ELMIRA COLLEGE

Center for Mark Twain Studies

Dear Friends

2016 The Year in Review

A Publication of the Elmira College Center for Mark Twain Studies
An Occasional Newsletter for its Friends
December 2016

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Center for Mark Twain Studies Launches a New Website

by Matthew Sybold *Center for Mark Twain Studies Website Editor-in-Chief and Assistant Professor of American Literature and Mark Twain Studies*

On Saturday, October 8th, the final day of the "Mark Twain & Youth Symposium", we entered into a brand new adventure and launched MarkTwainStudies.org, the official digital home of the Elmira College Center for Mark Twain Studies (CMTS). The website already features a number of valuable resources for Twain scholars, enthusiasts, and Friends of the Center. Some of the highlights include 130 photographs from Twain's 1895 North American Lecture Tour, digitized by archivist Nathanial Ball, scans of Thomas K. Beecher's eulogy for Susy Clemens in 1896, and an interactive virtual tour of Quarry Farm, designed by David Coleman of SmallTown360.

Twain seated on the steps leading to the his Study at Quarry Farm, 1903

MarkTwainStudies.org is also the best place to find updates about CMTS activities, upcoming events, and Twain-related publications. This constantly evolving platform will, in time, include an expansive digital archive of photographs, manuscripts, and ephemera from the Mark Twain Archive, as well as audio recordings of the "Trouble Begins at Eight" lectures, programs from past Quadrennial Conferences and Symposia, and CMTS-sponsored publications. The Mark Twain Study Blog will also feature original commentary from CMTS staff, publicizing Twain-related news and contextualizing wit and wisdom from Twain's life and work. My own monthly column, "The Apocryphal Twain," will highlight aphorisms commonly, but incorrectly attributed to Twain and attempt to trace their original sources.

The response to the website has already surpassed our expectations, as it has been actively promoted by our sister institutions, Twain scholars, and local media. WENY interviewed Quarry Farm Caretaker, Steve Webb, for a segment in late October about the virtual tour. Thanks to many of you, my attempt to answer the question "What was Mark Twain doing the last time the Cubs won the World Series?" was shared on Facebook over 5,000 times during a three-day stretch in early November.

In ensuing years, MarkTwainStudies.org will help CMTS attract grants, digitize its archive, and formalize relationships with the *Mark Twain Journal* and the Mark Twain Circle of America. MarkTwainStudies.org will offer content relevant to the wide community of scholars, hobbyists, collectors, journalists, students, and secondary school teachers. For people new to Mark Twain Studies, the website will be an accessible introduction to Twain scholarship. Overall, MarkTwainStudies.org reflects the mission of CMTS with its dedication to promoting and enriching Mark Twain Studies for scholars, enthusiasts, and the general public.

Visit www.MarkTwainStudies.Org
and like us on Facebook

Elmira 2017: The Eighth International Conference on the State of Mark Twain Studies to Convene August 3-6, 2017

Elmira 2017: the Eighth International Conference on the State of Mark Twain Studies will convene at Elmira College this August 3rd through 5th, 2017. The Conference will commemorate the 150th anniversary of Sam Clemens' participation in the famous Quaker City Tour to Europe and the Middle East. In addition, the Conference acknowledges the sweeping and ongoing importance of Mark Twain's satirical writings with its theme, **The Assault of Laughter**.

More than 50 scholarly papers will be presented over three days prepared by Mark Twain scholars from around the world. Ben Tarnoff, author of *The Bohemians: Mark Twain and the San Francisco Writers Who Reinvented American Literature*, will give the keynote address. Aaron and Adam Nee, co-authors, co-directors, and actors of the movie "Band of Robbers" will give a screening of their film with a Q&A to follow. "Band of Robbers" re-imagines the characters Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn in contemporary times. Nathaniel Ball, with help from Kevin MacDonnell and the staff of the Mark Twain House and Museum in Hartford, Connecticut, will showcase items related to the Quaker City Tour. Special presentations from Mark Twain collectors, whiskey and spirit tastings from Finger Lakes Distillery, special dinners, and the famous Closing Picnic at Quarry Farm will round out the 2017 Conference.

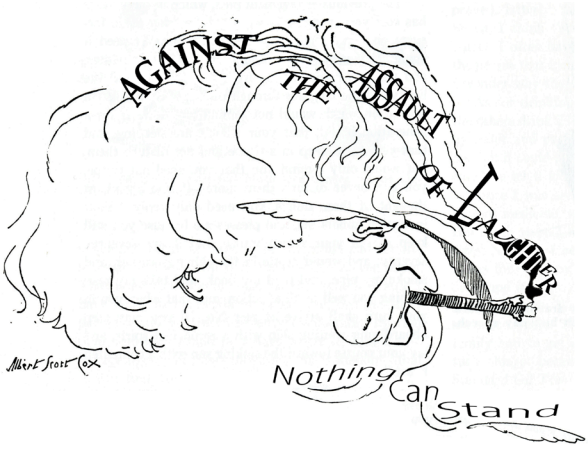
Conference Fees: The registration fees for Elmira 2017 - including all breakfasts, lunches, dinners, snacks, special receptions, and programs, is as follows:

Full Conference Registration	$375
Daily Rate	$140 per day

Housing Fees: Conference-goers will benefit by an option to stay in Elmira College's residential halls. The residential halls are organized into singles and doubles. Selection of specific room types will be based on a "first come, first serve" basis.

Lodging at EC Meier Hall (with A/C)	$70 per night
Other EC Dormitories (without A/C)	$50 per night

Monies are available from the Renée B. Fisher Foundation Fund to help **international scholars** present their work at the the Conference. This grant may be used to support travel and defray conference expenses (registration fees, lodging, etc.). Contact Dr. Joseph Lemak if you are interested in this opportunity.



Checks can be mailed to:
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Please make checks out to "Center for Mark Twain Studies."
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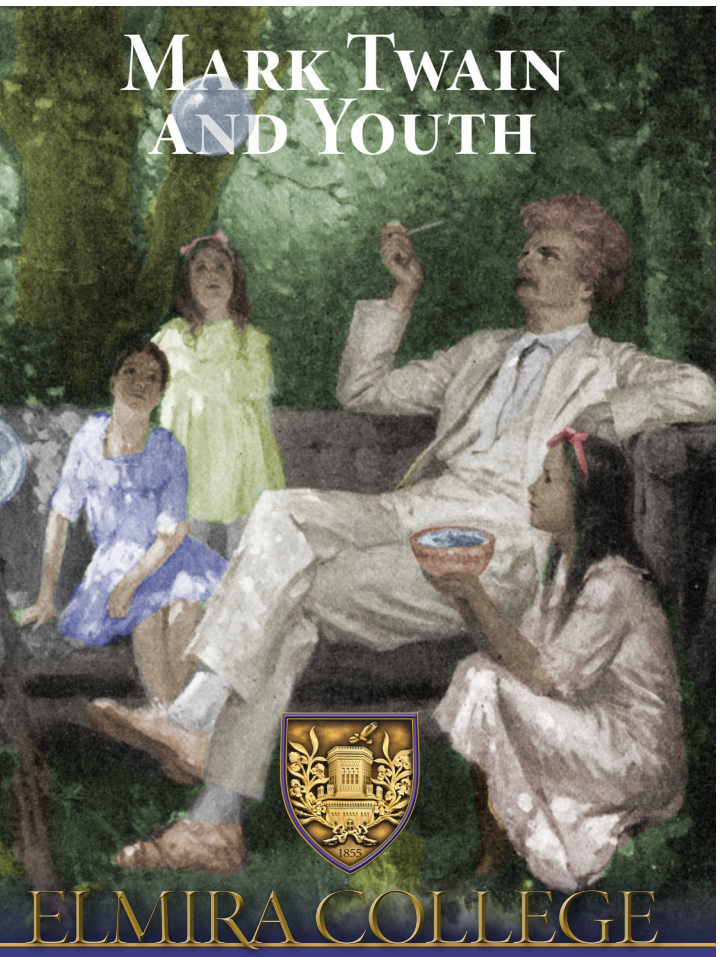
Please e-mail twaincenter@elmira.edu if you have any questions.

"Mark Twain and Youth" Quarry Farm Weekend Symposium



During the first week in October, the Center for Mark Twain Studies hosted a weekend symposium at Quarry Farm entitled, "Mark Twain and Youth." More than 45 Mark Twain Scholars and enthusiasts from across the globe gathered to hear presentations, experience Quarry Farm, and share a general fondness for all-things Mark Twain. The co-chairs of the symposium were Kevin MacDonnell and Kent Rasmussen, the co-editors of *Mark Twain and Youth: Studies in His Life and Writings* (Bloomsbury Academic Press, 2016).

Friday night consisted on an Opening Reception and Dinner, with a Keynote Address. The keynote speaker was Jon Clinch. His first novel, *Finn* - the secret history of Huckleberry Finn's father - was named an American Library Association Notable Book and was chosen as one of the year's best books by the *Washington Post*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and the *Christian Science Monitor*. It won the Philadelphia Athenaeum Literary Award and was short-listed for the Sargent First Novel Prize. His second novel, *Kings of the Earth* was named a best book of the year by the *Washington Post* and led the 2010 Summer Reading List at *O, The Oprah Magazine*. Some of his other notable works include *The Thief of Auschwitz* and *Belzoni Dreams of Egypt*.

Saturday morning and afternoon consisted of presentations from visiting scholars covered topics such as Twain's novel *The Prince and the Pauper*, his impact on American culture and identity, as well as insights into Samuel Clemens as a child, parent and the lives of his children. The highpoint of the symposium was Saturday night with a reception and dinner at Quarry Farm.

Keynote speaker, John Clinch (left), and Symposium co-chair, Kent Rasmussen (right), stand in front of the Mark Twain Study.

CMTS Successfully Concludes Another Year of "The Trouble Begins at Eight" Lecture Series

Seema Sharma lectures on Mark Twain's experiences in India

Judith Yaross Lee explains how Samuel Clemens managed the Twain brand

The Center for Mark Twain Studies facilitated two lecture series in 2016, one in May, the other in October. These lectures are always free and open to the public. Most of the lectures are held in The Barn at Quarry Farm, giving the attendees the chance to stroll around the grounds of Quarry Farm. At times, the lectures are held in the Peterson Chapel of Cowles Hall on the Elmira College campus. This location offers the opportunity for people to visit the Mark Twain Study and Exhibit. The "Trouble Begins at Eight Lecture Series" has now offered academic lectures on a myriad of topics within Mark Twain Studies from internationally-renowned scholars for over two decades.

Spring 2016

May 4 - "Following the Indian Equator: Mark Twain In India"
Seema Sharma, *University of Mumbai, India*
May 11 - "Grieving Tom Sawyer: Mark Twain, Loss, and the Transformation of a Writer"
Joseph Csicsila, *Eastern Michigan University, Michigan*
May 17 - "The Rhyme of Crisis: Mark Twain on Banks, Bubbles, & Bailouts"
Matthew Seybold, *Elmira College, New York*

Fall 2016

October 5 - "Mark Twain & France: The Making of a New American Identity"
Ronald Jenn, *Université de Lille, France*
October 12 - "You Know The Secret Places of Our Hearts:' The Mark Twain-Joe Twichell Letters"
Peter Messent, *University of Nottingham, United Kingdom*
October 19 - "Dressing for Success: Mark Twain Fashions an Image to Suit His Disguise"
Martin Zehr, *Independent Scholar, Missouri*
November 2 - "Mark Twain's Brand: Comic Performance and the Modern American Self"
Judith Yaross Lee, *Ohio University, Ohio*

Summer Lectures Begin at the Historic Park Church

The Center for Mark Twain Studies hosted the first lecture in a new series titled, "The Park Church Summer Lecture Series" on August 3 at the historic and cultural landmark, The Park Church in Elmira, New York.

The lecture, "'Never Be In A Hurry To Believe': Did Sermons Joseph Twichell Preached at The Park Church Save Huck Finn's Soul?" was presented by Dwayne Eutsey, Independent Scholar. Eutsey examined how two eulogy sermons the Rev. Joseph Twichell preached at Park Church on the passing of his mentor (and controversial theologian) Horace Bushnell may have contributed to the deep and complicated religious undercurrents coursing through the heart of Twain's classic novel, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

Alex Effgen talks to attendees about the evolving image and reception of Mark Twain in his own life time and beyond

This was followed with a lecture by Boston University's A.B. Effgen on August 10. The lecture, "Everybody Drinks Water: Bridging The Generation Divide in Mark Twain" explored generational preconceptions picturing Mark Twain in stage performance, photography, illustration, and several forms of composition (fiction, memoir, and criticism). The lecture was based on a college class entitled, "The Invention of Mark Twain," where freshman students at Boston University debate the origin and interpretation of the American icon.

Dwayne Eutusey lectures from the original lectern of Thomas K. Beecher, the famous leader of the Park Church

Founded in 1846 by a group of abolitionists, The Park Church has been a strong presence in Elmira's history and some members of its congregation were close friends and family members to Mark Twain. Twain's father-in-law, Jervis Langdon, was a major benefactor in its construction and Susan Crane, Twain's sister-in-law and owner of Quarry Farm, was a long time parishoner. Known for its striking architectural features, The Park Church contained Elmira's first public library and has a long history of charitable service to the Elmira community. Currently, it is an "Open and Affirming Congregation," welcoming all people to worship and participate in its communal life, regardless of ethnic origin, race, class, age, ability, gender, or sexual orientation.

2016 Summer Teachers' Institute "Mark Twain: A Man of Letters"

Attendees of the 2016 Summer Institute for Teachers

The Center for Mark Twain Studies recently collaborated with the Schuyler-Chemung-Tioga-Corning Teachers' Center to offer the 2016 Summer Teachers' Institute in July. More than 45 teachers attended the two-day institute held in the Gannett-Tripp Library on campus and at Quarry Farm.

This year's theme was "Mark Twain: Man of Letters." Teachers were given reading material before they arrived for the multi-day Institute to help them prepare for the topic.

"Before tweets, texts, video conferencing, and voicemail there were letters," said Dr. Kerr Driscoll, Professor of English at University of Saint Joseph and one of the teachers of the Institute. "Mark Twain's America was an age in which letters were both a daily necessity and a vibrant art form." "In one of her most famous poems, Emily Dickinson wrote, 'Here is my letter to the world/That never wrote to me;' - Mark Twain never had that problem," said Driscoll.

Twain wrote and received thousands of letters—some funny, some practical, some poignant, but always illuminating. Attendees enjoyed stimulating discussions and lectures on Mark Twain, led by Dr. Kerry Driscoll of the University of Saint Joseph, Dr. Ann M. Ryan of LeMoyne College, and Dr. Matthew Seybold of Elmira College. In their respective lectures, Driscoll, Ryan, and Seybold explored Twain's fascination with letter writing as a metaphor, as plot device, and as an integral part of his relationship to the world around him.

The professors drew examples from Twain's letters to and from friends and family, critics and contemporaries, fans and luminaries. Additionally, the instructors discussed a number of fictional works in which letters serve an important role, often assaulting the complacency of the community that receives them, including the community of readers.

"The Mark Twain Teachers' Institute is an outstanding opportunity to meet other educators interested in integrating Twain into their curriculum. The discussions on how to offer our students rigorous, age appropriate texts in authentic and meaningful ways inspires me," reflected Michelle Halperin, Institute participant and fourth grade teacher with the Elmira City School District. "I use Twain's biographical information, letters, quotes and short stories to connect my students not only to reading and writing, but to a sense of community pride as well. They love learning about and reading Mark Twain." After the lectures, the participants had the opportunity to go into Elmira College's Mark Twain Archives, where they viewed and worked with actual letters from Mark Twain himself.

CMTS Celebrates the Mark Twain Commemorative Coins

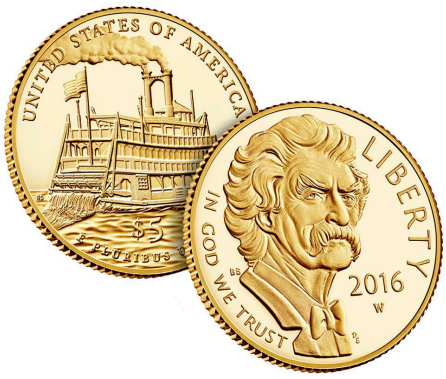
Two new commemorative coins, minted by the United States Mint and honoring Mark Twain, were debuted on February 2 at an event celebrating the 145th wedding anniversary of Twain to his wife, Olivia Langdon Clemens in historic Cowles Hall at Elmira College.

Mark Dawidziak as Mark Twain, performing "Twain Sides of the Same Coin" in Cowles Hall

The public was invited to join the Center for Mark Twain Studies for the celebration, which included a performance of "Twain Sides of the Same Coin" by Mark Dawidziak, television critic for the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* and independent Mark Twain Scholar. Dawidziak, who has written several books on Mark Twain. Dawidziak's books were on sale and the author available to sign copies of his publications. The evening also featured anniversary cake and punch and an opportunity to order the Mark Twain Commemorative Coins.

The Center still has ordering information for those who wish to order either the gold coins or silver coins whether in small or large numbers.

Since 1982, the United States Mint has been producing modern commemorative coins authorized by Congress. On December 4, 2012, Public Law 112-201 instructed "the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Mark Twain." The $5 gold coin went on sale to the public at usmint.gov on January 14, 2016, while the silver dollar went on sale January 27. Surcharges from the sale of the coins are authorized to be paid to the Mark Twain House & Museum in Hartford, CT; the Mark Twain Project at the Bancroft Library of the University of California, Berkeley; Elmira College's Center for Mark Twain Studies; and the Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum in Hannibal, MO. The coins are available only this year (or while supplies last). Coins may still be ordered directly from the United States Mint at www.usmint.gov.



Local Students Delve Into The World of Mark Twain

Each year the Center for Mark Twain Studies hosts local school students as they delve into the world of one of America's greatest literary figures, Mark Twain. Students ranging from elementary to high school explore the life of Twain and local history as they tour sites that include the exhibit and Mark Twain Study at Elmira College, Woodlawn Cemetery (Twain's final resting place), and Quarry Farm - the summer home of Twain and his family.

A partnership with WENY TV, has aided in bringing those journeys to life for many local students, such as those from local Elmira regional schools, such as Hendy Avenue Elementary and Cohen Elementary. Students from these two schools, and many others, had recently received free books through the Mark Twain Literacy Project - an annual program in partnership with WENY TV and Lilly Broadcasting, which owns the television station. The program, which has been in place for about ten years, provides each student with a book that they can keep to learn about the famous author.

Third graders from Hendy Avenue Elementary received *Who Is Mark Twain?*, written by April Prince. The students received the biographical paperback before their visit to The Mark Twain study, Woodlawn Cemetery, and Quarry Farm, giving them a chance to experience the places that they had read about in the book.

Cohen Elementary fifth graders received *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* which was written by Twain in his octagonal study, now located at Elmira College, and at Quarry Farm. Again, students received the books prior to their visit to the historic sites, allowing them to envision the Elmira sites and their influences on the writer as he penned his 1876 novel. According to Dr. Joseph Lemak, Director of the Center for Mark Twain Studies, "students of all ages are really struck by seeing the Study and Quarry Farm. They study Mark Twain's life and literature in the classroom and it really comes alive when they can see the places mentioned in their textbooks. Teachers have also told me that their students often walk away with a sense of hopeful pride of their home and their own futures, knowing that someone as important as Mark Twain accomplished so much in Elmira."

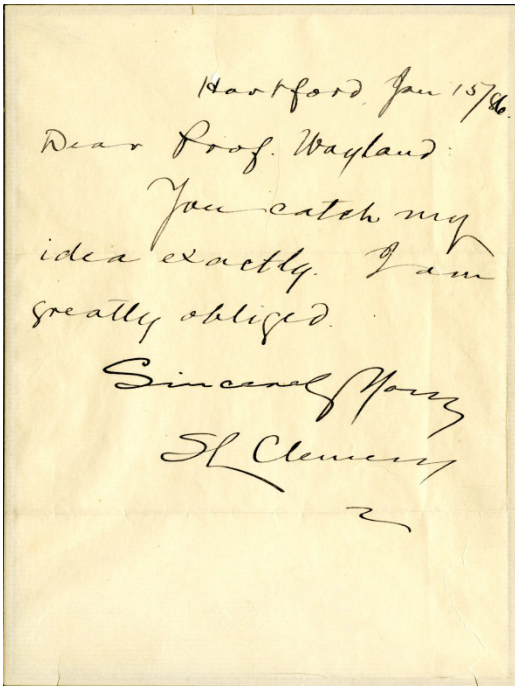
Teachers interested in the Mark Twain Literacy Project, or a field trip to the Center for Mark Twain Studies, can contact the Center at twaincenter@elmira.edu.

Caretaker Steve Webb talks about the history of Quarry Farm to a local school group

The Mark Twain Archive
Recent Acquisitions

by **Nathaniel Ball** *Center for Mark Twain Studies Archivist*

Recently, the Mark Twain Archive received a gift from Dr. Martin Zehr of Kansas City, Missouri: a brief letter that reads, "You catch my idea exactly. I am greatly obliged," followed by the indelible signature of SL Clemens. When the letter made rounds on eBay in 2006, it advertised the obvious feature, and prominently inscribed across the brown cardstock frame that holds the eighteen written words is the fully unrealized title, "Autograph of Mark Twain, Samuel Langhorne Clemens."


Hartford Jan 15/86.
Dear Prof. Wayland:
You catch my idea exactly. I am greatly obliged.
Sincerely Yours
S L Clemens

Martin Zehr's gift to The Mark Twain Archives

Martin Zehr recognized something in this letter that the seller did not: namely, the addressee of the seemingly impromptu note written from Hartford on January 15, 1886. "Prof. Wayland" as addressed by Clemens in the letter, or, Professor Francis Wayland, Dean of the Law School at Yale University, a position that Wayland held from 1873-1903, would strike a correspondence that would redefine Clemens perceived attitudes towards race.

Months prior to the penning of this letter, Clemens had been engaged to speak to the Kent Club, a student organization at Yale. Upon his arrival, Warner McGuinn, an African American law student and President of the club escorted Clemens around campus and would later introduce him at the event. McGuinn's favorable impression on Clemens initiated a correspondence with Wayland in which Clemens offered to support McGuinn's education. Shelley Fisher Fishkin in *Lighting Out for the Territory*, from which this synopsis was derived, describes the discovery of the letter written from Clemens to Wayland on December 24, 1895 that states: "I do not believe I would very cheerfully help a white student who would ask a benevolence of a stranger, but I do not feel so about the other color. We have ground the manhood out of them, & the shame is ours, not theirs, & we should pay for it."

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, released in the U.S. in February of 1885 and published months before the penning of this passage, quickly became Clemens most contentious novel. Banned by various institutions since its release, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* has remained a novel both revered and subject to harsh criticisms today as it was in 1885. The Wayland and Clemens correspondence, if not a reflection and outright confirmation of Clemens' attitudes concerning race and slavery, offers an alternate perspective in which to view his intentions in writing *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

The January 15, 1886 letter is Clemens response to Wayland after sending his initial check to support McGuinn's education. In this exchange of letters, Wayland and Clemens agree to parcel out aide to McGuinn on an as needed basis. Clemens would continue to fund McGuinn until his graduation from Yale Law School in 1887.

Clemens' philanthropic endeavor would be far-reaching as Warner McGuinn mentored Thurgood Marshall, the first African American Justice of the Supreme Court, who earned distinction as the lawyer who successfully argued for ending segregation in schools in Brown vs. Board of Education.

"When I was younger, I could remember anything, whether it had happened or not; but my faculties are decaying now and soon I shall be so I cannot remember any but the things that never happened."

- Autobiography of Mark Twain

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Joan V. Lindquist, *Jackson, NJ*
Richard Lowry, *Williamsburg, VA*
Geroge McDaniel, *Columbia, SC*
Robert B. McKinnon, *Elmira, NY*
Rosemary May, *Horseheads, NY*

Peter Mires, *Carson City, NV*
Heather Morgan, *Redding, CT*
Gloria Moss, *Elmira, NY*
Jenny Monroe, *Painted Post, NY*
Paul E. Nelson, *Tryon, NC*
Terry Oggel, *Richmond, VA*
Marian Oldroyd, *Elmira Heights, NY*
Ron Owens, *Elmira, NY*
Brian Ramsden, *Marcellus, NY*
Jeanne Reesman, *San Antonio, TX*
Eileen Reib, *Elmira Heights, NY*
Sally Riggs '45, *Middleburg, VA*
Timothy Rodgers, *Hubbard, OH*
Sam Rosenthal, *Castaic, CA*
Brandt Rowles, *Media, PA*
Barbara Schmidt, *Kingsland, TX*
Charlotte Scott, *Elmira, NY*
David L. Smith, *Berkshire, MA*
David E. E. Sloane, *Hamden, CT*
Alta Stevenson, *Elmira, NY*
Deanne Vandevert, *Grants Pass, OR*
Carl Wieck, *Tampere, Finland*

Individual ($10-20)

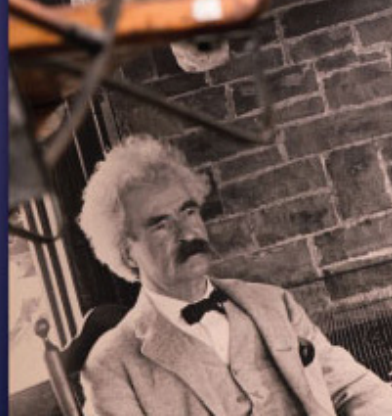
Diane Campbell, *DeRuyter, NY*
Amy Rodabaugh, *Horseheads, NY*
John Debold, *Warwick, NY*

In Memoriam

Carol Drowota, *Hanahan, SC*
In Memory of Dr. Thomas Tenney
Carol Everingham, *LaFayette, NY*
In Memory of Blanche Bacorn Everingham'38
Carol Everingham, *LaFayette, NY*
In Memory of Raynesford Taylor Bacorn '71
Genesee Valley Chapter of BMW
In memory of Michael J. Kiskis
Charles Gold, *Chicago, IL*
In Memory of Sandra Gold
Paco Marco, *Benicassim, Spain*
In Memory of Blanche Bacorn Everingham'38
Terry Oggel, *Richmond, VA*
In Memory of Michael J. Kiskis
Laura Skandera Trombeley
In memory of Michael J. Kiskis

ELMIRA COLLEGE

CENTER FOR MARK TWAIN STUDIES



Quarry Farm Fellowships

The **Elmira College Center for Mark Twain Studies** offers Fellowships-in-Residence to scholars pursuing research or writing in the field of Mark Twain Studies. The Quarry Farm Fellowship program covers limited travel expenses and provides lodging at Quarry Farm, the beautiful, historic home where Mark Twain resided and wrote some of his greatest works over the course of twenty summers throughout the 1870s and 1880s, including *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, and *The Prince and the Pauper*. An honorarium may be negotiated if the Quarry Farm Fellow is willing to share a work-in-progress with a student audience or to participate in the Quarry Farm lecture series. The length of the residency will also be negotiated in an effort to meet the needs of the scholar.

Quarry Farm Fellows have access to a fine collection of secondary scholarly material shelved on the premises including the collections of the late Drs. James Wilson and Herbert A. Wisbey, Jr., and the comprehensive Michael J. Kiskis Collection. In addition, Fellows are welcome to use the Mark Twain Archive located in the Gannett-Tripp Library on Elmira College's nearby campus. The Archive houses an exhaustive assemblage of biography, criticism, and reference sources; microfilm of material related to Elmira from the collections of the Mark Twain Project, the Mark Twain House, Vassar College, and the Huntington Library; and a library of photographs. The Archive also holds the association volumes from Quarry Farm, containing Mark Twain's marginalia, the Antenne Collection of books form Mark Twain's personal library, and the John S. Tuckey Collection of more than two hundred and fifty scholarly titles. The Collection grows each year.

When a Quarry Farm Fellow is in residence, the Center reserves the right to make occasional use of the first floor of the house. The Quarry Farm Fellow is, however, assured of privacy on the second floor where a comfortable study contains the collections of secondary material and a computer with wireless internet access.

Quarry Farm Fellows have access to a fully equipped kitchen and shared laundry. Linens are provided. The pantry and refrigerator will be stocked with supplies upon the Fellow's arrival. On-campus meal plans can be arranged with the College's dining service. An automobile is desirable, as Quarry Farm is located three miles from the Elmira College campus. Immediate family members may accompany Quarry Farm Fellows, but this must be pre-arranged with the Director. A full-time caretaker is on the premises in an apartment adjacent but separate from the main house. Application is by way of a letter to Dr. Joseph Lemak, the Director of the Center. Please specify the nature of the project and indicate at least two sets of preferred dates for the residency. Please include a resume and three letters of reference. For more information, please contact **twaincenter@elmira.edu** or **jlemak@elmira.edu**.

"But we are housed here on top of the hill, where is it always cool, & still, &, reposeful, & bewitching."
Samuel Langhorne Clemens writes to William Dean Howells about Quarry Farm
14 June 1877; Elmira, New York

ELMIRA COLLEGE

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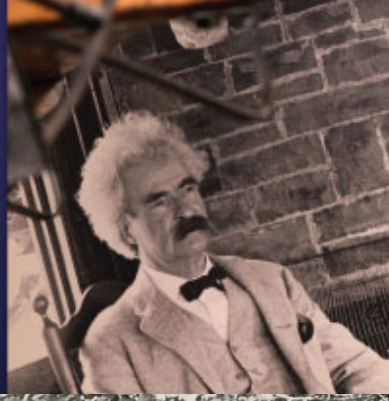

For information about donating to CMTS, upcoming lectures and events, Quarry Farm fellowships, and all things Mark Twain, visit **www.MarkTwainStudies.org**

Staff of the Center for Mark Twain Studies

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Ms. Trish Cordell, Academic Secretary
Ms. Jan Kather, Photographer
Dr. Joseph Lemak, Director
Dr. Matthew Seybold, Assistant Professor American Literature & Mark Twain Studies
Mr. Steve Webb, Quarry Farm Caretaker