

Manteo to Murphy ^[1]

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"Manteo to Murphy"

by Wiley J. Williams, 2006

"Manteo to Murphy" is a phrase often used in reference to the entire east-west width of North Carolina, particularly when describing a phenomenon that touches all regions of the state. The phrase was famously applied to the 1876 gubernatorial campaign between [Zebulon B. Vance](#) ^[2] and [Supreme Court](#) ^[3] Justice [Thomas Settle Jr.](#) ^[4], in which Vance's victory set off "rejoicing by [Democrats](#) ^[5] 'from Manteo to Murphy.'" This followed from the fact that Vance and Settle had toured the state in a series of debates that resulted in the largest Democratic majority (over 13,000) in any election between 1868 and 1900. The phrase is actually a symbolic and not literal rendering of the extreme east-west width of North Carolina, since neither Manteo ([Dare County](#) ^[6]) nor Murphy ([Cherokee County](#) ^[7]) is situated precisely at the state's borders.

Additional Resources:

McFee, Michael. "Back Home." *The Napkin Manuscripts: Selected Essays and an Interview*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press. 2006. p. 5. <http://books.google.com/books?id=-YMe426WjNkC&pg=PR9&ots=cxUBXUGhbY&dq=%22Manteo%20to%20Murphy%22&lr&pg=PA5#v=onepage&q=Manteo&f=false> ^[8]

"Thomas Settle, Jr. 1831-1888." North Carolina Highway Historical Marker Program. <https://www.ncdcr.gov/about/history/division-historical-resources/nc-highway-historical-marker-program/Markers.aspx?sp=search&k=Markers&sv=J-17> ^[9] (accessed August 17, 2012).

"Zebulon B. Vance 1830-1894." North Carolina Highway Historical Marker Program. <https://www.ncdcr.gov/about/history/division-historical-resources/nc-highway-historical-marker-program/Markers.aspx?sp=search&k=Markers&sv=P-2> ^[10]

Subjects:

[Geography](#) ^[11]

[Slogans, slang, and sayings](#) ^[12]

[UNC Press](#) ^[13]

Authors:

[Williams, Wiley J.](#) ^[14]

Origin - location:

[Dare County](#) ^[15]

[Cherokee County](#) ^[16]

From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) ^[17]

1 January 2006 | Williams, Wiley J.

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[4] <https://ncpedia.org/biography/settle-thomas-jr>

[5] <https://ncpedia.org/democratic-party>

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[8] <http://books.google.com/books?id=-YMe426WjNkC&pg=PR9&ots=cxUBXUGhbY&dq=%22Manteo%20to%20Murphy%22&lr&pg=PA5#v=onepage&q=Manteo&f=false>

[9] <https://www.ncdcr.gov/about/history/division-historical-resources/nc-highway-historical-marker-program/Markers.aspx?sp=search&k=Markers&sv=J-17>

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