

0. WORLDWIDE IMPACT of GWTW - Story Preface

1. MARGARET MITCHELL and SCARLETT O'HARA

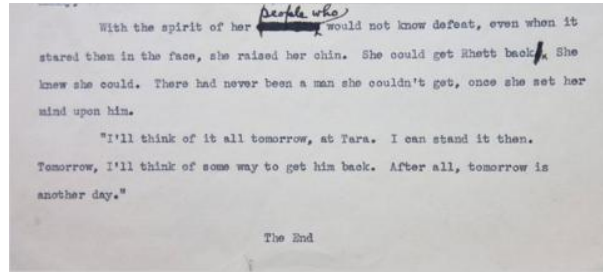
2. GONE with the WIND TAKES SHAPE

3. MARGARET MITCHELL GETS a BOOK DEAL

4. SOURCE of the TITLE - GWTW

5. SCARLETT O'HARA - SOURCE of the NAME

6. WORLDWIDE IMPACT of GWTW



Although Margaret Mitchell wanted her *GWTW* manuscript burned, parts of the original remain. The entire last chapter, which she wrote first, is on display at the Atlanta History Center.

At a time when the average book sold around 5,000 copies in its lifetime, Macmillan ordered 10,000 copies of *Gone with the Wind* for its first printing.

When Macmillan published *GWTW*, in the spring of 1936, it soon became a bestseller (although not everyone thought it was a good book). It was good-enough for Margaret Mitchell to receive the Pulitzer Prize, however, and more than good-enough for David O. Selznick to pay \$50,000—then a record amount—for the film rights.

Starring Vivien Leigh as Scarlett O'Hara and Clark Gable as Rhett Butler, the film became one of the most-popular and highest-grossing movies of all time.

In August of 1942, Selznick sent Mitchell a \$50,000 check to thank her for helping to make the film so successful.

Mitchell never published another novel.

On August 11, 1949—as Peggy and John were walking across the Atlanta intersection of Peachtree and 13th Streets, on their way to see the movie “A Canterbury Tale”—a speeding off-duty cab driver drove through the intersection on the wrong side of the road. He hit Mitchell, fatally injuring her.

Forty-eight years old at the time, the famous author lived only a few days after the accident. Hugh Gravitt, arrested for drunken driving, was convicted of involuntary manslaughter. He served about 11 months of an 18-month sentence.

Like the “old South,” at the end of America’s War between the States, Mitchell herself was now “gone with the wind.” Her legacy lives on, however, in her still-popular story (for which she may have used real people as models for her fictional characters).

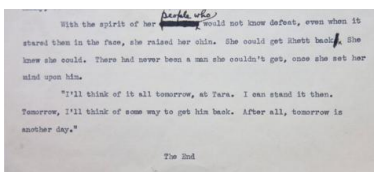
See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/WORLDWIDE-IMPACT-of-GWTW-Margaret-Mitchell-Gone-with-the-Wind)

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See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/WORLDWIDE-IMPACT-of-GWTW-Margaret-Mitchell-Gone-with-the-Wind)

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Media Stream



Gone with the Wind - Original Manuscript

Facsimile image depicting the last paragraphs of the last page of Margaret Mitchell's *GWTW* manuscript is displayed at the Atlanta History Center.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Gone-with-the-Wind-Original-Manuscript>



Gone with the Wind - Real People in the Story

Video of Sally Tippet Rains, describing her research into *Gone with the Wind*, online courtesy gwtwbook.com, via YouTube.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Gone-with-the-Wind-Real-People-in-the-Story>