



Clark County is one of the state's original counties. It was first organized in 1845 as the Vancouver District by the Oregon Provisional Legislature. In 1849 it was named Clark County after the explorer, Captain William Clark. It included all territory north of the Columbia and east of the Cowlitz rivers. The county was first settled in 1825 when the Hudson's Bay Company established Fort Vancouver as its regional headquarters. American settlers moved into the county in the 1830s and

1840s and were well established when the Oregon country's boundary was set at the thirty-ninth parallel in 1846. Fort Vancouver became an U.S. military post in 1848 and that year the city of Vancouver was established. In the early twentieth century lumbering and port facilities were developed along the Columbia River. Today Clark County is a major manufacturing and shipping center for wood products, metals and agricultural products. (*Note: The county name was spelled CLARKE from 1849 until 1925.*)

Bounded by: Cowlitz (N), Skamania (E), Columbia River (W and S).

County Seat: Vancouver. Originally Columbia City (1851-1855).

Chamber(s) of Commerce:

Battle Ground Chamber of Commerce, 912 E Main St, Battle Ground, WA 98604. Phone 360-687-1510. Fax 360-687-4505.

Camas-Washougal Chamber of Commerce, 422 NE 4th Ave, PO Box 919, Camas, WA 98607-0919. Phone 360-834-2472. Fax 360-834-9171.

Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce, 404 E 15th St #11, Vancouver, WA 98663-3451. Phone 360-694-2588. Fax 360-693-8279.

Ridgefield Regional Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 723, Ridgefield, WA 98642. Phone 360-887-0703.

Southwest Washington Visitors and Convention Bureau, 101 E 8th St #110, Vancouver, WA 98660. Phone 360-750-1553. Fax 360-750-1933.

Woodland Chamber of Commerce, 900 Goerig, PO Box 1012, Woodland, WA 98674. Phone 360-225-9552. Fax 360-3490.

Courthouse: 1200 Franklin St, PO Box 5000, Vancouver, WA 98666-5000. General information phone 360-699-2000. Courthouse hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm.

Assessor: Phone 360-397-2391. Fax 360-397-6046. *Actual opportunity to do research is very limited due to the condition and location of most of the older records. Direct public access is almost non-existent, however, upon request and time permitting, staff will do some research. Requests for records stored in the Records Center should have a two-day leadtime. Copying is available subject to a nominal copying charge.*

Auditor: Phone 360-397-2241. Fax 360-397-6007. *Any record in our office is indexed by name and by date. We do not post to the property description, parcel, or serial number. If a researcher has the names and approximate date they can use a viewer and search the records. Mondays, Fridays and the last day of the month are the busiest times. Middle of the week would be the best time for research.*

Clerk: Phone 360-397-2292. Fax 360-397-6099. *Records prior to 1890 destroyed in a fire.*

Treasurer: Phone 360-397-2255. Fax 360-397-6042. *Hours 9:00am - 5:00pm.*

Genealogical Society:

Clark County Genealogical Society, PO Box 5249, Vancouver, WA 98668-5249. *Membership available. Maintains a library at 717 Grand Blvd., Vancouver, WA 98661.*

Health Department: Southwest Washington Health District, 2000 Fort Vancouver Way, PO Box 1870, Vancouver, WA 98663. Phone 360-696-9215. Fax 360-696-8424. Satellite offices: Orchards Health Center, 12004-G NE Fourth Plain, Vancouver, WA 98682. Phone 360-696-8436. Fax 360-253-2916. Washougal Health Center, 1702 "C" St, Washougal, WA 98671. Phone 360-835-7800. Fax 360-835-2784.

Historical Society:

Ft Vancouver Historical Society of Clark County, PO Box 1834, 1511 Main St, Vancouver, WA 98668-1834. Phone 360-695-4681.

Libraries - Academic:

Lewis D. Cannell Library, Clark College, 1800 E McLoughlin Blvd, Vancouver, WA 98663-3598. Phone 360-992-2151. Fax 360-992-2869.

Washington State University Vancouver Library, WSU Vancouver Library, 1812 E McLoughlin, Vancouver, WA 98663. Phone 360-737-2022. Fax 360-690-4612.

Libraries - Public:

Camas Public Library, 421 NE Franklin St, Camas, WA 98607-2119. Phone 360-834-4962. Fax 360-834-0199.

Fort Vancouver Regional Library, 1007 E Mill Plain Blvd, Vancouver, WA 98663-3599. Phone 360-695-1561. Fax 360-693-2681. *The following libraries are part of this library system:*

Battle Ground Community Library, 112 W Main St, Battle Ground, WA 98604. Phone 360-687-2322. Fax 360-687-1573.

Cascade Park Community Library, 301 SE Hearthwood, Vancouver, WA 98684. Phone 360-256-7782. Fax 360-256-7987.

Library at Vancouver Mall, 8700 NE Vancouver Mall Dr, Ste 183, Vancouver, WA 98662. Phone 360-892-8256. Fax 360-253-9677.

Ridgefield Community Library, 210 N Main Ave, PO Box 547, Ridgefield, WA 98639. Phone 360-887-8281. Fax 360-887-4833.

Vancouver Community Library, 1007 E Mill Plain Blvd, Vancouver, WA 98663. Phone 360-695-1566. Fax 360-699-8880. *In addition to a strong northwest history collection, the library carries a number of genealogical periodicals and most of the publications of the Clark County Genealogical Society.*

Washougal Community Library, 1661 "C" St, Washougal, WA 98671. Phone 360-835-5393. Fax 360-835-9011.

Woodland Public Library, 770 Park St, PO Box 1480, Woodland, WA 98674-1480. Phone 360-225-2115. *Collection includes materials on history of Woodland and early area families.*

Libraries - Special:

Clark County Genealogical Library, 717 Grand Blvd. Vancouver, WA 98661. Phone 360-695-4681. *Collection includes Index to Washington Death and all of the federal and territorial censuses of Washington. There is a surname and locality file. The vertical file represents most areas of the United States, with particular emphasis of Clark County. In addition to the 2,800-book collection there are many oral history transcripts and biographies.*

Clark County Law Library, County Courthouse, PO Box 5000, Vancouver, WA 98668. Phone 360-397-2268.

Columbian Information Resource Center, 701 W Eighth St, PO Box 180, Vancouver, WA 98666-0180. Phone 360-699-6006. Fax 360-699-6033. *Custom research at hourly rates.*

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site Library, 612 E Reserve St, Vancouver, WA 98661-3897. Phone 360-696-7688. *1500 volume collection emphasizes the history of the Hudson Bay company and the*

mid-nineteenth century fur trade.

Fort Vancouver Historical Museum Library, 1511 Main St, Vancouver, WA 98663. Phone 360-695-4681. *Collection includes books and materials on state and territorial history, early pioneer biographies, originals of local newspapers, an early Clark County photo collection and land maps.*
Gifford Pinchot National Forest Government History Program, 6926 E Fourth Plain, Box 8944, Yacolt, WA 98608-8944.

Vancouver Family History Centers

18300 NE 18th, Vancouver, WA. Phone 360-944-5773.

2223 NW 99th, Vancouver, WA. Phone 360-573-7881.

11101 NE 19th St, Vancouver, WA. Phone 360-253-4701.

Museums and Historical Sites:

Camas-Washougal Historical Society Museum, Camas Public Library (basement), 4th & Franklin, PO Box 204, Washougal, WA 98671. Phone 360-835-2725. *Collection emphasizes local history, including Native American meeting grounds, early settlement, trade, farming and commerce of the area. Collecting and developing a biography and obituary file and photography collection.*

Cedar Creek Grist Mill, NE Cedar Creek Rd, 10 miles east of Woodland. Phone 360-225-9552. *Built in 1876, this is the last remaining 19th century gristmill operating in Washington. Wheat grinding demonstrations given.*

Center for Columbia River History, 802C Officers' Row, Vancouver, WA 98661. Phone 360-737-2044. Fax 360-693-2760.

Clark County Historical Museum, 1511 Main St, PO Box 1834, Vancouver, WA 98663.

Phone 360-695-4681. *Housed in a retired Carnegie Library, museum also has a genealogical and research library.*

Covington House, 4208 Main St, Vancouver, WA 98660. Phone 360-694-2898. *One of Washington's oldest log cabins, built in 1848 and used as an early schoolhouse.*

Ft. Vancouver National Historic Site, 612 E Reserve St, Vancouver, WA 98661-3811. Phone 360-696-7655. Fax 360-696-7657. *Fur trading headquarters for the British Hudson's Bay Company from 1825 to 1849; site includes a museum, restored and reconstructed buildings, and living history demonstrations. Small research library emphasizes Hudson's Bay Company history and the fur trade industry; some volumes may have genealogical relevance.*

Officer's Row (George C. Marshall & Grant Houses), Central Park, Officer's Row, Vancouver, WA 98660. Phone 360-693-3103. *Historic quarters for commanding officers at Camp Vancouver, 1850-1906.*

Parker's Landing, off State Road 14, Camas, WA. *Site of the first American settlement in Clark County in 1844. A significant archaeological site covering 3,000 years of history of the Chinook people.*

Pearson Air Museum, 1105 E Fifth St, Vancouver, WA 98660. Phone 360-694-7026. Fax 360-694-0824. *Vintage airplanes and history of historic Airpark, one of the oldest operating airfields in the USA; includes exhibits on Lindbergh's flight in 1927 and the 1937 Soviet landing in Vancouver during the world's first transpolar flight.*

Pomeroy Living History Farm, 20902 NE Lucia Falls Rd, Yacolt, WA 98675. Phone 360-686-3537. Fax 360-686-8111. *Membership available. This farm depicts 1920's farm life as it existed in southwest Washington. Collections and artifacts emphasize agricultural and domestic life history. Volunteers and displays emphasize a "handson" experience. The Herb Festival and The Pumpkin Festival are annual special events.*

U.S. Grant Museum, 1106 Evergreen Blvd, Vancouver, WA 98660. Phone 360-694-5252.

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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Marriage records, 1890-present

MARRIAGE - Published sources

Clark County, Washington marriages. [Vol. 1 1852-1896, vol. 2 1897-1904, vol. 3 1905-1909, vol. 4 1910-1913, vol. 5 1914-1915, vol. 6 1916, vol. 7 1917, vol. 8 1918, vol. 9 1919, vol. 10 1920, vol. 11 1921, vol. 12 1922, vol. 13 1923]. Clark County Genealogical Society, 1982 - .

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MILITARY - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

Clark County Auditor's office

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Military index, 1942-1977

MILITARY - Published sources

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Certificates of naturalization, 1907-1926

Citizenship oaths, 1940-1964

Citizenship papers, 1890-1906

Declarations of intention, 1889-1970

Miscellaneous petitions, indices & hearings, 1941-1991

Naturalization depositions, 1933-1981

Naturalization index, 1890-1939

Petitions for naturalization, 1872-1960

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OTHER - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

Clark County Auditor's office

Power of attorney, dates unknown

OTHER - Published sources

PROBATE - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

Clark County Clerk's office

Probate records, 1890-present

PROBATE - Published sources

TAXES - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

Clark County Assessor's office

Tax rolls, 1894-present Clark County Treasurer's office

Real and personal property tax records, current 7-10 years only

TAXES - Published sources

Central Branch Archives

Territorial assessment rolls, 1857-1862 (microfilm): Territorial counties in existence prior to 1862 - Chehalis, Clallam, Clark, Island, King-Kitsap, Jefferson, Lewis, Pierce, Sawamish, Skamania, Thurston, and Wahkiakum.

UNABLE TO VERIFY:

Birth records of Donald Urie, MD, Camas, WA. 3 vols. 1913-1949.

Finding aid Clark County Poor Farm Miscellaneous Records, 1934-1938.

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Some Donation Land claims in Clark County, Washington; maps, plats, assessments, school districts located on modern roads. Compiled by Him & Joan Hlousek.