Oak Center is an unincorporated community in Section 28 of OAKFIELD. It was created when the Northwestern Railroad established a station there. The Oakfield Center Post Office was established in 1857 with John Cooper postmaster and in 1871 the name was shortened to Oak Center.

The Oak Center Cemetery in Section 33 of OAKFIELD is a little south of the village of that name on land purchased in 1858 from Almon and Esther D. Swan. In this cemetery lies Andrew Howard with his wife and children. Howard was a veteran of the Revolutionary War. He came west with his sons and died in 1849. The grave was marked in 1966 by the Sons of the American Revolution.

Oakfield Township (T 14N — R 16E) lies in the southern part of the county. The topography varies: a prairie spreads over the northwest part of the town; Horicon Marsh characterizes the southwest; the soil in the center is suitable for making brick; and the ledge in the eastern part provides great quarries of limestone.

Oakfield's first settler was Russell Wilkinson who came to the area in 1840 but difficulties with the Indians arose and he and his family were forced to leave. He returned in 1843 with his brother, John Wilkinson. Other settlers followed in 1844 and by 1846 there were enough to warrant a separate township which they called Lime because of the mineral content of the ledge. Many settlers came from Genesee County in New York, among them the Vaughn, Hubbard, Wilcox, Reynolds, Taylor and Bishop families. In 1847 they renamed the town OAKFIELD after the village in Genesee County, New York.

Oakfield Village was begun with the establishment of Oakfield Post Office in 1850 with William Ripley postmaster. In 1853 the railroad reached Oakfield and set up a station. A small community centered about a mill a mile east of the station by the name of Avoca was soon passed by this new settlement. In 1854 William Beebe discovered the clay on his farm to be suitable for brickmaking and started an industry which still exists. The village was incorporated in 1903. The present population is 918. See Avoca.

Oak Mound Cemetery in Section 14 of ALTO is on the land of Zion's Congregational Gereformende Gemeente, a church founded by early Dutch settlers. The church and cemetery were called Oak Mound because they were located on a beautiful rise of ground with several large oak trees. The church no longer holds services. The Oak Mound Road goes past the church. See Zion.

Octagon House at 276 Linden Street in the city of Fond du Lac was built about 1856 by Isaac Brown, an early architect and carpenter. It is one and a half stories high with thick walls covered with grout. It was the home of the builder's son, Edwin A. Brown, until he entered the Civil War and where he was
Octagon House

killed during the Battle of Antietam. The local GAR Post was named in his honor. His widow, Ruth, was the daughter of Edward Pier, Fond du Lac’s first settler.

The house was entered in the National Register of Historic Sites in 1972. In 1975 it was purchased by Marlene Hansen who repaired and restored the building and then furnished it in keeping with the period in which the house was built. It is now opened to the public as a museum of historic significance.

Other octagon houses in the county include another of grout construction on the outskirts of the city of Ripon. Another excellent example is in Section 3 of WAUPUN. It was built by Salmon Wedge, probably in the 1840’s. Another in the city of Fond du Lac is on Forest Avenue, though this has added wings which destroy the customary simple lines of octagon architecture popular in the middle of the nineteenth century.

*Off-set Lake in Sections 11, 12, 13 and 14 of AUBURN has been renamed Mauthe Lake. See Mauthe Lake.

Ogden Street in the northern part of the city of Fond du Lac was named for William B. Ogden, the railroad magnate. When government lands were sold in Green Bay in 1838, Ogden bought large quantities, 931 acres in CALUMET alone. He began lumber operations in Peshtigo and suffered great financial losses when Peshtigo burned in 1871 the same day his property in Chicago was burned. Ogden Street in Chicago was named after him.

Ogden’s vision began the Chicago & Northwestern’s line west from Chicago which merged with the line begun in Fond du Lac.

*Okawamiu was the Indian name for the Fond du Lac area. It means “end of the lake.”
Olcott Street in the city of Fond du Lac was named for L. Quartus Olcott who was city clerk from 1866 to 1869.

Orchard Road in LAMARTINE was named for Thomas Orchard.

Original Plat of the city of Fond du Lac was bordered by the lake on the north, Amory Street on the east, Merrill Street on the south and the river on the west. This was the plat laid out by the Fond du Lac Land Company and where many of the streets were named for the shareholders. See Fond du Lac Land Company.

Osceola Township (T 14N — R 19E) is located on the eastern edge of the county. It was named for the Seminole Indian Chief of Florida.

The township has no incorporated villages within its borders, but is a very picturesque town, containing many lakes and various types of glacial deposits. The State of Wisconsin owns much of the acreage on the eastern edge of the township, as it does in AUBURN to the south, land which is being used for conservation and recreation.

The first settlers were Washington Noble, James Farr and Peter Radliff who located there in 1845 at what is now Waucoota. They were soon followed by William Mitchell, John Graham, Joseph Cavanaugh and others. Osceola Post Office was established in 1852 with O. W. Prescott postmaster. In 1882 it was changed to Cavanaugh, and eventually to Mitchell. It was discontinued in 1904.

Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church is in Section 2 of OSCEOLA at Armstrong. The first building was erected in 1855 and was tended by priests from Fond du Lac and Byron until a manse was built in 1870. Before the church was built Mass was read in the home of John Graham — “the only real home in the vicinity.”

*Owascus Post Office in Section 9 of EMPIRE was established in 1846 with Henry Giltner postmaster. Officially spelled Owascus, it may have been a pun for “Oh, ask us.” It was usually pronounced “Oasis.” Though the name was later changed to Forest in 1851 the term was used as late as the Civil War when soldiers gave Oasis as their address. Probably named for the tavern — an “oasis.” See Empire.