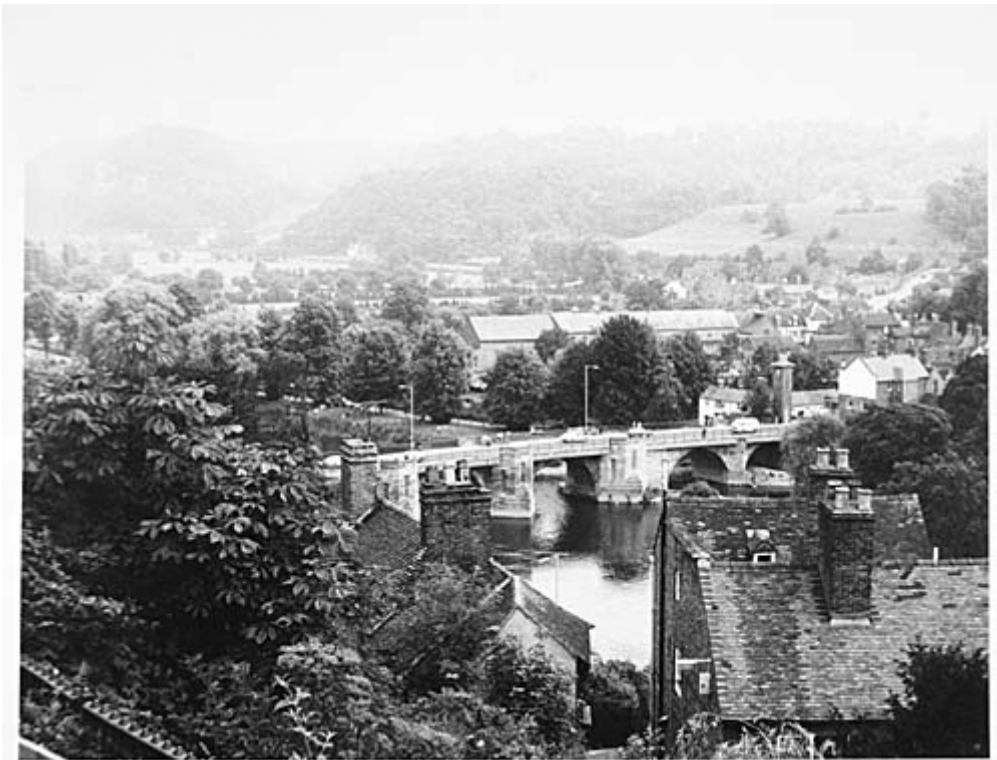


**A guide to the
Local and Family History resources
available at Bridgnorth Library**

February 2008
(Version 2)



Shropshire
County Council

Note: When using the indexes and guides provided in the library those with a blue or green cover are guides to material held elsewhere and those with a cream/white cover are guides to material held at the library.

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Parish Registers

A number of parish registers have been transcribed and are available in printed volumes at the library. A separate index is available: 'Index to the transcribed parish registers held at Bridgnorth Library'. (Cabinet 4)

Parish registers for Bridgnorth St Leonard's and Bridgnorth St Mary Magdalene, are available on microfiche. A separate index is available: 'Index to the parish records for Bridgnorth St Mary Magdalene and Bridgnorth St Leonard'. This index lists all Parish records, only those with the following fiche numbers are available at the library:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| St Mary Magdalene | Fiche Numbers 1-113 and 122-151 (fiches 114-121 are <u>not</u> available at the library) |
| St Leonard's | Fiche Numbers 1-112 and 120-330 (fiches 113-119 are <u>not</u> available at the library.) |

Non-conformist Registers

To find out if a non-conformist chapel or church existed in a particular place consult one of the following:

- Kelly's Directories list chapels and Roman Catholic Churches in each parish (see *Directories* section below).
- Victoria County History of Shropshire Vol. II pages 8-17 gives a summary of non-conformist activity in Shropshire. A reference copy is available at Class C64 (Oversize).

A number of non-conformist registers have been transcribed and are available in printed volumes at the library. A separate index is available: 'Index to the transcribed parish registers held at Bridgnorth Library'. (Cabinet 4)

Records of the courts of Quarter Sessions can provide information about those who refused to attend the parish church or to obey the teaching of the Church of England. (see *Quarter Sessions* section).

Burgess Books

The Bridgnorth Burgess Book (c.1670 – c.1941) is available on microfilm.

The original book, including current entries can be viewed at the Town Clerk's Office. (By appointment only – See *Cemetery* section for contact details)

Copies of the Roll of Burgesses of the borough of Bridgnorth (1843-1844, 1857-1858 and 1862-1863) are available in hardcopy at Class O 45.5 (Large Pamphlets).

There is also a printed transcript of the Shrewsbury Burgess Roll (Class D 55.3).

Newspapers, periodicals and magazines

Newspapers

| Title | Years held | Format* |
|--|--|---------|
| Bridgnorth Beacon | 1 st October 1852 – 1 st August 1853 | M |
| | 7 th January – 23 rd December 1854 | M |
| | | |
| Bridgnorth Journal | 2 nd November 1854 – 29 th December 1855 | M |
| | 31 st May – 5 th July 1856 | M |
| | 1857 – 1868 + part of 1869 | M |
| | October 1887 – 1896 | M |
| | 1898 - 1909 | M |
| | 1911 – 1957 | M |
| | 1972 – Present | O |
| Bridgnorth News | 1936 – 1937 | M |
| Bridgnorth News and Highley & Alveley News | 1938 – 1939 | M |
| Severn Source | 1982 – 1983 | O |

*O – Original copy, M – Microfilm or microfiche

Periodicals and Magazines

| Title | Years held |
|--|---|
| Bridgnorth and District Twinning Association newsletter (and related material) | 2000 – 2004 |
| Cross and Link; Bridgnorth Parish Magazine | Last 10 years |
| Salopian Recorder; the newsletter of the Friends of Shropshire Archives. | 1990 (Vol. 1) - present |
| Severn Valley Railway News | 1972 – 1980 (incomplete sequence) 1986 – 1999 2000 - 2002 (incomplete sequence) 2003 – present |
| Shropshire Bird Report | 1982 – 1996 (incomplete sequence) |
| Shropshire Family History Journal | 1982 – present |
| Shropshire Magazine | 1951 – 1995 1998 – present (incomplete sequence) (Index available for 1951 – 1990) |
| Shropshire Naturalist | 1992 – 1993 (incomplete sequence) |
| Shropshire Naturalists' Union | 1995, Bulletin Number 1 only |
| Shropshire Ornithological Society | 1998 – 2007 (incomplete sequence) |

| | |
|--|--|
| Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (later Shropshire History and Archaeological Society) | 1878 – 1901 1903 – 1910 1912 – 1934 1937 – 2003 (Index to selected Bridgnorth articles available) |
|--|--|

Census

Census returns for the Bridgnorth area from 1841-1901 are available on microfiche or microfilm. Place indexes to these microfiches/films are available in hardcopy.

Statistical information is available in hard copy for the census returns 1971 – 2001.

Ancestry Library Edition (www.ancestrylibrary.com)

Shropshire Libraries subscribe to Ancestry Library Edition. This website gives access to a wide range of genealogical sources and can be used free of charge. The site contains UK census returns for 1841 - 1901, including the returns for Scotland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands. It also gives access to the birth, marriage and death records from the UK, Ireland and the US. Do you have American roots? Ancestry has US federal census returns for 1790 - 1930, immigration passenger lists and civil war service records. This is just a very small selection of the databases available on Ancestry. Contact Bridgnorth Library to book a computer, or see staff for details.

Directories

A selection of Shropshire Directories from 1822 – 1965 are available on microfiche. A small number of directories are also available in hard copy (see *Printed material* section below).

Copies of pages from these directories regarding the Bridgnorth area are available in separate folders. (Boxes marked Trade Directories)

Tithe Apportionments

Copies of the tithe apportionments for Bridgnorth St Leonard's Parish and Bridgnorth St Mary Magdalene Parishes are available. (Cabinet 4)

Quarter Sessions

Printed transcripts of abstracts from the Quarter Sessions Rolls for Shropshire (1638 – 1889) are shelved at Class C44 (Cabinet 4)

Maps and plans

A separate index to the maps held at Bridgnorth Library is available.

Holdings include copies of:

- Field Names Maps
- Private / Estate maps
- OS 6 inch to one mile maps
- Administrative maps

Cemetery records and monumental inscriptions

Cemetery Records

The library does not hold cemetery records.

Shropshire Archives hold very few cemetery records, as most are still held by the relevant local authorities.

Bridgnorth Cemetery

- Mill Street, Bridgnorth [Formed in 1855]

Contact: Bridgnorth Town Council, Council Offices, College House,

St. Leonard's Close, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 4EJ (Tel: 01746 762231)

See Bridgnorth Borough Records *SA Ref DA2/204/1/1* for index to graves in Bridgnorth Cemetery 1855-1957; and *SA Ref 6007/104* for a plan to the cemetery 1855. (Index and plan held at Shropshire Archives)

Monumental Inscriptions

Inscriptions on gravestones and memorials can provide valuable information for family historians. The transcripts for the following are available at Bridgnorth Library (Cabinet 4):

- Abdon Parish Church (1705 - 1987)
 - St Mary the Virgin Church, Acton Round (1703 – 2000)
 - St Calixtus Church, Astley Abbots
 - Barrow Church (1631 – 1985)
 - St Leonard's Church, Bridgnorth (1646-1992)
 - St Mary Magdalene's Church, Bridgnorth (1631 – 1993)
 - Oldbury – St Nicholas Church (1141 – 1999)
 - Quatford – St Mary Magdalene Church (1709 – 2003)
 - Tasley – St Peter and Paul (1575 – 1981)
 - Worfield – St Peter's Church (1588 – 1981)
- Others are held at Shropshire Archives (See Index to Transcribed Monumental Inscriptions held at Shropshire Archives)

Printed material

A range of local history books and pamphlets are available at Bridgnorth Library:

Those available for borrowing are listed on the library catalogue. See library website: www.shropshire.gov.uk/library.nsf

Then click on Library Catalogue and Renewals in the Find Out About section and click on Library Service Catalogue and Renewals in the links section.

Parish Packs

These contain a selection of relevant resources for many of the parishes in the Bridgnorth area, and are titled 'Documents Concerning the Parish of

A number of the parish packs are available to borrow.

Subject Packs

There are a number of subject packs available as follows:

- **Civil War**
- **Crime & punishment**
- **World War I**
- **World War II**
- **Shropshire workhouses**
- **Natural disasters**
- **Tunnels and caves**
- **Bridgnorth Gaol**

Guides to sources held elsewhere

This document cannot hope to list all the others locations (real or virtual) that can be used to research local and family history related to Bridgnorth. As a start to further research the following are recommended:

- The 'Index to the parish records for Bridgnorth St Mary Magdalene and Bridgnorth' is kept in the library. All the material listed is kept at Shropshire Archives. Only the fiches stated are available to view at Bridgnorth Library. A complete list of all Parish Registers and records held at Shropshire Archives is available on the Shropshire Archives website.
- Indexes for the Bridgnorth Borough records are kept in Bridgnorth Library.
All the material listed is kept at Shropshire Archives.
- Lists of Methodist registers, chapel records, Methodist circuit records, non-conformist records and Roman Catholic records for the Bridgnorth area are kept in the library. (See Indexes to Non Conformist and Roman Catholic Records for the Bridgnorth Area)
All the material listed is kept at Shropshire Archives.
- A printed list of monumental inscription transcripts held at Shropshire Archives is also available at the library. (See Index to Transcribed Monumental Inscriptions held at Shropshire Archives)
- Shropshire Archives publishes a number of free guides to local and family history. Copies of these are located in a folder labelled 'Shropshire Archives Local and Family History Guides' in the library. These may be copied and are also available online at the Shropshire Archives website.
- Shropshire Family History Society has produced name indexes, mainly for the 1851 census. Some of these are available on the Internet at www.familyhistoryonline.net. Indexes to Shropshire and Montgomeryshire Wills (1858-1940) are also available at this website.

Microfiche and Microfilm Readers

Bridgnorth Library has both a Film Reader and Fiche Reader. If you are making a special journey to consult a particular film or fiche, it is advisable to book a session to ensure that the reader and reel / fiche are available for your visit.

Film and Fiche Reader Booking Guidelines

Each user is entitled to a 3 hour booking per day, on either the film reader, fiche reader, or a combination of the both.

Extra time may be available on a drop in basis, depending on the volume of usage. This is given on the proviso that users will give way to other users, particularly if visitors have travelled a distance especially to consult a fiche/film.

Copying Facilities

Bridgnorth Library does not have the facilities to print from reels / fiche. However, we can arrange to have specific articles copied from reels. For which there will be a charge. Please contact staff for details.

How to Contact Us

Bridgnorth Library
Listley Street, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 4AW
Telephone: (01746) 763358
Fax: (01746) 766625
e-mail: bridgnorth.library@shropshire.gov.uk
website: www.shropshire.gov.uk/library.nsf

Opening Hours

Monday 9.30-7.30

Tuesday 9.30-5.00

Wednesday 9.30-5.00

Thursday Closed

Friday 9.30-5.00

Saturday 9.00-5.00