Klickitat County was founded in 1859 from parts of Skamania and Walla Walla counties. It was named after the Klickitat Indian tribe and the word means "robber or thief." The county is located in the extreme south center of the state and is bounded on the south by the Columbia River. Erastus Joslyn first settled the county in 1852. However, not until 1867 was an effective county government organized. Transportation played an important part in the county's history. An U.S. Army wagon road crossed the county in 1855, and later the Columbia Railway and Navigation Company's railroad and competing Columbia River steamboats provided a colorful chapter in its history. Today, Klickitat County bases its economy on food processing, agriculture and wood products.

NOTE: Immediately after creation, territorial legislature spelled the county's name CLICITAT. By the next territorial legislative session, the spelling was finalized as KLICKITAT.

Bounded by: Yakima County (N), Benton County (E), Oregon (S), and Skamania County (W),

County Seat: Grand Dalles or Rockland Flats, now called Dallesport (1859-1878) and Goldendale (1878 - present).

Chambers of Commerce:

Mt. Adams Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 449, White Salmon, WA 98672-0449. Phone 509-493-3630.

White Salmon Chamber of Commerce, One Heritage Plaza, PO Box 449, White Salmon, WA 98672-0449. Phone 509-493-3630. Fax 360-493-3670.

Courthouse: 205 S Columbus, Goldendale, WA 98620. Courthouse hours Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 5:00 p.m.

Assessor: Room 200. Phone 509-773-3715. Fax 509-773-6397. Available to the public 9am to 5pm.

Auditor: Room 203. Phone 509-773-4001. Fax 509-773-4244. Bring all information available: names, dates (within a 10 year period) are helpful. Description of property can be accessed through the Auditor's office.

Clerk: Room 204. Phone 509-773-5744. Fax 509-773-4559.


Genealogical Society:

Health Department:
Historical Society:

Libraries - Academic:

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


White Salmon Community Library, 142 E Jewett Blvd, PO Box 1579, White Salmon, WA 98672. Phone 509-493-1132. Fax 509-493-2943.

Libraries - Special:
Goldendale Family History Center, Columbus & McKinley, Goldendale, WA. Phone 509-773-3824.

Klickitat County Law Library, County Courthouse, 205 S Columbus, Rm 206, Goldendale, WA 98260. Phone 509-773-5755.

Libraries - Special:
Goldendale Family History Center, Columbus & McKinley, Goldendale, WA. Phone 509-773-3824.

Klickitat County Law Library, County Courthouse, 205 S Columbus, Rm 206, Goldendale, WA 98260. Phone 509-773-5755.

Museums and Historical Sites:
Gorge Heritage Museum, 202 E Humboldt, Bingen, WA 98605. Phone 509-493-3228. "Objects related to West Klickitat County."

Klickitat County Historical Society Presby Museum, 127 W Broadway, Goldendale, WA 98620. Phone 509-773-4303. Restored Victorian home built in 1902 by the Presby family provides view of life in Goldendale between 1880 and 1930. Historical Society's collection also includes numerous historical items from the county, and a photographic and archival collection.

Maryhill Museum of Art and Stonehenge Replica, 35 Maryhill Museum Drive, Goldendale, WA 98620. Phone 509-773-3733. Fax 509-772-4303. Membership available. Housed in the impressive home of railroad magnate Sam Hill, the Museum houses permanent and visiting art and cultural collections from around the world, as well as archival and photo collections. Nearby is the replica of England's Stonehenge built by Sam Hill to commemorate the men of Klickitat County who lost their lives in World War I.

Whoop N Holler Museum, E Road, Bickleton, WA 99322. Phone 509-896-2344. "Two large buildings filled with antique classic car collection, local historical memorabilia, family heirlooms."

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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ATLASES, GAZETTEERS, MAPS - Published sources


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Moore, Farris D. Reminiscence of horseback journey from Bickleton to Centralia, Washington, in 1888.

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Morris, Anna Van Rensselaer. *The apple woman of the Klickitat.* Duffield, 1918.


Storch, Robert D. *A cold seat on a frosty morning.* Throne Room Productions, 1996.

**BIRTHS - Personal, governmental, or organizational records**

Central Branch Archives
Birth records, 1882-1907

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**BIRTHS - Published sources**


**BUSINESSES & COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS - Personal, governmental, or organizational records**

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**CEMETERIES - Personal, governmental, or organizational records**

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**CENSUS - Personal, governmental, or organizational records**

Central Branch Archives
Klickitat County general census, 1946
Washington Territorial census rolls: Klickitat County- 1871, 1883, 1885, 1887, 1889, and 1892

**CENSUS - Published sources**


**CHURCHES - Personal, governmental, or organizational records**
Washington State University, Holland Library, Manuscripts, Archives & Special Collections
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**CHURCHES - Published sources**

**CITY / COUNTY DIRECTORIES**

**CITY / COUNTY HISTORIES - Personal, governmental, or organizational records**

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*An Illustrated history of Klickitat, Yakima and Kittitas counties; with an outline of the early history of the state of Washington.* Interstate Pub. Co. 1904. **other editions available


Bunnell, Clarence Orvel. *Legends of the Klickitats, a Klickitat version of the story of the bridge of the gods.* Binfords & Mort, 1935. **other editions available


Fleming, Nelia Binford. *Sketches of early High Prairie.* Binfords & Mort, 19??.

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Territorial criminal case files, 1887-1889

Klickitat County Clerk's office

Civil case files, 1950 - present

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**COURT DOCUMENTS - Published sources**
DEATHS - Personal, governmental, or organizational records
   Central Branch Archives
   Death records, 1891-1907

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   Death records, 1891-1907

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EARLY DESCRIPTIVE OR PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL

EDUCATION - Personal, governmental, or organizational records
   Central Branch Archives
   County School historical information file, 1936-1954
   Eighth grade uniform examinations, 1916-1917
   High school statistical reports, 1942
   Inventory of school property, 1936-1937 (includes some photographs)
   Record of teachers' contracts, 1955-1970
   Register of officers and appointments, 1944-1966
   Report of current school expenditures, 1942
   Report of superintendent to county auditor, 1928-1934
   School census reports, 1924-1940
   School district listings, dates unknown
   School district reorganization committee, 1941-61 (minutes & correspondence)
   School enrollment reports, 1916-1941
   Teachers' certificates, 1930-1975
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   Klickitat County Auditor's office
   Voter registrations and oaths, 1921-present
   Register of voters and oath books, 1915-1932
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   *Klickitat Heritage*. Klickitat County Historical Society, 1975-.

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Complete divorce index
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Real property assessment, 1930's-present

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Inactive property tax cards, 1917-date unknown
Old property tray cards, 1971-1989
Personal property tax roll, 1893
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