



Cavan Grand Jury

Archives service

The Grand Jury was a local government body originally concerned during the seventeenth century with the administration of justice. Later, its functions expanded to include the provision of roads and bridges and the maintenance of dispensaries, county infirmaries, lunatic asylums, courthouses and gaols.

Landowners made up the Grand Jury itself, selected by the Sheriff of the County. A tax was levied on the county or barony for the cost of road and bridge works and collectors appointed for the collection of these local taxes, known as the county cess. The Grand Jury met twice yearly at the spring and summer assizes for the purpose of passing presentments. These presentments constituted lists of proposed and approved works due to be undertaken and were financed by cess payers. Grand Jury archives have suffered serious loss in the past. From the 1890s almost all the archives of the Grand Juries were transferred to the Public Record Office of Ireland and were destroyed during the civil war in 1922. A small amount of material is now held by the National Archives and other material is held by County Archives Services. In the case of County Cavan, most of the surviving archives are presentment books listing details of monies paid to named persons for the upkeep of roads and bridges. Some Treasurer's material also survives.

The powers of Grand Juries were significantly diminished with the introduction of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898 which established democratically

elected county and city representatives for the first time. The administrative powers and duties of the Grand Juries were transferred mainly to county councils and to a lesser extent to rural district councils by the 1898 Act.

| Code | Dates | Description | Access limitations |
|-------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| GJ/1 | c. 1794-1817 | Ledger containing accounts kept by County Treasurer. Some relate to income arising from the county cess. County Treasurer named as Ralph Harman. | Closed indefinitely awaiting conservation |
| GJ/2 | c. summer 1809-summer 1817 | County at large presentment book | Closed indefinitely awaiting conservation |
| GJ/3 | c. spring 1810-summer 1817 | Presentment book for barony of Tullygarvey | |
| GJ/4 | c. summer 1809-summer 1817 | Presentment book for barony of Clonkee | |
| GJ/5 | c. summer 1809-summer 1817 | Presentment book for barony of Tullyhunco | Closed indefinitely awaiting conservation |
| GJ/6 | c. spring 1810-summer 1817 | Presentment book for barony of Clonmahon | |
| GJ/7 | c. spring 1810-summer 1817 | Presentment book for barony of Upper Loughtee | |
| GJ/8 | [c. 1818-1848] | Accounts book containing details of monies granted to named persons. Information recorded includes schedule number, townland, whether tenant or landlord, amount claimed, amount granted. Entries arranged according to barony. Unclear to what the volume relates but may be connected with monies granted at assizes. This volume was found with GJ/1 described above. | |
| GJ/9 | c. spring 1856-spring 1859 | Volume containing presentment information | |

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| | | relating to the county at large as well as the baronies of Castlerahan, Clonmahon, Clonkee, Upper Loughtee, Lower Loughtee, Tullygarvey and Tullyhunco. | |
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| GJ/10 | Spring 1811 to Spring 1814 | Published reports containing presentment information for the baronies of Castlerahan, Clonmahon, Clonkee, Upper Loughtee, Lower Loughtee, Tullygarvey and Tullyhunco.. | |
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