Chelan County was formed in 1899 from parts of Okanogan and Kittitas counties. Its name in Indian means "deep water." The county is located in the north central part of the state and stretches from the eastern crest of the Cascade Mountains to the south-flowing Columbia River on the east. Fur traders first visited the county in 1811. Later, Catholic missionaries established themselves in the Wenatchee Valley. The development of the county in the nineteenth century was closely linked to the Northern Pacific and Great Northern railroads. In 1903 the construction of the Highline Canal opened up 20,000 acres of land for agricultural development in the Wenatchee Valley. Today the county is a major apple and fruit growing center while the wood products industry, mining and tourism also contribute to its economy.

Bounded by: Okanogan (N), Douglas (E), Skagit, Kittitas (S), and Snohomish and King (W)

County Seat: Wenatchee

Chambers of Commerce:
Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 216, Chelan, WA 98816-0216. Phone 509-682-3503. Toll free 800 4-CHELAN. Fax 509-682-3538.


Wenatchee Valley Convention and Visitor’s Bureau, 116 N Wenatchee Ave, PO Box 4888, Wenatchee, WA 98801. Phone 509-663-3723. Fax 509-663-3983.

Courthouse: 350 Orondo St, Wenatchee, WA 98801. Courthouse hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm

Assessor: Phone 509-664-5365. Fax 509-664-2664.

Auditor: PO Box 400, Wenatchee, WA 98807-0400. Phone 509-664-5432. Fax 509-664-5246. Will instruct searchers, but cannot do research. Prefer to have requests for information at least 24 hours in advance. Need names and approximate dates. Early land records searcher needs to know if individual was the buyer or seller.

Clerk: PO Box 3025, Wenatchee, WA 98807-3025. Phone 509-664-5386. Fax 509-664-2611. Chelan County has a computer index of all cases since 1900 on microfiche. Since Jan. 1, 1996 all documents in case file are available on computer image rather than microfilm. Insanity, adoption, juvenile, and some guardianship cases are confidential.

Treasurer: PO Box 1441, Wenatchee, WA 98807. Phone 509-664-5405. Fax 509-664-5488. Please call in advance to make arrangements.
**Genealogical Society:**


Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society, PO Box 5280, Wenatchee, WA 98807-5280. Membership available. Obituaries of pioneers of Entiat Valley (before 1956) are being collected. Maintains the Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society Library.

**Health Department:** 316 Washington St, Wenatchee, WA 98801. Phone 509-748-5306. Fax 509-664-5478.

**Historical Society:**

Chelan County Historical Society, PO Box 22, Chelan, WA 98815. Phone 509-782-3230.

Entiat Community Historical Society, 2800 Entiat Way, Entiat, WA 98822.

Lake Chelan Historical Society, 204 E Woodin Ave, PO Box 1948, Chelan, WA 98816. Phone 509-682-5644. Membership available. Operates Lake Chelan Historical Society Museum emphasizing local history, genealogy, Indian tribes of the area, early photographs, scrapbooks, cemetery records, memorabilia of early pioneers, history of the apple industry and a display of apple shipping crate labels. Oral history project is in progress.

**Libraries - Academic:**


**Libraries - Public:**

North Central Regional Library, 238 Olds Station Rd, Wenatchee, WA 99801-8103. Phone 509-663-1117. Fax 509-662-8060. These libraries are part of this system:

Cashmere Community Library, 300 Woodring, Cashmere, WA 98815-1061. Phone 509-782-3314. Fax 509-782-3314.


Entiat Community Library, 14070 Kinzel St, Box 357, Entiat, WA 98822-0357. Phone 509-784-1517. Fax 509-784-1517.

Leavenworth Community Library, 700 Hwy 2, Box 308, Leavenworth, WA 98826-0308. Phone 509-548-7923. Fax 509-548-7923.

Manson Community Library, Wapato Way & Manson Blvd., Box I, Manson, WA 98831-0400. Phone 509-687-3420. Fax 509-687-3420.

Peshastin Community Library, 8396 Main St. Box 408, Peshastin, WA 98847-0408. Phone 509-548-7821. Fax 509-548-7821.
Libraries - Special:
Chelan County Law Library, County Courthouse, 401 Washington St, Wenatchee, WA 98801. Phone 509-664-5213.

Chelan Family History Center, 195 Highway 150, Chelan, WA. Phone 509-682-5714.


Museums and Historical Sites:
Chelan County Historical Museum & Pioneer Village, 600 Cottage, PO Box 22, Cashmere, WA 98815. Phone 509-782-3230. Fax 509-782-8905. Noted for the Willis Carey collection of Indian artifacts and pioneer relics. The Pioneer Village has many original pioneer buildings.


Rocky Reach Dam, Chelan Hwy 97, PO Box 1231, Wenatchee, WA 98807-1231. Phone 509-663-8121. Fax 509-664-2874. Collection emphasizes archaeology, geology, and history of area and electricity museum. Collections of photographs and negatives from local companies, individuals, and educational institutions. Portrait collection of Nez Perce Indians.

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

ATLASES, GAZETTEERS, MAPS - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

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- Fire Insurance maps and photographs, 1936
- Metsker Maps, 1931-1959 (used for school district formation and boundary records)
- Plat maps, central Washington, 1854-1950
- School District boundary maps, 1936-1943

Chelan County Auditor's office
- Town plat maps, dates unknown

Washington State University, Holland Library, Manuscripts, Archives and Special Collections
- Map showing the general route of the branch line of the Northern Pacific Railroad from Lake Pend Oreille across the Cascade Mountains to Puget Sound 1873 route: West to Wenatchee, up Wenatchee River, across to Sank River, South to Tacoma via East Side of Lake Washington. Office of the Chief of Engineers.

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- Bible Records, compiled from local Society members as well as gleaned from other publications

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Inventory of the county archives of Washington, no. 4, Chelan County (Wenatchee). Prepared by the Washington Historical Records Survey Division of Community Service Programs, Work Projects Administration, 1942


BIOGRAPHIES / DIARIES - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

North Central Washington Museum
- Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing, 1912-1965 (Business & educational files, 17 scrapbooks)
- Wenatchee Chiefs (baseball team), 1938-1941 Scrapbook

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- Greene, Bernice Gellatly. Papers, 1911-1974
- Martin, Mary Hetty Bonar. Papers, 1863-1918
- Victor, Henry. Journal of Henry Victor concerning a trip taken from Pomeroy to Lake Chelan and back: 1883

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*The Watson family legacy: 100 years on Lake Chelan*.  Watsosn's Haverene Resort, 1996.


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Central Branch Archives
- Birth returns, 1900-1907
- Delayed birth certificate applications and orders, 1943
- Register of births, 1900-1905

Chelan County Auditor's office
- Record of births, 1900-1907

Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society Library
- Register of births (with index), 1900-1905.  Photocopies of records from Chelan County Auditor's office.

**BIRTHS - Published sources**

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

Central Branch Archives
- Business name certificates, 1927-1946

North Central Washington Museum
- Apple Blossom Festival: eleven scrapbooks, 1920-1979
- Miller-Freer Trading Post Records: account books of the early Wenatchee Valley store
Wenatchee Produce Co. Ledgers

Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society Library

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Central Branch Archives
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Chelan County Auditor's office
Cemetery deeds, dates unknown
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Chelan Valley Genealogical Society
Riverview Cemetery, Chelan: In progress work by Chelan Valley Genealogical Society.

Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society Library
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Okanogan telephone directory: Chelan & Douglas counties, September 1940.


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  History of the Wenatchee Rotary Club, 1921-1955
  Heritage Society of the Mid-Columbia. The firsts in Wenatchee Valley history. 1976
  Chelan county geographical names now and then, 1974

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  Pictorial past scrapbooks: 1972-1992 approximately
  History of Chelan County [file folder]
  History of Riverside Lodge (Masonic Lodge), 1900-1940
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Moltke, Alfred William. *"For God and country": a condensed 50-year history, American Legion, Peshastin Post No. 83.* n.p., 1978.


**COURT RECORDS - Personal, governmental, or organizational records**

Central Branch Archives

- Civil child support case files, 1965-1968
- Criminal Justice Court dockets, Leavenworth, 1908-1944
- District Court civil dockets, 1904-1938
- District Court criminal dockets, 1904-1939
- Police blotter, Leavenworth, 1949-1964
- Superior Court appearance dockets, 1900-1954
- Superior Court civil and criminal journals, 1900-1956
- Superior Court civil case files, 1900-1979
- Superior Court Clerk's general index 1900-1973
- Superior Court courtroom journals, 1909-1966
- Superior Court criminal case files, 1902-1977
- Superior Court criminal dockets, 1909
- Superior Court execution dockets, 1931-1965
- Superior Court judgement index, dates unknown
- Superior Court minute book and index, 1900-1909
- Superior Court miscellaneous court files, 1888-1923
- Superior Court motion dockets, 1903-1931
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Supreme Court case file briefs, Central Washington, 1907-1913 (principally regarding water rights)

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Register of teacher certificates, 1900-1907
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School District boundary maps, 1936-1943
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Teacher retirement fund record, 1923-1932
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- *Wenatchee High School class of 1918 60-year reunion, June 15, 1978*
- *Tabosa,* Manson High School annual, 1948, 1952-1957
- *Wa Wa,* Wenatchee High School annual, 1937-1938, 1940
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  - Voter registrations, 1912-1936

- Chelan County Auditor's office
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  - Elected official register, 1900-present
  - Election results, dates unknown
  - Oaths of office, dates unknown
  - Poll books, 1992-present
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  Building permits, Entiat, 1949-1981
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  Relocation project files, Entiat, 1959-1960 (Relocation of town before construction of Rocky Reach Dam)

Chelan County Auditor's office
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  Clerk's index to marriages, 1900-1907

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- Facts for declarations of intention, 1924-1925
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- Naturalization certificate stubs, 1916-1921
- Naturalization correspondence file, 1907-1915
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- Naturalization record, 1900-1906
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- Probate record of petitions, 1911-1915
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- Transcribed probate proceedings, 1883-1899 (Records of proceedings of probate cases transcribed from Kittitas County files for portions of Chelan County that were once part of Kittitas)

Chelan County Clerk's office
- Probate case files, 1900-present

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Central Branch Archives
- Application for foreclosure of tax lien, 1923-1966
- Certificate for tax delinquency record, 1923-1961
- Irrigation assessment rolls, 1915-1980
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  Assessment rolls, early 1920's - present
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  Application for foreclosure of tax lien, 1923-1966
  Certificate for tax delinquency record, 1923-1961

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