

Curry County, Oregon
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Curry County, Oregon
Agness; Located on the Rogue River; named for the daughter of Amaziah AUBERY and Rachel FRY; the post office was established 10/16/1897 with Amaziah AUBERY as first postmaster.
Bagnell; Located about five miles northeast of Gold Beach; named for William BAGNELL, operator of a ferry at this same location. The post office was established 6/7/1894 and disbanded 4/4/1895 with John R. MILLER only postmaster.
Bailey Mountain; Located about 12 miles west of Kerby (Josephine County). Named for a miner who had a cabin nearby. Elevation 3, 920 feet.
Bald Mountain; Located 10 miles southeast of Port Orford. Indian name is Chus-suggel. Named in mining days of the 1850s. Elevation 2, 967 feet.
Barklow Mountain; Named for a pioneer family of Coos/Curry counties. Elevation 3, 559 feet.
Battle Bar; Located in the Rogue River (S17, T33S, R9W). Named for a battle in the Rogue River Indian War of 1855-1856. This particular skirmish occurred on 4/27/1856.
Battle Rock; Located at shore of Port Orford (downtown). Named for a battle between local Indians and a party of white men under command of J. M. KIRKPATRICK on June 10, 1851.
Big Meadows; There are two localities in Curry County with this name. One is located in northeast Curry County, two miles north of Rogue River near Ft. Lamerick (est. May 1, 1865). The other is located at the Big Bend of the Rogue River near Illahe and was the site of a battle in the Rogue Indian Wars of 1855-1856 at the end of May 1856.
Blacklock Point; Located north of Cape Blanco. Named for John BLACKLOCK, a native of Scotland and resident of Bandon. A post office was established October 1890 in this locality and named Sandstone. Annie J. BLACKLOCK was the postmaster until its dissolution in May 1891.
Bosley Butte; Located in southwest corner of Curry County. Named for Julia BOSLEY.
Bowman Creek; Flows into ocean north of Cape Ferrelo. Named for Jonas W. BOWMAN of Langlois, a settler on the creek in 1879.
Bravo Creek; Flows into North Fork Chetco River. Named for John C. BRAVO, a native of Switzerland.
Brokencot Creek; Flows into the Chetco River from east of Chetco Peak. Named for Brokencot Camp, which was in turn named for some ruined pieces of furniture left in its midst.

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Bruce Bones Creek; Located north of Cape Ferrelo. Named for an incident which occurred when a highway crew was surveying the area in the 1950s. One of the party, a Bruce Schilling, went the wrong way and became lost. The other surveyors commented that they would probably find Bruce's Bones in the brush when they returned to the site in the spring. Luckily for Bruce, this scenario did not occur, but the name remains to this day.
Brush Creek; Flows into the Pacific north of Humbug Mountain. Named for Gilbert BRUSH, a native Texan and member of the T'Vault party that explored the area in 1851.
Buckskin Peak; Located six miles north of the Oregon-California border in the Siskiyou Mountains. Named for the color of the boulders at its summit. Elevation 3,925 feet.
Canfield Hill; Located north of the Rogue River and five miles above Wedderburn. Named for Jasow W. Canfield, a native of Ohio who homesteaded in this area.
Cape Blanco; Located at north latitude 42 degrees, 50 minutes, 14 seconds; between Port Orford and Sixes. It is the most westerly point in Oregon. Named by Sebastian Vizcaino in 1603 for the white appearance of its rocks.
Cape Ferrelo; Located at north latitude 42 degrees, 6 minutes, 8 seconds and between Point St. George (California) and Cape Sebastian in Curry County. Named for Portuguese explorer, Bartolome Ferrelo in 1543.
Cape Sebastian; Located at north latitude 42 degrees, 19 minutes, 40 seconds and between Port Orford Heads and Cape Ferrelo. Named by Sebastian Vizcaino who discovered it on "el dia de San Sebastian" (St. Sebastian's Day), January 20, 1603.
Carey Creek; Flows into the Chetco River east of Brookings. Named for Robert A. CAREY.
Carpenterville; Located on old Oregon Coast Highway, 16 miles north of Brookings. Named for D. W. CARPENTER who operated a lumber mill at this area. A post office was established in April 1932.
Cassiday Butte; Located southeast of Carpenterville. Named for early settler William F. CASSIDAY. Elevation 1,818 feet.
Chetco River; Flows into the Pacific Ocean near Brookings. Named for a small band of Indians that lived near the lower part of the river.
Coal Point; Located 3 miles south of Port Orford, north of Humbug Mountain. Named for existence of coal in the area.
Colebrook Butte; Located 10 miles south of Port Orford and 2 miles east of the Pacific Ocean. Named for early settler F. W. COLEBROOK. Elevation 2,046 feet.

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Colegrove Butte; Located southeast of Carpenterville. Named for Delmar COLEGROVE.
Collier Creek; Forms part of boundary between Curry and Josephine counties. Named for an early settler, Cole COLLIER.
Corbin; Located on Mussell Creek, 15 miles south of Port Orford. Named for a man named CORBIN who was interested in starting a sawmill in the area. A post office was established 5/8/1901 and discontinued 1/1910 with Richard D. JONES as first postmaster.
Crook Point; Located 20 miles above Oregon-California border at latitude 42 degrees, 15 minutes, and 5 miles south of Cape Sebastian. Named for A. H. Crook, who operated a large ranch nearby.
Cumtux; Located near Agness. Named for a Nootkan word "kumtux" which means "understand". Post office established 7/29/1895 with Henry Moore as postmaster. The office was discontinued in October of 1895.
Curry County; Named for George Law Curry, an early governor of the Oregon Territory.
Dans Creek; Located near Illahe. Named for early homesteader, Indian Dan.
Dean Creek; Flows through GoldBeach. Named for early settler and county clerk, George Dean.
Denmark; Located between Langlois and Sixes. Named for the homeland of first residents, Capt. N. C. LORENTZEN and family.
Duley Creek; Flows into Lone Ranch Creek east of Cape Ferrelo. Named for early resident Winfield S. DULEY.
Dwyer Creek; Flows into South Fork Floras Creek near Edson Butte. Named for early settler P. F. DWYER
Eckley; Located at the east edge of Curry County at the North Fork of Sixes River and the old road from Myrtle Point to Port Orford. Named by Mrs. Charlotte GUERIN for her grandson, Eckley GUERIN who was born August 1882. The post office was established 12/19/1879 with the name of New Castle with Mrs. Charlotte GUERIN as postmaster. The name was then changed to TellTale on 5/21/1883, and finally to Eckley on 6/29/1883. Other sources say the name Eckley is in honor of some friends of the GUERINs on the east coast.

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Edson Butte; Located seven miles east of Langlois. Named for Avery J. EDSON, a native of New York who traveled with the Applegate train of 1846 and operated the Pacific Hotel at Port Orford. He married Christina GEISEL, widow of John GEISEL who was massacred north of Gold Beach.
Ekoms; A post office that never came into existence, Ekoms was named by spelling "Smoke" backwards. George BILLINGS was to be the first postmaster and the office was to be located on the Rogue River.
Elk River; Flows into the Pacific Ocean between Port Orford and Cape Blanco. Named during the goldrush days, probably by the placer miners who saw many elk along its banks.
Euchre Creek; Flows into the Pacific Ocean near Ophir. Named for the Yukichetunne band of the Tutuni Tribe. The name means "people at the mouth of the river." The adaptation "euchre" was adopted in the early 1850s, by miners who enjoyed the card game of the same name.
Farmer Creek; Located two miles east of Carpenterville. Named for Henry Farmer, an early homesteader known for his handmade rugs and enormous feet.
Ferry; Located a mile from the mouth of the Chetco River. Named for a ferry operated there in the early days. Presently near the Oregon Coast Highway bridge. A post office was established 3/5/1888 and discontinued 9/22/1898 with Sarah E. COOLEY as first postmaster.
Floras Creek; Flows into the Pacific Ocean north of Cape Blanco. Named for Fred FLORA (or FLOREY), a miner who staked a claim near the coast.
Fort Miner; A log structure erected by miners and settlers a mile and a half north of the mouth of the Rogue River, near the ocean in an open prairie. In use during the Rogue Indian wars of 1855-1856. It was named for those who took shelter behind its walls.
Fort Orford; Established 9/14/1851 and abandoned October 1856. Located at Port Orford.
Fort Point; Located at the south edge of Port Orford, northwest of Battle Rock. A civilian blockhouse fort was built at this location by Captain William Tichenor in 1851. It was also called Fort Orford, but was separate from the military fort of the same name. The blockhouse fort was destroyed in the fire of 10/10/1868.
Foster Creek; With headwaters on Ophir Mountain, Foster Creek flows into the Rogue River near Illahe. Named for Charles FOSTER, a New York native and captain of Gold Beach Guards during Rogue Indian Wars who settled near the creek that bears his name.
Gardner Ridge; Located near the mouth of the Chetco River. Named for Johnson GARDNER, an early settler in the vicinity.

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Garrison Lake; Located between the town of Port Orford and the Pacific Ocean. Named for early settler John B. GARRISON, a member of the Tichenor party.
Goat Island; Located in the Pacific Ocean, just west of Brookings. It is now a refuge for migratory birds.
Gold Beach; Located near the mouth of the Rogue River. Named for the gold that was discovered in the vicinity in the early 1850s. Its previous name was Ellensburg, in honor of Captain William Tichenor's daughter, Sarah Ellen (Nellie).
Graveyard Point; Located southwest of Port Orford and extending southeasterly into the harbor. Named for the unmarked graves of two soldiers buried there during the existence of Fort Orford.
Gray; Located near Gray Flat, two miles north of Brookings. Named for Loftin GRAY, the first and only postmaster at the office which operated in this area from November 1884 to November 1887.
Grizzly Mountain; Located three miles east of Gold Beach. Named for a hunter called "Grizzly" who supplied meat to the miners at Gold Beach.
Grouslous Mountain; Named for John and Peter GrosLouis, early settlers of Port Orford.
Guerin Creek; Flows into North Fork Floras Creek. Named for Alexander H. GUERIN, a member of the early Curry County family of the same surname.
Guerin Prairie; Located north of Eckley on North Fork Sixes River. Named for the prominent early Curry County family of the same area.
Haines Creek; Flows into Sixes River at Eckley. Named for John HAINES, an Illinois native who settled in the area in 1859.
Hamilton Creek; Located three miles east of Brookings. Named for Adam HAMILTON, an early settler in the area.
Harbor; Located at the mouth of the Chetco River. Named for the Chetco Harbor Land and Townsite Company. Originally called Chetco. Post office was established 11/24/1894.
Hare; Located six miles east of Langlois on the old road to Myrtle Point. Named for Joseph HARE, who was the first postmaster of the office in operation at the site from 4/21/1898 to 8/15/1913.
Harris Creek; Flows into the Pacific Ocean near Brookings. Named for George S. HARRIS, a native of New Zealand who settled in Curry County in 1871.

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Hayward Peak; Located 20 miles northwest of Kerby (Josephine County) on the divide south of Illinois River. Named for forester, Stanton B. HAYWARD. Elevation 4,300 feet.
Hoosknaden Creek; Flows into the Pacific Ocean northwest of Carpenterville. Name is derived from the Wishtonatan Indians who lived nearby.
Hubbard Creek; Flows into the Pacific Ocean one mile southeast of Port Orford. Named for Isaac M. HUBBARD, one of Captain Tichenor's partners.
Humbug Mountain; Located six miles southeast of Port Orford. Once known as Sugarloaf Mountain, its present name became Tichenor's Humbug, and then simply Humbug. The name was derived from an incident in which an exploring party of Captain William Tichenor's became lost and arrived at the mountain by accident in 1851. Other names included Mount Franklin, and the Indian moniker "Metus". Elevation 1,748 feet.
Hunt Rock; Located at Wedderburn. Named for James M. HUNT, a settler at the mouth of the Rogue River.
Hunters Cove; Located southeast of Cape Sebastian. Named for hunters who used to trap sea otters in the vicinity.
Huntley Springs; Located west of Collier Butte. Named for Nathaniel HUNTLEY, an early Curry County settler.
Hurt Cabin; Located on Collier Creek. Named for E. G. HURT, an early day settler in the eastern part of Curry County.
Illahe; Located on the Rogue River. Named for the Chinook jargon word for "land" or "earth".
Iron Mountain; Located 15 miles east of Port Orford. Named for the reddish-brown color of its rock. Elevation 4,000 feet.
Jim Hunt Creek; Flows into the Rogue River six miles northeast of Gold Beach. Named for early settler and goldseeker, James M. HUNT
Jordan Creek; Located east of Brookings. Named for settler Robert JORDAN.
Kimball Hill; Located 7 miles east of the Pacific near the Rogue River. Named for early settlers, Ira and Amanda KIMBALL. Kimball Creek is named for the same family.

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Lakeport; A ghost town near Floras Lake. The community was planned in 1894, with an idea to dig a canal from the lake to the ocean and to develop the area as a seaport. Due to differences in elevation, the plan was unable to be carried out---without an elaborate and costly system of locks, a canal would drain the water from the lake into the ocean! The post office was established in 1910 with Emil BURG as first postmaster; it was abandoned in 1915, along with the rest of the town. No trace of the town remains today. Other names: Crittenden and Pacific City.
Langlois; Located near Floras Creek, between Denmark and Port Orford. Named for William V. LANGLOIS, early settler, and native of the Island of Guernsey, English Channel.
Lawson Creek; Named for an early prospector, this creek heads on Fairview Mountain.
Lobster Creek; Located near Wedderburn, this stream (which was named for crayfish or crawdads common in its waters) is a tributary of the Rogue River.
Lone Ranch Creek; This creek empties into the Pacific south of Cape Ferrelo. It was named for Lone Ranch, the homestead of John CRESSWELL, founded in 1860.
Lookout Rock; A large landmark several hundred feet high, located just west of Highway 101, four miles south of Humbug Mountain. Indian name is "Nog-gi-sa".
Lucky Creek; Located near Mount Billingslea in the Siskiyou Mountains, this stream flows into Tincup Creek. It was named by firefighters who used its waters to fight the 1938 Chetco fire.
Mack Arch; This natural arch, located one mile offshore, 13 miles south of Gold Beach, is probably named for William P. McARTHUR, a USCS surveyor. Mack Point, Mack Reef, and Mack Cove nearby also derive their names from this source.
Macklyn Cove; Located near the mouth of Mill Creek in Brookings, this cove was named for homesteader Elza J. MACKLIN.
Madden Butte; Named for Ohio native Cyrus MADDEN who settled near the butte, north of Sixes in 1865.
Marial; This locality was named for Marial BILLINGS, the daughter of Thomas W. BILLINGS, the first postmaster of the site.
McGribble Guard Station; Located three miles northeast of Humbug Mountain, this cabin was built in 1906 by US Forest Service employees MACDUFF and GRIBBLE.
McVay Rock; Named for early settler William R. McVAY. The rock is located south of Brookings.

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Milbury Mountain; Located 10 miles southeast of Port Orford, south of Elk River. It was named for USFS ranger, William MILBURY. Elevation 2,600 feet.
Morton Butte; Located six miles north of Brookings; named for homesteader William MORTON.
Mount Avery; Located near the headwaters of Sixes River. Named for rancher Frederick S. AVERY. Elevation 2, 613 feet.
Mount Billingslea; Located about 20 miles northwest of Kerby (Josephine County), south of Illinois River. Named for Siskiyou National Forest supervisor James H. BILLINGSLEA. Elevation 4, 181 feet.
Mount Bolivar; Located in the southeast corner of Coos Co. and northeast corner of Curry Co. Named for pioneer and Coos County surveyor Simon Bolivar CATHCART, who was in turn named after the liberator of Colombia, Peru and Ecuador, South American patriot Simon Bolivar. Elevation 4, 319 feet. Possibly the highest peak in the Coast Range north of Rogue River.
Mount Emily; Located east of Chetco Peak. Name is possibly derived from Indian name "Emney" (meaning unknown) and is also shown on maps as Mount Emery. In September of 1942, incendiary bombs were dropped from a small Japanese airplane onto the mountain's Wheeler Ridge.
Mule Creek; Located in the northeast corner of Curry County, this creek flows into the Rogue River. According to an account by William PACKWOOD, the stream was named when a mule (named John) owned by Lt. R. S. WILLIAMSON was let loose to graze near the water and never returned. First name was John Mule Creek. Mule Mountain nearby is named for the same incident.
Mussel Creek; Located south of Humbug Mountain and north of Sisters Rocks, this stream flows into the Pacific and was possibly named for a small band of Tututni Indians.
Myers Creek; Located south of Cape Sebastian. Named for a miner named MYERS who settled near the stream in the 1850s.
Nellies Cove; Located just west of the bay at Port Orford, the middle of three prominent coves in this area. IT was named for Sarah Ellen TICHENOR, beloved daughter of Port Orford founder Capt. William TICHENOR.
North Fork Smith River; The major tributary of Northern California's Smith River, which was named for early explorer Jedediah Strong SMITH. The headwaters for the tributary are just west of Chetco Creek.

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Ophir; Located near Euchre Creek, between Gold Beach and Port Orford. Supposedly named for the biblical location of Ophir, which was famed for its gold. The post office was established in 1891 with Elizabeth BURROW as first postmaster.
Palmer Butte; Located five miles northeast of Brookings. Named for homesteader D. H. PALMER.
Patrick Creek; Located west of Carpenterville. Name for a Mrs. PATRICK who owned land nearby.
Pearse Peak; Located four miles east of Humbug Mountain. Named for homesteader and Cape Blanco lightkeeper Charles H. PEARSE.
Pilot Knob; Located about ten miles southeast of Port Orford. Also known as Bald Mountain.
Pistol River; Located between Gold Beach and Brookings. The stream, which flows into the Pacific Ocean, was supposedly named for the pistol which James MACE lost in its waters in 1853. The town nearby is named accordingly.
Port Orford; Located about seven miles south of Cape Blanco. Port Orford was originally named Cape Orford by Capt. George VANCOUVER in honor of his friend George, Earl of Orford. Another name shown on early maps was Ewing Harbor.
Quail Creek; Named for prospector Peter QUAIL, this creek is a tributary of the Rogue River.
Quosatana Creek; The name for this stream is derived from the Indian word "Quosaten" which meant "beautiful or fine creek". Quosatana Butte nearby is named in a similar manner.
Ragic; Ragic post office, established in 1898, was named by G. W. MESERVEY for the word "cigar" spelled backwards. Located nine miles up the Rogue River from Wedderburn and a mile west of the mouth of Lobster Creek. The first postmaster was John McELHANEY.
Ransom Creek; Named for homesteader Hiram C. RANSOM, this creek was a tributary of Bravo Creek near Palmer Butte.
Ransom Creek; Named for homesteader Edwin RANSOM (son of Hiram C. RANSOM of the Ransom Creek near Palmer Butte), this creek flows into the Pacific on the north edge of Brookings. It was originally named Iler Creek for the ILER homestead on its banks, which was bought by the RANSOMS before World War I.
Reinhart Creek; Named for homesteaders Herman and Charles REINHART. The creek is located three miles north of Sisters Rocks and flows into the Pacific Ocean.
Riley Creek; This stream flows into the Pacific Ocean at Gold Beach. Named for Judge Michael RILEY.

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Rogue River; The headwaters of this famous and historic river are in the extreme northwest corner of Klamath County near Crater Lake and flows into the Pacific Ocean at Gold Beach and Wedderburn. Supposedly named "La Riviere aux Coquins" (The Rogue River) by French fur trappers who had much trouble with the Indians who lived along its banks.
Sallal Springs; Located about five miles east of Humbug Mountain and named for the fruit of the salal bush.
Saunders Creek; Named for settler and miller John SAUNDERS. This stream flows into the Rogue River about four miles from the Pacific Ocean.
Scott Creek; Located east of Carpenterville, this creek was named for settler Raleigh SCOTT who operated a store and trading post in the area.
Seaforth; Located on the farm of Robert McKENZIE, near the mouth of Elk River at the Pacific Ocean. Named for the McKENZIE ancestral home in Seaforth, Scotland, where members of the family had been earls throughout history. A post office was established here in 1890 with Robert McKENZIE as postmaster.
Shasta Costa Creek; Named for the Shas-te-koos-tee Indians, a part of the Tututni tribes. The stream is a tributary of the Rogue River.
Shy Creek; This creek is located just north of Brookings on the property of Henry SHIGH (also spelled SHY or SCHAICH).
Silver Butte; A small butte located just off of US 101 and the old branch of this highway, now called Port Orford Loop Road and Silver Butte Road. It was named supposedly for an incident which occurred during the mining days of the Port Orford area. An unidentified man decided to create a silver "boom" on his property near the butte by melting silver coins and creating "grains" which he then scattered on the land. The nearby hotel and locale of Silver Springs is possibly named after this event.
Sixes River; This river flows into the Pacific Ocean just north of Cape Blanco. Origins of the name vary from "Sik-ses-tene", meaning "people of the far north country" to the Chinook jargon "sikh" or "friend". On early maps, the form Sequachin River is shown. An Indian village named "Te-cheh-kutt" was located at the mouth of the river.
Skookumhouse Creek; Named for the Chinook jargon "skookum" meaning strong, this stream flows into the Rogue River about 15 miles from the Pacific Ocean. Indians in the area built a stockade on the south side of this stream. Various geographic features in the area, such as Skookumhouse Butte, are named for this location.

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Soldier Camp Mountain; Located on the north bank of the Rogue River about ten miles east of the Pacific Ocean. Named during the Indian uprisings of the 1850s for the U. S. Army troops (under direction of Capt. C. C. AUGUR) who camped at the point. The north end of the ridge is called Sawtooth Rock Mountain.
Taylor Creek; This creek flows into the Pacific Ocean about two miles north of Brookings and was named for settler William TAYLOR.
Tichenor Rock; Located south of Port Orford Heads, southwest of Port Orford. Named for city founder, Capt. William TICHENOR.
Tom East Creek; Located near Potato Illahee Mountain, this creek is a tributary of the Rogue River and was named for miner Tom EAST who died in 1897.
Triangle; Located on the old mail road between Langlois and Myrtle Point. Named for the Triangle Ranch, which was operated nearby by the LEHNHERR family.
Wake Up Rilea Creek; A tributary of the Rogue River, this creek is located near Agness. There are at least two versions of how the creek came by this moniker. The first says it was named for early settler and miner Michael RILEY who was purportedly woken up at midnight by his partner with the words "Wake up Riley. We're rich". A second version claims that postmaster and schoolteacher George RILEA had the habit of staying up late listening to his radio and on the occasion that he slept in, had to be woken by customers knocking at his door.
Waters Creek; This creek, which flows into the Rogue River just north of the Illinois River, was named for settler George M. WATERS.
Wedderburn; Named by R. D. HUME for his ancestral home in Scotland. The community is located on the south bank of the Rogue River, near the bridge. Literal translation of Wedderburn is "Sheep Creek".
Whaleshead Island; Located 20 miles south of Gold Beach. It is named descriptively for the hole which resembles a whale's spout when tide water rushes into its hollow cavity. The nearby stream is named for the island.
Wheeler Creek; This stream heads on Mount Emily and flows in the East Fork Winchuck River. It was named after James WHEELER, an early settler near the creek's mouth.
Winchuck River; This river flows into the Pacific Ocean south of Harbor. One possible origin of the name is the Chinook jargon "wind chuck" or windy water. Another is that "winchuck" is the local Indian word for "woman". The river was also called "Hasonta" after a tribe living near its banks and "Neh'-saw".

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Winkle Bar; Named for pioneer prospector William WINKLE. The bar was later owned by writer Zane Grey, who used the property as a backdrop for some of his stories.
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Zwagg Island; Located just offshore from Brookings. The island was named for settler Folker VON DER ZWAAG, who was born in The Netherlands in 1835 and settled in Curry County in 1889.
