Skamania County was founded in 1854 from Clark County. Its name means "swift water." It is located in the southern part of the state and is bordered on the south by the Columbia River. The county is bisected north and south by the Cascade Mountains and contains Mount St. Helens, the most active volcano in the continental United States. The county is heavily forested and its economy depends primarily on logging and the wood products industry. Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River touches Skamania County and gave impetus to the county's economy. Fishing on the river has also provided a source of income to the county.

NOTE: Skamania county was created March 9, 1854 and was later abolished by the Legislature on January 14, 1865. The county was divided into Clark and Klickitat counties. One year later, January 31, 1867, the abolition was revoked and Skamania County was re-established.

Bounded by: Lewis County (N), Yakima and Klickitat counties (E), Oregon (S), and Clark and Cowlitz counties (W).

County Seat: Cascades or Lower Cascades (1854-1893), Stevenson (1893-present)

Chamber(s) of Commerce:

Skamania County Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center, 2nd St & SR 14, PO Box 1037, Stevenson, WA 98648. Phone 509-427-8911. Fax 509-427-5122.

Courthouse: 240 NW Vancouver St, PO Box 790, Stevenson, WA 98648-0790. Courthouse hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm.

Assessor: Phone 509-427-9400. Fax 509-427-4165. Need to know legal description of property or parcel number - no name index available.


Clerk: Phone 509-427-9431. Fax 509-427-7386.

Treasurer: Phone 509-427-9410. Fax 509-427-4165. Need name or parcel number or be able to locate property on a map for office to be able to assist. Call ahead to schedule assistance if the research project is large.

Genealogical Society:

Health Department / District:

Historical Society:

Skamania County Historical Society, PO Box 396, Stevenson, WA 98648. Membership available. Operates the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center. Their special collections include some vital, census and tax records, a photography collection, and an oral history collection.

Libraries - Academic:

Libraries - Public:

Fort Vancouver Regional Library, 1007 E Mill Plain Blvd, Vancouver (Clark County), WA 98663-3599. The following libraries are part of this system:

North Bonneville Community Library, M-17 Cascade Dr, PO Box 99, North Bonneville, WA 98639. Phone 509-427-4439.

Stevenson Community Library, 120 NW Vancouver Ave, PO Box 818, Stevenson, WA 98648. Phone 509-427-5471. Fax 509-427-4830.

Libraries - Special:

Skamania County Law Library, County Courthouse, Stevenson, WA 98648. Phone 509-427-9405.

Museums and Historical Sites:

Bonneville Lock & Dam Visitor Center, SR 14, Stevenson, WA 98648. In addition to the Dam Visitor's Center, nearby is Fort Cascades National Historic Site. A walking tour visits the sites of early Skamania and Columbia Gorge history.

Columbia George Interpretive Center, 990 SW Rock Creek Dr, PO Box 396, Stevenson, WA 98648. Phone 509-427-8211. The mission of the Center is to preserve, conserve, exhibit and interpret the cultural and natural history of the Columbia River Gorge.

State Archive Branch:

Southwest Region (Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Skamania, Thurston and Wahkiakum counties). 1120 Washington St. SE, PO Box 40238, Olympia, WA 98504-0238. Phone 360-753-1684. Fax 360-664-8814. 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
ATLASES, GAZETTEERS, MAPS - Published sources


BIBLES - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

BIBLES - Published sources

BIBLIOGRAPHIES - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

BIBLIOGRAPHIES - Published sources

BIOGRAPHIES / DIARIES - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

BIOGRAPHIES / DIARIES - Published sources


BIRTHS - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

BIRTHS - Published sources


Skamania County records of births, marriages, early wills, probate administrations, deeds and miscellaneous records to 1892, and cemeteries of Skamania County. Skamania County,Wash., 1966.

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

BUSINESSES & COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS - Published sources

CEMETERIES - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

CEMETERIES - Published sources


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

**CENSUS** - Published sources


_____. *Territorial auditors census, Skamania County, Washington Territory*. Daphne M. Ramsay, 1975?.


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

**CHURCHES** - Published sources


**CITY / COUNTY DIRECTORIES**

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

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*History of Skamania County*. History Committee, Skamania County Community Development Program, 1958.

Skamania County (Wash.). Public Utility District No. 1. *You're invited to Skamania County*. n.p., 1951.


COURT DOCUMENTS - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

Skamania County Clerk's office
Civil and Criminal court records, 1854-present

COURT DOCUMENTS - Published Sources

DEATHS - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

Skamania County Coroner's office
Death certificates, 1967-present

DEATHS - Published sources


EARLY DESCRIPTIVE OR PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL

EDUCATION - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

Skamania County Auditor's office
Record of eighth grade exams, 2 volumes, dates unknown

EDUCATION - Published sources


ELECTION / VOTER RECORDS

GENEALOGICAL / HISTORICAL PERIODICALS

*Skamania County heritage*. Skamania County Historical Society, 1972-.
LAND / PROPERTY - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

Skamania County Auditor's office
  Government Land Office records, 1855-present
  Real property records, 1854-present

LAND / PROPERTY - Published sources

Ramsay, Daphne Hon. *Marriage records, probate records and index to deeds and miscellaneous records of Skamania County, Washington*. D. Ramsay, 197-?

LICENSURE AND PROFESSIONAL RECORDS

MARRIAGE - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

Skamania County Auditor's office
  Marriage records, 1874-present

MARRIAGE - Published sources

Ramsay, Daphne Hon. *Index to Skamania County marriages, 1854 to January 1, 1931, including an abstract of marriage register from January 1, 1893 to May 10, 1917*. n.p., 197-?

_______. *Marriage records, probate records and index to deeds and miscellaneous records of Skamania County, Washington*. D. Ramsay, 197-?


*Skamania County records of births, marriages, early wills, probate administrations, deeds and miscellaneous records to 1892, and cemeteries of Skamania County*. Skamania County, Wash., 1966.

MILITARY - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

Skamania County Auditor's office
  Military discharges, 1945-present (prior to this, in the General Index)

MILITARY - Published sources

NATURALIZATION - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

Southwest Branch Archives
  *Certificates of Naturalization, 1896-1929*
  *Declarations of Intention (with Applications), 1893-1973*
  *Petitions for Naturalization, 1907-1974*

NATURALIZATION - Published sources
NEWSPAPER INDEXES / SPECIAL EDITIONS


OTHER - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

Skamania County Auditor's office
   Index to mining locations and claims, 1900-present

OTHER - Published sources

PROBATE - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

PROBATE - Published sources

Ramsay, Daphne Hon. Marriage records, probate records and index to deeds and miscellaneous records of Skamania County, Washington. D. Ramsay, 197-?.

Skamania County records of births, marriages, early wills, probate administrations, deeds and miscellaneous records to 1892, and cemeteries of Skamania County. Skamania County, Wash., 1966.

TAXES - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

TAXES - Published sources

Central Branch Archives
   Territorial Assessment Rolls, 1857-1862 (microfilm): Territorial counties in existence prior to 1862 - Chehalis, Clallam, Clark, Island, King-Kitsap, Jefferson, Lewis, Pierce, Sawamish, Skamania, Thurston, and Wahkiakum.

Skamania County Treasurer's office
   Real and personal property tax rolls, 1980-present
   Real estate excise tax records, 1951-present
   Tax foreclosure records, 1930?-present