

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



Buckingham Lodge-1861

General Ulysses S. Grant Portrait Returns to Georgetown

The Civil War Sesquicentennial has been celebrated from 2011-2015, so tribute should be given to Ulysses S. Grant, Ohioan and commanding general of the U.S. Army at that remarkable period in the nation's history.



The Indian Hill Historical Society loaned an historic painting of U.S. Grant to the Brown County Public Library in 2007. The Society was given the portrait by the late Andrew C. Hauck, Jr., former Indian Hill Mayor and co-founder of the Indian Hill Historical Society. The portrait depicts Grant in full dress uniform after his commission to General by President Abraham Lincoln in 1864. Mounted in its original wood and gesso frame, it was completed circa 1864. Unsigned, it is attributed to Benjamin Franklin Rinehart (1829-1885), an associate of the school of American Realism and a long-standing member of the National Academy.

Grant was the U. S. President from 1869-1877. The Little Red Schoolhouse at 8100 Given Road was constructed in 1873. In the 19th century it was common practice for schools to display a picture of the current President. Grant's term of office coincided with the initial years of the schoolhouse's use, so his picture might have been hung there until his term ended.

Eight years ago, the Historical Society, in both an effort to reach beyond the boundaries of Indian Hill and an attempt to reach a larger audience in Ohio, decided to loan the canvas to the Mary Sheldon-Brown County Library in Georgetown, OH. Georgetown is known as the *Land of Grant*. It is where the U.S. Grant Homestead Association has headquarters, and where U.S. Grant Days (celebrating Grant's achievements) are held annually on his birthday. Grant's boyhood home, the school he attended, the tannery where he worked briefly with his father, and a granite statue of the four star General can all be seen in the town. Both Grant's home and school are museums owned by the Ohio History Connection. Collaborating with the library, the Historical Society's painting was made available to the people of Georgetown and other Grant enthusiasts.

The Mary Sheldon- Brown County Library was delighted to exhibit the stunning 66" by 54" canvas. The library is the repository of numerous volumes about Grant and contains an elaborate timetable documenting his life. During the summer of 2014, the library was renovated, so the Grant portrait was temporarily moved to the Indian Hill Village Administration Building. It has recently been returned and is again on display.

Ulysses S. Grant is considered "our native son" by Brown County residents. As the most successful and leading Union General of the Civil War, he triumphed in many battles on the Western front, most notably at Vicksburg MS. After proving to be an aggressive fighter, he was promoted by President Lincoln and traveled East to engage the Confederate Army there. Grant accepted the surrender of the Confederates on April 9, 1865 – 150 years ago this spring. A leader and celebrity, Grant was elected the 18th President of the United States. He was the youngest man ever to be elected President at the time (age 46) and was the first to hail from Ohio. He served two terms. Though there were scandals during his administration, he is credited with establishing the National Park System, including the first National Park, Yellowstone. He also was a strong advocate of the 15th Amendment, giving all men the right to vote regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

The U.S. Grant painting at the Mary Sheldon- Brown County Library will continue to provide a stunning visual portrait of the American hero who spent his formative years in the area. The Indian Hill Historical Society is proud to assist in promoting his life and legacy in the *Land of Grant*.



U.S. Grant Day will be celebrated in historic Georgetown on April 25, 2015.