Mark Twain’s Homes and Haunts:
Mark Twain Museums and Public History
Hilary Iris Lowe  Temple University

Since shortly before his death, local boosters, Twain fanatics, scholars, and others ~ have wanted to see where Mark Twain (and Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn) lived. These fans put a great deal of faith in his houses as places where they could access the “real” Mark Twain. At his houses, now museums, Twain remains as popular as he ever was during his lifetime. Focusing on the history of Florida, Hannibal, Hartford, and Elmira at the moments when members of these communities made the decision to “save” the historic structures associated with Twain, Hilary Iris Lowe examines our popular devotion to Twain during the twentieth century and how the rise of his house museums have changed the way we understand Mark Twain.

Hilary Iris Lowe is an Assistant Professor in the Intellectual Heritage program at Temple University in Philadelphia and author of Mark Twain’s Homes and Literary Tourism (2012).

The Bones of an Opinion: Marginalia from the Elmira College Collection
Mark Woodhouse  Elmira College

Samuel Clemens’s marginal comments in volumes in the Mark Twain Collections of Elmira College have provided food for thought for scholars for many years. Revisiting this material gives unique insight into Clemens’s creative mind as well as raising questions about the nature and the future of scholarly evidence.

Mark Woodhouse is the Head of Technical Services, College Archivist, and Mark Twain Archivist at Elmira College where he has served for 25 years.

(More on reverse side.)
Wednesday, October 17th in the Barn at Quarry Farm  8 p.m.

Mark Twain and America’s Ownership Society
Lawrence Howe  Roosevelt University

Larry Howe will address his analysis of Mark Twain’s vexed interest in property, the subject of Professor Howe’s current book project. He will focus particularly on the Clemens family’s Tennessee land, which influenced Sam Clemens from an early age, and Mark Twain’s insightful strategies for protecting his copyrights later in life. Howe’s research on this topic refutes the prevailing portrait of Mark Twain as gifted literary man with no head for business. To the contrary, Twain was astutely aware that property was not the sure thing that many an American dream has been built upon, and his life and writing provide insight into an American fascination with property as a measure of social worth.

Larry Howe teaches American literature and film studies at Roosevelt University. He is the author of Mark Twain and the Novel: The Double-Cross of Authority.

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

Friday, November 30th in Historic Cowles Hall
on the Elmira College Campus  7 p.m.

Mark Twain’s 177th Birthday Celebration
[NOTE TIME AND LOCATION OF THIS LECTURE.]

Mark Twain and America’s “Worst President”
Philip McFarland  Author and Biographer

Remarks on the prickly relationship between Samuel L. Clemens and Theodore Roosevelt through two decades when their lives overlapped and modern America was formed.


Enjoy birthday cake and punch following the presentation.

Unable to attend our lecture series? Why not listen online?
Some of The Trouble Begins at Eight lectures are 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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Dr. Barbara Snedecor
Director

Christy Gray
Secretary

Timothy Morgan
Quarry Farm Caretaker