Lewis County Genealogy Resources

Lewis County Genealogical Society (WA)

www.walcgs.org

Prepared by the Special Projects Committee:

Jan Jamerson, Waverly Williams, Linda S. Patton, Steve Walsh

Heads UP: The links on this page were good as of their posting. If you find any that are not working, please let us know with an email to **www.walcgs.org**

If you think of any additional resources that would benefit Lewis County genealogical researchers, please let us know at **www.walcgs.org**

***** Denotes the resources located in Lewis County

Great Links to Explore:

Family History & Genealogy, Census, Birth, Marriage, Death Vital Records, & More for Lewis County, WA
http://www.linkpendium.com/lewis-wa-genealogy/

Genealogy Inc: Lewis County Family History Resources
https://www.genealogyinc.com/washington/lewis-county/

Cyndi's List of Genealogical Sites on the Internet
https://www.cyndislist.com/us/wa/counties/lewis/general/

LDS Genealogy - Lewis County, WA
https://ldsgenealogy.com/WA/Lewis-County.htm

Access Genealogy – Free Washington Genealogy
https://accessgenealogy.com/washington-genealogy
This site doesn't break down into counties, but it has some interesting stuff for each state. They are known for their Native American information.

Ancestor Hunt
http://www.ancestorhunt.com/
This is an interesting site that you may know as the one on which to find newspaper links for each state, however, it has so much more. As of July 15, 2021, they are in the process of putting on links by state but haven't gotten to Washington. It looked like they were on Vermont, so Washington should be live soon.

FamilySearch Wiki
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Lewis_County,_Washington_Genealogy

USGenWeb Project - Washington State
http://wagenweb.org/

Washington State Genealogical Society – Lewis County
(509)248-1328
1901 S 12th Ave
Union Gap, WA 98903
https://wasgs.org/cpage.php?pt=25
If you click on Lewis County in this link, you will find a list of Lewis County resources.
Email for General Inquiry: Info@wasgs.org

Washington State Archives

- Digital
  https://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/

- Physical Building
  https://www.sos.wa.gov/archives/

- Southwest Regional Branch in Olympia and includes Lewis County
  https://www.sos.wa.gov/archives/archives_southwest.aspx

Lewis County Government Resources

- **Lewis County Clerk aka Superior Court Clerk**:
  Court Records (lewiscountywa.gov)

- **Lewis County District Court**:
  Access to Court Records (lewiscountywa.gov)
  It is best to contact them and ask if they still have the records. Some of their documents are only kept for 7 to 10 years, some forever.

- **Washington Courts has a lot of information**:
  https://dw.courts.wa.gov/index.cfm?fa=home.namesearch&terms=accept&flashform=0

- **Lewis County Auditor**
  Search Results (lewiscountywa.gov)
  You can search for recorded documents July 4, 1848 to present

Libraries

Timberland Regional Library's Genealogy, History & Culture Reference Database
Most require a Timberland Regional Library card.
To access go to:
Reference Database Results | Timberland Regional Library (trl.org)
Click on "Learn" to top of page.
Select "Genealogy, History and Culture"

If you are interested in particular titles, you can find over 500 publications on local history and reference material at https://bit.ly/2R3C7wf (FYI: You can find books of interest on Lewis County subjects here, then you can request them through interlibrary loan at your local library.)

*Centralia Timberland Library
360-736-0183
110 S Silver Street
Centralia WA, 98531-4218
https://www.trl.org/locations/centralia

- A selection of Veterans' History Project DVDs on local veterans (contact library for details)
- Polk Directories for Pacific and Lewis Counties, and Centralia and Chehalis from 1912 to present
- A selection of individual family histories and histories about the Wobbly War (contact library for details)
- A selection of individual family histories and histories about the founding of Centralia (contact library for details)
- The Chronicle (county-wide newspaper) from 1887 to 2010 on microfilm.

*Chehalis Timberland Library
(360)748-3301
400 N. Market Boulevard
Chehalis, WA, 98532-0419
Chehalis Timberland Library | Timberland Regional Library (trl.org)

They have an uncatalogued collection of local historical and family photos which they will hand search upon request without charge.

*Salkum Timberland Library
360-985-2148
2480 US-12
Salkum, WA, 98582
https://www.trl.org/locations/salkum
They have local history maps as well as Lewis County and local historical reference materials. No city directories.

*Morton Timberland Library
360-496-5022
701 Airport Way,
Morton, WA, 98356
https://www.trl.org/locations/morton
They have local history resources. No city directories

*Packwood Timberland Library
360-494-5111
109 W. Main Street
Packwood, WA, 98361-0589
https://www.trl.org/locations/packwood
They have a link through the Timberland Library website for doing your family genealogy in the Packwood area. No city directories

*Toledo Timberland Library
360-864-4247
241 Cowlitz Street
Toledo, WA, 98591
https://www.trl.org/locations/toledo
They have a room at the library dedicated to the history of Toledo and some Lewis County history.

*Winlock Timberland Library
360-785-3461
322 NE First Street
Winlock, WA, 98596-0428
https://www.trl.org/locations/winlock
They have some reference materials on Winlock and Lewis County.

Washington State University Library
509.335.6691
Mailing address:
Manuscripts, Archives, and Special Collections
Washington State University Libraries
PO Box 645610
Pullman, WA 99164-5610
mascref@wsu.edu

They have a large variety of material such as:

- Family records
- Photographs
- Correspondence
- Rare books
- Historical maps
- Ephemera such as pamphlets, fruit-box labels, etc.
- Washington Dairy Women scrapbooks for Lewis County.
- Washington State University student and alum related material such as yearbook photos
- A large selection of digitized newspapers

Reference materials cannot be taken out of the library. To access the reference materials:

- Use “Search It” at WSU Libraries | Washington State University.
- Email the “Manuscripts, Archives, and Special Collections” at mascref@wsu.edu to let them know what you want to research and when you plan to be on campus.
- They will locate the items and have them ready for you to photograph at Manuscripts, Archives, and Special Collections (MASC) – Terrell Ground Floor.

Washington State Library
(360) 704-5200
Point Plaza East, 6880 Capitol Blvd. SE, Tumwater
PO Box 42460, Olympia WA 98504-2460
https://stlow.iii.com/

Here is what the Washington State Library reference librarian suggests:

I recommend you start at the Genealogy page on our website: https://www.sos.wa.gov/library/genealogy.aspx to see what types of genealogical collections we have available at our library.

Our Genealogy Research Links page will help you with other online resources (including yearbooks) that are not necessarily at our library but still helpful for Washington area genealogy research.

You can search our library catalog online to see what we have in our genealogy collections specifically for Lewis County.

- Go to https://www.sos.wa.gov/library/catalog.aspx
- Choose Genealogy Collection under Additional Options
- Choose Keywords in the Search By box
- Enter “lewis county” in the Search Words box

You can also search our library catalog online to see what we have in our newspaper collections specifically for Lewis County

- Go to https://www.sos.wa.gov/library/catalog.aspx
- Choose Washington Newspapers under Additional Options
- Choose County in the Search By box
- Enter Lewis in the Search Words box

Most of our newspaper collections are on microfilm. But some have been digitized; currently the only digitized newspaper for Lewis County is The Daily Hub newspaper (Centralia) 1914-1916.

You can search the Daily Hub at our Washington Digital Newspapers website: https://washingtondigitalnewspapers.org/?a=cl&cl=CL1&sp=DH&e=-------en-20--1--txt-txIN--------

Our collections focus mostly on published materials rather than unpublished, so we do not have collections dedicated to photographs, family records, correspondence, or ephemera here at the library though you may find those items included in some manuscript or other rare collections.

The “State Library Photograph Collection” is no longer at the State Library. It has moved to the State Archives and can now be searched using the Digital Archives website: https://digitalarchives.wa.gov/Collections/TitleInfo/749. Digital Archives has other photo collections as well: https://digitalarchives.wa.gov/Collections#RSID:22.

We also direct people looking for photos and other ephemera to the Washington Rural Heritage website. Rural Heritage is a program funded by the State Library that helps other local organizations (libraries, historical societies, museums, etc) digitize their local history collections and makes those collections available online in one place. The photos on the site belong to the organizations that submitted them.

A great place to search for ephemera like fruit box labels and pamphlets (as well as photographs) is the Washington State Historical Society: https://www.washingtonhistory.org/research/collections-search/.

Archives West
https://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org
Searching Archives West might actually be a good starting point. It has information on collections from members of our regional library consortia. You can search by region and library, as well as by subject. In addition, if you scroll down on that page, there is always a "What's New?" section. Right now, it's listing some recently added collection guides on oral histories. Then, you can reach out to the individual repositories for more information.

University of Washington
206-543-0242
University of Washington Libraries
Box 352900
Seattle, WA 98195-2900 USA
https://www.lib.washington.edu/

1. UW Libraries web site: https://lib.washington.edu/

    a. Start here to link to any of the UW's 15 libraries for information about hours, etc., as well as units within Suzzallo/Allen, the main library, such as Maps/Newspapers and Special Collections.

    b. The front page also links to databases, research guides and other online resources. Access to many of the online databases is limited to current UW affiliates as indicated by a lock icon. Other databases without a lock icon, such as WorldCat, can be anywhere. Visitors using computers at the University of Washington are able to access any of the restricted databases, including digitized newspapers.

2. UW Libraries Catalog Search: https://lib.washington.edu/

    a. Also located on the Libraries main web page, search for any of the Libraries 11 million plus items by typing keywords into the search box.

    b. The catalog search for rare books, historical maps, newspapers, and many other format types.

    c. If you find an item of interest, look at the full record for the call number and also the library location.

    d. Also take a look at the subject headings assigned to the items of interest. You can click on any of them, such as these to find more material on those subjects:
        i. Lewis County (Wash.) --History
        ii. Lewis County (Wash.) -- Biography
        iii. Lewis County (Wash.) -- Genealogy

3. Digital Collections: https://digitalcollections.lib.washington.edu/digital/search/

    a. Photographs and other visual material can be found in the Libraries' Digital Collections. As well as a variety of other records including some film footage, oral histories, documents such as letters and other historical items.

    b. Also part of the Digital Collection are the UW Tyee Yearbooks: https://content.lib.washington.edu/uwdocsweb/index.html

4. Archives West: http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/

    a. The UW is part of a consortium of academic libraries in the Pacific Northwest with Special Collections. Special Collections include rare items such as a books and maps, as well as family records, correspondence, ephemera such as pamphlets, biography files, scrapbooks and more.

    b. Search using your own keywords in the Search box. For example, searching “Lewis County” yields 124 results. Using quotes ensures that that works are adjacent to each other in the results. The 124 collections are from numerous Special Collections which are listed on the left-hand side of the page. Under the “Repository” heading you can click on University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections to see just those collections relating to Lewis County in the UW’s Special Collections.

5. Pacific Northwest Regional Index

    a. This is an offline card index (person, place, and subject) maintained for over 90 years of citations to newspapers, county histories, WPA projects and other regional histories. Only a small fraction has been digitized so if you visit the UW, this is something you want to set aside some time to search. As noted below, we are happy to answer questions via email and can search the index of your behalf for specific topics such as a name, location, etc. Many of the citations refer to items now in the public domain, so you may not even need to visit the UW to get to the item cited.

6. Ask Us https://www.lib.washington.edu/about/contact/email

    a. The Libraries have an online system where anyone can ask a question about our holdings, hours, locations, and more. There is also an online chat, but this service is part of a larger consortium so if you select chat evenings or weekend the person responding might not be located at the UW. Email questions will be directed to the right part of the Libraries so your response will be from someone experienced in the holdings for that part of the Libraries.

*Centralia College Library
360-736-9391
600 Centralia College Blvd
Centralia College, WA 98531
Kirk Library Home (centralia.edu)
The Kirk Library has a digitalized archive collection. It is only related to Centralia College. It includes Yearbooks, Newspaper clippings from The Chronicle, Photographs, Documents, etc. You can access them through library's homepage.

Pacific Lutheran University Library
Robert A.L. Mordvedt Library
(253) 535-7500
12180 Park Avenue S. Tacoma, WA 98447
library@plu.edu
Welcome to the Pacific Lutheran University Archives & Special Collections Discovery Database. This database includes descriptions of the Archives & Special Collections' holdings and provides access to digitized and born digital content. These holdings are divided into four main collection areas:

- PLU University Archives - Records relating to the activities and operations of Pacific Lutheran University.

- ELCA Region I Archives - Records of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Region I, which includes Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington.

- Scandinavian Immigrant Experience Collection - Records relating to the experience of Scandinavian immigrants in the Pacific Northwest, including the New Land, New Lives Oral History Collection.

- Special Collections - Unique materials collected by or donated to the department of Archives & Special Collections.

Search Tips

- To limit your search to a specific collection area (University Archives, ELCA Region 1 Archives, the Scandinavian Immigrant Experience Collection, or Special collections), select the appropriate archival institution.
- Use advanced search to limit results by date range and digital object availability.
- Publications and documents (such as Scene or Tacoma Tidende) can be read by clicking on the preview image.
- Browse by subject, place, or digital objects.

For questions or to schedule a research appointment contact archives@plu.edu.

Museums

*Lewis County History Museum
(360)748-0831
599NW Front Way
Chehalis, WA 98532
https://lewiscountymuseum.org/

Repositories available at the historical museum -

Churches:

- History of St. Mary's Church-Centralia. 1910 - 2011
- History of St. Mary's Church - Centralia. 1910-1986
- Pe Ell Methodist
- Sy. Mary's Parish celebrating 10 years
- First Baptist Church 1883-1983
- Local Church Ministries
- Sacred Heart church- Morton
- Lewis County Catholic church History
- Historical Directory-St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, St. Mary's
- Methodist Westminster Presbyterian Church
- History of Westminster Presbyterian 1940
- Early Churches of Washington
- Adna Evangelical Church

Funeral Homes:

- Boone, Brown, Sticklin
- Mortuary Records 1895-1920
- Sticklin funeral Records 1895-1904
- Sticklin Funeral Records 1904-1908

Schools:

- Adna 1918-1992
- Twin Oaks 1911-1928
- Brier Hill 1920-1933
- Evaline 2883-1983 (2books)
- Knob 1860-1939
- Centralia College 1925-1975
- Greenhill - The Lewis County History Museum has a binder titled: GREENHILL SCHOOL – "The new leaf 1936 State training school," "The new leaf 1950," and a leaflet of the "History of Washington state Human resources of 1853-1932." The two New Leaf pamphlets were written by boys at the school.
- Name of the schoolhouse (Schools in Washington state)
- Lewis County School Review
- Early Schools of the Washington Territory 1935
- School annuals starting from 1908 -2010

*Toledo Historical Museum
(360) 864-8284
241 Cowlitz St
Toledo, WA, WA 98591
https://www.facebook.com/Toledo.Historical.Society/
They have some books on the history of Toledo including a history of all schools in Toledo.

*White Pass Country Historical Society (Packwood, WA)
(360) 494-4422 (message phone)
P.O. Box 958
12990 U.S. Highway 12
Packwood, WA 98361
They have no reference material

Washington State History Museum
1 (888) 238-4373
1911 Pacific Ave
Tacoma, WA 98402
https://www.washingtonhistory.org/
They have a collection of historic logging pictures for Lewis County, titled "Photographic postcards."
Collection Item - Washington State Historical Society (washingtonhistory.org)

Veterans Associations

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) – Call National Headquarters, 1-816-756-3390 with name, date of-birth, and any other identifying information. If your ancestor is a member, they will give you the

contact information for a local post for information that may be available such as military awards and decorations on your ancestor's discharge papers.

***Granges**

Adna Grange: No reference material at the grange. The contact phone number: 360.748.3397

Cowlitz Prairie Grange: They have some materials at the grange. Call 360.864.2023

Logan Hill Grange: No books at the grange. Interesting fact: the grange used to be a schoolhouse from the late 1800's to the 1940's.

Lincoln Creek Grange: - Only secretary information at the grange - 360.736.7498

Fords Prairie Grange: They are going to donate their book of the history to the historical museum - 360.304.3419.

Oakview Grange: They are working on a book on the history of the grange. Alice Coakley is the contact person at: Tigerac@thurston.com 360736.5639

Mossyrock Grange: They have copies of charter members - 360.983.3874

Washington State Grange: They have some articles of incorporation and grange rosters starting in the early 1900's.

Lewis County Museum: They have books on the history of granges from 1904-1987 and 2 others without dates, just the names of Baw Faw Grange and LC Granges

Churches

Catholic Church

- Old records had been sent to the Archdiocese in Seattle.
- Local churches have only current records but that because the persons are still living, all local records are private and not for the public.
- Anyone researching would have to contact the archdiocese. There is a fee.

Assembly of God
They do not have records, nor do they send records to a central repository.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
They have records that are searchable on the Family Search Website. Information on living persons is not available to the public.

Contact local churches for possible records.

Schools

Many school records are on Family Search:
https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89N8-RVB4?owc=7KCZ-S21%3A180931501%3Fcc%3D1910364&wc=7GM5-FGL%3A180931501%2C1061926601&cc=1910364

- These records are not indexed. Therefore, you must browse through them.
- The records originally came from the Washington State Archives. The archives are slowly indexing them and putting digital images on their website.
- The archives have more records in their facility than it shows on family search but currently you must go to Olympia in person to do research them.
- The school census from 1907 and older have just an age for each student as well as their parents or guardians. Starting in 1908, the actual birthdate for each student is listed.
- The districts are listed by a number that was assigned to them by ESD 113 (The governing body for Lewis County and surrounding counties). If you don't know what school district the parents were in, it can be hard to decide where you need to look.

* Denotes the resources located in Lewis County