



Chelan County was formed in 1899 from parts of Okanogan and Kittitas counties. Its name in Indian means "deep water." The county is located in the north central part of the state and stretches from the eastern crest of the Cascade Mountains to the south-flowing Columbia River on the east. Fur traders first visited the county in 1811.

Later, Catholic missionaries established themselves in the Wenatchee Valley. The development of the county in the nineteenth century was closely linked to the Northern Pacific and Great Northern railroads. In 1903 the construction of the Highline Canal opened up 20,000 acres of land for agricultural development in the Wenatchee Valley. Today the county is a major apple and fruit growing center while the wood products industry, mining and tourism also contribute to its economy.

Bounded by: Okanogan (N), Douglas (E), Skagit, Kittitas (S), and Snohomish and King (W)

County Seat: Wenatchee

Chambers of Commerce:

Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 216, Chelan, WA 98816-0216. Phone 509-682-3503. Toll free 800 4-CHELAN. Fax 509-682-3538.

Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce, 894 U.S. Hwy 2, PO Box 327, Leavenworth, WA 98826. Phone 509-548-5807. Fax 509-548-1014.

Wenatchee Area Chamber of Commerce, 2 S Chelan, PO Box 850, Wenatchee, WA 98807-0850. Phone 509-662-2116. Fax 509-663-2022.

Wenatchee Valley Convention and Visitor's Bureau, 116 N Wenatchee Ave, PO Box 4888, Wenatchee, WA 98801. Phone 509-663-3723. Fax 509-663-3983.

Courthouse: 350 Orondo St, Wenatchee, WA 98801. Courthouse hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm

Assessor. Phone 509-664-5365. Fax 509-664-2664.

Auditor. PO Box 400, Wenatchee, WA 98807-0400. Phone 509-664-5432. Fax 509-664-5246. *Will instruct searchers, but cannot do research. Prefer to have requests for information at least 24 hours in advance. Need names and approximate dates. Early land records searcher needs to know if individual was the buyer or seller.*

Clerk: PO Box 3025, Wenatchee, WA 98807-3025. Phone 509-664-5386. Fax 509-664-2611. *Chelan County has a computer index of all cases since 1900 on microfiche. Since Jan. 1, 1996 all documents in case file are available on computer image rather than microfilm. Insanity, adoption, juvenile, and some guardianship cases are confidential.*

Treasurer. PO Box 1441, Wenatchee, WA 98807. Phone 509-664-5405. Fax 509-664-5488. *Please call in advance to make arrangements.*

Genealogical Society:

Chelan Valley Genealogical Society, PO Box Y, Chelan, WA 98816. *Membership available. Have begun a pioneer and ancestor card file. Operates the Chelan Valley Genealogical Society Library in the Chelan Community Library.*

Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society, PO Box 5280, Wenatchee, WA 98807-5280. *Membership available. Obituaries of pioneers of Entiat Valley (before 1956) are being collected. Maintains the Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society Library.*

Health Department: 316 Washington St, Wenatchee, WA 98801. Phone 509-748-5306. Fax 509-664-5478.

Historical Society:

Chelan County Historical Society, PO Box 22, Chelan, WA 98815. Phone 509-782-3230.

Entiat Community Historical Society, 2800 Entiat Way, Entiat, WA 98822.

Lake Chelan Historical Society, 204 E Woodin Ave, PO Box 1948, Chelan, WA 98816. Phone 509-682-5644. *Membership available. Operates Lake Chelan Historical Society Museum emphasizing local history, genealogy, Indian tribes of the area, early photographs, scrapbooks, cemetery records, memorabilia of early pioneers, history of the apple industry and a display of apple shipping crate labels. Oral history project is in progress.*

Libraries - Academic:

Wenatchee Valley College, John A. Brown Library Media Center, 1300 Fifth St, Wenatchee, WA 98801-1799. Phone 509-664-2520. Fax 509-664-2542.

Libraries - Public:

North Central Regional Library, 238 Olds Station Rd, Wenatchee, WA 99801-8103. Phone 509-663-1117. Fax 509-662-8060. *These libraries are part of this system:*

Cashmere Community Library, 300 Woodring, Cashmere, WA 98815-1061. Phone 509-782-3314. Fax 509-782-3314.

Chelan Community Library, 317 E Johnson, Box 698, Chelan, WA 98816-0698. Phone 509-682-5131. Fax 509-682-5131. *Houses the Chelan Valley Genealogical Society Library.*

Entiat Community Library, 14070 Kinzel St, Box 357, Entiat, WA 98822-0357. Phone 509-784-1517. Fax 509-784-1517.

Leavenworth Community Library, 700 Hwy 2, Box 308, Leavenworth, WA 98826-0308. Phone 509-548-7923. Fax 509-548-7923.

Manson Community Library, Wapato Way & Manson Blvd., Box L, Manson, WA 98831-0400. Phone 509-687-3420. Fax 509-687-3420.

Peshastin Community Library, 8396 Main St. Box 408, Peshastin, WA 98847-0408. Phone 509-548-7821. Fax 509-548-7821.

Wenatchee Public Library, 310 Douglas St, Wenatchee, WA 98801-2864. Phone 509-662-5021.
Fax 509-663-9731.

Libraries - Special:

Chelan County Law Library, County Courthouse, 401 Washington St, Wenatchee, WA 98801.
Phone 509-664-5213.

Chelan Family History Center, 195 Highway 150, Chelan, WA. Phone 509-682-5714.

Chelan Valley Genealogical Society Library, Chelan Community Library, 317 E Johnson, Box 698,
Chelan, WA 98816-0698. *Emphasis on Washington State and Chelan area. Have collected local obituaries from
1990-1994 for the Chelan Valley area. Maintains surname card files. Pioneer Card File is in progress.*

Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society Library, 133 S Mission St, Wenatchee, WA. *Collection includes
extensive reference collection, many family histories, census publications, and genealogical society bulletins. Has a
computer and genealogical CD collection. Maintains ancestral file, multi-volume surname index, indexed 25th &
50th Wedding Anniversary scrapbooks, indexed Pictorial Past scrapbooks. Publishes a library shelf list.*

Museums and Historical Sites:

Chelan County Historical Museum & Pioneer Village, 600 Cottage, PO Box 22, Cashmere, WA
98815. Phone 509-782-3230. Fax 509-782-8905. *Noted for the Willis Carey collection of Indian artifacts
and pioneer relics. The Pioneer Village has many original pioneer buildings.*

Entiat Community Museum, 2800 Entiat Way, Entiat, WA 98822. *Collecting historical items and family
histories of Entiat and the Entiat Valley.*

Lake Chelan Historical Society Museum, PO Box 1948, 204 E Woodin Ave, Chelan, WA 98816-
1948. Phone 509-682-5644. *Membership available. Collection emphasizes the history of orchard farming.
Includes native american, pioneer and mining artifacts.*

North Central Washington Museum, 127 S Mission, Wenatchee, WA 98801. Phone 509-662-3340.
Fax 509-664-3356. *Membership available. Collection strong in archival materials regarding local area, including
business and organizations records.*

Rocky Reach Dam, Chelan Hwy 97, PO Box 1231, Wenatchee, WA 98807-1231. Phone 509-663-
8121. Fax 509-664-2874. *Collection emphasizes archaeology, geology, and history of area and electricity museum.
Collections of photographs and negatives from local companies, individuals, and educational institutions. Portrait
collection of Nez Perce Indians.*

State Archive Branch:

Central Region (Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan and
Yakima counties.) Bledsoe-Washington Archives Building, Central Washington University MS 7547,
Ellensburg, WA 98926-7547. Phone: 509-963-2136. Fax 509-963-1753. E-mail:
archives@cwu.edu. Research Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

SELECTIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Central Branch Archives

Fire Insurance maps and photographs, 1936

Metsker Maps, 1931-1959 (used for school district formation and boundary records)

Plat maps, central Washington, 1854-1950

School District boundary maps, 1936-1943

Chelan County Auditor's office

Town plat maps, dates unknown

Washington State University, Holland Library, Manuscripts, Archives and Special Collections

Map showing the general route of the branch line of the Northern Pacific Railroad from Lake Pend Oreille across the Cascade Mountains to Puget Sound 1873 route: West to Wenatchee, up Wenatchee River, across to Sauk River, South to Tacoma via East Side of Lake Washington. Office of the Chief of Engineers.

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Chelan County Auditor's office

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Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society Library

Register of births (with index), 1900-1905. Photocopies of records from Chelan County Auditor's office.

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Central Branch Archives

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Cemetery Records of City of Chelan, WA. Includes Riverside, North Fraternal IOOF, and South Fraternal IOOF cemeteries
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Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society Library

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District Court criminal dockets, 1904-1939

Police blotter, Leavenworth, 1949-1964

Superior Court appearance dockets, 1900-1954

Superior Court civil and criminal journals, 1900-1956

Superior Court civil case files, 1900-1979

Superior Court Clerk's general index 1900-1973

Superior Court courtroom journals, 1909-1966

Superior Court criminal case files, 1902-1977

Superior Court criminal dockets, 1909

Superior Court execution dockets, 1931-1965

Superior Court judgement index, dates unknown

Superior Court minute book and index, 1900-1909

Superior Court miscellaneous court files, 1888-1923

Superior Court motion dockets, 1903-1931

Superior Court trial calendar, 1903-1904
Superior Court witness record, 1905-1933
Supreme Court case file briefs, Central Washington, 1907-1913 (principally regarding water rights)

Chelan County Clerk's office
Civil case files, 1902-present
Clerk's general index, 1900-present
Criminal case files, 1902-1977
Execution dockets, 1931-1965
Judgement index, dates unknown
Minute book and index, 1900-1909
Witness record, 1905-1933

Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society Library
Chelan County, Washington Court records, 1900-1983, 50 cards: divorce, criminal cases, business licenses, court suits, guardianship, name changes. Source: Chelan County Clerk's Office.

DEATHS - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

Central Branch Archives
Death returns, 1892-1907
Register of deaths, 1900-1907

Chelan County Auditor's office
Death returns, 1892-1907
Register of deaths, 1900-1907

Chelan County Clerk's office
Coroner's docket, 1900-1925

Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society Library
Funeral folders (mostly Chelan and Douglas counties), dates unknown
Register of Deaths, Chelan County, March 1900-March 1907. Photocopies from Chelan County Auditor's office.
Washington State Death Index: 1907-1979, 1965-1989

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Cashmere Valley Record Print?, 1900?.

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EDUCATION - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

Central Branch Archives

8th Grade exam register, 1903-1938

Annual census report on defective youth, 1930-1932

Boundary record, 1900-1971

District boundary file, 1944-1976

District formations and changes, 1900-1958

Fire Insurance maps and photographs, 1936

Metsker Maps, 1931-1959 (used for school district formation and boundary records)

Naturalization school record, 1925-1927

Record of petitions and appeals, 1900-1945

Register of Clerks and Trustees, 1901-1910

Register of teacher certificates, 1900-1907

School Census record, 1914-1932

School District boundary maps, 1936-1943

School District officers, 1900-1971

School registers, 1906-1968

Stehekin School photographs, 1959

Superintendent's minute record, 1900-1926 (includes newspaper clippings)

Teacher certification record, 1900-1926

Teacher contract record, 1900-1955

Teacher retirement fund record, 1923-1932

Teachers' Institute record, 1903-1939

Transcribed Superintendent's record, 1914-1915

Educational Service District 171

County (School?) Census, 1893-1933

Photos & articles regarding students in Wenatchee area in early 1900's.

University of Washington Library

Chelan County (Wash.). Superintendent of Common Schools. *List of teachers*

Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society Library

50th Reunion edition Dryden High Pine Cone. [covers 1925 through 1956]

Wenatchee High School class of 1918 60-year reunion, June 15, 1978

H.B. Ellison Junior High School. *Hi-Lights 48 Reunion booklet*, 1968

Tabosa, Manson High School annual, 1948, 1952-1957

Wa Wa, Wenatchee High School annual, 1937-1938, 1940

Wa Wa: class of 1963 and Fifty Years Later, Wenatchee High School

EDUCATION - Published sources

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Central Branch Archives

Voter oath book, 1910

Voter registrations, 1912-1936

Chelan County Auditor's office

Declaration of candidacy, dates unknown

Elected official register, 1900-present

Election results, dates unknown

Oaths of office, dates unknown

Poll books, 1992-present

Public Disclosure forms, 1980's-present

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The Appleland Bulletin subject index for volumes 1-22. Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society, n.d.

The Confluence : the quarterly publication of North Central Washington Museum. The Museum, n.d.

LAND / PROPERTY - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

Central Branch Archives

Book of levies, 1900-1923

Building permits, Entiat, 1949-1981

Chattel mortgage and bill of sale index, 1903-1967

Chattel mortgage record, 1940-1967

Relocation project files, Entiat, 1959-1960 (Relocation of town before construction of Rocky Reach Dam)

Chelan County Auditor's office

Real property records, 1983-present.

Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society Library

Chelan County deeds, 1905-1920

Wenatchee land & deeds, 1900

LAND /PROPERTY - Published sources

LICENSURE AND PROFESSIONAL RECORDS

Central Branch Archives

Optometry register, 1909-1919

MARRIAGE - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

Central Branch Archives

Clerk's index to marriages, 1900-1907

Chelan County Auditor's office

Alphabetical marriage index, dates unknown

Marriage certificates, 1900-present

Marriage returns and/or applications, 1900-present

Chelan Valley Genealogical Society

Chelan County marriage records, 1900-1994

Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society Library

Anniversary scrapbooks: Chelan & Douglas counties, indexed. 1970's-1990.

Chelan County marriages, card file, 4 drawers: 1930 and before, 1931-1934, 1935-1937, 1938-1941, 1942-1946. Source: Chelan County Auditor's office.

Chelan County marriage records, 1900-1991. Source: Chelan County Auditor's office.

Jay Eller's collection of marriage licenses, 1930-1977. Source: Chelan County Justice of the Peace.

Photo album, contains anniversary clippings: mostly 1974.

MARRIAGE - Published sources

MILITARY - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

Chelan County Auditor's office
Military discharge record, 1941-present

MILITARY - Published sources

NATURALIZATION - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

Central Branch Archives
Declarations of intention, 1876-1926
Facts for declarations of intention, 1924-1925
Letters of guardianship (minors, the insane, and the incompetent) 1917-1955
Naturalization certificate stubs, 1916-1921
Naturalization correspondence file, 1907-1915
Naturalization depositions, 1904-1956
Naturalization petition and record, 1900-1973
Naturalization petitions, 1904-1956
Naturalization proceedings (Clerk's memorandum of declaration of intentions, petitions, and certificates, 1907-1915
Naturalization record, 1900-1906
Naturalization school record, 1925-1927
Oaths of allegiance applications, 1941-1958
Preliminary declaration of intention, 1926-1927
Preliminary petitions for naturalization, 1924-1926

Chelan County Clerk 's office

All naturalization records at Central Branch Archives. Office has index of certificates.

NATURALIZATION - Published sources

NEWSPAPER INDEXES / SPECIAL EDITIONS

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Subject index to the Wenatchee World, 1905-1983. North Central Regional Library, 1985.

Wenatchee world. *Index of Wenatchee World, 1909-1916*. State College of Washington, 1941.

OTHER - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

Central Branch Archives

Conditional sales record, 1940-1968

Conditional sales index, 1900-1967

Insanity record, 1923-1949

Letters of guardianship, 1917-1955

Mothers pensions files, 1913-1937

Register of prisoners (jail record), 1919-1957

Chelan County Auditor's office

Mining records, 1899-dates unknown

OTHER - Published sources

Cheshire, Gifford Paul. *Wenatchee Bend* [fiction]. Doubleday, 1966.

PROBATE - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

Central Branch Archives

Probate case files, 1888-1972

Probate memorandum files, 1900-1947

Probate record of petitions, 1911-1915

Probate journals, 1900-1960

Record of wills, 1899-1977

Transcribed probate proceedings, 1883-1899 (Records of proceedings of probate cases transcribed from Kittitas County files for portions of Chelan County that were once part of Kittitas)

Chelan County Clerk's office

Probate case files, 1900-present

PROBATE - Published sources

TAXES - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

Central Branch Archives

Application for foreclosure of tax lien, 1923-1966

Certificate for tax delinquency record, 1923-1961

Irrigation assessment rolls, 1915-1980

Local Improvement District assessment rolls, 1915-1928

Personal property listings, 1975
Personal property tax index, 1977
Personal property tax rolls, 1901-1980
Real property tax rolls, 1901-1980
Tax foreclosure files, 1901-1926

Chelan County Assessor's office
Assessment rolls, early 1920's - present
Field books, dates unknown

Chelan County Clerk's office
Tax foreclosure files, 1901-1926
Application for foreclosure of tax lien, 1923-1966
Certificate for tax delinquency record, 1923-1961

Chelan County Treasurer's Office
3 Lakes LID rolls, 1978-present
Irrigation tax rolls, 1981-present
Personal property tax rolls, 1981-present
Real property tax rolls, 1981-present

TAXES - Published sources