Stevens County was formed in 1863, and at that time it comprised almost all of Eastern Washington including the area east of the Cascade Mountains, northern Idaho and part of Montana. It has had numerous county seats over the years. It now covers 2,481.2 square miles and has a population in excess of 30,000. The discovery of numerous minerals caused this area to grow. When the area was opened to homesteading, it became a more stable and permanent population. Today, timber and tourist traffic are the main bases for the economy.

The present Ferry and Pend Oreille counties were the last to break off from Stevens - in 1889 and 1911 respectively. For that reason, the researcher may find some early records for those counties in Stevens.

**Bounded by:** British Columbia, Canada (N), Pend Oreille County (E), Spokane and Lincoln counties (S), and Ferry County (W).

**County Seat:** Colville (originally founded as Pinkney City and sometimes spelled as Colvile).

**Chambers of Commerce:**

Chewelah Chamber of Commerce, 204-A E King St, PO Box 94, Chewelah, WA 99109. Phone 509-935-8991. Fax 509-935-8595. Website: [www.chewelah.org](http://www.chewelah.org)

Colville Chamber of Commerce, 121 E. Astor Ave., P.O. Box 267, Colville, WA 99114. Phone 509-684-5973. Fax 509-684-1344. Website: [www.colville.com](http://www.colville.com). E-mail colvillecoc@plib.com

Kettle Falls Chamber of Commerce, 265 W 3rd St, PO Box 119, Kettle Falls, WA 99141. Phone 509-738-2300. Website: [www.kettlefalls.com](http://www.kettlefalls.com)

Springdale Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 275, Springdale, WA 99173. Phone 509-258-7174 or 877-528-7174

**Courthouse:** 215 S. Oak, Colville, WA 99114. Courthouse hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 3:30pm. Information line 509-684-7512.

**Assessor:** Room 101. Phone 509-684-6161. Fax 509-684-8310.

**Auditor:** Room 106. Phone 509-684-7510. Fax 509-684-8310. *Records include military discharges, County commissioner’s minutes, homesteads, land records, mining transactions, etc. Copies, certified copies $3.00 1st page, $1.00 thereafter. Photo copies $1.00. Record search, $8.00 per hour, $4.00 minimum. (Note: some records have been moved to the Regional Archives at Cheney including marriages, early military discharges, early birth & death register)*

**Clerk:** Room 206. Phone 509-684-7575. Fax 509-684-8310. *Records include divorce, naturalization and court cases.*
**Treasurer:** Room 103. Phone 509-684-2593. Fax 509-684-8310.

**Genealogical Society:**

Northeast Washington Genealogical Society, c/o Colville Public Library, 195 S Oak, Colville, WA 99114. Website: [http://www.newgs.org](http://www.newgs.org). E-mail info@newgs.org. Membership available. *NeWGS holdings are located in the Colville Public Library.*

**Health Department:** Tri-County Health District, 240 E. Dominion Ave., Colville, WA 99114. Fax 509-684-5048.

**Historical Society:**

Stevens County Historical Society, Inc., 700 N Wynne St, P.O. Box 25, Colville, WA 99114. Phone 509-684-5968. Website: [www.stevenscountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.stevenscountyhistoricalsociety.org). E-mail: schs@ultraplix.com. Membership available. *Maintains the Keller House & Stevens County Museum*

**Libraries - Academic:**

**Libraries - Public:**

Chewelah Public Library, 301 E Clay, PO Box 87, Chewelah, WA 99109. Phone 509-935-6805. Fax 509-935-4564. E-mail chewlibrary@plix.com.

Colville Public Library, 195 S Oak, Colville, WA 99114. Phone 509-684-6620. Fax 509-684-3911. E-mail: colville.library@plix.com. *Has Colville Examiner 1907-1947 on microfilm as well as large collection of local histories and genealogy collection donated by the Northeast Washington Genealogical Society.*

Kettle Falls Public Library, 605 Meyers St., PO Box 478, Kettle Falls, WA 99141. Phone 509-738-6817. Fax 509-738-2787. E-mail jnullet@kettlefalls.lib.wa.us. *Has sizeable collection of Stevens County newspapers on microfilm*

Stevens County Rural Library District, 4000 Cedar St, P.O. Box 744, Loon Lake, WA 99148. Phone 1-509-233-9621. E-mail askus@scrld.org. *The following are branches of this library system:*

- Hunters Community Library, 6209 Columbia River Rd, Hunters, WA. Phone 877-251-3300.
- Library of the Lakes, 4008 Cedar, PO Box 476, Loon Lake, WA. Phone 509-233-3016.
- Northport Library Station, 406 10th St (Northport School) Northport, WA 99157. Phone 877-838-1025.
Libraries - Special:

Colville Family History Center, 260 E Juniper, Colville, WA 99114. Phone: 509-685-0207. Hours Tuesday 10 am – 9 pm, Wednesday 1 pm – 9 pm, Thursday 10 am – 6 pm. Special holdings include Jesuit records of the Pacific Northwest Tribes for St. Ignatius Mission, St. Paul’s Mission and St. Francis Regis Mission on microfilm on indefinite loan.

Stevens County Historical Society Research Center, 700 N Wynne St, PO Box 25, Colville, WA 99114. Phone 509-684-5968. Extensive collection of local history reference material, including family histories and county newspapers; research staff available for assistance.

Stevens County Law Library, 215 S Oak St, Room 209, Colville, WA 99114-2861. Phone 509-684-7520.

Museums and Historical Sites:

Chewelah Museum, 501 Third St E, PO Box 271, Chewelah, WA 99109. Phone 509-935-6091. Website: www.chewelahmuseum.org/


Keller Heritage Center, 700 N Wynne St, PO Box 25, Colville, WA 99114. Phone 509-684-5968. Website: www.stevenscountyhistoricalsociety.org Open May – September.

Kettle Falls Historical Interpretive Center, P.O. Box 498, Kettle Falls, WA 99141. This Center is on the site of the St. Paul’s Mission, which is maintained by the National Park Service. Open May 15-Sep 15, 11 am-5 pm.

Loon Lake Old Schoolhouse Museum, 4039 Hwy 395 So, P.O. Box 26, Loon Lake, WA 99148. Phone: 509-233-2296.

Meyers Falls Interpretive Center. Located at the falls – contact Kettle Falls City Hall, 415 Larch St, Kettle Falls, WA 99141. Phone: 509-738-6821.


Stevens County Historical Society Museum, 700 N Wynne St, PO Box 25, Colville, WA 99114. Phone 509-684-5968. Website: www.stevenscountyhistoricalsociety.org
State Archives Branch:

Eastern Region (Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla and Whitman counties). Mailing address: Washington State Archives, Eastern Washington regional Archives, 960 Washington St, Cheney, WA 99004. Phone 509-235-7508. Fax 509-235.7505 E-mail era@secstate.wa.gov. Research Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

SELECTIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

Stevens County Historical Society
Two early County Engineer’s county maps
Undated early partly platted lower British Columbia, Columbia River
1810-1871 coast to coast territory covered by Artist Paul Kane for Hudson Bay.
1863 state map showing which areas have been surveyed.
1863 county map shows place names
1870 Colville and north
1870-1883 Colville area, shows cemeteries, etc.
1887 Survey of military Fort Colville
1890 two sections of Meyers Falls
1903 Colville area, shows cemeteries, etc.
1910 railroad map. Stevens and Bonner County, Idaho
1911 section map
1952 county topography map
1963 Metsker's book of maps
Original Stevens County plat maps (complete collection)
Colville region topography
Old city map
City of Colville
Map of Kettle Falls
Sanborn Insurance Maps (shows buildings)
State Highway Map

ATLASES, GAZETTEERS, MAPS - Published sources


Index to maps in the custody of the Washington State Archives. Office of the Secretary of State, Division of Archives & Records Management, 1996.


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Goodman, Walt. *Scrapbooks.*

Parke, Margot. *Pioneers and History of the Little Pend Oreille Lakes.*

Numerous Oral Histories including:


Schmidt, Frank B. *Scrapbook.* Unpublished family history books:

Washington State University, Holland Library, Manuscripts, Archives & Special Collections

Lemay, Nels. *Narrative by Nels Lemay, Colville, Wash. : manuscript.* n.d.
Oppenheimer, Marcus. *Papers, 1859-1897*
Webster, John McAdam. *Papers, 1869-1938.*

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Northport pioneers : echoes of the past from the upper Columbia country. The Over Forty Club, 1981.

*Pioneers of the Columbia.* Greenwood Park Grange, 1998

*Tales of the pioneers.* Colville Mothers' Club, 1972. **other editions available**

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Eastern Washington Archives, Cheney
Stevens County births 1890-1907

BIRTHS - Published sources


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Account book, 1910. Barman's, Inc. 1 v. RID:wln87-165187

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Jacob Meyers’ Deposition concerning Meyers Falls Dam, power and mills
Post Office File
Quimby Dairy (Hunters 1933). Receipts.
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Old Dominion and Milling Co., of Stevens County, State of Washington; owning and operating the most extensive and valuable group of (53) silver properties ever offered to the investment public, including the famous "Old Dominion" and "Ella" mine. ... Rogers & Wells, 189-?.

Poole, Allan A. The Deer Trail Mine, Stevens County, Washington. Poole, Allan A. 1939.
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Stevens County Federal Census on microfilm and/or CD: 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930.

Stevens County Territorial Census on microfilm: 1871, 1878, 1887, 1892

Stevens County Historical Society
Stevens County Territorial Census for 1860, 1871, 1878, 1885, 1887, 1892.

CENSUS - Published sources


CHURCHES - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

Stevens County Historical Society
Sixtieth Anniversary of the Colville Christian Church, October 15, 1967 Various membership lists

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Immaculate Conception Church: 100 Years Colville Valley. The Statesman-Examiner, 1962

Riley, Elizabeth F. *Still strong beats the heart: a centennial commemoration of St. Mary of the Rosary and a history of the Catholic Church missions in the Colville Valley*. E.F. Riley, 1985.


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*R.L. Polk & Co.’s Stevens, Pend Oreille and Ferry counties directory, 1913-14 (Vol. III).* R.L. Polk & Co., 1913


*Spokane, Ferry and Stevens counties telephone directory.* Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, 1905-1908.

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Fleming, E. V., Mrs. *History of Springdale: typescript, 1937 June 1.*

Gibson, Edward. *Letter, 1937 January 18, Colville, to E.O. Holland, Pullman*

Halm, Joseph B. *Early history of northern Washington*: typescript, 1909?.


Playfair, Deborah F. *Life on the farm: women in Stevens County (WA), 1900-1945*.


Sampson, Grace. *Price’s Valley (Fruitland)*. (available at the Stevens County Historical Society).


**CITY / COUNTY HISTORIES - Published sources**


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Chance, David H. *People of the falls*. Kettle Falls Historical Center, 1986.


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Raufer, Sister Maria Ilma, O.P. *Black Robes and Indians*. Statesman-Examiner, 1966


Tomsha, Louis. For Whom the Bell Has T olled: Valley. n.p., 1990.


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   Frontier justice; guide to the court records of Washington Territory, 1853-1889. Secretary of State, Division of Archives and Record Management, 1996.

Spokane Public Library Genealogical Vertical File
   Justice's Docket. Stevens County, 1898-99. 11 pages

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   Stevens County obit scrapbooks from 1987

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Some pertinent facts and information concerning Stevens County, Washington, for the homeseeker and the investor. n.p., 1908?.


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Stevens County Historical Society
   Colville High School annuals from 1912, plus some Jr. High
   Kettle Falls High School annuals
   Pleasant Valley school records and minutes of Board
   Many pictures of rural and town schools
   Numerous lists of teachers and students

EDUCATION - Published sources


ELECTION / VOTER RECORDS

GENEALOGICAL / HISTORICAL PERIODICALS

Pioneer Branches. Northeast Washington Genealogical Society

LAND / PROPERTY - Personal, governmental, or organizational records
Bureau of Land Management, 1103 N. Fancher, Spokane, WA 99212-1274. Phone 509-536-1200. Records include early land surveys, homestead records, etc.

Stevens County Courthouse
Patent books; land and mining records

Stevens County Historical Society
List of chattel mortgages & deeds, 1860-1880 from Pinkney City and Ft. Colville
Drawer of forestry deeds and abstracts

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Stevens County Historical Society
Board of Dental Examiners list 1893—1912
License lists from 1860-1887 for liquor, groceries, ferry, and peddlers

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1892-93 List of those liable for military duty
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Veterans buried in Stevens Co. Cemeteries
WWII Scrapbook of clippings

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Has over 340,000 entries in various databases covering all sorts of local records, including local histories, courthouse records, census records, newspapers, photo collection, military information, cemetery burials, and funeral home records.
Stevens County Historical Society

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Poor Farm lists and information

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OTHER - Published sources

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Original ledgers of personal property tax 1898-1935

Original ledgers of real estate 1926—1953

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