










ORIGIN OF OKLAHOMA COUNTY NAMES

COUNTY	ESTABLISHED	COUNTY SEAT	POPULATION (2010)	NAMED FOR	
Adair	1907	Stilwell	22,683	Named for a prominent Cherokee family of which perhaps the most noted member was Col. William Penn Adair, who represented the Cherokee Nation at Washington from 1866 until his death in 1881.	
Alfalfa	1893	Cherokee	5,642	Said to have been named in honor of "Alfalfa Bill" Murray, president of the Constitutional Convention by promoters who desired his support.	
Atoka	1907	Atoka	14,162	Named for Captain Atoka, a noted Choctaw leader and signer of the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek.	
Beaver	1890	Beaver	5,636	Named for its principal stream, which in turn, was the English translation of the Spanish word "nutria" which was given to this stream because of the numerous beaver dams on the small streams which are tributary to it.	
Beckham	1907	Sayre	22,119	Named by the Constitutional Convention for Hon. J. C. W. Beckham of Kentucky, former governor and U. S. Senator from that state, at the insistence of a native of Kentucky who was a delegate in the Constitutional Convention.	
Blaine	1890	Watonga	11,943	Named for Hon. James G. Blaine, congressman, U. S. Senator, Secretary of State and Presidential nominee, nomination by his devoted admirer, editor Thompson B. Ferguson of the <i>Watonga Republican</i> who was afterward governor of Oklahoma.	
Bryan	1907	Durant	42,414	Named for William Jennings Bryan, three times nominated for president of the United States, and an active adviser of the majority party in the State Constitutional Convention.	
Caddo	1901	Anadarko	29,600	Named for the Caddo tribe of Indians. The name is said to be an Indian word "Kaddi" meaning life or chief.	
Canadian	1901	El Reno	115,541	Named for the river which is supposed to have been named by the earliest explorers of its lower valley who were traders and trappers from Canada.	










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Carter	1907	Ardmore	47,577	Named after Captain Ben W. Carter, a Cherokee Indian who married and settled among the Chickasaws and whose son Charles D. Carter has represented the district including Carter County in Congress ever since statehood.	
Cherokee	1907	Tahlequah	46,987	Named for the Cherokee tribe of Indians. The word is said to have been derived from a Chickasaw word "Chiluk-ki," meaning cave people.	
Choctaw	1907	Hugo	15,205	Named from the Indian tribe. The name is supposed to have been corrupted from "Chato," meaning flat heads, because of an ancient tribal custom to flatten the skulls of children by imposing a weight on the head.	
Cimarron	1907	Boise City	2,475	A Spanish word meaning wild or unruly. The full name of the river in Spanish having been "the River of the Wild Sheep."	
Cleveland	1890	Norman	255,755	Named for President Grover Cleveland.	
Coal	1907	Coalgate	5,925	Named for the county seat, Coalgate, and incidentally, from the large coal deposits which underlie much of the county.	
Comanche	1907	Lawton	124,098	Named for the Indian tribe, a corruption of the Spanish word "Camanche," possibly derived from Camino Ancho (i.e., broad road), referring to the great trail over which the Comanches raided from the Great Plains to south of the Rio Grande.	
Cotton	1912	Walters	6,193	Named from one of the county's staple crops.	
Craig	1907	Vinita	15,029	Named for Granville Craig of Welch, Oklahoma at the insistence of W. H. Kornegay, delegate in the Constitutional Convention.	








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Creek	1907	Sapulpa	69,967	Named for the Creek Indian tribe.	
Custer	1891	Arapaho	27,469	Named for Gen. George A. Custer.	
Delaware	1907	Jay	41,487	Named for Delaware Town which was located in the Spavinaw Hills in the early part of the last century. It was occupied by a band of Delaware Indians who left the United States and settled in the Louisiana Territory, shortly after the American Revolution.	
Dewey	1892	Taloga	4,810	Designated as county "D" at the time of the opening of the Cherokee-Arapaho Reservation in 1892 until the general election of 1898 when the people of the county voted that "D" had stood for Dewey throughout all these years.	
Ellis	1907	Arnett	4,151	Named for Abraham H. Ellis, member of the Constitutional Convention.	
Garfield	1893	Enid	60,580	Named for President James A. Garfield.	
Garvin	1907	Pauls Valley	27,567	Named for Samuel Garvin of Pauls Valley, a prominent intermarried citizen of the Chickasaw Nation.	
Grady	1907	Chickasha	52,431	Named for Henry W. Grady of Atlanta, Georgia, a distinguished orator and writer.	
Grant	1892	Medford	4,527	Named for President Ulysses S. Grant.	










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Greer	1896	Mangum	6,239	Named in 1860 by the legislature of the state of Texas in honor of Lieutenant Governor John A. Greer. It was claimed as a part of the dominions of Texas until 1895 when the U. S. Supreme Court decided it was part of the Oklahoma Territory.	
Harmon	1909	Hollis	2,922	Named for Judson Harmon, attorney general under President Cleveland and later governor of Ohio. He suggested that the settlers be permitted to buy an additional quarter section of land adjoining their homesteads at a nominal price.	
Harper	1893	Buffalo	3,685	Named for O. G. Harper, a clerk in the Constitutional Convention.	
Haskell	1907	Stigler	12,769	Named for Charles N. Haskell, a member of the Constitutional Convention and later elected first governor of the state.	
Hughes	1907	Holdenville	14,003	Named for William C. Hughes, member of the Constitutional Convention.	
Jackson	1907	Altus	26,446	Named for President Andrew Jackson.	
Jefferson	1907	Waurika	6,472	Named for President Thomas Jefferson.	
Johnston	1907	Tishomingo	10,957	Named for Douglas H. Johnston, Governor of the Chickasaw Nation.	
Kay	1895	Newkirk	46,562	Name was derived by spelling out the letter "K," which was the original official designation of the county.	










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Kingfisher	1907	Kingfisher	15,043	Named for the creek. There has been a dispute as to the origin of the name of the creek. Some contend that it was named for the piscatorial bird which dives into its waters while others stoutly maintain that it was named for a cattle man, King Fisher, whose ranch headquarters were located in its valley. The facts are as follows: Two ranchmen—an uncle and nephew—by the name of Fisher were located in the vicinity of Kingfisher at an early day. The uncle had his ranch on one creek which was called, for him, Uncle John’s Creek, and is so named to this day. The nephew, whose first name was King, had his ranch on the other creek and, for him, it was called and is still called King Fisher Creek.	
Kiowa	1901	Hobart	9,446	Named from the Indian tribe. The name is a corruption of the name “Ka-i-gwu,” meaning “principal people.”	
Latimer	1907	Wilburton	11,154	Named for J. S. Latimer, member of the Constitutional Convention.	
Le Flore	1907	Poteau	50,384	Named for a Choctaw Indian family of French descent, a number of the members of which have been prominent in tribal history.	
Lincoln	1891	Chandler	34,273	Named for President Abraham Lincoln.	
Logan	1891	Guthrie	41,487	Named for General John A. Logan, American Civil War general.	
Love	1907	Marietta	9,423	Named for a prominent Chickasaw family and especially in honor of one member, Overton Love, popularly known as “Sobe” Love.	










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McClain	1907	Purcell	34,506	Named for Charles McClain, member of the Constitutional Convention.	
McCurtain	1907	Idabel	33,151	Named for a prominent Choctaw family, three members of which, brothers, were principal chiefs of the Choctaw Nation.	
McIntosh	1907	Eufaula	20,252	Named for a family prominent in the Creek Nation, a number of the members of which were chiefs and leaders.	
Major	1909	Fairview	7,527	Named for John C. Major, a delegate to the Constitutional Convention.	
Marshall	1907	Madill	15,840	Named in honor of the mother of George A. Henshaw, delegate to the Constitutional Convention, Henshaw having been her maiden name.	
Mayer	1907	Pryor	41,259	Named for Cherokee leader Samuel Houston Mayer.	
Murray	1907	Sulphur	13,488	Named for William H. Murray, president of the Constitutional Convention.	
Muskogee	1907	Muskogee	70,990	Named for the city, which in turn was named for the Muskogee or Creek tribe of Indians. The word is a corruption of "Maskoki" said to have been derived from an Algonquin word signifying swamp or marshy land.	
Noble	1897	Perry	11,561	Named for John W. Noble, Secretary of the Interior in President Harrison's Cabinet.	





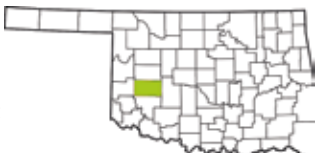

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Nowata	1907	Nowata	10,538	Named for its county seat town. The name is said to be a corruption of the Delaware Indian word "Noweeta" meaning "welcome."	
Okfuskee	1907	Okemah	12,191	Named for one of the Creek Indian towns or clans.	
Oklahoma	1891	Oklahoma City	718,633	Combination of two Choctaw words "Okla" meaning people and "Humma" red.	
Okmulgee	1907	Okmulgee	40,069	Named for its county seat town which, in turn, was named for one of the old Creek towns or clans.	
Osage	1907	Pawhuska	47,472	The tribal name "Wazhazhe," as spelled by the French settlers of the Mississippi Valley.	
Ottawa	1907	Miami	31,848	The tribal name, corruption of "Adawe," meaning to trade or traffic.	
Pawnee	1897	Pawnee	16,577	The tribal name corrupted from "Pariki," meaning horn and refers to the tribal custom of dressing the scalp locks to resemble a buffalo horn .	
Payne	1890	Stillwater	77,350	Named for Captain David L. Payne, the leader of the "boomers" who tried to settle in Oklahoma before its settlement was authorized by Congress.	
Pittsburg	1907	McAlester	45,837	Named for the city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the final "h" having been dropped.	

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Pontotoc	1907	Ada	37,492	Pontotoc Creek in the old Chickasaw country, in Mississippi; Pontotoc is a Chickasaw word meaning cat tails growing on the prairie	
Pottawatomie	1891	Shawnee	69,442	Named for an Indian tribe, a corruption of the Algonquin term "Pottawatomink," meaning "people of the place of fire." The Oklahoma tribal name is spelled "Potawatomii."	
Pushmataha	1907	Antlers	11,572	Named after the great Choctaw Chieftain, Apushmataha, meaning "the sapling is ready, or finished, for him."	
Roger Mills	1895	Chetenne	3,647	Named by vote of the people of the county, most of whom were recent immigrants from Texas, of which state Roger Q. Mills was then U. S. senator.	
Rogers	1907	Claremore	89,905	Named for Clement V. Rogers, member of the Constitutional Convention and father of Will Rogers, the stage and film star..	
Seminole	1907	Wewoka	25,462	Named for the Indian tribe, the name being a corruption of "Seminola," a Creek Indian word for "seceder" or "runaway." The Seminole tribe was originally an offshoot of the Creek tribe.	
Sequoyah	1907	Sallisaw	42,391	Named for Sequoyah (George Guess), who invented the Cherokee syllabary.	
Stephens	1907	Duncan	45,048	Named for John H. Stephens, congressman from Texas, who took great interest in Indian Territory legislation just prior to statehood.	
Texas	1907	Guymon	20,640	Named because the No Mans Land or Panhandle strip of which it was a part, formed a part of the Texas session of 1850.	

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Tillman	1907	Frederick	7,992	Named for Ben Tillman, U. S. Senator from South Carolina.	
Tulsa	1907	Tulsa	603,403	Named derived from Tulsey Town, one of the old Creek towns or clans.	
Wagoner	1907	Wagoner	73,095	Said to have been named for Bailey P. Waggoner, attorney of the Missouri Pacific Railway Company at the time of building one of its lines led to the founding of the town.	
Washington	1907	Bartlesville	50,976	Named for President George Washington.	
Washita	1897	Cordell	11,629	Named for the Washita River which was called by the French, "Faux Ouachita," literally meaning "false Washita," in distinction from the Ouachita River of Arkansas and Louisiana. The name Washita was that of one of the minor tribes of the Caddoan stock.	
Woods	1893	Alva	8,878	Named for Kansas pioneer, politician and legislator, Samuel Newitt Wood, who was assassinated two years before the opening of the Cherokee Outlet lands to settlement. The letter "s" was inadvertently added to the ballot to name the county.	
Woodward	1893	Woodward	20,081	Named from a station on the Santa Fe Railway, and it in turn was named or a director of the Railway Company, B. W. Woodward.	