Geog 126: Maps in Science and Society

The Board on Geographic Names and Names on Maps
to·pon·y·my

*n. pl.* to·pon·y·mies

1. 
   a. The place names of a region or language.
   b. The study of such place names.

2. *Anatomy* Nomenclature with respect to a region of the body rather than to organs or structures.
Language and toponymy
Cyrillic
Abkhazia (Аҧсны́: Apsny; Georgian: აფხაზეთი Apkhazeti; Russian: Абхазия Abkhaziya) is a disputed territory on the eastern coast of the Black Sea and the south-western flank of the Caucasus. Abkhazia considers itself an independent state, called the Republic of Abkhazia or Apsny. This status is recognised by Russia, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Nauru and Tuvalu, and also by the partially recognised state of South Ossetia, and the unrecognised Transnistria and Nagorno-Karabakh. The Georgian government and the majority of the world's governments consider Abkhazia a part of Georgia's territory, though Georgia is not in control of it. Under Georgia's official designation it is an autonomous republic, called the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, whose government sits in exile in Tbilisi.
Official recognition
Place name endings in Germany
Source: http://truth-and-beauty.net/experiments/ach-ingen-zell/
Multilingualism

Inghamptonbergville

- Ing: place (Old English/Danish)
- Ham: homestead (Saxon)
- Ton: Town (Saxon)
- Berg: Town (German)
- Ville: Town (French)
The U.S. Board on Geographic Names is a Federal body created in 1890 and established in its present form by Public Law in 1947 to maintain uniform geographic name usage throughout the Federal Government. The Board comprises representatives of Federal agencies concerned with geographic information, population, ecology, and management of public lands. Sharing its responsibilities with the Secretary of the Interior, the Board promulgates official geographic feature names with locative attributes as well as principles, policies, and procedures governing the use of domestic names, foreign names, Antarctic names, and undersea feature names.
Mission

• Inconsistencies and contradictions among many names, spellings, and applications became a serious problem to surveyors, map makers, and scientists who required uniform, non-conflicting geographic nomenclature

• The Board gradually expanded its interests to include foreign names and other areas of interest to the United States, a process that accelerated during World War II

• The United Nations stated that "the best method to achieve international standardization is through strong programs of national standardization."
User contributed content

- Any person or organization, public or private, may make inquiries or request the Board to render formal decisions on proposed new names, proposed name changes, or names that are in conflict.

- Physical and cultural geographic features of all types in the United States, associated areas, and Antarctica, current and historical, but not including roads and highways.
GNIS

• Geographic Names Information System is the Federal standard for geographic nomenclature

• The USGS developed the GNIS for the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as the:
  – official repository of domestic geographic names data;
  – the official vehicle for geographic names use by all departments of the Federal Government;
  – source for applying geographic names to Federal electronic and printed products

• Other attributes include names or spellings other than the official name, feature designations, feature classification, historical and descriptive information, and for some categories the geometric boundaries.
### Feature Query Results

Click the feature name for details and to access map services. Click any column name to sort the list ascending ▲ or descending ▼

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature Name</th>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Map</th>
<th>Elevation</th>
<th>BGN</th>
<th>Entry Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goleta</td>
<td>1660687</td>
<td>Populated Place</td>
<td>Santa Barbara</td>
<td>342609N</td>
<td>1194940W</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Goleta</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>19-JAN-1981</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

View & Print all  Save as pipe "|" delimited file

Note: If data are returned and the column headings display but no data appear, click any column heading.

*Elevations are from the National Elevation Dataset*

12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20192, USA

[gnis_manager@usgs.gov](mailto:gnis_manager@usgs.gov)
Form updated: February 28, 2008

USGS Privacy Policy and Disclaimers
Search toponyms in the Geographic Names Information System

Search term: [Type your search term here]  
Submit  Clear all

Limit search to following feature classes: [Select feature classes]
Clarke in California
United States Place Names

• **Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)** - contains entries for c. 2M geographic features in the US. Each entry includes information about Federally recognized names for features in the US, including the State, county, and geographic coordinates. Produced by the US Board of Geographic Names and the USGS.

• **US Gazetteer** - The US Gazetteer is a list of United States place names that were included in the latest census. Since it was derived from census data, this database only contains names for populated places.

• **National Association of Counties (NACo)** - database of county information, searchable by city, state, and zip code.

• **State by State**
  – **Colorado Places by County** - A list of current and historical places in Colorado with information on their county.
  – **Georgia Place Names** - A site containing place names of settlements, most with linked maps.
  – **Kentucky Place Names** - A searchable index to place names in Kentucky from the Kentucky Geological Survey.
  – **Minnesota Place Names** - A guide to historical Minnesota place names sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society.
  – **Ohio Historical and Changed Name Locations** - Current and historical place name information for the State of Ohio.
  – **Tennessee Place Names and Post Offices** - A guide to historical place names in Tennessee.
  – **Washington Place Names Database** - A searchable index to place names in Washington from Tacoma Public Library.
For example: Naples, CA

- 1887 John H. Williams planned to build the Crescent Beach Hotel and a planned community called Naples-by-the-Sea
- Established post office, built chapel, bought and tracted land
- But, train tracks from South ended at Ellwood
- Anne’s Chapel demolished after 1925 earthquake
We use place names every day, thinking about where we are going, not where the names came from. This web site provides quick access to the stories behind the names, thousands of miniature histories that capture the lost lore of familiar places.

The stories on these pages unfold in the idiosyncratic, antiquarian voice of their compiler, Warren Upham, a compulsive collector of minutiae who gathered Minnesota's geographic names from 1879 until his book was first published in 1920. While fans of the book will be pleased to meet an old friend again, Internet users may be surprised by Upham's distinctly nineteenth-century tone. His voice, speaking from an era when massive projects of this type were compiled, draws readers into his world and his passion.

*Minnesota Place Names* is both a book, published in a revised and expanded third edition, and this searchable, expanded web site, which includes the text of the book and a wealth of further links to information about Minnesota places. Both resources, like
Your search for **St. Anthony Falls** in Hennepin County returned the following:

**Hennepin County**

ST. ANTHONY FALLS was platted as a village in 1849 and was included in Ramsey County until March 4, 1856. Another plat, in 1848-49, named St. Anthony City, comprised the site of the University of Minnesota and adjoining area southeastward, which later was popularly called "Cheevertown," in honor of William A. Cheever, a pioneer who settled there in 1847, builder of an observatory tower.

**Hennepin Census Information**

**Estab:** March 6, 1852  
**Parent County:** Dakota
World Place Names

- **GEOnet World Place Names Server** - GEOnet is a database of World place names developed from the country gazetteers that were published by the US Defense Mapping Agency (now the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency). It contains place names for over 3.3 million features throughout the World.

- **Alexandria Digital Library Gazeteer Server** - This gazetteer contains place names for the entire World, including the United States. It is based on gazetteer information from a number of sources, including GEOnet and GNIS.

- **GeoNative** - A site that deals with Minority and Native Language place names.

- **Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names** - The Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names (TGN) provides information on place names related to art, art history and related subjects, such as history archeology, and geography.

- **Shtetl Seeker** - Shtetl Seeker is a searchable database that provides information on the location of populated places in Eastern Europe, many of which no longer exist.
Alexandria Digital Library Geospatial Network

Added by David Valentine, last edited by Linda Rose on Sep 28, 2004 (view change)
Labels: (None)

Alexandria Digital Library News

Davidson Library, Map and Imagery Lab, University of California, Santa Barbara

The Alexandria Digital Library (ADL) contains more than 15,000 holdings, such as maps, images, and datasets, that are available online for public download over the Internet. The items currently cataloged in ADL are a portion of the holdings of the UCSB’s Map and Imagery Laboratory. For information on using the Catalog Search, click here.
Assorted Country Place Names

- **Antarctica**
  - [Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica](#) - An international gazetteer from the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR).
  - [Antarctic Geographic Place Names](#) - Search for Antarctic Place Names approved by the US Board on Geographic Names.
  - [Australian Antarctic Gazetteer](#) - Search for place names in the Australian Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic Territory.
  - [Index of German-Language Antarctic Place Names](#) - A list of German Antarctic Place Names and their latitude and longitude.

- **Australia**
  - [Australian Geographic Place Names](#) - The Australian Geographic Place Names site from the Australian Surveying & Land Information Group.
  - [Australian Capital Territory](#) - Public places in Canberra, Australia's capital.
  - [New South Wales](#) - Place Name site from New South Wales Land and Property Information.
  - [Northern Territory](#) - Place Names in the Northern Territory from NT Lands Planning and Environment.
  - [South Australia](#) - Place Names Online South Australian State Gazetteer.
  - [Victoria](#) - Signpost, the Place Names in Victoria web site.
  - [Western Australia](#) - Names and places in Western Australia from the Department of Land Administration.
SCAR Gazetteer

Location
- Latitude: 76° 44' 00.0" S
- Longitude: 163° 01' 00.0" E
- Altitude: Not recorded
- Additional coordinates: ±76.733333°, 163.016667° (unknown precision)

Images
No images of this place could be found.

Map
Cape Ross
-76.733333, 163.016667
More...

- **Place Names in Belgium** - An alphabetical list of cities, towns and hamlets in Belgium. This site gives the postal code and province for cities, towns and villages in Belgium.
- **Canadian Geographical Names / Les noms géographiques du Canada** - The Canadian Geographical Names site, produced by Natural Resources Canada, provides access to a searchable database containing over 500,000 place names in Canada. Information on the origins of some Canadian place names can be found at the [Geographical Names Origins](#) site.
  - **British Columbia Place Names** - Search for place names in British Columbia. Provides location and topographic map sheet showing the place or feature. Also has an option to do "sounds like" searches. In some cases, the place may be displayed on a digital map.
  - **Quebec** - Quebec has two sites for place names. They include a site from the [Commission de toponymie du Québec](#) (French Only) and another searchable database that links to maps.
  - **Northwest Territories Place Names** - Search for place names in the Northwest Territories. Provides location and topographic map sheet showing the place or feature. A map showing the feature’s location can also be displayed.
- **Place Names in Denmark** - This site contains alphabetical lists of authorized place names in Denmark. Each list contains information on place names the parish and the administrative district. In Danish.
Current Names: Query Record Details

Name: Clarke
Province/Territory: Ontario
Feature type: Geographical area
Location: Durham
Latitude - Longitude: 44° 00' 12" N - 78° 33' 37" W
NTS Map: 031D02
CGNDB Unique Identifier: FARCI

Important notices
Geographical Names of Canada

Important notices

English

Français

Avis importants
And more...

- **Place Names Database of Estonia** - Since it declared its independence in 1991, Estonia has renamed a number of places. This site is a searchable database that contains current names for places in Estonia as well as variant names.

- **Finland** - The National Land Survey of Finland's MapSite. Registration required.

- **France**
  - **Communes Search** - The searchable database of French parishes and townships from the Institut Géographique National.
  - **Place Names Search** - The searchable database of over 2,000,000 French place names from the Institut Géographique National.

- **Germany**
  - **Atlas des Deutschen Reichs / Atlas of the German Empire** - Scanned images of the maps and gazetteer of this 1883 atlas by Ludwig Ravenstein are provided by the University of Wisconsin. It covers Germany as well as neighboring countries.
  - **Horlacher Genealogy Site** - This genealogy site includes links to several gazetteers.
La toponymie (du grec topos, lieu, et onoma, nom) est une science qui a pour objet l'étude de la formation et de l'évolution des noms de lieux, ou toponymes. C'est également l'ensemble des noms de lieux d'un pays ou d'une région, d'une carte ou d'une nomenclature.

L'actuelle carte topographique de base à l'échelle de 1 : 25 000 (France) recèle un patrimoine toponymique très important puisque l'on estime à environ 2 millions le nombre de toponymes portés sur ces cartes.

5 FICHES ET DOCUMENTS POUR MIEUX COMPRENDRE LA TOPONYMIE :

La toponymie, science des noms géographiques

L'histoire de la toponymie depuis l'établissement de la Carte de Cassini au XVIIIème siècle. Le recueil et le traitement de la toponymie pour la carte de base de France au 1:25.000 ème. Les cartes du monde et les activités internationales de la Commission française de toponymie.

> Téléchargez la fiche, pdf 662 Ko.

Les noms de lieux en France : glossaire de termes dialectaux (le "Pégorrier")

Troisième édition mise à jour et enrichie en 2006... cet ouvrage recense les principaux termes de toutes origines composant la toponymie régionale.

Comportant plus de 20 000 mots, c'est le document de référence pour comprendre la signification des toponymes dialectaux qui constituent l'essentiel des appellations portées sur la carte de base.

> En savoir plus sur cet ouvrage, pdf de 76 Ko.

VOTRE NOM
Saisissez un nom pour connaître ses localisations communales, ses désignations (hameau, bois, phare, ...) et ses coordonnées.

DICTIONNAIRE DES TOPONYMES DE FRANCE
Recherche et localisation de lieux en France avec un cdrom comportant 1,6 million de toponymes. > Description et achat en ligne

CARTE DE FRANCE DIALECTALE
La toponymie française est le reflet d'une histoire riche en apports successifs qui ont chacun contribué à lui donner un aspect très varié suivant la région considérée.

> Téléchargez la fiche, pdf 86 Ko.

CARTE ANCIENNES
La "Carte de Cassini", plus ancienne des cartes de la France entière, comporte d'intéressants renseignements sur l'évolution de la toponymie et des voies de communication ...

> Versions taille douce et offset (sur papier)
Still more

• Great Britain
  – Landranger Map Place Names Search - This site allows users to search for place names appearing on the Landranger maps. For each place name searched, this system provides information on the Landranger map number that contains the place, the type of feature and its latitude and longitude.
  – Get a Map - The Ordnance Survey's Get a Map system.
  – Multimap.com Interactive Atlas - A site that provides detailed maps when a British place name is entered. (Bought by Microsoft in 2007, became Bing maps in 2010)
  – British Online Historical Gazetteer - A system to query historical place names listed in the Parish tables from the 1911 census.
  – Parish Database - A database of over 14000 churches and register offices in the United Kingdom from the UK and Ireland Genealogy Web Site.
• Hungary - An alphabetical list of cities in Hungary with their population.
• Luxembourg Gazetteer of Villages and Towns - An alphabetical list of place names in Luxembourghish with their French and German equivalents.
• New Zealand Geographic Place-Names Database - A database of over 40,000 place names that appear on current New Zealand topographic maps and some historical maps
Even outer space!

- **Project Perseus Atlas** - Locate and plot sites related to the Greek world and the Mediterranean region. The atlas has drawings, digital elevation models, satellite images and three-dimensional topographic views.

- Scandinavia - The [Nordic Place Names Database](#), hosted by the National Land Survey of Finland, contains place names for Denmark, Faeroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Norway and Sweden. Registration required

- Scotland - Two sites are available for Scotland. They are:
  - [Gazetteer for Scotland](#) - This site describes itself as a comprehensive geographical database of "towns, villages, bens and glens from the Scottish Borders to the Northern Isles."
  - [Scottish Parishes](#) - Scottish Place Names Society's list of parishes in Scotland.

- Sweden - Two sites are available for Sweden. They are:
  - [Swedish Place Names Lexicon](#) - Place name list for Sweden. Each entry identifies the type of place, the parish, jurisdictional district and district. In Swedish.
  - [Swedish National Atlas Place Names Register](#) - Enter a place name and the location of the site is shown on a map of Sweden. Also gives area and population statistics.

- Switzerland - SwissGeo is a database that can be used to search for a place by name or address and view the 1:50,000 topographic map showing that place.

- **Planetary Place Names**

- [Gazetteer of Planetary Nomenclature](#) - Place names approved by the International Astronomical Union for features on the Moon and Planets.
Result for name search on "bourne"

Number of hits: 81

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Placename</th>
<th>County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albourne</td>
<td>Sussex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aldbourne</td>
<td>Wiltshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aldingbourne</td>
<td>Sussex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashbourne</td>
<td>Derbyshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bathingbourne</td>
<td>Isle of Wight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bekesbourne</td>
<td>Kent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bishopbourne</td>
<td>Kent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bourne</td>
<td>Lincolnshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bourne Farm</td>
<td>Dorset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brabourne</td>
<td>Kent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradbourne</td>
<td>Derbyshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broxbourne</td>
<td>Hertfordshire</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All counties

Map of England showing various counties.
Result for name search on "chart"  All counties

Number of hits: 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Placename</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chart Sutton</td>
<td>Kent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charterhouse</td>
<td>Somerset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chartham</td>
<td>Kent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chartley Holme</td>
<td>Staffordshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Chart</td>
<td>Kent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinton Charterhouse</td>
<td>Somerset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Chart</td>
<td>Kent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The National Trust

Name or Category: CLARKE (1998)

Frequency and Ethnicity  Geographical Location  Map of 1881  Home  Help
Clarke
(1881 Census)
# Geographic name types (US)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Descriptive toponyms</td>
<td>Rocky Mountains, Chicago (Stinking Onions in the language of the first inhabitants)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associative Toponyms</td>
<td>Mill River (a mill was on the river), Springfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incident Names</td>
<td>Battle Creek, Bloody Ridge, Cut and Shoot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possessive Names</td>
<td>Castro Valley, Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commemorative</td>
<td>St Louis, San Jacinto, Houston, Seattle (named after Chief Seattle), Austin, Pennsylvania (Penn's Woods), Illinois (after the Illini Indians)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commendatory</td>
<td>Pleasant Valley, Greenland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufactured</td>
<td>Tesnus (Sunset spelled backwards), Reklaw (Walker spelled backwards) Iraan (Ira and Ann name the town after each other), Zzyxx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mistaken</td>
<td>West Indies (not west of the Indies and not the Indies), Al Sharifa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shift Names</td>
<td>Athens (Greece and Texas), Palestine (Middle East and Texas), New Mexico (settlers from Mexico named their new home after their previous home), New England,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Feature names
(Leino: Pike and Perch in Finland’s Lakes)

Figure 1: Distribution maps of the names Ahvenlampi (x) – Haukilampi (+), left, and Hanhilaampi (x) – Joutenlampi (+), right.
Zzyxx, CA

- **35°8′35″N 116°6′15″W** in San Bernardino C.
- Made-up name Zzyzx was given to the area in 1944 by Curtis Howe Springer, claiming it to be the last word in the English language.
- Zzyzx Mineral Springs and Health Spa and now the site of the Desert Studies Center
- Site is also the location of Lake Tuendae, originally part of the spa, and now a refuge habitat of the endangered Mohave tui chub.
London (or variant, or historical)
Place removal: Lifta, Jerusalem
Surname mapping
Word meaning translated
Word Clouds
Spatialization
Placenames

• Carry power, meaning, intent
• Are highly sensitive politically/socially
• Are a major means of enforcing occupation
• Need regulation
• Link closely to language, culture, history, ethnicity, heritage
• True at every spatial scale