



Gateway to
the history
of Shropshire
and Telford

A short guide to tracing the history of a public house

Also check our house history guide for finding inhabitants of properties.

Books:

The pub may be the subject of a book, an article or dissertation. You can search our book catalogue on our website using the reference XLS* and the name of the pub or village.

Jeremy Gibson and Judith Hunter. *Victuallers' licences; records for family and local historians*. (ref. **929.341, Reading Room**) gives details of national records.

The **parish packs** and the **Shropshire Magazine** (all on shelves in our Reading Room) are also good general sources.

Trade directories, 1828-1941 are excellent, especially for tracing the name of the publican. Again, these are on the open shelves.

The **Returns of licenced premises** provide an overview including the approximate age of the building and class of drinkers:

- John Barker, *Return of licensed premises in Shrewsbury, n.d. 1903*. (ref. **qD36.8**).
- Salop County Council. *Returns of licensed houses 1896 and 1901*. Neither of these contain the Shrewsbury Public Houses and only the 1901 version contains the Boroughs. (ref. **qC36.8, Reading Room**).

The microfiche index for the **adverts in the Salopian Journal** 1794-1843 refers to pubs before they were fully covered by trade directories. The Journals are on microfilm.

Photographs and Archives:

You will need to register with us to consult archives in our search room.

Please note that there are restrictions on access to some records (e.g. police, quarter and petty sessions' records due to data protection).

Check the **online catalogue** www.shropshirearchives.org.uk for the name of the property or the parish. The following series are especially worth searching on the online catalogue:

- **Sales catalogues**, late 19th century-20th century (ref **SC**)
- **Photographs (PH)**. Use the 'narrow by image' option on the catalogue to view digital images.
- The **Nock Deighton collection** has inventories for public houses (**collection ref. 4752**).

For **Wills and inventories** - see our short guide to wills for more information.

Corbett of Longnor collection (printed list only)

Petition of Shrewsbury innkeepers, c.1722-27 (ref. **567/Box 14**).



◇ Shropshire Council records

Some Shropshire Council licensing records, including plans for Shrewsbury and North Shropshire are sorted by pub name (**08128 – ask staff**). There is a compensation register 1928-1980 (SCC1/D 4497)

◇ Petty Sessions

Most Petty Session Division records (**collection ref. PS1**) contain registers of licences or surveys of licensed premises in **section E or J**. These records date from the 1870s to the mid 20th Century.

The following Petty Session Divisions do not hold these records: Burford, Chirbury, Cleobury Mortimer, Clun and Purslow, Market Drayton, Lower Munslow and Upper Munslow.

Some Petty Session Divisions hold records relating to alterations to licensed premises, these records usually range from the 1920's to the 1950's.

◇ Quarter Sessions

The Quarter Sessions records contain:

- county licensing committee records, 1874-1973 (**section ref. QA/9**).
- recognizances (bonds for good behaviour) from alehouse keepers, 1753-1828 (**section ref. QE/2/1**)
- a register of alesellers, 1613-1631 (**ref. Q/Fiche 63-65 and section ref. QE/2/2/1**);
- lists of licensed victuallers in the Session Rolls, Apr. 1696 - Dec. 1971 see section (**ref. QR**). These can be hard to find as they are alongside criminal and administrative records. There are some printed indexes in the search room and rolls 1831-1920 are searchable by key word at www.findmypast.co.uk

The Boroughs of Bridgnorth, Ludlow, Shrewsbury and Wenlock had their own Quarter Sessions:

- **Bridgnorth:** Alehouse licensing papers, 1654-1836 (**section ref. BB/F/2/2/2**); List of individuals and signs (presumably alehouse keepers), c.1770 in a bundle concerned with Sheriffs' writs and returns of writs (**ref. BB/F/2/3/2**); Militia papers: Statement from the bailiffs regarding complaints received from inn keepers and alehouse keepers for billeting soldiers, 22nd March 1686 (**ref. BB/C/8/1/14**).
- **Ludlow:** Recognizance books (Statute Merchant), 1562-1705, 1715 (**section ref. LB/9/6**).
- **Shrewsbury:** Books of ale-sellers' licenses vol. 1 1620-43, vol. 2 1646-54, vol. 3 1665-77, vol. 4 1680-1737 (**ref. 3365/ 2680**); Names of ale-sellers in the town and liberties, 1690 (**ref. 3365/ 2715**); Interrogatory as to ale selling, 1594 (**ref. 3365/2704**).
- **Wenlock:** Licensing of victuallers and alehouse keepers, 1764-1857 (**section ref. WB/F/1/7**).

Police records

- Register of licensed premises in Shrewsbury late 19th Century- 1968 (**ref. 6319/6/1**)
- Register of licensed premises in mid Shropshire, 1930's- 1960's (**ref. 6319/6/2**);
- Return of licensed houses, 1891 (**ref. 1818/93-94**).

Shropshire Archives

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