

# DOWNLOAD PDF S. E. MOFFETT. MARK TWAIN: A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

## Chapter 1 : General Washington's Negro Body-Servant - Story by Mark Twain

*Provided to YouTube by Bookwire Chapter 67 - Mark Twain; His Life and Work. A Biographical Sketch Á. William M. Clemens & Mark Twain Mark Twain; His Life and Work.*

His parents met when his father moved to Missouri , and they were married in Orion " , Henry " , and Pamela " His sister Margaret " died when Twain was three, and his brother Benjamin " died three years later. His brother Pleasant Hannibal died at three weeks of age. His father was an attorney and judge, who died of pneumonia in , when Twain was Louis , and Cincinnati , joining the newly formed International Typographical Union , the printers trade union. He educated himself in public libraries in the evenings, finding wider information than at a conventional school. Pilot was the grandest position of all. The pilot, even in those days of trivial wages, had a princely salary " from a hundred and fifty to two hundred and fifty dollars a month, and no board to pay. The pilot had to: Bixby took Twain on as a cub pilot to teach him the river between New Orleans and St. Twain studied the Mississippi, learning its landmarks, how to navigate its currents effectively, and how to read the river and its constantly shifting channels, reefs, submerged snags, and rocks that would "tear the life out of the strongest vessel that ever floated". Henry was killed on June 21, , when their steamboat Pennsylvania exploded. Twain claimed to have foreseen this death in a dream a month earlier, [22]: He continued to work on the river and was a river pilot until the Civil War broke out in , when traffic was curtailed along the Mississippi River. At the start of hostilities, he enlisted briefly in a local Confederate unit. He later wrote the sketch " The Private History of a Campaign That Failed " , describing how he and his friends had been Confederate volunteers for two weeks before disbanding. Twain describes the episode in his book *Roughing It*. Nye in , and Twain joined him when he moved west. The brothers traveled more than two weeks on a stagecoach across the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains , visiting the Mormon community in Salt Lake City. Joe Goodman; party at Gov. He may have been romantically involved with the poet Ina Coolbrith. A year later, he traveled to the Sandwich Islands present-day Hawaii as a reporter for the Sacramento Union. His letters to the Union were popular and became the basis for his first lectures. He wrote a collection of travel letters which were later compiled as *The Innocents Abroad* It was on this trip that he met fellow passenger Charles Langdon, who showed him a picture of his sister Olivia. Twain later claimed to have fallen in love at first sight. The couple lived in Buffalo, New York , from to He owned a stake in the Buffalo Express newspaper and worked as an editor and writer. They had three daughters: Susy " , Clara " , [36] and Jean " Library of Twain House , with hand-stenciled paneling, fireplaces from India, embossed wallpaper, and hand-carved mantel from Scotland Twain moved his family to Hartford, Connecticut, where he arranged the building of a home starting in Also, he smoked cigars constantly, and Susan did not want him to do so in her house. Twain wrote many of his classic novels during his 17 years in Hartford " and over 20 summers at Quarry Farm. Love of science and technology Twain in the lab of Nikola Tesla , early Twain was fascinated with science and scientific inquiry. Twain patented three inventions, including an "Improvement in Adjustable and Detachable Straps for Garments" to replace suspenders and a history trivia game. This type of historical manipulation became a trope of speculative fiction as alternate histories. Part of the footage was used in *The Prince and the Pauper* , a two-reel short film. It is the only known existing film footage of Twain. He invested mostly in new inventions and technology, particularly in the Paige typesetting machine. It was a beautifully engineered mechanical marvel that amazed viewers when it worked, but it was prone to breakdowns. Webster and Company , which enjoyed initial success selling the memoirs of Ulysses S. Fewer than copies were sold. Twain, Olivia, and their daughter Susy were all faced with health problems, and they believed that it would be of benefit to visit European baths. During that period, Twain returned four times to New York due to his enduring business troubles. Rogers first made him file for bankruptcy in April , then had him transfer the copyrights on his written works to his wife to prevent creditors from gaining possession of them. The first part of the itinerary took him across northern America to British Columbia , Canada, until the

## DOWNLOAD PDF S. E. MOFFETT. MARK TWAIN: A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

second half of August. For the second part, he sailed across the Pacific Ocean. His scheduled lecture in Honolulu , Hawaii had to be canceled due to a cholera epidemic. His three months in India became the centerpiece of his page book *Following the Equator*. In the second half of July , he sailed back to England, completing his circumnavigation of the world begun 14 months before. Clara had wished to study the piano under Theodor Leschetizky in Vienna. Jonas Henrik Kellgren, a Swedish osteopathic practitioner in Belgravia. Coming back in fall, they continued the treatment in London, until Twain was convinced by lengthy inquiries in America that similar osteopathic expertise was available there. In the late s, he spoke to the Savage Club in London and was elected an honorary member. He was told that only three men had been so honored, including the Prince of Wales , and he replied: The reason for the Ottawa visit had been to secure Canadian and British copyrights for *Life on the Mississippi*. In , Twain began his autobiography in the *North American Review*. He was resistant initially, but he eventually admitted that four of the resulting images were the finest ones ever taken of him. The dozen or so members ranged in age from 10 to He exchanged letters with his "Angel Fish" girls and invited them to concerts and the theatre and to play games. It is coming again next year, and I expect to go out with it. The Almighty has said, no doubt: He has made an enduring part of American literature. The Langdon family plot is marked by a foot monument two fathoms, or "mark twain" placed there by his surviving daughter Clara. He expressed a preference for cremation for example, in *Life on the Mississippi* , but he acknowledged that his surviving family would have the last word. Please improve it by verifying the claims made and adding inline citations. Statements consisting only of original research should be removed. March Learn how and when to remove this template message Mark Twain in his gown scarlet with grey sleeves and facings for his D. At mid-career, he combined rich humor, sturdy narrative, and social criticism in *Huckleberry Finn*. He was a master of rendering colloquial speech and helped to create and popularize a distinctive American literature built on American themes and language. Many of his works have been suppressed at times for various reasons. The *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* has been repeatedly restricted in American high schools, not least for its frequent use of the word " nigger ",[ citation needed ] which was in common usage in the pre-Civil War period in which the novel was set. Researchers rediscovered published material as recently as and Clemens, your lecture was magnificent. It was eloquent, moving, sincere. Never in my entire life have I listened to such a magnificent piece of descriptive narration. It is a sin you must never commit again. You closed a most eloquent description, by which you had keyed your audience up to a pitch of the intensest interest, with a piece of atrocious anti-climax which nullified all the really fine effect you had produced. Click on historical marker and interior view. It was in these days that Twain became a writer of the Sagebrush School ; he was known later as the most notable within the genre. After a burst of popularity, the Sacramento Union commissioned him to write letters about his travel experiences. The first journey that he took for this job was to ride the steamer *Ajax* on its maiden voyage to the Sandwich Islands Hawaii. All the while, he was writing letters to the newspaper that were meant for publishing, chronicling his experiences with humor. These letters proved to be the genesis to his work with the San Francisco *Alta California* newspaper, which designated him a traveling correspondent for a trip from San Francisco to New York City via the Panama isthmus. In , he published his second piece of travel literature, *Roughing It*, as an account of his journey from Missouri to Nevada, his subsequent life in the American West , and his visit to Hawaii. The book lampoons American and Western society in the same way that *Innocents* critiqued the various countries of Europe and the Middle East. His next work was *The Gilded Age: A Tale of Today* , his first attempt at writing a novel. The book is also notable because it is his only collaboration, written with his neighbor Charles Dudley Warner. *Old Times on the Mississippi* was a series of sketches published in the *Atlantic Monthly* in featuring his disillusionment with Romanticism. *Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn* This section needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. *The Prince and the Pauper* was not as well received, despite a storyline that is common in film and literature today. The book tells the story of two boys born on the same day who are physically identical, acting as a social commentary as the prince and pauper switch places. Twain

## **DOWNLOAD PDF S. E. MOFFETT. MARK TWAIN: A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.**

had started *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* which he consistently had problems completing [78] and had completed his travel book *A Tramp Abroad*, which describes his travels through central and southern Europe. Some have called it the first Great American Novel, and the book has become required reading in many schools throughout the United States. *Huckleberry Finn* was an offshoot from *Tom Sawyer* and had a more serious tone than its predecessor.

## DOWNLOAD PDF S. E. MOFFETT. MARK TWAIN: A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

### Chapter 2 : Mark Twain's Autobiographical Manuscript

*Mark Twain: A biographical sketch [Samuel Erasmus Moffett] on [www.nxgvision.com](http://www.nxgvision.com) \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers.*

Perhaps these things were so near as to be "this side" the range of second sight. There had been plenty of war-talk, but few of the pilots believed that war was really coming. True, several States, including Louisiana, had declared the Union a failure and seceded; but the majority of opinions were not clear as to how far a State had rights in such a matter, or as to what the real meaning of secession might be. Comparatively few believed it meant war. Samuel Clemens had no such belief. His Madame Caprell letter bears date of February 6, , yet contains no mention of war or of any special excitement in New Orleans—no forebodings as to national conditions. Such things came soon enough: President Lincoln was inaugurated on the 4th of March, and six weeks later Fort Sumter was fired upon. Men began to speak out then and to take sides. It was a momentous time in the Association Rooms. There were pilots who would go with the Union; there were others who would go with the Confederacy. Horace Bixby was one of the former, and in due time became chief of the Union River Service. Another pilot named Montgomery Samuel Clemens had once steered for him declared for the South, and later commanded the Confederate Mississippi fleet. They were all good friends, and their discussions, though warm, were not always acrimonious; but they took sides. A good many were not very clear as to their opinions. Living both North and South as they did, they saw various phases of the question and divided their sympathies. Some were of one conviction one day and of another the next. Samuel Clemens was of the less radical element. He knew there was a good deal to be said for either cause; furthermore, he was not then bloodthirsty. A pilot-house with its elevated position and transparency seemed a poor place to be in when fighting was going on. It is rather curious that his final brief note-book entry should begin with his future nom de plume—a memorandum of soundings—"mark twain," and should end with the words "no lead. Zeb Leavenworth was one of the pilots, and Sam Clemens usually stood watch with him. They heard war-talk all the way and saw preparations, but they were not molested, though at Memphis they basely escaped the blockade. At Cairo, Illinois, they saw soldiers drilling—troops later commanded by Grant. The Uncle Sam came steaming up toward St. Louis, those on board congratulating themselves on having come through unscathed. They were not quite through, however. Abreast of Jefferson Barracks they suddenly heard the boom of a cannon and saw a great whorl of smoke drifting in their direction. They did not realize that it was a signal—a thunderous halt—and kept straight on. Less than a minute later there was another boom, and a shell exploded directly in front of the pilot-house, breaking a lot of glass and destroying a good deal of the upper decoration. Zeb Leavenworth fell back into a corner with a yell. Sam;" he said, "what do they mean by that? They were examined and passed. It was the last steamboat to make the trip from New Orleans to St. He would have grieved had he known this fact. As long as he lived Samuel Clemens would return to those old days with fondness and affection, and with regret that they were no more. Louis in retirement, for there was a pressing war demand for Mississippi pilots , then went up to Hannibal to visit old friends. They were glad enough to see him, and invited him to join a company of gay military enthusiasts who were organizing to "help Gov. Some of the volunteers did not know for a time which invader they intended to drive from Missouri soil, and more than one company in the beginning was made up of young fellows whose chief ambition was to have a lark regardless as to which cause they might eventually espouse. Dennis company, and one or two others. Most of them were small private affairs, usually composed of about half-and-half Union and Confederate men, who knew almost nothing of the questions or conditions, and disbanded in a brief time, to attach themselves to the regular service according as they developed convictions. The general idea of these companies was a little camping-out expedition and a good time. One such company one morning received unexpected reinforcements. They saw the approach of the recruits, and, remarking how well drilled the new arrivals seemed to be, mistook them for the enemy and fled. The "battalion" in this instance consisted of a

## DOWNLOAD PDF S. E. MOFFETT. MARK TWAIN: A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

little squad of young fellows of his own age, mostly pilots and schoolmates, including Sam Bowen, Ed Stevens, and Ab Grimes, about a dozen, all told. They organized secretly, for the Union militia was likely to come over from Illinois any time and look up any suspicious armies that made an open demonstration. An army might lose enthusiasm and prestige if it spent a night or two in the calaboose. Then, on the evening before marching away, they stealthily called on their sweethearts—those who had them did, and the others pretended sweethearts for the occasion—and when it was dark and mysterious they said good-by and suggested that maybe those girls would never see them again. And as always happens in such a case, some of them were in earnest, and two or three of the little group that slipped away that night never did come back, and somewhere sleep in unmarked graves. The "two Sams"—Sam Bowen and Sam Clemens—called on Patty Gore and Julia Willis for their good-by visit, and, when they left, invited the girls to "walk through the pickets" with them, which they did as far as Bear Creek Hill. So the girls stood there and watched the soldiers march up Bear Creek Hill and disappear among the trees. The army had a good enough time that night, marching through the brush and vines toward New London, though this sort of thing grew rather monotonous by morning. Colonel Ralls, of Ralls County, however, received them cordially and made life happier for them with a good breakfast and some encouraging words. He was authorized to administer the oath of office, he said, and he proceeded to do it, and made them a speech besides; also he sent out notice to some of the neighbors—to Col. Bill Splawn, Farmer Nuck Matson, and others—that the community had an army on its hands and perhaps ought to do something for it. This brought in a number of contributions, provisions, paraphernalia, and certain superfluous horses and mules, which converted the battalion into a cavalry, and made it possible for it to move on to the front without further delay. Samuel Clemens, mounted on a small yellow mule whose tail had been trimmed down to a tassel at the end in a style that suggested his name, Paint Brush, upholstered and supplemented with an extra pair of cowskin boots, a pair of gray blankets, a home-made quilt, frying-pan, a carpet sack, a small valise, an overcoat, an old-fashioned Kentucky rifle, twenty yards of rope, and an umbrella, was a representative unit of the brigade. The proper thing for an army loaded like that was to go into camp, and they did it. They went over on Salt River, near Florida, and camped not far from a farm-house with a big log stable; the latter they used as headquarters. Somebody suggested that when they went into battle they ought to have short hair, so that in a hand-to-hand conflict the enemy could not get hold of it. Tom Lyon found a pair of sheep-shears in the stable and acted as barber. They were not very sharp shears, but the army stood the torture for glory in the field, and a group of little darkies collected from the farm-house to enjoy the performance. The army then elected its officers. William Ely was chosen captain, with Asa Glasscock as first lieutenant. Samuel Clemens was then voted second lieutenant, and there were sergeants and orderlies. There were only three privates when the election was over, and these could not be distinguished by their department. There was scarcely any discipline in this army. Then it set in to rain. It rained by day and it rained by night. Salt River rose until it was bank full and overflowed the bottoms. Twice there was a false night alarm of the enemy approaching, and the battalion went slopping through the mud and brush into the dark, picking out the best way to retreat, plodding miserably back to camp when the alarm was over. Once they fired a volley at a row of mullen stalks, waving on the brow of a hill, and once a picket shot at his own horse that had got loose and had wandered toward him in the dusk. The rank and file did not care for picket duty. Sam Bowen—ordered by Lieutenant Clemens to go on guard one afternoon—denounced his superior and had to be threatened with court-martial and death. Sam went finally, but he sat in a hot open place and swore at the battalion and the war in general, and finally went to sleep in the broiling sun. These things began to tell on patriotism. Presently Lieutenant Clemens developed a boil, and was obliged to make himself comfortable with some hay in a horse-trough, where he lay most of the day, violently denouncing the war and the fools that invented it. Then word came that "General" Tom Harris, who was in command of the district, was stopping at a farmhouse two miles away, living on the fat of the land. Most of them knew Tom Harris, and they regarded his neglect of them as perfidy. They broke camp without further ceremony. Grimes was mounted on a big horse, and when he started it was necessary for Paint Brush to follow. Arriving at the farther

## DOWNLOAD PDF S. E. MOFFETT. MARK TWAIN: A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

bank, Grimes looked around, and was horrified to see that the end of the rope led down in the water with no horse and rider in view. He spurred up the bank, and the hat of Lieutenant Clemens and the ears of Paint Brush appeared. They admonished him to "go there himself. They were going now where there was food—real food and plenty of it. Then he begged them, but it was no use. By and by they stopped at a farm-house for supplies. A tall, bony woman came to the door: The request seemed to inflame her. You get out of here! When they arrived at Col. The hungry army camped in the barnyard and crept into the hay-loft to sleep. Presently somebody yelled "Fire! Lieutenant Clemens suddenly wakened, made a quick rolling movement from the blaze, and rolled out of a big hay-window into the barnyard below. The rest of the army, startled into action, seized the burning hay and pitched it out of the same window. The lieutenant had sprained his ankle when he struck the ground, and his boil was far from well, but when the burning hay descended he forgot his disabilities. Literally and figuratively this was the final straw. With a voice and vigor suited to the urgencies of the case, he made a spring from under the burning stuff, flung off the remnants, and with them his last vestige of interest in the war. The others, now that the fire was, out, seemed to think the incident boisterously amusing.

## DOWNLOAD PDF S. E. MOFFETT. MARK TWAIN: A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

### Chapter 3 : Samuel Langhorne Clemens/Authorized Edition - Wikisource, the free online library

*Samuel Moffett's essay, reworked from Clemens's own draft, was titled "Mark Twain: A Biographical Sketch." Moffett's essay appeared in the October issue of McClure's Magazine and was used as the closing essay in Volume 22 of the uniform edition.*

He had been little heard of up to that time, but since then we have never ceased to hear of him; we have never ceased to hear of him at stated, unfailing intervals. His was a most remarkable career, and I have thought that its history would make a valuable addition to our biographical literature. Therefore, I have carefully collated the materials for such a work, from authentic sources, and here present them to the public. I have rigidly excluded from these pages everything of a doubtful character, with the object in view of introducing my work into the schools for the instruction of the youth of my country. The name of the famous body-servant of General Washington was George. After serving his illustrious master faithfully for half a century, and enjoying throughout his long term his high regard and confidence, it became his sorrowful duty at last to lay that beloved master to rest in his peaceful grave by the Potomac. Ten years afterward-- in full of years and honors, he died himself, mourned by all who knew him. George, the favorite body-servant of the lamented Washington, died in Richmond, Va. His intellect was unimpaired, and his memory tenacious, up to within a few minutes of his decease. He was present at the second installation of Washington as President, and also at his funeral, and distinctly remembered all the prominent incidents connected with those noted events. From this period we hear no more of the favorite body-servant of General Washington until May, , at which time he died again. A Philadelphia paper thus speaks of the sad occurrence: Up to within a few hours of his dissolution he was in full possession of all his faculties, and could distinctly recollect the second installation of Washington, his death and burial, the surrender of Cornwallis, the battle of Trenton, the griefs and hardships of Valley Forge, etc. Deceased was followed to the grave by the entire population of Macon. On the Fourth of July, , and also of and , the subject of this sketch was exhibited in great state upon the rostrum of the orator of the day, and in November of he died again. John Leavenworth in this city, at the venerable age of 95 years. He was in the full possession of his faculties up to the hour of his death, and distinctly recollected the first and second installations and death of President Washington, the surrender of Cornwallis, the battles of Trenton and Monmouth, the sufferings of the patriot army at Valley Forge, the proclamation of the Declaration of Independence, the speech of Patrick Henry in the Virginia House of Delegates, and many other old-time reminiscences of stirring interest. Few white men die lamented as was this aged negro. The funeral was very largely attended. But in the fall of he died again. The California papers thus speak of the event: His memory, which did not fail him till the last, was a wonderful storehouse of interesting reminiscences. George was greatly respected in Dutch Flat, and it is estimated that there were 10, people present at his funeral. The last time the subject of this sketch died was in June, ; and until we learn the contrary, it is just to presume that he died permanently this time. The Michigan papers thus refer to the sorrowful event: He died greatly respected, and was followed to the grave by a vast concourse of people. The faithful old servant is gone! We shall never see him more until he turns up again. He has closed his long and splendid career of dissolution, for the present, and sleeps peacefully, as only they sleep who have earned their rest. He was in all respects a remarkable man. He held his age better than any celebrity that has figured in history; and the longer he lived the stronger and longer his memory grew. If he lives to die again, he will distinctly recollect the discovery of America. One fault I find in all the notices of his death I have quoted, and this ought to be correct. In them he uniformly and impartially died at the age of This could not have been. He might have done that once, or maybe twice, but he could not have continued it indefinitely. Allowing that when he first died, he died at the age of 95, he was years old when he died last, in But his age did not keep pace with his recollections. When he died the last time, he distinctly remembered the landing of the Pilgrims, which took place in He must have been about twenty years old when he witnessed that event, wherefore it is safe to assert that the body-servant of General

## DOWNLOAD PDF S. E. MOFFETT. MARK TWAIN: A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

Washington was in the neighborhood of two hundred and sixty or seventy years old when he departed this life finally. Having waited a proper length of time, to see if the subject of his sketch had gone from us reliably and irrevocably, I now publish his biography with confidence, and respectfully offer it to a mourning nation. This makes six times that he is known to have died, and always in a new place. This well-meaning but misguided negro has not put six different communities to the expense of burying him in state, and has swindled tens of thousands of people into following him to the grave under the delusion that a select and peculiar distinction was being conferred upon them.

## DOWNLOAD PDF S. E. MOFFETT. MARK TWAIN: A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

Chapter 4 : Mark Twain's Proper Reputation: Livy's Grave Concern | Mary Boewe - [www.nxgvisio](http://www.nxgvisio)

*Moffett reworked the essay and titled it "Mark Twain: A Biographical Sketch." Moffett's essay appeared in the October issue of McClure's Magazine and was used as the closing essay in Volume XXII of the uniform edition of Mark Twain's Works.*

Youth Samuel Clemens, the sixth child of John Marshall and Jane Lampton Clemens, was born two months prematurely and was in relatively poor health for the first 10 years of his life. His mother tried various allopathic and hydropathic remedies on him during those early years, and his recollections of those instances along with other memories of his growing up would eventually find their way into Tom Sawyer and other writings. Because he was sickly, Clemens was often coddled, particularly by his mother, and he developed early the tendency to test her indulgence through mischief, offering only his good nature as bond for the domestic crimes he was apt to commit. When Jane Clemens was in her 80s, Clemens asked her about his poor health in those early years: John Clemens, by all reports, was a serious man who seldom demonstrated affection. No doubt his temperament was affected by his worries over his financial situation, made all the more distressing by a series of business failures. It was the diminishing fortunes of the Clemens family that led them in to move 30 miles 50 km east from Florida, Missouri, to the Mississippi River port town of Hannibal, where there were greater opportunities. In the meantime, the debts accumulated. Still, John Clemens believed the Tennessee land he had purchased in the late s some 70, acres [28, hectares] might one day make them wealthy, and this prospect cultivated in the children a dreamy hope. Late in his life, Twain reflected on this promise that became a curse: It put our energies to sleep and made visionaries of us—dreamers and indolent. The man who has not experienced it cannot imagine the curse of it. Judging from his own speculative ventures in silver mining, business, and publishing, it was a curse that Sam Clemens never quite outgrew. Perhaps it was the romantic visionary in him that caused Clemens to recall his youth in Hannibal with such fondness. The gamblers, stevedores, and pilots, the boisterous raftsmen and elegant travelers, all bound for somewhere surely glamorous and exciting, would have impressed a young boy and stimulated his already active imagination. And the lives he might imagine for these living people could easily be embroidered by the romantic exploits he read in the works of James Fenimore Cooper, Sir Walter Scott, and others. Those same adventures could be reenacted with his companions as well, and Clemens and his friends did play at being pirates, Robin Hood, and other fabled adventurers. Among those companions was Tom Blankenship, an affable but impoverished boy whom Twain later identified as the model for the character Huckleberry Finn. There were local diversions as well—fishing, picnicking, and swimming. It is not surprising that the pleasant events of youth, filtered through the softening lens of memory, might outweigh disturbing realities. However, in many ways the childhood of Samuel Clemens was a rough one. Death from disease during this time was common. His sister Margaret died of a fever when Clemens was not yet four years old; three years later his brother Benjamin died. When he was eight, a measles epidemic potentially lethal in those days was so frightening to him that he deliberately exposed himself to infection by climbing into bed with his friend Will Bowen in order to relieve the anxiety. A cholera epidemic a few years later killed at least 24 people, a substantial number for a small town. Even before that year, however, continuing debts had forced them to auction off property, to sell their only slave, Jennie, to take in boarders, even to sell their furniture. Apart from family worries, the social environment was hardly idyllic. Missouri was a slave state, and, though the young Clemens had been reassured that chattel slavery was an institution approved by God, he nevertheless carried with him memories of cruelty and sadness that he would reflect upon in his maturity. Then there was the violence of Hannibal itself. In January Clemens watched a man die in the street after he had been shot by a local merchant; this incident provided the basis for the Boggs shooting in Huckleberry Finn. Two years later he witnessed the drowning of one of his friends, and only a few days later, when he and some friends were fishing on Sny Island, on the Illinois side of the Mississippi, they discovered the drowned and mutilated body

## DOWNLOAD PDF S. E. MOFFETT. MARK TWAIN: A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

of a fugitive slave. He lived sparingly in the Ament household but was allowed to continue his schooling and, from time to time, indulge in boyish amusements. Nevertheless, by the time Clemens was 13, his boyhood had effectively come to an end. Apprenticeships In the oldest Clemens boy, Orion, returned from St. Louis, Missouri, and began to publish a weekly newspaper. A year later he bought the Hannibal Journal, and Sam and his younger brother Henry worked for him. Having acquired a trade by age 17, Clemens left Hannibal in with some degree of self-sufficiency. For almost two decades he would be an itinerant labourer, trying many occupations. He worked briefly as a typesetter in St. Louis in before traveling to New York City to work at a large printing shop. From there he went to Philadelphia and on to Washington, D. During his time in the East, which lasted until early , he read widely and took in the sights of these cities. He was acquiring, if not a worldly air, at least a broader perspective than that offered by his rural background. Orion had moved briefly to Muscatine, Iowa, with their mother, where he had established the Muscatine Journal before relocating to Keokuk , Iowa , and opening a printing shop there. Sam Clemens joined his brother in Keokuk in and was a partner in the business for a little over a year, but he then moved to Cincinnati , Ohio , to work as a typesetter. Still restless and ambitious, he booked passage in on a steamboat bound for New Orleans , Louisiana, planning to find his fortune in South America. Instead, he saw a more immediate opportunity and persuaded the accomplished riverboat captain Horace Bixby to take him on as an apprentice. Because Bixby was an exceptional pilot and had a license to navigate the Missouri River and the upper as well as the lower Mississippi, lucrative opportunities several times took him upstream. On those occasions, Clemens was transferred to other veteran pilots and thereby learned the profession more quickly and thoroughly than he might have otherwise. Not only did a pilot receive good wages and enjoy universal respect, but he was absolutely free and self-sufficient: He met and fell in love with Laura Wright, eight years his junior. The courtship dissolved in a misunderstanding, but she remained the remembered sweetheart of his youth. He also arranged a job for his younger brother Henry on the riverboat Pennsylvania. The boilers exploded, however, and Henry was fatally injured. Clemens was not on board when the accident occurred, but he blamed himself for the tragedy. His experience as a cub and then as a full-fledged pilot gave him a sense of discipline and direction he might never have acquired elsewhere. Before this period his had been a directionless knockabout life; afterward he had a sense of determined possibility. He continued to write occasional pieces throughout these years and, in one satirical sketch, *River Intelligence* , lampooned the self-important senior pilot Isaiah Sellers, whose observations of the Mississippi were published in a New Orleans newspaper. The Civil War severely curtailed river traffic, and, fearing that he might be impressed as a Union gunboat pilot, Clemens brought his years on the river to a halt a mere two years after he had acquired his license. He returned to Hannibal, where he joined the prosecessionist Marion Rangers, a ragtag lot of about a dozen men. After only two uneventful weeks, during which the soldiers mostly retreated from Union troops rumoured to be in the vicinity, the group disbanded. A few of the men joined other Confederate units, and the rest, along with Clemens, scattered. Twain would recall this experience, a bit fuzzily and with some fictional embellishments, in *The Private History of the Campaign That Failed* . In that memoir he extenuated his history as a deserter on the grounds that he was not made for soldiering. Like the fictional Huckleberry Finn , whose narrative he was to publish in , Clemens then lit out for the territory. Clemens submitted several letters to the *Virginia City Territorial Enterprise* , and these attracted the attention of the editor, Joseph Goodman, who offered him a salaried job as a reporter. He was again embarked on an apprenticeship, in the hearty company of a group of writers sometimes called the Sagebrush Bohemians, and again he succeeded. The Nevada Territory was a rambunctious and violent place during the boom years of the Comstock Lode , from its discovery in to its peak production in the late s. Nearby Virginia City was known for its gambling and dance halls, its breweries and whiskey mills, its murders, riots, and political corruption. Years later Twain recalled the town in a public lecture: He was often indignant and prone to expose fraud and corruption when he found them. This was a dangerous indulgence, for violent retribution was not uncommon. In February Clemens covered the legislative session in Carson City and wrote three letters for the *Enterprise*. Origins of the name Mark Twain. It would be

## DOWNLOAD PDF S. E. MOFFETT. MARK TWAIN: A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

several years before this pen name would acquire the firmness of a full-fledged literary persona, however. Some of his articles and sketches had appeared in New York papers, and he became the Nevada correspondent for the San Francisco Morning Call. In 1864, after challenging the editor of a rival newspaper to a duel and then fearing the legal consequences for this indiscretion, he left Virginia City for San Francisco and became a full-time reporter for the Call. Finding that work tiresome, he began contributing to the Golden Era and the new literary magazine the Californian, edited by Bret Harte. After he published an article expressing his fiery indignation at police corruption in San Francisco, and after a man with whom he associated was arrested in a brawl, Clemens decided it prudent to leave the city for a time. He went to the Tuolumne foothills to do some mining. It was there that he heard the story of a jumping frog. The story was widely known, but it was new to Clemens, and he took notes for a literary representation of the tale. When the humorist Artemus Ward invited him to contribute something for a book of humorous sketches, Clemens decided to write up the story. Jim Smiley and His Jumping Frog arrived too late to be included in the volume, but it was published in the New York Saturday Press in November and was subsequently reprinted throughout the country. Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. He continued to write for newspapers, traveling to Hawaii for the Sacramento Union and also writing for New York newspapers, but he apparently wanted to become something more than a journalist. He went on his first lecture tour, speaking mostly on the Sandwich Islands Hawaii in 1866. It was a success, and for the rest of his life, though he found touring grueling, he knew he could take to the lecture platform when he needed money. Meanwhile, he tried, unsuccessfully, to publish a book made up of his letters from Hawaii. He had ambitions to enlarge his reputation and his audience, and the announcement of a transatlantic excursion to Europe and the Holy Land provided him with just such an opportunity. The Alta paid the substantial fare in exchange for some 50 letters he would write concerning the trip. Eventually his account of the voyage was published as *The Innocents Abroad*. It was a great success. Twain, MarkMark Twain in Constantinople, c. 1867. He met on the boat a young man named Charlie Langdon, who invited Clemens to dine with his family in New York and introduced him to his sister Olivia; the writer fell in love with her. They were married in February 1868. A son, Langdon, was born in November 1868, but the boy was frail and would die of diphtheria less than two years later. Clemens came to dislike Buffalo and hoped that he and his family might move to the Nook Farm area of Hartford, Connecticut. In the meantime, he worked hard on a book about his experiences in the West.

## DOWNLOAD PDF S. E. MOFFETT. MARK TWAIN: A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

### Chapter 5 : Mark Twain Uniform Editions - Ch 3

*Moffett's sketch was to be printed at the end of the final volume of the Autographed Edition of Mark Twain's writings, ensuring a wide audience. Then Mark Twain decided his nephew should sell the sketch to a magazine—McClure's, perhaps.*

Louis in retirement, for there was a pressing war demand for Mississippi pilots, then went up to Hannibal to visit old friends. Some of the volunteers did not know for a time which invader they intended to drive from Missouri soil, and more than one company in the beginning was made up of young fellows whose chief ambition was to have a lark regardless as to which cause they might eventually espouse. Dennis company, and one or two others. Most of them were small private affairs, usually composed of about half-and-half Union and Confederate men, who knew almost nothing of the questions or conditions, and disbanded in a brief time, to attach themselves to the regular service according as they developed convictions. The general idea of these companies was a little camping-out expedition and a good time. One such company one morning received unexpected reinforcements. They saw the approach of the recruits, and, remarking how well drilled the new arrivals seemed to be, mistook them for the enemy and fled. They organized secretly, for the Union militia was likely to come over from Illinois any time and look up any suspicious armies that made an open demonstration. An army might lose enthusiasm and prestige if it spent a night or two in the calaboose. Then, on the evening before marching away, they stealthily called on their sweethearts—those who had them did, and the others pretended sweethearts for the occasion—and when it was dark and mysterious they said good-by and suggested that maybe those girls would never see them again. And as always happens in such a case, some of them were in earnest, and two or three of the little group that slipped away that night never did come back, and somewhere sleep in unmarked graves. So the girls stood there and watched the soldiers march up Bear Creek Hill and disappear among the trees. The army had a good enough time that night, marching through the brush and vines toward New London, though this sort of thing grew rather monotonous by morning. Colonel Ralls, of Ralls County, however, received them cordially and made life happier for them with a good breakfast and some encouraging words. He was authorized to administer the oath of office, he said, and he proceeded to do it, and made them a speech besides; also he sent out notice to some of the neighbors—to Col. Bill Splawn, Farmer Nuck Matson, and others—that the community had an army on its hands and perhaps ought to do something for it. This brought in a number of contributions, provisions, paraphernalia, and certain superfluous horses and mules, which converted the battalion into a cavalry, and made it possible for it to move on to the front without further delay. Samuel Clemens, mounted on a small yellow mule whose tail had been trimmed down to a tassel at the end in a style that suggested his name, Paint Brush, upholstered and supplemented with an extra pair of cowskin boots, a pair of gray blankets, a home-made quilt, frying-pan, a carpet sack, a small valise, an overcoat, an old-fashioned Kentucky rifle, twenty yards of rope, and an umbrella, was a representative unit of the brigade. The proper thing for an army loaded like that was to go into camp, and they did it. They went over on Salt River, near Florida, and camped not far from a farm-house with a big log stable; the latter they used as headquarters. Somebody suggested that when they went into battle they ought to have short hair, so that in a hand-to-hand conflict the enemy could not get hold of it. Tom Lyon found a pair of sheep-shears in the stable and acted as barber. They were not very sharp shears, but the army stood the torture for glory in the field, and a group of little darkies collected from the farm-house to enjoy the performance. The army then elected its officers. William Ely was chosen captain, with Asa Glasscock as first lieutenant. Samuel Clemens was then voted second lieutenant, and there were sergeants and orderlies. There were only three privates when the election was over, and these could not be distinguished by their department. There was scarcely any discipline in this army. Then it set in to rain. It rained by day and it rained by night. Salt River rose until it was bank full and overflowed the bottoms. Twice there was a false night alarm of the enemy approaching, and the battalion went slopping through the mud and

## DOWNLOAD PDF S. E. MOFFETT. MARK TWAIN: A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

brush into the dark, picking out the best way to retreat, plodding miserably back to camp when the alarm was over. Once they fired a volley at a row of mullen stalks, waving on the brow of a hill, and once a picket shot at his own horse that had got loose and had wandered toward him in the dusk. The rank and file did not care for picket duty. Sam Bowen "ordered by Lieutenant Clemens to go on guard one afternoon" denounced his superior and had to be threatened with court-martial and death. Sam went finally, but he sat in a hot open place and swore at the battalion and the war in general, and finally went to sleep in the broiling sun. These things began to tell on patriotism. Presently Lieutenant Clemens developed a boil, and was obliged to make himself comfortable with some hay in a horse-trough, where he lay most of the day, violently denouncing the war and the fools that invented it. Most of them knew Tom Harris, and they regarded his neglect of them as perfidy. They broke camp without further ceremony. Grimes was mounted on a big horse, and when he started it was necessary for Paint Brush to follow. Arriving at the farther bank, Grimes looked around, and was horrified to see that the end of the rope led down in the water with no horse and rider in view. He spurred up the bank, and the hat of Lieutenant Clemens and the ears of Paint Brush appeared. They were going now where there was food "real food and plenty of it. Then he begged them, but it was no use. By and by they stopped at a farm-house for supplies. A tall, bony woman came to the door: The request seemed to inflame her. You get out of here! When they arrived at Col. The hungry army camped in the barnyard and crept into the hay-loft to sleep. Lieutenant Clemens suddenly wakened, made a quick rolling movement from the blaze, and rolled out of a big hay-window into the barnyard below. The rest of the army, startled into action, seized the burning hay and pitched it out of the same window. The lieutenant had sprained his ankle when he struck the ground, and his boil was far from well, but when the burning hay descended he forgot his disabilities. Literally and figuratively this was the final straw. With a voice and vigor suited to the urgencies of the case, he made a spring from under the burning stuff, flung off the remnants, and with them his last vestige of interest in the war. The others, now that the fire was, out, seemed to think the incident boisterously amusing. Whereupon the lieutenant rose up and told them, collectively and individually, what he thought of them; also he spoke of the war and the Confederacy, and of the human race at large. They helped him in, then, for his ankle was swelling badly. Next morning, when Colonel Splawn had given them a good breakfast, the army set out for New London. His ankle was so painful by that time that Mrs. Matson had him put to bed, where he stayed for several weeks, recovering from the injury and stress of war. A little negro boy was kept on watch for Union detachments "they were passing pretty frequently now" and when one came in sight the lieutenant was secluded until the danger passed. When he was able to travel, he had had enough of war and the Confederacy. He decided to visit Orion in Keokuk. Orion was a Union abolitionist and might lead him to mend his doctrines. As for the rest of the army, it was no longer a unit in the field. Its members had drifted this way and that, some to return to their occupations, some to continue in the trade of war. Sam Bowen is said to have been caught by the Federal troops and put to sawing wood in the stockade at Hannibal. Grimes became a noted Confederate spy and is still among those who have lived to furnish the details here set down. Properly officered and disciplined, that detachment would have made as brave soldiers as any. Military effectiveness is a matter of leaders and tactics. He gives us a delicious account, even if it does not strikingly resemble the occurrence. The story might have been still better if he had not introduced the shooting of the soldier in the dark. The incident was invented, of course, to present the real horror of war, but it seems incongruous in this burlesque campaign, and, to some extent at least, it missed fire in its intention. Mark Twain had but one nephew: Moffett, whose Biographical Sketch vol.

## DOWNLOAD PDF S. E. MOFFETT. MARK TWAIN: A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

### Chapter 6 : Mark Twain Project :: Biographies :: Webster, Annie E. Moffett

21 [In a book recently published, Mark Twain's "nephew" is quoted as authority for the statement that Mark Twain was detailed for river duty, captured, and paroled, captured again, and confined in a tobacco-warehouse in St. Louis, etc. Mark Twain had but one nephew: Samuel E. Moffett, whose *Biographical Sketch* (vol. xxii, Mark Twain's.

For the distinctive hair, the rolling gait, the deliberate drawl. His writings seemed almost secondary, yet their very uniqueness guaranteed literary permanence. It was in Vienna that a New York reporter arrived for an interview while Mark Twain was writing in bed. Then, according to Albert Bigelow Paine, the visitor heard Mrs. Clemens. It must be written by nephew Samuel E. Probably Livy needed these ancestral details to create a socially acceptable Clemens family. It appeared there in October Abbot, editor of *The Pilgrim*, a Michigan monthly, wrote S. This Mark Twain manuscript prompted a lengthy correspondence, especially about illustrations. Abbot wanted Moffett to send recent pictures of his uncle. On October 16, , she was back at her Riverdale home, recuperating from an illness incurred at York Harbor. Soon after, Twain wrote Twichell: It will be a long time before she is on her feet again. He loved fun, of course, and the Tom Sawyer side of his character would crop up with or without provocation, but his mind was filled with plans for solid work, and he expounded them with a shrewd business sense in which there was nothing frivolous. They showed how the people of a slaveholding community—the slaves, the slaveholders, and the poor whites—actually felt and acted. They did not caricature; they portrayed. They did not denounce; they explained. And Moffett had just explained that it was because Twain was such a man of honor that he was repaying the full amount, not just the percentage required by the business world. There, on June 5th, , Olivia Langdon Clemens died. Some of your predictions seem far-fetched—especially those concerning Tom and Huck. Mark Twain may have been overconfident about the *Autobiography*, but an earlier message to Howells reveals a supportive Livy. In describing the wonders of autobiographical dictation. Twain wrote in January Clemens is an exacting critic, but I have not talked a sentence yet that she has wanted altered.

## DOWNLOAD PDF S. E. MOFFETT. MARK TWAIN: A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

### Chapter 7 : Mark Twain Project :: Biographies :: Clemens, Jane Lampton

*Annie Moffett was the daughter of SLC's sister, Pamela Clemens, and William A. Moffett. During his years as a Mississippi River apprentice and pilot (), SLC lodged at the Moffett house in St. Louis, where young Annie was his special favorite.*

The manuscript was intended to be the basis for a closing essay for the final volume of a uniform edition of his works that was being prepared by publisher Frank Bliss for the American Publishing Company. According to Mark Twain biographer Justin Kaplan, the manuscript "can be read as a statement about himself by a man who had already in his lifetime become a legend, who continued to manipulate and redefine the symbols of which his legend was based, and who was driven by the need to impose order on a sprawling life which he often felt was without meaning" Kaplan, p. On March 31, Clemens mailed the draft of his autobiography to Frank Bliss with these instructions at the top of the first page: Moffett reworked the essay and titled it "Mark Twain: Owing to the number of unauthorized and largely apocryphal accounts of his life that have appeared in various countries, Mark Twain asked his nephew, Mr. Moffett, to write a sketch of him that should be authentic. The result was the present article, of which Mark Twain wrote, when it was submitted for his opinion, "This biographical sketch suits me entirely -- in simplicity, directness, dignity, lucidity -- in all ways. Walter Bliss died March 16, without disclosing the actual printing numbers. The printing project would have been conducted in secrecy since Harper and Brothers might legally claim ownership of the manuscript. Special printing of the autobiography from the Kevin Mac Donnell collection. Rare book dealer Merle Johnson re-issued about 35 of these copies in wrappers featuring a hand-drawn title page and silk ribbon. Clara is an instance. The Lambtons still possess in England the lands occupied by their ancestors of the same name before the invasion of the Conqueror. The childhood of S. Clemens was spent in the village of Florida, his boyhood in the town of Hannibal, on the Mississippi. Before he was thirteen he had been rescued in a substantially drown condition nine times -- three times from the Mississippi and six times from Bear Creek. They presently removed to Jamestown, Tennessee; later to Florida, Mo. Clemens served as a magistrate some years and was then elected County Judge, but died before he was invested with the office. He returned to the West and lived in St. Louis, Muscatine, and Keokuk until ; he spent the next four years on the river between St. Louis and New Orleans, in the pilot house. Every day on the trip a blockade was closed by the boat, and the batteries at Jefferson Barracks below St. Louis , fired two shots through her chimneys the last night of the voyage. He resigned, after two weeks service in the field, explaining that he was "incapacitated by fatigue" through persistent retreating; became private secretary to his brother, who had been appointed Secretary of the new Territory of Nevada, and crossed the plains with him in the overland coach-an eighteen day and night trip. After a year spent in the silver mines of the Humboldt and Esmeralda regions he became local editor of the "Territorial Enterprise," at Virginia, Nevada, and also legislative correspondent for that paper from Carson City, the capital. He wrote a weekly letter to the paper; it appeared Sundays, and on Mondays the legislative proceedings were obstructed by the complaints of members, as a result. They rose to questions of privilege and answered the criticisms of the correspondent with bitterness, customarily describing him with elaborate and uncomplimentary phrases, for lack of a briefer way. Dueling was in that day a custom there -- a temporary one. Mark Twain and Mr. Laird, editor of the Virginia "Union," got into a newspaper quarrel and a duel was appointed for dawn in a mountain gorge outside the town. Neither man was capable with a pistol; but this did not appear on the field, for an accident caused Mr. Laird to withdraw and apologise. The accident was this. The seconds of both parties were practicing their men in neighboring gorges with a concealing ridge between. Laird was making fairly good practice, but Mark Twain was hitting nothing. Just then the adverse , party came over the ridge to compare notes, and when they saw the dead bird and learned the distance, they were interested. They drew aside and consulted, then returned and made a formal apology and the duel was "off. The noise of the proposed duel had reached the capital, eighteen miles distant. Governor North was very angry

## DOWNLOAD PDF S. E. MOFFETT. MARK TWAIN: A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

and gave orders for the arrest of all concerned in the preliminaries of the duel; he said he would make an example that would be remembered. But a friend of the duelists got wind of the matter and outrode the officers of the law, arriving in time to hurry the parties over the frontier into California and save them from well-earned punishment. Mark Twain took service of the San Francisco "Morning Call" as city editor, and held the place a couple of years; then spent three months in the "pocket" mines of Calaveras County at Jackass Gulch, but found no pockets. He returned to San Francisco and wrote letters to the Virginia "Enterprise" for a while, and was then sent to the Sandwich Islands by the Sacramento "Union" to write about the sugar interest. It was the only full account that went to California, and the "Union" paid Mark Twain ten-fold the current rates for it. The sale reached , copies in the first year, and doubled it later. In he entered the lecture field and traversed the eastern and western states. Remained in the field four years. In the beginning of February, , he was married to Miss Olivia L. Langdon, and took up his residence in Buffalo, N. In the following November a son Langdon was born to him. In October he removed to Hartford, Conn. In Susan Olivia Clemens was born. In the family spent some months in England and Scotland; Mark Twain lectured a few weeks in London. In the succeeding years various books were written In Clara Langdon Clemens was born. In the family went to Europe and spent eighteen months. Jean Clemens born, In Mark Twain financed the publishing house of Charles L. Its first issue was the Memoirs of General Grant, which achieved a sale of more than , volumes. In Mark Twain spent a large sum of money on a type-setting machine which was a failure. The money was all lost. The publishing house was incapably conducted, and wasted all the money that came into its hands. In Mark Twain, with his wife and second daughter, made a lecturing tour around the world, wrote "Following the Equator," and paid off the debts. Near the close of this absence of thirteen months, the eldest daughter, who had remained, at home, died, aged twenty-four years. The years of were spent by the family in England, Switzerland and Austria. Mark Twain was present in the Austrian Reichsrath on the memorable occasion when the House was invaded by sixty policemen and sixteen refractory Members dragged roughly out of it. According to bibliographer Jacob Blanck, "this is a superb example of the artificial rarity-first edition" Blanck, p. Bibliography of American Literature, Vol. Yale University Press, Clemens and Mark Twain. Simon and Schuster, Personal correspondence, 17 April

## DOWNLOAD PDF S. E. MOFFETT. MARK TWAIN: A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

### Chapter 8 : Mark Twain: A Biography, by Albert Bigelow Paine : CHAPTER XXX

*Note: Citations are based on reference standards. However, formatting rules can vary widely between applications and fields of interest or study. The specific requirements or preferences of your reviewing publisher, classroom teacher, institution or organization should be applied.*

He had been little heard of up to that time, but since then we have never ceased to hear of him; we have never ceased to hear of him at stated, unfailing intervals. His was a most remarkable career, and I have thought that its history would make a valuable addition to our biographical literature. Therefore, I have carefully collated the materials for such a work, from authentic sources, and here present them to the public. I have rigidly excluded from these pages everything of a doubtful character, with the object in view of introducing my work into the schools for the instruction of the youth of my country. The name of the famous body-servant of General Washington was George. After serving his illustrious master faithfully for half a century, and enjoying throughout his long term his high regard and confidence, it became his sorrowful duty at last to lay that beloved master to rest in his peaceful grave by the Potomac. Ten years afterward-- in full of years and honors, he died himself, mourned by all who knew him. George, the favorite body-servant of the lamented Washington, died in Richmond, Va. His intellect was unimpaired, and his memory tenacious, up to within a few minutes of his decease. He was present at the second installation of Washington as President, and also at his funeral, and distinctly remembered all the prominent incidents connected with those noted events. From this period we hear no more of the favorite body-servant of General Washington until May, , at which time he died again. A Philadelphia paper thus speaks of the sad occurrence: Up to within a few hours of his dissolution he was in full possession of all his faculties, and could distinctly recollect the second installation of Washington, his death and burial, the surrender of Cornwallis, the battle of Trenton, the griefs and hardships of Valley Forge, etc. Deceased was followed to the grave by the entire population of Macon. On the Fourth of July, , and also of and , the subject of this sketch was exhibited in great state upon the rostrum of the orator of the day, and in November of he died again. John Leavenworth in this city, at the venerable age of 95 years. He was in the full possession of his faculties up to the hour of his death, and distinctly recollected the first and second installations and death of President Washington, the surrender of Cornwallis, the battles of Trenton and Monmouth, the sufferings of the patriot army at Valley Forge, the proclamation of the Declaration of Independence, the speech of Patrick Henry in the Virginia House of Delegates, and many other old-time reminiscences of stirring interest. Few white men die lamented as was this aged negro. The funeral was very largely attended. But in the fall of he died again. The California papers thus speak of the event: His memory, which did not fail him till the last, was a wonderful storehouse of interesting reminiscences. George was greatly respected in Dutch Flat, and it is estimated that there were 10, people present at his funeral. The last time the subject of this sketch died was in June, ; and until we learn the contrary, it is just to presume that he died permanently this time. The Michigan papers thus refer to the sorrowful event: He died greatly respected, and was followed to the grave by a vast concourse of people. The faithful old servant is gone! We shall never see him more until he turns up again. He has closed his long and splendid career of dissolution, for the present, and sleeps peacefully, as only they sleep who have earned their rest. He was in all respects a remarkable man. He held his age better than any celebrity that has figured in history; and the longer he lived the stronger and longer his memory grew. If he lives to die again, he will distinctly recollect the discovery of America. One fault I find in all the notices of his death I have quoted, and this ought to be correct. In them he uniformly and impartially died at the age of This could not have been. He might have done that once, or maybe twice, but he could not have continued it indefinitely. Allowing that when he first died, he died at the age of 95, he was years old when he died last, in But his age did not keep pace with his recollections. When he died the last time, he distinctly remembered the landing of the Pilgrims, which took place in He must have been about twenty years old when he witnessed that event, wherefore it is safe to assert that the body-servant of General

## **DOWNLOAD PDF S. E. MOFFETT. MARK TWAIN: A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.**

Washington was in the neighborhood of two hundred and sixty or seventy years old when he departed this life finally. Having waited a proper length of time, to see if the subject of his sketch had gone from us reliably and irrevocably, I now publish his biography with confidence, and respectfully offer it to a mourning nation. This makes six times that he is known to have died, and always in a new place. This well-meaning but misguided negro has not put six different communities to the expense of burying him in state, and has swindled tens of thousands of people into following him to the grave under the delusion that a select and peculiar distinction was being conferred upon them. Get started by clicking the "Add" button.

**Chapter 9 : Short Stories: General Washington's Negro Body-Servant by Mark Twain**

(p) Samuel E. Moffett - *Mark Twain: A Biographical Sketch* (p) William Allen White - *Much Pomp and Several Circumstances* (p) Ray Stannard Baker - *The Racing Yacht: Its Points and its Paces*.

He was the son of Elisha Bliss, Jr. Frank later became president of the company which specialized in subscription book publishing. Sales were conducted by corps of men and women who traveled door-to-door throughout the country taking orders for books to be delivered at a later date. Bliss received the manuscript for *Following the Equator* in May and published it with elaborate illustrations in November. He was then in a position to focus on the uniform edition. Bliss Explains His Plan Producing the uniform edition would require the production of new printing plates. A handful of earlier volumes of works which had been issued in elaborately illustrated subscription volumes would need to be divided into two volumes to make books of uniform size. Clemens would have an opportunity to correct and revise his old first editions -- a task in which he ultimately took little interest. Artists would be hired to provide new illustrations for some of the earlier works. Door-to-door booksellers would canvass the country taking orders. And amid all the logistics of compiling the older works into a uniform set, Clemens continued to write new material. Arrangements would have to be made and contracts negotiated to incorporate the new material into the uniform edition as it became available after an agreeable length of time. In a letter dated 20 April, Frank Bliss wrote Henry Rogers laying out his plans and expectations for the uniform edition: We have spent much time and effort in working up an interest in the set and we now begin to get a glimmer of what is coming in the future; I would not undertake to estimate the amount of business that is likely to be done. As an instance, however, of what is in hand I will say that we have now a memoranda contract from one agency alone to take of the "Mark Twain" works, as follows: Now there are quite a number of different agencies to be supplied and while this instance, perhaps, is likely to be the largest, yet, if we assume for all the others the very moderate figures of doubling the above amount, but which we think is small, we should have the pleasant result of, volumes. The plan is to start in with the highest priced edition first, in order to market it before following with the lower priced ones, and in that way work off as many as possible of the expensive editions. Clemens had briefly contemplated handling the sales for the higher priced edition himself, effectively bypassing Frank Bliss and his middlemen. Bliss warned Rogers in the same letter: Now, however, it is quite plain to be seen that it would be a very grave mistake for him to undertake to do anything of the sort. In the first place I do not believe that he would succeed in selling very many sets from personal efforts. He might easily place a few, but I imagine that he would find it very distasteful when he had to settle down to asking people to buy the books. He would not like it Leary, p. The prices Bliss projected for the uniform edition would place it out of reach of the average income of most citizens. For the time being, he apparently dropped the idea of handling the sales of the higher priced books himself. End of Bankruptcy By March, Clemens had paid almost all of the creditors connected with the Webster and Company business failure with proceeds from his around-the-world lecture tour, sales of *Following the Equator* and investment strategies led by Henry Rogers. How much Rogers may have personally contributed from his own fortune to bail out Clemens may never be known. But rumors circulated that Rogers may have been more involved than just financial advising. The Barrow family of Skaneateles, New York were one of the last group of creditors to be paid. On 12 April Clemens responded to a letter from attorney George Barrow: Rogers is paying them out of his own pocket. Rogers eventually settled the claims with the Barrow family but the final details of the settlement are unknown and no letters from Barrow to Clemens have been recovered. When Clemens looked at the projected profits from a uniform edition of his works, he saw those dollars as a restoration of his own fortune. Clemens Wants a British Edition Added to the Plan Clemens was again full of enthusiastic investment strategies of his own. On 10 June and still living abroad, he wrote to Rogers from Kaltenleutgeben, Austria: I would like Bliss to engage to furnish and ship to Chatto a de luxe edition at about cost. As I have to pay, not Chatto he is merely my agent I want Bliss to take

## DOWNLOAD PDF S. E. MOFFETT. MARK TWAIN: A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

his order from Chatto, as only Chatto and not I, will know how many sets he will want and when. He is merely under contract to be my agent and take a 10 p. I wonder what has wakened him up! I want him to pull his Klondyke in and materialize it, for I want to be able to come and die at home. Funerals are too expensive here for my means Leary, p. As the time drew nearer for release of the edition, Clemens would continue working to implement plans to tap into the British market. Clemens Agonizes Over an Introduction and His Biographical Sketch Frank Bliss asked Clemens to write an introduction to the uniform edition that would be used in the first volume. In a letter dated 23 October to Clemens, Howells wrote: You are the greatest man of your sort that ever lived, and there is no use saying anything else. I would have liked to say so in a sort of biographical and critical essay about you for the new edition of your books which Bliss is going to get out, but he had not the courage to pay what I asked for it, -- fifteen hundred dollars, -- and he wanted something less in quantity than I was willing to do; so the thing is off Smith and Gibson, p. In an unmailed letter to Henry Rogers dated 17 November, Clemens, who was in Vienna and probably unaware that Howells had declined to write the introduction due to price haggling, was still agonizing over the project. I put in 5 days on an Introduction. I had pretty good hopes of it -- also some suspicions. After the finish, the hopes retired and the suspicions had a walkover. I was totally unsatisfied, and tore up the MS. By George, if Bliss could get an Introduction from Howells, that would be a thing worth reading! That same day Clemens wrote Frank Bliss: I put in 5 days on 50 pages of Introduction, and then put it in the fire. An author cannot successfully write about his own books nor a mother about her own children -- nothing but a poorly-concealed parade of silly vanities results. No one can do the job creditably but an outsider. No one can do it best for me but Howells or Brander Matthews. The 3 pages of Introduction which I enclose are satisfactory to me. They do not exhibit me turning handsprings in my shirt-tail. I gave him only 2 stickfuls. I am obliged to say one thing for him, though -- he is going to make a very handsome edition out of that Uniform, very; and moreover, he is working away with an energy which reminds me of his sainted father, who is now in hell. Energy has not been a specialty with him heretofore. But I have it privately from his hand that he has 8 general agents who will buy and pay for 20, sets, volumes and then do their own canvassing and collecting. I hope he will not be disappointed -- not chiefly for his own sake -- I could use my half of that swag to advantage" Smith and Gibson, p. In March Clemens wrote a fourteen page manuscript for a short autobiography of himself in the third person voice. According to Mark Twain biographer Justin Kaplan, the manuscript "can be read as a statement about himself by a man who had already in his lifetime become a legend, who continued to manipulate and redefine the symbols of which his legend was based, and who was driven by the need to impose order on a sprawling life which he often felt was without meaning" Kaplan, p. On March 31, Clemens mailed the draft of his autobiography to Frank Bliss with these instructions at the top of the first page: Clemens wishes you to ask Sam Moffett, my nephew editor of the New York Journal to write this biographical sketch from these notes and then she would like to see it before it is printed. On 12 May Clemens again wrote Howells suggesting that he also provide an introduction to the final volume of the edition: When Bliss engaged Brander I took it for granted that he had not been able to get you and had therefore followed instructions and got Brander. It was through you that I found out why he had commissioned Brander; he did not reveal the reason himself. If I had been there I should have made even his publisher-soul understand that there are honors which are above the reach of computation in dollars -- honors of that value at least to one of the partners in the Uniform -- and that also commercially he was meditating a mistake -- a mistake insuring damage for both partners. Damn these human beings; if I had invented them I would go hide my head in a bag. Could you waive rank and let it sum up, as it were, and say the last word -- as a preface to the closing volume? Do not be offended at the suggestion; I could not make it if your rank were not supreme -- if you were not Douglas and above the salt no matter where the salt might be Smith and Gibson, p. Howells did not write a preface for the final volume. Owing to the number of unauthorized and largely apocryphal accounts of his life that have appeared in various countries, Mark Twain asked his nephew, Mr. Moffett, to write a sketch of him that should be authentic. The result was the present article, of which Mark Twain wrote, when it was submitted for his opinion, "This biographical sketch suits me

## DOWNLOAD PDF S. E. MOFFETT. MARK TWAIN: A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

entirely -- in simplicity, directness, dignity, lucidity -- in all ways. Some additional copies were printed by rare book dealer Merle Johnson probably in No more than 75 total copies are thought to have been published and distributed under the titles Samuel Langhorne Clemens and Mark by Mark. According to bibliographer Jacob Blanck, "this is a superb example of the artificial rarity-first edition" Blanck, p. Clemens did sign his preface which appeared in Volume 1. Prefaces wear many disguises, call themselves by various names, and pretend to come on various businesses, but I think that upon examination we are quite sure to find that their errand is always the same: This often insures brevity. Upon these terms, if there is nothing to explain or nothing worth the explanation, there is no occasion for a Preface; there is nothing for it to do -- except to explain its own presence, apologize for its intrusion. That is what this present Preface does. When the books in this collection appeared in print originally, most of them had Prefaces which furnished reasons for publication. Those Introductions will be found in their places, and need not be repeated here. The jurisdiction of the present Preface is restricted to furnishing reasons for the publication of the Collection as a whole. This is not easy to do. Aside from the ordinary commercial reasons I find none that I can offer with dignity. I cannot say without immodesty that the books have merit; I cannot say without immodesty that the public want a Uniform Edition; I cannot say without immodesty that a Uniform Edition will turn the nation toward high ideals and elevated thought; I cannot say without immodesty that a Uniform Edition will eradicate crime. Though I think it will. I find no reason which I can offer without immodesty except the rather poor one that I should like to see a Uniform Edition myself. It is nothing; a cat could say it about her kittens. Still, I believe I will stand upon that. I have to have a Preface and a reason, by law of custom, and the reason which I am putting forward is at least without offense. However, evidence indicates that book salesmen were already out trying to make subscription sales.