Clemens, Orion, the eldest son in the family, and Henry, the youngest, are all buried in the Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Missouri. Orion’s wife, Mary, is also buried there.

Although Orion is the oldest, and Henry the youngest, Sam lived the longest out of all three, living to the age of 74. However, neither Samuel Clemens, nor his wife, Olivia,

“I wish I’d said Mister Williams. But I never meant any harm. Everybody calls him Hoss.”

“A body can’t be too partic’lar about how they talk ‘bout these-yer dead people, Tom.”

These are some of the graveyard-scene lines found in Mark Twain’s classic book, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Even though there were probably no murders in the Mt. Olivet Cemetery or the old Baptist Cemetery, there are still many interesting stories about these graveyards. Many believe that the old Baptist Cemetery just outside of town provided the setting for the murder scene in *Tom Sawyer*. Grave robbing was a common occurrence in the mid-1800s since medical schools did not always have bodies available for research purposes. Mark Twain used this knowledge when creating the famous fictional scene of Doc Robinson’s murder.

The Mt. Olivet Cemetery just outside of town holds family members of Hannibal’s most famous resident, Mark Twain. This family is the Clemens family. Samuel Clemens, more widely known as Mark Twain, has four family members buried in the Mt. Olivet Cemetery - his father, John M. Clemens, his mother, Jane L. Clemens, Orion, the eldest son in the family, and Henry, the youngest, are all buried in the Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Missouri. Orion’s wife, Mary, is also buried there.

Although Orion is the oldest, and Henry the youngest, Sam lived the longest out of all three, living to the age of 74. However, neither Samuel Clemens, nor his wife, Olivia, is

The grave of Henry Clemens, Sam’s younger brother, is in Mt. Olivet Cemetery. To read about Henry’s death, visit the Museum Gallery Virtual Tour.
buried in a Hannibal cemetery. Both are buried in Elmira, New York with their daughters and Olivia’s family members. Although graveyards can be spooky, the Mt. Olivet Cemetery is not at all. The graves are in no particular order, although families are usually buried together. The graveyard is very open with lots of trees and long grasses. Wildlife has also been spotted in the graveyard.

Including the Clemens family, there are also two other graves that may be of interest to visitors passing through town who are interested in Mark Twain’s ties to Hannibal.

in real life, Joe Douglass was a kind and respected man with an African-American and Osage Indian heritage. Next to him, his wife, Anna S. Douglass, rests in peace.

There are many interesting graves in the Mt. Olivet Cemetery, but these are a few that may be of interest to visitors passing through town who are interested in Mark Twain’s ties to Hannibal.

~J.P.

“The boys moved off and disappeared in the gloom. At the end of half an hour they were wading through the tall grass of the graveyard.”

“"A faint wind moaned through the trees, and Tom feared it might be the spirits of the dead, complaining at being disturbed.”

“It was a graveyard of the old-fashioned Western kind. It was on a hill, about a mile and a half from the village. It had a crazy board fence around it, which leaned inward in places, and outward the rest of the time, but stood upright nowhere.”
The character of “Injun Joe” was based on Joe Douglass, who was half-Osage Indian and half-African American. He is remembered as a kind man.

“Then they waited in silence for what seemed a long time. The hooting of a distant owl was all the sound that troubled the dead stillness.”

This virtual tour of the Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Hannibal, Missouri was written by Jordyn Pair from Milford, Michigan as a project for the 2nd Annual Mark Twain Young Authors Workshop.