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## Mark Twain at Home: How Family Shaped Twain's Fiction

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flower divulging its appearance and location. Within the two sections, eight hundred twenty six richly colorful pictures illustrate to readers the vivid liveliness of the wildflowers. Thirty eight gray in color pages within the two sections give further details on the wildflowers. A helpful glossary defines eighty eight words. There are sixty six references.

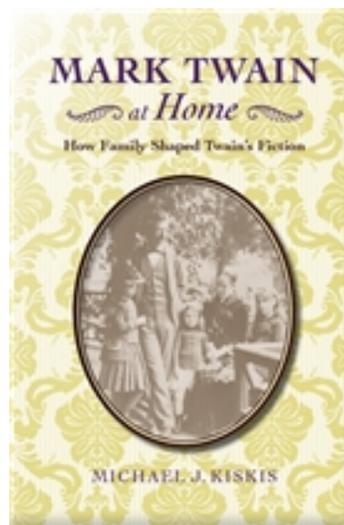
A handy map shows the percentage of wildflowers in Georgia that are located in the states of Texas, Kentucky, Florida, Louisiana, Tennessee, Virginia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Alabama, too. Another map makes known Georgia's physiographic provinces. Eleven methods are listed to stop damage to wildflowers. Associations promoting Georgia wildflowers are Riverkeepers, Nature Conservancy, Georgia Native Plant Society, Coastal Wildscapes, and Georgia Botanical Society. Kindly, an invitation is extended to become members of the Georgia Botanical Society at <http://www.gabotsoc.org>

Gorgeous Color Thumbnails are thirty nine beautiful vibrantly colored small photographs of the wildflowers for readers to know the names of the flowers. There are two hundred and one pictures of white wildflowers, one hundred twenty five pictures of yellow flowers, fourteen pictures of orange wildflowers, and one hundred fifteen pictures of red and maroon wildflowers. Others are one hundred thirty two photographs of pink, magenta, and lavender wildflowers, fifty three blue to bluish-purple wildflowers, seventy one purple and violet wildflowers, and sixty five green and brown wildflowers. The definition of wildflower is supplied as a plant bearing flowers not aided by humans.

The monograph makes known a list of top thirty eight locations and times to visit wildflowers in Georgia like Cloudland Canyon State park, Sittons Gulch Trail, Dade County, late Mar-late Apr. The great work shares fascinating information about the dazzling wildflowers. Wildflowers include herbs, shrubs, and vines with flowers. Wildflowers from Europe that came to America are Queen Anne's Lace and the cornflower. Along roads are common camphor weed, beefsteak plant, and cat's ear. More intriguing, hot and cold weather and bodies of water cause wildflowers. Wildflowers that thrive in the sunlight are sunflowers, goldenrods, and milkweeds. What's more, unsurpassed in beauty are milkweeds, butterfly weed, and milkvines. Spring ephemerals wild geraniums, trout lilies, and mandarins are only vibrantly blossoming in the spring. Around one hundred types of rose wildflowers in Georgia consist of cherries, plums, blackberries, wild strawberries, and hawthorns. Academic and public libraries should own the book because of its perfect coverage of wildflowers in Georgia and adjoining states. The treasured book enchanting with magnificently exquisite scenic wildflowers is a most excellent tourist attraction for Georgia and neighboring states.

Melinda F. Matthews  
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**Mark Twain at Home How Family Shaped Twain's Fiction** by Michael J. Kiskis. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2016. ISBN 978-0-8173-1915-1 (cloth); 978-0-8173-8990-1 (ebook). \$44.95. 128 p.



My personal memories of the man, Mark Twain, Samuel Langhorne Clemens (1835 – 1910), led me to describe him as a humorist. Through his humor, wit and wordsmithing, he brought Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer to me and my classmates in elementary school days. He led us to want to live the adventurous and rebellious lives of his fictional characters. We wanted to build a raft and brave the wild rivers. We wanted to play all day and ignore school work and chores. To me, Twain portrayed children in his stories as wanting to abandon the comforts/discomforts of a family life and home, seek adventure, befriend those who were friendless, run away from home and explore the world.

Reading Michael Kiskis' book, *Mark Twain at Home How Family Shaped Twain's Fiction*, I came to see why Kiskis' research led him to see significant family dynamics that impacted Twain's characters. Kiskis tells us that Twain's life might be seen as a tragic one given as he says "Twain was a child of a loveless marriage and experienced a home life as a child over which hovered the constant specter of violence." (dustcover) Additionally, Twain's home life as an adult "was shattered by the deaths of three of his four children and of his wife, Livy (Olivia Langdon Clements)". (dustcover) Kiskis suggests that reflecting upon personal experiences possibly affected Twain's creation of the characters in his writings. Covering Twain's most significant writings, Kiskis helps us to examine them from a perspective of familial memories and remembrances.

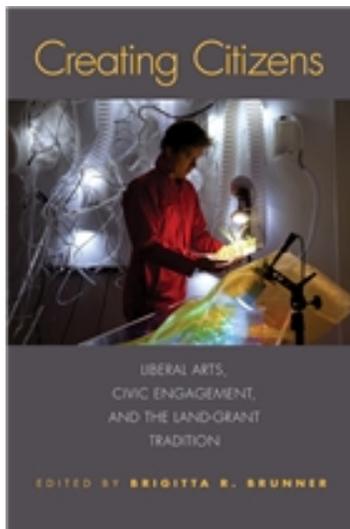
Dr. Michael Kiskis, a professor at Elmira College in Binghamton, New York was known as a scholar of Mark Twain, having dedicated most of his academic life to study and research of Twain. A true tragedy that Kiskis passed away on May 8, 2011, at age 56. His students and others have written memorial praise to him. <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/star-gazette/obituary.aspx?pid=151129739>

See some of Twain's quotes from Brainy Quote  
[https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/m/mark\\_twain.html](https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/m/mark_twain.html)

Recommended for public and academic libraries, English Department faculty and scholars of American literature.

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**Creating Citizens: Liberal Arts, Civic Engagement, and the Land-Grant Tradition**, edited by Brigitta R. Brunner. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2016. ISBN: 978-0-8173-1907-6 (cloth); 978-0-8173-8960-4 (ebook). \$49.95. 192 p.



This collection of essays in *Creating Citizens: Liberal Arts, Civic Engagement, and the Land-Grant Tradition*, written by professors and administrators of Auburn University is an excellent resource guide for any faculty or staff member of a higher education institution interested in building a program in civic engagement activities. By sharing these essays, Brigitta R. Brunner provides a series of examples of how an institution can plan, develop and assess the success of civic engagement activities.

Brunner advocates that faculty provide active learning beyond the classroom giving students an opportunity to acquire experience, utilize critical thinking and apply ethical reasoning principles to their accumulation of civic knowledge (p. Introduction).

Why is Auburn University's history a good example of an institution whose students might benefit from civic engagement activities? Brunner points to the histories of Auburn University's founding, beginning as the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama in 1872, changing to Alabama Polytechnic Institute (API) in 1899 and emerging as Auburn University in 1960. Land grant colleges and universities were founded to provide

opportunities to its local citizens for a quality technical, engineering and science education. Little emphasis was placed on courses or majors in the liberal arts—little integration of the focus on the importance of community and civic engagement activities.

Brunner's nine selected essays begin with examples of how an institution can explain to faculty and administrators the value of a civic engagement experience. The idea that building civic participation between a college or university and a surrounding community is not new; however these programs are seen most often in liberal arts institutions—those with strong majors in political science, English, history, biology, psychology, and sociology. Brunner notes that in the 1920s faculty and staff at then API and now Auburn University were experimenting with civic outreach with the establishment of the first public radio station. WAPI was an early example of its civic engagement activities (p. 3).

One essayist raises the point that many will ask, “will the civic engagement learning experience result in a job at the end?” In the essay by William E. Kelly, “A Profile of a University Community and Civic Engagement Political Science Internship”, Kelly says if the intern has a rigorous experience and can tie the classroom learning to the internship experience, his or her future in civic activities will be enhanced. (p.41)

Recommended for public libraries and academic libraries.

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**From Revolution to Reunion: The Reintegration of the South Carolina Loyalists** by Rebecca Brannon. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2016. ISBN 978-1-61117-668-1 (hard); 978-1-61117-669-8 (epub). \$49.99. 232 p.

