



Gateway to
the history
of Shropshire
and Telford

A short guide to civil registration of births, marriages & deaths

- ◇ Civil registration of births, deaths and marriages **began on 1 July 1837** (in England & Wales).
- ◇ Every birth, death and marriage is supposed to be registered by the State.
- ◇ The county is divided into registration districts and sub-districts. A map showing the districts is on top of the microfiche cabinets at Shropshire Archives. Sub-districts may cover several parishes – <https://www.ukbmd.org.uk/reg/sal.html> has more information on registration districts for Shropshire.
- ◇ Births and deaths are reported to a local registrar by individuals. Marriages are notified by the officiating clergyman or attending registrar.
- ◇ You can only get the information about the event by purchasing a **certificate**.
 - ◆ **Shropshire Archives does not hold the Certificates.**
- ◇ You can purchase any certificate from the **General Register Office**: www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/
- ◇ You can also purchase certificates from the **Superintendent Registrar of the relevant district**. The Superintendent Registrars only hold certificates for births, marriages and deaths which occurred in their district.
- ◇ If you apply for a certificate from the Superintendent Registrar, you need to know the full names, date and place (as they have separate indexes for each sub-district).

Shropshire Registration District (excluding Telford and Wrekin)

www.shropshire.gov.uk/births-and-marriages/

Telford and Wrekin Registration District

http://www.telford.gov.uk/info/1004/births_marriages_and_deaths



◆ INDEXES

- ◇ The national **General Register Office (GRO) index** to the certificates is available on microfiche for 1837-1980 at Shropshire Archives and covers all of England and Wales.
- ◇ www.ancestry.com and findmypast.co.uk have searchable indexes. Shropshire Archives has a subscription to the library edition of these sites, so you can search free of charge.
- ◇ Some local indexes to certificates are freely searchable at www.shropshirebmd.info

◆ MISSING ENTRIES

- ◇ If you do not find the information you are looking for this may be for a number of reasons. It was not compulsory to register births until 1875. Many births, particularly of illegitimate children, were not registered in the early days of civil registration. Some children had not been named by the time they were registered - they may be entered in the index as male or female at the end of the surname entries.
- ◇ Saul, P *The family historian's enquire within* (1995) and Camp A.J. in *Family Tree Magazine* March 1999 (pp 9-10) give many other reasons why entries may be missing from the indexes.

Shropshire Archives

Castle Gates, Shrewsbury SY1 2AQ

tel: 0345 678 9096

e-mail: archives@shropshire.gov.uk

web site: www.shropshirearchives.org.uk