

ALL ABOARD, GET ON BOARD!

How about taking a six-month luxury cruise to Europe and the Middle East?

Leaving New York by the first week in June, you'll be back before Thanksgiving with a last visit to friendly Bermuda.

After a stop in the Azores, extended stays are planned along the ins and out of the Mediterranean coast with plenty of time allowed for excursions to all the major cities. Ample opportunity will also be provided to explore the countryside.



All onboard services and ship to shore transport to be included. Anyone wishing to remain aboard during port visits will be accommodated at no additional charge. Let the ship be your home-away-from-home and its crew your dutiful family. Come and go as you please.

Medical and religious staff to be provided.

The cost of passage, an exceptionally reasonable \$25,000 per person, with the ship to carry no more than 150 guests. Excursion expenses not included (but should be estimated as at least equivalent).

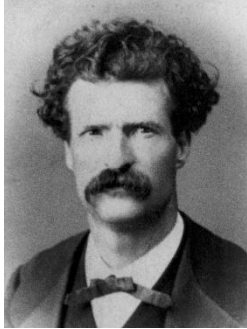
Paris, Rome, Marseilles, and Florence. Pompeii and Naples; the Alhambra and Granada. Gibraltar and Tangier. Israel, Egypt – ancient Jerusalem and the pyramids!

See the works of the old masters in the world's greatest museums; glide along the canals of Venice in a gondola; and climb the steps of the Acropolis to view the Parthenon by moonlight.

A once-in-a-lifetime chance to see and do it all, and perhaps more.

How about it? If you're a traveler, could you really say "No"?

Samuel L. Clemens – “Mark Twain” –



and about 70 other “Pilgrims”, as they came to be called, said “Yes” in 1867. In the value of the day, the price was \$1,250 each plus an estimated \$5 per day in gold for expenses.

A large number of Pilgrims wrote travel letters published in their hometown newspapers. Clemens, still early in his career as “Mark Twain”, wrote a humorous, running commentary for a San Francisco paper. After the trip, he turned his columns into the most popular travelogue of all-time, his first best seller: *The Innocents Abroad*. A book that every traveler still enjoys reading.

The preface describes its intention: “to suggest to the reader how *he* would be likely to see Europe and the East if he looked at them with his own eyes”. A tourist’s view has little changed in over one hundred fifty years. (Indeed, perhaps the only major added attraction is the 1889 Eiffel Tower.)

Twain’s traveler’s humor remains just as fresh.

Modern tourist travel and the fame of Mark Twain began with this 1867 “pleasure trip” of the steamship Quaker City. Novel at the time; it was the first, purely tourist cruise – carrying no cargo except its passengers. It may still be the most extensive, organized vacation trip on record.

However, unlike today’s cruise line itineraries, flexibility was allowed for. In the midst of a worldwide cholera epidemic, plans had to be changed to accommodate shifting openings and closings (similar to many travelers’ recent COVID experiences).

But this also permitted taking advantage of unexpected opportunities, including being invited en masse to lunch with the Russian czar and his family at their summer palace. The trip’s most reported current occurrence. (Isn’t it every tourist’s dream to be invited to tea at Buckingham Palace?)

Sam Clemens made lifelong friends – and enemies (or at least antagonists) - on this voyage. Nothing like a group trip for creating larger memories, even if the memories are more about your fellow travelers than the journey.

Not surprisingly, after his book came out, it seems all the Pilgrims were eager to claim a part. A shared bit of immortality unexpectedly bestowed.

But to my surprise, I discovered that one of them – Reverend Henry Bullard – was from Wayland, Massachusetts – *my hometown*. Just another passenger; so, I originally supposed. As a young minister, his presence and its significance has gone largely unrecognized by Twain scholars. But to my even greater surprise, after those of Mark Twain, I found the thoughts and activities of Reverend Henry Bullard from Wayland, Massachusetts to be the most recorded by his fellow passengers.



Come be surprised. Hear how intertwined and interrelated is the story of Reverend Henry Bullard's Quaker City cruise – *with the post-Civil War Town of Wayland, mid-19th century Congregational religious history, the birth of modern tourist travel and Mark Twain* - at the upcoming Annual Meeting of the Wayland Historical Society on Wednesday, May 10th at 7:00 P.M. in the Wayland Free Public Library - (waylandmuseum.org).

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