

ELMIRA COLLEGE

Center for Mark Twain Studies The Trouble Begins at Eight



Wednesday, May 20th in the Barn at Quarry Farm 8 p.m.

A Rest on the Journey

Summer 1903: The Last Visit to Quarry Farm

Mark Woodhouse *Technical Services and Archives Librarian, Elmira College*



From the series of 1903 photos taken at Quarry Farm.

In the spring of 1903, Olivia Langdon's doctors recommended a change of climate to alleviate the discomfort and slow the progress of the heart disease that had so weakened her since she and Samuel had returned to the United States in 1900. Plans were made to take a house in Italy in the Fall, and it was decided that they would spend the summer in Elmira at Quarry Farm for what would turn out to be their last visit. During that summer stay, Samuel Clemens revisited his old habits, commenting on his readings from the Crane library and working in the study. Also, a series of iconic photographs of Clemens was created that summer that are the finest images we have of Mark Twain at Quarry Farm.

Mark Woodhouse is a native Elmiran and has worked at Elmira College since 1987. He will soon be retiring from the position he currently holds as Technical Services and Archives Librarian in the Gannett-Tripp Library. Among his duties has been responsibility for the care and organization of the Mark Twain Collections of Elmira College.

Doors open at 7.

A dessert reception honoring Mark Woodhouse will occur on the porch of the farmhouse, weather permitting, or in the Barn, until...*The Trouble Begins at Eight*.

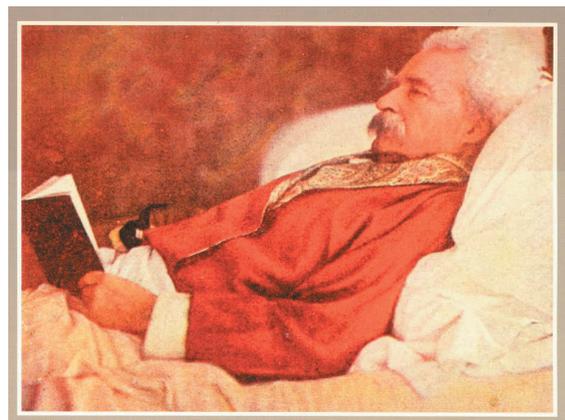
Wednesday, May 27th in the Barn at Quarry Farm 8 p.m.

The "Unliterary" Mark Twain

Alan Gribben *Professor, Department of English and Philosophy, Auburn University at Montgomery*

Mark Twain's immense success as a writer was very nearly matched by his phenomenal achievements as a reader of books. Despite never completing grammar school, he devoured publications of every type and from every era and assembled a huge personal library. This talk traces the stages of his development as a reader and outlines his accomplishments as an autodidact.

Alan Gribben has taught literature and writing courses for more than forty years. He is the compiler of *Mark Twain's Library: A Reconstruction*, editor of the novels *Tom Sawyer* and *Huckleberry Finn* in six variant formats, co-editor of *Mark Twain on the Move: A Travel Reader*, biographer of the library founder Harry Ransom, author of dozens of articles on Mark Twain's intellectual background, and editor of the *Mark Twain Journal*. For fifteen years he reviewed all Mark Twain publications for *American Literary Scholarship, An Annual*. Dr. Gribben co-founded and served as president of the Mark Twain Circle of America. He has been recognized with a Henry Nash Smith Fellowship from the Center for Mark Twain Studies at Elmira College, an honorary lifetime membership in the Mark Twain Circle of America, and other awards.



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

(More on reverse side)

Wednesday, June 3rd in the Gibson Theatre, Emerson Hall, on the Elmira College campus 7 p.m.

The Mark Twain Musical at the Domes [Running time: 88 minutes]

Join us for a showing of *Mark Twain: The Musical*, a stage musical biography of Mark Twain that had a summertime run in Elmira, NY (1987-1995) and was telecast on a number of public television stations. The script was written by Jane Iredale with music and lyrics by William P. Perry. Dennis Rosa was the director and choreographer, and William David Brohn was musical arranger and music director. Throughout its run, the title role of Mark Twain was performed by William Perley, and the primary singing role of "Jim" was played by Jack Waddell.

The musical was conceived on a massive scale with a cast of more than sixty, and the production designs by William Groom called for a forty foot turntable and a Mississippi riverboat that rose to a vertical height of fifty-five feet. The performing venue was appropriately large: in Elmira a hockey arena under a geodesic dome. The musical combines scenes from Mark Twain's life with production numbers based on his best-loved books including *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *Life on the Mississippi*, *The Innocents Abroad*, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*.

In 1989, William Perry went to Moscow and selected twenty-four dancers from the Bolshoi Ballet and other prestigious Russian dance companies and brought them to America to appear in the production, the first occasion that Russian performers were members of an American cast rather than simply appearing as a touring national troupe. Dancers from Russia, including children, appeared in all subsequent years of the run and became a highlight of the production.

On 27 August 1995, the show had its final performance, ending its run in debt.



Bringing in "rocks" for the scenery.

The show starts at 7 pm.

Copies of the DVD will be available for purchase.

One intermission.

Directions to Quarry Farm for Local Attendees

From Elmira College, head east on Washington 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. Quarry Farm is a fragile environment. Exercise care. For GPS: 131 Crane Road Elmira, NY 14901

Directions to the Gibson Theatre, Emerson Hall, on the Elmira College Campus

Parking is available in the lots along Fifth Street as well as on-street parking. Consult the web at http://www.elmira.edu/admissions-aid/Visit/Campus_Map.html

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Elmira College
Center for Mark Twain Studies
(607) 735-1941
twaincenter@elmira.edu



Director
Secretary
Quarry Farm Caretaker

Dr. Barbara E. Snedecor
Christy Gray '10
Steve Webb
