

Finger Lakes Wine Country Tourism Marketing Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FINGER LAKES WINE COUNTRY, NEW YORK CELEBRATES MARK TWAIN IN 2010

The year 2010 will mark the 175th anniversary of Twain's birth and the Centennial of his death. Elmira, New York, also known as [Mark Twain Country](#), will be celebrating his life with a year of Twain themed events and special promotions.

The following events will take place from April 21, the date death, through April 24, the day he was laid to rest at Woodlawn Cemetery.

- Wednesday, April 21, (Death Centennial) Hal Holbrook to perform his Emmy & Tony award-winning performance of *Mark Twain Tonight* at Clemens Center for the Performing Arts.
- Saturday, April 24, Re-enactment of Twain's gravesite service and burial at Woodlawn Cemetery (Woodlawn Cemetery, Chemung Valley History Museum and Elmira Little Theatre). The event will use details provided by articles from the *New York Post* and *New York Times* along with other historical sources, and will include a horse drawn carriage transporting the casket.
- Wednesday, April 21 – Saturday, April 24, *Trolley into Twain Country Tours*, One hour guided tours that will include a stop to go inside the Mark Twain Study (where Twain penned such classics as *Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* while summering in Elmira with his in-laws for 22 years) and the Clemens family burial site at Woodlawn Cemetery.
- Wednesday, April 21 – Friday, April 23, *Dine like Twain* dinners to be offered at Hill Top Restaurant. Diners will be able to enjoy Twain's favorite foods while overlooking the same view of the Chemung River Valley that inspired him to create such beloved characters as Tom Sawyer, Becky Thatcher and Huck Finn at the family home on the same hill.
- Saturday April 24, *Tom Sawyer & Becky Thatcher Day at Harris Hill*, Harris Hill, the Soaring Capital of America, welcomes Twain enthusiasts to take a glider ride over Mark Twain Country and meet Tom and Becky at the National Soaring Museum, or join in a Tom and Becky look-a-like contest at Harris Hill Amusement Park.

The year of 2010 is devoted to all things Mark Twain. Visitors to [Finger Lakes Wine Country](#) are encouraged to pay their respects to this American Classic at Woodlawn Cemetery, enjoy a tour of the Mark Twain Study, or visit the permanent display at the Chemung Valley History Museum.

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Samuel Clemens or more notably known as Mark Twain, called many places home. While he grew up in Hannibal, Missouri, lived in Hartford, Connecticut, and Buffalo, New York, it was in Elmira, New York that America's favorite son traveled when he sought refuge and renewal to live out his private life.

Twain married Elmira Olivia Langdon, in a simple ceremony at the mansion of his in-laws and remained tethered to the city and his in-laws for the balance of his life. Twain was particularly close to his father-in-law, Jervis Langdon, a wealthy businessman who was actively outspoken against slavery and aggressively active in the Underground Railroad, and Jervis' views on abolition greatly influenced Mark Twain's writing.

Twain returned to Elmira to summer for 22 years at the home of his sister-in-law, perched in the hills overlooking the Chemung River Valley. He drew much inspiration from the spectacular views and referred to Elmira as a "foretaste of Heaven." He sequestered himself in a tiny Study his in-laws had made for him to write his classics, such as *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, among many others.

The Mark Twain Study, a gazebo-type structure that was built to resemble the top of a Mississippi steamboat, has since been moved to the campus of Elmira College where it is open to the public, and was noted by US Today as the '#1 Literary Attraction in America'.

Although Twain traveled globally and laid claim to being a citizen of the world, it was in Elmira that he chose to be laid to rest at Woodlawn Cemetery alongside his wife and four children.

More information on Mark Twain Country and the 2010 Twain Celebration can be found at FingerLakesWineCountry.com. Finger Lakes Wine Country is a world-class wine region in New York State that boasts excitement, affordability, and fun for everyone. Begin planning your escape to Finger Lakes Wine Country now at FingerLakesWineCountry.com. Download a free travel guide, build your own personalized itinerary, and discover your ideal vacation destination that is just down the road.

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