



Gateway to
the history
of Shropshire
and Telford

Sources for WEM

This guide gives a brief introduction to the variety of sources available for the parish of **Wem** at Shropshire Archives.

Printed books:

General works - These may also be available at library

- Eyton, *Antiquities of Shropshire*
- *Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological Society*
- *Shropshire Magazine*
- Trade Directories which give a history of the town, main occupants and businesses, 1828-1941
- Victoria County History of Shropshire including NEW VCH for Wem
- Parish Packs
- Monumental Inscriptions

Small selection of more specific books (search www.shropshirearchives.org.uk for a more comprehensive list)

- **I64** The story of Wem and its neighbourhood – *Iris Woodward*
- **q 198** A history of the Methodist and United Reform (Congregational) Societies in Wem – *Patricia and Thomas Edwards*
- **I64** History of Adams' Grammar School Wem – *W J Creak*
- **I66.9** Wem now and then: a photographic essay – *John Whitehead*



Wem Tannery. Most towns such as Ellesmere, Oswestry and Newport, had a tannery where there were many tanning pits. The main tanning agent was derived from oak bark and chippings, and was used both in that form and in a liquid form called 'ooze.' This was combined with other agents, such as sulphuric acid and lime. One can imagine the pervading atmosphere of such a village!

Sources on microfiche or film:

Parish and non-conformist church register

	Baptisms	Marriages / Banns	Burials
SS Peter & Paul's church	1583-1911	1583-1746 & 1754-1933 / 1754-1978	1583-1951 Non conformist burials 1881-1902
Chapel St Independent	1785-1837	None	None
Chapel Street URC	None	1956-1982 originals only	None
Cripple Street Particular Baptist	1821-1836 Births	None	None
Noble Street Presbyterian	1755-1814 & 1822-37	None	None
Methodist records see Methodist Circuit Records (Reader's Ticket needed)			

Up to 1900, registers are on www.findmypast.co.uk

Census returns

1841, 1851(indexed), 1861, 1871, 1881 (searchable database on CDROM), 1891 and 1901. Census returns for England and Wales, 1841-1911 can be looked at on the Ancestry website on the computers

Maps

Ordnance Survey maps 25" to the mile and 6 "to the mile, c1880, c1901 (OS reference: old series XIV.15 new series SJ 5028)
Land Valuation Maps, 1910
Tithe map of c 1840 and apportionment (list of owners/occupiers)

Archives:

To see these sources you need a Shropshire Archives Reader's Ticket.

(search www.shropshirearchives.org.uk for a more comprehensive list)

P295 Wem Parish Records

School Records

British school – ED262/12-13 Log books; ED2699/43/17 Manager's returns; ED4541/32-55 Attendance Committee reports
National school – ED1564/382-383 Plans; ED2699/43/18 Manager's returns; ED2782/29 ; ED4541/30-43 Attendance Committee reports
Council school – ED2782/29 Manager's minutes
Adams Grammar School – ED6266
NB data protection applies, please ask staff

Records of Local Authorities and Institutions

PL15 Wem Union workhouse records
DA27 Wem Rural District Council *records held offsite, please request in advance*
Q Quarter Sessions

Estate records

322 Acton Reynald Estate (Corbet family)
167 Lord Barnard record relating to the manor of Wem
972 Lilleshall Collection including 972/7/1/49 map of 1631
For more manorial records see www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/mdr

Other Records

Wills for Shropshire post 1858 (pre 1858 – see Lichfield Diocesan Record Office)
Photographs and Postcards
And much much more!

Shropshire Archives

Castle Gates, Shrewsbury SY1 2AQ,
tel 0345 678 9096

e-mail: archives@shropshire.gov.uk website: www.shropshirearchives.org.uk