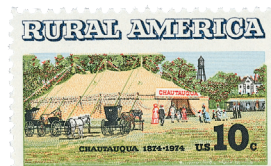


## This Day in History... August 6, 1974

### Chautauqua Institution

On August 6, 1974, the USPS issued the Chautauqua Institution stamp, the second in the Rural America Series, honoring the organization's centennial.

Reverend John H. Vincent and Lewis Miller of Akron, Ohio, created the Chautauqua Institution in the summer of 1874. Their initial goal was to train Protestant Sunday school teachers in an enjoyable setting.



*Stamp issued in Chautauqua, New York in 1974*



*From the Literary Arts Series*

The first meeting of the institution took place between August 4 and August 18, 1874, on the shores of western New York's Lake Chautauqua. At the time, it was called the Chautauqua Lake Sunday School Assembly.

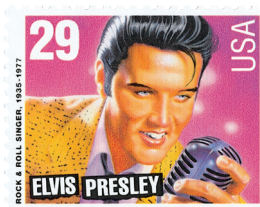
Over time, these assemblies drew the attention of many other people and were eventually opened to the general public. The programs also expanded to include lectures, discussions, and home readings as well as language courses in Hebrew, Greek, French, and German. This summer-school program quickly moved from its original religious orientation to include music, art, and secular education, and offering credit and non-credit courses for adults.

These events also began to draw big names, such as Mark Twain and William Jennings Bryan, who delivered lectures during the eight-week sessions. And every president from Ulysses S. Grant to William McKinley would eventually visit the institute during their tenure.



*From the Great Americans Series*

Soon, the Chautauqua movement spread across the country, with local reading groups forming to discuss current issues. The institute also offered a correspondence course as well as a publishing house and theological school. By the early 1900s, "Chautauqua" became a term for commercial traveling companies who pitched tents and presented lecturers, orators, and performing artists to rural areas.



*In The Trouble with Girls, Elvis played a Chautauqua manager.*

Over time, these traveling Chautauquas waned in popularity as movies and television became popular forms of entertainment. But the original Chautauqua Institution is still open and offering programs today.

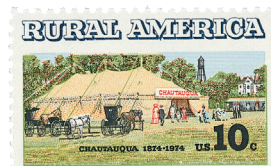
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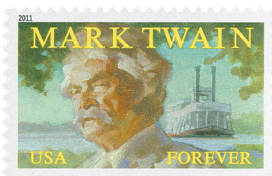
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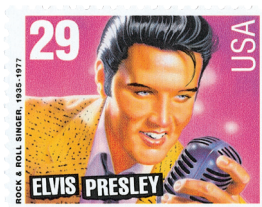
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