



Gateway to
the history
of Shropshire
and Telford

Short guide to researching the medical profession at Shropshire Archives

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

- ◆ **Trade Directories** (Reading Room)
Directories are useful for finding apothecaries, pharmacists, doctors, physicians, surgeons and nurses. Initially, the medical professionals would appear along with other trades people. Later, in some directories, they were included in a 'medical list'.
- ◆ **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 medical 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 medical professionals.
- ◆ **Dictionary of National Biography** (Reading Room)
The Dictionary gives a potted history of some medical 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'*
- ◆ **Institution records** (Search Room)
Medical practitioners worked in local hospitals and in workhouses. To find where local institution records are kept see useful websites below. Information about institutions can also be found in the local studies library. The Salop Infirmary catalogue is available online: (www.shropshirearchives.org.uk).
Please note, access may be restricted to some documents due to Data Protection Act or by the request of the depositor.
- ◆ **Wills**
See our short guide to wills.

- ◆ **Guild records** (Search Room)
In Shrewsbury, the apothecaries were part of the Mercer's, Ironmongers and Goldsmiths Company. The surgeons were part of the Barbers', Surgeons' and Chandlers' Guild. Some items from the guilds have been edited and printed by W. A Leighton in the *Guilds of Shrewsbury* (Reading Room, reference D36.1). A summary of Guild records is in our *Family History Guide* but do ask staff you need help.
- ◆ **Borough Records** (Search Room)
Some medical 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)
- ◆ **Electoral Registers and poll books** (Search Room)
Some medical professionals were eligible to vote. The *Family History Guide* lists poll books, some indexes are on microfiche. Electoral registers are in the Search Room.
- ◆ **Parish records** (Search Room)
Licences for midwives can be found in parish records. *Licences of medical practitioners can also be found in diocesan records.*
- ◆ **Personal papers and collections** (Search Room)
Search online catalogues and websites:
 - Discovering Shropshire's History (www.shropshirearchives.org.uk)
 - National Register of Archives (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/) – use 'advanced search' and 'record creators'
- ◆ **Further reading**
Higgs, M. (1988) *Tracing Your Medical Ancestors*, Pen & Sword Books Ltd.
This gives a comprehensive list of records and publications held elsewhere that can be used to research the history of medical professionals.
- ◆ **Useful websites**
 - ◇ Royal College of General Practitioners – Tracing your medical ancestors: <http://www.rcgp.org.uk>
This website gives useful links to the different colleges and societies that hold information about medical practitioners.
 - ◇ Google books - The annual **Medical Directory** (1845 - date) and the **Medical Register** (1859 - date): <http://books.google.co.uk>
Includes names, addresses, qualifications, medical school and some publications for each doctor.
 - ◇ The National Archives: Hospital Records Database
<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/hospitalrecords/search.asp>
Database of location of hospital records.

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