

## GRANT REJECTED FOR SMALL OFFICE

Paper Found Shows He wanted to Be County Engineer.

Nine Years Later He Was Nominated by Acclamation for Presidency.

That Gen. U. S. Grant was once turned down by St. Louis politicians, who refused to give him a job will be a surprise to many who do not know he once asked for an office here. A document was uncovered in the office of City Register Regan Wednesday which shows that Grant tried to get a political office in 1859.

The paper was discovered by Deputy City Register John W. McCluskey while he was searching through old records for an old St. Louis County document. He found that under date of August 1, 1859, the future great general and president, then 37 years old had applied for a position as county engineer, and was turned down by the Board of County Commissioners in favor of another applicant.

The paper was unmarked, except a pencil note on the back, stating that it was the "application of U. S. Grant 1859." It was a recommendation written by I. I. Reynolds, a West Point graduate and chum of Grant. Reynolds was then professor of engineering and mechanics at Washington University. The paper was attested by S. M. Frost, who explained that he had also been a chum of Grant at West Point and had served eight years with him in the army. The document follows:

St. Louis, August 1, 1859.—Capt U. S. Grant was a member of the class at the military academy West Point, which graduated in 1842. He always maintained a high standing and graduated with great credit, especially in mathematics, mechanics and engineering. From my personal knowledge of his capacity and acquirements as well as his strict integrity and unremitting industry, I consider him in an eminent degree qualified for the office of county engineer. I. I. REYNOLDS, Professor Mechanics and Engineering, Washington University.

I was for three years in the corps of cadets at West Point with Capt. Grant and afterward served with him for some eight years in the army and can fully indorse the foregoing statements of Prof. Reynolds.

(Signed) S. M. FROST.

That Gen. Grant did not get the position which he asked for is shown by the failure of his name to appear in the county roster of that date and by the American Encyclopedia, which says that he accepted employment with his father in the leather business at Galena, Ill., at about that date. The position of county engineer was poor pay and its principal duties dealt with the construction of county bridge and similar work. The office was under the jurisdiction of the Board of County Commissioners whose duties, judging from the old records seem to have consisted mostly in the management and improvement of county roads and the admission of paupers to the Poorhouse.

The Board of County Commissioners seems to have showed no interest in the man who was to be president of the United States. Aside from the one record, showing that his application for the position was duly filed for record, he seems to have been entirely ignored by the board.

Gen. Grant had a love for St. Louis due to the fact that he married in 1848, Miss Julia Dent, a St. Louis county girl who was a sister of one of his West Point classmates. He resigned from the army while stationed at Fort Vancouver Ore., July 31, 1854, and came to St. Louis County to live. He cultivated a farm and engaged in the real estate business until 1859 when he entered business with his father and moved to Galena Ill., where he remained until the beginning of the civil war. Eight years later, or just nine years after being refused a job by the Board of Commissioners of St. Louis County, he was nominated by acclamation in the Republican National Convention for president of the United States and elected.

The discovery of the record of Grant's first failure as a politician is of peculiar interest just now on account of the references to Gen. Grant's St. Louis career by Secretary of War Taft in his Memorial Day address which has raised a furor among Grant's friends. In his personal memories General Grant of the incident:

While a citizen of St. Louis and engaged in the real-estate agency business I was a candidate for the office of county engineer an office of respectability and emolument which would have been very acceptable to me at that time. The incumbent was appointed by the County Court which con-

# FRATERNAL BARBECUE!

AT

## HARTFORD FAIR GROUNDS

# JUNE 20, '08

Every Member of Every Fraternal and Labor Organization Invited To Be Present.

HON. J. CAMPBELL CANTRELL WILL SPEAK IN THE INTEREST OF THE A. S. OF E. HON. TOM S. PETTIT WILL SPEAK FOR THE MASONIC FRATERNITY. PROF. McHENRY RHODES WILL BE THE ORATOR OF THE DAY FOR THE K. P'S. VARIOUS OTHER ORATORS HAVE BEEN INVITED AND WILL BE PRESENT.

## A BRASS BAND HAS BEEN ENGAGED.

Forty Head of Sheep, Six Beeves and Twelve Hogs will be Barbecued for the Occasion.

ALL KINDS OF LEGITIMATE ENTERTAINMENTS WILL BE ON THE GROUND.

It is to Be an Old Time Fraternal Picnic Held for the Benefit, and Under the Auspices of the Hartford Masonic Lodge, and the Hartford K. of P. Lodge.

DR. A. S. YEWELL, Ch'm'n.

JAS. M. DeWEESE, Sec.

JOINT COMMITTEE.

sisted of five members. My opponent had the advantage of birth over me (he being a citizen by adoption) and carried off the prize.

The application for a job in St. Louis is now in a badly dilapidated condition having lain among other old St. Louis County records at the City Hall since the city took over the courts and other institutions within the city proper many years ago. It is written in ink and the writing is fairly legible. The paper however bears marks of decay and although a folded

sheet of heavy-weight writing paper bearing the seal of Washington University it is nearly torn at one of the folds.

**CASTORIA.**  
Bears the Signature of  
The Kind You Have Always Bought  
*Wm. D. Wadsworth*

A Story of Millions.  
Another interesting story is told of how the reluctant giving of a promissory note by a penniless New York

lawyer, brought a fortune into his pocket amounting to several millions. The man referred to John M. Bixby, came to New York in 1830 from a backwood district as a half-starved lawyer. To pay four dollars a week for board and washing kept him on the verge of bankruptcy. He struggled on for a year or two, and was constantly seeking odd jobs outside of the law to enable him to exist when a friendly lawyer in whose office he had desk room, called him aside one day. "Here is a chance for you

Bixby," said the lawyer. "I have an estate and must get rid of the farm on the north side of the city. It is appraised at \$200. You can have it at that figure." "I have not one dollar to my name," exclaimed Bixby. "You can give me your note, and I will renew it until you get ready to pay it," replied the lawyer. The young man hesitated for some time. He was very nervous about placing himself under obligation for so large a sum, but finally consented.

"Young Bixby had to ask for the renewal of his note two or three times had to deprive himself of the necessities of life to hold the farm, until the opening of the Erie Canal and the first lighting of the city by gas gave the metropolis a new birth and his farm was quickly swallowed in the growth. At the time of his death Bixby's property was worth seven millions; today its market value is more than thirteen.—The "Giant City New York," June National Magazine.