



Gateway to  
the history  
of Shropshire  
and Telford

## Short guide to researching legal professionals at Shropshire Archives

Please note that you will need a Reader's Ticket for sources marked Search Room

- ◆ **Trade Directories** (Reading Room)
- ◆ **Oxford and Cambridge University Alumni** (Reading Room)
- ◆ **Shrewsbury School published admission registers** (D35.7 – request from staff)
- ◆ **Newspapers**
  - ◇ Shrewsbury Chronicle 1772-1950 (Reading Room - on microfilm)  
Newspapers are useful for references and photographs of legal professionals. They may also contain local obituaries. There is a name index to the Shrewsbury Chronicle (Reading Room – on microfiche)  
*Ask staff for the list for other Shropshire newspapers and their locations.*
  - ◇ Salopian Journal index cards (request from staff)
- ◆ **Periodicals**
  - ◇ Gentleman's Magazine 1731-1818 (request from staff)  
This periodical is useful for references and obituaries of legal professionals.
- ◆ **Dictionary of National Biography** (Reading Room)  
The Dictionary gives a potted history of some legal professionals' lives, careers, and works.  
*The collection in the Reading Room is an early edition. The current online edition is available through Shropshire Libraries Online Reference Service.*
- ◆ **Dictionaries of the Peerage**  
Many titled and landed gentlemen had a legal education.
  - The Complete Peerage (Reading Room)
  - Burkes Peerage (Reading Room)
  - Burkes Landed Gentry (Reading Room)
- ◆ **Electoral Registers and poll books** (Search Room, Family History Guide, ask staff)  
Many legal professionals were eligible to vote.
- ◆ **Wills**  
See short guide to wills.

◆ **Borough Records**(Search Room)

Legal professionals from Shropshire boroughs were often freemen or burgesses. Lists of borough records are in search room. Lists of Shrewsbury burgesses have been printed (Reading Room, reference D 55.3)

◆ **Personal papers and solicitors' collections** (Search Room)

Search online catalogues and websites:

- ◇ Shropshire Archives online catalogue ([www.shropshirearchives.org.uk](http://www.shropshirearchives.org.uk) )
- ◇ National Register of Archives ([www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) ) – use 'advanced search' and then look for 'record creators'

◆ **Quarter Session records** (Search Room)

Lawyers and attorneys were prone to becoming insolvent debtors. Quarter Session records may contain insolvent debtors' records.

◆ **Further reading**

Brooks, B & Herber, M. *My ancestor was a lawyer* (Society of Genealogists, 2006)  
Contains useful information about lawyers' their societies, institutions and records; published records of lawyers; and records of the courts.

◆ **Useful website and sources of the four main Inns of Court:**

◆ **Lincoln's Inn**

- ◇ Website: [www.lincolnsinn.org.uk](http://www.lincolnsinn.org.uk)
- ◇ *The records of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn: Volume 1: admissions 1420-1799.* (Lincoln's Inn, 1896).
- ◇ *The records of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn: Volume 2: admissions 1800-1893, chapel registers; baptisms 1716-1806, marriages 1695-1852, burials 1695-1852.* (Lincoln's Inn, 1896).

◆ **Middle Temple**

- ◇ Website: [www.middletemple.org.uk](http://www.middletemple.org.uk)
- ◇ Sturgess, H. A. C. *Register of Admissions to the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple (from the Fifteenth Century to 1944)* (Butterworth & Co, 1949).  
Three volumes.

◆ **Inner Temple**

- ◇ Website: <http://www.innertemple.org.uk>
- ◇ Database of admissions: <http://www.innertemplearchives.org.uk/index.asp>

◆ **Gray's Inn**

- ◇ Website: [www.graysinn.org.uk](http://www.graysinn.org.uk)
- ◇ Foster, J. *The register of admissions to Gray's Inn, 1521-1889, together with the register of marriages in Gray's Inn chapel 1695-1754*, (Hansard Publishing Union, 1889)

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