



Elmira College Center for Mark Twain Studies

The Trouble Begins at Eight

Fall 2011 Lecture Series



Wednesday, September 21st in the Barn at Quarry Farm 8 p.m.

“...the quietest of all quiet places...”

Barbara E. Snedecor Elmira College

In a letter to John Brown, a physician friend from Edinburgh, Scotland, Clemens wrote: *I wish you were here, to spend the summer with us. We are perched on a hill-top that overlooks a little world of green valleys, shining rivers, sumptuous forests, & billowy uplands veiled in the haze of distance. We have no neighbors. It is the quietest of all quiet places, & we are hermits that eschew caves & live in the sun.* (June 22, 1876)

Join Barbara Snedecor as she recounts in words and pictures the familiar tale of courtship, marriage, and of summers spent at Quarry Farm ~ the quietest of all quiet places.



Doors open at 7:30. *The Trouble Begins at Eight.*



Wednesday, September 28th in the Barn at Quarry Farm

8 p.m.

Mark Twain's Nature in *Roughing It, Naturally*

Michael Pratt Elmira College

For most of us, the author Mark Twain is indelibly linked with his classic books about two juvenile delinquents, Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer. The scenes of Tom flimflaming his buddies into whitewashing a fence and Huck and Jim floating down the river to freedom on a raft easily come to mind. What doesn't pop into our heads, however, is Mark Twain's writings about the natural world in its myriad forms. Read any of his travel books and you will find pages, even chapters, filled with his firsthand descriptions of and reactions to Nature's realm. This presentation will survey the styles and themes of Mark Twain's nature writing in his second book, *Roughing It*. As we explore Mark Twain's nature, an overlooked and undervalued dimension of his writing will emerge that deserves our full attention and appreciation.

Doors open at 7:30. *The Trouble Begins at Eight.*

(More on reverse side.)

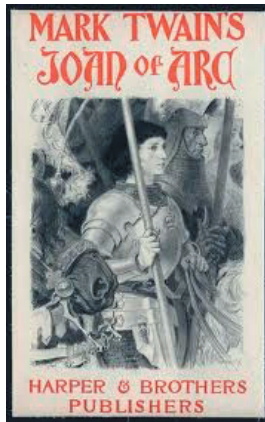


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Wednesday, October 5th in the Barn at Quarry Farm 8 p.m.



Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc: Mark Twain's Best Book?

David Foster Ashland University

People are always surprised to learn that Mark Twain wrote a long book about Joan of Arc. They are even more surprised to hear that he said it was his best book. Better than Huckleberry Finn, written 14 years earlier? Probably no one today would agree with that view. So, what are we to think of Twain's judgment? Was he being provocative? Was he carried away with some enthusiasm? Or did he just make a big mistake? This lecture will look at the themes of the book and see if a case can't be made for Twain's opinion. That case has to center on the figure of Joan herself, who is depicted in the book as the greatest human being who ever lived.

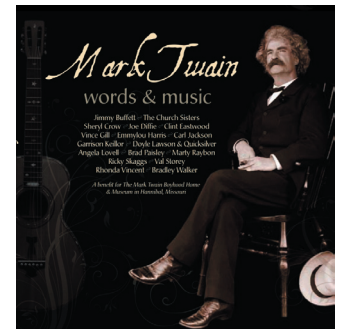
Enjoy light refreshments before this concluding lecture of the Fall Season. Doors open at 7:15. The Trouble Begins at Eight.

Wednesday, November 30th in Hamilton Hall on the Elmira College Campus 7 p.m.
Mark Twain's 176th Birthday Celebration
[PLEASE NOTE LOCATION OF THIS LECTURE.]

Mark Twain: Words & Music

Cindy Lovell Executive Director, Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum

Mark Twain wrote, "Most of us contain Music & Truth, but most of us can't get it out." Join Cindy Lovell as she describes the trajectory of love and devotion that led to the creation of "Mark Twain: Words & Music" ~ a tribute double-CD project comprised of song and spoken word. Using Clemens's language and carefully selected songs (some written especially for the project), two childhood friends set out to create a storied and musical timeline of Clemens's life. Those who lent their voices to this project include Jimmy Buffett, Garrison Keillor, Clint Eastwood, Emmylou Harris, Brad Paisley, Vince Gill, Ricky Skaggs, and Sheryl Crow. The result is a sampler of narration, story, and Americana music offering a glimpse of Sam's life from comet to comet.



Enjoy birthday cake and punch following the presentation.



Unable to attend our lecture series? Why not listen online?

The Trouble Begins at Eight Lectures are now available on Elmira College youtube. Go to elmira.edu, Quicklinks, Mark Twain Connection, Lecture Series, and choose "Watch" or "Listen."

Directions to Quarry Farm for local attendees:

From Elmira College, head east on Washington Avenue across the Clemens Center Parkway to Sullivan Street. Turn right on Sullivan. Turn left on East Avenue. Turn left on Crane Road. Quarry Farm will be on your left. Please park on the grassy area behind the Barn. For GPS: 131 Crane Road Elmira, NY 14901

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