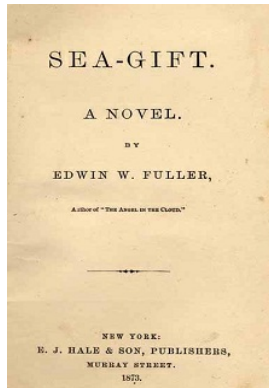


## Sea-Gift <sup>[1]</sup>

### Sea-Gift

by E. T. Malone Jr., 2006



*Title page of Sea-Gift by*

*Edwin W. Fuller, 1873.* <sup>[2]</sup> *Sea-Gift*, an 1873 novel by Edwin Wiley Fuller <sup>[3]</sup> (1848-76) of Louisburg, presented a lively and romantic picture of student life in Chapel Hill. Autobiographical in some respects, it describes the youth of one John Smith, his career at the University of North Carolina <sup>[4]</sup>, and his participation in the Civil War <sup>[5]</sup>. The book contains detailed descriptions of the hazing of freshmen and other aspects of student life and was the first novel set in part in Chapel Hill. It contains a tall tale-telling contest, including a definition of the tall tale presented over 30 years before Mark Twain's essay on the same subject. The plot incorporates the university's "Dromgoole myth," concerning a famous duel <sup>[6]</sup> fought near Piney Prospect in Chapel Hill. The book came to be known as the "Freshman's Bible" in the late nineteenth century and probably had a bearing on the formation of the Order of the Gimghoul at the university and the construction there of Gimghoul Castle <sup>[7]</sup>. Elements of the plot of *Sea-Gift* involving a long train ride to enter college also may have influenced Thomas Wolfe <sup>[8]</sup> in the writing of his novel, *Look Homeward, Angel* (1929), and a scene involving the burning of a plantation house is thought to have been a model for Margaret Mitchell in the writing of *Gone with the Wind* (1936).

#### Reference:

E. T. Malone Jr., "The University of North Carolina in Edwin Fuller's 1873 novel, *Sea-Gift*" <sup>[9]</sup> (M.A. thesis, UNC-Chapel Hill, 1975).

#### Additional Resources:

"Edwin Wiley Fuller." North Carolina Highway Historical Marker Program. <https://www.ncdcr.gov/about/history/division-historical-resources/nc-highway-historical-marker-program/Markers.aspx?ct=ddl&sp=search&k=Markers&sv=E-77> <sup>[10]</sup> (accessed June 20, 2012).

"Edwin W. Fuller Sea-Gift Manuscript Fragment, 1873, 01027-z." The Southern Historical Collection. The Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. [http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/f/Fuller,Edwin\\_W.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/f/Fuller,Edwin_W.html) <sup>[11]</sup>.

Fuller, Edwin W. *Notebook of Edwin Wiley Fuller; Containing Previously Unpublished Poems* Louisburg, N.C.: Louisburg Printing. 1979.

#### Image Credits:

Title page of *Sea-Gift* by Edwin W. Fuller, 1873. Documenting the American South, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. <https://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/fuller/> <sup>[2]</sup>.

#### Subjects:

Education <sup>[12]</sup>

Literature <sup>[13]</sup>

Reconstruction (1865-1876) <sup>[14]</sup>

#### Authors:

Malone, E. T., Jr. <sup>[15]</sup>

#### Origin - location:

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill <sup>[16]</sup>

#### From:

Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press. <sup>[17]</sup>

**Source URL:**<https://ncpedia.org/sea-gift>

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