



Grays Harbor County was organized in 1854 from Thurston County. It was first named Chehalis County but changed its name in 1915 to Grays Harbor County after Captain Robert Gray who discovered the harbor in 1792. The county was permanently settled in 1859 around Hoquiam, while Aberdeen was settled in 1861 by Scotsmen who set up a packing plant financed in part by investors from Aberdeen Scotland. The great stands of timber in the county made logging, milling and timber exporting the main economic activities of the county, and today wood products, fishing, agriculture and tourism are of primary importance.

Bounded by: Jefferson County (N), Mason and Thurston counties (E), Pacific County (S), and the Pacific Ocean (W).

County Seat: Bruceport or Bruceville (1854-1860), Montesano area (1860-present)

Chambers of Commerce:

Elma Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 798, Elma, WA 98541-9432. Phone 360-482-3055.

Grayland Beach Visitors Information Center, PO Box 305, Grayland, WA. Phone 360-267-2003. Fax 360-267-2003.

Grays Harbor Chamber of Commerce, 506 Duffy St, Aberdeen, WA 98520. Phone 360-532-1924. Fax 360-533-7945.

McCleary Community Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 53, McCleary, WA 98557-0053. Phone 360-495-4147. Fax 360-495-4333.

Montesano Chamber of Commerce, 128 Brumfield Ave, PO Box 688, Montesano, WA 98563. Phone and fax 360-249-5522.

Ocean Shores Chamber of Commerce, 120 W Chance Alamer, PO Box 382, Ocean Shores, WA 98569. Phone 360-289-2451. Fax 360-289-0226.

Westport Chamber of Commerce, 2985 S Montesano Ave, PO Box 306, Westport, WA 98595-0306. Phone 360-268-9422. Fax 360-268-1990.

Courthouse: 100 W Broadway, Montesano, WA 98563. Courthouse hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm.

Assessor: Suite 21. Phone 360-249-4121. Fax 360-249-5669. *Must do research yourself. Good idea to call ahead for an appointment.*

Auditor: Suite 2. Phone 360-249-4232. Fax 360-249-3330. *Our office is open to the public Monday through Friday 8am to 5pm. Our staff does not do genealogy research; however, the records are open to the public.*

Clerk: Room 203, 102 W Broadway. Phone 360-249-3842. Fax 360-249-6381. *Easiest access is from 1980 forward. Older records are on microfilm.*

Treasurer: PO Box 831. Phone 360-249-3751. Fax 360-249-5705.

Genealogical Society:

Grays Harbor Genealogy Society, PO Box 867, Cosmopolis, WA 98537-0867

North Beach Genealogical Society, PO Box 2007, Ocean Shores, WA 98569

Health Department: Grays Harbor Health Department, 2109 Sumner Ave, Aberdeen, WA 98520. Phone 360-532-8631. Fax 360-533-6272. Satellite office: PO Box 391, Montesano, WA 98563. Phone 360-249-4413. Fax 360-249-5669.

Historical Society:

Polson Park & Museum Historical Society, 1611 Riverside Ave, PO Box 432, Hoquiam, WA 98550. Phone 360-533-5862.

Libraries - Academic:

Grays Harbor College, John Spellman Library, 1620 Edward P Smith Drive, Aberdeen, WA 98520-7599. Phone 360-538-4050. Fax 360-538-7599.

Libraries - Public:

Ocean Shores Public Library, 573 Point Brown Ave NW, PO Box 669, Ocean Shores, WA 98569-0669. Phone 360-289-3919. Fax 360-289-4318. *Library has a northwest collection.*

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:*

Aberdeen Timberland Library, 121 E Market St, Aberdeen, WA 98520-5292. Phone 360-533-2360. Fax 360-532-2953.

Amanda Park Timberland Library, 6118 US Hwy 101, PO Drawer K, Amanda Park, WA 98526-0089. Phone and fax 360-288-2725.

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

Elma Timberland Library, 118 N 1st, PO Box Q, Elma, WA 98541-0547. Phone 360-482-3737. Fax 360-482-3047.

Hoquiam Timberland Library, 420 7th St, Hoquiam, WA 98550-3616. Phone 360-532-1710. Fax 360-533-4123.

McCleary Timberland Library, 100 3rd St, PO Box 660, McCleary, WA 98557-0660. Phone and fax 360-495-3368.

Oakville Timberland Library, 204 Main St, PO Box G, Oakville, WA 98568-0129. Phone 360-273-5305. Fax 360-273-7446.

W. H. Abel Memorial Library, 125 Main St S, Montesano, WA 98563-3794. Phone 360-249-4211. Fax 360-249-4203.

Westport Timberland Library, 506 N Montesano, PO Box 1408, Westport, WA 98595-1408. Phone 360-268-0521. Fax 360-268-0558.

Libraries - Special:

Elma Family History Center, 702 E Main, Elma, WA. Phone 360-482-5982

Grays Harbor County Law Library, County Courthouse Rm 202, PO Box 711, Montesano, WA 98563. Phone 360-249-5311.

Ocean Shores Family History Center, 228 Albatross NE, Ocean Shores, WA. Phone 306-289-2037.

Quinault Indian Nation Tribal Library, PO Box 189, Taholah, WA 98587. Phone 360-276-8211, ext. 245. Fax 360-276-4191.

Westport Family History Center, 708 Englewood Lane, Westport, WA. Phone 360-268-9006.

Museums and Historical Sites:

Aberdeen Historical Museum, 111 E 3rd St, Aberdeen, WA. Phone 360-533-1976. *Museum's collection of period furnishings, photographs and antique firefighting equipment recreates Aberdeen's past.*

Anderson Cabin, East side of Hwy. 109, PO Box 1531, Ocean City, WA 98569. Phone 360-289-3842. *Houses the collection of the North Beach Historical and Preservation Society, including a display about local author Norah Berg.*

Chehalis Valley Historical Museum, 703 W Pioneer Ave, PO Box 1242, Montesano, WA 98563. Phone 360-249-5800. *The museum is housed in a former 1906 church. Historical photographs and early logging equipment document the role of the area's forest product industry.*

Dennis York Historical Museum, 316 "J" St, Cosmopolis, WA 98537.

Grays Harbor Historical Seaport, 813 E Heron St, PO Box 2019, Aberdeen, WA 98520. Phone 360-532-8612. *With the purpose of recreating the area's maritime history, this historical shipyard has a full-scale replica of 1783 ship of Capt. Robert Gray who discovered Grays Harbor and the Columbia River onsite as well as other period shipping vessels.*

Hoquiam's Castle, 515 Chenault Ave, Hoquiam, WA 985550. Phone 360-533-2005. *Offers guided tours of the restored and refurbished mansion of lumberman Robert Lytle.*

Maritime Museum, 2201 Evergreen Dr, Westport, WA 98595. Phone 360-268-0078.

McCleary Museum, Carnell House, 314 Second St, PO Box 554, McCleary, WA 98557. *Museum's collection includes historical photographs, logging exhibits and seasonal exhibits.*

Ocean Shores Environmental Interpretive Center, 1013 Catala Ave SE, Ocean Shores, WA 98569. Phone 360-289-4617. *Exhibits and collections focus on the history, wildlife and ecology of the North Beach area.*

Polson Park & Museum, 1611 Riverside Ave, PO Box 432, Hoquiam, WA 98550. Phone 360-533-2005. *The 26-room former home of Grays Harbor pioneer and lumber entrepreneur Arnold Polson, the museum's collection includes antique furniture, Indian artifacts and local history memorabilia.*

Westport Maritime Museum, 2202 Westhaven Dr, PO Box 1074, Westport, WA 98595. Phone 360-268-0078. Fax 360-268-0078. *Museum is housed in 1939 Coast Guard Station. Collection includes historic photographs, artifacts and memorabilia of early settlers.*

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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