

Gene Tachy

**Mark Twain
and
Lyndon B. Johnson**

(The Jumping Frog)

by Cyril Clemens

**Mark Twain and
Lyndon B. Johnson**

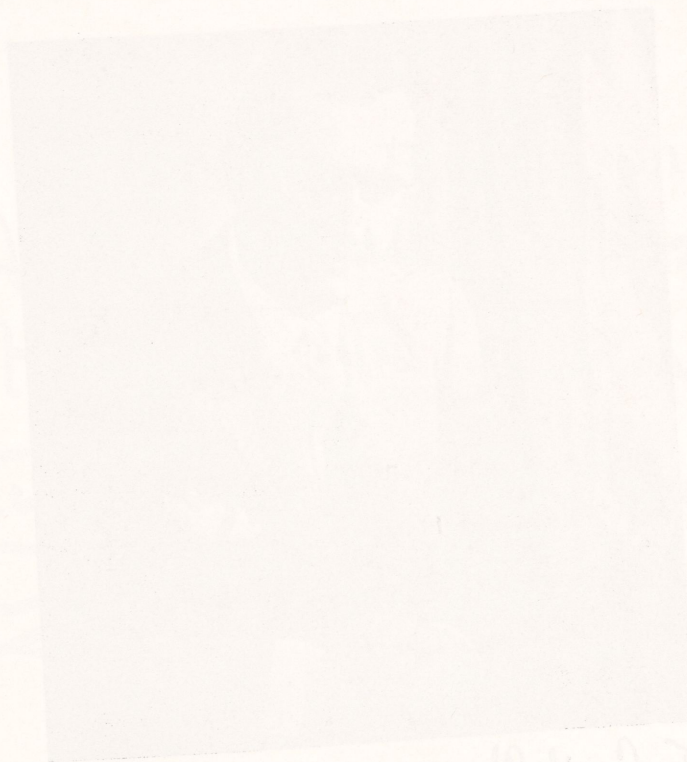
By Cyril Clemens

Mark Twain and Franklin D. Roosevelt

Mark Twain and Harry S. Truman

Mark Twain and Dwight D. Eisenhower

Mark Twain and John F. Kennedy



*Small copy of
original manuscript
by Mark Twain*

MARK TWAIN JOURNAL
1880-1881



To Cyril Clemens
With warm regards
Lyndon B. Johnson

Mark Twain and

Lyndon B. Johnson

Admiral and Mrs
Harold R. Stark

Cyril Clemens

Two Wonderful Americans

Foreword By:

Adlai E. Stevenson

1967

MARK TWAIN JOURNAL
KIRKWOOD, MISSOURI 63122

DEDICATION

To Muriel and Hubert Humphrey
Two Great Americans

As a boy, growing up in the Missouri Valley, I read Mark Twain avidly. Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn are among my oldest friends. Mark Twain's books contain the essence of America: originality, humor, ingenuity, and adventure, as well as some of the best descriptions ever written of life in the American West. In these troublous times, it is important that Mark Twain's qualities be preserved so that we keep our perspective. One cannot turn to Mark Twain too often.

I was very pleased to note, in my recent trip to Europe, that Mark Twain is among the most widely read American authors. . . . Nobody after reading Mark Twain, can fail to appreciate the real spirit of America. Mark Twain, then is not only an author of great stature . . . he is one of our best ambassadors.

Hubert H. Humphrey to Cyril Clemens

FOREWORD

by Adlai E. Stevenson

My grandfather, who was Vice President of the United States during Grover Cleveland's second term, 1893—1897, and had the same name as myself, was often asked how his name was pronounced. Many called him "Ad-Lay" and many "Ad-lie." He was a friend of Mark Twain, and at a banquet somewhere—in Cleveland, I think—Mark Twain said he had resolved once and for all the controversy about the pronunciation. Whereupon he recited the following, he had just composed on the back of a menu:

Lexicographers roar

And philologists bray,

And the best they can do

Is to call him AD-lay.

But at longshoremen's picnics

When accents are high,

And fair Harvard's not present,

They call him Ad-lie!

Adlai E. Stevenson

FOREWORD

by Adlai E. Stevenson

My grandfather, who was Vice President of the United States during Grover Cleveland's second term, told me that he had the same name as myself, and when asked how his name was pronounced, many called him "Adlai" and many "Adley." He was a friend of Mark Twain, and at a banquet somewhere in Cleveland, I think, Mark Twain said he had resolved once and for all the controversy about the pronunciation. Whereupon he recited the following, he had just composed on the back of a menu:

For my grandfather's name
And the fact that he is
Is to call him Adlai.
But at Stevenson's place
Where records are kept,
And the Harvard not present,
They call him Adley.

Adlai E. Stevenson

Like all our Presidents since Rutherford B. Hayes, President Lyndon B. Johnson is an enthusiastic admirer of Mark Twain.

Unlike many of our Presidents, President Johnson did not know Mark Twain personally, for President Johnson was born on August 27th, 1908, and Mark Twain died just two years later, on April 21st, 1910, at the age of 75. But it is certain that if they had been contemporaries they would have met—for they are kin in spirit.

Unlike most Presidents, Franklin D. Roosevelt's favorite Mark Twain book was "A Connecticut Yankee at King Arthur's Court." When this author presented the Mark Twain Gold Medal to him at the White House on December 8th, 1933, President Roosevelt said:

"My favorite book by your great kinsman is the *Connecticut Yankee*—perhaps because I obtained the slogan of my administration from its 13th chapter:

"I was in a country where a right to say how the country should be governed was restricted to six persons in each 1000 of its population."



THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

March 26, 1962

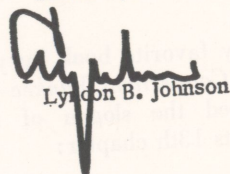
Dear Cyril:

Mark Twain never wrote a story I didn't like -- but I guess that for my favorite, you can list "The Jumping Frog."

Thanks for the map of Texas. I've enjoyed showing it around.

With warmest regards.

Sincerely,


Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Cyril Clemens
Editor
Mark Twain Journal
Kirkwood 22, Missouri

MARK TWAIN AND LYNDON B. JOHNSON

"For the nine hundred and ninety-four to express dissatisfaction with the regnant system and propose to change it, would have made the whole six shudder as one man, it would have been so disloyal, so dishonorable, such putrid black treason."

"So to speak, I was to become a stockholder in a corporation where nine hundred and ninety-four of the members furnished all the money and did all the work, and the other six elected themselves a permanent board of directors and took all the dividends. It seemed to me that what the nine hundred and ninety-four dupes needed was 'A New Deal.'"

Harry S. Truman once told the author:

"I learned to read when I was about four years old and from then on read everything I could get my hands on—histories and encyclopedias, and everything else."

"Before I was 12 I had read everything Mark Twain had published up to that time. I have the complete set of his works, and a lot of other publications of articles which have never been included in his books."

"Nobody," Herbert Hoover wrote the author, "has been so completely American as Mark Twain."

"His portrayal of American life, with the most pungent humor in our history, should make his works required reading by every person who attains to education. It is good that his life and works are kept before our people."

And while commanding the Armies in France, Dwight D. Eisenhower took time off to express his opinion:

"Beginning in early boyhood, I have read virtually everything of Mark Twain's that has been published, and I have always been a great admirer of both the man and his work."

And on the 19th June, 1953, John F. Kennedy:

"Thank you very much for your communication in which you say that I have been elected to an Honorary Membership in the Mark Twain Society."

"I certainly appreciate this honor, as Huck and Tom added much to my boyhood."

Some years later President Kennedy wrote in his own hand:

"Mark Twain brought light into all our lives."

To go back a little, Theodore Roosevelt had

Mark Twain to lunch at the White House on November 27th, 1904. Among those present were Charles Joseph Bonaparte, Secretary of the Navy, and scion of the great Emperor's family; Attorney General Moody; and one Temple Graves, now lost to fame.

Both President Wilson and Mark Twain were fond of visiting Bermuda where they had pleasant meetings on a number of occasions.

And that they actually played golf together is evidenced by an old photograph this author possesses showing the two great Americans setting out for a golf game at the Bermuda Country Club outside the capital, Hamilton. Both men are smiling in high anticipation of a good game.

While he was serving as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, William Howard Taft recalled for this author many incidents of his long friendship with the humorist. One day Justice Taft kindly wrote out a formal tribute:

"Praising Mark Twain is like carrying coals to Newcastle. But I will say that, in my opinion, he was the greatest writer of his age, and he has brought more joy and happiness



THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

October 1, 1963

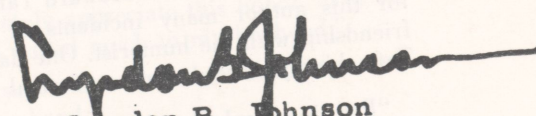
Dear Cyril:

As always, my life was brightened
by the new Mark Twain Jest Book and I
deeply appreciate your sending it.

You can record me as "ditto" to
the William Faulkner statement on your
letterhead.

My warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,


Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Cyril Clemens
Editor
Mark Twain Journal
Kirkwood 22, Missouri

MARK TWAIN AND LYNDON B. JOHNSON

in my life than any other author. My lasting
debt to him I cannot sufficiently express."

Lyndon B. Johnson was born in Blanco
County, Texas, in the shadow of Johnson's
Fort, built in Indian times by his grandfather.
He was the son of Sam Johnson, legislator
and farmer, and of Rebekah Baines Johnson,
granddaughter of a President of Baylor Uni-
versity.

Like Samuel Clemens at an earlier day,
Lyndon Baines Johnson early became aware
of his grand heritage as an American and a
Texan.

He worked his way through college at San
Marcos. He then taught school at Cotulla and
at Houston High School. After a whirlwind
courtship he married the charming, talented,
and lovely Lady Bird Taylor, on November
17, 1934.

The Johnson's have two beautiful and
talented girls, Lynda Bird and Lucy Baines.
In answer to a letter this author wrote the
father upon Lynda's engagement in the sum-
mer of 1963, came the following note, dated
July 30, 1963:

Dear Cyril:

"It was typically thoughtful of you to send the clipping about Lynda and we appreciate it."

"We've loved having Lynda with us this summer and I am already dreading the opening of the University which will take her away."

In the following letters to this author, the President expresses his feelings for the works of our great humorist.

19th October, 1953

Dear Cyril Clemens:

"I think your idea of a symposium for Mark Twain is excellent. There is probably no writer who has moved America so deeply or made a more lasting impression."

"Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn were the beloved characters of my own boyhood and they seem to be equally beloved among the children today. I think they will live in the hearts of Americans as long as our Nation endures."

Mark Twain, of course, was more than a writer for children. His works provide inspiration for all who have retained the vigor of their youth, regardless of their age or their

circumstances in life. There are no memories more pleasant than those evoked by such books as "Life On The Mississippi," "Roughing It," or "The Man Who Corrupted Hadleyburg."

Sincerely,
Lyndon B. Johnson.

29 June, 1961

Dear Cyril Clemens:

"Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer are among my favorite boyhood book companions. To have heard from a kinsman of their creator is a great pleasure and honor."

Sincerely,
Lyndon B. Johnson.

26th March, 1962

Dear Cyril:

"Mark Twain never wrote a story I didn't like — but I guess that, for my favorite, you can list "The Jumping Frog."

"Thanks for the comic map of Texas. I've enjoyed showing it around."

With warmest regards,

Sincerely,
Lyndon.

28th September, 1962

Dear Cyril:

"I am most grateful to you for sending me the copy of your little book 'Mark Twain & John F. Kennedy,' and I surely do appreciate your personal remarks about me on the title page."

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Lyndon.

1st October, 1963

Dear Cyril:

"As always, my life was brightened by the new 'Mark Twain's Jest Book, and I deeply appreciate your sending it."

"You can record me as 'ditto' to the William Faulkner statement on your letterhead."

My warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,

Lyndon.

William Faulkner's statement to the author had been printed in an issue of the Mark Twain Journal: "I never miss a copy of the Mark Twain Journal."

Shortly after she entered the White House in November, 1963, Mrs. Johnson issued a wonderful statement that would have pleased Mark Twain's wife Olivia Clemens.

"I will try to be a balm, sustainer, and sometimes critic for my husband. To help my children look at this job with all the reverence it is due, to get from it the knowledge their unique vantage point gives them, and to retain the light-heartedness to which each teenager is entitled. For my own sake, my role must emerge in deeds, not words."

When the author praised the above, Mrs. Johnson answered;

"I am so pleased that you liked my simple statement. Thank you most warmly for your kind words. I'm returning it with this note, so you can use it as you like."

And on 25th August, 1964, Mrs. Johnson wrote:

Dear Mrs. Clemens,

"How nice to hear from you again! Your letters always inspire both of us."

With warm regards

Sincerely

Lady Bird Johnson

MARK TWAIN AND LYNDON B. JOHNSON

Dear Cyril:

"That was a wonderful note, and I appreciate your thoughtfulness. I shall never forget what a wonderful friend you have been."

Best wishes and kind regards.

Sincerely
Lyndon

We shall conclude with three letters which show the President's abiding interest in Mark Twain.

My dear Friend:

May 27, 1960

"Mrs. Johnson and I would love to be able to accept your thoughtful invitation to attend the dedication of Mark Twain's birthplace, but due to a previous engagement, we must decline."

"I appreciate the kind remark you made in your note about me."

Best wishes for a most successful dedication.

Sincerely
Lyndon B. Johnson

May 22, 1963

Thank you for sending me the clipping. I certainly appreciate your thoughtfulness . . . and I certainly did enjoy the MARK TWAIN Journal.

Sincerely
Lyndon B. Johnson

MARK TWAIN AND LYNDON B. JOHNSON

February 3, 1959

"It was most thoughtful of you to invite me to address the Mark Twain Birthday Banquet, November 30th."

"Mrs. Johnson and I both regret that we will not be able to be with you due to a very heavy schedule in Texas."

"We would like to wish you much success with your forthcoming banquet and if I may be of assistance in any other way do not hesitate to call on me."

With kind regards,

Sincerely
Lyndon B. Johnson

MARK TWAIN AND LYNDON B. JOHNSON

My dear Mr. Johnson:

I have been thinking of you for some time and I am sure that you are as busy as ever. I am sure that you are as busy as ever.

It was most thoughtful of you to invite me to address the Mark Twain Birthday Banquet, November 30th.

I am sure that you are as busy as ever.

We would like to wish you much success with your forthcoming book and if I may be of service to you in any way, please let me know.

Very truly yours,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mark Twain Birthday Banquet

