



Lewis County. In 1845 the Provisional Government of Oregon divided the District of Vancouver into two large counties: all land north of the Columbia and west of the Cowlitz Rivers was designated Lewis County. It was named after the explorer, Meriwether Lewis. Today the county has been reduced in size and ranks sixth in area among the state's counties. It is located in the southwestern part of the state and stretches from the summit of the Cascade Mountains on the east to Pacific County on the west. The county's early settlers expended much effort and time in cutting and building roads through the vast forests that covered the land. In 1873 the Northern Pacific Railroad passed through the county linking it to the Puget Sound settlements; the county seat, Chehalis, was built to accommodate the new railroad. Today, the county has a varied economy based on wood products, manufacturing, food processing and agriculture.

Bounded by: Grays Harbor and Thurston counties (N), Yakima County (E), Skamania, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum counties (S), and Pacific County (W).

County Seat: Jackson Prairie (1845?-1862), Claquato (1862-1872) and Chehalis (originally Saundersville, renamed Chehalis in 1872), 1873 - present.

Chamber(s) of Commerce:

The Chamber – Centralia and Chehalis, 500 NW Chamber Way, Chehalis, WA 98532. Phone 360-748-8885. Fax 360-748-8763.

Morton Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 10, Morton, WA 98356. Phone 360-496-6086.

Mossy Rock Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 55, Mossy Rock, WA 98564. Phone 360-983-8470.

Packwood Improvement Service, PO Box 269, Packwood, WA 98361. Phone 360-494-7126. Fax 360-494-7124.

South Lewis County Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 815, Toledo, WA 98591. Phone 360-785-0923. Fax 360-785-0934.

Courthouse: 351 NW North St, Chehalis, WA 98532-1900. Courthouse hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm. Information phone 360-748-9121.

Assessor. 360 NW North St, MS ASR 01, Chehalis, WA 98532-1900. Phone 360-740-1392. Fax 360-740-1262. *For information that is readily available, a staff person will supply the appropriate book or file. Original documents cannot be removed from this office. The information must be reviewed on premises and under supervision to ensure the files are kept intact and are not altered. For information that is not readily available, we will respond to that request within five working days. That response will (a) provide the information requested, (b) acknowledge the receipt of the request and the amount of time it will take to respond or (c) deny the request and the reason. Be patient. Property taxes are due April 30 and October 31 each year. The office will be very busy near these dates. Try to avoid these times for special requests.*

Auditor. 351 NW North St, PO Box 29, Chehalis, WA 98532-1900. Phone 360-740-1156. Fax 360-740-1421.

Clerk. 360 NW North St, MS CLK 01, Chehalis, WA 98532-1900. Phone 360-740-2704. Fax 360-748-1639. *Need to have an idea of year of event and to be clear about all names. Office will make certified copies.*

Treasurer: 360 NW North St, MS TRS 01, Chehalis, WA 98532-1900. Phone 360-740-1115. Fax 360-740-1493.

Genealogical Society:

Lewis County Genealogical Society, Box 782, Chehalis, WA 98532-0782. *Membership available.*

Health Department / District: Lewis County Health Department, Mailstop HSV 03, 360 NW North St, Chehalis, WA 98352. Phone 360-740-1223. Fax 360-740-1472.

Historical Society:

Eastern Lewis County Historical Society, Gust. Backstrom Park, PO Box 777, Morton, WA 98356. Phone 360-496-5602.

Lewis County Historical Society, 599 Front St, Chehalis, WA 98532. Phone 360-748-0831. *Membership available.*

Libraries - Academic:

Centralia College, Media Center, 600 W Locust St, Centralia, WA 98531-4035. Phone 360-736-9391. Fax 360-339-7509. *Collections include the "Green Line Collection": records and materials pertaining to the College and materials relating to the history of Lewis Count, with an emphasis on Centralia. Also have yearbooks and college newspaper for Centralia College.*

Libraries - Public:

Timberland Regional Library, 415 Airdustrial Way SW, Olympia, WA 98501-5799. Phone 360-943-5001. Fax 360-586-6838. *The following are branches of this library system:*

Centralia Timberland Library, 110 S Silver St, Centralia, WA 98531-4218. Phone 360-736-0183. Fax 360-736-2714.

Chehalis Timberland Library, PO Box 419, 76 NE Park St, Chehalis, WA 98532-0419. Phone 360-748-3301. Fax 360-748-0914.

Mt. View Timberland Library, PO Box 340, 210 Silverbrook Rd, Randle, WA 98377-0340. Phone 360-497-2665. Fax 360-497-2665.

Packwood Timberland Library, PO Box 589, 109 W Main St, Packwood, WA 98361-0589. Phone 360-494-5111. Fax 360-494-9237.

Salkum Timberland Library, PO Box 120, 2480 US Highway 12, Salkum, WA 98582-0120. Phone 360-985-2148. Fax 360-985-7704.

Winlock Timberland Library, Box 428, 322 1st, Winlock, WA 98596-0428. Phone 360-785-3461. Fax 360-785-3461.

Libraries - Special:

Chehalis Family History Center, 2195 Jackson Hwy, Chehalis, WA. Phone 360-748-1516.

The Chronicle Library, 321 N Pearl St, PO Box 580, Centralia, WA 98531. *Limited public access to morgue files.*

Lewis County Historical Museum Library, 599 NW Front Way, Chehalis, WA 98532. Phone 360-748-0831. *Research Library's collection includes obituary file, cemetery records, pioneer family histories and a collection of local oral histories. It is recommended that researchers call ahead for an appointment.*

Lewis County Law Library, PO Box 357, 315 N St, Chehalis, WA 98532. Phone 360-740-1333.

Morton Family History Center, 130 Crumb Rd, Morton, WA. Phone 360-496-5959.

Museums and Historical Sites:

Claquato Church, two miles west of Chehalis via Highway 6, near the entrance to Claquato Cemetery on Water Street. For more information contact Lewis County Historical Museum, 599 NW Front St, Chehalis, WA 98532. Phone 360-748-0831. *Oldest standing Protestant Church in Washington.*

Eastern Lewis County Historical Museum, PO Box 777, Morton, WA. Phone 360-496-6844.

Lewis County Historical Museum, 599 NW Front Way, Chehalis, WA 98532. Phone 360-748-0831. Fax 360-740-5646. *Exhibits and displays of Chehalis Indian culture, early settlement and the development of logging and agricultural in the county.*

John R. Jackson House, Lewis & Clark State Park, 4583 Jackson Hwy, Winlock, WA 98596. Phone 360-864-2643.

Veterans Memorial Museum, 712 W Main St, Centralia, WA 98531. Phone 360-330-7913.

State Archive Branch: Southwest Region (Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Skamania, Thurston and Wahkiakum counties). 1120 Washington St. SE, PO Box 40238, Olympia, WA 98504-0238. Phone 360-753-1684. Fax 360-664-8814. Research Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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