

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid RG 998.527

Manuscript Collections

Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum Collection

Abstract: Digital scans of photographs and maps, 1842-c1912. The photos were taken of author Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens), his boyhood home in Hannibal, MO, and other related sites. The maps are plats of Hannibal and one regional central U.S. map.

Extent: 1.01 GB.

Record Description: TIF scans of glass plate photographs and paper maps.

Alternative Formats: JPG.

Location: Missouri State Archives.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions: No special restrictions.

Publication Restrictions: Copyright is in the public domain. Items reproduced for online or physical publication should carry the credit line: Courtesy of the Missouri State Archives.

Preferred Citation: [Item description], [Date]; [Image Number]; [Series]; Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum Collection, Record Group 998.527; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Donation with deed of gift. Accession numbers 2021-0099, 2021-0153 and 2024-0199.

Processing Information: Processing completed by Erika Woehlk on 12/05/2024.

Historical and Biographical Notes

Samuel Langhorne Clemens (1835-1910), better known by his pen name of Mark Twain, was a Missouri-born writer known for his humor and ability to capture everyday life in America. His most famous works are *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, both considered classic American novels. Twain was born in Florida, MO, then moved to Hannibal at a young age. *Sawyer* and *Finn* draw on his childhood experiences in Hannibal.

Additional Descriptive Information

Other Finding Aids

Additional information on the maps can be found in the general Oversized Items spreadsheet, available in-house.

Additional information on the photographs can be found in an Excel spreadsheet appended to the end of this finding aid.

Related Material

[Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum](#) official website.

[Mark Twain Zephyr Image Collection](#) from the Hannibal Free Public Library on Missouri Digital Heritage.

[Marion County Atlas \(1875\)](#) from the Hannibal Free Public Library.

[Missouri County Plat Books](#) on Missouri Digital Heritage.

[Missouri Plat Books, Circa 1930](#) on Missouri Digital Heritage.

RG005 SOS Publications Non-Portrait Collection has a [print copy of the Tomlinson photo](#) of Twain in front of his Hannibal home.

Series

The records are organized into the following series:

Maps, 1842-1859

Photographs, c1890-c1912

Maps, 1842-1859

Extent: 4 maps, 801 MB.

Arrangement: Chronological.

Scope and Content

Three maps are early plats of Hannibal, Marion County, Missouri. The fourth is a regional map of Missouri, Arkansas and parts of surrounding states that shows Native American territories in 1842.

Preservation copies of the .tif scans are on DVD in the Vault. Reference copies are available in-house. Reference .jpgs are available on Missouri Digital Heritage here: <https://cdm16795.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16795coll50>.

Container List

See also the Oversized Items Excel spreadsheet referenced on p. 2 for item-by-item descriptions and additional specifications.

| Location | Barcode | Image Name | Contents | Date |
|----------|-------------------|---------------|--|------------|
| | DVD 0004807905 | MS527_011.tif | Map of the States of Missouri and Arkansas, and the Indian Territory | 1842 |
| | DVD 0004807905 | MS527_012.tif | City of Hannibal Marion Co. Missouri | 1854 |
| | DVD 0004807905 | MS527_013.tif | Hannibal | 12/20/1859 |
| | DVD 0004807905 | MS527_014.tif | Town of Hannibal | n.d. |

Photographs, c1890-c1912

Extent: 10 photographs, 200 MB.

Arrangement: Chronological.

Scope and Content

The photographs are remarkable because they are among the few original images taken of famous author and Missourian Samuel Clemens, aka Mark Twain, at his hometown of Hannibal, Missouri. Twain returned to Hannibal briefly in May 1902, and two local photographers – Anna Schnizlein and Herbert Tomlinson – were able to capture him in front of his boyhood home.

Preservation copies of the .tif scans are on DVD in the Vault. Reference copies are available in-house. Reference .jpgs are available on Missouri Digital Heritage here: <https://cdm16795.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16795coll50>.

Container List

See also the MS527 Excel spreadsheet appended to this finding aid for item-by-item descriptions and additional specifications.

| Location | Barcode | Image Name | Contents | Date |
|----------|-------------------|---------------|---|----------------|
| | DVD 0005332426 | MS527_001.tif | Huckleberry Finn's Home, Hannibal, MO | pre-1912 |
| | DVD 0005332426 | MS527_002.tif | Mark Twain's Boyhood Home | 1890-1895 |
| | DVD 0005332426 | MS527_003.tif | Mark Twain at His Boyhood Home | 05/30/1902 |
| | DVD 0005332426 | MS527_004.tif | Mark Twain at His Boyhood Home, Composite | 05/30/1902 |
| | DVD 0005332426 | MS527_005.tif | Mark Twain at his old home, Hannibal [written twice] | 05/30/1902 |
| | DVD 0005332426 | MS527_006.tif | Mark Twain at his old home, Hannibal Mo | 05/30/1902 |
| | DVD 0005332426 | MS527_007.tif | Letter from Samuel Clemens to Anna Schnizlein | 06/02/1902 |
| | DVD 0005332426 | MS527_008.tif | Mark Twain's Boyhood Home | 1902- c1905 |
| | DVD 0005332426 | MS527_009.tif | Mark Twain's Boyhood Home and Street | 1902- c1905 |
| | DVD 0005332426 | MS527_010.tif | Laura Hawkins Frazer | n.d. |

| Barcode | Title | Description | Coverage | Photographer/Publisher | Date | Format | Subject.LCSH | Subject.Local | Image Name | Notes |
|------------|--|--|--|--------------------------------|------------|---|--|--|---------------|--|
| 0005332426 | Huckleberry Finn's Home, Hannibal, MO | This complex of ramshackle structures is the inspiration for the home of Mark Twain's fictional character Huckleberry Finn. In reality, it was occupied by the Blankenship family at the time Twain - real name Samuel Clemens - was growing up in Hannibal. The buildings pictured here were torn down in 1911. | Hannibal, Marion County, Missouri, United States | Tomlinson, Herbert (1867-1917) | pre-1912 | 600dpi .tif scan of a 7"x5" glass plate negative | Historic sites; Dogs; Fictitious characters; | Huckleberry Finn; Huck Finn; Mark Twain; | MS527_001.tif | |
| 0005332426 | Mark Twain's Boyhood Home | This is the earliest-known photograph of the boyhood home of famed author and satirist Samuel Clemens, better known as Mark Twain. There are lace curtains in the windows and a utility pole and tree on the sidewalk outside. A wooden fence goes from the edge of the house. In later years, the fence would be whitewashed in an homage to Twain's character Tom Sawyer. The home, located at 206 Hill Street, is now a museum, as is the building next door. | Hannibal, Marion County, Missouri, United States | Schnizlein, Anna (1869-1939) | 1890-1895 | 600dpi .tif scan of an 8.5"x6.5" glass plate negative | Historic sites; Houses; Homes; | Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum; Clemens, Samuel Langhorne (1835-1910); Mark Twain; | MS527_002.tif | emulsion peeling off back top, very faded |
| 0005332426 | Mark Twain at His Boyhood Home | Author and satirist Samuel Langhorne Clemens, aka Mark Twain, poses outside his boyhood home at 206 Hill Street in Hannibal, Missouri. The sidewalk in front of the home is brick; a little girl photo bombs on the far right. Photographer Herbert Tomlinson sold prints of this photograph for years, and it is perhaps one of the better-known images of Twain, especially in Missouri. | Hannibal, Marion County, Missouri, United States | Tomlinson, Herbert (1867-1917) | 05/30/1902 | 600dpi .tif scan of a 10"x8" glass plate positive | Historic sites; Houses; Homes; Authors; Writers; Celebrities; | Clemens, Samuel Langhorne (1835-1910); Mark Twain; Famous Missourians; | MS527_003.tif | |
| 0005332426 | Mark Twain at His Boyhood Home, Composite | Four identical panels of author and satirist Samuel Langhorne Clemens, aka Mark Twain, outside his boyhood home at 206 Hill Street in Hannibal, Missouri. The sidewalk in front of the home is brick; a little girl photo bombs on the far right. Photographer Herbert Tomlinson sold prints of this photograph for years, and it is perhaps one of the better-known images of Twain, especially in Missouri. | Hannibal, Marion County, Missouri, United States | Tomlinson, Herbert (1867-1917) | 05/30/1902 | 600dpi .tif scan of a 10"x8" glass plate negative | Historic sites; Houses; Homes; Authors; Writers; Celebrities; | Clemens, Samuel Langhorne (1835-1910); Mark Twain; Famous Missourians; | MS527_004.tif | bottom right corner broken off and missing |
| 0005332426 | Mark Twain at his old home, Hannibal [written twice] | At the end of May 1902, author Samuel Clemens, aka Mark Twain, visited his hometown Hannibal, Missouri. During the visit, he stopped at his boyhood home at 206 Hill Street. He is pictured here in a white suit with a crowd gathered around him. Clemens would write the photographer Anna Schnizlein that he preferred her images to those of Herbert Tomlinson who cleared the crowd away and asked Twain to pose alone. (The letter is image 007 in this collection.) There are advertisements for Pyles Pearline and Yeast Foam nailed to the utility pole. | Hannibal, Marion County, Missouri, United States | Schnizlein, Anna (1869-1939) | 05/30/1902 | 600dpi .tif scan of a 6.5"x8.5" glass plate negative | Historic sites; Houses; Homes; Authors; Writers; Celebrities; Crowds; | Clemens, Samuel Langhorne (1835-1910); Mark Twain; Famous Missourians; | MS527_005.tif | faded |
| 0005332426 | Mark Twain at his old home, Hannibal Mo | At the end of May 1902, author Samuel Clemens, aka Mark Twain, visited his hometown Hannibal, Missouri. During the visit, he stopped at his boyhood home at 206 Hill Street. He is pictured here in a white suit with a crowd gathered around him. Nearer the foreground, photographer Herbert Tomlinson can be seen setting up his camera on a tripod. Photographer Anna Schnizlein later received a letter from Clemens stating that he preferred her photographs to Tomlinson's. (The letter is image 007 in this collection). Schnizlein used a Kodak #4 1899 Bullet Special, which is now housed at the Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum. | Hannibal, Marion County, Missouri, United States | Schnizlein, Anna (1869-1939) | 05/30/1902 | 600dpi .tif scan of an 8.5"x6.5" glass plate negative | Historic sites; Houses; Homes; Authors; Writers; Celebrities; Crowds; Photographers; Dogs; | Clemens, Samuel Langhorne (1835-1910); Mark Twain; Famous Missourians; Tomlinson, Herbert (1867-1917); | MS527_006.tif | |

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|------------|--|--|---|---|------------|---|--|--|---------------|---|
| 0005332426 | Letter from Samuel Clemens to Anna Schnizlein | Letter from Samuel L. Clemens (aka Mark Twain) to Miss Schnizlein, Riverdale on the Hudson letterhead. The letter reads, "Dear Miss Schnizlein: The pictures you made are just delightful! & I thank you ever so much for them. I thought the other artist made a large mistake when he drove the people away from the line of fire - in fact I knew it was a mistake. Sincerely Yours, S L. Clemens" Clemens is referring to photographs that Schnizlein and Herbert Tomlinson took of his visit to Hannibal on May 30, where both photographers took images of him at his boyhood home. (See images 003-006 in this collection.) | Hannibal, Marion County, Missouri, United States | Schnizlein, Anna (1869-1939) | 06/02/1902 | 600dpi .tif scan of a 6.5"x8.5" glass plate negative | Correspondence; Letters; | Clemens, Samuel Langhorne (1835-1910); Mark Twain; Schnizlein, Anna (1869-1939); | MS527_007.tif | original letter is housed at the Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum |
| 0005332426 | Mark Twain's Boyhood Home | View of Samuel Clemens's (aka Mark Twain) boyhood home at 206 Hill Street, Hannibal, Missouri. In 1902, the author visited his home where he posed for photographs. At that time, there was no plaque on the home, and a utility pole and large tree were on the sidewalk opposite the wooden fence. In this image, the pole and tree are gone and replaced with a new paved sidewalk. There is a small plaque on the side of the house marking it as a historical site. Today, the home and the structure next to it are the Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum. | Hannibal, Marion County, Missouri, United States | Schnizlein, Anna (1869-1939) | 1902-c1905 | 600dpi .tif scan of an 8.5"x6.5" glass plate negative | Historic sites; Houses; Homes; | Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum; Clemens, Samuel Langhorne (1835-1910); Mark Twain; | MS527_008.tif | very faded |
| 0005332426 | Mark Twain's Boyhood Home and Street | View of the 200 block of Hill Street looking uphill. The nearest white clapboard structure is the boyhood home of author Samuel Clemens, better-known as Mark Twain. This and the structure next door now compose the Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum. A few other houses are also visible. The sidewalk was recently replaced in front of the wooden fence. Today, the fence is whitewashed in an homage to Twain's character Tom Sawyer. | Hannibal, Marion County, Missouri, United States | Schnizlein, Anna (1869-1939) | 1902-c1905 | 600dpi .tif scan of an 8.5"x6.5" glass plate negative | Historic sites; Houses; Homes; | Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum; Clemens, Samuel Langhorne (1835-1910); Mark Twain; | MS527_009.tif | faded, emulsion peeling off bottom right |
| 0005332426 | Laura Hawkins Frazer | Laura Hawkins Frazer, the inspiration for Mark Twain's character Becky Thatcher, poses on Hill Street in front Grant's Drug Store. The Drug Store is across the street from Mark Twain's boyhood home; it is now a museum. | Hannibal, Marion County, Missouri, United States | Schnizlein, Anna (1869-1939) | n.d. | 600dpi .tif scan of an 8.5"x6.5" glass plate negative | Friendship; Historic sites; Fictitious characters; | Frazer, Laura (Hawkins) (1837-1928); Famous Missourians; | MS527_010.tif | photograph of a photograph |
| 0004807905 | Map of the States of Missouri and Arkansas, and the Indian Territory | Compiled from the latest authorities. Shows rivers, counties, towns. Includes inset of steamboat routes. Shows territories for Kickapoos, Konzas, Delawares, Shawnees, Plankashaws, Weas and Peorias, Pawnees, Osages, Cherokees, Kioways, Creeks, Pawnee Picts, Chocktaws, Comanches. | Missouri, Arkansas, parts of Nebraska, Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee, United States | Published by S. Augustus Mitchell, Philadelphia; sold by Thomas, Cowperthwait & Co. No. 253 Market Street | 1842 | 300dpi .tif scan of an 18.25"x22.25" original | Maps; Native Americans; | | MS527_011.tif | |
| 0004807905 | City of Hannibal Marion Co. Missouri | Shows wards, street names, buildings and their owners, acreage and landowners, Bear Creek (old and new channels), Mississippi River, Glasscock's Island. | Hannibal, Marion County, Missouri, United States | Surveyed and published by Hart & Mapother, Civil engineers &c. 140 Pearl St. New York. Lithography by Sarony & Co., New York. | 1854 | 349dpi .tif scan of a 38"x26" original | Maps; Cities and towns--United States--Maps; | City maps; Street maps; | MS527_012.tif | |

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|------------|------------------|---|--|---|------------|--|--|-------------------------|---------------|--|
| 0004847196 | Hannibal | Plat map of Hannibal. This is an 1859 copy of an 1836 original. Shows street names, city blocks, Mississippi River, Bear Creek. | Hannibal, Marion County, Missouri, United States | original 04/16/1836 plat by Stephen Glascock and testimony by Zachariah G. Draper, Justice of the Peace, filed with S. Buckner, Marion County Recorder; this is a true copy of the original as certified by Thos. E. Thompson, Recorder in 1859 | 12/20/1859 | 351dpi .tif scan of an 13.5"x19.75" original | Maps; Cities and towns--United States--Maps; | City maps; Street maps; | MS527_013.tif | |
| 0004847196 | Town of Hannibal | Plat map of Hannibal. Shows street names, city blocks, Mississippi River, Bear Creek, Glasscock's Island. | Hannibal, Marion County, Missouri, United States | E. Dupre's Lith'y, St. Louis, MO | n.d. | 351dpi .tif scan of a 20"x25" original | Maps; Cities and towns--United States--Maps; | City maps; Street maps; | MS527_014.tif | |