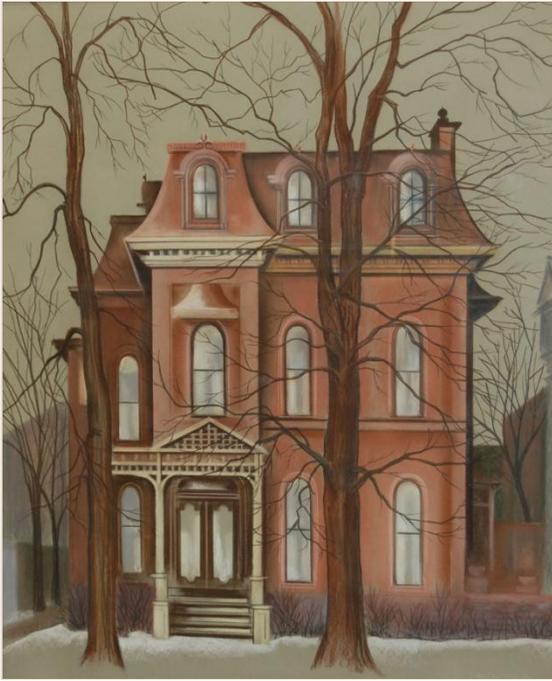




great rivers of Paris. Twain drew this map as a response to the American news of the Franco-Prussian War, which had just begun to get coverage in the *Express* and many other papers. The map was printed in the *Express* to parody the barrage of information Americans received.

## Mark Twain Lives Here



“Mark Twain lives here and my father-in-law pays the rent” ~ plaque Twain hung outside his home at 472 Delaware Avenue

In February of 1870, Twain married Olivia Langdon in Elmira, New York. After the wedding the entire Langdon family went to Buffalo to celebrate. Twain believed they would be staying at a boarding house temporarily, as Twain had fairly modest means to support his new bride. Instead, after meandering all around the city, the carriage driver stopped in front of 472 Delaware Ave. It was their new home, a surprise gift from Olivia’s father Jervis. (An original mantel from their home decorates the back wall of the Mark Twain Room.) It is said that Twain hung a plaque outside the home reading “Mark Twain lives here and my father-in-law pays the rent.” At this point, *Innocents Abroad*, Twain’s satirical travel book, had become a bestseller, selling 30,000 copies in only a few months.

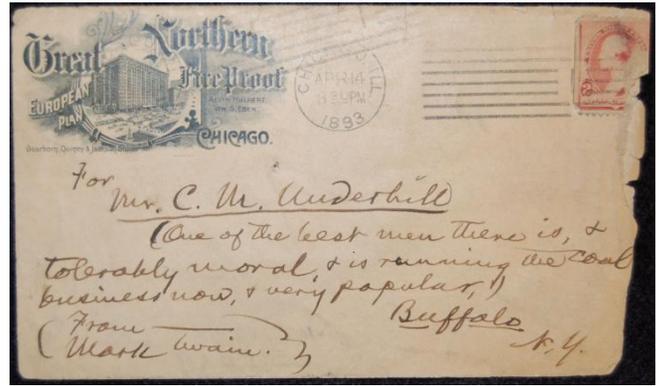
Shortly thereafter, tragedy slipped into Twain’s life. In the spring of 1870, Olivia’s father Langdon died. This hit the family especially hard, since Langdon had purchased the Clemens’ home, and loaned Twain half the money to purchase his share of the *Express*. In a terrible twist, a close friend staying with the Clemens’ in Buffalo to help Olivia recover from her loss, became ill and died only a few weeks later. Twain was devastated, and the fact that he needed to be funny in print for the newspaper only made this period of his life worse. In his last column at the *Express*, in April 1871, Twain wrote: “To be a pirate on a low salary and with no share of the profits in the business used to be my idea of an uncomfortable occupation, but I have other views now. To be a monthly humorist in a cheerless time is drearier.”

## For Mr. C.M. Underhill

Twain left Buffalo in March of 1871, but would return to it in his books, contributing “The First Authentic Mention of Niagara Falls” to *The Niagara Book* in 1893. The book, published by Twain’s friend Charles Underhill, was a souvenir for visitors of the Falls. Twain’s piece was an excerpt from “Adam’s Diary,” a funny piece presupposing that Adam

and Eve's garden was found at Niagara Falls. The diary begins "This new creature with the long hair is a good deal in the way."

When Twain wrote letters to Charles Underhill regarding publication, he could never trust himself to remember his Buffalo address, so instead he would try and narrow it down by giving particulars: "in the coal business" or "used to be handsome" or, better still, "a little bald on top of his head." His letters were always delivered without issue.



Envelope addressed by Twain to Charles M. Underhill,  
April 14, 1893