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**OAK.** Within the borders of Georgia are found at least 23 species of the oak tree or shrub, genus *Quercus*. It is therefore not surprising to find a great many place-names which include "Oak" in their designation. There was once a community of OAK in south Barrien County, and also an OAK BOWER in Hart County, 4 1/2 miles east of Hartwell. A post office in Fulton County named OAKDALE was established from 1887 to 1899, when the name was changed to CHATTAHOOCHEE (q.v.). OAKFIELD is in northwest Worth County, and another OAKFIELD in Crisp County, being incorporated December 6, 1900. Places with the name OAK GROVE have been found in Cherokee, DeKalb, Fulton and Macon counties. In Gilmer County, located below Ellijay, is an OAK HILL; there was also a community near Covington in Newton County called OAK HILL, and another located five miles northwest of Greensboro in Greene County. The town of OAKHURST in DeKalb County was incorporated August 13, 1910 and was incorporated into the town of Decatur, August 14, 1916. There was another OAKHURST in Cobb County, about six miles from Marietta. OAKLAND ACADEMY was established in Gilmer County in 1867 at Cartecay and was discontinued in 1920. The town of OAKLAND CITY in Fulton County was incorporated December 12, 1894, and was located in what is now Atlanta, between West End and Fort McPherson. There have been communities named OAKLAND in four other counties: Glynn, Gwinnett, Lee and Meriwether. OAKLAWN is located in western Brooks County at the Thomas County line. The town of OAKMAN in Gordon County was incorporated March 24, 1939 to July 1, 1995 It was so named for a local dealer in oak logs who was called "the oak man." OAK RIDGE was the name given to a community in Meriwether County, seven miles northwest of Greenville. In the northwest corner of Meriwether County is LONE OAK, and the county also has a RED OAK CREEK. OAK PARK, Muscogee County, was incorporated August 18, 1906, and is now a part of Columbus. The village of OAKWOOD in Hall County was incorporated August 12, 1903. In 1884, a Colonel Fort purchased 4,500 acres at OAK LAWN in eastern Houston County. *See also* Big Oak, Twiggs County, Round Oak, Jones County and White Oak, Camden County.

**OAK CANE BRANCH,** Jenkins County. Located on the north side of the Ogeechee river, two miles southeast of Millen. Goff found that this stream was originally called OCAIN'S BRANCH after Daniel O'Cain, who was given a grant of 300 acres in the vicinity in 1762.

**OAKFUSKEE CREEK,** Pike County. Empties into the Flint River west of Concord. The Muskogean name means "Down in a point of land," and was originally applied to the old trail, OAKFUSKEE PATH. It ran through the Upper Creek town of Oakfukee in Dade County, Alabama and extended eastward through Greenville, Griffin and Warrenton to Augusta.

**OAKFUSKOOCHEE TALLAUHASSEE,** Troup County. This was once a flourishing ancient Muskogee Indian town at a site three miles north of the present West Point. English traders from Charles Town, South Carolina visited here about 1685. The town existed until about 1790 when its inhabitants moved westward to settle on the Tallapoosa River.

**OBALDAQUINI,** Glynn County. An early Spanish name for the present JEKYLL ISLAND (q.v.).

**OCEAN CITY,** Chatham County. This island town on the Atlantic Ocean was incorporated October 15, 1887. The name was changed to TYBEE (q.v.) December 26, 1888, and is now called SAVANNAH BEACH (q.v.).

**OCHEE FINNAU,** Baldwin County. This was what the Lower Creeks called the site of TOMS FORD (q.v.) on the Ocmulgee River. The name signifies hickory bridge or footlog from *ochi*, "hickory," and *fin*, "a crossing facility over a stream."

**OCHILLEE CREEK,** Chattahoochee and Marion counties. Now called PINK KNOT CREEK, it rises about six miles northwest of Buena Vista and flows westerly to Upatoi Creek. Originally the name was NOCHILLEHATCHEE or NOCHILLEE. with its meaning interpreted as "Camping Creek" or "Sleeping Creek." It has also been thought to signify "Dead Hickory," from the Creek, *ochi*, "hickory," and *ili*, "dead." A railroad station in Marion County was given the name OCHILLEE, and also a former village in upper Chattahoochee County, which is now a part of Fort Benning military reservation.

**OCHISE or (OCHEESE) CREEK.** This was the early name given to the OCMULGEE RIVER, presumably after the Yuchi Indians of the Creek coalition, who lived on its banks. The English called these early inhabitants the "Ocheese Creek Indians" and later shortened it to "Creek Indians," which is believed to be how the Creek Indians were so named. The Muskogee Indian word *ochese* signifies "bubbling up of water from a spring."

**OCHLOCKONEE RIVER.** Called "Oaklocknee" by old timers in this region. Rises in Worth County and flows through Colquitt, Thomas and Grady counties and on into Florida. It was named GUACUCA by De Soto when he discovered this waterway in 1540. Some variations of spellings have included OKLOKNEE, OCHLOCHNEE, OCHLOCKNEE and OCKLOCKONY. OCKLOCKNEY was the early name of the present city of MOULTRIE (q.v.), and there is today a town in northwest Thomas County called OCKLOCKNEE, both named from the river. The Indian word means "Yellow Water," from the Hitchiti, *oki*, "water," and *lakni*, "yellow," as reported by William Read. It was also said to possibly mean "North River."

**OCHWALKEE CREEK,** Laurens and Wheeler counties. Often called OKEEWALKEE CREEK (q.v.), this is a tributary of the Oconee River. Means "dirty water," from the Creek, *oki*, "water," and *holwaki*, "dirty." This name of OCHWALKEE is given to a community in Wheeler County which is located near the Montgomery County line.

**OCILLA,** CS Irwin County. Pronounced "Oh-sill-uh." Incorporated as a town November 24, 1897. It became the county seat in 1906 when the seat was moved from Irwinville. This is an old Indian name, a variation of Aucilla (*see* Aucilla River). Some sources have suggested it is derived from *Oswitchee*, an Indian town, or from the name of an Indian chief Ocilla who lived in Wiregrass, Coffee County. J.B. Clements claims to have traced the name back, first to ASSILE, and then AGLIE, AXILLA, AGULIL, OCHILE and finally OCILLA.

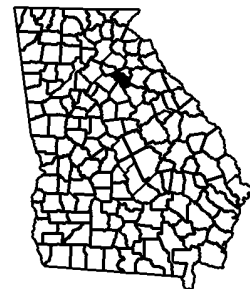
**OCKLAU CREEK,** Pulaski County. William Read reports of this stream from an 1823 Tanner Map. He said that the derivation is probably from the Creek word, *aklowahi*, meaning "muddy."

**OCMULGEE RIVER.** Pronounced "Oak-mul-gee," with a hard "g." Originates at Lake Jackson (q.v.) which is fed by the South River, Yellow River and Alcovy River. It flows southeasterly through the middle of the state until it is joined by the Little Ocmulgee and Oconee rivers above Hazlehurst to form the Altamaha. The early English settlers called it OCHISE CREEK (q.v.). The Indian name of this waterway is from the Hitchiti, *oki*, "water," and *mulgis*, "it is boiling (or bubbling)." The first element of the word has also been said to be from the Indian word *och*, meaning "in" or "down in." Some variations of spelling have included OAKMULGEE and OKMULGI. Today's maps no longer show some of the early communities with names taken from this river,

such as OCMULGEE in eastern Monroe County and OCMULGEE in the extreme northeast corner of Coffee County. There were two places called OCMULGEE WHARF, one in northern Jeff Davis County and another in eastern Wilcox County. An old post office of OCMULGEEVILLE was located nine miles west of Hazlehurst in what is now Jeff Davis County.

**OCMULGEE MOUNDS,** Bibb County. This 683-acre reserve was established as the OCMULGEE NATIONAL MONUMENT on December 23, 1936, following a request by U.S. congressman from Georgia, Carl Vinson. This is the site, of the former OCMULGEE OLD TOWN (or OLD OCMULGEE FIELDS) which was the original Indian settlement at the site of the present M-CON. From about 8000 B.C. to 1717 A.D., six different cultures are known to have inhabited the area: the Wandering Hunters, the Shellfish Eaters, the Early Farmers, the Master Farmers, the Reconquerors and finally the Creek Indians.

**OCONEE,** Washington County. This community is located 12 miles southwest of Sandersville, near the Oconee River, and was incorporated as a town February 28, 1876. It was first settled when the Central of Georgia Railroad was built about 1842, and originally called STATION NUMBER 14.



**OCONEE COUNTY.** Created February 25, 1875 with 186 square miles taken from part of Clarke County. Named for the Oconee River (q.v.) which forms its east boundary. The county seat is Watkinsville (q.v.).

**OCONEE HEIGHTS,** Clarke County. This community is located on the northwest edge of Athens, and is now a part of that city. Named from the Oconee River, it was formerly called BOHURON.

**OCONEE OLD TOWN (or OLD OCONEE TOWN),** Baldwin County. This former Indian town was located just below Rock Landing about four miles south of Milledgeville. The main body of the Oconee Indians lived here until the white men came in the 18th century. The Indians then established a town northwest on the Chattahoochee

River about 1716 which they called LITTLE OCONEE, and they soon thereafter went to live in Florida. It was said that the Apalachee or Hitchiti town of OCONI was "missionized" as early as 1655. The mission list of 1680 referred to it as SAN FRANCISCO DE OCONI. *See also* Cofaqui.

**OCONEE RIVER.** This 250-mile waterway rises near Lula in Hall County and flows southward to join the Ocmulgee River above Hazlehurst to form the Altamaha. The name is derived from an early Creek Indian settlement in northeast Baldwin County called Oconee Old Town (q.v.). *Oconee* is the Creek word for "the place of springs" or "the water eyes of the hills." Variations of spellings have included OCONE, OCONI, OCONY, EKWONI, UKWUNU and UKWUNI. It was also known as ETOHO in the upper part. The MIDDLE OCONEE RIVER was formerly called ITHLOBEE by the Indians.

**OCONEE WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS,** Hall County. Was also called WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS (q.v.).

**OCTAVIA,** Cobb County. An early community which was located on Mud Creek, about 6 1/2 miles southwest of Marietta. The name is believed derived from the sister of the Roman emperor Augustus, the wife of Mark Antony.

**ODESSADALE,** Meriwether County. Now only a community, which was incorporated as a town August 23, 1905 to July 1, 1995. Originally named XERXES (q.v.), it was later called ODESSA after Miss Odessa Jane Thompson, daughter of early settler from South Carolina, James W. Thompson. The post office was established here June 30, 1891.

**ODINGSSELL RIVER,** Chatham County. Separates Wassaw Island from Little Wassaw Island. Lilla Hawes said it was probably named for the Charles A. Odingsell family.

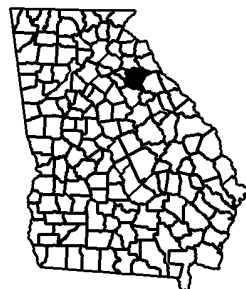
**ODUM,** Wayne County. Incorporated as a town August 22, 1907. Mr. J.A. Odum was one of the original councilmen.

**OGEECHEE RIVER.** Also called the GREAT OGEECHEE RIVER, it is one of the 26 untamed rivers in the United States. This 233-mile long river begins near Union Point in Greene County, and flows southeasterly in the eastern part of the state, and enters the Atlantic Ocean on the south border of Chatham County. The Muskogean name

is *Okechee*, which means "River of the Uchees" (*see* Uchee Creek). The English called the stream HOGEECHEE. There was formerly a community in Jefferson County called OGEECHEE TOWN (*see* Galphinton). A community on the river in southwest Screven County is named OGEECHEE. It was originally known by its railroad name, STATION NO. 6 1/2.

**OGEECHEE ROAD.** Followed the course of the Ogeechee River between Savannah and Louisville. It was an old post road established by the U.S. Post Office Department before 1800, and was later called LOUISVILLE ROAD. The present Georgia Highway 17 follows the same route.

**OGLETHORPE,** CS Macon County. Settled about 1840, incorporated as a town December 14, 1849, as a city January 22, 1852, and became the county seat in 1854, when it was moved here from Lanier (q.v.). At the site of the railroad depot, Timothy Barnard had established the first trading post in the area about 1770. Ulrich B. Phillips said that the town was established by E.G. Cabaniss in 1850 as the Central of Georgia Company was about to make this site the head of the railroad (*see also* Cabaniss, Monroe County). Named in honor of General Oglethorpe, founder of Georgia (*see* Oglethorpe County).



**OGLETHORPE COUNTY.** Called "Moth of Statesmen." Created December 19, 1793 with 432 square miles taken from part of Wilkes County. Named for General James Edward Oglethorpe (1696-1785), the founder of Georgia. The county seat is Lexington (q.v.). OGLETHORPE BENCH on Factors Walk in Savannah (q.v.) commemorates the spot where General Oglethorpe landed February 12, 1733. Also in Savannah is OGLETHORPE PARK and the OGLETHORPE STATUE on Chippawa Square. Another statue honoring Georgia's founder was placed atop MOUNT OGLETHORPE. This 3,290-foot peak in northeast Pickens County was formerly called GRASSY KNOB. Also a monument to General Oglethorpe, dedicated in 1930, stands in Queens Square, Brunswick. South Broad Street in Savannah has

changed its name to **OGLETHORPE AVENUE**. **OGLETHORPE BARRACKS** in Savannah was established from 1828 to 1884. **OGLETHORPE BLUFF**, on the Altamaha River in Wayne County, is located about six miles below the site of Fort James. Local legend tells that the name came about after General Oglethorpe once rode over the bluff into the river while being pursued by Indians. *See also* Fort Oglethorpe, Bibb and Catoosa counties.

**OGLETHORPE TRAIL**. Laid out along the Savannah River from Savannah to Augusta in 1736-37 at the direction of General Oglethorpe (*see* Oglethorpe County). It was also called **RIVER ROAD** and sometimes **PINE LOG TRAIL**.

**OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY**, Atlanta. Established as **OGLETHORPE COLLEGE** by the Trustees of Midway Seminary in 1835, with the dissolution of the Midway Seminary and the Gwinnett Institute at Midway, Baldwin County. It was named after General Oglethorpe (*see* Oglethorpe County). First opened in January 1838, it was governed and controlled by the Presbyterian Church. Due to the hardships of the Civil War, it ceased operating from 1863 to 1866, and finally forced to close completely at Christmas 1872. Through the efforts of Dr. Thornwell Jacobs of Atlanta, the university was refounded in that city, and it reopened in the Fall of 1916 after being closed for almost 44 years. The present name was adopted in 1965.

**OHOOPEE**, Toombs County. Incorporated as a town August 19, 1907 to July 1, 1995. This community in the eastern part of the county was named for the **OHOOPEE RIVER** which flows one mile east of this site. The stream is a tributary of the Altamaha River and arises in southeast Washington County. George R. Stewart states that this Indian name is of uncertain language and meaning. Goff relates that *ohoopee* is one of Georgia's oldest Indian terms but that the significance of the name is not clear. Brinkley says it is an Anglicized form of the name of Creek-Seminole chief, Hopoy Hapo.

**OKAPILCO CREEK**, Brooks County. A tributary of the Withlacoochee River. William Read said the probable meaning is "Big Swamp Water" or possibly "Nighthawk Creek." A post office named **OKAPILCO** was established ten miles northwest of Quitman from 1846 to 1867.

**OKAUHUTKEE CREEK**, Talbot-Taylor-Macon counties. Now called **WHITEWATER CREEK** (q.v.).

**OKEEWALKEE CREEK**. Rises 12 miles below Dublin in Laurens County, and flows southeast through upper Wheeler County to the Oconee River. May have meant "Cow Creek," from Hitchitee, *Oke*, "water," and *waca*, "cow," or possibly "Place with water springs," from *u-ikai-walki*. It is also called **OCHWALKEE CREEK** (q.v.).

**OKEFENOKEE SWAMP**. Correct pronunciation is "Oakee-fen-oakee," but it is popularly called "O'kee-fee-no'kee." It is encompassed within the **OKEFENOKEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE** which was purchased by the U.S. Government in 1937. This consists of a 681 square mile expanse of wilderness, the largest preserved freshwater swampland in the United States. The name comes from the Seminole Indian word, *E-cun-fino-can*, which means "Trembling (or Quivering) Earth." and is so called because of the floating islands of the swamp. These are peat bogs that appear to be solid dry land; the peat is sometimes as much as 20 feet thick with the cypress trees rooted into its upper crust. There have been recorded over 77 different spellings of the name! Old maps of Georgia have labeled the swamp as **EKANIFINAKA** (1790), **AKENFONOGA** (1796), **ECKENFINOOKA** (1810), **OKEFINOKA** (1813), **OKE-FIN-A-CAN** and **OQUAFANAOKA** (1818). Reverend George White wrote the name **E-FI-NO-CAU**. There was at one time a community called **OKEEFENOKEE** in Clinch County, 30 miles southeast of Homerville, which was destroyed in the Civil War. **OKEFENOKEE TRAIL** was the designation of an early highway from Augusta to Florida.

**OKEFENOKEE SWAMP PARK**, Ware County. Located at the north entrance of Okefenokee Swamp (q.v.), at a site about eight miles south of Waycross. It is managed by the Okefenokee Association, Inc. which here provides tours and guides for visitors to the swamp.

**OKI**, Effingham County. This was a small settlement near Old Ebenezer (q.v.). The name is the Hitchiti Indian word *oki*, meaning "water."

**OKOLOCO TRAIL**, Jackson County. This old Indian highway was the original boundary line between Gwinnett and Jackson counties. *Okoloco* is a Creek Indian word meaning "Hog Mountain" (*see* Hog Mountain Road).

**OKTAHASASI (or OKTAHATAFLOFA)**, Fulton County. An ancient Indian town, its name signifying **SANDTOWN** (q.v.).

**OKWHUSKE(E)**, Haralson County. The early name given to the **TALLAPOOSA RIVER** (q.v.).

**OLA**, Henry County. An early post office, named after the daughter of a Mr. Patten who lived here. Was located at the crossroads of Key's Ferry Road and Old Macon Road.

**OLD AGENCY**, Crawford and Taylor Counties. Was also called **THE AGENCY** or **OLD CREEK AGENCY**. The site is located six miles southwest of Roberta on the banks of the Flint River. Indian agent Colonel Benjamin Hawkins (*see* Hawkinsville) in 1804 established the locality for transaction of his duties. It also included a plantation, mills, work shops, store houses, etc. After Hawkins died, the community declined, and was replaced by nearby Francisville (q.v.) which survived a little longer. Hawkins' grave is in a cow pasture on a beautiful knoll overlooking the river at the site of his home at Old Agency. He had established Fort Lawrence on the opposite (west) bank.

**OLD DAMASCUS**, Early County. This rural community, known locally as **OLD TOWN**, was originally called **DAMASCUS** (q.v.). When the Georgia Pine Railroad was built through nearby Kestler, the depot there was called Damascus, and eventually that community adopted this name. Old Damascus is about one mile northwest of Damascus.

**OLD DOC SLOUGH**, Long County. This is a creek or drain coming out of the river swamp about four miles above Doctortown. Goff said it was probably named for Indian chief, Captain Alleck (*see* Alecks Creek).

**OLD EBENEZER**, Effingham County. The original settlement of the Salzburgers. *See* Ebenezer.

**OLD FALL LINE**. *See* Fall Line.

**OLD FEDERAL ROAD**. This thoroughfare became the earliest vehicular way of northwest Georgia, and the first postal route of this section. Beginning at Federal Crossing (q.v.), it crossed at Vann's Ferry (q.v.) and followed Georgia route 141 to Coal Mountain, Forsyth County, and ran northwesterly through Cherokee and Pickens counties. It was so named because the Federal government secured right of passageway (by an agreement of 1803-04) from the Cherokees across their lands, to facilitate communication and travel between Tennessee and the lower Southeast.

**OLD FLORENCE**, Stewart County. *See* Florence.

**OLD HELL BIGHT**, Wayne County. This is a big bend in the Altamaha River below the mouth of Penholoway Creek. The name was derived from the adjacent great swamp.

**OLD ISLAND**, Charlton County. One of the first islands in the Okefenokee Swamp to be discovered by the whites. It is now called **CRAVEN'S ISLAND** (q.v.).

**OLD MOUNT PLEASANT**, Effingham County. *See* Mount Pleasant.

**OLD NINE (or NUMBER NINE)**, Ware County. This was the early name of **WAYCROSS** (q.v.).

**OLD OCMULGEE FIELDS (or OCMULGEE OLD FIELDS)**, Bibb County. Was located on the site of **OCMULGEE NATIONAL MONUMENT** (q.v.). This was thought to be the location of the capital town of the so-called Creek Confederacy.

**OLD OCONEE TOWN**, Baldwin County. *See* Oconee Old Town.

**OLD POST ROAD**. Georgia highway 77 between Elberton and Lexington. Officially given its original name March 10, 1964, as this old route had been in use for over 150 years, at first by post riders. It had recently been known as **MATTOX BRIDGE ROAD**.

**OLD QUAKER ROAD**. One of Georgia's earliest vehicular thoroughfares which was opened about 1769 to link Savannah with the Quaker settlement of Wrightsboro (q.v.). Georgia highway 24 follows this road quite closely.

**OLD RIVER ROAD**. Ran parallel to the Savannah River from Savannah to Augusta. John Goff said this was Georgia's first long, white man's thoroughfare, and was marked out in 1736-37 on orders of General Oglethorpe.

**OLD RIVER ROAD**. Was an important vehicular route which opened about 1777 along an Indian trail from Savannah to Rock Landing (q.v.). So named as it ran along the west side of the Ogeechee River to Bartow (Jefferson County).

**OLD SCREAMER MOUNTAIN**, Rabun County. A common name that was used to refer to **SCREAMER MOUNTAIN** (q.v.), now called **BLECKLEY MOUNTAIN** (q.v.).

**OLD TOWN**, Glynn County. This was the name given to **FREDERICA** (q.v.) on St. Simons Island in its declining years, as reported by Aaron Burr in 1804.

**OLD TOWN**, Jefferson County. This early community on the Ogeechee River was supposedly established by settlers from South Carolina before Oglethorpe established Savannah. The settlement was originally called GALPHINTON (q.v.).

**OLD WIRE ROAD.** *See* Wire Road.

**OLICO CREEK**, Lamar and Upson counties. *See* Potato Creek.

**OLIVER DAM**, Muscogee County (and Alabama). The dam was built on the Chattahoochee River to form LAKE OLIVER. This was the site of the famous old historic Clapp's Factory (textile mill), which was burned in 1865 by General Wilson's Raiders. The dam and lake were named for J.M. Oliver, who was general manager of the Georgia Power Company. There is also a community called OLIVER in Screven County, near the Effingham County line. Derivation of this name is unknown.

**OLMSTEAD LAKE**, Augusta. Located on the Augusta Country Club grounds. Possibly named for Colonel Charles H. Olmstead, CSA who was commander of Fort Pulaski (q.v.) when it was captured by Federal forces on April 11, 1861.

**OLYMPIA**, Lowndes County. This was an early trading center in the southern part of the county. Was named from the idea of the home of the Greek gods.

**OMAHA**, Stewart County. Incorporated as a town October 5, 1891 to July 1, 1995. Was established on the Chattahoochee River, 15 miles northwest of Lumpkin, with the coming of the Seaboard Airline Railway, which was extended through here to Montgomery, Alabama. Derivation is from an old Indian tribal name which means "Upstream People" or "Against the Wind."

**OMECRON**, Wilkinson County. This was an early community which was located about eight miles northeast of Allentown, and is now the community of LINDSEY. The name is a variation of *Omicron*, the fifteenth letter of the Greek alphabet.

**OMEGA**, Tift County. Pronounced "Oh-mee'ga." Incorporated as a town August 22, 1905. Was established as a railroad town about 1889 when it was first called SURREY, located nine miles south of Tifton. *Omega* is the last letter of the Greek alphabet and signifies "the end," maybe of the railroad (there is no railroad here now).

**ONIDA**, Liberty County. This former community was located 15 miles northwest of Hinesville. This is a simplified spelling of *Oneida*, an Indian tribal name.

**OOSTANAULA INDIAN TOWN**, Gordon County. This village was founded about the end of the American Revolution, after which it was replaced by New Echota (q.v.).

**OOSTANAULA RIVER**, Floyd and Gordon counties. The Conasauga and Coosawattee rivers join about five miles northeast of Calhoun to form the Oostanaula River which flows southwesterly to Rome. This is a swift river which is 45 miles long. The Cherokee Indian name means either "Shoally River," "The Rock that Bars Your Way," "A Rock Ledge Across a Stream" or "High Tower." Among the variations of spellings have been, OUSTANALE, OUSTANALEE, USTANALI and EASTANOLLEE (q.v.).

**OOTHCALOOGA (or OOOYOKILOKE)**, Gordon County. Was the early Cherokee Indian name for the present city of CALHOUN (q.v.). An early Indian village of OOTHCALOOGA in Bartow County was located five miles north of Adairsville.

**OOTHKALOOGA CREEK**, Bartow and Gordon counties. Rises just below Adairsville in Bartow County and flows northerly into Gordon County to enter the Oostanaula River west of Calhoun. The name is from a Cherokee word *tsutygilagi*, meaning "Beaver" or "Where there are Beaver Dams."

**OPHELIA**, Wilkes County. This was an early hamlet, located twelve miles northwest of Washington. Ophelia was the young, beautiful daughter of Polonius in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.

**ORANGE**, Cherokee County. This community is located nine miles east of Canton on Georgia highway 20. May have been named for William III (1650-1702) of the house of Orange or from settlers coming from Orange County, North Carolina.

**ORCHARD HILL**, Spalding County. This descriptively named community, located five miles southeast of Griffin, was incorporated as a town August 19, 1912.

**OREDELL**, Polk County. Goff recorded that this is "A coined name for an iron-ore shipping point on the Southern Railway." There is no Oredell on the current county map, but there is instead a stop called OREMONT, about six miles west of Cedar-town on the Southern Railway.

**ORLAND**, Montgomery County. This former town was incorporated from August 11, 1908 until 1915, when its charter was repealed. It was located six miles northwest of Soperton on Georgia highway 29.

**OSCEOLA**, Oconee County. Founded about 1869, and named by James Thompson for the mixed-blood Creek-Seminole Indian chief of this name. The Creek word *osceola* refers to a medicine used by the tribe in certain ceremonies. It also may mean "Black Drink Singer," or "Black Drink Hollerer," referring to a call repeated while chiefs sipped the black drink made from asi leaves. Winn reports that it means "leaves," specifically leaves of the black yaupon, used for preparing the "Black Drink." The name of this community was changed to BOGART (q.v.) in 1892.

**OSCEWICHEE SPRING**, Wilcox County. This water source was reported to be located ten miles southeast of Abbeville. The name is probably a variant of Oswitchee (q.v.).

**OSIERFIELD**, Irwin County. This community located eight miles northeast of Ocilla was incorporated as a city August 19, 1912 to July 1, 1995. Its post office had closed in 1965. Derivation is unknown.

**OSKETOCHEE CREEK**, Dougherty County. Early name of TALLAHASSEE CREEK (q.v.).

**OSSABAW ISLAND**, Chatham County. This is the northernmost of the Golden Isles, and bears what Goff says is one of the oldest place-names in Georgia, one given it by the Indians centuries before the white men settled here. This island has been inhabited for at least 4,000 years. Ossabaw is a Guale Indian word which means "Yaupon holly bushes place," from *asiape* or *asiaba*. The many variations of spelling have included, OSSEBAH, OBISPA, USSUYBAW, HUSSABA, HUSSAPAR, ASOPO, AUSABAW and OGE-CHE. The English in 1720 called the island MONTGOMERY, after Sir Robert Montgomery, who attempted to promote the Margravate of Azilia (q.v.). In 1970 this 40,000-acre island was reserved as a cooperative center for ecology. Ossabaw was the first major tract of land sold by the State of Georgia when it was bought by Grey Elliott in May 1978 for \$8 million. OSSABAW SOUND is the name which refers to the waters between Ossabaw and Wassau islands.

**OSSAHATCHIE**, Harris County. This former village near Ellerslie was known as LOWES in pioneer days. For derivation, *see* Ossahatchie Creek.

**OSSAHATCHIE CREEK**, Harris County. Also spelled OSAHATCHEE, this is a tributary of Mulberry Creek. The name means "Pokeweed Creek," from the Muskogee, *osa*, "pokeweed," plus *hatchie*, meaning "creek," or possibly "Raccoon Creek" from Hitchitee *sawi*, "raccoon," and *hachi*, "creek." Some early spellings have been, OSAUHATCHEE, OSSOHATCHEE and OSOUHATCHEE.

**OSWITCHEE**, Chattahoochee County. This Indian town was located about nine miles south of Columbus, and existed until 1827. It was named for the Oscoochees, an Indian tribe of the Creek Confederation. The name was sometimes spelled OSWICHEE, and in much earlier days called OSCAYOOCHEE. The Muskogee Indian word means "switchers."

**OTAULGAUNENE**, Crawford-Taylor counties. Located on the Flint River in the vicinity of Old Agency (q.v.). This is the Creek Indian name for ISLANDS FORD (q.v.), from *oti*, "island," plus *algi* (or *ulga*), a plural suffix, plus *nini* (or *nene*), "trail (or path)."

**OTISCA**, Decatur County. A community located two miles southwest of Climax. Was named by railroad officials after Otisco Lake, New York. From an Iroquoian word meaning "water-dried," perhaps with the idea that the lake had shrunk.

**OTTER CREEK**, Coffee County. Rises about seven miles east of Broxton and flows southward into Seventeen Mile Creek east of Douglas. Probably named because of an otter slide here.

**OUSLEY**, Lowndes County. A community located eight miles west of Valdosta. Named after the two brothers, Joseph and William H. Ousley, who settled here in 1859.

**OWENSBYVILLE**, Heard County. This former community was located on the west side of the Chattahoochee River, ten miles west of Hogansville. John M. Owensby was an early postmaster here. The present OWENSBYVILLE ROAD in Troup County, about nine miles northwest of LaGrange, leads easterly into Heard County toward the river.

**OWLTOWN**, Gilmer County. The name of this early community was a translation of an old Cherokee Indian name. The village was an Indian meeting and council place. There is today a small community in Walker County named OWLHOLLOW, which probably has a similar derivation. It is four miles northwest of LaFayette.

**OXFORD**, Newton County. This town was incorporated December 23, 1839. Named in honor of the English university town where John and Charles Wesley were educated. It was laid out by Methodist minister, Edward Lloyd Thomas, who had also planned Columbus, Georgia.

**OXFORD COLLEGE**, Oxford. A branch of Emory University (q.v.), referred to as **EMORY AT OXFORD**. It was first named **EMORY COLLEGE**, in honor of Methodist bishop, John Emory (1789-1835). **FEW HALL** here was built in 1852, and named in honor of Dr. Ignatius Alphonso Few (c.1789-1845), the first president of the college. **PIERCE HALL** here was named after bishop

George Franklin Pierce (1811-1884), the third president of Oxford College, and the first president of Georgia Female (Wesleyan) College. Also named for Bishop Pierce were **PIERCE STREET** in Oxford and **PIERCE AVENUE** in Macon. **HAYGOOD AVENUE** in Oxford was named in honor of Bishop George Franklin Haygood, graduate of Oxford College, and its eighth president. The administration building, **SENEY HALL**, was built with a grant received from New York banker and philanthropist, George I. Seney, in 1880. Its silver bell is reportedly from a ship of the Spanish Armada and was given to the college by Queen Victoria. The institution is now used for an initial two-year program of Emory University.