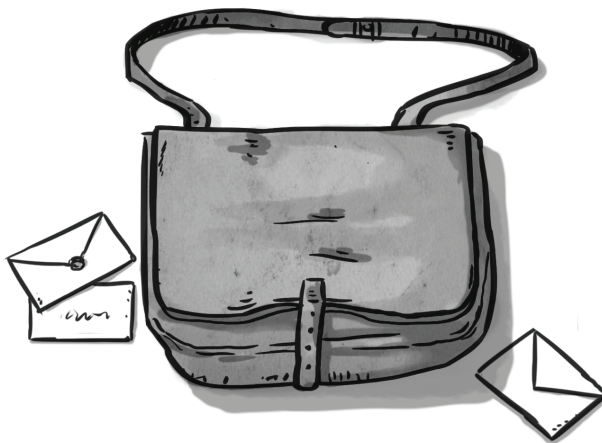


*Adventures on the American Frontier*

# MAIL RIDERS

Part Four  
Mark Twain  
Rides the Central Overland



A Royal Fireworks Production

Royal Fireworks Press  
Unionville, New York



**Other books in this series:**  
**Paul Revere, Cross-Country Carrier**  
**Michigan Mail Boy**  
**Butterfield's Overland Mail**  
**The Pony Express Goes Through**  
**Billy and the Blizzard**  
**Pony Bob on the Long Trail**



This book features QR codes that link to audio of the book being narrated so that readers can follow along.

---

Copyright © 2019, Royal Fireworks Publishing Co., Inc.  
All Rights Reserved.

Royal Fireworks Press  
P.O. Box 399  
41 First Avenue  
Unionville, NY 10988-0399  
(845) 726-4444  
fax: (845) 726-3824  
email: [mail@rfwp.com](mailto:mail@rfwp.com)  
website: [rfwp.com](http://rfwp.com)



ISBN: 978-0-89824-742-8

Printed and bound in Unionville, New York, on acid-free paper using vegetable-based inks at the Royal Fireworks facility.

Publisher: Dr. T.M. Kemnitz  
Editor: Jennifer Ault  
Book and cover designer: Christopher Tice  
Audio and narration: Christopher Tice



20June19

Two young men stood at the ticket window of the Central Overland Stage office in St. Joseph, Missouri, one day in 1861. Near them were two round-topped, leather-covered trunks and two battered suitcases. The men were going west, as many people were doing on the new stage and mail lines that had only recently stretched across the nation. The Central Overland route ran through the middle of the country, following the old Oregon Trail to Salt Lake City, Utah.





The ticket seller peered through the window bars at the pile of baggage. He shook his head.

“Sorry, gentlemen,” he said, “but you can’t take all that baggage. Twenty-five pounds apiece is all you’re allowed. After



all, the mail service comes first, you know.”

The two young men had just bought tickets to Carson City, Nevada, a new settlement that was booming because of the discovery of gold and silver nearby. The men were Sam and Orion Clemens, and they were brothers. This would be their first trip west.

The younger of the two brothers said, “Too bad, Orion, but we’ll have to leave the trunks behind. They must weigh twenty-five pounds each when they’re empty!”

Orion and Sam had grown up on the east side of Missouri, near the Mississippi River. They had traveled across the state to St. Joseph on a Missouri River steamboat. Passengers could take all the baggage they wanted on the big boat. But now the brothers began to realize how different their trip would be from St. Joseph on—and how small a stagecoach was.

There in the ticket office, they opened the trunks and took out some clothes and a few other items they knew they would need.



They repacked them into one suitcase.

Orion was deeply unhappy. He had gotten a job in the government offices in Nevada, and his trunk was more than half filled with books. From them, he chose a few law books and a big dictionary. The law books filled up the suitcase. He would have to carry the dictionary.

