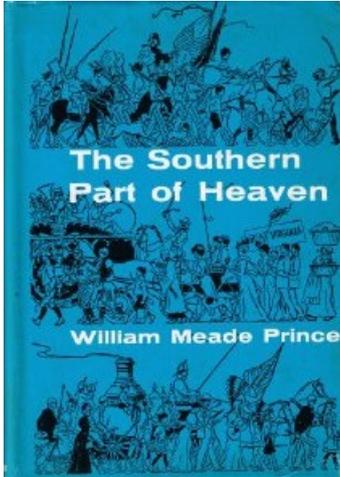


Southern Part of Heaven ^[1]

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. Klutz, a Franklin Street store owner in the early years of the twentieth century. As Prince relates it, Klutz, on his deathbed, inquires of his [Presbyterian](#) ^[5] minister, Parson Moss, what heaven is like, and Moss replies: "Dr. Klutz, 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:

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[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]

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