Douglas County was created in 1883 and was once part of Lincoln County. It was named after Stephen A. Douglas. Situated in the north central portion of the state, it is bounded on the east by the spectacular Grand Coulee. Groups of settlers first entered the county in 1871 and by 1883 the lure of plentiful land for cattle raising brought ranchers into the county. The late 1880s were punctuated by range wars between cattlemen and sheep raisers. The disastrous winter of 1889-90 decimated the cattle herds and brought about a shift in the economy to grain raising. Today agriculture still remains the county's main economic activity. Wheat and barley are primary crops with fruit production rapidly growing in importance.

**Bounded by:** Okanogan County (N), Chelan County (W), Lincoln County (E), and Grant County (S).

**County Seat:** Okanogan (1883-1886), Waterville (1886-present)

**Chambers of Commerce:**
- Bridgeport Area Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 395, Bridgeport, WA 98813-0395. Phone 509-686-4101.
- Waterville Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 628, Waterville, WA 98858. Phone 509-745-8871.
- Winthrop Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 39, Winthrop, WA 98862. Phone 509-966-2125.

**Courthouse:** 213 S Rainier, Waterville, WA 98858. Courthouse hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm

**Assessor:** Room 22, PO Box 387. Phone 509-745-8521 or 509-884-9440. Fax 509-884-9401. *Find out who currently owns the property you are interested in or bring a legal description.*

**Auditor:** Room 23-24, PO Box 456. Phone 509-745-8527 or 509-884-9400. Fax 509-884-9468. *All recording records within the last 24 years have been put onto microfiche, computer files, or both.*

**Clerk:** Room 33, PO Box 516. Phone 509-745-8529 or 509-884-9424. Fax 509-745-8027.

**Treasurer:** Room 25, PO Box 609. Phone 509-745-8525 or 509-884-9429. Fax 509-884-9416.

**Genealogical Society:**
- Douglas County Genealogical Society, c/o Waterville Public Library, Box 580, Waterville, WA 98858-0580. *Inactive recently.*

**Health Department / District:**
- Chelan-Douglas County Health Department, 316 Washington St, Wenatchee, WA 98801. Phone 509-664-5306 Fax 509-664-5478

**Historical Society:**
- Douglas County Historical Society, Box 63, 123 W Walnut, Waterville, WA 98858. *Membership available.*
Libraries - Academic:

Libraries - Public:
North Central Regional Library, 238 Olds Stations Rd, Wenatchee, WA 98801-8103. Phone 509-663-1117. Fax 509-662-8060. The following libraries are part of this system:

Bridgeport Community Library, 1206 Columbia St, Box 22, Bridgeport, WA 98813-0220. Phone 509-686-7281. Fax 509-686-7281.


Libraries - Special:
Coulee Dam Family History Center, 806 Spruce, Coulee Dam, WA. Phone 509-633-1781.

Douglas County Law Library, Douglas County Courthouse, PO Box 516, Waterville, WA 98858. Phone 509-745-8529.

East Wenatchee Family History Center, 667 Tenth NE, East Wenatchee, WA 98001. Phone 509-884-8686.


Museums and Historical Sites:
Colville Tribal Museum, PO Box 233, 512 Mead Way, Coulee Dam, WA 99116. Phone 509-633-0751.


Ft. Spokane Museum, 1008 Crest Drive, Coulee Dam, WA 99116. Fax 509-633-9332.

Wells Dam, PO Box 4A, Pateros, WA 98846. Self-guided tour available at the Visitor’s Center.

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
Central Branch Archives
Plat maps, central Washington, 1854-1950

ATLASES, GAZETTEERS, MAPS - Published sources
Metsker's atlas of Douglas County, Washington. Metsker Maps, [197-?]


Ogle, George A. Standard atlas of Douglas County, Washington, including a plat book of the villages, cities and townships of the county; map of the state, United States and world; patrons directory, reference business directory and departments devoted to general informa ... n.p., 1915.

BIBLES - Personal, governmental, or organizational records
Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society Library
Bible records compiled from local Society members as well as gleaned from other publications.

BIBLES - Published sources

BIBLIOGRAPHIES - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

BIBLIOGRAPHIES - Published sources


BIOGRAPHIES / DIARIES - Personal, governmental, or organizational records
Idaho Historical Society
Guibert, Antoine A. Papers, 1886-1920.

Washington State University, Holland Library, Manuscripts, Archives and Special Collections
Banks, Frank Arthur. Papers, 1913-1957
Harding, Bruce Charles. Papers, 1921-1951

Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society Library

BIOGRAPHIES / DIARIES - Published sources

Burks, Arthur J. *Here are my people*. Funks & Wagnalls Co, 1934.

Corbaley, A. L. *Excerpts from diary for 1885*. n.p., 19??.


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

Central Branch Archives
- Birth returns register, 1891-1907
- Delayed birth certificates, 1941-1943

Central Washington Hospital, 1700 Fuller, Wenatchee, WA 98801
- Birth records: prior to 1970 (copied), 1970-present (original)

Douglas County Auditor's office
- Birth register, 1891-1907
- Birth certificates, 1891-1907

Douglas County Historical Museum
- Birth returns registers, 1889-1901

Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society Library

**BIRTHS - Published sources**

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

Central Branch Archives
- Mohawk Gold and Silver Mining Company. *Papers, 1907-1909.*
- Moses Coulee Water User's Association records, 1914-1917

Washington State University, Holland Library, Manuscripts, Archives and Special Collections
- Douglas County Farmers Union. *Minutes, 1913-1924.*

Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society Library

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

Central Branch Archives

Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society Library
Evergreen Cemetery records (3 drawers), dates unknown.
Evergreen Memorial Park Sexton records, 1929-1977.
Waterville City Cemetery, 1897-1991

CEMETERIES - Published sources

CENSUS - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

Central Branch Archives
Douglas County Census, 1892

North Central Washington Museum, Wenatchee
Residents of Douglas County, Washington 1954

Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society Library
Douglas County Census, 1892

CENSUS - Published sources


CHURCHES - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society Library
United Lutheran Church. United Lutheran Church, Waterville: Picture Directory.

CHURCHES - Published sources

CITY / COUNTY DIRECTORIES


Okanogan telephone directory: Chelan and Douglas counties, September 1940. Pacific Telephone and Telegraph, 1940.


R. L. Polk & Co.'s Chelan, Douglas, Grant and Okanogan counties directory. R. L. Polk & Co., 1907-.


Wenatchee and vicinity telephone directory including: Cashmere, East Wenatchee, Entiat, Lake Wenatchee, Leavenworth, Orondo, Peshastin, Waterville, Brewster, Bridgeport, Chelan, George, Mansfield, Manson, Quincy. n.p., various dates.


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

Central Branch Archives
Waterville incorporation file, 1888-1889
Waterville Railway Company records, 1889-1911

Washington State University, Holland Library, Manuscripts, Archives and Special Collections
McElhinney, Alice. The agricultural history of Douglas County: typescript, 1916 June 10

CITY / COUNTY HISTORIES - Published sources


An illustrated history of the Big Bend country: embracing Lincoln, Douglas, Adams, and Franklin counties, state of Washington [a partial every name index of 3x5 cards].


History of Grand Coulee Dam area; from pioneers to power. Grand Coulee Dam Area Community Development Study, 1958.


Lewis, William S. The story of early days in the Big Bend Country : breaking trails, rush of miners, coming of cattlemen, making homes, pioneer hardships in the Big Bend Country, 1876-1941. William S. Lewis, 1926. **other editions available


McGrath, Marjorie Pattie. Mansfield, the town at the end of the rails. Marjorie Pattie McGrath, 19??.

McIntyre, A. A. Last grand roundup. Chief Research, 1988. **other editions available


Thomsen, Pat. Battle to be Big Bend Capital [typescript]. n.p, n.d.


COURT DOCUMENTS - Personal, governmental, or organizational records
Central Branch Archives
Prosecuting attorney information notices, 1894-1898
Supreme Court case file briefs, central Washington, 1907-1913 (principally regarding water rights)
Superior Court Criminal case files, 1894-1968
Superior Court execution docket, 1889-1893

COURT DOCUMENTS - Published sources

DEATHS - Personal, governmental, or organizational records
Central Branch Archives
Coroner's investigation file, 1891-1899
Death returns, 1891-1907
Douglas County Auditor's office
Death returns, 1891-1907
Register of deaths, 1891-1907

Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society Library
Obituaries from Wenatchee World, Chelan County and surrounding area, 1970-1991
Funeral Folders (mostly Chelan and Douglas counties)
Obituaries from Wenatchee World, 2-drawer card file.

DEATHS - Published sources

EARLY DESCRIPTIVE OR PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL
The Big Bend Country: some interesting facts for the homeseeker. Big Bend Land Company, n.d.

EDUCATION - Personal, governmental or organizational records
Central Branch Archives
8th Grade examinations, 1906-1940
Boundary change orders, 1906-1961
Clerk's record book, 1906-1913 (District 60 McIntosh)
Douglas County map, dates unknown (shows original Douglas County)
Listing of school districts, dates unknown
New district formation record, 1906-1963
School census record, 1893-1932
School district boundary record, 1911-1981
School district officials, 1905-1919
Superintendents annual report, 1900-1972 (includes names of clerks)
Teacher certificate record, 1910-1971
Teacher contract record, 1905-1969
Teacher institute, 1905
Term grades and examinations, 1917-1940
The Sagamore, Waterville High School annual, 1908

Douglas County Historical Museum
The Sagamore, Waterville High School annual, 1907-1908
Wventhrow High School annual, 1946

Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society Library
Emo Echo, Eastmont High School annual, 1956-1979
Hi-Lights 48 Reunion booklet, H.B. Ellison Junior High School, 1968
WaWa, Wenatchee High School annual, 1918, 1933, 1937, 1938, 1940

EDUCATION - Published sources


ELECTION / VOTER RECORDS
Douglas County Auditor's office
  Oaths of office, 1980-present
  Declaration of candidacy, 1982-present
  Voter registrations, dates unknown

GENEALOGICAL / HISTORICAL PERIODICALS
  The GOLD historian. [Grant, Okanogan, Lincoln & Douglas counties]. GOLD Historian, 1981-.

LAND / PROPERTY - Personal, governmental or organizational records
Douglas County Assessor's office
  Acreage transfer record, up to 1970
  Assessment record, card file, 1964+
  Assessor's abstract of real property, dates unknown
  Irrigated property record, dates unknown
  Land grade record, 5 volumes, dates unknown (probably 1920's)
  Land book, early dates to 1964 (organized by township, range and refers to Book of Deeds
  Real estate transfers, up to 1970
  Town transfer record, up to 1970
  U.S. Land Office Land entries, 1889, 1906, 1910

Douglas County Auditor's office
  Deed record, 1884-1972
  Final receipts, homestead, 1906-1920
  General index to deeds, 1884-1987
  Index & records, water appropriations, Grant Co., 1906-1913
  Index to attachments, 1888-1914
  Index to chattel lien notices, 1908-1961
  Index to crop liens, 1938-1942
  Lien & attachment record, 1888-1913
  Record and index of leases, contracts and bonds for deeds, March 1906-Dec 1913
  Record of land contract, 1908-1913
  Water right agreements, 1945-1972

Douglas County Treasurer's office
  Foreclosure records, dates unknown
  Index to delinquent taxes, 1890-1896
  Irrigation assessment rolls, 1960-present
  Personal property tax rolls, 1904-1950's
  Property assessment & tax rolls, 1950-present
  Real property tax rolls, 1901-1950's

Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society Library
  Index to Douglas County, Washington deed record, 1885-1893.
  Land and property records of Douglas County, 1888-1894, Grantors A - Bi.
  Some Douglas County homestead claims, 1901-1906
LAND / PROPERTY - Published sources

LICENSURE AND PROFESSIONAL RECORDS

MARRIAGES - Personal, governmental or organizational records
  Douglas County Auditor's office
    Index & register of marriage statistics, 1891-1946
    Index to marriage certificates, 1888-1987
    Marriage affidavits, 1912-present
    Marriage applications, 1908-present
    Marriage certificates, marriage returns, 1888-present
    Marriage index & records, 1887-1947

  Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society Library
    Douglas County marriages, 1887-1892, 1927-1945, 1906-1935

MARRIAGES - Published sources

MILITARY - Personal, governmental or organizational records
  Douglas County Auditor's office
    Adjusted service certificate, Jan 1925
    Discharge records & index, 1944-1972
    Miscellaneous record (includes military discharges) 1885-1972

MILITARY - Published sources

NATURALIZATION - Personal, governmental or organizational records
  Central Branch Archives:
    Citizenship Record, 1891-1906 (indexed)
    Declaration of Intention, 1888-1973
    Declaration of Intention Certificates, 1888-1895
    Memorandum of Naturalization Proceedings, 1906-1916
    Naturalization Certificate Stubs, 1892-1973
    Naturalization Correspondence, 1889-1975
    Notices of Admission to Citizenship, 1907-1915
    Petition for Naturalization, 1906-1931
    Record of Citizenship Petitions, 1930-1973

  Douglas County Clerk's office
    Naturalization record, 1886-1906
    Petition and record, 1906-1931
NATURALIZATION - Published sources


NEWSPAPER INDEXES / SPECIAL EDITIONS


OTHER - Personal, governmental or organizational records
Central Branch Archives:
   Attorneys’ admission and oaths record, 1888-1973
   County officials bond record, 1909-1917
   Record of assumed business names, 1907-1969
   Register of attorneys, 1918-1973

Douglas County Auditor's office
   Brand record, 1885-1935
   Estray record, 1905-1945
   Index to conditional sales, 1903-1967
   Index to power of attorney, 1881-1972
   Lis Pendens, 1895-1913
   Miscellaneous index, 1885-present
   Miscellaneous record (includes military discharges), 1885-1972
   Mining claims, dates unknown
   Record of patents, 1903-1936
   Record of power of attorney, 1881-1972

Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society Library
   Territorial brands, Book A, Douglas County, Washington for horses, cattle, etc.

OTHER - Published sources

PROBATE - Personal, governmental or organizational records
Central Branch Archives
   Record of wills, 1902-1956
   Record of wills deposited, 1901-1956

Douglas County Clerk's office
   Probate case files, 1891-present
   Probate index, 1911-present

PROBATE - Published sources
TAXES - Personal, governmental or organizational records

Central Branch Archives
- Book of levies, 1890-1923
- Delinquent tax records, 1893-1961
- Duplicate assessment roll, 1885
- Foreclosure of tax liens, 1902-1905
- Personal property assessment and tax rolls, 1891-1937
- Real property assessment and tax rolls, 1891-1960
- Register of certificates of delinquency, 1905-1923
- Tax judgement indexes, 1890-1933
- Tax judgement sale records, 1894-1895
- Tax sales and foreclosures, 1891-1910
- Treasurer's ledger, 1883-1901
- Wenatchee Irrigation District assessment rolls, 1921-1950

Douglas County Treasurer's office
- Excise tax affidavits, 1951-1994

Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society Library
- Personal property tax, 1898-1899.
- Property assessment and tax rolls, 1913
- Real estate tax, 1913.
- Real property assessment, book 1, 1905
- Real property tax assessment, 1930
- Real property tax roll, 1919, 1925
- Tax roll, 1899, 1913
- Taxes collected, 1910

TAXES - Published sources