together again. That apparently did not happen, but it was not the end of the story.

According to information obtained by the U.S. Department of State, a police investigation came in 2016 after Guinea-Bissau's former Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Adiatu Nandigna, filed a criminal complaint, but the suspects in the statue's vandalism and theft were ultimately cleared due to a lack of evidence.

Although the whereabouts of the earlier discovered pieces are now unknown, another statue of Grant took its place in 2018 on the original pedestal. This occurred at the initiative of then-Governor Quintino Rodrigues Bone. Approximately 100,000 CFA francs (roughly U.S. \$180) were spent from the local government fund to obtain supplies for the work—a harness, cement, gravel, and colorless paint. With these materials, a local artist, Luizinho (Zinho) Ká, constructed a cement statue. He did not receive any compensation for his work.

Although this development occurred two years ago, it came to the GMA's attention by way of a March 2020 blogpost by Richard J. Peltz-Steele, a professor at the University of Massachusetts Law School, which included a photo of the new statue.

According to the State Department, there is local interest in replacing the cement statue with a new bronze replica of the destroyed statue, but no funding to do so.

Frank Scaturro, the GMA's president, expressed hope that such funding would be provided in the future, but he applauded the artist and all those who were responsible for doing what they have in the meantime to reverse the effects of vandalism. He observed, "It is ironic that a monument to Grant was restored in Guinea-Bissau soon before another was torn down in San Francisco. Americans who do not respect our heritage can learn a lesson from the people of Guinea-Bissau."

GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT BECOMES LAW

On August 4, 2020, President Donald Trump signed into law the Great American Outdoors Act, bipartisan legislation that significantly increases the federal government's capacity to fund deferred maintenance projects on federal lands. The law authorizes 50% of revenues collected from oil, gas, and other energy development to go into a fund of up to \$1.9 billion per year for five years. An Associated Press report called it "the most significant conservation legislation enacted in nearly half a century." National parks are prominent among the federal lands covered by this new fund, which is called the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund. At this point, it is too early to determine whether this new initiative will cover deferred maintenance at Grant's Tomb, which was among the remedial measures the Grant Monument Association urged Congress to fund last year. Frank Scaturro, the GMA's president, said, "The GMA is



*Original statue by Manuel
Pereira da Silva*



*New statue by
Zinho Ká*

encouraged by this development. We hope this new law provides the monument with long needed maintenance and will be sure to track progress on this front."

THE GRANTS' DETROIT HOUSE MOVED TO NEW HOME

Detroit Bureau, World Wide Photos



*House in its original location
a century ago*

The house that Ulysses and Julia Grant occupied as newlyweds was successfully moved on August 20 as the first step in reopening it to the public.

The second floor of the frame house was separated from the first so that fewer traffic signals and overhead cables would

have to be temporarily removed. The route of the relocation, some 15 miles from the former Michigan State Fairgrounds to Detroit's Eastern Market, was also planned to avoid passing under bridges and to minimize time spent on main thoroughfares. The move took about three and a half hours. In late October, the top half was restored to its proper position.

The house was relocated in 1939 from its original site on Fort Street to the Fairgrounds, where it served as a Grant interpretive center until falling into neglect. A new location for the structure has been sought since 2012.

A grant from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority funded the preparation and move. More than \$500,000 in additional funding is needed to rehabilitate and reopen the home as a public education and resource center based on the lives and lega-

David Tobar, Eastern Market



Laura S. Raisch

cies of the Grants. Visit GrantHomeDetroit.org to make a donation and to learn more about the project and the Grants' time in Detroit.

Separating the upper and lower stories enabled a more efficient move. At left, putting them back together.

HISTORY CHANNEL'S GRANT MINISERIES PREMIERE DRAWS THREE MILLION VIEWERS

On Memorial Day, the History Channel ran its long-anticipated miniseries on Grant, based on Ron Chernow's 2017 biography. The program ran over three nights and drew a total of three million viewers for its first installment, making it the History Channel's most successful non-fiction miniseries launch in six years, the second most watched miniseries on cable television released this year, and number two for the year in all of cable TV. The executive producers include Chernow and Leonardo DiCaprio. The miniseries spanned Grant's life while going particularly in depth into Grant's Civil War career, with incisive commentary that included a number of past GMA colloquy speakers: General David Petraeus, Elizabeth Samet, Joan Vaughn, and of course Chernow himself.

NPS ENDS STAGGERED HOURS AT GRANT'S TOMB

The National Park Service has ended the practice of closing Grant's Tomb on a staggered hour basis during its open days, a practice the agency previously adopted because of limited staff. That means that during its open hours of 9 to 5, the mausoleum will remain open the entire time. This was among the remedial measures for Grant's Tomb that the GMA called for last year, worthy of note as something for visitors to look forward to after the pandemic-related closure of the monument ends and the site reopens.

Colloquy, continued from page 3

The colloquy placed particular emphasis on Grant's acclaimed *Personal Memoirs*, an annotated edition of which Samet had edited for publication in 2019. As someone trained in literature—she is a professor of English at West Point—she explained how the memoirs were her introduction to Grant. In graduate school, she said, she was struck "by the modesty, the plain speech, the humor" of that work. That latter trait is "easy to miss," she added. "Brutal and bleak as its subject is, there are some wonderful portraits and wonderful humorous anecdotes throughout. This was someone who admitted his great love of novels, and he had a great deal of care for language."

In the following exchange, the speakers covered Grant's prose and how it was viewed by literary giants of that and later times:

Petraeus: Of course, Mark Twain thought that he was a terrific writer, but... he was Grant's publisher, so he had a vested interest in saying so. But a number of others, prominent among them Matthew Arnold, Henry James, Gertrude Stein, have also expressed admiration for the general's prose. But you're the English professor; what

distinguished Grant as a writer?

Samet: . . . I mentioned before his interest in putting his meaning so plainly there could be no mistaking it. That's a phrase that he repeats several times in the memoirs, and my students often think English professors like what they call fluff, and I tell them I don't like fluff, I'm sorry to disappoint you. I like you to put your meaning so plainly there can be no mistaking it. So I will share with them some Grant and say, you know, he didn't like fluff, and look what happened to him. . . . He's a really good stylist, and he writes nothing like the books he read, which is very interesting as well. He has that narrative zest. He has wonderful descriptive powers. This is particularly true, I think, of the early chapters where he talks about Mexico. . . . The powers of observation and the ability to communicate what he sees in a wonderful—a spare and lean but nevertheless compellingly descriptive—way.

Petraeus noted how Twain had compared the memoirs to Julius Caesar's *Commentaries*. Samet observed she thought the comparison apt "in the sense that it is, as military memoirs go," as impactful as Caesar's for military historians. But look at Caesar's imperious prose, such as "'I came, I saw, I conquered.' You're never going to see anything like that in Grant. . . . I don't think there's any more powerful military memoir certainly in American history. Sherman's is quite wonderful, but I think Grant's stands alone." Moreover, Grant "really is not the hero of his own tale," even compared to his contemporary fellow authors. "He doesn't put himself forward, I think, the way that Sherman does to a greater degree in his own memoirs."

Samet had written that Grant was "entirely, emphatically American." When Petraeus asked her to elaborate, she noted that she had in mind a comparison to George Washington. Theodore Roosevelt had identified Washington, Lincoln, and Grant as the three greatest Americans.

I think Washington's greatness, which is substantial, was a sort of amalgamation. I mean he had a kind of aristocratic sensibility. He was a gentleman from Virginia. His sense of military rank and his sense of the . . . military as a profession I think was very much an old-world one, but he happened to fuse that, strangely and wonderfully for us, with a republican sensibility. Grant had none of that. He begins his memoir discussing that he's American, his family has been American for however many generations. . . . [G]rowing up in the West, I think he felt very much on the frontier, and I think that. . . he was not a gentleman in that sense. Although he was a very gentle person, I think, he didn't have that sort of. . . aristocratic sense of being an officer and a gentleman. He was a very different, . . . more modern figure . . .

Almost 800 people viewed the program online, whether live or afterwards. On top of that, C-SPAN's American History TV picked up the program, so it has likely been seen by thousands of additional viewers.

Nicholas S. Fish (1958-2020)

On January 2, former GMA trustee Nicholas S. Fish died following a two-year battle with stomach cancer. He was 61.

Nick, a great-great-grandson of President Grant's highly esteemed Secretary of State, Hamilton Fish, always tried to live up to the legacy of his notable family. His namesake was an aide to General George Washington, and that Nicholas Fish named his oldest son after his best friend, Alexander Hamilton; thus the tradition of that name. Prior to becoming Grant's secretary of state, that Hamilton Fish had been a governor of New York and a United States senator. Nick's grandfather and father served as influential members of Congress, from 1920 to 1945 and 1969 to 1995 respectively. The latter Fish co-sponsored legislation to restore Grant's Tomb during the 1990s and was an honorary trustee of the GMA.

A graduate of Harvard University, Nick earned a law degree from Northeastern University, and thereafter became a prominent labor law attorney in New York City. In 1996, he relocated to Portland where, after practicing law, he was elected to the Portland City Council in 2008. Nick went on to oversee Portland city agencies in charge of housing, parks, environmental services, the water department, and the regional arts and culture council.

Nick leaves behind his wife Patty and their two children, Maria and Chapin.



City of Portland

Loretta Mae Fuhrman (1928-2019)

The GMA's officers recently learned the sad news that Loretta Mae Fuhrman died on May 24, 2019, in Cincinnati. Loretta dedicated herself for 47 years as the curator of Grant's Birthplace in Point Pleasant, Ohio. She lived nearby and was known for her knowledge and enthusiasm, generously offered to all from the casual visitors to the historians who came her way. Her service to Grant's Birthplace was extraordinary, and she will be missed.



Loretta Mae Fuhrman at Grant's Birthplace in 2010

JOIN THE GRANT MONUMENT ASSOCIATION



The life and extraordinary public service of General and President Ulysses S. Grant is reflected in the grand monument in New York City that serves as his final resting place—popularly known as Grant's Tomb. The Grant Monument Association, the successor to the organization of the same name that built and administered Grant's Tomb until it was transferred to the National Park Service in 1959, was formed to ensure that this important part of our heritage would be preserved. You may become a member of the Grant Monument Association or renew your membership for the current year one of two ways. You may mail in this form or use your credit card online via our secure PayPal server.

Become a member using the regular mail service:

Mail in this form:

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ONLINE COLLOQUY

A discussion of the partnership between
General Ulysses S. Grant & General William T. Sherman



with

General David Petraeus

and

John Marszalek

Executive Director & Managing Editor, Ulysses S. Grant Association

*Editor of scholarly annotated editions of the memoirs
of General Grant and (forthcoming) General Sherman*

Thurs., Nov. 19 7 p.m. ET / 6 p.m. CT www.grantstomb.org



The GMA thanks the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS) for its generous support in bringing this newsletter to you. Since 1865, Union officers and their descendants have worked through MOLLUS to perpetuate the memory of the struggle for the Union.