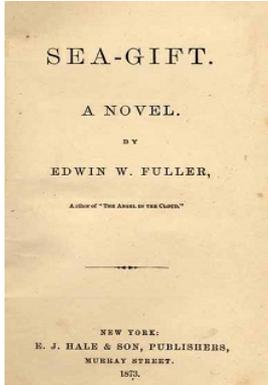


Sea-Gift ^[1]

Sea-Gift

by E. T. Malone Jr., 2006



Title page of Sea-Gift by

Edwin W. Fuller, 1873. ^[2]*Sea-Gift*, an 1873 novel by [Edwin Wiley Fuller](#) ^[3] (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](#) ^[4], and his participation in the [Civil War](#) ^[5]. 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](#) ^[6] 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](#) ^[7]. Elements of the plot of *Sea-Gift* involving a long train ride to enter college also may have influenced [Thomas Wolfe](#) ^[8] 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*](#)" ^[9] (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> ^[10] (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 ^[11].

Fuller, Edwin W. *Notebook of Edwin Wiley Fuller; Containing Previously Unpublished Poems* Louisburg, N.C.: Louisburg Printing. 1979.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/> ^[2].

Subjects:

[Education](#) ^[12]

[Literature](#) ^[13]

[Reconstruction \(1865-1876\)](#) ^[14]

Authors:

[Malone, E. T., Jr.](#) ^[15]

Origin - location:

[University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill](#) ^[16]

From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) ^[17]

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

Links

[1] <https://ncpedia.org/sea-gift> [2] <https://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/fuller/> [3] <https://ncpedia.org/biography/fuller-edwin-wiley> [4] <https://ncpedia.org/university-north-carolina-chapel-hi> [5] <https://ncpedia.org/history/cw-1900/civil-war> [6] <https://ncpedia.org/dueling> [7] <https://ncpedia.org/gimghoul-castle> [8] <https://ncpedia.org/wolfe-thomas> [9] <http://http://search.lib.unc.edu/search?R=UNCb1309174> [10] <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> [11] http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/f/Fuller,Edwin_W.html [12] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/education> [13] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/literature> [14] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/reconstruction> [15] <https://ncpedia.org/category/authors/malone-e-t-jr> [16] <https://ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/piedmon-33> [17] <https://ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/encyclopedia->