



Okanogan County was created in 1888 from Stevens County, and is an Indian word for "rendezvous. It is situated in the north central part of the state west of the Cascades and bounded on the north by Canada. The first American post in the state was Fort Okanogan established in 1811 by Astor's Pacific Fur Company. In 1859 the county experienced a gold rush when placer gold was discovered on the Similkameen River.

Steamboats reached the town of Okanogan two months of the year in the 1880s, but it was not until 1915 that the county had regular transportation service when the Great Northern Railroad ran a branch line from Wenatchee to Okanogan. Today, mining is an important part of the county's economy along with timber products and agriculture.

Bounded by: British Columbia, Canada (N), Ferry County (E), Lincoln, Grant and Douglas counties (S), and Chelan, Skagit, and Whatcom counties (W).

Chambers of Commerce:

Brewster Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 1087, Brewster, WA 98812. Phone 509-689-3589, 509-689-3379. Fax 509-689-3705.

Conconully Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 231, Conconully, WA 98819. Phone 509-826-0813.

Grand Coulee Dam Area Chamber of Commerce, Box 760, Grand Coulee, WA 99133. Phone 509-633-3074. Fax 509-633-1370.

Okanogan Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 1125, Okanogan, WA 98840. Phone 509-422-9882.

Omak Chamber of Commerce, 401 Omak Ave, Rt 2 Box 5200, Omak, WA 98841. Phone 509-826-1880.

Oroville Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 536, Oroville, WA 98844. Phone 509-476-2739.

Pateros Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 613, Pateros, WA 98846. Phone 509-923-2809, 509-923-2772.

Tonasket Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 523, Tonasket, WA 98855-0523. Phone 509-486-4429.

Twisp Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 686, Twisp, WA 98856. Phone 509-997-2926. Fax 509-997-5859.

Winthrop Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 39, Winthrop, WA 98862. Phone 509-996-2125.

County Seat:

Ruby (1888), Conconully (1888-1914), Okanogan (1914-present)

Courthouse: 149 Third N, Okanogan, WA 98840. Courthouse hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm.

Assessor: PO Box 152. Phone 509-422-7190. Fax 509-422-7195. *All of our records are available to the public and we have people in our office that can show you where the records are kept and get you started on your research.*

Auditor: PO Box 1010. Phone 509-422-7240. Fax 509-422-7163.

Clerk: PO Box 72. Phone 509-422-7275. Fax 509-826-7295.

Treasurer: PO Box 111. Phone 509-422-7180. Fax 509-422-7181.

Genealogical Society:

Bordertown Genealogical Society, Oroville, WA.

Okanogan County Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 95, Malott, WA 98829-0095. *Membership available. Currently updating "Okanogan County Washington Cemetery Records" . Library is housed in the Wilson Research Center.*

Tonasket Genealogical Society, Attn: Nadine Kirchner, PO Box 84, Tonasket, WA 98855

Health Department / District:

Okanogan County Health District, 1234 S Second, Public Services Bldg, PO Box 231, Okanogan, WA 98840. Phone 509-422-7140. Fax 509-422-7142.

Historical Society:

Okanogan County Historical Society, 1410 2nd N, PO Box 1129, Okanogan, WA 98840. *Membership available. Sponsors the Okanogan Historical Museum, The Shafer Museum, Okanogan Highland Museum and Old Molson. Library is housed in the Wilson Research Center.*

Omak Pioneer Club, c/o Betty Jeglum. Phone 509-826-1872

Riverside Historical Society, c/o Maggie Sasse. Phone 509- 826-0831

Libraries - Academic:**Libraries - Public:**

City of Brewster Library, 17 S Third, PO Box 340, Brewster, WA 98812-0340. Phone 509-689-3464. Fax 509-689-3705.

North Central Regional Library, 238 Olds Station Rd, Wenatchee, WA 98801-8103. Phone 509-663-1117. Fax 509-662-8060. *The following are libraries in this system:*

Okanogan Community Library, 228 Pine, Box 489, Okanogan, WA 98840-0489. Phone 509-422-2609. Fax 509-422-2609.

Omak Community Library, 30 S Ash, Box J, Omak, WA 98841-0969. Phone 509-826-1820. Fax 509-826-1820. *Has a special collection of county history books.*

Oroville Community Library, 1276 Main, Box 550, Oroville, WA 98844-0550. Phone 509-476-2662. Fax 509-476-2662.

Pateros Community Library, 174 Pateros Mall, Box 306, Pateros, WA 98846-0306. Phone 509-923-2298. Fax 509-923-2298.

Tonasket Community Library, 209 S Whitcomb, Box 629, Tonasket, WA 98855-0629. Phone 509-486-2366. Fax 509-486-2366.

Twisp Community Library, 201 N Methow Valley Hwy, Box 237, Twisp, WA 98856-0237. Phone 509- 997-4681 or Fax 509-997-4681.

Winthrop Community Library, 509 State Rt 20, Box 519, Winthrop, WA 98862-0519. Phone 509-996-2685. Fax 509-996-2685.

Libraries - Special:

Colville Confederated Tribe Library, PO Box 140, Nespelem, WA 99155. Phone 509-634-4711, ext. 650 & 857. Fax 509-634-8799. *Collection emphasizes Native American materials, local*

and regional history. No genealogy.

Family History Center Omak, Engh Rd, Omak, WA 98841. Phone 509-826-4802

Wilson Research Center, 1410 2nd N, PO Box 1129, Okanogan, WA 98840. *Joint library of the Genealogical and Historical societies. Includes genealogical reference materials, collection of obituaries, newspaper clipping file, items relating to Okanogan County history, audio and video pioneer interviews, photography collections, Okanogan County newspapers on microfilm, and clipping files. In progress project: computerized database of places, names, authors.*

Okanogan County Law Library, 149 3rd N, Okanogan, WA 98840. Phone 509-422-7130.

Museums and Historical Sites:

Colville Tribal Museum, Coulee Dam, WA. Phone 509-633-0751.

Chief Joseph Gravesite, Colville Indian Reservation, Nespelem, WA

Fort Okanogan Interpretative Center, c/o Alta Lake State Park, Star Route Box 40, Pateros, WA 98846. Phone 509-689-2798 or 509-923-2473. *Collection includes Indian and fur trapping artifacts and local photography collection, dating from mid 1880's to about 1924.*

Old Molson Ghost Town & Museum, Molson Route, Box 128, Oroville, WA 98844. Phone 509-826-0843. *Membership available. Old Molson is a reassembled pioneer town. Museum includes artifacts of local history and Old Molson school attendance records.*

Okanogan County Historical Museum, 1410 2nd N, Okanogan, WA 98840. Phone 826-0853. *Membership available. Historical artifacts and recreated pioneer town portrays the history of Okanogan County.*

Old Depot, Oroville, WA. Phone 509-476-3693. *Restored railroad depot.*

Shafer Museum, 285 Castle Ave, PO Box 46, Winthrop, WA 98862. Phone 509-996-2452. *Membership available. Housed in historic log cabin of Guy Waring. The museum details all phases of early life and peoples of the Winthrop area.*

St. Mary's Mission, Omak Lake Rd, Omak, WA 98841. *Site of former Jesuit Indian boarding school. School is now operated as the Paschal Sherman Indian School by the Colville Indian Tribe. The mission church is open to the public.*

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.

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