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WHAT'S IN A NAME? -- Odd Places in America

By Victoria Elizabeth

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WHAT DO 'DEAD HORSE' AND 'DEVIL'S BACKBONE' HAVE IN COMMON?

-- A Misguided Guide to Unusual Placenames in America --

It is said that England has more than a few rather quaint placenames such as Bodmin, Grimbister, Ipswich, Nobottle, No Man's Land, Pie Corner, Pratt's Bottom, Scrabster and Twatt but, they pale in comparison to the plethora of picturesque placenames in the "New World".

For those with precious little to do, why not take a wee peek at a few of the curious and entertaining placenames found in the United States of America (like Zap, North Dakota and Knockemstiff, Ohio).

This state of affairs naturally begs several questions.

1. Just who might be eager to visit these out-of-the-way, off-the-beaten track, and some might even say, downright peculiar places like Nothing, Arizona or Floyds Knobs, Indiana?
2. What do real estate agents say and do to attract new property owners to King of Prussia, Valentine or Santa Clause?
3. Who lives in Nags Head or Lynchburg?
4. Why would anyone name a place "Punxsutawney" unless of course, one had nothing better to do on "National Groundhog Appreciation Day"?
5. Where is Frostproof, Funkstown, Pottawattamie, Romeoville and Willacoochee anyway?

So grab yourself an atlas or a map and whatever you do, drop by and say hello to the folks in:

WHAT'S IN A NAME? -- Odd Places in America

-- Chicken, Deadhorse or Eek (Alaska)

-- Burnt Corn, Intercourse, Muck City, Rooster (Alabama)

-- Bagdad, Boneyard, Floss, Goobertown, Nothing, Why (Arizona)

-- Fannie, Greasy Corner, Grubbs, Hooker, Okay, Possum Grape, Smackover, Toad Suck, Turkey Scratch, Weiner, Yellville (Arkansas)

-- Blunt, Bummerville, Deadwood, Doghouse Junction, Frying Pan, Hellhole Palms, Hells Kitchen, Hooker, Last Chance, Mormon Bar, Needles, Ono, Prunedale, Rescue, Relief, Scarface, Squabbletown, Sucker Flat, Timbuctoo, Toad Town, Volcano, Weedpatch, Wimp, You Bet, Yreka

Zzyzx (California)

-- Climax, Last Chance, No Name, Parachute, Purgatory (Colorado)

-- Giants Neck, Mianus, Moosup (Connecticut)

-- Howey-in-the-Hills, Kissimmee, Okahumpka, Sopchoppy, Two Egg, Weeki Wachee, Yeehaw Junction (Florida)

-- Between, Chickasawhatchee, Climax, Enigma, Hopeulikit, Talking Rock (Georgia)

-- Good Grief, Beer Bottle Crossing (Idaho)

-- Bald Knob, Devil's Backbone, Grand Detour, Kickapoo, Paw Paw, Roachtown (Illinois)

-- French Lick, Gnaw Bone, Loogootee, Naked City, Roachdale, Toad Hop (Indiana)

-- Diagonal, Gravity, What Cheer (Iowa)

Perdition, Ransom (Kansas)

-- Beaver Lick, Bugtussle, Chicken Gizzard, Crummies, Do Stop, Monkeys Elbow, Mousie, Mud Lick, Oddville, Ogle, Spring Lick, Rabbit Hash, Typo (Kentucky)

-- Belcher, Cut-Off, Fort Necessity, Grosse Tete, Mudville, Tickfaw, Waterproof (Louisiana)

-- Bald Head, Dickey, Beans Corner Bingo (Maine)

-- Accident, Assawoman Bay, Boring, Crapo, Cockeysville (Maryland)

-- Belchertown, Cow Yard, Mashpee, Sandwich, Swampscott (Massachusetts)

-- Bad Axe, Climax, Hell, Jugville, Kalamazoo, Podunk, Slapneck (Michigan)

WHAT'S IN A NAME? -- Odd Places in America

- Climax, Embarass, Nimrod, Nowthen, Savage, Sleepy Eye (Minnesota)
- Bobo, Chunky, Dragon, Possumneck, Sanatorium, Soso, Yazoo (Mississippi)
- Conception, Cooter, Enough, Frankenstein, Licking, Peculiar, Roach, Sleeper, Tightwad (Missouri)
- Bitter Root, Elmo, Hungry Horse, Rocky Boy, Square Butt, Two-Dot, Yaak (Montana)
- Colon, Fort Crook, Road, Wahoo, Weeping Water, Worms (Nebraska)
- Bunkerville, Incline Village, Lovelock, Owyhee, Pahrump, Searchlight, Verdi-Mogul, Weed Heights, Winnemucca (Nevada)
- Bungy, Contoocook, Hell Hollow, Lost Nation, Sandwich Landing (New Hampshire)
- Bivalve, Brick, Ho-Ho Kus, Little Egg Harbor, Love Ladies, Succasuna (New Jersey)

- Elephant Butte, Tingle, Truth or Consequences (New Mexico)
- Cat Elbow Corner, Climax, Coxsackie, Hicksville, Horseheads, Peekskill, Neversink, Yaphank Yonkers (New York)
- Climax, Gum Neck, Horneytown, Lizard Lick, Meat Camp, Tick Bite, Toast, Whynot (North Carolina)
- Concrete, Hoople, Voltaire, Zap (North Dakota)
- Blue Ball, Climax, Fly, Knockemstiff, Three Legs Town (Ohio)
- Bowlegs, Frogville, Hooker, Okay, Pumpkin Center, Slapout, Slaughterville (Oklahoma)
- Boring, Drain, Halfcom, Idiotville, Zig Zag (Oregon)
- Balltown, Bird-in-Hand, Blue Ball, Climax, Drab, Experiment, Fear Not, Gobbler's Knob, Hempfield, Intercourse, Loyalsockville, Panic, Porkey, Scalp Level, Uno, Virginville (Pennsylvania)
- Mooseup Valley, Quidnick, Quonochontaug, Woonsocket (Rhode Island)
- Coward, Due West, Ninetimes, Sugar Tit (South Carolina)
- Bath, Igloo, Lemmon, Peever, Red Shirt (South Dakota)
- Bugscuffle, Bucksnot, Defeated, Difficult, Duck Town, Finger, Nameless, Only, Smartt, Sweet Lips, Static, Yum Yum (Tennessee)
- Cut-n-Shoot, Dime Box, Ding Dong, Frognot, Gun Barrel City, Hoop and Holler, Leaky, Loco,

WHAT'S IN A NAME? -- Odd Places in America

Looneyville, Muleshoe, Notrees, Pointblank, Possum Kingdom, Run and Shoot, Tarzan, Trophy Club, Turkey, Twitty, Uncertain, (Texas)

-- Bald Knob, Hurricane, Lovelock, Orderville (Utah)

-- Bread Loaf, Mosquitoville, Notown, Satans Kingdom (Vermont)

-- Bumpass, Croaker, Frogtown, Goochland, Goosepimple Junction, Mutt, Nuttsville, Ordinary (Virginia)

-- Enumclaw, Humptulips, Klickitat, Kooskooskie, Tumtum, Tumwater (Washington)

-- Big Ugly, Crum, HooHoo, Looneyville, Lost City, Nitro, Odd, Paw, Pinch, War (West Virginia)

-- Embarrass, Footville, Imalone, Spread Eagle, Ubet, Wanderoos (Wisconsin)

-- Bill, Camel Hump, Meeteetse, Muddy Gap (Wyoming)

And, if you want to find these places on a map, go to:

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis/web_query.gnis_web_query_form

For a complete list of placenames go to: <http://www.census.gov/tiger/tms/gazetteer/places2k.txt>

Victoria Elizabeth. "The Quipping Queen", enjoys musing about mirthful things in Life, the Universe and Everything In Between from the pages of her blatherskating blog at www.quippingqueen.blogspot.com

AMERICA NEEDS THE LORD

By Irvin L. Rozier

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Lord you spoke into existence the heavens and the earth
Created nations, people and gave America birth
Since 1776 America has been a free land
Our forefathers recognized the creation of Your hand
Many prayers for America have reached your ears
You have kept her safe throughout the years
You have raised up leaders for our nation
For a season and a time them You did station
Now it is the year two thousand and four
America needs your presence even more

America needs the Lord to heal our land
Please, O Lord, stretch out Your healing hand
Without Your presence America would fall
Because of this unto You we do call

Since America's beginning, we have had many wars
We have lost many Americans, boys and girls
O Lord, don't let those deaths be in vain
Comfort their loved ones and heal their pain
From Massachusetts to Oregon state
Upon the prayers of Your people You do wait
Your eyes roam to and fro throughout the country
To show Yourself strong to those who pray to thee

You said if you shall ask you shall receive
Deliver America, O Lord, from those who do deceive
In the troublesome days that lie ahead
Give us day by day our daily bread
America is still under Your amazing grace
Let us not forsake to seek Your face
A great awakening is what we need
To Your Word, O Lord, America must heed
Greed and strife has a strong hold
In the land of the free and the home of the bold

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