

A stylized graphic of the American flag, with the stars and stripes rendered in a painterly, brushstroke style. The stars are white on a blue background, and the stripes are red and white, all set against a textured, parchment-like background.

U.S. Grant Symposium

9th Annual

July 23, 2022 • St. Louis



Since 2014

Proudly Presented By
The U.S. Grant Trail and Missouri Humanities

9TH Annual U.S. Grant Symposium



9:50 Welcome by Mark Sundlov, Director of Soldiers Memorial

9:55 Remarks by Greg Wolk, Heritage Programs Coordinator,
Missouri Humanities

10:00-10:45 **John Samson**, Independent Scholar / **“What I Want Is
To Advance:” U.S. Grant And The Battle Of Belmont**

Synopsis: The Battle of Belmont seldom appears on historians’ lists of Ulysses Grant’s military accomplishments. In his presentation, John delves deeply into this early battle in southeast Missouri to describe how it signaled the initiative, aggressiveness and determination that became hallmarks of Grant’s generalship.

10:55-11:45 **Silvana R. Siddali, PhD**, Professor of History, St. Louis University / **A Measure of Grand Importance: Grant and the 15th Amendment**

Synopsis: Silvana’s address focuses on President Grant’s part in moving the nation toward the ratification of the Constitutional Amendment that granted universal male suffrage in the United States. President Grant’s role is set against a backdrop of struggles for the vote in some western states that preceded the Civil War.

★ LUNCH BREAK ★

Persons attending virtually may access programming organized by Symposium partners the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site and Missouri History Museum.

★ THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS ★

1:15-2:10 **Frank J. Scaturro, JD**, President of the Grant Monument Association of New York City / **President Grant Belongs in the Pantheon**

Synopsis: Frank reprises and expands upon the themes of his own study of Grant's presidency, published in 1998. Frank argues that Ulysses Grant is the most misunderstood of all the nation's chief executives and that the result of historical distortion—many fed by broader public misunderstanding of Reconstruction—many historians ranked Grant's performance in office near the very bottom. Even as President Grant's reputation is undergoing a revival in recent years, many distortions endure in the imagination of the public and of scholars alike. The Keynote Address aims to correct misconceptions as Frank explains why Grant belongs in the pantheon of presidential greats.

2:20-3:15 **E. C. (Curt) Fields, PhD**, Living historian and retired educator / **Unconditional Surrender? – An Unprecedented Trio of Victories**

Synopsis: Ulysses Grant's rise to fame as a battlefield commander began at Fort Donelson, Tennessee, in February 1862. There, he accepted the surrender of 12,000 Confederates. Grant followed suit in 1863 and 1864, capturing entire armies at Vicksburg and at Appomattox Court House. In this presentation, Lieutenant General Grant (portrayed by Curt) reflects upon the circumstances of each of these surrenders, how the terms were different, and why.

★ THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER ★



While he was an undergraduate student at Columbia University in upper Manhattan, Frank volunteered as a guide at Grant's Tomb, which was located near the campus. Appalled by the dilapidated condition of this building, which was once the jewel of all Manhattan attractions, he decided to do something about it. For several years, Frank deluged National Park Service administrators with appeals for corrective action. Ultimately and unsolicited, he prepared a report that he sent to the Department of the Interior

and to President Bill Clinton. Frank's efforts, and the efforts of others who he enlisted in the cause, resulted in congressional support. Congress appropriated \$1.8 Million to restore Grant's Tomb by its centennial in 1997.

Before work began on the renovation of the Tomb, Frank took up another cause: The "restoration" of scholarly and public opinion of the two terms Grant spent in the White House, for which the former President was maligned over the course of a century. His first published work, *President Grant Reconsidered* (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1998), was devoted to this task.

Frank received his *Juris Doctor* from the University of Pennsylvania School of Law in 1997. He has engaged in private practice, and in government and public interest roles, in the years since. ★



The Soldier's Memorial Military Museum is a unit of the Missouri History Museum in St. Louis. It has hosted the annual U. S. Grant Symposium each year since 2019. Long a fixture of downtown St. Louis, the building in which it is housed was constructed in the 1930s as a tribute to St. Louis's casualties in World War I. The facility underwent a complete renovation in 2016 – 2017, producing a state-of-the-art museum that honors military service, veterans and their families.

★ 2022 SPEAKERS ★

John Samson is a retired police detective who turned his attention to the study of Ulysses Grant many years ago. A collector of Grant memorabilia and artifacts, John has long served on the national Board of Directors of the Ulysses S. Grant Association. John is the only Missourian on the Board of this Association, which is the leading membership organization in the country that preserves the legacy and writings of Ulysses Grant. ★



Dr. Siddali earned her PhD at Harvard University in 1999, after she received a Masters from the Graduate School of Education of that university. Specializing in 19th century American political and constitutional history, Silvana has written extensively about the American Civil War and Abraham Lincoln. She is the recipient of Missouri Humanities' 2011 Distinguished Achievement in Literature Award for compiling and editing *Missouri's War: The Civil War in Documents* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2009). ★



A retired educator and Tennessee native, Curt Fields has made a career of portraying General and President Grant. In this role, Curt has given several hundred presentations in 22 states. He also stars as Ulysses Grant in film presentations that greet visitors at Fort Donelson National Battlefield and at Virginia's Appomattox Court House National Historic Park. In addition, Curt portrayed General Grant for the 150th anniversary observations of Grant's victories at Fort Donelson, Shiloh and Vicksburg. ★



PAST SPEAKERS AND PERFORMERS

(Alphabetical)

Marvin Alonzo-Greer, “Spotswood Rice, Soldier and Preacher”

Byron Bagby, Maj. Gen. (US Army, Ret.), “**Beyond City Point: African American Troops at Petersburg**”

Michael E. Banasik (US Army, Ret.), “Grant’s Battle of Belmont”

Gregory Carr, “Standing on the Promises: James Milton Turner and the Promise of America”

Darrell Dexter, “Grant in Egypt”

James W. Erwin, JD, “Suppressing the Rebellion: Missouri State Militias”

Daniel A. Fuller, “Monuments in Stone: A Walk with Ulysses S. Grant”

Timothy Good, “**Ulysses S. Grant: A Legacy of Freedom**”

Peter Grady, JD, “Unconditional Surrender: An Afternoon with President Grant”

Andrew Hahn, “Native Americans and the Presidency of U. S. Grant”

Molly Kodner, “My Dear Molly: The Civil War Letters of Captain James Love”

Cindy Lovell, PhD, “**The Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant**”

John Marszalek, PhD, “**Warriors of the New Warfare, Ulysses S. Grant and William T. Sherman**”

Rob Mellon (US Army, Ret.), “Called to Duty: Grant’s First March in the Civil War”

Joseph W. McCoskrie (US Army, Ret.), “**Grant, Missouri and the Making of a General for Modern War**”

Frank Nickell, PhD, “Ulysses Grant in Southeast Missouri”

Nicholas Sacco, “I Never Was an Abolitionist: Ulysses S. Grant and Slavery, 1854-1863”

Scott Sallee, “Northern Attitudes Towards Slavery and Economic Causes for the Civil War”

Henry Sweets, “Grant and Twain”

Pamela Sanfilippo, “Julia Dent Grant and the Importance of Family”

Timothy B. Smith, PhD, “**The Military Education of Ulysses S. Grant**”

Ronald C. White, Jr., PhD, “**Ulysses S. Grant: A Fresh Vision for American Leadership**”

Frank J. Williams, JD, “**Politics of 1864: Ulysses S. Grant, George B. McClellan and Abraham Lincoln**”

Gregory Wolk, JD, “On the Trail with U. S. Grant”

(Bold indicates keynote speakers)

U. S. GRANT SYMPOSIUM HISTORY

The U. S. Grant Symposium was first conducted in May, 2014 in St. Louis, Missouri. It was conceived as a feature of the Annual Meeting of the Ulysses S. Grant Association, whose membership met in the Gateway City that year, and it was funded in part by the National Park Service. The event was first presented under the auspices of Missouri's Civil War Heritage Foundation, and was designed also to serve as part of Missouri's commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, which was then in progress. Every year since 2017, the Symposium has been co-presented by the Missouri Humanities Council, which provides the major funding that makes the event possible year after year.

In 2017 and 2018, the U. S. Grant Symposium was conducted in Cape Girardeau and Mexico, two Missouri cities that witnessed Ulysses Grant's 1861 campaign. The cooperating venues in those years are historic structures that General Grant visited in 1861.

In 2020, COVID-19 threatened the continuance of this major academic program, and that year's Symposium was presented virtually. The result, a pleasant surprise, was that the program reached scores of people in eleven states outside of Missouri. In 2021, we returned to a live audience format, but continued to broadcast to a national audience.



2019: U. S. Grant Symposium Speakers



2021: presentation to Byron Bagby
(US Army, Ret.) The Keynote Speaker

2022 is Ulysses Grant's bicentennial year. The 9th Annual U. S. Grant Symposium will be presented on Saturday, July 23, 2022, the anniversary of General Grant's death in 1885. Keep in touch through our Facebook page, @grantsymposium.



A presentation of Missouri Humanities and the U. S. Grant Trail



mohumanities.org



usgranttrail.org



Hosted by the Soldiers Memorial Military Museum, St. Louis, Missouri.



mohistory.org

This program is an official Missouri Bicentennial presentation



TO REGISTER to attend the July 23 Symposium, in person or virtually, go to www.mohumanities.org/grant-symposium/, scroll down and click "Registration."

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