Over the years, I have written various articles for Word Ways on the logology of the names of the 50 US states and the 50 state capitals. There have been transposals, transdeletions, transadditions and so on. But I've never explored the names of the US counties.

48 of the states have counties, Louisiana has parishes, and Alaska has boroughs and non-borough ‘census areas’. Adding all these together, there are almost 3200 counties and ‘county-equivalent administrative units’. For the remainder of this article, when I refer to ‘counties’, I mean counties, parishes, boroughs and census areas.

The idea of searching for transposals, transdeletions and transadditions of the 3000+ county names was rather daunting. Rather than offer every possible transposal, transdeletion and transaddition, common and obscure, I began by searching for transposals of two county names beginning with each of 25 letters. There are no county names beginning with the letter X, so that means I can offer the names of 50 counties for which there are interesting or long (or medium-length) transposals. I like the fact that this figure of 50 is the same as the number of states!

In selecting the 50 county names here, I have tried to select those which are not well-known transposals. It would have been easy to select, say, ULSTER (in New York) and offer any of the set of transposals LUSTER, LUSTRE, LUTERS, RESULT, RUSTLE, SUTLER, etc. I thought it would be more interesting to select county names which were less familiar.

Here then are transposals of 50 different county names, two for each letter of the alphabet, except X:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County Name</th>
<th>Transposal</th>
<th>Definition &amp; Source or Other Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archuleta County, Colorado</td>
<td>chartulae</td>
<td>Plural of ‘chartula’, a folded paper containing a single dose of a medicinal powder (W3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atchison County, Missouri</td>
<td>chitosan</td>
<td>A substance formed from chitin by partial deacetylation with alkali (W3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bandera County, Texas</td>
<td>bardane</td>
<td>The plant burdock (W3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bastrop County, Texas</td>
<td>barpost</td>
<td>Either of the posts holding the ends of the bars closing a banway (W2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claiborne Parish, Louisiana</td>
<td>carboline</td>
<td>Hashed meat made into balls and fried (OED)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clearfield County, Pennsylvania</td>
<td>fricadelle</td>
<td>Any of various isomers that have the formula C₁₁H₂₂N₂ and are structurally related to indole and pyridine (W3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaf Smith County, Texas</td>
<td>ham-fisted</td>
<td>Heavy-handed, clumsy (W3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Del Norte County, California</td>
<td>redolient</td>
<td>Fragrant (W3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emanuel County, Georgia</td>
<td>Lenaeum</td>
<td>A sacred precinct at Athens (W2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etowah County, Alabama</td>
<td>awheto</td>
<td>The vegetable caterpillar of New Zealand (W2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fallon County, Montana</td>
<td>onfall</td>
<td>An attack, an assault (W3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresno County, California</td>
<td>freons</td>
<td>Plural of ‘freon’, any of a series of nonflammable gaseous and liquid paraffin hydrocarbons that contain one or more fluorine atoms in the molecule and are used chiefly as refrigerants and as propellants for aerosols (W3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Isle County, Vermont</td>
<td>draglines</td>
<td>Plural of ‘dragline’, an excavating machine (W3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenville County, South Carolina</td>
<td>releveling</td>
<td>Present participle of the verb ‘relevel’, to level again (OED – both spellings ‘releveling’ and ‘relevelling’ are shown)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hettinger County, North Dakota</td>
<td>tightener</td>
<td>One that tightens (W3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunterdon County, New Jersey</td>
<td>onthroned</td>
<td>Past tense of verb ‘unthrone’, to dethrone (W3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ingham County, Michigan</td>
<td>minhag</td>
<td>A Jewish religious custom (W3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabella County, Michigan</td>
<td>saible</td>
<td>Navigable, as a river (W2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juab County, Utah</td>
<td>juba</td>
<td>A dance of plantation Negroes in the South accompanied by complexly rhythmic hand clapping and slapping of the knees and thighs (W3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juniata County, Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Tijuana</td>
<td>A city of Mexico (Webster's Biographical Dictionary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kanabec County, Minnesota</td>
<td>Banacek</td>
<td>The title of a light-hearted detective TV series starring George Peppard on NBC from 1972 to 1974. Banacek was a suave, Polish-American freelance Investigator based in Boston (Wikipedia)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Kershaw County, South Carolina  hawker  Plural of 'hawker', a person that hawks wares especially in the streets (W3)
Laclede County, Missouri  cadelle  The larva or adult of a small cosmopolitan black beetle destructive to stored grain and sometimes preying on other insects (W3)
Las Animas County, Colorado  Massalian  Euchite, a member of a vagrant Christian sect, 4th to 6th centuries, in Asia Minor (W2)
Marinette County, Wisconsin  terminate  To bring to an ending (W3)
Mountrail County, North Dakota  luminator  A student in St Andrew's University, Scotland (W2)
Neshoba County, Mississippi  hebonas  Plural of 'hebona', a plant having a poisonous juice (W3)
Newaygo County, Michigan  waygone  Wayworn, wearied by travelling (W2)
Ochiltree County, Texas  Clitheroe  A town in Lancashire, England (Webster's Geographical Dictionary)
Olmsted County, Minnesota  Model Ts  Plural of 'Model T', an early type of motor car manufactured by the Ford Motor Company between 1909 and 1927 (W3)
Pipestone County, Minnesota  peptonise  A variant spelling of 'peptonize', to convert into peptone; to digest or dissolve by a proteolytic enzyme (W3)
Poinsett County, Arkansas  nepotist  One who practises nepotism, favoritism shown to nephews and other relatives (W3)
La Tapaza  Quesne  Jacques Quesne was an 18-19th century philosopher who originated the theory of psychism, which holds that there is a fluid which animates all living things (Webster's Biographical Dictionary)
Queens County, New York  Quesne  An Islamic term used in the science of Hadith (Wikipedia)
Rolette County, North Dakota  lorette  A French courtesan (W0)
Rosebud County, Montana  obdures  Inflection of verb 'obdure', to harden (W3)
San Patricio County, Texas  piscatorian  An angler (W2)
Sequatchie County, Tennessee  queachiest  The superlative of the adjective 'queachy', boggy or marshy (W2, listed at queachy)
Tom Green County, Texas  Egremont  A town in Cumbria, England (Webster's Geographical Dictionary)
Torrance County, New Mexico  cartoner  One that cartons; specifically, a machine that opens a folding carton, inserts a packaged product, and closes the carton ends (W3)
Ulenta County, Wyoming  Unitat  A Christian of an Eastern rite not belonging to the Latin patriarchate but in union with and submitting to the authority of the Roman papacy (W3)
Upshur County, Texas  uprush  To rush upward (W3)
Valencia County, New Mexico  valiance  The quality or state of being valiant (W3)
Vermilion County, Indiana  Morinville  A town in Alberta, Canada (Wikipedia)
Wapello County, Iowa  Walpole  Surname of Horace Walpole (died 1797), an English man of letters (W3, at etymology of Wapollian)
Winona County, Minnesota  wanion  Plague, vengeance (W3)
Yadkin County, North Carolina  Daykin  Daykin is a village in Jefferson County, Nebraska (Wikipedia)
Yankton County, South Dakota  Knayton  Knayton is a small village in North Yorkshire, England (Wikipedia)
Zapata County, Texas  Tapaza  La Tapaza is a place in Ecuador (Google search)
Zavala County, Texas  Alvaza  Alvaza Consulting is the name of a company in Naples, Florida (Google search)

The search can be widened by looking for transposals of county names combined with the corresponding two-letter state-name abbreviation (for example, AK for Alaska, AL for Alabama). Could I find two examples for every state? This search proved more difficult, and, so far, is incomplete. The table here gives 89 transposals for county name plus two-letter state-name abbreviation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AK</td>
<td>Denali AK</td>
<td>Kandelia</td>
<td>A genus of East Indian trees that are related to and resemble the common mangroves (W3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AK</td>
<td>Haines AK</td>
<td>hankies</td>
<td>Plural of 'hankie', a handkerchief (W3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AL</td>
<td>Chilton AL</td>
<td>Chalilhon</td>
<td>A congress of 1814 (W2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AL</td>
<td>Conecuh AL</td>
<td>conchoelia</td>
<td>A flat bright green bug that damages wheat, potatoes, and garden crops in the western United States (W3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AR</td>
<td>Hempstead AR</td>
<td>metaphorised</td>
<td>Altered the wording of (W3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AR</td>
<td>Chicot AR</td>
<td>thoracic</td>
<td>Relating to the thorax (W3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>Graham AZ</td>
<td>Azamgarh</td>
<td>A town and district a district in the state of Uttar Pradesh, India (Wikipedia)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Joel Martin Zumaya (born November 9, 1984) is a Major League Baseball relief pitcher for the Detroit Tigers (Wikipedia).

The quality or state of being codominant (W3)

Plural of 'collagenase', any of a group of proteolytic enzymes that decompose collagen and gelatin (W3)

One who mines coal (Chambers Dictionary 2008)

A crystalline amino derivative of glucose (W3)

Inflection of the verb 'kent', to push or propel a boat with a kent, a type of punting pole (W3)

Plural of 'manifold', a pipe fitting with several lateral outlets for connecting one pipe with others (W3)

Plural of 'solfatara', a volcanic area or vent that yields only hot vapors and gases in part sulfurous (W3)

A specialist in agronomy, the branch of agriculture that deals with field-crop production and soil management (W3)

A garbage collector (W3)

The act or process of acylating (W3)

Waterproof or water-resistant clothing (as a raincoat) for bad weather wear (W3)

Relating to 'anodyne', a drug that allays pain (W3)

Having the form of a tooth or of teeth (W3)

A genus of African and Australasian evergreen trees with small scalelike leaves (W3)

A very heavy precious metallic element (W3)

A mineral NiO consisting of nickel monoxide occurring in green octahedrons (W3)

A wild reckless sometimes quarrelsome person (W3)

A variant of 'murkiness', the quality or state of being murky (W3)

The skin of a seal and especially of a fur seal (W3)

The act or process of acylating (W3)

超市 (W3)

An act of acylating (W3)

A variant of 'murkiness', the quality or state of being murky (W3)

Belonging to, inhabiting, coming from, or forming part of America (W3)

A genus of American and Asiatic plants with alternate leaves and racemes or panicles of small white flowers succeeded by red, green, or black berries (W3)

Plural of 'element', any of more than 100 fundamental metallic and nonmetallic substances that consist of atoms of only one kind (W3)

A character or cipher usually composed of two or more letters interwoven or combined, usually representing a name or a part of it (W3)

Having only one apse, a projecting part of a building (as a church) usually semicircular in plan and vaulted (W3)
nomadisms  Plural of 'nomadism', the mode of life of a nomadic people (W3)

hardiments  Plural of 'hardiment', boldness, courage (W3)

parentdorn  Parents collectively; also, the state or condition of being a parent (OED)
cannons  Plural of 'cannon', a weapon consisting of a metal tube now usually steel and either cast in one piece or built up from a series of forgings, supported by a carriage or mount, and used for firing projectiles (W3)
trenchant  Vigorously effective, keenly articulate (W3)
dividend  An individual share of something distributed among a number of recipients (W3)
pincered  Inflection of verb 'pincer', to pinch, nip, or torture with or as if with pincers (W3)
interferon  Any of a group of heat-stable soluble basic antiviral glycoproteins of low molecular weight that are produced usually by cells exposed to the action of a virus (W3)
alternances  Plural of 'alternance', a variant of 'alternation', the act or action of alternating or effecting alternate succession (W3)

schoon  To skim along on water (W2)

Jan Coen (1587 – 1629) was an officer of Dutch East India Company in the early seventeenth century, holding two terms as its Governor-General of the Dutch East Indies (Wikipedia)

John Sund (born in Copenhagen in 1957) is a Danish guitarist and composer (Wikipedia)

mariners  Plural of 'mariner', a seaman, a sailor (W3)
munition  Variant of 'mullion', a slender vertical usually nonstructural bar or pier forming a division between lights of windows, doors, or screens (W3)
venny  An obsolescent form of 'very', a hit or thrust in fencing, a wound or blow (OED)
Volken  Volken is a municipality in the district of Andelfingen in the canton of Zürich in Switzerland (Wikipedia)
cayennes  Plural of 'cayenne', a very hot and pungent powder made by drying and grinding the whole fruits or the seeds of several hot peppers (as the long pepper) (W3)

notionary  Archaic variant of 'notional', having an abstract or speculative character (W3)
Chelmorton  A town in Derbyshire, England (Wikipedia)

orphrey  An ornamental border or embroidered band especially on an ecclesiastical vestment (W3)

skollie  In South Africa, a young hooligan or gang member (Chambers Dictionary, 2008)

bronteon  A device used in the ancient Greek and Roman theater for making a sound of thunder originally by means of bronze jars or skins filled with stones (W3)
coroplast  A modeler of wax or terra-cotta figurines (as of young women) of ancient Greece (W3)
campanero  The bellbird of South America (W3)
passometer  An instrument, shaped like a watch that is used to count the number of a person's steps (W3)
tinker  A usually itinerant repairman who mends kitchen or household utensils (W3)

minorcas  Plural of 'minorca', any bird of the Minorca breed, a breed of domestic fowls of the Mediterranean class resembling the Leghorns but larger (W3)
nuncios  Plural of 'nuncio', a top-ranking diplomatic envoy of the pope accredited to a civil government (W3)
deludes  Inflection of verb 'delude', to lead from truth or into error (W3)
reminds  Inflection of verb 'remind', to put (one) in mind of something (W3)
regranting  Inflection of verb 'regrant', to grant back or again (W3)
truncated  Cut short (W3)
A communication service involving teletypewriters connected by wire through automatic exchanges (W3)
To drop or trickle out; to come out in drops (OED)
Any of various dry, earthy, or resinous astringent substances obtained by extraction and evaporation from the wood, leaves, or fruits of various tropical Asiatic plants (W3)
Not septate or partitioned (W3)
Of or relating to a theoretical condition of no gravitation (W3)
Plural of 'glaive', a broadsword (W3)
Surname of Edward Laverack (d. 1877), English dog breeder, used attributively in Laverack setter to designate the type of English setter developed by him, a large hunting dog having long while fur flecked with other colours (OED)
Extraction of hair so as to make bald (W2)
Old spelling of 'resolvent', bringing about solution, dissolving (OED)
Inflection of verb 'wake', to become roused from sleep (W3)
Any plant or flower of the genus Watsonia, a genus of southern African herbs that resemble gladioli (W3)
A game of marbles in which marbles are placed in a circle on the ground and shot at from a line about two yards distant with the object of knocking them out of the circle (W3)
A bar-room where wine is served (OED)
To awn over (W2)

Note that Arenac Michigan (Arenac MI) has a particularly appropriate transposal.

Connecticut has only 8 counties to choose from, and none of them seems to combine with CT; Delaware has just 3 counties, and only one of those combines with DE; Hawaii’s 5 counties are vowel-heavy, and don’t combine with HI; Maryland’s 20+ counties appear not to want to combine with MD; New Hampshire’s modest 10 counties provide just one example that will combine with NH; only one of Rhode Island’s 5 counties teams up with RI; while West Virginia has a healthy 50+ counties, the clunkiness of the WV abbreviation allows us only one find; and the same goes for Wyoming’s clunky WY abbreviation – no finds there. Of course, Word Ways readers might care to seek solutions for the 11 missing state-name abbreviations.

It’s interesting to note that two counties, Otero in New Mexico and Moore in Tennessee, are mutual transposals; thus:

Otero NM = Moore TN = montero (a huntsman, listed in W3)

Beyond transposals of county names and county names with state-name abbreviations, there’s the lure of finding transposals of county names plus their corresponding state-names spelled out in full; for example,

- Custer County, Idaho = citharoedus
- Marion County, Texas = examinators
- Morgan County, Ohio = hormogonia
- Teton County, Idaho = Theodotian

Can Word Ways readers find others?