

GRANT

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Grant Monument
Association

GRANT

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PROGRESS REPORT FROM THE EDITOR

Last term, Congressman Jerrold Nadler (NY) in the House of Representatives and Senators Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Alfonse D'Amato in the Senate sponsored the Grant's Tomb National Monument Act. This bill aims primarily to achieve two goals: first, the completion of the monument's restoration, and second, the site's ongoing protection so that improvements made at present are not permitted to be reversed in the future.

The nation has been alerted to Grant's Tomb's recent history of extreme desecration and deterioration and the improvements that followed, but few are aware of the problems continuing to plague the site.

Much of the area surrounding the Tomb, including stairways and paths leading to the monument from the north, remains in serious disrepair. Grant's temporary tomb

site, itself a memorial worthy of respect, is still in deplorable condition. The floor surrounding the sarcophagi containing President and Mrs. Grant's remains is cracked and discolored.

The surrounding landscape presents both an aesthetic problem and a threat to the structural integrity of the plaza. The overlook pavilion is in terrible condition.

The monument itself has never been completed. There is still no visitor center at the site to provide the interpretation that historic sites minimally require. The site lacks public rest-

rooms. The federal government does not even own most of the land adjoining the Tomb.

The Grant's Tomb National Monument Act, designated H.R. 546 in the last ses-

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AUTHOR DISCUSSES GRANT'S LEGACY

Q & A WITH AUTHOR BROOKS SIMPSON

Question: What grabbed your attention about Grant?

Answer: As a boy, I became quite interested in the American Civil War in general and Grant in particular...My grandmother and aunt took me to Grant's Tomb when I was nine.

However, I did not think

of Grant as a subject for scholarly work until much later. In prep school I wrote a paper on the Appomattox terms and how Grant protected Lee from trial for treason; in college I did an undergraduate thesis on Grant and Reconstruction that served as a forerunner of later efforts. However, as much as I am interested in Grant the person, as a historian it is what his life and career tell us about the times and

issues of his day that I find especially engaging.

Q: Why should Grant's legacy matter?

A: Clearly Grant's contributions to the saving of the American republic cannot be understated. It's hard to imagine the Union prevailing without him--and in any case a Union victory would have taken a much differ-

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MEMBER PROFILE: SCOTT BERMAN



Scott Berman, executive committee member on the board of trustees, says everyone can learn valuable lessons in loyalty, personal integrity, writing, leadership and modern management from Grant's legacy.

Berman, a self-proclaimed "Grantophile," says Grant should be remembered for his dedication to human rights.

The public relations specialist

counsels the GMA in public relations and other issues.

"In my opinion, Grant should be reinstated into the realm of the George Washingtons and Abe Lincolns," he says.

"Grant is important because he was on the right side of human rights and human dignity, both increasingly important issues in today's world," he says.

Berman, who has been interested in Grant since he was 14 years old, explains that the tomb in New York City symbolizes Grant's lessons and deserves to be preserved.

He says he will feel proud if he can

play just a small part in the preservation of the site.

Berman teaches public relations and media criticism in the department of journalism at California State University, Northridge.

He earned a master's degree in communication studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and a doctorate at the Institute of Communications Research at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.

AUTHOR DISCUSSES MONUMENT: CONTINUED FROM PAGE

For too long the deplorable state of affairs at the tomb was accepted rather than challenged.

ent form. And yet I find equally compelling his efforts to transcend his time on matters of race as he attempted to reconcile the need for sectional reconciliation with the desire for racial justice. He was not successful in doing this – but the effort demonstrates just how difficult it was.

Q: Why did you get involved with the Grant Monument Association?

A: I took an interest in the condition of the tomb when Frank Scaturro alerted me to the fact that

it was in even worse shape than I supposed. For too long the deplorable state of affairs at the tomb was accepted rather than challenged; people interested in Grant's writings and work appeared to be resigned to the tomb's fate as an eyesore.

Q: What is the most interesting aspect of the monument?

A: I'm intrigued at how the monument has evolved over time; one might conclude from the interior that George H.

Thomas was one of Grant's favorites. That it faces south, with "Let Us Have Peace" across the entry, is to me a fine symbol of reconciliation – and at the same time a moving request about race relations.

Q: What is the most challenging aspect of the monument?

A: In an odd sort of way, the most challenging aspect is not the monument itself but the tree planted due north of the rear of the monument. It's too often forgotten that Grant was recognized around the world as a great statesman who would have been

GMA made to the monument?

A: From my distant vantage point, the revival of the GMA has meant the world to the monument's fate and future. The restoration process is wonderful; the ability to go down the stairs and walk around the resting places of Ulysses and Julia Grant is a special experience.

Q: What can readers expect to find in Volume 1 of your biography, "Ulysses S. Grant: Triumph Over Adversity, 1822-1865"?

A: First, I think they'll find a fair portrayal of Grant – one that examines both his strengths and his weaknesses, his suc-

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ready for the United States to play the sort of role in international affairs later realized by Theodore Roosevelt. That tree, commemorating Grant's efforts with the Chinese, is often overlooked.

Q: What difference has the

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SIMPSON Q & A : CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

cesses and his failures, his good qualities and his shortcomings. Second, I weave together Grant's public and private life in ways that inform our understanding of both. Third, I hope people will come away from the book understanding why Grant proved so successful as a general during the American Civil War. Fourth, I hope they'll appreciate my careful assessments of primary sources, which often lead to new understandings of key themes in Grant's life, from his relationship to Lincoln through his troubles with alcohol – real and imagined.

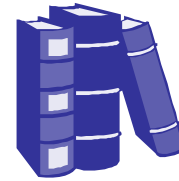
Q: What is planned for Volume 2?

A: I plan to treat Grant's last twenty years as one continuous effort to answer the question of what the war meant – and how Grant attempted to shape that definition. As general-in-chief, he found himself increasingly

at odds with Andrew Johnson over Reconstruction. As president, he helped forge a new Republican Party as he pursued policies – sometimes with success, sometimes not. Finally, he became something of a symbol as well as a definer of what the war meant, ending with his courageous struggle to compose his autobiography. Again readers will see how the public and private Grant were interwoven, and how he continued to struggle with the legacy of his private as well as public past. It will bear the subtitle, "The Fruits of Victory, 1865-1885."

Brooks D. Simpson is a professor of history and humanities at Arizona State University. He has written extensively about the Civil War, Reconstruction and Ulysses S. Grant.

Among his books are "Let Us Have Peace: Ulysses S. Grant and



the Politics of War and Reconstruction, 1861-1868" (1991); "The Reconstruction Presidents" (1998); and, with Jean V. Berlin, "Sherman's Civil War: Selected Correspondence of William T. Sherman, 1860-1865" (1999).

All of the above have been selections of the History Book Club, as is the first volume of his biography, "Ulysses S. Grant: Triumph over Adversity, 1822-1865," which will be published in February.

GENERAL COLIN POWELL DISCUSSES GRANT'S MILITARY STRATE-

In June of 1991, General Colin Powell wrote a letter to Frank Scaturro, then a volunteer at Grant's Tomb, expressing his appreciation to Mr. Scaturro for working to preserve the monument.

The following is an excerpt from Gen. Powell's letter:

With respect to General Grant, I confess to being an admirer of his tremendous ability to fashion a path to success despite adversity along the way.

The chief lessons I draw from Grant's generalship are the value of bold initiative and the absolute necessity for calm in the mid-

The chief lessons I draw from Grant's generalship are the value of bold initiative and the absolute necessity for calm in the middle of danger, uncertainty, and the inevitable fog of war.

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In my view his most bril-

liant campaign came at Vicksburg. There, after several setbacks, he maneuvered completely around the city, isolated the fortress from reinforcements and won a decisive victory. Throughout that campaign and the Virginia campaign of 1864-65, his unflappable leadership steadied the Union Army and turned tactical setbacks into operational triumphs.


COLIN L. POWELL
Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff

The GMA Mission:

- To commemorate and perpetuate the accomplishments of Ulysses S. Grant and Julia Dent Grant and their memory.
- To undertake educational activities and ceremonies as they pertain to President Grant's service to his country.
- To cooperate with public and private parties to insure the repair, maintenance and upgrading of Grant's Tomb in New York City.
- To raise funds to accomplish the foregoing purposes.

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REPORT FROM THE EDITOR: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Grant's Tomb National Monument Act, designated H.R. 546 in the last session of the House of

Representatives, could change this situation.

The legislation included provisions for perpetual 24-hour mili-

tary guards and a visitor center at the Tomb to satisfy long-term preservation and interpretive needs, along with the federal acquisition of adjoining land and completion of the Tomb. The bill died with the end of the last session of Congress, necessitating the reintro-

duction of the bill during this term.

Expressions of support from concerned citizens to their legislators are

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needed.

There are two ways in which you can help:

1. Contact your representative in the House of Representatives (Washington, DC 20515) requesting that he/she join Jerrold Nadler as a co-sponsor when he reintroduces the Grant's Tomb National Monument

Act (the former H.R. 546).

2. Request that Senators Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Charles

Schumer (U.S. Senate, Washington, D. C. 20510) introduce a bill identical to the former H.R. 546 in the Senate.

All congressional offices may be reached through the Capitol switchboard:

(202) 225-3121.

Thank you very much for your help.

Frank Scaturro
President
Grant Monument Assoc.