



Elmira College Center for Mark Twain Studies

The Trouble Begins at Eight

Fall 2008 Lecture Series



Commemorating the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Gift of Quarry Farm
and the Establishment of the Center for Mark Twain Studies

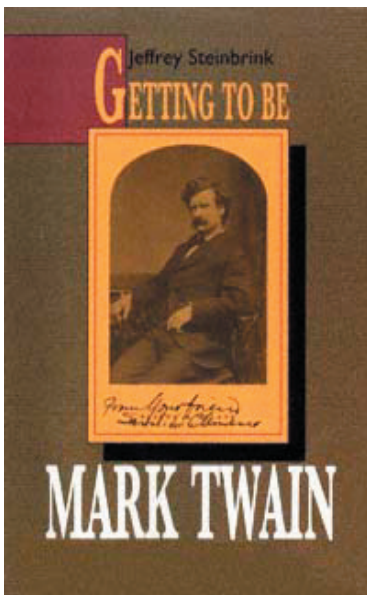
Wednesday, September 24th, 2008 in the Barn at Quarry Farm at 8 p.m.

Mark Twain's Music Box (Narrative with Live Music)

Join us on a midweek, early autumn evening as we celebrate the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the gift of Quarry Farm to Elmira College by Irene and Jervis Langdon, Jr., and listen to musical selections important to Mark Twain. Enjoy works by Koennemann, Schubert, and Foster as performed by talented area vocalists and instrumentalists and accompanied by explanatory narration.

Enjoy light refreshments before the performance begins in the Barn at Quarry Farm.

Doors open at 7:15. *The Trouble Begins at Eight.*



Wednesday, October 1st, 2008 in the Barn at Quarry Farm at 8 p.m.

Did Quarry Farm Matter?

Jeffrey Steinbrink, Franklin & Marshall College

We'll never know, but someone could argue, and probably has, that Mark Twain would have been Mark Twain no matter what. Would have been Mark Twain even if he ~ or even if Samuel Clemens ~ had never met Charlie or Olivia Langdon or visited Elmira or Quarry Farm. That would surely have been a different Mark Twain, a Mark Twain with no Livy, no Langdons, no perch at the top of East Hill looking out across the Chemung Valley. How did Quarry Farm matter in sorting the Mark Twain we've come to know from the many Mark Twains that might have been? And how, we might ask as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Langdons' gift of Quarry Farm to the world, via Elmira College, has it mattered to us?

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

(More on reverse side.)

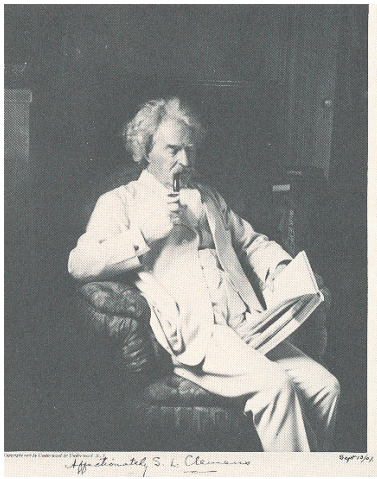


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Wednesday, October 8th, 2008 in the Barn at Quarry Farm at 8 p.m.



Reading Mark Twain Reading

Alan Gribben, Auburn University at Montgomery

Despite Mark Twain's efforts to downplay his acquaintance with other authors' books, scholarship in the past few decades has revealed his wide range of reading experiences and the scope of his extensive personal library. Alan Gribben posits that there are six key discernible stages of Mark Twain's page-turning: his younger years; his marital courtship period; the Hartford years; the era of his "library of Literary Hogwash;" the dialogues that he carried on with historians of human behavior; and a final phase when he subjected books to oral readings as the ultimate connoisseur's gauge for ideas and style. Reading along with Twain on his intellectual journeys becomes another way to understand his genius and his times.

Sunday, November 30th, 2008 at 7 p.m.
in Hamilton Hall on the Elmira College Campus

Mark Twain's 173rd Birthday Celebration

Mark Twain's Laughing Women Ann Ryan, Le Moyne College

Sitting on the Porch at Quarry Farm, Mark Twain excited the laughter of the women around him. As he read from his day's writing, he listened to the "heavenly sound" of laughing women: mothers and young girls, an Irish maid and a Black cook, privileged matrons, and working-class women. The legacy of this laughter is powerful for Mark Twain and it emerges in the characters of Aunt Rachel, Roxy, and Eve. Dr. Ann Ryan will explore "the voice" of this laughter, as well as Twain's sometimes terrified attraction to it.



Enjoy birthday cake and punch following the presentation.



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

Within a week of each lecture, go to http://www.elmira.edu/academics/distinctive_programs/twain_center/trouble_at_eight/recordings. Scroll down and click on the link for the appropriate audio file where live audio recordings of lectures will be available (with individual speakers' permission).

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.

Elmira College
Center for Mark Twain Studies
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Director
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Quarry Farm Caretaker

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