

Biographical Record

Richard CROSS (1765 – 1848)

Richard Cross was born in 1765 and moved to Mardol Head, Shrewsbury in 1779 when he was apprenticed to a saddler. It is not known when and where he learned to ring. The first references to him are from the late 1780s in an undated membership list of the Anacreontic Society of Oswestry and as a subscriber to *Clavis Campanalogia* in 1788.

He was a prominent member of the Union Society of Shrewsbury, serving as a steward at the annual feast of the Union Society in 1789. He was involved in the installation of a new ring of bells at St Chad's, Shrewsbury; he was part of the deputation who met with Sir William Pulteney who started a subscription by donating £150 towards the project. Cross also donated himself, contributing 2 guineas to the fund.

Richard Cross took part in many of the Union Society peals, calling some of them. Among the peals he conducted were Grandsire Cinques on 25 November 1799, Oxford Treble Bob Royal on 31 January 1800 and Oxford Treble Bob Maximus on 27 December 1813. He also rang in a peal of 10,097 Grandsire Caters on 5 April 1808. His last recorded peal was on 12 December 1818 where a peal of Grandsire Caters was rung at St Mary's, Shrewsbury.

By the time he had rung his last recorded peal, Cross had become a churchwarden of St Chad's, Shrewsbury in 1817. In 1820 he also became a Director of the House of Industry (the workhouse). However, he still maintained an interest in ringing and was involved in the recasting and hanging of the eighth bell at St Chad's in 1836.

Cross died on 23 December 1848 at the age of 84.

This description is based on the account given in John Eisel's book *Giants of the Exercise*, available from [Central Council Publications](#).