

## Manteo to Murphy <sup>[1]</sup>

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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](#) <sup>[2]</sup> and [Supreme Court](#) <sup>[3]</sup> Justice [Thomas Settle Jr.](#) <sup>[4]</sup>, in which Vance's victory set off "rejoicing by [Democrats](#) <sup>[5]</sup> '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](#) <sup>[6]</sup>) nor Murphy ([Cherokee County](#) <sup>[7]</sup>) 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> <sup>[8]</sup>

"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> <sup>[9]</sup> (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> <sup>[10]</sup>

### Subjects:

[Geography](#) <sup>[11]</sup>

[Slogans, slang, and sayings](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

[UNC Press](#) <sup>[13]</sup>

### Authors:

[Williams, Wiley J.](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

### Origin - location:

[Dare County](#) <sup>[15]</sup>

[Cherokee County](#) <sup>[16]</sup>

### From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) <sup>[17]</sup>

1 January 2006 | Williams, Wiley J.

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**Source URL:** <https://www.ncpedia.org/manteo-murphy>

### Links

[1] <https://www.ncpedia.org/manteo-murphy>

[2] <https://www.ncpedia.org/vance-zebulon-baird-research-branch>

[3] <https://www.ncpedia.org/supreme-court-north-carolina>

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

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

[6] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/dare>

[7] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/charlotte>

[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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