

*From the Office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz*

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For Immediate Release

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**2003 STATE "BLUE BOOK" DEDICATED TO HARRIET  
BEECHER STOWE & MARK TWAIN**

Connecticut's lost soldiers honored with special memoriams

Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz has dedicated the 2003 edition of the State Register & Manual to a pair of American literary legends who called Connecticut home.

Renowned authors Harriet Beecher Stowe and Mark Twain both penned classic novels while living here, for many years as neighbors in Hartford during the late 1800s. Bysiewicz believes their contribution to American culture as writers and citizens is unparalleled in Connecticut history.

“Harriet Beecher Stowe was one of the most influential Americans of the nineteenth century,” Bysiewicz said. “Her groundbreaking anti-slavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* has been published in more than 60 countries and was recognized by President Abraham Lincoln for its impact on public policy.”

Born in Litchfield, Stowe spent her later years in Hartford. Two separate biographies of Stowe were awarded the Pulitzer Prize.

“Mark Twain redefined American literature with his numerous classics, many of which were written while living in Hartford,” Bysiewicz said. “His work was so acclaimed that Ernest Hemmingway supposedly once referred to Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* as the best book ever written.”

Twain lived 17 years in Hartford and often said they were the happiest of his life. In fact, he entitled one of his later novels *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*.

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Better known as the "Blue Book", the State Register & Manual has been providing the most extensive information about Connecticut and its government for over 200 years. A continually updated edition of the 2003 Register & Manual is available free of charge on the Secretary of the State's website at [www.sots.state.ct.us](http://www.sots.state.ct.us)

This year's book also features special memorials in honor of Connecticut soldiers who lost their lives serving our country in Iraq. Bios and photos provided by the families of servicemen lost prior to printing appear in the bound version, with additional memoriams included in the online edition.

For information on purchasing the 2003 State Register & Manual call the Office of the Secretary of the State at (860) 509-6197. Soft cover Blue Books cost \$10.00 with hardbound editions available for \$19.00.