The following presentation was made by Henry Sweets, Executive Director of the Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum, Hannibal, Missouri, at the Missouri Council for History Education meeting in Hannibal, Missouri, September 29, 2016. This has been provided to the Council for inclusion on its web site. Permission is granted for classroom use and general background. Permission must be obtained from the Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum for any further publication or use of this program and images in the accompanying power point presentation.

**MARK TWAIN:**

**RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME IN AMERICAN HISTORY**

**By HENRY SWEETS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,**

**MARK TWAIN BOYHOOD HOME & MUSEUM**

[Title Slide]

 Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, started in very humble circumstances but rose to become one of the most recognizable people of his time and the quintessential American author. His start in the almost invisible village of Florida, Missouri, hardly foretold the wanderings that would propel him to such heights.

 His travels seemed to coincide with developments that put him at the right place at the right time frequently. He enjoyed being part of many firsts in his lifetime. Returning to the beginning, Mark Twain in his autobiography wrote:

[Slide 2 – Birthplace at Florida, MO]

 “My parents moved to Missouri in the early thirties; I do not remember just when, for I was not born then, and cared nothing for such things. … The village contained a hundred people and I increased the population by 1 per cent. It is more than the best man in history ever did for any other town. It may not be modest in me to refer to this, but it is true. There is no record of a person doing as much—not even Shakespeare. But I did it for Florida, and it shows that I could have done it for any place—even London, I suppose1.”

 John Marshall Clemens, his father, did not make a go in Florida and in 1839, with Sam not quite four years old, moved to Hannibal on the banks of the Mississippi.

[Slide 3 – Huck & Jim]

 The Clemens family did return to Florida several summers as Jane Clemens took her children to visit her sister’s family. There Sam had real vacation time to swim, hunt, play with cousins and slave children. In the evenings they would sit around the fire and hear older slaves tell stories. Several of these later served Clemens well as the basis for narratives used on the lecture platform. The story of The Golden Arm is one such example. He was in the right place to experience this culture.

[Slide 4 – Mark Twain Boyhood Home 1883]

 Hannibal at Sam Clemens’ arrival was a town of about 700 people. During the 13 plus years he spent here the town grew to almost 4,000. He witnessed the growth of industry and commerce, development of the legal system as his father became a justice of the peace, started schooling, and suffered the agony of the loss of his father when 11 years old and apprenticeship to a newspaper.

 Hannibal also afforded the opportunity for boundless play on the bluffs above town, on the river, Cardiff Hill, and in the great cave. He became familiar with slavery, witnessed a murder, suffered and almost died during an epidemic, and sat through Methodist and Presbyterian Church sermons with a very Calvinistic tenor of sin and eternal punishment.

[Slide 5 – newspaper offices – Kansas State Historical Society owns]

 After serving an apprenticeship, Sam Clemens started working for his brother, Orion, when Orion returned to Hannibal in 1850 and opened a newspaper. Sam was able to cut his journalistic teeth with small articles he wrote and even some editorial experience as he took over the paper when his brother was out of town. He was in the right place to go beyond mere typesetting in Hannibal.

 All of these experiences were not lost on young Clemens who already showed his acute power of observation and his great memory. Hannibal and Florida was THE place for such a boy to grow and experience life in a time unique in American history.

 Leaving Hannibal at the ripe age of 17, Sam had a constant hankering for travel and seeking new things. He was eager to be part of new developments and was constantly part of cutting technology and groundbreaking opportunities. He, himself, took the initiative to be the first in many areas of endeavor. Here is a quick look at many instances wherein Sam Clemens was in the right place at the right time to have truly memorable happenings.

[Slide 6 – Crystal Palace, New York 1853]

 Sam Clemens departed Hannibal in late May of 1853. He went to St. Louis to stay with his married sister and her husband. This was a temporary arrangement for Sam’s eyes were looking forward to real travel. He worked on a newspaper setting type to earn enough money to travel to New York City.

 Sam had read of a world’s fair exposition, the first in the United States, called the Exhibition of the Industry of All Nations. The featured structure was the Crystal Palace, modeled after the Crystal Palace from England’s exposition two years earlier.

 He wrote a description of visiting the Crystal Palace to his sister which included: “It would take more than a week to examine everything on exhibition … I only glanced at about one-third of the articles2.” He then described other landmarks he visited in the city.

 He ended up staying in New York City about two months, and was educated on the ways of a big city. He saw freed slaves with more freedom than he imagined possible based on his Hannibal upbringing. He saw immigrants from many nations passing on the streets, a whole new world was opened up for him.

[Slide 7 – Horace Bixby and steamboat]

 Returning from his trip to New York City, Clemens arrived in the Midwest to rejoin his brothers and mother who had moved to Iowa. He spent the winter of 1856-1857 in a print shop in Cincinnati. In 1857, he heard stories of great profits being made raising cocoa beans along the Amazon River in South America. He set out via steamboat headed for New Orleans and passage to Brazil.

 On board the steamboat Paul Jones, by chance he met Captain Horace Bixby, one of the most accomplished river pilots. Observing Bixby, the goal of becoming a river pilot overcame the South American adventure and Clemens started learning the river and earned his pilot’s license in 1859. He piloted until the start of war in 1861.

 Clemens’ license was from St. Louis to New Orleans. He came onto the river scene during the heyday of the steamboats when new discoveries were helping the river navigation. He became an accomplished pilot himself.

 The days on the Mississippi River were not wasted on Clemens. He observed all levels of society as travelers on this major thoroughfare. Later he commented that when he needed a character for one of his stories he had met him before, on the river.

 These river days enabled him to write *Life on the Mississippi* which contains the best description of becoming a pilot ever penned, and material for *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Pudd’nhead Wilson*, and scenes and episodes for other books, stories, and lectures.

[Slide 8 – Pilot’s License and steamboat]

 Ron Powers in his book *Mark Twain: A Life*3, relates:

 “On May 14, 1861, the twenty-five-year-old Sam left New Orleans aboard the Nebraska. He was a passenger, looking for a new pilot’s assignment: the secessionist captain of his previous boat, the Alonzo Child, had decided to keep that craft in Deep Southern waters. Sam’s friend from the John J. Roe, Zeb Leavenworth, had the Nebraska’s wheel, and Sam kept him company.

 “Just south of St. Louis, the steamer passed the federally held Jefferson Barracks. A day or two earlier, the Nebraska had been allowed through the newly formed Union blockade at Memphis—the last nonmilitary boat to cross that line during the war years. No such luck this time. Some artillerymen in the barracks fired a warning shot across the Nebraska’s bow. Leavenworth, stunned and confused, continued steering. The next shell hit neat the pilothouse, “breaking a lot of glass and destroying a good deal of the upper decoration,” according to Mark Twain’s biographer Albert Bigelow Paine.

 Paine continued:

 “Zeb Leavenworth fell back into a corner with a yell.

 “Good Lord Almighty! Sam,” he said, “what do they mean by that?”

 “Clemens stepped to the wheel and brought the boat around, “I guess they want us to wait a minute, Zeb,” he said.”

 Clemens was on the last commercial steamboat allowed to pass northbound past Memphis. If he had waited a day longer, he would have been trapped on the lower river and probably pressed into service as a pilot for the Federal Government and his future far different from what transpired.

[Slide 9 – Territorial Enterprise office]

 Sam rode the coattails of his brother, Orion, who had been appointed secretary for the Territory of Nevada. The two traveled overland by stage in 1861 from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Carson City, Nevada, giving Clemens firsthand knowledge of the hardships of this mode of travel and introducing him to Indians, the Pony Express, Mormonism in Salt Lake City, immigrant labor in Irish miners, and a truly western environs.

 In Nevada, Clemens tried his hand at silver mining but decided it was too much work. He joined the staff of the *Territorial Enterprise* in September of 1862. As a reporter on a staff of young unmarried men, he scoured the town and area to find stories, he took vacations to Lake Tahoe; he experienced the Wild West.

 He had the opportunity to watch Virginia City grow in importance as mining concerns blossomed and new techniques were being developed to separate the silver from ore. He was in the middle of this great expansion and wrote knowingly of the mining improvements in his book, *Roughing It* from his first-hand knowledge. Kent Rasmussen in *Mark Twain A to Z* comments:

 *Roughing It* “presents accurate technical information on western mining, as well as an honest portrayal of the hopes and beliefs that motivated men to squander their lives in pursuit of elusive riches4.”

[Slide 10 – Seal and William Stewart]

 The Territory of Nevada was ready to petition the Federal Government for statehood. Clemens convinced the Enterprise’s editor, Joe Goodman, to send him to Carson City in November of 1862 to cover the second assembly of the legislature. During this time he became well acquainted with William M. Stewart. When Nevada became a state in 1864, Stewart was elected one of the new state’s first senators.

 A few years later, in 1867, Clemens secured a position as private secretary to Senator Stewart in Washington, DC. The position only lasted about two months before the two parted ways. But the friendship remained and in 1870 Senator Stewart took Clemens to the White House and introduced him to President U. S. Grant.

[Slide 11 – pen names]

 The staff of the *Territorial Enterprise* each adopted a nom de plume to give some status to their writing. Clemens had used pen names before, beginning while writing on his brother’s newspaper. But in Nevada he chose perhaps the most famous of all pen names, “Mark Twain.” Soon he was better known to the public by this term that by his real name.

[Slide 12 – Chinese in California]

 Next Sam’s travels took him to San Francisco, still excited with gold fever. This bustling and growing city brought him into contact with more cultures. He saw and wrote of the oppression of the Chinese who had been brought in for cheap labor, criticizing both the entrepreneurs who used the cheap labor and the police and government officials who condoned the practice.

[Slide 13 – Jumping Frog]

 His editorials made him unpopular with local officials and he fled to spend the winter with a friend, Steve Gillis, in Angel’s Camp. During the three months there he heard the Jumping Frog story. Artemis Ward, now in New York, requested a story from Clemens. He polished up this tale and sent it off, but it arrived too late for the book Ward was publishing. Instead, it was inserted in a New York newspaper and was quickly copied all the way back across the country, the first time the name Mark Twain received nationwide coverage. Later this was the title story of a collection of Twain’s short stories, his first published book.

[Slide 14 – Hawaii and Hornet]

 Clemens then arranged with the *Sacramento Union* newspaper to write travel letters from Hawaii in exchange for his travel expenses. He arrived in Hawaii on March 18, 1866, intending to stay a month, but stretched his stay to just over four months. He visited sugar plantations, an active volcano, and ambled around several islands. Altogether he transmitted 25 letters totaling some 90,000 words of description which were published in the *Sacramento Union*. Clemens was one of the first people, other than missionaries, to report on the Sandwich Islands, as they were popularly called. Later his Hawaiian letters supplied the ending chapters of *Roughing It*.

 While in Hawaii, an opportunity arose that Clemens capitalized upon. The clipper ship *Hornet* caught fire and its crew and passengers hurriedly took to lifeboats. They drifted for almost two months before washing ashore in Honolulu. Clemens was confined to bed with a fever, but had himself carried to the hospital with the survivors, stayed up all night getting stories and writing his account which went off to California the next morning.

 Clemens’ story reported on one of the most sensational maritime disasters of all time. It was quickly reprinted up and down the California coast and spread across the country, gaining great praise for the author.

[Slide 15 – Lecturing]

 Clemens had heard platform lecturers all his life. From backwoods ministers in Hannibal to politicians to accomplished comics as Artemus Ward, Petroleum V. Nasby and Josh Billings, he had observed the traits of a good lecturer. Following his experiences in Hawaii, he was encouraged to lecture on his adventures. His initial lecture tour was on “Our Fellow Savages of the Sandwich Islands.” Fearing failure, Clemens had plants in the first night’s audience with cues to laugh at appropriate moments. However, that was not necessary. His style was such that the humor came forth and the audience had a riotous time. That led to his first lecture tour through the mining camps of California and Nevada.

 At this time, lecturing was a major source of entertainment for people everywhere. Clemens came onto the scene when promoters were acting as agents, the Chautauqua style presentations were growing in popularity, and soon he was a prized plum for booking agents to secure.

 Clemens rose to the fore and was able to raise large sums of money from his lecturing, making several extended lecture tours across the country and an around the world lecture tour in 1895-1896 that brought him out of bankruptcy.

[Slide 16 – Steamer Quaker City]

 In California in 1867, Clemens’ wanderlust led him to read of an upcoming cruise trip leaving by steamship from New York to circle the Mediterranean and visit the Holy Lands. This expedition aboard the steamer *Quaker City* was the idea of Charles Duncan of Reverend Henry Ward Beecher’s church in Brooklyn, New York. The route included France, Italy, Greece, Russia, Turkey, the Holy Lands, and Egypt in 164 days!

 Clemens’ passage was paid by the San Francisco *Alta California* in return for a series of travel letters.

 This *Quaker City* trip was the first American cruise to Europe made for pleasure. The letters Clemens submitted to the *Alta California* became the basis for his first book, *The Innocents Abroad* in 1869.

 This book was an instant success and one of the first travel guides to Europe. During Clemens’ life this work outsold his other books and even today remains a good guide before visiting many of the sites he experienced in 1867.

[Slide 17 – Clemens & Charlie Langdon, Olivia Langdon]

 The passengers on the Quaker City excursion were primarily older. One younger shipmate was Charlie Langdon from Elmira, New York. He and Clemens became friends. Clemens happened to visit Charlie in his stateroom one day, an occurrence that changed Clemens’ life forever. On the dresser was a small miniature portrait of a lovely girl – Charlie’s sister Olivia. This chance observance of the portrait led to marriage. Clemens recalled:

 “I saw her first in the form of an ivory miniature in her brother Charley’s stateroom in the steamer *Quaker City* in the Bay of Smyrna, in the summer of 1867, when she was in her twenty-second year. I saw her in the flesh for the first time in New York in the following December5.” They were married in 1870 and first lived in Buffalo, New York, but soon moved to Hartford, Connecticut.

[Slide 18 – Mark Twain House, Hartford]

 The Clemens family moved to Hartford which was home to several major publishers. They built in the Nook Farm area and were close to the Charles Warner family, he being editor of the *Hartford Courant* newspaper, and amongst other writers. There was hardly a better location for a writer on the rise than Hartford at this time.

[Slide 19 – Gilded Age illustrations]

 Mark Twain’s biographer, Albert Bigelow Paine, relates that Sam and Livy Clemens were dining with Charles Dudley Warner and his wife. The men were critical of the current literature and were challenged by their wives to produce something better. This led to a collaborative effort of a fictional book focusing on the corruption of their time.

 The two authors used real examples, sometimes barely disguised, as the basis for their story. The narrative begins in a backwoods hamlet, akin to Florida, Missouri, and moves upward to the state level and then to Washington DC. One sees political corruption in dealing and payoffs, judicial corruption with bribed juries, and the use of beautiful women to sway decisions. The men alternated writing sections of the book.

 This was Mark Twain’s first attempt at a fictional book and one that broke ground with its subject and was so graphic that today many American history texts label this period of American government from the Grant administration on as “The Gilded Age.”

[Slide 20 – Gilded Age]

 Before the Civil War subscription bookselling had started. Canvassers would go door to door with sample copies of books and take orders. These orders determined the size of printing for the book. Bibles and medical books were the primary emphasis. After the war, books on the war and travel books predominated. Clemens was attuned to this method of selling which also required that the books be of sufficient size and with plentiful illustrations to be attractive to potential buyers.

 Clemens’ first book, *The Innocents Abroad* in 1869 was sold by subscription and was a huge success. *Roughing It* followed this pattern in 1872.

 Then Clemens changed subscription bookselling forever by publishing the first novel sold by subscription, *The Gilded Age* which he co-authored with Charles Dudley Warner in 1873. Subscription selling remained Clemens’ method of introducing his books throughout his career.

[Slide 21 – Mark Twain scrapbook ad]

 Clemens made a major contribution to scrapbooking in 1873. During his lifetime he kept extensive files of clippings from newspapers and magazines. This led him to consider a way for people to easily preserve such clippings.

 He conceived pages with strips of gum running across the leaves, gum as used on envelopes and stationery. With a good description of this idea, he received a U.S. Patent in 1873 titled “Improvements in Scrapbooks.” Soon these went into production and the public, able to toss aside glue pots, began to purchase them. In 1877, 25,000 of the product “Mark Twain’s Self-Pasting Scrap Book” were sold. These varied in size from a small pocket version to one large enough to mount a half a newspaper page.

 Today we have a variety of scrapbooks capable of holding clippings or photographs without glue – descendants of the invention patented by Mark Twain.

[Slide 22 – Hammond typewriter]

 Mark Twain was always interested in new inventions. In 1874 he saw a demonstration of a typing machine and soon afterward purchased one. Those early machines produced only capital letters and were difficult to use. Apparently Clemens did write some letters himself on this new device.

 In his Autobiography, Mark Twain described having a female clerk use his machine. He wrote: “In the year [18]’73 the young woman copied a considerable part of a book of mine on the machine. … I will now claim—until dispossessed—that I was the first person in the world to apply the type-machine to literature. That book must have been ‘The Adventures of Tom Sawyer.6’”

 Mark Twain’s memory is faulty here. The manuscripts for *Tom Sawyer* were entirely hand-written. However, in 1882 he had a portion of the *Life on the Mississippi* manuscript typed and it was submitted to the publisher in typed form.

 Clemens’ claim to be the first to submit a typed manuscript has not been disproven to my knowledge.

[Slide 23 – telephone image from Mark Twain House, Hartford]

 Clemens was approached to buy stock in a new device, Bell’s telephone. He declined as he had recently had some bad investments and did not want to take the risk. But after the new contraption was marketed, he wrote:

 “About the end of the year (1877) I put up a telephone wire from my house down to the *Courant* office, the only telephone wire in town, and the first one that was ever used in a private house in the world, for practical purposes7.”

 Clemens is inaccurate here again. Phones had been in private residences in other towns. But his claim to have the first private phone in Hartford is quite possibly true. He was eager to try this new marvel.

 This early phone had a lot of static on the lines which often made communication impossible. He devised a chart to illustrate the various levels of interruptions.

[Slide 24 – U.S. Grant and Memoirs]

 Mark Twain had been introduced to President Grant at the White House by Senator Stewart of Nevada. Later, in 1879, the Grand Army of the Tennessee held a reunion in Chicago. Clemens was one of the after dinner speakers and delivered a humorous story entitled “The Babies,” which poked fun at the guest of the evening, Grant. The two were to start a joint venture years later.

 Mark Twain had a distrust for publishers. He thought they were making too much money off of his books. In 1884 he purchased a publishing company. He determined initially to concentrate on his own works. But another opportunity came along.

 Clemens in his *Autobiography*8 weaves a fantastic and melodramatic tale:

 “It had never been my intention to publish anybody’s books but my own. An accident diverted me from this wise purpose. That was General Grant’s memorable book. One night in the first week of November 1884 I had been lecturing in Chickering Hall and was walking homeward. It was a rainy night, and but few people were about. In the midst of a black gulf between lamps, two dim figures stepped out of a doorway and moved along in front of me. I heard one of them say,

 “‘Do you know General Grant has actually determined to write his Memoirs and publish them? He has said so, to-day, in so many words.’

 “That was all I heard—just those words—and I thought it great good luck that I was permitted to overhear them.

 “In the morning I went out and called on General Grant. I found him in his library with Colonel Fred Grant, his son. The General said, in substance, this:

 “‘Sit down and keep quiet until I sign a contract’—and added that it was for a book which he was going to write.

 “Fred Grant was apparently conducting a final reading and examination of the contract, to himself. He found it satisfactory, and said so, and his father stepped to the table and took up the pen. It might have been better for me, possibly, if I had let him alone, but I didn’t. I said,

 “‘Don’t sign it. Let Colonel Fred read it to me first.’”

 Clemens pointed out how little the general would receive from the proposed contract and ended up getting the contract himself to publish Grant’s Memoirs. Grant was dying of cancer, but kept writing and completed the memoir days before his death.

 The book was a tremendous success. The actual memoirs of the beloved general and former president sold like hotcakes. The two volume effort eventually sold more than 300,000 sets. The first royalty check Clemens delivered to Mrs. Grant was in the amount of $200,000. Eventually the book netted almost a half a million dollars for the Grant family.

[Slide 25 – Memory Builder Game]

 Clemens observed his children having trouble memorizing historical dates. Knowing reigns of European monarchs, terms for U.S. Presidents, dates of battles and wars, and similar memory work was difficult. Clemens placed stones along a path at fixed distances and walked his children along, using the stones as year markers to help remember dates visually.

 He then advanced this idea to a board game. A device was created that had 100 boxes with three rows of dots. Each numbered box would correspond to a given year in a century chosen for the game.

 Contestants would name a year in the century and a specific event. Ten points were given for accessions – when a king or queen or president came to power. Dates for battles were worth 5 points. “Minor events” garnered one point.

 The instruction sheet said of dates: “they stick fast in your head if you take the trouble to use them a few times in playing the game.”

 This was one of the first board games to work on memorization and recollection of facts – an early forerunner to Trivial Pursuit type games of our age.

[Slide 26 – Henry Huttleson Rogers]

 In the early 1890s, Clemens was introduced to Henry Huttleson Rogers, one of the vice-presidents of the Standard Oil Company. A sincere friendship developed which proved a godsend to Clemens when his publishing house and other investments left him bankrupt in 1895. Rogers came to his aid and helped extricate him from his business failures, saved his copyrights for the family, and charted a course which included a round the world lecture tour to pay off his debts. Certainly the meeting with Rogers was at the right time to save Clemens from total financial ruin.

[Slide 27 – Pudd’nhead Wilson and fingerprints]

 Sam Clemens first used a fingerprint to solve a crime in *Life on the Mississippi*, but it was a minor point of the narrative.

 In 1892, Clemens bought and read a copy of Galton’s book *Finger Prints*. Sir Francis Galton had studied fingerprints extensively and his book was the first authoritative text that provided a systemized method for classification of fingerprints.

 Clemens was in the middle of his story that became *Pudd’nhead Wilson*. In the story we find two baby boys, one white, one slave, that are switched by the slave mother in an effort to better her son’s lot in life. This backfires and her son, raised as the master’s boy, eventually commits murder. Clemens decided to use fingerprints to solve the murder by having a main character, Wilson, studying this new art and solving the crime. This does appear to be the first novel with a crime solved with this new technique of fingerprinting.

[Slide 28 – Huckleberry Finn book]

 Let’s see how the series of experiences Twain had changed his view from a slaveholding mentality that he took from Hannibal to the writing of his seminal work *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

 Leaving Hannibal, he traveled to New York City and was amazed to see the freedom of freed slaves. On the river he saw slavery in the Deep South. Then he headed west and met Native Americans, Mormons, and Irish. Then to California and Chinese immigrants, and Hawaii with its native population. The trip to Europe and the Holy lands introduced many more cultures to Twain. He married into a New England abolitionist family.

 Along this journey we have the observing power of Twain storing up incidents that challenged his childhood training and showed racism in many forms. In his wife’s sister’s house he heard a slave narrative that brought new insight. Then he made a trip down the Mississippi gathering notes for writing *Life on the Mississippi* and saw the failure of reconstruction in the south.

 The culmination of these experiences motivated him to produce arguably the best work attacking racism, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, a work made possible by Twain’s being in the right place so often to experience firsthand the prompts that changed his mindset much as Huck’s is changed in the novel.

 Mark Twain scholar Jocelyn Chadwick summarized:

 “A Northerner could not have written *Huckleberry Finn*; it took someone who understood slavery and its culture firsthand to render it in such a way as to be believable. It would take a Southern writer—a Southern writer whose perspective had shifted. And it would take a writer with a genius for narrative—a writer like Mark Twain9.”

 *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* broke ground and changed American and world literature forever. The use of a common street person as narrator, using street language, immediately caused problems. The Concord Public Library banned the book within a month of its publication, stating it was unfit for their children because of the language.

 More importantly, the book was the first to give a black person a true voice. Raising Jim from the status of slave to Huck’s equal and identification of Jim as a human being was groundbreaking and opened the door for future writers to address racism in ways that had not been approached.

[Slide 29 – Mark Twain]

 The style of narrative Mark Twain introduced became the standard for works thereafter. It led Ernest Hemingway to write:

 All modern American literature comes from one book by Mark Twain called *Huckleberry Finn*. . . . It’s the best book we’ve had. All American writing comes from that. There was nothing before. There has been nothing as good since10.” Mark Twain epitomized society during his lifetime. He was willing to comment on any aspect of life and did so generally with humor and a good look at human nature which is timeless.

 Mark Twain’s keen power of observation, his wonderful memory, his fantastic vocabulary and his ability to reflect human nature in his writings led him to produce a myriad of writings in many genres. He epitomized society during his lifetime. Today his writing seem timeless as he addressed issues of his time that are still relevant today as the major issues are still with us.

[Slide 30 – years and events]

 The substance of Twain’s writings came from his seeming ability to be the first on the scene, frequently being in the right place at the right time and taking advantage of the situation.

**Footnotes:**

1. *Autobiography of Mark Twain, Volume 1*, edited Harriett Elinor Smith, Page 209.

2. Letter Samuel L. Clemens to Pamela A. Moffett, 3? September 1853 in *Mark Twain’s Letters Volume 1, 1853-1866*, Page 13.

3. *Mark Twain, A Life*, Rom Powers, Page 96.

4. *Mark Twain A to Z*, Kent Rasmussen, Page 317.

5. *Autobiography of Mark Twain, Volume 1*, edited Harriett Elinor Smith, Page 320.

6. *Autobiography of Mark Twain, Volume 2*, edited Benjamin Griffin and Harriett Elinor Smith, Page 446.

7. *Autobiography of Mark Twain, Volume 2*, edited Benjamin Griffin and Harriett Elinor Smith, Page 57.

8. *Autobiography of Mark Twain, Volume 2*, edited Benjamin Griffin and Harriett Elinor Smith, Page 60.

9. *Mark Twain: An Illustrated Biography* Geoffrey C. Ward and Dayton Duncan, Page 128.

10. *Green Hills of Africa*, Ernest Hemingway

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Further bibliographical information and suggestions for further reading available upon request.