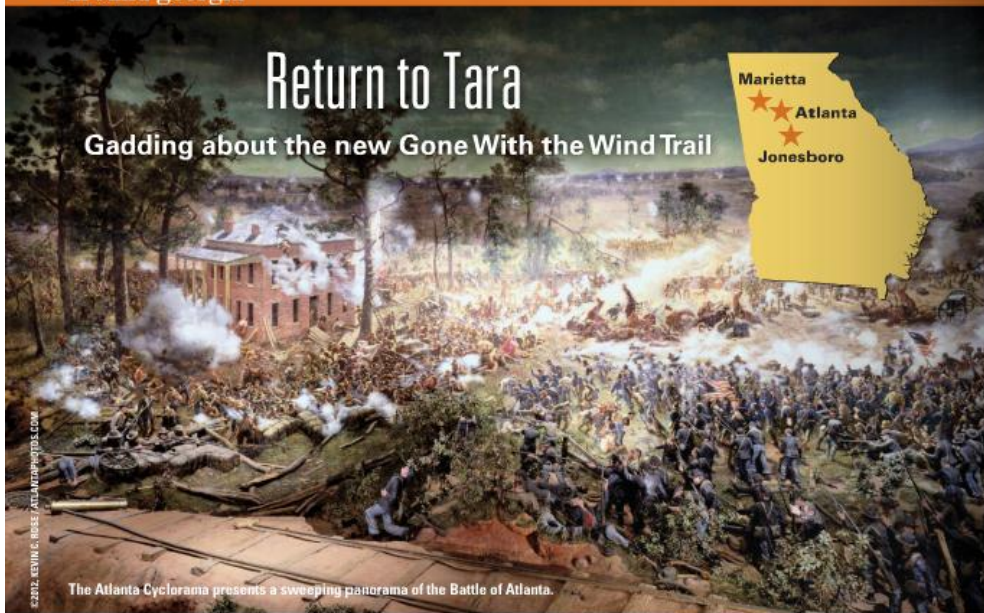


Return to Tara

Gadding about the new *Gone With the Wind* Trail



The Atlanta Cyclorama presents a sweeping panorama of the Battle of Atlanta.

BY KATHY WITT

Unfurling from Marietta to Jonesboro with stops in Atlanta en route, the newly designated *Gone With the Wind* Trail beats a path to key sites connected to “*Gone With the Wind*,” Margaret Mitchell’s 1936 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel and David O. Selznick’s 1939 Academy Award-winning film. The excitement is enough to send Aunt Pittypat reaching for her smelling salts or cause Miss Scarlett to shout, “Fiddle-dee-dee!”

“We have amazing history in our backyard,” says Jan Lingner, a self-described Windie (a die-hard fan) from Roswell. Lingner has visited all the sites on the trail and met many of the movie’s stars, including Ann Rutherford (Carreen O’Hara), Evelyn Keyes (Suellen O’Hara), Butterfly McQueen (Prissy), Fred Crane (Stuart Tarleton) and Alicia Rhett (India Wilkes).

“*Gone With the Wind*’ has a worldwide fan base, and this trail is

very important in keeping the legacy flame burning for generations to come,” she says.

“I honestly can’t think of a more interesting way to spend a day than seeing, hearing, feeling and touching the very core of Margaret Mitchell’s novel,” says Connie Sutherland, executive director of the Marietta *Gone With the Wind* Museum. “You virtually walk in her footsteps on this trail—and those of Rhett and Scarlett and so many other memorable characters.”

Scarlett on the Square

Like Dorothy and her yellow-brick-road odyssey, trailblazers should begin their explorations at the trailhead: the Marietta *Gone With the Wind* Museum—Scarlett on the Square, a repository of such treasures as Mitchell’s personal volumes of the novel, rare press and publicity books, cast member contracts, actress Ora Munson’s (Belle Watling) working script and more. The piece de résis-



The Margaret Mitchell House is located in Atlanta’s Midtown on Peachtree Street.

tance? The original Bengaline honeymoon gown worn by Vivien Leigh as Scarlett O’Hara in the movie.

New to the museum, which marks its 10th anniversary in 2013, is a Glowing Embers Japanese maple



A 1930s vintage car parade circled Marietta Square during the “70 Years of *Gone With the Wind*: A Re-Premiere” held in November 2009 by the Marietta *Gone With the Wind* Museum—Scarlett on the Square. The cars delivered the movie’s stars and several special guests to the Earl Smith Strand Theatre for a screening of “*Gone With the Wind*,” still the top box office film of all time when allowing for inflation, according to museum director Connie Sutherland.



Scarlett wore this Bengaline gown in the movie scene where she tells Rhett that Mammy has called them “mules in horse harness” who “didn’t fool anybody.”



Dedicated “*Gone With the Wind*” fans show the depth of their devotion to the book and the film as they dance the Virginia reel on the Marietta Square during the Marietta *Gone With the Wind*—Scarlett on the Square’s November 2009 re-premiere of “*Gone With the Wind*.”

tree memorial to the late Rutherford. Considered a faithful and enthusiastic friend of the museum, Rutherford gifted collection owner Chris Sullivan with her personal GWTW memorabilia, including a working script, a china tea set presented to her by the city of Atlanta and the necklace with a heart-shaped pendant she insisted on wearing when filming her scenes.

“She was such a love,” says friend and fellow cast member Mickey Kuhn (Young Beau Wilkes). “Any time there was an event—if Ann was there—the place would be jammed. She drew so many to her.”

Also in the Marietta area is Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, the battleground where the Confederate army temporarily stopped Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman’s troop advance before the fall of Atlanta. A visitors center showcases exhibits relating to the history of the Atlanta Campaign and the battle that took place there on June 27, 1864.

Margaret Mitchell’s Atlanta

In Atlanta, about 25,000 visitors make the pilgrimage annually to the Margaret Mitchell House, the humble digs the author dubbed “The Dump,”

where, from 1925 to 1932, she lived and wrote her masterpiece.

“Visitors are eager to trace the footsteps of Margaret Mitchell,” says Brandi Wigley, senior manager of community initiatives. “They want to see how she lived and where she wrote the novel. They feel as though literary magic happened in these small, cramped rooms.”

“It is a sacred spot,” says Kuhn. “Standing in Apartment No. 1, you are there—back when she was writing the book. I could see her there, sitting at the typewriter.”

Visitors to this trail landmark can also tour a “*Gone With the Wind*” movie exhibition as well as one showcasing the life and times of the world-famous author once denied membership in the Atlanta Junior League.

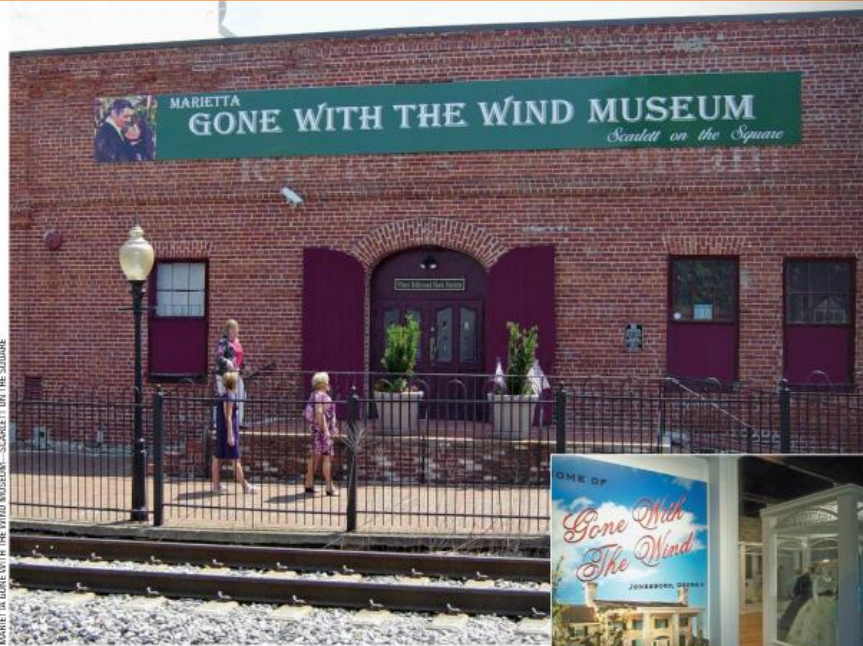
At the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System’s Central Library, see the Remington typewriter on which Mitchell composed “*Gone With the Wind*.” Besides the typewriter, the library holds a vast collection of Mitchell’s photographs, books and personal items—some 1,500 pieces—including the author’s Atlanta Public Library card and hundreds of person-



Reproduction dresses are authentic in detail, down to the gilded chicken feet adorning the hat of the green drapery dress.

al photographs documenting her life and work.

Visitors at the Atlanta Cyclorama & Museum will see the July 1864 Battle of Atlanta roll across a 358-foot three-dimensional panorama augmented with music and narration—a place cast members Clark Gable and Leigh visited during the movie’s 1939 Atlanta premiere, and one that Patrick



MARIETTA GONE WITH THE WIND MUSEUM—SCARLETT ON THE SQUARE

The new Gone With the Wind Trail begins at the Marietta Gone With the Wind Museum. **Inset:** The Road To Tara Museum is located in Jonesboro's 1867 Historic Train Depot.

Curtis (Baby Beau Wilkes) ranks among his favorite stops on the trail.

"The diorama, the Civil War uniforms, the weapons—there's a lot of stuff going on there and it really holds your interest," he says.

Other Atlanta sites: The Atlanta History Center maintains one of the

country's largest Civil War exhibitions, with 1,400 original artifacts in its collections. Historic Oakland Cemetery, home to a sculpture garden, botanical garden and wildlife habitat, is the final resting place of Margaret Mitchell.

There's no place like home: Tara

Gerald O'Hara (played by actor Thomas Mitchell) said it best: "Land ... it's the only thing that lasts." Jonesboro, the fictional setting of Tara—designated in 1969 as the "Official Home of 'Gone With the Wind'" by the Mitchell family—is home to the Road To Tara Museum.

Like the Marietta Gone With the Wind Museum, this one is a treasure trove of memorabilia relating to the book and movie, including the blue settee from Twelve Oaks and Scarlett's pantalets from the classic

scene wherein Mammy is cinching Scarlett's corset as she holds tight to the bedpost.

"We also have an area in the museum dedicated to the three-day premiere in Atlanta," says Beth Bailey of the Clayton County Convention & Visitors Bureau. "We have seats, carpet and stanchions from Loew's Grand Theatre. The highlight is the original brass marquee with a rare original 'Gone With the Wind' poster with hand-cut letters."

Jonesboro is also the backdrop for the 1839 Stately Oaks Plantation, a Greek Revival antebellum home in the style—and the land—of Tara and "Gone With the Wind." The home and grounds, populated with an old schoolhouse, cookhouse, country store and other outbuildings, may be toured, offering a snapshot of a by-gone world.



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The Atlanta History Center's signature exhibition Turning Point: The American Civil War encourages visitors to learn more about the greatest conflict in American history.

For the "Gone With the Wind" legacy, having an officially designated trail means an opportunity for visitors to keep discovering the people, places and objects connected to one of the world's most beloved and enduring

books and movies.

Kuhn and Curtis, known among Windies as "the Beaus," hope directing visitors to specific, meaningful places will spur even more interest in "Gone With the Wind."

"Even for those on the fringe, this trail will pique your interest," says Kuhn.

Kathy Witt is the author of "The Secret of the Belles" and "Atlanta, Georgia: A Photographic Portrait." Visit Witt's case at the Marietta Gone With the Wind Museum, displaying three original artist dolls—based on characters in her novel—and Ona Munson (Belle Watling) costume pieces, which play a key role in the book's plot.

Other places of interest

For more information on nearby attractions, including places to eat and stay for the night, see "Enhancing your trail experience" on page 21A in the February 2013 digital edition at www.georgiamagazine.org, or scan the QR code with your smart phone.



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MARIETTA GONE WITH THE WIND MUSEUM—SCARLETT ON THE SQUARE



This heart-shaped pendant, belonging to Ann Rutherford, left, was what the actress wore in "Gone With the Wind" and many of her other movies as a good luck charm.

Enhancing your trail experience

BY KATHY WITT

From French and Italian to casual and comfy, the restaurants along the Gone With the Wind Trail entice visitors with their vittles. And several hotels offer a good night's rest and gracious Southern hospitality so you can take your time exploring the trail.

Where to stay

Marietta

• **Hilton Atlanta/Marietta Hotel & Conference Center**, 500 Powder Springs St., Marietta. tinyurl.com/atlantahilton. (770) 427-2500. Gracious, white antebellum facade ushers guests into a gorgeous marble lobby and neat-as-a-pin rooms, many with golf course and Kennesaw Mountain views.

Atlanta

• **Georgia Terrace Hotel**, 659 Peachtree St. NE, Atlanta. www.thegeorgianterrace.com. (800) 651-2316. This circa-1911 luxury hotel

hosted the "Gone With the Wind" gala during the movie's premiere in 1939. Equally grand today, it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

• **W Atlanta-Midtown**, 188 14th St., NE, Atlanta. www.watlantamidtown.com. (404) 892-6000. Located at the intersection of contemporary luxury and sleek chic—and not far from the Margaret Mitchell House.

Where to eat

Marietta

• **Provino's Italian Restaurant**, 440 Barrett Pkwy., #2, Kennesaw. www.provinos.com. (678) 594-5055.

Hearty, Old World-style Italian feasting at this Kennesaw gem begins with a decadent bowl of garlic butter-drenched rolls. Delicious!

• **Shillings on the Square**, 19 N. Park Square NE, Marietta.

South City Kitchen serves fresh and contemporary new Southern cuisine with a sophisticated spin.

square.net. (770) 428-9520. A street-level pub bubbles over with fun; upstairs, the service and the scenery are elevated to white tablecloths, candles and a scenic view of the square.

• **Sugar Cakes Patisserie**, 101 N. Park Square NE, Marietta. www.sugarcakespatisserie.com. (770) 218-9994. French-style bakery and restaurants with gourmet food and cozy seating.

Atlanta

• **Mary Mac's Tea Room**, corner of Ponce de Leon Avenue and Myrtle Street, Atlanta. www.marymacs.com. (404) 876-1800. An Atlanta tradition, serving Southern staples.

• **OK Café**, 1284 West Paces Ferry Rd., Atlanta. www.okcafe.com. (404) 233-2888. Down-home deliciousness.

• **South City Kitchen**, 1144 Crescent Ave., Atlanta. www.southcitykitchen.com. (404) 873-7358. New Southern cuisine with a sophisticated twist—not far from the Margaret Mitchell House.

• **The Varsity**, 61 North Ave., Atlanta. www.thevarsity.com. (404) 881-1706. "What'll Ya Have?" Lots of fast food to choose from at the World's Largest Drive-in Restaurant.



A circa-1911 luxury hotel, the Georgian Terrace Hotel hosted the gala events during the Atlanta premiere of "Gone With the Wind" in 1939.

Attractions on the trail

• **Atlanta Cyclorama & Museum**, 800 Cherokee Ave., Atlanta. www.atlantacyclorama.org. (404) 658-7625.

• **Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System's Central Library**, 1 Margaret Mitchell Square, Atlanta. www.afpls.org. (404) 730-1700.

• **Atlanta History Center**, 130 West Paces Ferry Rd. NW, Atlanta. www.atlantahistorycenter.com. (404) 814-4000.

• **Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park**, 900 Kennesaw Mountain Dr., Kennesaw. www.nps.gov/kemo. (770) 427-4686, ext. 0.

• **Margaret Mitchell House**, 990 Peachtree St., Atlanta. www.margaretmitchellhouse.com. (404) 249-7015.

• **Marietta Gone With the Wind Museum: Scarlett on the Square**, 18 Whitlock Ave., Marietta. www.gwtvmarietta.com. (770) 794-5576.

• **Oakland Cemetery**, 248 Oakland Ave. SE, Atlanta. www.oaklandcemetery.com. (404) 688-2107.

• **Road To Tara Museum**, 104 North Main St., Jonesboro. www.visitscarlett.com. (770) 478-4800.



Dining at the OK Café is pure fun whether you dine in or carry out.

• **Stately Oaks Plantation**, 100 Carriage Ln., Jonesboro. www.historicaljonesboro.org. (770) 473-0197.

For more information, email gwtwtrail@atlantahistorycenter.com, or call (404) 814-4032. Download the trail brochure: www.GWTWTrail.com/GWTW_TRAIL/GWTW_TRAIL_HOME.html.

Establishments listed in this section are provided as a courtesy and not intended as an endorsement or recommendation by *GEORGIA Magazine*. To read more about the *Gone With the Wind Trail* in this month's issue, see page 18.



Sugar Cakes Patisserie, a French-style bakery and restaurant, is a charmer on the Marietta Square.

Happenings on the trail

To celebrate its 10th year as the showcase for the "Gone With the Wind" collection of Chris Sullivan, April 19-21, 2013, the Marietta Gone With the Wind Museum is hosting actress Ann Jeffreys—a dear friend of the late Ann Rutherford—and biographer Ann Edwards (who penned "Vivien Leigh").

Special guests and "Gone With the Wind" cast members Mickey Kuhn and Patrick Curtis ("the Beaus") will be in attendance. Wilbur Kurtz III will discuss his famous grandfather, Wilbur Kurtz Sr., an Atlanta historian who was the technical advisor for "Gone With the Wind" and Disney's 1956 production of "The Great Locomotive Chase." For more information, visit www.gwtvmarietta.com, or call (770) 794-5576.



The W Atlanta-Midtown is a lush hideaway in the midst of downtown's hustle and bustle.