

WAHKIAKUM COUNTY

1854

COUNTY SEAT: CATHLAMET

Named for Chief Wakaiyakum of the Kathlamet people

Traditional home of Kathlamet and Chinook American Indian people

Wahkiakum County lies beneath the rolling Willapa Hills along the lower Columbia River. Its traditional Northwest industries of timber, fishing and farming attracted many European immigrants – especially Scandinavians – during the late 1800s. The broad Columbia River served as this region's main highway well into the 20th century. Historic Wahkiakum County towns, now connected by modern roads, still face the mighty river with their backs turned toward the land.

6-28-02



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*NAMED FOR CHIEF WAKAIYAKUM OF THE KATHLAMET PEOPLE
TRADITIONAL HOME OF KATHLAMET AND LOWER CHINOOK
AMERICAN INDIAN PEOPLE*

WAHKIAKUM COUNTY LIES BENEATH THE ROLLING WILLAPA HILLS ALONG THE LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER. ITS TRADITIONAL NORTHWEST INDUSTRIES OF TIMBER, FISHING AND FARMING ATTRACTED MANY EUROPEAN IMMIGRANTS - ESPECIALLY SCANDINAVIANS - DURING THE LATE 1800S. THE BROAD COLUMBIA RIVER SERVED AS THIS REGION'S MAIN HIGHWAY WELL INTO THE 20TH CENTURY. HISTORIC WAHKIAKUM COUNTY TOWNS, NOW CONNECTED BY MODERN ROADS, STILL FACE THE MIGHTY RIVER WITH THEIR BACKS TURNED TOWARD THE LAND.

12-28-02