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PRESS RELEASE

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**CLAYTON COUNTY PREVIEWES NEW GONE WITH THE WIND TOUR**  
WB Celebrating 70 Year Anniversary of Gone With The Wind-The Movie

Saturday, April 18, in correlation with the weekend celebration of **Gone With The Wind presented at the Fox Theater**, the Road to Tara Museum in Clayton County will launch a new tour based on Gone With The Wind.

The **Peter Bonner Gone With The Wind Tour** was penned by local historian and author, Peter Bonner. Bonner was doing research for a book on the Battle of Jonesboro when he noticed that many of the stories he found paralleled stories within the pages of Margaret Mitchell's literary classic. At first Bonner considered it to be a coincidence, until he found a published statement from Margaret Mitchell in which she said that practically all of the incidences in Gone With The Wind are true.

"I was writing a book about the Civil War Battle of Jonesboro when I came across a quote from Margaret Mitchell saying that her book was based on real people of the area," Bonner said. "It was that quote from Margaret Mitchell saying, **'the incidences in Gone With The Wind are true'**" that became the launching pad for a tour that has brought delight to untold numbers of visitors to the U.S.A., Georgia, Metro Atlanta, Clayton County and of course Jonesboro."

With the endorsement of the Margaret Mitchell Trust, Bonner published the information and created the Peter Bonner Gone With The Wind Tour.

"I am simply trying to be a good steward of a great story that continues to capture the imagination, and stimulate conversation about a pivotal moment in our Nation's history," Bonner added.

The Peter Bonner Gone With The Wind Tour is a **narrated 70-minute tour** aboard a climate controlled mini-bus. This tour highlights the stories from Jonesboro and Clayton County which parallel those in Gone With The Wind. The recorded audio is Peter Bonner's own voice, along with music and sound effects, recounting the stories that he

has been telling since 1996. Peter Bonner's Gone With The Wind tour is the only one of its kind anywhere. It is only fitting that the tour takes place in Jonesboro/ Clayton County, the only place to have the designation the **Official Home of Gone With The Wind** as designated by Stephens Mitchell, Margaret's brother, and by the Georgia Legislature.

"We are hoping to attract those Gone With The Wind Fans that will be in town to see the re-released movie at the Fox Theater in Atlanta on Sunday or those who would like to make a weekend out of it. We are giving them another opportunity to enrich their experience and learn a little bit more about the history of Margaret Mitchell's classic novel," Patrick Duncan, president and CEO of the Clayton County Convention & Visitors Bureau said.

For this special event, Peter Bonner will welcome each tour before departure and will be at the Road to Tara Museum throughout the day to answer questions, share anecdotes and to sign copies of his book, *Lost in Yesterday*. Each rider will receive a limited edition, numbered and autographed souvenir. The Road to Tara Museum will be offering hourly door prizes as well.

"With the movie, **Gone With the Wind celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary** and **Clayton County** in the midst of celebrating its **150<sup>th</sup> anniversary**, what better time to launch the Peter Bonner Gone With The Wind tour," said Patrick Duncan, president and CEO of the Clayton County Convention & Visitors Bureau "The history of Jonesboro is the history of Gone With The Wind and we are excited to be able to tell both stories simultaneously while giving our visitors an educational and entertaining tour. This tour is written to be interesting to locals and visitors as well."

"I am thrilled to partner with the Clayton County Convention and Visitors Bureau to provide the tour on their bus so that now all individuals will be able to experience the tour," Bonner said.

The regular price of the tour will be \$24.99 per person, however, during this special day; tickets may be purchased for **\$19.99**. Admission includes mini-bus tour and Road to Tara Museum.

The tour will normally run Monday- Saturday at 1 p.m. However, during this special commemorative day, the **tour will be available at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.** Reservations and purchase of pre-paid tickets are strongly recommended due to the limited amount of seating on the bus. The Road to Tara Museum and Visitors Center is open from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. for this day of celebration.

The tour departs from the Road to Tara Museum and Visitors Center in the historic Jonesboro train depot. 104 N. Main Street, Jonesboro, GA 30236. Visitors interested in reservations should call 770-478-4800 or email [Julie@visitscarlett.com](mailto:Julie@visitscarlett.com).

The Clayton County Convention & Visitors Bureau is the official tourism marketing agency for Clayton County. The CVB advertises and promotes the area to bring business to hotels, attractions, historical sites and meeting facilities within Clayton County and its neighboring communities.

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