

Donegal County Archives Service

GJ: DONEGAL GRAND JURY

Description

Grand Juries were in existence since Norman times. Landowners made up the Grand Jury itself, selected by the Sheriff of the County. Grand Juries had no corporate existence, they were discharged by the Judge of Assize. Before the assizes, presentment sessions were called in each of the six baronies of Donegal, where proposals for work to be done were considered and submitted to the Grand Jury for ratification. Services provided and paid for by Grand Jury Cess, a rate payable by occupiers, included making, and repair of roads and bridges and construction of courthouses, levying for support of district hospitals, schools and prisons. Records of the Grand Jury of Donegal, including assizes, general information, treasurers' accounts; other financial records; resolutions; minutes of meetings; correspondence; and memoranda.

Covering dates: 1753 - 1899

Extent 50 items, incl files

Related material: See GJ/1 -GJ/34; GJ/2/1 - GJ/1/14

Notes

LOCATED AT BAY 21B/C/D AND 26 (SCRAPBOOK).

GJ/1

Grand Jury Assizes

1753 - 1899

Assizes of the Grand Jury, held in Lifford until the formation of the County Council. Records include detailed presentments of works to be done by contractors. Contain a list of salaries given to different officers in the country including those responsible for the Gaol in Lifford, the infirmary and courthouses. Also includes the sums given to the Treasurers of local Dispensaries and other public charities for their uses. Contains orders/contracts for repair and the keeping in repair of roads; building bridges and fences and repair of same, laying pipes and building arches - mason work; widening roads; creating new roads; erecting milestones; fixing drains; building footpaths; lowering hills and filling hollows; and malicious injury. Also contains information on the upkeep of deserted children. The expense of the upkeep of deserted children was to be levied off the parishes - child not named just the name of the person looking after the child (sometimes a Rev. sometimes not), the parish and the number in each parish. Some references to repaying the Commissioners of Public Works for the building of new roads. Handwritten note at the end from the Clerk of the Crown for Co. Donegal certifying the presentments.

40 items

A number of Grand Jury Maps are held in the Central Library, Letterkenny.

GJ/1/1

Assizes/Presentments 1753 - 1769

1753 - 1769

Mentions House of Correction and County House in first presentment, 8 September 1753.

1 volume.

GJ/1/2

Grand Jury Assizes/Presentments 1768 - 1783

1768 - 1783

GJ/1/3

Grand Jury Assizes/Presentments 1769 - 1778

July 1769 - Aug 1778

GJ/1/4

Assizes 1793 - 1798

1793 - 1798

GJ/1/5

Lent and Summer Assizes for 1807 and 1808

31 March 1807 - 8 Aug 1808

Each volume includes a list of the Grand Jury, and where the Assize was held. The date signed is also given.

GJ/1/6

Lent and Summer Assizes for 1809 and 1810

20 March 1809 - 23 Aug 1810

GJ/1/7

Assizes for 1815 - 1857

1815 - 1857

Minutes from the Grand Jury Assizes between 1815 - 1857. Includes details on the committees appointed to investigate the development of roads, bridges and buildings in various locations across the county.

Includes proceedings relating to the County Gaol/Jail in Lifford, County Infirmary and Lunatic Asylum as well as discussions relating to the building of courthouses and bridewells. Copy of memorials also included in minutes. 1 volume

[GJ/1/45]

[Summer Assizes 1829: found recently, not yet digitised.]

GJ/1/8

Lent Assizes 1831

1831

As above. Treasurers Copy.

GJ/1/9

Summer Assizes 1840

1840

As above. Imperative Presentments.

GJ/1/10

Spring Assizes 1841

1841

As above - Presentments

GJ/1/11

Summer Assizes 1844

1844

As above.

GJ/1/12

Spring Assizes 1845

1845

As above. The cover states Queries Discharged at Summer Assizes 1845. The volume contains a loose sheet with a list of the Queries discharged and undischarged at the Summer Assizes 1845.

GJ/1/13

Summer Assizes 1845

1845

As above. The cover is labelled Presentments Ordered at the Summer Assizes 1845.

GJ/1/14

Summer Assizes 1847
1847

As above. The cover is labelled Treasurers Copy Spring Assizes 1847.,
Queries. A letter included dated 19 March 1847.

GJ/1/15

Spring Assizes 1848
March 1848

As above. Treasurers Copy. Includes a letter from the Crown Office in
Lifford dated 2 Oct 1848.

GJ/1/16

Summer Assizes 1848
1848

As above. Includes a supplement to the Grand Warrant published 29
Nov 1848. Also included is correspondence in the form of two letters
re: the layout of the accounts dated the 30 and 31 March 1849.

GJ/1/17

Spring Assizes 1849
March 1849

As above. Cover labelled County of Donegal Summer Assizes, 1849.
Public Orders and Queries.

GJ/1/18

Summer Assizes 1856
1856

As above. Treasurers Copy. Loose sheet of Abstracts from the Grand
Warrant from the Spring Assizes 1836.

GJ/1/19

Summer Assizes 1857
1857

As above. Barony of Banagh only. "Booklet"

GJ/1/20

Spring Assizes 1867
1867

As above. Cover is labelled Schedule of Applications. Secretary's Copy.
2 copies the seconds label has Presentments handwritten on it.
2 vols.

GJ/1/21

Summer Assizes 1867
1867

As above. Two copies, the first is labelled Original Presentments and is the Treasurers copy. The second is the Secretary's copy and includes a sheet headed Amount Ordered to be Apportioned on the Baronies at the Summer Assizes 1867. Includes insert- page.
3 items.

GJ/1/22

Summer Assizes 1868
14 May 1868

As above. Barony of Tyrhugh only Presentments.
12 pages only.
Printed document

GJ/1/23

Spring Assizes 1870
1870

As above. Cover states Schedule of Applications. Office Copy

GJ/1/24

Summer Assizes 1870
1870

As above. Cover labelled Schedule of Applications.

GJ/1/25

Summer Assizes 1873

1873

As above. Cover labelled Schedule of Applications. The bottom right hand corner has a label John Sproule, Secretary to the Grand Jury.

GJ/1/26

Spring Assizes 1874

1874

As above. Cover labelled Schedule of Applications also labelled John Sproule, Secretary to the Grand Jury. Secretary's copy.

GJ/1/27

Summer Assizes 1874

1874

As above. Two copies. The first is labelled Original Public Orders 1874. Schedule of Applications. Treasurer's copy. The second includes a sheet headed Amount ordered to be apportioned on the Baronies at Summer Assizes 1874, signed by Mr. G. White 30 July 1874.

2 items

GJ/1/28

Spring Assizes 1876

1876

As above.

GJ/1/29

Summer Assizes 1876

1876

As above. Two copies

GJ/1/30

Summer Assizes 1877

18 May 1877

Notice headed East Half- Barony of Ennishowen. Schedule of Applications for Presentments to be laid before the Justice and the Cesspayers at a Presentment Sessions to be held at Carndonagh.

GJ/1/31

Summer Assizes 1878

1878

As above. Two copies. Label is off the cover of the first, but is inside the book. Label states Schedule of Applications. On the back there is some writing with signatures at the bottom of it.

2 items.

GJ/1/32

Spring Assizes 1879

1879

Small paper backed volume; undischarged queries.

1 item.

GJ/1/33

Summer Assizes 1880

1880

As above.

GJ/1/34

Summer Assizes 1886

13 July 1886

As above. Cover labelled Warrant and Queries.

GJ/1/35

Summer Assizes 1890

7 May 1890

As above. Barony of Tryhugh only; held at Ballyshannon. " Booklet"
12 pp

GJ/1/36

Summer Assizes 1891
1891

As above.

GJ/1/37

Spring Assizes 1892
1892

As above. Cover labelled John Moore, Schedule of Applications.

GJ/1/38

Spring Assizes 1894
1894

As above. Cover is made of paper not cardboard. The cover states
Schedule of Applications for Presentments to be laid before the Grand
Jury at the Spring Assizes 1894.

GJ/1/39

Spring Assizes 1898
1898

As above. Handwritten list of the Grand Jury for the Assizes is given
at the front. Two covers at the front.

GJ/1/40

Assizes 1898 & First Co Council Minutes 1899
1898 - 1900

Spring & Summer Assizes 1898 & First County Council Minutes 1899.
Resolutions of the Grand Jury. Also includes handwritten minutes of
the first County Council Meetings, reaction of Grand Jury to setting
up of Council, following the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, and
the Minutes of the Various Committees up until 1900. Included in
volume is printed material regarding railways. County Council 1899
Councillors attending first meeting of Council, 22 April 1899 Jerome
Boyce, JP John Edward Boyle John Bradley JP John Byrne Francis
Callaghan John Cavanagh William Colhoun JP Dr James D Condon
William Doherty JP James Dunlevy Daniel Joseph Flood William

Gallagher JP William James Hanna JP Captain John S Hamilton
Thomas Hayes Charles Kelly Teague Magee JP Patrick A Mooney Hugh
McClafferty Hugh McDevitt (Glenties) elected vice chair Hugh McDevitt
JP Edward McFadden: elected chairman Manus McFadden Frederick
W McIlwaine, JP John A Pomeroy JP Captain Thomas B Stoney John
Sweeney Peter Ward Michael White JP William A Wray At a meeting in
July 1899 members included Michael Cassidy William Griffith James
Sweeney Thomas WD Humphreys [] McCormack
1 vol.
First County Council Minutes included.

GJ/1/41

Copy Page from Summer Assizes 1828

31 July 1828

Poor quality copy of first page of Summer Assizes held in Lifford on
the above date. Gives names and designations (e.g., whether M.P.,
baronet etc) of Grand Jury, and judges only.

1 page; Printed document

GJ/1/42

Spring Assizes 1862

1862

Queries and warrant.

1 small vol.

GJ/1/43

Summer Assizes 1861

Assizes held before Right Hon. Nicholas Ball, second justice, and the
Hon Jonathan Christian, fourth Justice of her Majesty's Court of
Common Pleas, at Lifford on 19 July 1861.

William John Foster is High Sheriff of the county of Donegal.

Francis Mansfield, treasurer.

GJ/1/44

Summer Assizes 1884

1884

Schedule of applications.

GJ/1/45 **NOT YET DIGITISED**

Summer Assizes 1829

1829

GJ/2

Grand Jury General

1816 - 1900

Correspondence, memoranda, accounts, minutes, contracts and resolutions of the Grand Jury, in Donegal.
approx 20 items.

GJ/2/1

Dinner Accounts

Spring 1867 - Summer 1899

Dinner Accounts of the Grand Jury for the years 1867 - 1899 inclusive. The only account missing is from the Spring Assizes 1886. Each gives the Dinner Account, the wine account and the list of the Grand Jurors who paid the Dinner Bill. In some cases a list of wine in the Cellars is given. Approx. 63 items.
63 items

GJ/2/2

Treasurers Accounts

1829 - 1834

Treasurers Accounts of the Grand Jury for the year given. The cover states Treasurers Accounts 1930. Each page gives the number entry, the people in question, the area which the accounts are for and the amounts.

GJ/2/3

List of Collectors

1816 - 1892

List of Grand Jury Collectors?? Possibly rate collectors. For the years 1816 - 1892.

GJ/2/4

List of Grand Jurors

1835 - 1892

List of Grand Jurors of County Donegal with years beside each name.
2 sheets

GJ/2/5

Memorial from Grand Jury to Lord Lieutenant
1900

Memorial from the Donegal Grand Jury assembled at the Spring Assizes 1900 to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant relating to the History of the Buildings in Lifford occupied by the Grand Jury. Copy of same included. "Memorial from the Donegal Grand Jury assembled at the Spring Assizes 1900 To his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant The County Council having claimed the ownership and control of the buildings at Lifford hitherto occupied by the Grand Jury we beg to give the following short sketch of the history of these buildings. The House was built and furnished originally by members of the Grand Jury about three or four generations ago and kept in order at their expense til about 15 years ago when repairs having become necessary the [Spring] judge of Assize authorised the County Surveyor to layout such sums as might be necessary to put them in repair which were small in amount. These buildings were transferred to the Sheriff as part and parcel of the buildings of the County Court House and have since been used as part thereof - Looking at the size of the County Donegal and the long distances Grand Jurors have to come to assizes, the previous history of these buildings we venture to submit that a very good case has been made out by the Grand Jury for the accommodation claimed by them. We therefore pray that your Excellency will make such an order as will provide for the requirements of the Grand Jury of the County and such other purposes as you Your Excellency may think necessary, Signed To be submitted by the foreman to the Under Secretary Dublin Castle for presentation to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant"

2 items

GJ/2/6

Resolution and Minutes

1882 - 1900

Loose bundle of Resolutions and Minutes from various Assizes between 1882 and 1900 inclusive.

10 items

GJ/2/7

Accounts Summary

1893 - 1897

Summary of Accounts incurred by Donegal Grand Jury. Mainly re:
Washing.

17 items

GJ/2/8

Valuation

10 July 1898

Valuation made at Lifford for the Grand Jury of County Donegal 1898.

Drafts and copies of same.

5 items

GJ/2/9

Accounts, 1898

1898

Various accounts of the Grand Jury of County Donegal. Approx. 5
items

5 items

GJ/2/10

Resolution re: The Mess

13 July 1898

Resolution passed at a meeting of the Grand Jurors Co. Donegal relative to the Personal Property of the Mess. Lists the property which will remain in the county house, and how other items will be divided. Silver, China and Chairs not to be sold by public auction but offered to the Grand Jurors at the valuation made by Weir. Drafts also included. Approx. 13 items.

13 items

GJ/2/11

Correspondence re: the Mess

1898 - 1900

Correspondence re: the Mess. Letters asking the Grand Jurors to attend the meeting at which decisions will be made re: the Grand Jury property in the county house, a letter from the Under - Sheriff requesting reply relating to the meeting and more correspondence from 1900. A letter requesting that Mr. Sinclair will inform John S. McCay the Under Sheriff if he will be attending as a Grand Juror.
7 items

GJ/2/12

Control of County Buildings
8 Oct 1888

Memorandum from the County Surveyor's Office in relation to who has control over the Counting (County) Buildings. He also mentions that the widow of the Court Keeper has been allowed to stay on until the next Assizes.

GJ/2/13

Account Book
1877 - 1899

(1) Account book for the Grand Jury, detailing by spring and summer assizes the amounts paid into the County Bank and the balances. Also includes excerpts from newspapers advertising Donegal County Council posts (1 page). (2) There are loose pages which were removed and placed in separate folder.

GJ/2/14

Letters btw. Grand Jury & Co Council Members
1881 - 1901

Series of correspondence between members of the last Grand Jury and the new County Council Members. Correspondence is mainly between:

Major John S. Hamilton, Brownhall, Ballintra, W.H. Boyd, Ballymacool, Letterkenny, and C. Agnes Boyd, his wife, Captain J. Knox, Captain Stoney (MCC), J. Ferguson, [?], High Sherriff; Sir James Musgrave, J.W.D. Humphreys (MCC), Captain Hamilton (MCC), John Hendman. Most of correspondence is from 1899 and mainly focuses on controversy surrounding ownership of the County House, Lifford, the Grand Jury or the newly set up County Council. Arguments focus also on use of rooms in County House, e.g., Resolution of 1 July of Grand Jury stating that a committee be formed

to arrange with the Council for both bodies to use the rooms as required and that this Committee be authorised to reserve for the sole use of the G. J. the silver china and linen. Also correspondence relating to Grand Jury Dinner Accounts.

GJ/2/15

Memorial to Grand Jury

6 March 1851

Memorial from a William G. Harvey, Londonderry, to the Foreman, Grand Jury, proposing that a clause in every tenant's future agreement be inserted, stating that a fine of about a quarter of a year's rent on large holdings, and a half of one year's rent on all small holdings be leviable immediately on any injury being committed on landlord, agent, bailiff or their near relatives. Memorial discusses tenant's rights generally and valuation of land by Grand Jury.

1 item.

GJ/2/16

Correspondence and Memorial

16 March 1834

Memorial accompanied by letter from Town Clerk, Borough of Londonderry, to Samuel Sproule, Secretary, Grand Jury, County Donegal, asking for the Grand Jury's support in their request for the establishment of a day mail between Londonderry and Dublin.

Memorial outlines reasons for establishing a day mail as described above.

2 items.

LOCATION IS IN SCRAPBOOK, WITH P/24 ON BAY 26

GJ/2/17

Lunatic Asylum, Letterkenny

30 March 1861

2 letters from [], Dublin Castle, to Secretary, Grand Jury, County Donegal, both concerning the latter's request for increased accommodation for lunatic asylums in Donegal. The first letter states that it is under consideration by the Board of Control; the second letter suggests that a representative from the Grand Jury be appointed to act as a consultant with the Board on matters relating to the building of an asylum near Letterkenny.

2 pp

LOCATION IS IN SCRAPBOOK, WITH P/24 ON BAY 26

GJ/2/18

High Constable's Return of Cesspayers

1859

Summer Assizes of 1859. Return of names and places of residence of persons resident or in actual occupation of lands and houses in each barony in Donegal who have been charged with and have paid for land and houses the highest sums for Grand Jury cess, under the last applotment, under statute. Lists include number, names of individuals, residence, parish, occupation (e.g., 'farmer', 'merchant' etc), sum paid. Baronies: North Half Raphoe; South Half Raphoe, East Half Ennishowen [Inishowen], West Half Ennishowen, Tyrhugh (Pettigo district) and Tyrhugh (Ballyshannon), Banagh, Tyrhugh (Donegal), Banagh (Killybegs), Banagh (Inver), Banagh (Ardara), Banagh (Kilcar), Banagh (Glencolmbkill), Kilmacrenan (Rathmullan), Kilmacrenan (Falcarragh), Kilmacrenan (Letterkenny), Kilmacrenan (Dunfanaghy), Kilmacrenan (Rathmullan), Kilmacrenan (Tullaghobegly), Boylagh (Glenties), Boylagh (Lettermacaward), Boylagh (Fintown), Boylagh (Dungloe). Glencolumcille Glencolumbcille Glencolmcille.

23 items.

p 35 - 55 in scrapbook. Located on bay 26, Three Rivers, WITH P/24 GJ/2/18(1) - (23)

GJ/2/19

1801 Grand Jury Map

1801 Grand Jury Map of Donegal drawn from survey by William McCrea. Linen Backed, green material around the edges and with wooden top/end and hanging cord, marks baronies and parishes, also marks landlords of area. No scale.

1 item

GJ/2/20

Treasurer's Accounts, 1771 - 1790

1771 - 1790

Cover page states County of Donegal Book of the Treasurers Accompts commencing (with Samuel Delap, Treasurer) At Summer Assizes 1771.

GJ/2/21

Mounted Photograph of Grand Jury
c1899

Black and white photograph of Grand Jury . Many of the men in the photograph are also in the photograph of the Last Grand Jury. More of the Grand Jury present in this photograph, 25 people present. Appears to have been taken in front of the old County House. For list of names of the people who appear in both see GJ/2/22.

1 item

Photograph

GJ/2/22

Framed Photograph of Grand Jury

March 1899

Black and White photograph of the last County Donegal Grand Jury, March 1899 probably taken outside the County House. A list of the members included in the photograph is given: 1. Major Jas Hamilton, D.L. (Foreman) 2. Hon. Ernest Cochrane. D.L. 3. Sir Jas. Musgrave, Bart. D.L. 4. Robert McClintock. D.L. 5. Charles F. Stewart, J.P. 6. Capt. Francis C. Macky, J.P. 7. William A. Hamilton, J.P. 8. J.C. McClintock 9. Capt. William Knox, J.P. 10. Capt. John Hamilton, J.P. 11. Robert L. Moore, D.L. 12. Arthur R. Wallace, C.B., D.L. 13. Henry Stubbs, D.L. 14. Thomas Colquhoun, J.P. 15. Robert Crawford, J.P. 16. Capt. Thomas B. Stoney, D.L. 17. T.W.D. Humphreys, J.P. 18. Jas. McFarlane, J.P. 19. Capt. John Riky, J.P. 20. Maj. John R. Baillie, J.P. 21. John A. Pomeroy, J.P. 22. Secretary, J.M. Grove, J.P. (Either 3 or 20 are missing from the photograph unclear which because one person in photo was not numbered). Photograph was originally presented to Donegal County Library by Harry Percival Swan, M.R.I.A., Buncrana, November 1960.

1 item

Some of the people pictured in this were also included in another similar photograph of the Grand Jury - GJ/2/21 and see also GJ/2/26

GJ/2/23

Copy letter from Dublin Castle

30 March 1861

Copy of letter from [], Dublin Castle, to Secretary, Grand Jury, referring to a memorial of the G. J. Spring Assizes on the subject of increased accommodation for the 'lunatics' of the county. States he is directed by the Lord Lieutenant to 'acquaint you for the information of the Grand Jury that the Board of Control of Lunatic Asylums are at present engaged in taking active steps for the carrying out of the order in Council bearing date the 4th date of February 1861'. Stamped with Donegal Historical Society's stamp.

2 pp

GJ/2/24

Receipt for washing

21 March 1893

Handwritten receipt, addressed to County House, Lifford, for 'washing to Donegal Grand Jury'. Items include dinner napkins, towels and table cloths. Total cost Â£1.6.0. States 'Paid, Margaret Neely'.

1 page

GJ/2/25

Grand Jury Laws of Ireland **NOT DIGITISED**

12 June 1861

Book containing the Grand Jury Laws of Ireland by C.H. Foot. Gives all the acts relating to the working of the Grand Jury in Ireland, citing cases relating to each. Cases are indexed at front of the book. Volume has Wm Martin written on front cover (possibly District Inspector William Martin of Canon McFadden era).

GJ/2/26

Photograph of last Grand Jury

1899

Small photograph, 19 cm X 12 and a half of the Donegal Grand Jury. Typed at bottom of photograph is 'The Last Co Donegal Grand Jury'. Pasted onto cardboard.