

Columbia County, Oregon Government

County Clerk

Columbia County Courthouse
230 Strand Street, St. Helens, OR 97051 503-397-3796
co.columbia.or.us/departments/clerk/county-clerk-home
Clerk's Office has Marriage Licenses, Vital Records, Probate? Adoptions? The County Clerk's Office uses a private company to order Vital Records (birth, marriage, death, divorce) from state departments. You may order online.

County Assessor

Columbia County Courthouse, 230 Strand St., St. Helens, OR. 97051 503-397-2240. This office has Tax Records.

Columbia County, Oregon Resources

Caples House Museum

capleshouse.com/

Clatskanie Historical Museum

cityofclatskanie.com/aboutclatskanie/museum.html

Columbia County Museum Association

Historic Court House Museum - St. Helens

Columbia County Courthouse, 244 Strand St.
St. Helens, OR 97051 503-397-3868
colcomuseum.org/home

Pioneer Museum - Vernonia

511 E. Bridge St., Vernonia, OR, 503-429-3713
colcomuseum.org/home

Cowlitz Indian Tribe

1055 9th Ave. Suite B, Longview, WA 98632;
360-577-8140 www.cowlitz.org/
Enrollment info is in online newsletters.

Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO)

B-2505 SE 11th Ave #18, Portland, OR 97202
503-963-1932 www.gfo.org

The GFO library has several Columbia County, Oregon histories and censuses along with the vital records. See their card catalog and publications for sale.

Lower Columbia Genealogical Society (LCGS)

The Genealogy Room at Longview Public Library

PO Box 472, Longview, WA 98632; lcgsgen@yahoo.com
www.rootsweb.com/~walcolgs. The collection has a few books of Columbia County, Oregon, Probate, Marriage and Cemetery Records and some Oregon Territory censuses.

Genealogy Research Help is available 1-3 p.m. each Wed. in The Genealogy Room at Longview Public Library.

Research Help by Mail or Email \$10/hr. Info:
www.rootsweb.com/~walcolgs, Attn: Queries Chair.

Longview Public Library (LPL)

1600 Louisiana St.; Longview, WA 98632; 360-442-5300
longviewlibrary.org. **The Genealogy Room** has 3300 genealogy books. **An Obituary Index** to local newspapers is online at longviewlibrary.org/genealogy/index.php

LDS Family History Centers (FHC)

Longview, WA

1721 30th Ave., Longview, WA 98632; 360-577-8234

St. Helens, OR

2755 Sykes Rd., St. Helens, OR 97051; 503-397-0682
Email: or_sthelens@ldsmail.net. **The permanent collection at this Family History Center has all of the historical Columbia County records that have been microfilmed.**

Read microfilm from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and access Ancestry, Fold3, Find My Past, etc., free at Family History Centers.

The card catalog is available online. Search: "United States, Oregon, Columbia" also, add the city name.
familysearch.org/locations and familysearch.org

Rainier, Oregon Internet Historical Museum

geocities.ws/clarkmikew/

Vernonia Pioneer Museum

vernonia-or.gov/Recreation/Museum.asp

Columbia County, Oregon Libraries

Note: Our county libraries have *Columbia County Cemetery Records*, the 23-volume *Columbia County History* booklets done in the 1960-1980s and information about their local area. Check each library's online card catalog.

Clatskanie City Library

1 Library Access Rd., Clatskanie, OR 97016
503-728-3732 clatskanielibrary.org/

Columbia City Library

205 1st St., Columbia City, OR 97018. 503-366-8020
Email: ccclibrary@live.com.
columbia-city.org/menupages/departments/library.html

Rainier City Library

106 W. B St., Rainier, OR 97048
503-556-7301. cityofrainier.com/?view=library

Scappoose City Library

52469 SE 2nd St., Scappoose, OR
Email: scappl@scappooselibrary.org
503-543-7123 scappooselibrary.org/

St. Helens City Library

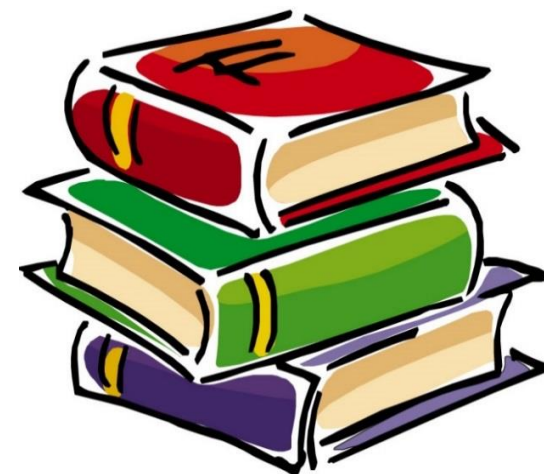
375 S. 18th St. Helens, OR 97051 503-397-4944
ci.st-helens.or.us/library/ Email: shpl@ci.st-helens.or.us

Vernonia City Library

1001 Bridge St., Vernonia, OR 503-429- 1818
vernonia-or.gov/Resources/Library.asp

Columbia County, Oregon Ancestors

Where to Find Them



Lower Columbia Genealogical Society 2016
www.rootsweb.com/~walcolgs

Columbia County, Oregon Books

Columbia County History. 22 booklets by the Columbia County Historical Society written in the 1960s-1980s about early settlers. Indexed in a separate booklet. County libraries have these books. For sale at the Courthouse Museum. Index online at colcomuseum.org/research.

Columbia County, Oregon, Cemetery Records. /ed. Whipple & Mayfield, Portland, OR: GFO, 1996. At county libraries and LPL. For sale from GFO. Index online at Columbia County Gen Web.

Columbia County, Oregon, Marriage Records, 1855-1900. / ed. Eileen Chamberlin & Emily Reding, abstracted by Aileen Viles. Portland, OR: GFO, 1994. At LPL. For sale from GFO.

Columbia County, Oregon, Mortuary Records Index, 1929-1990 Compiled from the records at Columbia Funeral Home, by Noel J. & Barbara Bennett Thompson, Warren, OR: authors, 1992. At county libraries & online at Columbia County Gen Web.

Columbia County, Oregon, Probate Records, 1856-1900. / by Aileen Viles. Portland, OR: GFO, 1985. At LPL and GFO.

Genealogical Material in Oregon Donation Land Claims: abstracted from applications / by GFO. Portland, OR: GFO, 1957. At LPL & GFO. For sale from GFO.

Genealogical Material in Oregon Provisional Land Claims, vols. 1-8. / by Lottie LeGett Gurley. Portland, OR: GFO, 1982. For sale from GFO.

History, Columbia County, Oregon, publication of The Columbia County Museum Association, 2012-2016. For sale at the Courthouse Museum. Contents on web page.

Index to Oregon Donation Land Claims, / by GFO. Portland, OR: GFO, 1956. At LPL & GFO. For sale from GFO.

School Yearbooks

Yearbooks from local schools are usually available at local libraries, historical societies, or in the school libraries.

U.S. Census of Oregon Territory 1850, Washington Territory 1860 / compiled by Mildred E. Porter; indexed by Jo Landers. Vancouver, WA: Clark Co., Gen. Soc. 1982. At LPL.

Columbia County, Oregon Newspapers

Newspapers - Historical & Current

The Chronicle Sentinel-Mist (1881-present), St. Helens area.

The Clatskanie Chief (1891-present), Clatskanie area.

The Daily News (1921-present), Longview, Washington.

The Oregon Mist (1890s?), St. Helens area.

The Oregonian, Portland and south Columbia County.

The Nehalem Journal (1889-1894), Nehalem Valley area.

The Rainier Advance (1906), Rainier area.

The Rainier Review (1905-1968) Paper & index online.

The Spotlight (1961-present), Scappoose area.

The Vernonia Eagle (1922-1968), Vernonia area.

The Vernonia Independent (1986-present), Vernonia area.

The Weekly Sentinel (1890s), Pittsburg area.

Columbia County Resources Online

Columbia County, Oregon, Deeds & Indexes Inventory
arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/records/local/county/columbia/inv/deed.html

Columbia County, Oregon, Gen-Web Project
oregongenealogy.com/columbia/index.html

Columbia County, Oregon, Historical Records Guide
arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/records/local/county/columbia/inv/index.html

Columbia County, Oregon, Marriages, 1855-1897, by Harriet Gaylord. <https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/54306?availability=Family%20History%20Library>

Donation Land Claims—Oregon—Bureau of Land Management
gfo.org/donation/

Federal Censuses for Columbia County, Oregon
familysearch.org. Click on Search/Browse All Collections/ United States Census. Also ancestry.com (\$) & archive.org.

Find-a-Grave
www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi

Incidents of Nehalem Valley Early Days, by John Banzer.
familysearch.org/search/catalog/2302772

Index to Columbia County History booklets
22 booklets by the Columbia County Historical Society written in the 1960s about early settlers. For sale at the Courthouse Museum. Index by Noel & Barbara Thompson online at colcomuseum.org/research.

Index to Columbia County, Oregon, Cemetery Records book:
oregongenealogy.com/columbia/Cemetery/burial-index.htm

Land Patents - Oregon – Bureau of Land Management
glorerecords.blm.gov/

Mortuary Index to Columbia Funeral Home
oregongenealogy.com/columbia/col-co-funeral-home.html.

Obituary Index for Cowlitz County, Washington
North Columbia County, Oregon, residents who died at hospitals in Longview are listed in Cowlitz County, WA, newspaper death notices and obituaries. Obituaries from all Cowlitz County newspapers have been indexed. Longview Public Library has microfilm of all of the newspapers.
longviewlibrary.org/genealogy/index.php

Obituary Index to The Rainier Review
oregongenealogy.com/columbia/rainier/obit-surnames.html

Newspapers

Chronicling America (many small town papers)
<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

Google News Archive (many small town papers)
<https://news.google.com/newspapers?hl=en>

Oregon Historical Newspapers
oregonnews.uoregon.edu/

Newspapers, Cowlitz County, Washington

Because early Columbia County, Oregon, settlers often moved back and forth across the Columbia River, sometimes they left records in Washington newspapers. *Longview Daily News* (later *The Daily News*), *Kalama Beacon*, *Kelso Courier*, *Kelsonian*, *Kelso Tribune*, and *Lewis River News* are available on microfilm at Longview Public Library. Obituaries from these newspapers are included in the online Obituary Index for Cowlitz County, Washington.

One Hundredth Birthday of Columbia County, by Omar Spencer. familysearch.org/search/catalog/2302788

Oregon, Columbia County, Deed Records, 1854-1965.
familysearch.org/search/catalog/1932485?availability=Family%20History%20Library

Oregon, Columbia County, Naturalization Records
familysearch.org/search/catalog/1932484?availability=Family%20History%20Library and Columbia Co. GenWeb oregongenealogy.com/columbia/index.html

Oregon, Columbia County, Records. 1854-1958. Land. Vital Records & Naturalizations.
familysearch.org/search/catalog/1923992

Oregon State Archives
sos.oregon.gov/archives/Pages/records.aspx

Early Oregonians Database
sos.oregon.gov/archives/Pages/records.aspx

Oregon Historical Records Index
genealogy.state.or.us/

Oregon State Historical Society. Historic digital collection.
ohs.org/research-and-library/whats-available-online.cfm

Oregon State Library. Digital photographs.
oregon.gov/OSL/Pages/index.aspx

Prescott [Brief history of a town in Oregon now a deserted village]. familysearch.org/search/catalog/2302780

Rainier Review newspaper 1905-1979 digitized.
cityofrainier.com/?view=rainier_review

Social Security Death Index
familysearch.org/search/collection/1202535 (1962-2014)
Ancestry.com has 1935 to 2014.

ssa.gov/forms/ssa-711.pdf for ancestor's application

U S Census of Northwest Oregon: 1870 Clatsop, 1870 Columbia, 1870 Washington, 1860 Tillamook, 1870 Tillamook
At family search: dcms.lds.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE2130593

Western States Marriage Index
abish.byui.edu/specialCollections/westernStates/search.cfm

1848	Oregon Territory formed.
1854	Columbia County formed from Washington County
1859	Oregon became a state.