Behind all its Victorian beauty, Galena, Ill., is embracing 21st-century tools that will help preserve this river town.

Settled in a velvet armchair in the formal parlor of a museum-turned-mansion, I stared into the darkened dining-room beyond and waited for Galena’s past to collide with its future.

Then Galena’s favorite couple — Ulysses S. Grant and his wife, Julia — materialized from the dining-room shadows and proudly welcomed me to their historic town, he in uniform, holding his trademark cigar, she in a long, bell-skirted gown.

They’re holograms — life-size, 3-D holograms — projections more suited to “Star Wars” than the Civil War.

Despite the Galena Museum, they’re symbolic of other 21st-century changes underway in this nearly 200-year-old community in Illinois’ northwest corner.

Galena is going green, as proven by the green shutters that grace so many of its handsome 19th-century homes. And it’s doing it without fandangle.

Visitors inevitably hear a lot about Grant, who left for the Civil War from here. But no tour ever treads the Main Street shops is likely to hear about — let alone visit — the planned 1,440-panel solar array that powers the town’s new sewage plant.

### In Madagascar, land of lemurs

![Image](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

- This large island off the coast of Africa is a world apart, filled with unique wildlife and lush landscapes.
- Steer clear of bed bugs at your next hotel.
- Changes — both good and bad — for frequent fliers.
- Kohler, Wis., resort is all about pampering, 2013

*The author of this article is a resident of Madagascar.*

## GALENA

**thrive in the modern age**

*By CATHEDRINE WASHING • Special to the Star Tribune*

The restoration of Capoicus Grant Park will raise the status of the victorian general, deemed by a grateful citizen.

Other than in pies and some research centers, lemurs are found only in Madagascar. There are 20 different species of different sizes, weights, and sizes.
Galena thrives in the modern age

Louis and Galena’s future is still a big story. It’s told on many levels. The old mines played out, railroad and road opened, and the railroad station and depot still stand in Galena. The tracks are gone, but the Galena & Chicago Union "G" is still around, and it is 100 years old this year.

Over the past few years, Galena has been the site of the National Register of Historic Places since 1959. A total of 17 historic structures and areas have been added since then, including the former Galena Main Street railroad station, the Galena Museum, and the Galena Historical Society headquarters. These historic buildings are part of the Galena Historic District, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

But before the recent development of the Galena Historic District, Galena was known locally as "the Iron Horse." The railroad played a significant role in the town’s history, helping to bring people and goods to and from the area. Today, the railroad is still a part of the town’s identity, with the Galena & Chicago Union "G" still operating on the former railroad tracks.

One of the most visible reminders of the town’s past is the Galena Museum, which is located in the former railroad station. The museum is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the history of Galena and the surrounding area. It features exhibits that cover a wide range of topics, including the town’s role in the Civil War, its early days as a mining town, and its contribution to the economy.

Galena’s recent growth and development have been driven by the town’s location at the intersection of several major highways, including U.S. Route 20, which runs through the center of the town. This has made Galena an ideal location for businesses and residents, as well as a popular destination for visitors.

Galena’s mix of history and modern amenities has made it a unique place to live and work. The town is home to a variety of businesses, including restaurants, shops, and galleries, as well as a growing number of residential and commercial properties.

Galena’s location at the crossroads of several major highways has made it an ideal location for businesses and residents, as well as a popular destination for visitors. The town’s rich history and beautiful scenery have made it a popular destination for tourists, who come to explore the town’s historic sites, enjoy the outdoors, and experience the unique culture of Galena.

The town’s location at the intersection of several major highways, including U.S. Route 20, has made Galena an ideal location for businesses and residents, as well as a popular destination for visitors. The town’s rich history and beautiful scenery have made it a popular destination for tourists, who come to explore the town’s historic sites, enjoy the outdoors, and experience the unique culture of Galena.

Galena has long been a gateway to the West, and its residents and visitors today enjoy a variety of modern amenities, including a large public library, a variety of restaurants and shops, and a growing number of cultural venues.

In summary, Galena is a town with a rich history and a bright future, where the past and present come together to create a unique and vibrant community.