

# *Mark Twain & Van Buren Point, NY*

Samuel Clemens, better known as Mark Twain was a famous writer, humorist, entrepreneur, publisher and lecturer. His notable works include Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, and The Adventures of Tom Sawyer.

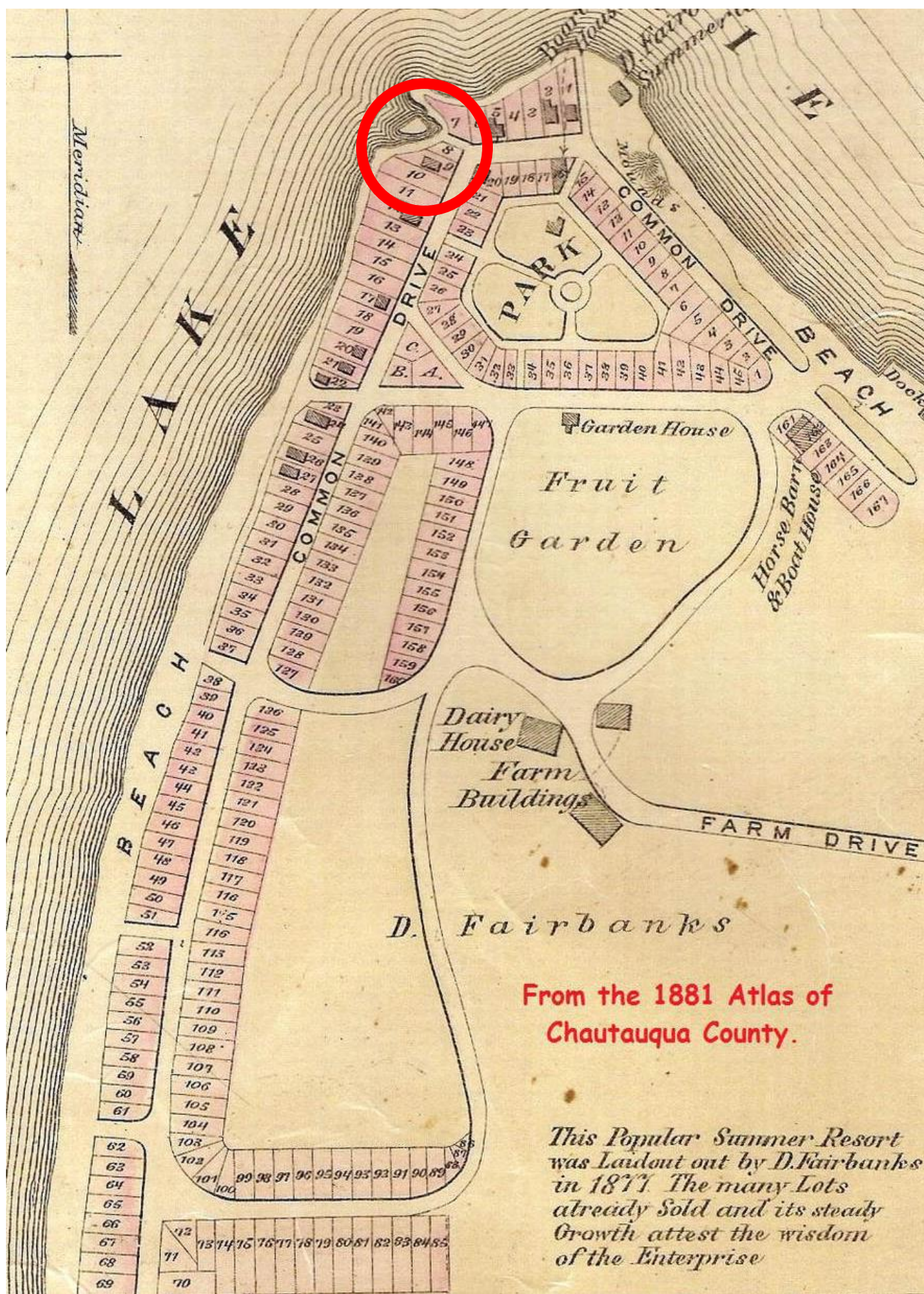
Mark Twain visited Fredonia on January 19, 1870 to give a lecture at the chapel of the Normal School building. The facility held 700, plus an additional 350 in the balcony. Mark Twain did not see any of Fredonia during this visit. He arrived by train in Dunkirk at 6:20 PM, and left for his return trip to Buffalo, NY at 9:45 PM. His entire visit was in the dark. However, Twain was so impressed with the audience, he suggested to his mother and sister that they move to Fredonia.

His sister, Pamela Moffett, and mother Jane Clemens moved to Fredonia later that same year. First living at the home located at 29 Day Street, before moving to 65-67 Temple Street in 1871, and finally 36 Central Avenue in 1876.

Twain lived in Buffalo between 1869 and 1871. He was Editor and Co-Owner of The Buffalo Express. During this time, he married Olivia Langdon, who was from Elmira, NY. The couple lived in Buffalo briefly before moving to Elmira. During this period of the 1870's, Mark Twain would occasionally visit his family in Fredonia, NY.

After one of Twain's visits to Fredonia between September 10<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> of 1879, he sent \$100 dollars to his sister, "to buy the lot with". It is presumed that lot was lot 10 at Van Buren Point. As records indicate Samuel Clemens purchased lot 10 on September 16, 1879 for \$115. Previously, Pamela Moffett purchased lot 9 for \$175 on August 17, 1878. Both lots were later sold to H.W. Rogers. Records indicate that no structure was built on the lots. Rogers bought lot 10 on November 17, 1882 and lot 9 on August 10, 1883.

Mark Twain's last recorded trip to Fredonia was on September 13, 1881.



From the 1881 Atlas of  
Chautauqua County.

*This Popular Summer Resort  
was Laidout out by D.Fairbanks  
in 1877 The many Lots  
already Sold and its steady  
Growth attest the wisdom  
of the Enterprise*