

Vale of Humility between Two Mountains of Conceit ^[1]

"Vale of Humility between Two Mountains of Conceit"

by William S. Powell, 2006

"Vale of Humility between Two Mountains of Conceit" is a phrase describing North Carolina that originated from a speech given by [Mary Oates Spratt Van Landingham](#) ^[2] on 6 Mar. 1900. That day, she spoke on the "native literature" of North Carolina before the Mecklenburg Historical Society in [Charlotte](#) ^[3]. Referencing North Carolina's location between South Carolina and Virginia, Van Landingham said, "[Where there are mountains of conceit, there are apt to be valleys of humility](#)." The term has remained a source of tongue-in-cheek pride for North Carolinians.

Additional Resources:

Van Landingham, Mrs. John. "A State's Scant Literature: The Native Literature of North Carolina: Influences of the Past; Prospects for the Future." *Glowing Embers*. Charlotte, N.C.:The Observer Printing House. 1922. p. 30. <http://books.google.com/books?id=qgdUAAAAYAAJ&lpg=PA24&ots=ZPUv-Liyz&dq=%22The%20native%20literature%20of%20North%20Carolina%22%20landingham&pg=PP1#v=onepage&q&f=false> ^[5] (accessed August 16, 2012).

Hovis, George. *Vale of Humility: Plain Folk in Contemporary North Carolina Fiction* ^[6]. Charleston: University of South Carolina Press. 2007.

Powell, Lew. "Valleys of whatever, mountains of whatever" North Carolina Miscellany (blog). University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. October 1, 2010. <http://www.lib.unc.edu/blogs/ncm/index.php/2010/10/01/humility/> ^[7] (accessed August 16, 2012).

Subjects:

[N.C. Industrial Revolution \(1900-1929\)](#) ^[8]

[Literature](#) ^[9]

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

Authors:

[Powell, William S.](#) ^[11]

Origin - location:

[Charlotte](#) ^[12]

From:

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

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Links

^[1] <https://ncpedia.org/vale-humility-between-two-mountains> ^[2] <https://ncpedia.org/biography/van-landingham> ^[3] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/charlotte> ^[4] <http://books.google.com/books?id=qgdUAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA24&ots=ZPUv-Liyz&dq=%22The%20native%20literature%20of%20North%20Carolina%22%20landingham&pg=PA30#v=onepage&q=%22Where%20there%20are%20mountains%20of%20conceit,%20there%20are%20apt%20to%20be%20valleys> ^[5] <http://books.google.com/books?id=qgdUAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA24&ots=ZPUv-Liyz&dq=%22The%20native%20literature%20of%20North%20Carolina%22%20landingham&pg=PP1#v=onepage&q&f=false> ^[6] <http://books.google.com/books?id=DVWkTVnYwOC&pg=PA1&ots=WNHovPFiM&dq=Mary%20Oates%20Spratt%20Van%20Landingham%20%22Vale%20of%20Humility%20between%20Two%20Mountains%20of%20Conceit%22&pg=PA1#v=onepage&> ^[7] <http://www.lib.unc.edu/blogs/ncm/index.php/2010/10/01/humility/> ^[8] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/nc-industrial-rev> ^[9] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/literature> ^[10] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/slang> ^[11] <https://ncpedia.org/category/authors/powell-william-s-0> ^[12] <https://ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/piedmon-24> ^[13] <https://ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/encyclopedia->