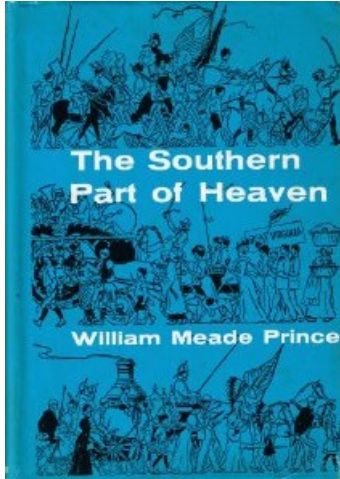


Southern Part of Heaven ^[1]

Southern Part of Heaven

by Jerry Leath Mills, 2006

See also: [State Names and Nicknames](#) ^[2]



Cover of *The Southern Part of Heaven*, 1950. Image from the National Archives.

^[3]The "Southern Part of Heaven" is a phrase coined by author [William Meade Prince](#) ^[4] in 1950 for the title of his volume of reminiscences of growing up in Chapel Hill. Prince was drawing on an old, probably apocryphal anecdote about a Dr. Kluttz, a Franklin Street store owner in the early years of the twentieth century. As Prince relates it, Kluttz, on his deathbed, inquires of his [Presbyterian](#) ^[5] minister, Parson Moss, what heaven is like, and Moss replies: "Dr. Kluttz, I believe Heaven must be a lot like Chapel Hill in the spring."

Prince's title has long held the status of a beloved cliché in Chapel Hill and continues to be cited in both promotional and sarcastic contexts. An example of the latter is a suggestion, not infrequently made, that in light of Chapel Hill's and the greater [Research Triangle](#) ^[6]'s development, population growth, and demographic change in recent years, the label should be emended to the "Southern Part of New Jersey."

References:

William Meade Prince, *The Southern Part of Heaven* (1950).

James Vickers, *Chapel Hill: An Illustrated History* (1985).

Additional Resources:

"Southern Part of Heaven." Preservation Society of Chapel Hill. January 19, 2012.

<http://chapelhillpreservation.com/2012/southern-part-of-heaven/> ^[7] (accessed September 18, 2012).

Image Credits:

"William-Meade-Prince-The-Southern-Part-of-Heaven.png." **"AOTUS: Collector in Chief: What I'm Reading."** The National Archives. http://blogs.archives.gov/aotus/?page_id=314 ^[3] (accessed September 18, 2012).

Subjects:

[Places](#) ^[8]

[Post War 20th Century \(1946-2000\)](#) ^[9]

[Slogans, slang, and sayings](#) ^[10]

Authors:

[Mills, Jerry Leath](#) ^[11]

Origin - location:

[Chapel Hill](#) ^[12]

From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press](#).^[13]

Source URL: <https://www.ncpedia.org/southern-part-heaven>

Links

[1] <https://www.ncpedia.org/southern-part-heaven> [2] <https://www.ncpedia.org/name-carolina-and-nicknames-old> [3] http://blogs.archives.gov/aotus/?page_id=314 [4] http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/p/Prince,William_Meade_and_Lillian_Hughes.html [5] <https://www.ncpedia.org/presbyterian-church-0> [6] <https://www.ncpedia.org/research-triangle-park> [7] <http://chapelhillpreservation.com/2012/southern-part-of-heaven/> [8] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/places> [9] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/post-war-20th-cen> [10] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/slang> [11] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/authors/mills-jerry-leath> [12] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/piedmont-5> [13] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/encyclopedia->