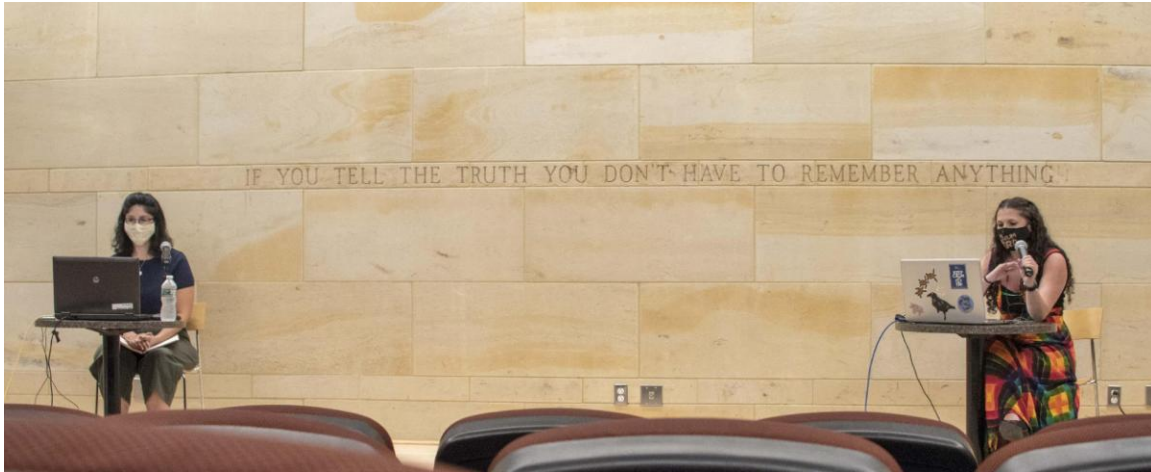


The Trouble Began – Stowe Center At The Twain House



Actually, as we all know, the trouble began for real in March, but the Mark Twain House and Museum lecture series *The Trouble Begins* started off the 2020 season with *Trouble at Home: Beth Burgess: The Nook Farm of the Clemenses and Stowes*

It was a wonderful event for a lot of reasons, not least of which was the fact that it was both live and virtual. There were only 18 seats available in the Lincoln Financial Auditorium, and I got mine (4th row) as soon as I saw it posted.

The real reason that I was so pleased to attend was the program; Jodi DeBruyne, Director of Collections at the Mark Twain House was interviewing Beth Burgess, Collections Manager at the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center.

They are both very familiar with much of their respective collections, and are regularly connecting to share items of interest to one another. They both have lots more to look at, but the topic for this event was Nook Farm.

They told the story of how the property got its name, it's located in an area of land that was originally a farm at the nook of the Park river. The property was purchased by Frances Gillett and John Hooker in 1853 from William Imlay who owned it as a farm. John and Isabella Beecher Hooker built the house that is now at 140 Hawthorn and that was the house that Sam Clemens and family lived in while their home on Farmington Avenue was being built.

Harriet Beecher Stowe had already moved into her home to the East from a grand mansion on the south side of Hawthorn which she left after her children were raised. She was looking for something smaller and purchased it from the builder, who built it on speculation.

Harriet Beecher Stowe's earlier home along with the Charles Dudley Warner's home that was just south of the Clemens home, and many others have been

demolished over the years, which makes those like these and the Day house on the corner of Forest and Farmington all the more precious. The Charles Boardman Smith house at 66 Forest across the street is a good example of what can happen, as it is currently in an estate and has been boarded up. The complete lecture is available at <https://www.crowdcast.io/e/trouble-at-home-beth>