

A short guide to pedigrees

- ◇ We hold a large collection of pedigrees (family trees) at Shropshire Archives. This includes printed, manuscript or microfilm copies.
- ◇ Most **propertied Shropshire families** are represented, but relatively few families who did not have a coat of arms (mayors of Shrewsbury are an exception) attracted the attention of the mainly nineteenth century genealogists who drew up these pedigrees.
- ◇ The **most useful** pedigrees were compiled by George Morris, Joseph Morris and William Hardwicke but their work is not infallible. Some families are dealt with more comprehensively than others.
- ◇ The pedigrees researched by George Morris generally include a coloured illustration of the coats of arms of the family.
- ◇ Many of the collections concentrate on extending the pedigrees of families included in the Herald's *Visitation of Shropshire of 1623*. This is an important survey of families entitled to bear arms and it is printed and indexed in two volumes.
- ◇ Most of our pedigrees were drawn up in the **first half of the nineteenth century**, so it is usually necessary to have traced a family back to that period before a pedigree can be much use.
- ◇ To find out if we hold a pedigree for a particular family, you need to either
 - * check the **card index** to the pedigrees in the Search Room
 - * check the list on our web-page
<https://www.shropshirearchives.org.uk/collections/pedigrees/>
- ◇ These are arranged alphabetically by surname. They give the reference to the pedigree and also tells you if it is available on microfilm (references to microfilms will appear as MF or MIC). If a microfilm is available, you must use this, as the original volumes are quite fragile.
- ◇ Microfilms are available in the Reading Room. It is usually advisable to book a microfilm reader in advance.

- ◇ If a particular pedigree is only available in its original format, then you will need one of our Readers' Tickets to see it. We also have a large set of *Burke's Peerages and Landed Gentries*, which can be very useful for researching major families. These are on the open shelves in the Reading Room.

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