



Shropshire Archives

18. A short guide to pedigrees

- ◇ We hold a large collection of pedigrees (family trees) at Shropshire Archives. This includes printed, manuscript or microfilm copies.
- ◇ Most **propertied Shropshire families** are represented, but relatively few families who did not have a coat of arms (mayors of Shrewsbury are an exception) attracted the attention of the mainly nineteenth century genealogists who drew up these pedigrees.
- ◇ The **most useful** pedigrees were compiled by George Morris, Joseph Morris and William Hardwicke but their work is not infallible. Some families are dealt with more comprehensively than others.
- ◇ The pedigrees researched by George Morris generally include a coloured illustration of the coats of arms of the family.
- ◇ Many of the collections concentrate on extending the pedigrees of families included in the Herald's *Visitation of Shropshire of 1623*. This is an important survey of families entitled to bear arms and it is printed and indexed in two volumes.
- ◇ Most of our pedigrees were drawn up in the **first half of the nineteenth century**, so it is usually necessary to have traced a family back to that period before a pedigree can be much use.
- ◇ To find out if we hold a pedigree for a particular family, you need to check the **index** to the pedigrees which is on microfiche.
- ◇ The index is arranged alphabetically by surname. It gives the reference to the pedigree and also tells you if it is available on microfilm (references to microfilms will appear as MF or MIC). If a microfilm is available, you must use this, as the original volumes are quite fragile.
- ◇ Microfilms are available in the Reading Room. It is usually advisable to book a microfilm reader in advance on 01743 255350.
- ◇ If a particular pedigree is only available in its original format, then you will need one of our Readers' Tickets to see it. Readers' Tickets are available (for free) if you bring in official identification showing your name, address and signature and two passport sized photographs.

- ◇ We also have a large set of *Burke's Peerages and Landed Gentries*, which can be very useful for researching major families. These are on the open shelves in the Reading Room.

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Gateway to the history of Shropshire and Telford

Short guide to sources no. 18 (12/06)

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