

X

XERXES, Meriwether County. Located at the site of the present community of ODESSADALE (q.v.). The Xerxes post office was established here from August 3, 1887 to June 15, 1900. Named for the Xerxes Plantation (later called Cedar Hill

Plantation), owned by Colonel Henry Richard Harris (1781-1858), who named the place after Xerxes the Great (c.519-465 B.C.), who was king of Persia from 486 to 465 B.C. Colonel Harris was looking for a name that was not already in use.

Y

YAHoola CREEK, Lumpkin County. A tributary of the Chestatee River, which arises in the upper section of the county. John Goff said the stream was said to have been named for an individual called Yahula, who lived on the stream prior to the Revolution and who became a mythical figure among the Cherokees. James Mooney tells of the tradition about Yahula and states that the spot where he lived was known as YAGYKA-U or "Yahula Place." It was located on Yahoola Creek about ten miles north of Dahlonega. Goff also says it is most likely that Yahoola is derived from the Cherokee work *yahula* signifying "doodle bug."

YAMACUTAH, Jackson County. Originally an old Indian settlement on the old Etoho River (now the North Oconee River) and is the site of the first white settlement in the county. Jordan Clark and Jacob Bankston came here from Virginia and settled in 1784. *Yamacutah* is a Cherokee Indian word signifying "to tumble," in reference to the tumbling shoals in the river nearby.

YAMACRAW BLUFF, Chatham County. The original name given to the settlement where Savannah was established, and the site where Oglethorpe landed to establish Georgia's first town. It takes its name from the tribe of Yamacraw Indians who lived in this area at that time. They were outlaw Creeks, who had been banished from the Creek Nation several years before General Oglethorpe's arrival. John Musgrove of South Carolina had established a trading post here in 1732, a year before Oglethorpe landed to establish the Georgia colony. His half-breed bride, Mary Musgrove, acted as interpreter for Oglethorpe (*see also* Cowpen).

YAMACRAW VILLAGE, Chatham County. A name long used to designate the "black" section of Savannah, lying just west of the downtown business district. It has now been converted into public housing. For derivation *see* Yamacraw Bluff.

YAM GRANDY STATE PARK, Emanuel County. An 11-acre day use park located near Swainsboro. Named after YAMGRANDY CREEK, which arises near the park and flows southerly to enter the Ohoopee River just above Oak Park.

YAMTRAHOOCHEE, Jackson County. A former settlement on the west branch of the North Oconee River. The Indian name means "hurricane shoals."

YANKEE TOWN, Ware County. Was located at the site of the present WAYCROSS. This post office was so named because northern people operated the stage coaches here.

YATESVILLE, Upson County. Incorporated as a town December 17, 1896. The place was named in 1888 for its founder, A.J. Yates, after the Macon and Birmingham Railroad was constructed through the site. He moved here after being wounded in the Civil War Battle of Atlanta, and in 1879 became Yatesville's first postmaster. He also operated a store and cotton gin here.

YELLOW CREEK, Dawson County. An early settlement in the southwest section of the county, named for the stream on which it was located. YELLOW CREEK enters the Etowah River at the western corner of the county. Also located here is YELLOW CREEK (Militia) DISTRICT.

YELLOW DIRT, Heard County. A community and former post office located 4 1/2 miles north-east of Centralhatchee. Was named after nearby YELLOW DIRT CREEK. Bonner said this was originally labeled YELLOW LAND CREEK. The name could be a translation of the Indian named Fokelani, which is Creek for "yellow dirt," or may be translated from the Muskogean Indian word, *Ikanlanihachi*.

YELLOW RIVER. A tributary of the Ocmulgee River, which arises in Gwinnett County and flows

through a corner of DeKalb, as well as Rockdale and Newton counties, and then enters Jackson Lake. The name is a translation from the early Creek Indian name of the river, COC-LAU-PAUCHEE or WELAUNEEHATCHEE. There was at one time a community called YELLOW RIVER, near the stream at the approximate site of today's Luxomni in Gwinnett County.

YONAH MOUNTAIN, White County. Also called MOUNT YONAH, with an elevation of 3,167 feet, it is located 3 1/2 miles northeast of Cleveland. A dam on the Tugaloo River in upper Stephens County forms a reservoir called LAKE YONAH. It was previously called LAKE RALSTON, named for a family by the name of Ralston that owned land here. A rural community and post office named YONAH was located eight miles southwest of Cornelia in what is now Habersham County. The Cherokee word *yonah* or *yonu* means "bear" or "big black bear." The name has also been spelled YANUH.

YONKERS, Dodge County. Incorporated under the name of YONKER August 20, 1906. Located 12 miles north of Eastman on Georgia highway 257, it is within the YOUNKER (Militia) DISTRICT. May have been named from Yonkers, New York, there derived from the Dutch word, *Jonkheer*, a courtesy title similar to "Squire."

YORK, Houston County. An early community and post office in the northeast corner of the county, where WARNER ROBINS is now located. There is also a rural community named YORK in Rabun County near Rabun Gap. The name is believed to be derived from the county in England. *See also* Wellston.

YOUNGCANE, Union County. A rural community located eight miles southwest of Blairsville which takes its name from the nearby YOUNG CANE CREEK. The stream was named for the son of the Cherokee chief, Long Cane.

YOUNG DEER CREEK, Forsyth County. Arises in the eastern section of the county to the

northeast of Cumming, and flows southerly to enter the Chattahoochee River. John Goff said this is probably a personal Cherokee Indian name borne by an individual who lived on the stream.

YOUNG HARRIS, Towns County. Incorporated as a town December 5, 1895. The original community here was called McTYEIRE. The circuit-riding Methodist minister, Reverend Artemus Lester, founded McTYEIRE INSTITUTE (q.v.) here in 1885. It later was renamed YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE to honor its first benefactor, Judge Young Loftin Gerdine Harris (1812-1894) of Athens. The town thereafter was called Young Harris. The oldest building on the 35-acre campus is the SUSAN B. HARRIS CHAPEL, which was named for the wife of Judge Harris, and the SHARP MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH is a memorial to Dr. J.A. Sharp. The PRUITT BARRETT BUILDING was named in honor of benefactors, Mr. J.C. Pruitt and Mr. Guy Barrett.

YOUTH, Walton County. Anita Sams wrote that "...this neat little town (was) said to have been named by Collie Shelnett, and bears the wistful title of Youth."

YPSILANTI, Talbot County. Pronounced "Ipp'-see-lan'-tee" or "Yipsie" for short. The original settlement here was named RED BONE (q.v.). This present name was transplanted from the city in Michigan, which was named after Alex. Ypsilanti (1792-1828), the commander who led the Greek revolt against Turkey in 1821.

YUCHI TOWN, Screven County. *See* UCHEE TOWN.

YUKON, Gilmer County. A community located four miles east of Talona. The name is believed to have been transferred from the Yukon River and the Yukon Territory of Canada. When the gold strikes occurred, the excitement caused various places in this country to adopt the name, which is derived from the Apathascan word, *Yukon-na*, which means "big river."

Z

ZEBULON, CS Pike County. Incorporated as a town and designated county seat November 25, 1825. The original county seat had been at Newnan (q.v.). The first court house at Zebulon was of hewn logs. Mrs. D.S. Patterson, an early settler of the county, suggested the name for the town. She took the given name of Zebulon M. Pike, the man for whom Pike County (q.v.) was named.

ZELLNER, Monroe County. A former community located five miles west of Forsyth. Named for Andrew Zellner.

ZENITH, Crawford County. A rural community located seven miles south of Roberta. Named by W. P. Carr because of this site being the highest point between Columbus and Macon.

ZERO MILE POST, Atlanta. A stone post that marked the terminus of the Western and Atlantic Railway in the 1890's. It is the symbolic spot where Atlanta began, and is located on lower Wall

Street, across the railroad tracks from Underground Atlanta (q.v.).

ZIRKLE, Pierce County. Originally (1904-05) known as DIXON SIDING, it was located six miles southeast of Patterson. A depot was erected about 1910, named Zirkle in honor of local lumberman, L.A. Zirkle. The town declined after the Davis-Zirkle Lumber Co. mill closed down in 1926.

ZOAR, Bulloch County. A former community located seven miles north of Statesboro. This is a Biblical name, the city of Zoar, to which Lot fled from Sodom.

ZOUCKS OLD FIELD, Liberty County. Now a dead town, it was established on 25 acres of land originally owned by David Zoucks. This was designated the county seat December 30, 1836 when it was moved here from Riceboro (q.v.).