



The Friends of the
Ulysses S. Grant Cottage
P.O. Box 2294 / 1000 Mt. McGregor Rd.
Wilton, NY 12831
(518) 584-4353 www.grantcottage.org

State Historic Site



Follow us on social media
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news, and more!

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Thank you for supporting Grant
Cottage! This giving season,
please consider making a donation
to The Friends of the Ulysses S.
Grant Cottage to help us continue
to offer educational experiences
and share Grant's story.

HELP US KEEP HISTORY ALIVE

Yes! I would like to support Grant Cottage with
a tax-deductible donation of \$ _____

Check enclosed

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address: _____

Phone _____

Yes, I would like to subscribe to Friends of Grant Cottage e-mail updates.

Make your Donation to support Grant Cottage today by mailing the attached form to PO Box 2294, Wilton, NY 12831 or by going to
grantcottage.org/take-action

The Friends of the Ulysses S. Grant Cottage is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that manages the daily operations and programming at Grant Cottage.
Generous support from Grant fans like you helps us keep history alive as we tell the story of Ulysses S. Grant's time on Mt. McGregor.



STATE HISTORIC SITE

The Friends of the
Ulysses S. Grant Cottage

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PRESIDENTIAL REPORT

We are excited to open on time this season, especially because we will have an expanded parking lot. Last year, we were delayed six weeks by the installation of the Fire Suppression system and that cost us some revenue from Cottage tours. (And, of course, \$1.2 million in construction costs, \$250,000 of which came from a gift from an integral gift from a generous donor, and long-time benefactor.

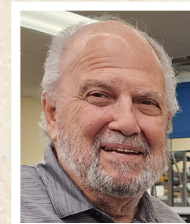
As you know, the Cottage was awarded the 4.2 acre "Exercise Yard" from the prison back in 2021 and we have been gradually getting permission from the state to use this land for various events. By the way, this July is the tenth anniversary of the closing of the Mt. McGregor Correctional Facility. So, I'm sure you're thinking, it's about time you put that place to better use. We agree.

We removed razor wire from the top of the fence, we cut an entryway in a section of the fence to allow guided tours of the grounds where the Balmoral Hotel once stood and now, we are working on the old inmate basketball court as a new, overflow parking lot. As you can imagine, additional parking has always been a priority for us, and since we are prevented from expanding slots in front of the Visitor's Center, this new use of the prison property is our best option.

We also intend to build an educational pavilion somewhere on this new property, but that's going to take some fundraising. I welcome your ideas for securing the money to take U.S. Grant Cottage to the next level as we continue to expand the shrine for the **Man Who Saved the Union**.



President, Board of Trustees



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

2024 will be an exciting year for Grant Cottage. Four new color interpretive panels will be added to the site. Under consideration is an online auction fundraiser with many Grant items included, and many other offerings. Look for more information on our website, social media, and your email. We continue to move forward on our new pavilion - look for a timetable and announcements to come.

I have a Grant interesting fact to share. Most people know about the generous surrender terms that Grant offered to General Lee at Appomattox Court House. But did you know that later a federal jury negated the terms of his agreement and charged Lee and other Confederate generals with treason? During a subsequent meeting with President Andrew Johnson, Grant stated his intention to "resign the command of the army rather than execute any order to arrest Lee or any of his commanders so long as they obey the law." Unwilling to lose Grant's support, Johnson reluctantly dropped the case. See you on the mountain!

Executive Director

There are many ways to support The Friends of Ulysses S. Grant Cottage. Visit our website to learn more about our Adopt-A-Bench program, Sponsorship, and more.

The 2024 Season will open on Grant's birthday, April 27th!

The Friends of Grant Cottage offer Tours of the Cottage interior starting at 10 a.m., with the last Tour of the day starting promptly at 3:30 p.m. Cottage Tours run every 30 minutes.

APRIL 27 THROUGH MAY 26 Friday - Sunday

*OPEN Monday, May 27th
MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 29 THROUGH JULY 14 Wednesday - Sunday

JULY 16 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1 Tuesday - Sunday

*OPEN Monday September 2nd
LABOR DAY

SEPTEMBER 3 THROUGH OCTOBER 27 Wednesday - Sunday

*OPEN Monday October 14th
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

(Private Tours are available on non-operating days by appointment ONLY)

For more information on tour times, admission, or to purchase tickets go to www.grantcottage.org

FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

Looking forward, we'll be trying to raise additional funds for several projects at the Cottage, including a new Educational Pavilion and Overlook on the site of the old prison ballfield. In the short term, we still need your support just to cover our operating expenses. Like most museums and historic sites, admissions only cover a fraction of our expenses (in our case about 25%). We want to make sure the site continues to be accessible to all, so we can't raise admission prices. We therefore rely on your memberships, donations, and sponsorships, to keep our doors open and carry out our educational mission. How can you help?



- Make sure your membership is current. Consider a higher level of membership.
- Donate to the Friends. We are a 501c3 non-profit and your donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.
- If you have an IRA account and have reached the age requiring mandatory distributions, you may be able to donate and avoid tax on the distribution, even if you don't itemize your deductions. Talk to your tax professional to see if you are eligible.
- Have you considered making a bequest in your will to the Cottage?
- Do you know of any companies that might be interested in becoming a Sponsor?
- Does your employer offer matching grants on your contributions?
- Do you know of any foundations or philanthropies that might support Living History?

Please feel free to reach out to me with any ideas or for more information as to how you can help us, at treasurer@grantcottage.org.

Mike Lesser
Treasurer of the Board

Did you know that we offer Group Tours and Educational Tours?

Ask us about what we can do to make your group's visit a memorable outing, catered to your specific needs and interests.

Contact colette@grantcottage.org for more information



grantcottage.org/group tours



grantcottage.org/education

2024 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Visit grantcottage.org/events for the most up to date information on all programs & events, or visit us onsite and pick up a brochure.

Tuskegee Airman Clarence Dart Monday, May 27, 2pm

Lt. Col. Clarence W. Dart, famous Saratoga Springs member of the Tuskegee Airmen and decorated WWII fighter pilot was shot down twice in his 95 missions, earning two Purple Hearts. This program is presented by his son Warren Dart.

Saratoga Soul Brandtville Blues LITERARY LANDMARK AUTHOR'S SERIES Wednesday, June 19, 2pm

Grant Cottage Literary Landmark Author Series
Author Carol Daggs presents her book Saratoga Soul Brandtville Blues, a visual narrative on the Daggs Family story in the upstate Saratoga Springs, New York neighborhood of Brandtville. Along with the delightful collection of historic photographs, Daggs' decidedly abecedarian approach recounts an African-American family experience through telling a narrative.

Ulysses & Julia Grant- Dancing on the Edge of the Gilded Age Thursday, July 25, 2pm In honor of Remembrance Day (Tues. 7/23)

Grant's great-great grandson Ulysses Dietz will take us on a journey through time to gain insight into Ulysses and Julia's great love, and life on the cusp of a pivotal era of change in America's history.

Grant's Funeral: History of Burke's Funeral Home Thursday, August 8, 2pm

Carol Godette will discuss Victorian-era mourning and funeral customs; how William Burke's involvement in the embalming of President Ulysses S Grant led him to open his own funeral home; and the rich history of Burke's role as one of four operating funeral homes in Saratoga Springs.

Civil War Music on the Mountain by Dan Berggren Thursday, August 22, 2pm

Musician Dan Berggren will be playing Civil War Era music at Grant Cottage, on Mt. McGregor. Dan Berggren's roots are firmly in the Adirondacks where he was raised but his music has branched out across many borders. The award-winning musician and educator grew up on the land farmed by his mother's family for generations and has worked in the woods with forest rangers and survey crews. Hearing stories and songs from local friends and neighbors, Dan has developed a style that captures the spirit of the mountains.

Native American Gardening Saturday, September 21, 2pm

Grant Cottage Literary Landmark Author Series
Join us to celebrate the U.N.'s International Day of Peace by learning about the relationship between people and the gardens of Earth, seed preservation, Native diets and meals,

natural pest control, and the importance of the Circle of Life. Our presenter is storyteller and author Joseph (Joe) Bruchac of Greenfield Center, N.Y. The program is based on his book, Native American Gardening. The book was co-authored with Michael J. Caduto and shares stories, projects, and recipes for families. Joe's poems, articles, and stories have appeared in over 500 publications, and he is the author of more than 170 books for adults and children. Much of his writing is drawn from his connection to the Adirondack Mountain foothills town where he grew up and his Abenaki ancestry.

Like the Fabled Centaur- The Horsemanship of Ulysses S. Grant Saturday, October 5, 2pm

Grant Cottage Literary Landmark Author Series
In Greek mythology, the centaur was a creature with the upper body of a man and the lower body of a horse. When James Longstreet was a cadet at West Point, he watched fellow cadet Ulysses S. Grant become the best horseman the Academy had ever seen. Grant's control of a mount was so flawless and fluid that animal and human seemed to become one. "Rider and horse held together like the fabled centaur!" gasped Longstreet. Grant's love of horses began when he was a toddler and stayed with him, in war and peace, his entire life. Grant Cottage tour guide and author Steve Trimm will share this wonderful equestrian story.

OPERATIONS MANAGER REPORT

We are excited as we welcome visitors back to the mountain for 2024! A lot has been accomplished during the last few years at the historic site, yet there are no signs of slowing down. With your help, the site can reach more visitors than ever before and accomplish major infrastructure goals to improve the site for everyone's benefit. New interpretive materials and experiences will be a highlight this season, with our Victorian Strolls and new information panels providing fresh incentives to visit and dig deeper into the intriguing history of the site. With a schedule that includes signature events, including the celebration of the Centennial of New York State Parks, 2024 is shaping up to be a banner year. The Friends of Grant Cottage are currently seeking more volunteers to engage with visitors in a variety of ways and help give them a positive and meaningful experience. **For more information on volunteering and to apply please visit: grantcottage.org/volunteer**



Ben Kemp
Operations Manager

Visitor Center Dispatch

Even though the site is closed for 6 months in the winter, the staff is busy in the off-season preparing for a great 2024 at the Cottage. Look for new branded products in the gift shop, and some exciting new books will be on the shelves. You know you can always shop online on our website by visiting grantcottage.org/shop-to-support or call for information about operations and purchases. Come up and see us!

Pat Porto
Visitor Center Manager

Novelist Jon Clinch at Grant Cottage with his new book *The General and Julia*, now available in the Gift Shop!

