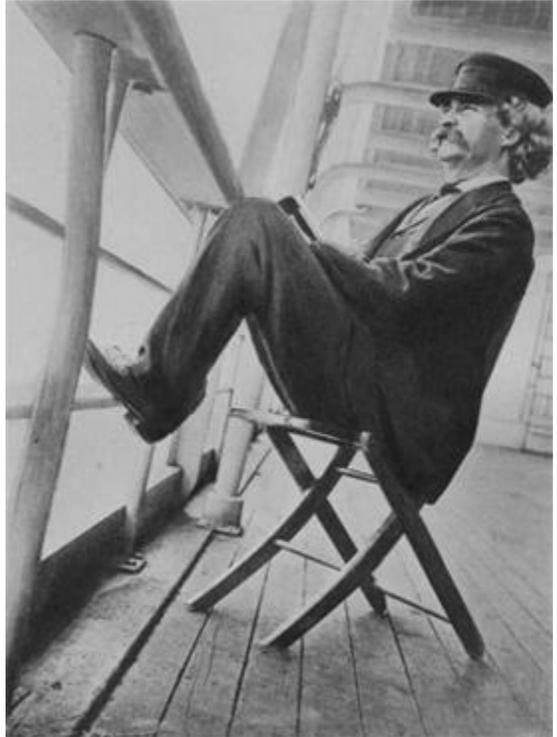


## Mark Twain, Legendary Mississippi River Pilot, Author and Humorist

Samuel Clemens (1835-1910) better known by his pen name, Mark Twain, is regarded internationally as one of America's most renowned authors, humorists, and commentators on American culture. The background of his most famous writings originated with his training and piloting of steamboats along the Mississippi River. He has the distinction of being one of the few American authors whose best selling literary works are included in all three of the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Of the Mississippi River, Twain observes, *The Mississippi River will always have its own way; no engineering skill can persuade it to do otherwise.*

He describes the area of the river that surrounds and includes the port of Dubuque:



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*We move up the river—always through enchanting scenery, there being no other kind on the Upper Mississippi—and pass Moline, a center of vast manufacturing industries; and Clinton and Lyons, great lumber centers; and presently reach Dubuque, which is situated in a rich mineral region. The lead mines are very productive, and of wide extent.*

*We noticed that above Dubuque the water of the Mississippi was olive-green—rich and beautiful and semi-transparent, with the sun on it. Of course the water was nowhere as clear or of as fine a complexion as it is in some other seasons of the year; for now it was at flood stage, and therefore dimmed and blurred by the mud manufactured from caving banks.*

*The majestic bluffs that overlook the river, along through this region, charm one with the grace and variety of their forms, and the soft beauty of their adornment. The steep verdant slope, whose base is at the water's edge is topped by a lofty rampart of broken, turreted rocks, which are exquisitely rich and mellow in color—mainly dark browns and dull greens, but splashed with other tints. And then you have the shining river, winding here and there and yonder, its sweep interrupted at intervals by clusters of wooded islands threaded by silver channels; and you have glimpses of distant villages, asleep upon capes; and of stealthy rafts slipping along in the shade of the forest walls; and of white steamers vanishing around remote points. And it is all as tranquil and reposeful as dreamland, and has nothing this-worldly about it—nothing to hang a fret or a worry upon.*

Mark Twain, *Life on the Mississippi*, Chapter 58

## Thursday, May 26th: Schedule

7:00 Lauds (English) and Mass (English)

7:45 Buses to New Melleray Abbey with breakfast en route

8:30 Fr. Brendan: Greeting from New Melleray (brief tour)

9:15 Terce (English)

9:25 Free time

10:15 Buses to Our Lady of the Mississippi Abbey

10:45 Sr. Nettie: Greetings from Our Lady of the Mississippi

11:50 Buses to riverboat cruise

12:30 Lunch and cruise on the *Spirit of Dubuque* riverboat

3:30 Buses to Clarke

6:00 Dinner (cafeteria)

8:00 Compline (English)

