

A short guide to directories

- ◇ **Directories** started in the late eighteenth century. The earliest ones are quite limited in the information they contain. From the 1850s onwards they are extremely useful sources for family and local history.
- ◇ A variety of directories were produced between **1850 and 1941**, the most common are *Kelly's Directories*.
- ◇ Directories can include one or more of the following sections:
 - * **directory of townships and parishes**: an alphabetical directory containing a short history, information about population, churches, schools, postal services, public institutions and lists of the most prominent residents.
 - * **trades directory**: alphabetical lists for particular trades, shops and businesses.
 - * **commercial directories**: alphabetical lists of traders.
 - * **court directories**: listing wealthy residents and officials.
 - * **street directories**: lists of tradesmen and residents arranged by street (which can be useful for confirming the position of particular streets).
- ◇ Some directories also contain very useful information about the geology of the County and details of administrative units, such as poor law unions, hundreds and petty sessions.
- ◇ For **family historians**, trade directories can be very useful for tracking families between census years. However, only a small number of people will be listed. These are generally **local officials, notable families** and those associated with **a trade or profession** (although those working for others may not be listed).
- ◇ The **street directories** tend to be for the larger settlements only, such as *Wildings Directory of Shrewsbury*.
- ◇ Street, trade and commercial directories ceased when information became available in telephone directories.
- ◇ Most directories are on the open shelves in the Reading Room. The library catalogue may also suggest town guides or smaller gazetteers.

- ◇ You can also **buy** some complete trade and street directories from us on microfiche.

Trade directories for the county of Shropshire at Shropshire Archives

1822-3	Pigot's Shropshire
1828	Tibnam's Directory of Shropshire
1828	Pigot's Directory of Shropshire
1834	Pigot's Directory of Shropshire
1840	Robson's Directory of Shropshire
1850	Slater's Directory of Shropshire
1851	Bagshaw's Gazetteer of Shropshire
1856	Post Office Directory of Shropshire
1856	Slater's Directory of Shropshire
1861	Harrod's Directory of Shropshire
1863	Kelly's Post Office Directory of Shropshire
1868	Slater's Directory of Shropshire
1870	Kelly's Directory of Shropshire
1874	Worrall's Directory of North Wales (inc Shropshire)
1874	Cassey's Directory of Shropshire
1875	Cassey's Directory of Shropshire
1877	Mercer and Crocker's Directory of Shropshire
1879	Kelly's Directory of Shropshire and Herefordshire
1885	Kelly's Directory of Shropshire
1891	Kelly's Directory of Shropshire
1900	Kelly's Directory of Herefordshire and Shropshire
1905	Kelly's Directory of Herefordshire and Shropshire
1908-9	Aubrey's Herefordshire and Shropshire Directory
1909	Kelly's Directory of Herefordshire and Shropshire
1913	Kelly's Directory of Herefordshire and Shropshire
1917	Kelly's Directory of Herefordshire and Shropshire
1922	Kelly's Directory of Shropshire
1926	Kelly's Directory of Shropshire
1929	Kelly's Directory of Shropshire
1933	Cope's Directory of Shropshire and Herefordshire
1934	Kelly's Directory of Shropshire
1937	Kelly's Directory of Herefordshire and Shropshire
1941	Kelly's Directory of Shropshire

(NB list does not include street directories)

Trade directories are also being put on the web-site www.historicaldirectories.org
Some are searchable on the Ancestry and FindMyPast websites.

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