



Wednesday, December 6  
Holiday Celebrations at the Mark Twain  
&  
Harriet Beecher Stowe Houses



**9 am** – Depart from the Museums’ State Street lot located across the street from the Springfield Main Library. Park in the lot and meet the bus at the curbside. We ask participants to arrive by 8:45 am.

**The Mark Twain & The Harriet Beecher Stowe Houses** - Guided tours of both houses.

**The Mark Twain House** - Tour the American High Gothic style home of Samuel Clemens and his family as it would have been adorned for holiday celebrations when the author, his wife and three daughters lived in the house during the years of 1874 to 1891.

Mark Twain and his family enjoyed what the author would later call the happiest and most productive years of his life in their Hartford home. He wrote: “To us, our house...had a heart, and a soul and eyes to see us with; and approvals and solitudes and deep sympathies; it was of us, and we were in its confidence and lived in its grace and in the peace of its benediction.”

Samuel Langhorne Clemens (November 30, 1835 – April 21, 1910) wrote many of his classic novels during his 17 years in Hartford (1874–1891) and over 20 summers at Quarry Farm. They include *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876), *The Prince and the Pauper* (1881), *Life on the Mississippi* (1883), *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885), and *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* (1889).

**At the Harriet Beecher Stowe** home next door, experience the Stowe family's life during the holiday season and view rarely-seen family artifacts and historically accurate decorations. Gain insight in the social changes in the 19th-century celebration of Christmas. Learn how the Beechers and the Stowes celebrated the season with special attention to sharing their good fortune and spending time with family and friends.

Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-1896) published more than 30 books, but it was her best-selling anti-slavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* which catapulted her to international celebrity and secured her place in history.

*Uncle Tom's Cabin* was not Stowe's only work. Her broad range of interests resulted in such varied publications as children's text books, advice books on homemaking and childrearing, biographies and religious studies. The informal, conversational style of her many novels permitted her to reach audiences that more scholarly or argumentative works would not and encouraged everyday people to address such controversial topics as slavery, religious reform, and gender roles.

Lunch is included and will feature a variety of sandwiches (roast beef, chicken salad and veggie wrap), fruit salad, chips, pickles, freshly baked cookies and bottled spring water.

**3 pm** – Meet the bus at the same location as drop off; depart for Springfield.