• 1848 Wedding gift from Col. Dent
  – Ulysses S. Grant and his new bride, Julia Dent, received 80 acres of Dent family land southwest of St. Louis (present-day St. Paul’s Cemetery)
• 1854 Grant resigned from the Army (before Civil War)
  – No longer had income from the army
  – Planned to support his family farming at Hardscrabble & White Haven
    • Commented to a friend “whoever hears of me in ten years will hear of a well-to-do old Missouri farmer” (Grants Auto Biography)
• 1855 Grant joined his bride in St. Louis
  – Started sawing and notching the logs that would be used to build a new home
  – Julia lamented that Grant chose a log cabin not “a neat frame house”
• 1856 Summer
  – Grant set stone foundation
  – Neighbors and slaves assisted in the house raising
    • Completed in 3 days
  – Grant completed himself
    • Shingling the roof
    • Laying the floors
    • Building the stairs
Julia's New Home - Hardscrabble

- 1856 September
  - Grants moved into Hardscrabble
- Cabin divided into four rooms
  - Two upstairs
  - Two downstairs
  - Hall running between them on both floors
- Julia’s comments (The Personal Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant (Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant), pp. 78-79)
  - “My father most aggravatingly urged a log house, saying it would be warmer. So the great trees were felled and lay stripped of their boughs; then came the hewing which required much time and labor; then came the house-raising and a great luncheon. A neat frame house I am sure, could have been put up in half the time and at less expense. We went to this house before it was finished and lived in it scarcely three months.”
  - “So crude and homely I did not like it at all”
  - “I did not say so and got out all my pretty covers, baskets, books, etc”
  - “This little house looked so unattractive that we facetiously decided to call it Hardscrabble”
    - (meaning "yielding a bare or meager living with great labor or difficulty") because the cabin was so crude and homely
- Grants lived there only three months
- 1857 January
  - Moved back to Dent farm (White Haven) upon death of Julia’s mother
Cabin named “Hardscrabble”

• 1859 Frederick Dent, acting for Grant,
  – Sold to Joseph White for $7,200.00

• 1863 White unable to pay
  – Julia regained the land
  – Julia leased cabin
    • 1868 Grants regain farm after Mo Supreme Court battle won

• 1884 transferred ownership to William Vanderbilt of New York
  – Nearly 650 acres
  – Sold for $150,000.00

• 1888 Luther H Conn purchases property
  – Retained the rights to sell the cabin separately

• 1889 sold to Henry J. Weber
  – 132 acres

• 1891 Conn sold cabin to Edward and Justin Joy, real estate developers
  – $5,000.00
  – Disassembled the structure
    • Carefully numbered each log
    • Rebuilt in Old Orchard, part of nearby Webster Groves, MO
Hardscrabble Goes to the “Fair”

- 1903 sold to C. F. Blanke Coffee Co
  - $8,000.00
- Dismantled and reconstructed at the 1904 St. Louis World’s Fair
  - Major public attraction
  - Opened on May 3
  - Located near the east wing of the Art Palace
  - 10¢ adult admission
  - Luncheon concession and coffee house

The top knife advertises "Blanke's Coffee - Faust Blend & Grant Cabin Tea." The bottom one reads "Blanke's Coffee - Faust Blend & Exposition Brand."

Photo – copy of post card owned by member Louise Drescher.
Did “Hardscrabble” remain in Forest Park?

- Intended to remain in Forest Park
  - Located near the east wing of the Art Palace
  - No agreement made with city authorities
  - Headed for demolition

- 1907 Cabin purchased by August Busch
  - Rebuilt on his estate of over 280 acres
  - Marker in St. Paul’s Churchyard Cemetery at the original location of Grant’s cabin
    - Placed by the Webster Groves Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.
Hardscrabble

Photos taken 1940
Grant's Cabin Today

• 1977 Anheuser-Busch restored the cabin to its present condition.

Most research - photos & text
www.nps.gov/ulsg/history/hardscrabble.htm