



Gateway to
the history
of Shropshire
and Telford

Tracing your First World War ancestors

Information at Shropshire Archives:

Start by checking our education pages, which showcase many useful sources:
<https://www.shropshirearchives.org.uk/learning/world-war-one-online-resources/>

<http://www.shropshireremembers.org.uk/> brings together local research.

- **Kings Shropshire Light Infantry Records**

The KSLI records (ref: 6005) are held at Shropshire Archives, on behalf of the Soldiers of Shropshire Museum (see below). The records, which include books, photographs and war diaries, refer mostly to the regiment rather than to individuals. You can browse the catalogue [here](#) (or by searching our online catalogue for X6005) and onsite. You will need a Shropshire Archives Reader's Ticket to see the KSLI records.

- **Local newspapers**

An often neglected, but important, source is local newspapers. These were censored and much reduced in size as a result of paper restrictions during the war, but did carry articles and features about local men and women as well as local events.

* The *Shrewsbury Chronicle* is on microfilm at Shropshire Archives.

* The *Wellington Journal* (ref: 8936) for 1914-1918 has been digitised and transcribed – follow the link to the collection [here](#) (or by searching our website for X8936). A quick way to search for people within these newspapers is to use the search box to search for the reference and the name you are looking for eg X8936* Cooper

* Some newspaper are also viewable on <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> (free access at Shropshire Archives and libraries).

- **Rolls of honour**

The Shropshire Roll of Honour has been indexed by Phillip Morris and Neil Evans and can be viewed as *Shropshire's sacrifice in the Great War*. (ref C 65.8)

This is also online www.shropshireremembers.org.uk and at St Chad's Church.



There can be information from memorials and rolls of honour in parish collections. The parish lists are in blue binders in the Search Room as well as online. Other specific rolls of honour include: *Shrewsbury School roll of service 1914 – 1918* (ref: D 35.7), *a roll of honour for Shropshire County Council, 1914-1919* (ref:141/1-2) and an enlistment roll for Broseley Detachment 11th platoon (1681/198/1-3). You will need a Shropshire Archives' Reader's Ticket to consult these.

- **Electoral registers**

During the war years, there was frequently an absent voters' or service register. This usually gives the name of the person, qualifying (home) address, description of service, ship, regiment, number, rank etc. You will need a Reader's Ticket to see these. Some are searchable at www.findmypast.co.uk

- **Printed books and miscellaneous**

You can also search our online catalogues at www.shropshirearchives.org.uk for details for books and other miscellaneous collections from the time.

Other places to find information:

- **Soldiers of Shropshire (Regimental Museum)**

The Soldiers of Shropshire (Regimental) Museum is based in Shrewsbury Castle, Shrewsbury SY1 2AT. It is well worth a visit if your ancestors were local and staff there are extremely knowledgeable.

The Museum has copies of the army, navy and air force lists, 1778 to date. c website <https://www.soldiersofshropshire.co.uk/> includes plenty of useful background about the regiments.

- **Records on Ancestry.com and FindMyPast**

If you are looking for records of individuals, then it is worth trying:

www.ancestry.com

www.findmypast.co.uk

These include British Army World War One service and pension records and also medal rolls index cards (the originals are held at The National Archives).

Shropshire Archives (and local libraries) have free access to these sites. New records are always being added to Ancestry and also FindMyPast so it is worth checking the sites for updates.

- **Sources at the National Archives (TNA)**

The National Archives holds the majority of surviving **service records** for men whose service ceased before 1920 (or 1922 in the case of officers). Unfortunately, many service records were destroyed during bombing in 1940.

Their website contains a lots of useful guides as well as a list of digitised records and how to access them:

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/first-world-war/centenary-digitised-records/>

If records are not held at the National Archives (eg Fleet Air Arm service records), the National Archives' website gives the current location and access conditions.

The National Archives
Kew, Richmond
Surrey TW9 4DU
Tel: 020 8876 3444
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

- **Sources at the Ministry of Defence**

Records of soldiers who saw service after 1920 (1922 in the case of officers) will be held at:

Ministry of Defence
Army Personnel Centre
Historical Disclosure
Mail Point 400, Kentigern House
65 Brown Street, Glasgow G2 8EX

Copies of service records held by the Ministry of Defence are usually only be released to legal next of kin. A charge is made for this service (except for widows). Owing to demand there may be a delay in receiving a copy. We recommend that you check the following website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/veterans-uk>

- **Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

The CWGC's Debt of Honour database at www.cwgc.org records all of those who died while on active service during the First World War. The information given includes place of burial (or memorial if no known grave exists), name, rank and unit.

- **More sources of information**

The National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 4HT holds a collection of books, manuscripts, drawings and photographs. www.nam.ac.uk

The Imperial War Museum Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ www.iwm.org.uk houses a vast collection of private papers, maps, photographs, film, art, oral testimony and published volumes, including unit histories. The website also contains downloadable guides to tracing military and naval family history. They are currently leading a project to piece together the life stories of all those who made a contribution during the First World War.

The **International Committee of the Red Cross** in Geneva keeps lists of all known Prisoners of War and internees of all nationalities. Enquiries can be made to: Archives Division and Research Service, International Committee of the Red Cross, 119 Avenue de la Paix, Geneva CH-1202 Switzerland.

<https://www.icrc.org/en/document/researching-victims-conflict>

The Royal Naval Museum, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth PO1 3NH, maintains an archive and library collection. www.royalnavalmuseum.org

The RAF Museum, Grahame Park Way, London NW9 5LL has records of individual aircraft as well as personal papers and its sister site at Cosford, Shifnal, Shropshire TF11 8UP is worth visiting <https://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/cosford/>

There are many other regimental and military museums throughout Britain holding a wealth of material potentially useful to you. *A Guide to Military Museums and Other Places of Military Interest* (10th Edition) by Terence and Shirley Wise is a good source for information and contact details.

The Western Front Association was formed to maintain interest in the Great War of 1914-1918 and to perpetuate the memory, courage and comradeship of those on all sides. www.westernfrontassociation.com

Please note that official and personnel records are often relocated. The information is correct to the best of our knowledge at time of printing.

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