



Shropshire Archives

1. A short guide to newspapers

- ◇ The **earliest** Shropshire newspaper was the *Shrewsbury Chronicle*, which was first published in 1772. From 1794 it had a rival - the *Salopian Journal*. Both were county papers published in Shrewsbury but their political views were opposed. The early papers contain very little local news and few pieces of biographical interest. There are some reports of social activities and events likely to interest the papers' readers who were mainly gentry and professional people.
- ◇ From the **1850s** onwards, the smaller Shropshire towns started their own local papers, so the *Shrewsbury Chronicle* and the *Salopian Journal* came to be more concerned with Shrewsbury itself and the immediate surroundings. However, the *Shrewsbury Chronicle* and the *Wellington Journal* were both distributed widely in the county in the twentieth century and are worth consulting for reports of places some distance from these towns.
- ◇ Local papers had become much cheaper, lengthier and more popular **by 1900**. The amount of local information they contain by that date is most impressive when compared with their late twentieth century successors.
- ◇ Shropshire Archives' holdings include:-
 - * *Shrewsbury Chronicle* 1772 to date
 - * *Salopian Journal* (later called *Eddowes Shrewsbury Journal*) 1794-1888, with some gaps
 - * *Wellington Journal* 1901-1964
 - * *Ironbridge Weekly Journal and Borough of Wenlock Advertiser* 1869-1882
 - * *Shropshire Conservative* 1840-1849
 - * *Shropshire Examiner* 1874-1877
 - * *Shropshire Star* 1964 to date

A full list is available.

- ◇ Many newspapers are on **microfilm** but some are **original copies** only. You can only see the original copies in the Search room (and you must have one of our **Readers' Tickets**).
- ◇ There are also volumes of newscuttings. In particular there are eight volumes of cuttings edited by John Watton, dating back to the 1840s. These volumes can only be consulted in the Searchroom (with a Reader's Ticket).
- ◇ **Libraries** often hold current and historic copies of the local newspapers for their area (for example in Bridgnorth, Ludlow, Oswestry and Telford).

◆ INDEXES

- ◇ There are two indexes to newspapers held by Shropshire Archives which are of use to family historians. These are:

- * *Biographical index*

- This is an index to the *Shrewsbury Chronicle* from 1892 to date arranged by surname. Any reported marriage, funeral, bankruptcy, suicide, presentation, coming-of-age or similar event has been indexed, but not the entries in the weekly births, marriages and deaths column. The index also contains references to reports in the newscuttings volumes.

- * *Salopian Journal index*

- There is an index for 1794-1843. It makes reference to many people and occupations before this was fully covered in trade directories.

- ◆ **The indexes are kept in our Store-rooms. Please ask at the Enquiry desk and staff will fetch the index drawer containing the relevant names or trades.**

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Gateway to the history of Shropshire and Telford