

**GEORGIA
PLACE-NAMES**

Their History and Origins

By

Kenneth K. Krakow

Macon WINSHIP PRESS Georgia

GEORGIA PLACES-NAMES
Third Edition

Copyright © 1975 by Kenneth K. Krakow

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Library of Congress Card Number: 75-5230
ISBN 0-915430-00-2 Hard Cover Edition
ISBN 0-915430-01-0 Soft Cover Edition

Published by

WINSHIP PRESS
2324 Clayton Street
Macon, Georgia 31204-3045

First Edition
December 1975

Second Edition
August 1994

Third Edition
November 1999

Printed in the United States of America

To my wife, Marian

Without whose help,
criticism, patience,
encouragement,
and understanding,
this book could never
have been produced.

When I look at those trees and I look at the beautiful clear blue sky above us here in Georgia and the lakes, rivers and streams that surround us, I see them for what they are -- nature's gift, something precious that we must conserve and pass on to our children, their children and future generations.

-- Chuck Leavell

I feel a sense of pride in the history and heroic deeds accomplished by my forebears, and shall endeavor to so live so that my State will be proud of me for doing my bit to make the State a better Commonwealth for future generations.

-- from the Georgian's Creed

History is all explained by geography.

-- Robert Penn Warren

INTRODUCTION

The origin of the name of a county, town, river, or any geographical feature prominent enough to have been given a name always excites the imagination of people who live in or around that community or place. But often it excites an outsider even more. Such is the case of Kenneth Kemler Krakow, a native of Iowa, who has been in Georgia for six years. During these years he has sought the origin of every place-name in this state.

Krakow came to Georgia directly from North Carolina, where he had been assistant director of food services at the University in Chapel Hill. In 1967 he came to Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, to fill the position of director of food services. But this alumnus of Michigan State University had a continuing interest in education and an insatiable appetite for new knowledge. He was not satisfied to be merely a member of the administrative staff; he felt a desire to try the curriculum of this Southern institution. He registered for courses in History leading to the degree of Master of Education, and among these courses was my History 245, The History of Georgia.

When we agreed that he might do a term paper on place-names in Georgia, little did I realize that I had a potential onomastic scholar on my hands, or in my hair! And from that time to the present he has been constantly "in my hair" as he has worked to expand his term paper into this book. But I have enjoyed every hour of it; and I find, now that I have read his manuscript through, I am quite favorably impressed by the industry, the insight, and the patience of our Yankee friend who in less than six years has learned more about Georgia place-names than his teacher has learned in a period eight times as long.

Krakow's interest in place-names was not something that began in my Georgia History class. Actually, he had developed a general subject during a career in management of food services that enabled him to live in far away places such as Paris, France, for instance. As a first lieutenant in the United States Army, he managed a mess hall in what had previously been a large restaurant on the Champs Elysees. At war's end he resumed an interrupted education at Michigan State and there married a native, Marian June Tompkins. She shares with him his enthusiasm for place-names and their derivations, and has worked with him in compiling this volume. On Krakow's graduation the couple moved to Chicago where the young husband found employment at the Hotel Morrison and their first son was born. In 1948 they moved to Rochester, Minnesota, where Krakow operated his own restaurant, managed a hotel dining room, and added three more children to the family. In 1955 the Krakows moved to Southern California where he worked as a sales representative for a national food concern, and later as food services director of a large hospital in San Bernardino. It was in California that he first began to be seriously interested in the derivation of place-names, as he searched out the sources of the interesting town names he encountered there.

Krakow has made his book more useful and easier to use by following a simple alphabetical arrangement rather than a topical one. He has indicated in every instance possible, in the limited space he has had to devote to the research, the origin of thousands of place-names. Some are derived from the names of persons; some from geographical features, some from places similarly named; some are taken from the Bible, other literary works, or mythology; some are alterations of existing or old names; some were inspired by anecdotes or special events; and some would not fit any of these categories. Particular attention is given to definitions of Indian names, which abound in Georgia. The compiler, a self-confessed novice in terms of the length of time he has been in Georgia, has had the advantage of many before him spending years gathering such information. To those he acknowledges his indebtedness, and cites the ones he considers most reliable. Sometimes he cites more than one source when not able to determine which should be accepted as authentic. He of course, recognizes the pioneering work in this area done by the late Professor John H. Goff of Emory University, whose publications and notes are deposited in the State Department of Archives and History.

An examination of the extensive bibliography shows the scope of Krakow's diligent research. Every possible source that seemed authentic was examined as soon as the compiler was aware of its

existence. Local citizens and county historians have sometimes caused doubts by telling fantastic tales of the origins of certain names. Krakow has tried to protect himself in cases of doubt by indicating that such stories are merely heresay. Although critical of the veracity of some of the stories, he often leaves the reader the burden of separating fact from fancy.

Many will find this book useful, and even more will find it interesting. They will learn how "Puddleville" became Adel, and how a segment was extracted from the word "Philadelphia" by a pioneer citizen who wanted a more dignified name for his town. They will be able to trace the spelling of Ossabaw Island through its various forms, from Ossebah, Ussybaw, Hussaper, Hussaba, and Opispa, or the Chattahoochee River from Tchattauchi and Chatty Hoochee to its present form, with several variations in between. They will find legends surrounding the origins of such places as "Rising Fawn," "Talking Rock," "Po Bidy Cross Road," and "Fargo." They will choose what seems to them to be the most reasonable answer to the question of the origin of the name for Fulton County, and many others over which controversy stirs. Genealogists will find helpful suggestions from the many family names to which place-names are associated. All this and ... I can't say "Heaven too," because there is no "Heaven" nor is there a "Hell." That is, not in Georgia. But, yes Virginia, there is a "Santa Claus."

As Krakow readily admits, his compilation as it goes to press has reached no final point of perfection nor completeness. He expects readers to verify or challenge any questionable statement; it is a continuing process---open-ended, one might say. Many who use this book will undoubtedly suggest additional entries which can be incorporated later in a revised edition.

Spencer B. King, Jr.
Mercer University
Macon, Georgia

October 1974

CONTENTS

Introduction by Spencer Bidwell King, Jr	v
Preface to the First Edition	ix
Preface to the Second Edition	xiii
Preface to the Third Edition	xiv
Militia Districts	xv
The Names	1
Selected Bibliography	
City and County Histories	262
Other Books Consulted	266
Periodicals, Individuals and other sources	269

PREFACE

The place-names of a state reflect various aspects of its nature and its culture, and phases of its history. Knowing the stories behind the names of places encountered in Georgia goes far to help one understand the state better.

The people of Georgia are proud of their state's rich historical heritage, and it is hoped that this volume will provide them a convenient source of background material in encyclopedic form. With the coming celebration of our nation's bicentennial, the American Name Society is actively encouraging all of the states to complete such place-name surveys by 1976.

Place-name research is relatively new in the United States, and until quite recently, very few states have been subject to any comprehensive treatment. However, in Europe, the investigation into the origin and meaning of names has been studied for a great many years as a branch of philology or etymology. The Germans have been the pioneers and teachers, although the English have completed some creditable work in this field.

Since this field of study is so new, there are no precise guide lines as to what categories of names are to be properly included in such reference books at this. Most compilers seem to make different arbitrary decisions as to what is included, aside from the obvious coverage of cities, towns, counties, and rivers. For example, R.M. Hanson in his 1969 book on *Virginia Place Names*, includes bridges, tunnels, railroad companies, peninsulas, streets and buildings. Robert L. Ramsay's *Introduction to a Survey of Missouri Names* (1934) lists names of such things as churches and schools. On the other hand, for example, a more specialized coverage is found in William D. Overman's 1959 place-name book, *Ohio Town Names*.

This volume includes information on the creation, naming, size, and derivation of all 159 of the present counties of Georgia, as well as some which no longer exist, such as Bourbon County, Campbell County, Frederica County, Milton County, Savannah County, and the original Walton County, which was located in what is now determined to be North Carolina. All of the counties of Georgia were created by acts of the state legislature (except the eight Constitutional Counties, q.v.) on the dates indicated at the entry for each county. As succeeding counties were formed from earlier ones, the original areas naturally decreased. The area indicated herein is the present size of each county.

Also included here are the cities and towns, plus all the county seats and some militia districts, as well as crossroads and rural communities. Dates of incorporation of cities and towns given are the earliest that were found in the official state records of when approved by acts of the legislature. Within the county entries are given dates when courthouses were destroyed by fires or acts of God, to indicate where official records may have been lost. Many of the dead towns of Georgia are listed here, as are a great many rural post offices, which in some cases existed only briefly, sometimes in the postmaster's home or place of business. Names of some of the principal Indian towns and villages are also included.

The major islands and rivers have been included, as well as lakes, dams, reservoirs, and a large number of the state's many streams. Herein also are the names of mountains, valleys, passes, bluffs, ferries, river bends, swamps, bridges and ridges. Nearly all of Georgia's state parks are here, as well as some former Indian trails, early military roads, etc. Also included are the military installations, as well as the great many forts, past and present, and information as to the founding and naming of colleges and universities.

The general intention is to include so many general categories that this compilation will interest and be of value to the greater number of persons.

The names on the map of Georgia record the peculiarities of her long and varied history. This region has been inhabited for at least 10,000 years, as has been established by evidence found at the Ocmulgee Mounds of Macon. John Goff has pointed out that the oldest recorded place-names found in our state are Appalachee and Aucilla, both early Indian names.

Many of the streams, as well as some towns and a few counties, preserve Indian names to remind us of those who originally dwelt on this land. Names of Cherokee derivation are found mostly in the northern mountainous section of Georgia, where these Indians lived and established a constitutional government before this state systematically drove all of the natives from its borders in 1838. The Seminole Indians (who were originally Muscogees) lived in the far south, mostly near Florida and in the vicinity of the Okefenokee Swamp. Most of the remainder of the state was occupied by the Creek Indians, which were predominantly Muskogean. When these Indians were found living along Ochise

Creek (the Ocmulgee River), the early white explorers referred to them as the Ochise Creek Indians, later shortened to "Creek Indians."

The first white men to set foot in what is now Georgia were Spanish explorers under the leadership of Hernando DeSoto, searching for gold here from 1539 to 1542. The Spanish called the region Bimini and LaFlorida, and named their first island settlement Guale. They put their early missions on The Golden Isles of Georgia's coast, and these islands were then given Spanish names.

The permanent settlement of the state began with the establishment of Georgia by General James Edward Oglethorpe in 1733. Additional settlers came soon afterwards from England, as well as some Salzburger from Germany, followed by others from the Carolinas and Virginia and from Kentucky and Tennessee.

Names of English places and people were among the first to be applied to Georgia places. Some of the original counties were named for Englishmen who were sympathetic to the colonies in their disputes with the mother country.

Yankees were also attracted to Georgia, such as Henry Harding Tift, Samuel Griswold, and Philander H. Fitzgerald. Their names were to be found on the Georgia map, as well as other northerners like Robert Fulton, DeWitt Clinton, and Zebulon Pike, and some Yankee cities like Albany, Duluth, Boston, and Philadelphia (Adel.).

As Greece supplied classical columns to "Georgian" architecture adopted in the new state, it also supplied names for some of its towns. Charles Lagondakis (in the *Georgia Historical Quarterly*) has pointed out the Greek derivations of place-names such as, Athens, Climax, Eudora, Omega, Sparta and Ypsilanti.

The American Revolution produced many of Georgia's place-names, such as Greene, Jasper, Lincoln, Newton, Paulding, Pulaski, Washington, and Wayne counties. The only county in the state to be named for a woman is Hart County, named for Nancy Hart. She was a colorful figure of the Revolution, who according to legend, singlehandedly captured a group of Tories who were afterwards executed. Clarke County, which is the smallest in area, was named for Revolutionary hero, General Elijah Clarke. After the war he attempted to establish his Trans-Oconee Republic in the vicinity of today's Milledgeville, much to the dismay of President George Washington.

Some of Georgia's place-names are reminiscent of the Civil War. We have a Jeff Davis County named for Jefferson Davis, who was president of the Confederacy, and Stephens County named for Alexander Stephens, who was the vice president. Confederate leader Robert Toombs was remembered by the naming of Toombs County and also the town of Toombsboro. Evans County, Turner County, and Wheeler County were also named for noted officers of the Confederacy.

Such place-names are easily enough found. But the authorities are not always in agreement as to others, and it is not always possible to establish with any certainty which derivation is the most reliable. Therefore, the compiler has included all suggested derivations found, often indicating the sources used. When it is indicated that the derivation of a place is unknown, this of course means that no authority has been found by the compiler to explain the origin of the particular place-name in question.

No attempt has been made towards strict uniformity of treatment for all the entries in this work, because of the wide variance in the present information available. However, a standard procedure for handling of the counties has been used here, wherein the date of creation is first given, followed by its size in square miles, and then an explanation of from whom or what the county in question was named. Much of this particular information was taken from the most recent edition of the *Georgia Official and Statistical Register*, which is published by the Georgia Department of Archives and History. Following the information regarding the derivation of the county name will be the designation of the county seat. Incidentally, where the name of each county seat is shown in the alphabetically listing, it will be so designated by the abbreviation "CS."

Every effort was made toward achieving the highest possible accuracy in the information presented here. It must be pointed out however, that by the nature of this field of study, there can be a very few absolutes, particularly in regard to the origins of the names of places. Even in those rare instances when it is recorded at the time it is done that a particular name is to be given to a place, there is frequently an omission as to why it was given, or exactly to whom the name refers. Even in the naming of counties, there have been disagreements as to which of several persons with the same name were meant to be so honored, such as in the cases of Brantley County, Cobb County, Fulton County and White County.

In many instances, legends have been invented to explain how some of Georgia's towns were named, which are often more fascinating than the true derivations. Some have related how Georgia's first city was named when a young maiden was drowning, and a call came out to "Save Anna!" thus the place was called SAVANNAH. Or it was often said that ALMA in Bacon County was named from the initial letters of Georgia's successive state capitals: Augusta, Louisville, Milledgeville, and Atlanta. And a story came out that the old town of HAHIRA in Lowndes County was given this name because of a railroad engineer named Hira, whose friends, would call to him, "Hey Hira!"

The NACOOCHEE RIVER of White County and LAKE NACOOCHEE in Rabun County were supposedly named for an incident when an Indian maiden called Nacoochee jumped to her death after her father, the chieftain, prevented her marriage to a brave of an alien tribe, with whom she was in love. Another Indian legend relates to the naming of Dade County's town of RISING FAWN, in which the Cherokee chief there named his newborn daughter from the first thing he saw the morning the infant was born, a fawn rising from over the nearby hill. The Madison County community of POCATALIGO was so named according to a legend which tells of a method of urging a balky mule to move, and that is to, "Poke 'e tail 'e go." And one of the most ridiculous stories told of the naming of RESACA in Gordon County, in which a young Indian brave commanded "Re-sacka!" after the sack was lifted to reveal the unattractive face of a prospective bride. These and other legends were created by some who were unaware of the actual derivations of these Georgia place-names.

The most obscure place-names of course are those of Indian origin. These dialects are seldom translatable word-for-word, hence there are often several interpretations of the meanings of a given Indian name. The Cherokee Indians of Georgia were the only native Americans to have created an alphabet and a written language, but this has not proven to be of particular help in translating their place-names into English. The guttural Indian rendering of their words have been written as they sounded to DeSoto, Bartram, Hawkins, Mooney, and others. Some of the more common spellings of Indian place-names have been included in this compilation: "Okefenokee" has been recorded with over 77 different spellings!

In the course of this research, every name listed was first located on one or more maps to verify its location, and to determine whether the place exists today. This was also done in order to be able to indicate as reliably as possible the present status of the place listed. Current road maps of Georgia as well as of the individual counties were examined, and also current atlases. The state Department of Archives and History provided the use of its vast collection of maps dating back to the founding of Georgia.

Individual histories have been written of only about two-thirds of Georgia's counties. Most of these furnish information on the founding and naming of their towns, and in some instances other place-names. Generally, these county histories were written and published in response to a resolution passed by the State Assembly, August 23, 1929, requesting that all counties in Georgia have their individual histories written and published before the State's bicentennial celebration on Georgia Day, February 12, 1933. Some of the counties complied with this request, but there remained about 100 which did not. A number of these have since been published, and these too were consulted, as were some city histories, such as Athens, Columbus, Macon, Milledgeville, Rome, Savannah, etc. The most helpful of these has been Franklin M. Garrett's two-volume, *Atlanta and Environs*, published in 1954.

The first book to be written on Georgia place-names was the Reverend Adiel Sherwood's *Gazetteer of the state of Georgia* which was published in several editions beginning in 1827. This contains alphabetically listed places, with descriptions and occasional derivations. In 1855, Reverend George White issued his *Historical Collections of Georgia*, which proved helpful for the earlier periods of settlement. A more comprehensive source was Lucien Lamar Knight's two-volume *Georgia Landmarks and Legends*, which was published in 1913. Another useful source was the three-volume, *Cyclopedia of Georgia*, published in 1906 by Governor Allen D. Candler and General Clement A. Evans, which provides good descriptions of the counties, cities, and towns, as well as the leading personages of the state.

An excellent source book used was, *Georgia, A Guide to its Towns and Countryside*, compiled by WPA writers, and published by the Georgia Board of Education in 1940. Undoubtedly the most useful, thorough, and reliable source of information on Georgia place-names is the extensive work compiled by the late John H. Goff of Emory University. Much of this was published over a period of years in the *Georgia Mineral Newsletter*, in the series, "A Short Study in Georgia Place-Names." Additional

information was also obtained from Goffs place-name files and unpublished papers in the custody of the state's Surveyor-General Department. One of the most recent compilations to appear is Hal E. Brinkley's handy little booklet, *How Georgia Got Her Names*, which was copyrighted in 1967.

Much of the information used here has come from historical markers which have been erected throughout the state by the Georgia Historical Commission. Those of us who are interested in our state's history are indebted to Carroll Proctor Scruggs, who compiled and published in 1973 the complete texts of these 1,752 *Georgia Historical Markers*.

Some of the data used was obtained by written inquiries and also by personally travelling throughout the state to question residents as to the name derivations of their own localities. Also, a great deal of information was found in the pages of the daily newspapers in the state, particularly anniversary editions, and in such periodicals as *Georgia Magazine* and *Georgia Historical Quarterly*.

It is with much pleasure that appreciation is expressed for the help and encouragement offered by Dr. Spencer Bidwell King, Jr. of Mercer University, who read the manuscript in the first draft, corrected historical inaccuracies, as well as making innumerable constructive suggestions. His student also thanks Dr. King for providing the delightful introduction for the volume. Valuable assistance has been provided by Mrs. Pat Bryant of the State of Georgia Surveyor-General Department, who made available the maps and records in her custody. The compiler is grateful for the efforts of Mrs. Bryant's associate, Mr. Marion R. Hemperley, who read the manuscript in its entirety, correcting factual errors therein. Mr. Dumont Bunn of the Mercer University Library was helpful in aiding the compiler as to the form of presentation, and helped procure place-name source material from other libraries. Whatever faults and inaccuracies that may remain are the responsibility of this writer alone.

The compiler is grateful for the help and cooperation received by those who supplied needed information, aided in the research, and helped in many other ways towards the completion of this effort. Some of those who contributed in these ways are: Jewell R. Alverson, Lora Burns, Leah Chanin, Kenneth Cherry, Ed Corson, Mrs. Joseph C. Coward, Helen W. Coxon, S.H. Croft, Mrs. Henry Dunham, J.E. Earnest, Hubert Hamilton, Ruth Harben, Hazel M. Harvey, Herman Huhn, Cindy Hinebaugh, Jimmy Jones, W.W. "Billy" Keith, Jr., Betty Kemp, Katherine E. Mann, Daniel Lamar Metz, Jr., Elizabeth Middlebrooks, Violet Moore, Mary Overby, W.S. Palmer, Joseph Parham, John R. Patterson, Milton L. Ready, C.P.A.C. "Chris" Reynolds, Nell W. Rogers, Perry U. Rozier, Anna E. Schnikel, Don L. Shadburn, Mary Singleton, Emory P. Smith, Jr., Marion Smith, J. Clayton Stephens, Jr., Claude G. Stevens, Mrs. Ray Tench, Tommy Toles, Solon W. Ware, Jr., John W. Watson, and Miriam L. Wheeler.

One of the frustrating aspects of this endeavor is the fact that a great deal of documentation is lacking, or at least very difficult to locate if it does exist. Therefore, the compiler would like to invite correspondence from individuals who are able to supply any additions to or corrections of the data recorded here, which would be useful for a possible revised edition of this work.

Kenneth K. Krakow
Macon, Georgia

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

It is hard to believe that it has been over 18 years since *Georgia Place-Names* was published. And it has been gratifying to find that the book was greeted with such warm reception after being first offered. When completed in 1974, the manuscript was submitted to several publishers with some polite rejections. The University of Georgia Press was quite complimentary about the book, but they had already begun work on the publication of a similar title, *Placenames of Georgia* by John Goff. With their words of encouragement, I made the decision to publish the book myself.

I realized that many best sellers were finally published only after dozens of rejections and some well known authors got their start by doing it themselves; names such as Carl Sandburg, Ezra Pound, Zane Gray, James Joyce and D. H. Lawrence. Speaking of derivations, the name, Winship Press, was adopted inasmuch as we were then living on Winship Street at the time this work was undertaken. This street was undoubtedly named for the prominent Winship family of Macon.

Some of the readers from around the state said they were surprised to find listed so many of the small, little known communities from their areas. Students particularly were fascinated by the descriptions of the many dead towns in Georgia. The book was meant as a reference guide, but surprisingly, some people said they read it through from cover to cover.

The reviews were generally complimentary along with some constructive comments. Dean William Tate of the University of Georgia, who authored a book, *Strolls Around Athens*, wrote a review for *The Georgia Historical Quarterly* in which he stated, "Krakow has surpassed his predecessors and has done yeoman service in combining much into a well arranged book." Tate wrote to me later and said there would surely be a second edition and that he would like to collaborate with me on it when this is done. Unfortunately he passed on in 1980. In 1976, *Georgia Life* ran a review of *Georgia Place-Names* wherein the reviewer stated, "This is the most useful and up-to-date book on the subject available and should be in all public and school libraries. It is also a useful traveling companion."

Shortly after *Georgia Place-Names* came out, I presented a copy to the late Joe Parham, editor of *The Macon News*, since he had shown an interest in such things. He was running a daily column and whenever he could think of nothing else to write about he would elaborate on items he had gleaned from this book.

In 1991 I submitted my research notes and correspondence to the University of Georgia Libraries, upon their request. They had indicated they were "...always searching for papers of individuals who have made significant contributions to Georgia." They further stated, "Your book is widely used and I am surprised that it has not been reprinted."

With this prospect of the publishing of a second edition in mind, I have continued to accumulate additional information which has now been incorporated in this present volume. Additional data has been made available with the publication of 36 more county histories in the past 20 years. I wish to acknowledge the help and encouragement received from Amelila Barclay and Ron Jackson as well as the valuable assistance of my wife Marian who proofed the entire manuscript. Also I appreciate the help of my son Ken Jr. who coordinated the computer application of *Georgia Place-Names* as well as providing the new portrait of the compiler. Thanks also go to my son Greg who did the graphics, layout and typesetting for the book. And I thank the kindness of Chuck Leavell for granting permission to use his delightful quotation on page iv.

Kenneth K. Krakow
Macon, Georgia
July 1994

PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

Over many years, Kenneth Krakow and I followed our mutual interest in Georgia history by passionately pursuing the origins and history of Georgia's place-names. Many days, weekends and vacations were spent traveling the state; visiting libraries and archives, and talking with local history experts at road side gas stations and post offices. We produced what we felt was an accurate and important contribution to the historical records of this state, two comprehensive editions of *Georgia Place-Names*.

In recent years there has been a growing interest in local history and genealogy. As a result, *Georgia Place-Names* has received many favorable reviews. The first and second editions have been out of print for several years. However, I continue to receive numerous requests for additional copies. In response to these requests, we are publishing the third edition of *Georgia Place-Names*. It includes 84 additions and 260 revisions to the second edition and was completed by Ken in January 1997. Kenneth Krakow, Sr. passed away on April 16, 1998 in Macon, Georgia. The third edition of *Georgia Place-Names*, with his final revisions, is published posthumously by his family in loving memory of him.

Marian Krakow
Macon, Georgia
October, 1999

MILITIA DISTRICTS

The state of Georgia is divided into 159 counties, and each county is subdivided into further political divisions known as militia districts. This is the only state to have such a designation, although other states do divide their counties into smaller units, usually called townships.

Georgia's militia dates back to colonial days and was authorized by the General Assembly April 16, 1751. The original intention was to provide protection against the Indians. All able-bodied male white citizens, between the ages of 18 and 45 (unless exempt) were at that time enrolled into the militia.

Each militia district was served by a company of approximately 100 men who elected one of their members to be the captain in charge. The districts were at first named for their captains, but confusion arose because of duplications of names and changes in command. It was then decided to use the present system, numbering the districts, beginning with the first organized. Besides using the numbers, some districts have retained the original names for the first captains, others have been named for prominent men, towns or communities, or from other origins.

The militia was under the direct command of the governor, could not be sent out of the state, and could only be used to repel invasion and preserve order. After the Indians were finally driven from the state, the militia organization gradually took on a sort of social aspect.

During the Civil War, the Conscription Act of the Confederacy in effect wiped out the state militia by forcing its men into the regular Confederate Army. In the Twentieth Century, some of the militia companies became National Guard units for service in the Mexican conflict of 1916, and some went on coast guard duty against the Germans in World War I. Today the militia district is the ultimate unit in Georgia's political division, and is no longer military in nature. Each district is entitled to one justice of the peace, elected by the people, and one notary public, recommended by the grand jury, and both commissioned by the governor, two bailiffs, elected by the people, and commissioned by the ordinary, and one justice court each month, and a voting precinct.

Cathy J. Kaemmerlen. Ever wonder how Rough and Ready got its name? Or what Stonestrow is a stone's throw from? And surely the story behind Climax can't be that thrilling, can it? The curious Georgian can't help pondering the seemingly endless supply of head-scratching place names that dot this state. Luckily, the intrepid Cathy Kaemmerlen stands ready to unravel the enigmas. Enigma is, in fact, a Georgia town behind the state's most astonishing appellations. I've lived in SE Georgia for 17 years and that's what I got. I also want to note that I've been through Climax. Funny how in conservative SW GA you have a name like that!

Moved from different county within same state (%) Geographical mobility - Moved from different state (%) Geographical mobility - Moved from abroad (%) Place of birth - Born in state of residence (%) Place of birth - Born in other state (%) Place of birth - Native, outside of US (%) Place of birth - Foreign born.

Georgia Place Names. Introduction. Listed Alphabetically by Place Name. Listed Alphabetically by County. Historical Atlas of Georgia Counties. Goff, John H. Placenames of Georgia, Essays of John H. Goff, edited by Francis Lee Utley and Marion R. Hemperly (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1975). Hemperly, Marion R. Cities, Towns and Communities of Georgia Between 1847-1962, 8500 Places and the County in Which Located (Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1980. Jones, Charles C., Jr.