

Overview of Prattinton Collection

This collection, which relates to the history of Worcestershire, is comprised of a series of notes, extracts, letters, deeds, engraving, wills and other printed material.

It was compiled by Dr Peter Prattinton (1776-1840), the son of William Prattinton, who belonged to a well-established and prosperous family of grocers in Bewdley. Dr Peter Prattinton studied at Oxford and gained a Bachelor of Medicine degree in 1797, although he never actually practised medicine. Instead he used his money and time to collect material on Worcestershire history and antiquities. He visited churches throughout the county copying out details from their records and also gained access to private houses where he transcribed many documents. He supplemented this by going to Worcester, Oxford and London to do long hours of research in public and private collections. He died in 1840 and is buried in Ribbesford.

In his will he left all his work to the Society of Antiquaries in London including his transcriptions of the collections of Thomas Habington (1560 -1647) and other Worcestershire source material collected by Rev Charles Lyttleton. One large oak chest and four other boxes of his papers were taken by cart from Bewdley to London in 1841. The manuscripts (MS 520) comprises 75 volumes of notes; 5 large folio volumes of hundreds of pamphlets, printed notices, and plans; 38 boxes of pamphlets, deeds, and letters; 5 boxes of illustrations; and 2 volumes of portraits. He also gave many printed books, museum objects, seal impressions, and brass rubbings.

The pages (18-31) from his notes relating to Shrawley have been transcribed by Chris Dring and Vanessa James.